



ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CCA/UNDAF: **A good practice from Nepal**

UNDAF 2013-2017: Advancing equality through equity

The next United Nations Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF) from 2013 to 2017 aims to advance equality through equity; protect development gains that Nepal has achieved so far; and enhance international cooperation. The core component of the UNDAF, which comprises the majority of the UN's planned development interventions in Nepal, is structured around five Outcome areas. Outputs under these five outcomes will contribute to addressing the root causes of vulnerability identified by a 'Country Analysis with a human face'. The Country analysis has noted that "In Nepal the most fundamental socio-cultural root cause of vulnerability is the structural discrimination emanating from socio-cultural traditions, norms, and practices developed over centuries".

"Departing from a traditional Common Country Assessment, which is organised around sectors or themes, the UN Country Team prepared a Country Analysis with people at its core" – says Robert Piper, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nepal.

"A Country Analysis with a human face – Departing from a traditional Common Country Assessment, which is organized around sectors or themes to an analysis with people at its core"

The process: Incorporating a human rights analysis into the design of the Nepal UNDAF

The Nepal Country analysis underscored the fact that discrimination based on caste, ethnicity, gender and other markers of identity is at the core of the challenges faced by many of Nepal's most vulnerable groups. Legislations, norms and practices have traditionally institutionalised the hierarchical and discriminatory features of Nepal's society through centuries. While some of the structure, systems or legal provisions have been transformed – some quite significantly, the deep embedding of discrimination in society hinders the enjoyment of social, economic, cultural as well as civil and political rights and opportunities. Discriminatory practices are prevalent not only across groups but also within them, rendering women, girls, minorities and people living with disabilities particularly vulnerable.

Based on this analysis, the UN Country Team felt the need to develop interventions which include but go beyond the constitutional guarantees and legal frameworks. Such interventions incorporate indispensable and concerted efforts aimed at eliminating discriminatory practices from everyday life in order to ensure that all Nepalis enjoy their human rights. Discrimination and the related issue of stigma which result in social exclusion highlight the urgent need for more inclusive development, while at the same time linking directly with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Interim Constitution of Nepal, the Three Year Plan, and the Peace and Development Strategy. Therefore the results expected to be achieved through the next UNDAF are fully in line with priorities of the Government of Nepal and the international community in the country.

ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CCA/UNDAF: A good practice from Nepal

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework focuses on the root causes of vulnerability. Outcome Area 3 is specifically aimed at influencing societal attitudes to address discrimination and empower vulnerable groups. This outcome area emerges from the analysis that in order to end discrimination and stigma there is a need for targeted interventions which in turn are based upon the UN's mandate, its comparative advantage and a Human Rights Based Approach to development. Ending discrimination furthermore, directly addresses a common concern of the UNCT – the worrying Gini-coefficient trend. The UNDAF also innovates by including “Culture for development” as a concept thereby harnessing the power of culture and cultural diversity for development

The four outputs of Outcome 3 are: a) vulnerable groups and those who discriminate and stigmatise against them are progressively engaged and challenged on their own assumptions, understanding and practices that result in stigma and discrimination; b) Non-discriminatory policies and procedures are progressively implemented in institutional contexts such as schools, health facilities and work places; c) political participation in institutions and society of vulnerable groups and their capacity to organise and mobilise themselves are progressively strengthened; and d) media, religious institutions, labour unions and civil society organisations are progressively engaged in the development by challenging assumptions, understanding and practices resulting in stigma and discrimination.

Five Outcome Areas guided by the UN's Comparative Advantage in Nepal:

- **Outcome Area 1** provides access to basic elements that give the most vulnerable people a fair chance to lead a healthy life and actively participate in society.
- **Outcome Area 2** will concentrate on sustainable and inclusive economic growth by increasing access of vulnerable groups to economic and productive employment opportunities and by promoting a social protection floor for them.
- **Outcome Area 3** is formulated with the explicit purpose to ‘influence societal attitude to lessen discrimination and empower vulnerable groups’
- **Outcome Area 4** is aimed at ‘establishing and strengthening a legal and institutional framework to facilitate and support rights based social change’.
- **Outcome Area 5** seeks to strengthen the quality of democracy, the social contract between the State and the citizen, and the effectiveness and accountability of governance.

The UNDAF captures 23 most deprived districts on the basis of a composite index analysis and develops SMART indicators for measuring implementation

Potential for Impact:

Seeking to eliminate stigma and discrimination head on rather than in a ‘mainstreamed’ manner is a fairly new area of work which offers opportunity to design programmes in a creative and cutting-edge manner. If the desired results in Outcome Area 3 are delivered, these would have an amplifying and accelerating effect in other outcome areas of the UNDAF. The UN Country Team acknowledges that it will take more than five years to address the issue of stigma and discrimination. Even with dedicated resources, tangible results will take time. However, this should not prevent the UNCT to play its part in aiming to achieve a longer-term, larger goal: progressively ending longstanding disadvantage by addressing the deep-rooted causes of stigma and discrimination in the country, thereby making the human rights approach central to interventions.

