

Annual Report 2024

Helvetas Nepal



Helvetas Nepal has been present in Nepal since 1956, operating under an agreement with the Government of Nepal. As the largest country program of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, which operates in approximately 30 countries worldwide, Helvetas Nepal is actively engaged in implementing programs and projects across the nation. It collaborates with numerous technical and social organizations to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction at both local and national levels. The organization's goal is to empower individuals by providing them with new opportunities, skills, and resources to enhance their livelihoods.

In its endeavors, Helvetas Nepal works in partnership with local and national non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, as well as local and national government bodies. It advocates for the principles of decentralization and subsidiarity, ensuring that decisions are made at the appropriate levels and fostering accountability throughout the development process.

Detailed information on Helvetas Nepal can be accessed at <https://nepal.helvetas.org>.

Published by

Helvetas Nepal
Bakhundole, Lalitpur,
GPO Box 688, Kathmandu, Nepal
Telephone: +977 1 5424926, +977 1 5424925
E-mail: co.np@Helvetas.org

Photos: Helvetas Nepal

Cover Photo: A joyful expression shines on the face of a walnut farmer in Jumla.

Table of Contents

Message from the Country Director	1
Summary	2
Country Context.....	3
Helvetas Nepal Country Strategy	3
Working Area: Water, Food and Climate.....	4
Working Field: WASH and Water Governance.....	4
Working Field: Food and Nutrition.....	5
Working Field: Climate and Disaster Resilience	6
Working Field: Bridges and Roads.....	10
Working Area: Voice, Inclusion and Cohesion	11
Working Field: Governance and Civic Space	11
Working Field: Migration	13
Working Area: Skills, Jobs and Income	16
Working Field: Vocational Skills	16
Working Field: Private Sector Development.....	18
Gender and Social Equity	20
Urban Engagement and Youth.....	21
Digitalization	22
Humanitarian Response	22
Partnerships and Capacity Development	23
Human Resources (People and Culture).....	24
Budget and Investment	25
Audit Report.....	26
Ways Forward.....	30
Thanks.....	31

List of Abbreviations

CHF	Swiss Franc (1 CHF = NPR 150)
CTEVT	Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training
DAGs	Disadvantaged Groups
ENSSURE	Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment
EU	European Union
FSAN	Improving Food Security and Nutrition of Smallholder Farmers through an Agroecological Approach
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GRAPE	Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
MAF	Mitigation Action Facility
MRC	Migration Resource Centre
MITO	Strengthening Walnut Value-chain in Nepal Project
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
PROYEL	Promotion of Youth Engagement in Local Governance Process Project
ReMi	Reintegration of Returnee Migrants
SaMi	Safer Migration Project
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSCU	South-South Cooperation Unit
TA	Technical Assistance
TBSU	Trail Bridge Support Unit
TRAC4Change	Transformative Rural Access Catalysts for Change
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Message from the Country Director



It is with deep appreciation and reflection that I present the **Helvetas Nepal Annual Report 2024**, highlighting a year of resilience, renewed momentum, and collective achievement. As I transition to my new role as Country Director of Helvetas Myanmar, I do so with great confidence in the continuity, stability, and growth of our Nepal country program.

Despite political and economic uncertainties, Helvetas Nepal has remained a committed partner in development, driving progress across critical areas. We have strengthened rural-urban linkages, enhanced youth engagement, institutionalized migration governance, expanded access to WASH services, and embedded climate resilience into agriculture, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

We prioritized digitalization across programs leveraging technology to improve service delivery, transparency, and innovation. Additionally, we expanded access to career guidance, skills, and enterprises, particularly for youth and disadvantaged groups, while supporting inclusive tourism and green entrepreneurship. Our humanitarian responses in earthquake and flood-affected areas, along with collaboration at all levels of government, demonstrated our commitment to sustainable, impactful outcomes.

At the heart of this progress lies our people. I am especially proud of our dedicated team and the growing pool of young talents driving innovation, accountability, and a culture of continuous learning. This strong foundation will carry us forward as we remain focused on delivering impactful and sustainable results.

Transitions are moments of both renewal and continuity. I remain deeply connected to Nepal and look forward to fostering cross-country collaboration from Myanmar, guided by the same values of dignity, solidarity, and inclusive development that define our work.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal, our donors including SDC, EU, IFAD, GIZ, charity: water, Swiss Solidarity, Happel Foundation, Symphysis Foundation, Esperanza Foundation, and UZH Foundation and our invaluable partners. Your trust and collaboration have been vital to our shared success.

With heartfelt thanks,

Country Director, Helvetas Nepal
Incoming Country Director, Helvetas Myanmar

Summary

Nepal has made significant strides in areas such as economic recovery, energy development, gender equality, and digital transformation, despite facing ongoing challenges. The economy has shown signs of post-pandemic recovery, driven by sectors like agriculture, remittances, and tourism. Infrastructure and hydropower projects have improved energy supply and connectivity. Health and education services have expanded, though disparities between rural and urban areas persist. Nepal continues to prioritize climate resilience, sustainable development, and social protection programs for vulnerable groups. Efforts toward federalism and political stability have made progress but continue to face obstacles.

Guided by its Extended Country Strategy (2023–2024), Helvetas Nepal has been actively implementing programs across key thematic areas. Through strong collaboration with local governments and user committees, Helvetas Nepal has significantly improved WASH facilities. The organization has also strengthened the walnut value chain, enhanced food systems, and promoted green, resilient agriculture. Helvetas Nepal has led efforts to encourage youth engagement in governance, ensuring that young people have a voice in decision-making processes.

Helvetas Nepal has closely collaborated with federal, provincial, and local governments to improve the protection of migrant workers and their families. Special emphasis has been placed on reintegrating returnees, especially women and disadvantaged groups, who often face heightened vulnerabilities throughout the migration cycle. Helvetas Nepal has provided technical assistance to the government in skills development, apprenticeships, and career counselling while partnering with the private sector and local governments to stimulate business investments, foster an enabling business environment, and create decent jobs.

Helvetas Nepal expanded its South-South cooperation efforts by supporting Ethiopia in scaling up trail bridges. In partnership with Alliance2015 members, Helvetas Nepal provided food and non-food relief assistance and began reconstructing health and educational facilities in Jajarkot following an earthquake. The organization also provided humanitarian aid to flood-affected communities, including food, non-food items, and cash transfers.

Helvetas Nepal hosted a visit from Helvetas Kosovo, facilitating high-level discussions on local governance. The organization also welcomed delegations from the EU, UZH Foundation, and charity: water. Funding has been secured from SDC, the World Bank, UZH, charity: water, and Swiss Solidarity, with additional funding under consideration from the Mitigation Action Facility. As the country lead for Alliance2015, Helvetas Nepal strengthened partnerships by launching a joint project and bolstering emergency preparedness and response efforts. The organization remains committed to regional collaboration and knowledge exchange through workshops and study visits.

The country is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters and epidemics. To mitigate risks, Helvetas Nepal has a robust crisis communication and response mechanism in place. While project implementation partners are generally reliable, additional measures such as capacity building, periodic reviews, and internal audits are necessary to reinforce financial oversight in high-fiduciary-risk environments.

Helvetas Nepal program has regained momentum and is now strong and stable. Looking ahead, Helvetas Nepal aims to deepen its engagement in rural-urban linkages, expand its work with youth, institutionalize migration governance, strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus, advance gender equality, promote inclusive and sustainable tourism and climate action, enhance career counselling and vocational skills, and harness digital transformation. The organization has developed its next Country Strategy (2025–2028) in full alignment with the new Global Strategy (2025–2028) and sync with SDC's contribution cycle. Reaffirming its commitment to impactful and sustainable development in Nepal, Helvetas Nepal remains dedicated to delivering high-quality, accountable, and resilient programs that empower communities and foster inclusive growth.

Country Context

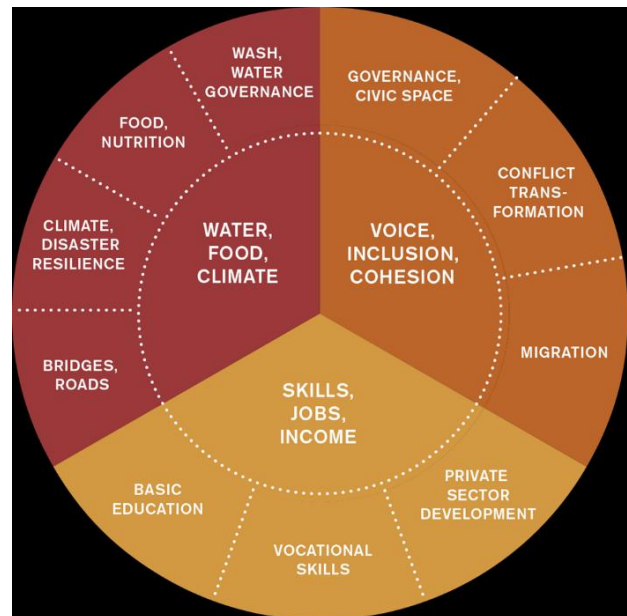
Nepal's political landscape remains complex, shaped by a fragile balance of power among major parties. Despite the constitutional shift to federalism in 2015, governance challenges persist, particularly in fiscal management, bureaucratic capacity, and political interference at provincial and local levels. While decentralization has brought the government closer to the people, the frequent reshuffling of leaders and weak institutional mechanisms hinder effective policy implementation. Political instability, coupled with rising public frustration over corruption and economic stagnation, has led to growing skepticism about the ability of political elites to drive meaningful reforms. Furthermore, Nepal's geopolitical positioning remains delicate, balancing strategic partnerships with India, China, and the United States, each competing for influence through infrastructure investments, trade agreements, and foreign aid.

Economically, Nepal relies heavily on remittances, which account for over a quarter of its GDP, sustaining household consumption but limiting domestic job creation. While growth has resumed post-pandemic, it remains sluggish due to low industrial productivity, a weak private sector, and regulatory bottlenecks. Development aid remains crucial, with multilateral institutions and bilateral donors supporting infrastructure, governance, and climate resilience. However, donor coordination challenges persist, particularly in aligning federal, provincial, and local priorities. Nepal has seen rapid digital transformation, particularly in fintech and e-governance, yet gaps in internet access, digital literacy, and cybersecurity remain barriers to inclusive progress. As Nepal moves toward potential graduation from Least Developed Country status, economic diversification, investment in human capital, and political stability will be key to sustaining long-term development.

Helvetas Nepal Country Strategy

The Extended Country Strategy (2023-24) is aligned with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Plan of the Government of Nepal with the vision of achieving equality and sustainability by facilitating people's access to capital and skills, minimum wages, and social security arrangements. It is guided by Helvetas Global Strategy (2021-24). It is further aligned with the Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Nepal (2023-26) which has three integrated domains of interventions - Federal State building, Employment and Income, and Migration. Helvetas Nepal is committed to bringing about real change for disadvantaged people, those who are economically poor and socially marginalized.

The goal has been pursued through eight working fields under three working areas in the forms of program implementation (people), advisory support (partnerships) and policy advocacy (frame conditions). Helvetas Nepal has been transitioning from directly implementing projects to providing technical assistance in Nepal. This shift indicates a focus on capacity building, knowledge transfer, system strengthening and supporting the governments and local partners in implementing their development initiatives. The organization responded to earthquakes and floods with relief efforts and has continued to support recovery and reconstruction using a nexus approach.



Helvetas' working areas and working fields

Helvetas Nepal has embedded gender equality and social inclusion into its projects to address disparities, empower women girls, and youth, and seek to reduce discrimination and marginalization experienced by various groups within communities. Additionally, Helvetas Nepal empowers target communities and networks as rights holders, facilitating their active participation in local governance processes.

Working Area: Water, Food and Climate

Under its "Water, Food, and Climate" focus area, Helvetas strives to ensure sustainable access to natural resources, safe water, sanitation, hygiene, nutritious food, and essential technical and financial support services. The goal is to enhance climate resilience and improve living conditions in both rural and urban settings. This thematic area is further divided into four working fields, all of which Helvetas Nepal actively engages in, as outlined below.

Working Field: WASH and Water Governance

Access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is essential for public health and sustainable development. The IWRM Programme of Helvetas Nepal aims to improve WASH facilities and water governance, particularly for disadvantaged people, ensuring equitable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services at home, in schools and other public places.

The projects under the broader IWRM programme of this working field are given in the table below:

Project name	Funding source	Duration	Helvetas role
Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Programme	Public donations	2022-2025	Project Management
Increasing Access to WASH - 23-24	Charity Water	August 2023- August 2024	Project Management
Increasing Access to WASH - 24-25	Charity Water	August 2024- August 2025	Project Management
Increasing access to improved WASH (F&M) – Charity Water 24-25	Charity Water	January 2024- December 2024	Project Management
Rural_Laboratory_Strengthening_22-24_EAWAG	EAWAG Switzerland	April 2022- June 2024	Project Management

The WASH and water governance program aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 6, ensuring sustainable water and sanitation access for all. In 2024, Helvetas' IWRM Program constructed 74 drinking water supply schemes with municipalities, benefiting 32,652 individuals (48.7% women) across 5,697 households. Of these, 67 schemes were funded by charity: water, while seven were financed by Helvetas. Additionally, drinking water reached 57 schools (10,232 students) and 36 public institutions (serving 203 employees and visitors). Nearly all benefiting households now have private tap stands, significantly reducing time spent on water collection.

Household sanitation and hygiene improved notably, with 5,665 households managing hand-washing facilities, 5,615 adopting water filters, and over 5,500 constructing *Changs* for drying utensils and waste disposal pits. Water quality tests showed that 84% of households had improved water quality at the point of use. To enhance climate resilience, 29 drinking water schemes were developed as Multiple Use Water Systems (MUS), benefiting 1,639 households and supporting irrigation on 28.48 hectares for vegetable cultivation. Source protection measures, such as intake protection and fencing, were implemented for all schemes.

The program strengthened WASH governance through capacity-building efforts, training 1,541 individuals in management, operations, sanitation, and hygiene. Transparent governance was ensured in 73 completed schemes via public hearings, reviews, and audits. Policymakers were engaged through workshops, and the "Hello Dhara" initiative monitored 91 drinking water schemes, securing continuous access for 41,500 people across 7,291 water points. Knowledge-sharing extended to global platforms such as the UNC Water and Health Conference.

These interventions have significantly improved WASH facilities, benefiting marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities, and advancing Helvetas Nepal's mission of ensuring dignified lives for all.

The WASH and Water Governance projects had a budget that represented 21.40% of the total program budget this year, and the expenditure was 23.64% of the same budget.

Case Story: Water Supply Scheme Solaces Pains of Blindness

Apsara Thapa, an 18-year-old blind girl from a remote village in Achham, has faced immense hardships, including losing her parents at a young age and growing up in economic difficulty. The lack of a drinking water system in her village forced her to rely on family and neighbors to fetch water from a well an hour away. This scarcity often left her enduring thirst when no one was available to collect water for her.

The implementation of the Dharigad Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme, completed in May 2024, transformed Apsara's life by providing a tap stand at her home. Funded by the IWRM Program under the charity: water 520 grant and Mangalsen Municipality, the scheme now serves 56 households, benefiting 349 people in Bhuntura. With direct access to clean water, Apsara can now independently meet her needs, maintain hygiene, and manage menstruation without relying on others. This project has granted her confidence, dignity, and autonomy, exemplifying how accessible infrastructure can empower disabled individuals in marginalized communities.



Apsara collecting water from the tap in her home

Working Field: Food and Nutrition

Helvetas works to foster partnerships among public, civic, and private stakeholders, strengthening their capacities to ensure access to land, promote sustainable agricultural practices, developing resilient food systems, and improving services and market opportunities. Additionally, it advocates for supportive policy frameworks to enhance the availability of affordable, nutritious, and healthy food for disadvantaged communities.

The projects in this working field are as follows:

Project Name	Funding Source	Duration	Helvetas Role
Strengthening Walnut Value Chain in Nepal (MITO) Project-II	Public donations, Happel Foundation	January 2021 – December 2025	Project Management
Improving Food Security and Nutrition of Smallholder Farmers through an Agroecological Approach (FSAN)	Public donations, FastenAktion	September 2022 – December 2024	Project Management
Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE)	European Union, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implementation by GIZ	September 2022– November 2024	Project Management

In 2024, three projects under this working field collaborated with 13 municipalities in Karnali province and four civil society organizations, reaching 9,854 primary stakeholders (55% women and 58% disadvantaged communities). The projects facilitated municipalities in developing climate-smart agriculture frameworks, integrating agroecological technologies, and promoting agro-based enterprises. As a result, 15 municipalities drafted policy frameworks, with seven finalizing them during the reporting period. Additionally, 1,844 households (57% women and 62% disadvantaged groups) increased productivity and income, benefiting 3,985 people (58% women and 64%

disadvantaged groups) with improved nutritious food consumption. Various service providers and private sectors supported 9,341 people (59% women and 40% disadvantaged groups), while 790 indirect beneficiaries (60% women and 53% disadvantaged groups) gained additional income through market-led production and sustainable market linkages.

Farmers in Karnali province face challenges such as climate vulnerabilities, limited agricultural opportunities, declining sustainable practices, logistical barriers, market instability, and gender disparities. To address these issues, key initiatives included climate-smart agriculture, low-volume high-value commodities, block production, drudgery-reducing technologies, market exploration, and strengthened market linkages, leading to improved productivity and income stability. Lessons emphasized the need for institutionalized agro-enterprise policies, conservation of indigenous crops and breeds, quality service provision through local resources, Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) adoption, inclusive training, and simplified financial services. These strategies highlight the importance of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability in fostering resilience and economic growth in the region.

This year Food Security and Nutrition projects represented 2.34% of the total country program budget and 2.98% of the expenditure.

Case Story: Karna Bahadur increased his earnings from walnuts.

Karna Bahadur Hamal, a 47-year-old farmer from Kudari village, Tila Rural Municipality, has long cultivated walnuts but struggled to generate profitable income due to a lack of technical knowledge and local resources.

The MITO project implemented by 4S Jumla in support of Helvetas Nepal created an opportunity for farmers like him to become a local resource person (LRP). He had received several trainings and exposures for building the capacity to learn about walnut production as well as to provide training to the local level farmers about what he learnt. The training he received was mainly on advanced techniques of walnut cultivation, disease and pest management and post-harvest handling. He understands the market value of walnuts as a profitable business.

This knowledge significantly improved his farming, leading to increased production and profit. In 2024, he cultivated walnuts on 10 ropanis (0.51 hectares) of land, harvesting 8,000 walnut kernels and earning NPR 64,000 (USD 480.00). Now serving as a local resource person, Karna aims to support the government and service providers in promoting walnut farming to boost production and income at the local level. He expresses gratitude for the project's support in helping him achieve his goals.



Karna with his freshly harvested walnuts.

Working Field: Climate and Disaster Resilience

Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change, ranking as the 10th most affected country between 2000 and 2019. From 1971 to 2014, the country experienced an annual temperature rise of 0.056°C, with more pronounced warming in high-altitude regions like the Himalayas, especially during winter. Rainfall has become unpredictable, leading to increased extreme events such as droughts, floods, landslides, and forest fires. Future projections indicate a potential temperature

rise of 1.3°C to 1.8°C by 2050 under moderate emission scenarios, while precipitation may increase by 7.9% to 12.1% between 2036 and 2065.

Climate change and natural disasters have significantly impacted Nepal's economy and livelihood opportunities, particularly for poor and marginalized communities with limited adaptive capacity. Helvetas Nepal has been actively working to support these communities through sectoral projects, helping them build resilience and better cope with climate-induced challenges.

The following projects have been implemented in this area:

Project name	Funding source	Duration	Helvetas role
Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Programme	Charity Water, Public donations	January 2022-December 2025	Project Management
A2015 Urban Resilience Project	Own fund of HELVETAS, PIN, and WHH	January 2023-May 2024	Project steering partner
Innovation in Enterprise Development and Job Creation (InElam)	Happel Foundation, Esperanza Foundation, Symphysis Foundation	January 2021–December 2024	Project Management
MITO (Strengthening Walnut Value Chain in Nepal)	Happel Foundation	January 2021 – December 2025	Project Management
Improving Food Security and Nutrition of Smallholder Farmers through an Agroecological Approach (FSAN)	Fastenaktion, HELVETAS Own fund	September 2022–December 2024	Project Management
Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems (GRAPE)	European Union, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and BMZ, managed by GIZ	September 2022–November 2024	Project management in Humla
Afnoghar	Swiss Solidarity	July 2023-August 2024	Project management
Hamro Shahar	Own fund	September 2024 – December 2027	Project management

Helvetas Nepal has made significant contributions to climate resilience across multiple sectors. In the WASH sector, it supported five municipalities in formulating Water Use Master Plans that incorporate climate risk assessments. It implemented water source conservation measures and multiple-use systems, improving water availability for farmers and facilitating vegetable production, while also strengthening the capacity of 342 beneficiaries on water retention, recharge, and reuse. In urban livelihoods, Helvetas Nepal collaborated with Alliance2015 to provide skill training to women from urban slums, including felt goods production and two-wheeler operation, enhancing their economic opportunities and access to social safety nets.

Landscape restoration and sustainable production have also been key focus areas, with bamboo plantations on fallow land benefiting 80 vulnerable households, accompanied by training in high-value bamboo product manufacturing. Additionally, Helvetas Nepal has supported private sector entrepreneurs in developing eco-friendly alternatives such as bio-paints made from cow dung, leaf plates, and terracotta teacups to replace disposable plastics. In agriculture, the organization assisted two local governments in setting municipal objectives for climate-resilient agriculture value chains and provided training to farmers on sustainable harvesting, composting, mulching, and botanical pesticides, particularly for walnut farming. Through partnerships with Fastenaktion and Sahas Nepal, Helvetas Nepal also supported 502 smallholder farmers in adopting agroecological practices.

Furthermore, Helvetas Nepal has contributed to earthquake-resilient housing by restoring stone masonry houses in Sindhupalchowk that were originally built with its technical and financial support following the 2015 earthquake. Reinforcing these houses with wooden bands and posts has improved their earthquake resilience, benefiting 3,312 people. Through this comprehensive approach, Helvetas Nepal integrates climate adaptation, livelihood enhancement, and sustainable resource management, fostering resilience among vulnerable communities.

The allocation for “Climate and Disaster Resilience” projects in the country program budget accounted for 13.81% of the total, with a corresponding expenditure of 12.52%.

Case Story: Reconstruction as Recovery

In the delightful village of Kalleri, Helambu, Ward-5, the Tamang family, headed by Rekpa Tamang, exemplifies remarkable resilience and community solidarity. Their recent collaboration with Helvetas Nepal epitomizes a transformative journey of restoration and revitalized optimism, akin to holding his fragile delaminated walls together by a layered reinforced jacket. Rekpa Tamang and his family of four faced the daunting prospect of reconstructing their home, which, while severely damaged, required significant repairs to ensure safety and comfort. The family's initial apprehension stemmed from uncertainty regarding the vulnerable state of their masonry walls. The walls were perforated and were at risk of being delaminated.

The prospect of initiating comprehensive restoration efforts with the risk of the walls of the house crumbling posed a substantial challenge for Rekpa Tamang and his family. This uncertainty generated a heightened sense of susceptibility, eclipsing their primary objective of attaining a more secure living environment. Despite these challenges, the family's determination, coupled with the support from Helvetas Nepal, moved them forward. The relatively moderate extent of damage allowed them the unique opportunity to reconstruct while still inhabiting their home. This decision marked a pivotal moment, reducing the logistical strain and enabling continuous oversight of progress.



A satisfied homeowner expressing his gratitude for the project

The reconstruction not only provided structural reinforcement to their residence but also alleviated emotional and psychological distress for the family. Rekpa's expression of relief and appreciation underscores the significant impact of the assistance received, likening the stability of their restored home to the crucial support of the reinforced jacket. The installation of plastered walls provided an enhanced feeling of safety, particularly in anticipation of the approaching monsoon season.

Case Story: Bimala BK: A Story of Resilience and Hope

Bimala BK, a 36-year-old single mother from Sanibheri Rural Municipality-3 in Rukum West, faced severe hardships after the sudden loss of her husband, the primary provider for her family. Struggling to support her two children, she endured financial challenges while relying on agriculture, livestock, and daily wage labor. Her struggles worsened when the Jajarkot earthquake of November

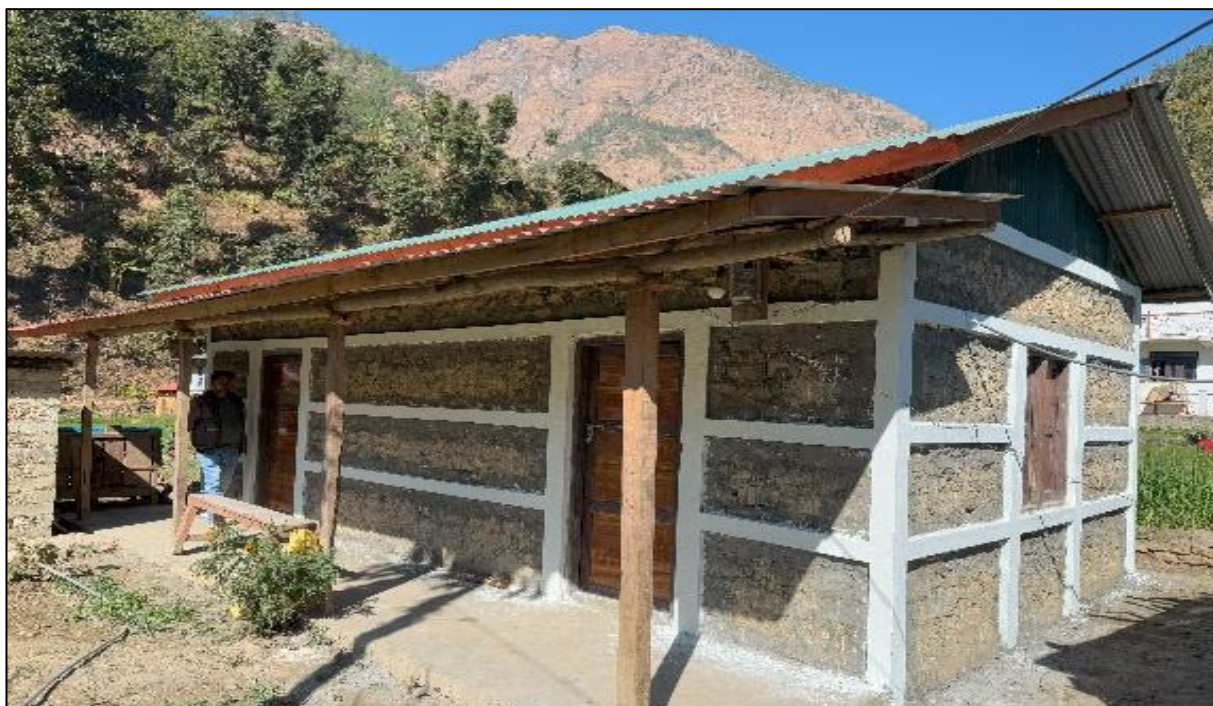
2023 destroyed her two-story stone masonry house, leaving her homeless and deepening her financial burden.

Recognizing her plight, the local ward committee nominated her as a beneficiary of the Skills and



Damaged house due to earthquake

Reconstruction Project (SRP), which trains masons in earthquake-resilient construction. Approved for a model house construction, Bimala actively participated in rebuilding her home, even hand-crushing stones to prepare materials. Her dedication and resilience paid off, and she soon had a new two-room earthquake-resistant house, providing a safe space for her children and renewed hope for the future. While financial challenges persist, her story highlights the transformative impact of determination and targeted support.



Newly Build House of Bimala BK during Training.

The SRP, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), embodies the principle of "Build Back Better," helping vulnerable individuals rebuild their lives.

Working Field: Bridges and Roads

Helvetas prioritizes improving economic opportunities and public services by constructing trail bridges and rural roads, ensuring disadvantaged communities gain better access to markets, schools, and healthcare facilities. The closure of the Trail Bridge Support Unit (TBSU) in November 2023 marked the end of its successful partnership with the governments of Nepal, Switzerland, and Helvetas Nepal, with a no-cost extension until March 2024 for administrative purposes. The South-South Cooperation Unit (SSCU) was rebranded as Transformative Rural Access Catalysts for Change (TRAC4Change) to enhance its global leadership in rural access solutions.

During the reporting period, trail bridges were included in ADB's Green Road Toolkit, and the Nepal experience was shared at the Transport Forum 2024 and its subsequent webinar series, highlighting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in rural infrastructure. A total of 1,205,949 people (35% women, 65% men) benefited from 52 trail bridges constructed under TRAIL Phase 2, implemented in Ethiopia by Helvetas and Bridges to Prosperity. Each bridge served an average of 23,191 individuals, providing year-round safer access to remote communities. A Post-Bridge Building Assessment (PBBA) in Amhara found that before the bridges, 10.5% of households reported fatalities and 18% lost cattle and goods while crossing rivers - risks that were fully eliminated post-construction. Bridges enabled daily use by 175 individuals, with 54% men and 46% women, primarily for market access and employment. Healthcare accessibility improved, with a 17% rise in patient visits and a 31.5% increase in safer childbirth.

TRAC4Change also focused on capacity building in Ethiopia, training 37 consultants, 69 contractors, and 14 fabricators to construct Short Span Trail Bridges, ensuring sustainability. Efforts to expand beyond Ethiopia included a scoping mission in Morogoro, Tanzania, design preparation for a demonstration bridge in Ghor, Afghanistan, and engagement with government authorities in Indonesia and Laos. The unit participated in multiple grant calls with plans for further expansion.

A key lesson learned was the importance of linking rural access to global priorities such as food security and health outcomes rather than just infrastructure development. TRAC4Change plans to integrate Green Roads expertise and collaborate with the HIMO project in Burkina Faso to create a comprehensive rural access package, combining trail bridges and sustainable green roads.

This strategic approach strengthens TRAC4Change's commitment to enhancing connectivity and resilience for isolated communities while expanding its global impact.

The allocation for Bridges and Roads projects in the country program budget accounted for 3.78% of the total, with a corresponding expenditure of 5.29%.

Case Story: Paving the Way for Global Rural Connectivity

In 2024–2025, TRAC4Change made significant progress in broadening its portfolio and strengthening its role in rural infrastructure development. Through strategic advocacy and marketing, the organization secured promising opportunities, including TRAIL Phase 3, where Hemsley Trust expressed strong interest in extending its partnership, and the World Bank-funded Rural Connectivity Food Security Program (RCFSP) in Ethiopia, which involves technical assistance for the construction of 373 trail bridges. Both projects are expected to be finalized in 2025, reinforcing TRAC4Change's leadership in trail bridge development.

Beyond securing projects, TRAC4Change pursued "prestigious awards and initiatives", advancing through two rounds of "MacArthur100&Change" and continuing its efforts in the "Bellagio Convening". While the organization did not progress in the "Audacious Project & Hilton Humanitarian Award", these efforts emphasized its commitment to global outreach and funding diversification.

TRAC4Change also strengthened its organizational identity and visibility, establishing a Steering Committee in June 2024, rebranding with insights from a U.S. branding expert, and integrating its

expertise into ADB's Green Roads Toolkit. Additionally, it shared Nepal's success in webinars and presented innovative "trail bridge solutions at ADB's Green Roads Conference (May 2024, Manila) and SKOLL (April 2024)".

Geographically, the organization expanded its engagements across multiple countries. Ethiopia emerged as a strong focal point, with a high likelihood of securing \$46 million in funding across "TRAIL Phase 3 (\$11M) and RCFSP (\$35M)". In Afghanistan, UNESCO requested technical assistance, with bridge design and cost estimates planned for early 2025. TRAC4Change also pursued long-term engagement in Tanzania and Indonesia, while refining partnership approaches for Laos and the Philippines.



A woman and her children crossing a trail bridge in Ziquala village, Wag-Hlmra zone, Amhara region, Ethiopia. Photo credit: Simon B. Opladen

As TRAC4Change continues its momentum, its work in trail bridges and sustainable rural access remains a key driver of global impact. With multiple high-potential initiatives expected to materialize in 2025, the organization stands ready to accelerate its mission, ensuring safe, reliable, and transformative infrastructure solutions for rural communities worldwide.

Working Area: Voice, Inclusion and Cohesion

Under the working area of "Voice, Inclusion, and Cohesion," Helvetas works to strengthen partnerships with public and private stakeholders to amplify the voices of local communities. The organization aims to create an enabling environment for civil society and private sector actors to actively engage in decision-making while also building the capacity of public institutions to provide socially inclusive, gender-responsive services and develop transformative policies. These efforts are intended to reduce inequalities, foster social cohesion, uphold human rights, and support safe and productive migration. This working area comprises three key fields, and Helvetas Nepal has been actively engaged in all except "Conflict Transformation," as outlined below.

Working Field: Governance and Civic Space

The Governance & Civic Space working field focuses on empowering communities to actively participate in political decision-making, advocate for human rights, and access quality public services. At the same time, it enhances the capacity of government and civil society partners, fostering mutual trust to shape policies that support effective decentralized governance. This contributes to a broader civic space and a more enabling environment for civil society engagement.

The dedicated projects in this working field are as follows:

Project Name	Funding Source	Duration	Helvetas Role
Promotion of Youth Engagement in Local Governance Process (PROYEL)	European Union	January 2022-March 2025	Project Management
Good Governance and GESI	Public donations	April 2021- December 2024	Project Management
Urban Future Scape-Hamro Shahar	Public donations	September 2024 – December 2027	Project Management
Province Support Program Phase 1 Extension	SDC	December 2024 – April 2026	Technical Assistance

Helvetas Nepal has positioned itself as a key player in governance and civic engagement by collaborating with local and provincial governments across various projects. By integrating its methodologies with government frameworks, it enhances project sustainability and effectiveness.

The Promotion of Youth Engagement in Local Governance Process (PROYEL) Project has been implemented in eight municipalities across Karnali and Madhesh provinces, focusing on youth participation in governance. Additionally, the Good Governance and GESI Project, which phased out in December 2024, contributed to governance capacity-building and was integrated with PROYEL. Other projects supported include the Dalit Women's Empowerment initiative led by the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), promoting Dalit women's socio-economic and political participation in four municipalities, as well as EmpowHER 2024, a short-term leadership development program for marginalized young women in Bagmati Province.

Two new initiatives have been introduced: the Urban Futurescape – Hamro Shahar Project, launched in September 2024, aiming to improve urban governance and quality of life in emerging urban centers, and the Province Support Program (PSP) – Phase I Extension, funded by SDC, running from December 2024 to April 2026. This program consolidates previous gains while strengthening federal governance in Koshi Province through policy reforms, institutional strengthening, and capacity building. Additionally, various sectoral initiatives, including IWRMP, ENSSURE, SaMi, ReMi, and TTDP, continue to contribute to governance and civic engagement.

In 2024, Helvetas Nepal achieved significant milestones, including supporting seven local governments in improving WASH services, assisting 298 local governments in integrating migration policies and strengthening youth participation in nine municipalities. Additionally, 2862 individuals attended governance-related orientation programs, with 49% women and 38% from disadvantaged groups. Beyond government collaboration, the organization supported 58 civil society organizations (CSOs) in integrating safer migration concerns into strategic planning, empowered eight youth panels for advocacy, and institutionalized public audit practices and project-specific accountability mechanisms. The Helvetas Nepal Grievance Redressal Portal, launched in 2022, continued to provide a structured platform for stakeholders to voice concerns and feedback. The organization also contributed to 49 policy changes, positively influencing governance structures.

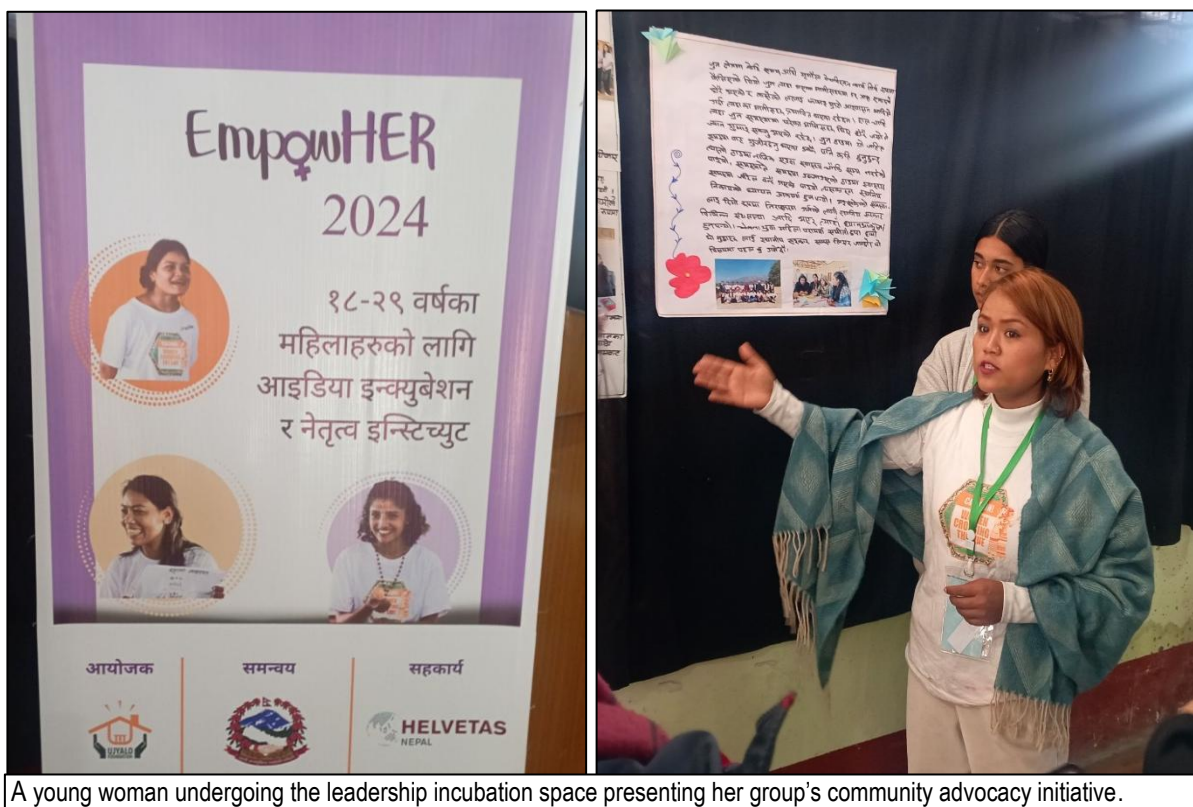
Despite facing challenges such as bureaucratic delays and stakeholder engagement gaps, Helvetas Nepal remains committed to decentralization, governance reforms, and socio-economic development. Its initiatives empower marginalized groups, strengthen government collaboration, and promote inclusivity through systemic changes. By reinforcing governance, migration, economic development, and gender equality strategies, Helvetas Nepal continues to drive long-term impact and policy implementation across Nepal.

This year Governance and Civic Space projects represented 4.27% of the total country program budget and 3.76% of the expenditure.

Case Story: Transforming Young Women into Community Leaders

In the heart of Panchkhal Municipality, Kavre, a transformative journey unfolded through the EmpowHER 2024 project, led by the Ujyalo Foundation in partnership with Helvetas Nepal. Designed to empower young women aged 18-29, the project created a leadership incubation space where participants could step into leadership roles, advocate for change, and shape their

communities. Through leadership training, mentorship, and policy engagement, the initiative provided essential tools for meaningful civic participation.



A young woman undergoing the leadership incubation space presenting her group's community advocacy initiative.

With a focus on inclusivity, the program prioritized 25 young women from marginalized communities, ensuring continuous guidance through a structured mentorship system. Five Community Advocacy Initiatives tackled pressing issues, engaging 600 community members across seven wards. Participants organized speech competitions, exhibitions, legal orientations, and awareness sessions, fostering dialogue on gender equality and human rights. A 24-member committee was formed to amplify young women's voices in governance, producing a Charter of Demand that advocated for equal pay, child marriage prevention, skill-based training, women's employment, and accessibility for people with disabilities. The project culminated in a landmark One-Day Feminist Conference and Graduation Ceremony, drawing 111 participants to discuss leadership, gender equality, and women's empowerment.

Despite obstacles, EmpowHER 2024 laid a solid foundation for long-term social change, equipping young women with leadership skills, advocacy tools, and community engagement opportunities. By breaking barriers and fostering inclusive governance, the project ensured that young women's voices were heard, paving the way for a more equitable future.

Working Field: Migration

Migration is a key focus within Helvetas' programme area of 'Voice, Inclusion and Cohesion.' It is also an important outcome in the Nepal Country Strategy, particularly in the context of migration and remittances as vital sources of livelihood for a significant portion of the population. Helvetas Nepal's migration-related interventions are designed to maximize the benefits of migration by supporting migrants at every stage of the migration cycle. These interventions include information dissemination, counselling, skill development, financial literacy, psychosocial support, access to justice services, and facilitation for the reintegration of returnees. Furthermore, capacity building and partnerships with governments at all levels have been instrumental in delivering inclusive services and institutionalizing migration and reintegration services. Through these efforts, Helvetas aims to improve migration governance systems to safeguard the rights and well-being of migrant workers, returnees, and their families.

These efforts are implemented through the following projects:

Project name	Funding source	Duration	Helvetas role
Safer Migration (SaMi) Program	SDC and GoN	Phase III: September 2018 – November 2024 Phase IV: November 2024–July 2028	Technical Assistance
Reintegration of Returnee Migrant Workers (ReMi) Project	SDC	Phase I: July 2022–July 2026	Technical Assistance

Between January and December 2024, the SaMi Program reached 707,776 beneficiaries, of which 33% were women and 83% were from discriminated groups, through various program components. Migrant Resource Centers (MRCs) provided safer migration-related information to 410,783 people, including 121,213 women. The program helped 4,706 individuals (564 women) access justice through legal and paralegal support, while 3,708 individuals (86% women) received psychosocial services. SaMi also offered 30-day pre-departure vocational training to 1,274 aspiring migrants (259 women) and financial literacy classes to 8,298 members (85% women) from migrant households. This year was particularly significant for the SaMi Program as it marked the conclusion of its third phase and the initiation of the fourth phase. In this new phase, governments at all levels have expressed their commitment to implementing migration services through intergovernmental collaboration and cost-sharing. This represents a key milestone in the institutionalization of migration services. The fourth phase aims at the expansion and institutionalization of migration services in all seven provinces, 77 districts, and 753 local levels under the leadership of the federal, provincial, and local governments. SaMi's collaboration with the government over the years has contributed to the internalization of labor migration issues and increased ownership of the services. The program's facilitation in developing local-level migration profiles and safer migration guidelines, strengthening labor and employment units, and developing provincial labour and employment policies further helped to anchor the migration services at local and provincial levels, and these efforts will also continue in the new phase.

During this reporting period, the ReMi project achieved significant milestones across various initiatives aimed at supporting returnee migrants and their families through Employment Service Centers (ESCs). An outreach program was conducted, reaching a total of 7,670 returnees and their family members, comprising 2,621 (34%) females among them. Among these, 373 Returnee Migrant Workers (RMWs) received support to develop viable business plans. Specifically, 171 RMWs were provided with technology support to start their businesses, while 25 RMWs were referred to for business development services. As a result, 69 RMWs successfully established new enterprises. Additionally, 53 RMWs were facilitated in accessing credit services through RMW networks, and 30 women RMWs received subsidies from local and provincial governments to support their business startups. A notable achievement during this period was the registration of 727 RMWs (141 females and 585 males) at Employment Service Centers (ESCs), where counselling on economic and social reintegration was heavily started. This step marks a critical effort to provide tailored support to returnees as they navigate their reintegration journey.

At the institutional level, the Returnee Migrant Network Procedure was introduced in two local governments (LGs), and the Labor & Employment Policy was approved in Madhesh Province. Notably, 17 LGs and one provincial government allocated budgets for reintegration-related activities, with a combined total of NPR 15,915,000 (appx. USD 117,000). Furthermore, 20 Employment Service Centers (ESCs) are now actively providing guidance and counselling on return and reintegration. Four LGs endorsed the "Self-Employment Promotion Guideline," while two LGs introduced and endorsed guidelines for the formation of RMW Networks.

In collaboration with SaMi, a workshop on Women, Child, and Social Justice Thematic Committee in Madhesh Province was organized, focusing on issues related to employment, migration, and reintegration. Additionally, one Project Advisory and Coordination Committee (PACC) meeting was held, bringing together federal, provincial, and local government representatives to endorse the Fiscal Year 24/25 Yearly Plan of Operation (YPO). On the digitalization front, ReMi initiated the development of Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security (MoLESS) Digitalization Blueprint, aligning stakeholders toward a broader Labor Market Information System (LMIS) vision. These achievements highlight the project's comprehensive approach to supporting returnee migrants and fostering sustainable reintegration.

In the country program budget for 2024, the Migration projects received an allocation of 25.39% of the total budget and the corresponding expenditure was 28.02%.

Case Story: From desperation to hope: Surendra's journey home with MRC's support

Surendra Basnet, a 32-year-old from Tulsipur, Nepal, worked in Malaysia for seven years due to limited job opportunities in his home country. After briefly returning to Nepal in early 2023, he went back to Malaysia in July, hoping for a better future. However, on February 11, 2023, he was involved in a severe accident while crossing the road. Initially, his family was informed of his death, but later, they were told he was alive but in critical condition in the ICU.

Surendra suffered a skull fracture, and while his company arranged medical treatment, they soon informed his family that the costs were too high to continue covering. The family was pressured into sending money for his ongoing treatment, paying NPR 61,724 (USD 459) monthly for three months, followed by an additional NPR 277,729 (USD 2,067) for surgery. Later, they were also asked to pay NPR 1,543,140 (USD 11,487) for further care or repatriation, leaving them financially burdened.

A neighbor advised Surendra's wife, Namrata, to seek support from the local government. Through the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) and the Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC), which had an outreach officer in Malaysia, efforts were made to facilitate his treatment and rescue. However, delays occurred because the company had not informed the Nepali embassy about the accident. Despite this, continuous advocacy from MRC, PNCC, and the Nepali embassy led to Surendra's return to Nepal on June 3, 2024, with the company covering repatriation costs. He underwent surgery in Nepal, and his wife reported that he was recovering well and had started speaking again.



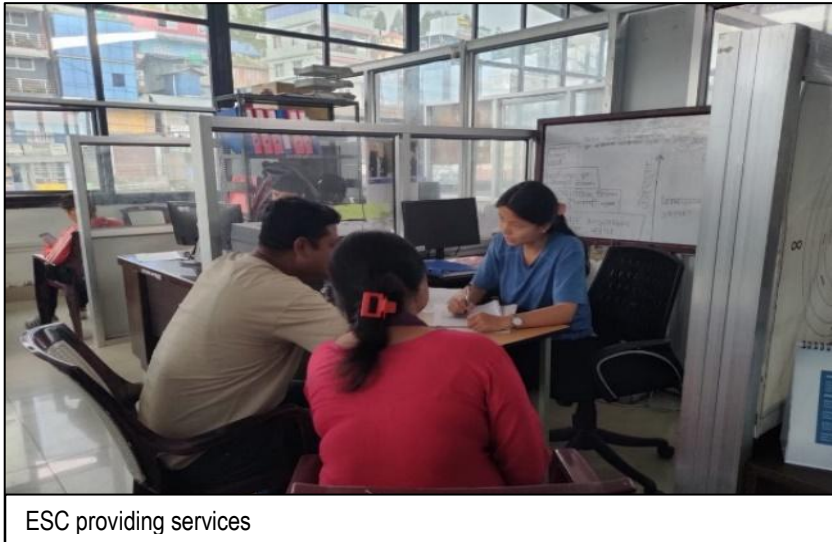
Surendra undergoing treatment in a hospital

This case highlights the challenges migrant workers face, including financial burdens, lack of immediate support, and bureaucratic hurdles. However, coordinated efforts from local and international organizations proved crucial in ensuring Surendra's safe return and recovery.

Case Story: Transforming ESC: A Model for Integrated Employment Services

Suryodaya Municipality's Employment Service Center (ESC) has undergone a significant transformation since the intervention of the ReMi project. Before the ReMi project intervention, the ESC, SaMi (Safer Migration Project), and ReMi teams operated separately, each with its own office and staff. Although they collaborated during program implementations, their independent operations created some barriers to service delivery.

The ReMi team introduced several key initiatives that unified these efforts and streamlined services. An orientation at the local government level introduced elected officials and municipality staff to the Integrated Labor and Employment Service Operation and Management Guideline 2080, emphasizing the need for a one-door ESC service center. ReMi also engaged key stakeholders like the mayor, deputy mayor, and chief administrative officer, emphasizing the importance of a unified service model. During community orientations, ESC staff raised awareness about the new one-door system, helping community members understand its benefits.



ESC providing services

As a result, the ESC has been transformed into a model for integrated service delivery. Now, three ESC staff, one SaMi psychosocial counsellor, and two ReMi staff work together from a single office, ensuring cohesive planning, implementation, and monitoring of services. This unified approach has streamlined operations and improved access to employment, migration and reintegration services for the community.

Working Area: Skills, Jobs and Income

Recognizing that access to basic education, vocational training, and income-generating opportunities is crucial for lifting communities out of poverty, Helvetas has been actively engaged in creating gainful employment and income opportunities for the poor. Except for the "Basic Education" sector, Helvetas Nepal is involved in all other working fields as outlined below:

Working Field: Vocational Skills

Youth unemployment is a major challenge in Nepal, and Helvetas Nepal is tackling this by improving the employability of youth, especially from disadvantaged groups, in both domestic and foreign labor markets. Through market-led and inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs, such as the Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment (ENSSURE) project and Safer Migration (SaMi), the organization helps youth acquire marketable skills. These projects, implemented with support from federal, provincial, and local governments, involve technical backstopping and capacity-building to ensure successful implementation and institutionalization, laying the groundwork for scaling up the programs and reaching more youth across Nepal.

The projects in this working field are as follows:

Project Name	Funding Source	Duration	Helvetas Role
Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment (ENSSURE) II	SDC and GoN	September 2021 – July 2025	Advisory
Safer Migration (SaMi)	SDC and GoN	September 2018 – July 2028	Advisory
SheLeads: Skills and Empowerment Project	UZH Foundation	2024-2028	Project Implementation

The ENSSURE and SaMi projects provide vocational training to youths and aspiring migrants, equipping them with essential skills for employment. Over the past year, 3,572 individuals received training, including 24-month Dual VET apprenticeships (APT), 10-month On-the-Job Training (OJT), and one-month centre-based training for migrants. These initiatives prioritize inclusivity, with 45% of graduates being women, 90% being youth, and 87% from discriminated groups (DAGs). More than 70% of graduates secured employment, with 62% working in Nepal, 12% in foreign employment, and 24% establishing businesses. Their earnings exceed Nepal's minimum wage of NPR 17,300 (appx. 130 USD) per month.

The ENSSURE project trained 2,210 apprentices (951 women) under APT, with 48% employment, and 1,452 trainees (412 women) under OJT, with 72% employment. The SaMi project provided one-month training to 1,274 individuals, focusing on skill requirements in destination countries. Additionally, 19,922 students (55% women) received career guidance services, aiding informed

career choices. Career guidance service centers are now operational in all seven provinces, incorporating digital aptitude testing and career resources.

Governments at different levels co-funded training initiatives with NPR 33.91 million (appx. USD 250,000), while the federal government allocated NPR 15 million (appx. USD 110,000) and reserved 290 APT quotas on CTEVT programs. Several provinces and local governments institutionalized APT monitoring guidelines, Skill Development Training Operational Procedures, and Career Guidance Service Centers, with Nepal's annual policy allocating NPR 40 million (appx. USD 292,000) for career services. Strong intergovernmental collaboration ensures a sustainable technical and vocational education system.

Private sector engagement plays a key role, with 325 industries investing NPR 70 million (appx. USD 514,000) in apprentice stipends. Partnerships with 10 industry associations and major corporate houses, including Chaudhary Group and Golchha Organisations, promote market-driven training programs. Additionally, the SheLeads: Skills and Empowerment Project focuses on providing vocational training, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship support for young women and disadvantaged groups, integrating Result-Based Financing (RBF) and financial inclusion measures.

By aligning with Nepal's Constitution, which recognizes TVET as a concurrent right, these initiatives strengthen intergovernmental cooperation, ensuring equitable employment opportunities and long-term sustainability.

This year, the projects under the Vocational Skills working field represented 22.80% of the total country programme budget and 17.72% of the expenditure.

Case Story: Rising Above: The Resilient Journey of Manika Shrestha



Manika Shrestha's journey is a story of resilience, determination, and entrepreneurial success. Originally from Bhojpur, she relocated to Kathmandu in search of better opportunities. At 20, she pursued a pre-diploma Dual VET-Apprenticeship hotel management course at Madan Ashrit Memorial Polytechnic Institute, but her training was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Undeterred, Manika balanced caring for her injured mother while continuing her studies, eventually excelling in her final examination.

Using her newly acquired skills, she helped her family transform their small eatery into a thriving business, doubling their monthly income. Inspired by her passion for hospitality, she now dreams of opening her own coffee shop while pursuing a Bachelor of Business Studies degree. Rejecting foreign employment, Manika is committed to establishing herself as a successful entrepreneur in Nepal.

Her story highlights the power of perseverance and innovation, proving that overcoming challenges leads to success. Through sheer dedication, she has become an inspiration for aspiring female entrepreneurs, reinforcing the importance of resilience in achieving one's dreams.

Case Story: Success Story: The Journey of Tej Narayan Rajvanshi



Tej Narayan Rajvanshi, born into a financially struggling Tharu family in Morang, faced many challenges while growing up. Despite excelling in his SEE exams, he had to abandon his dream of studying information technology due to financial constraints and instead pursued commerce, which led to academic difficulties and failure in his 12th-grade exams. During this tough period, Tej learned about the ENSSURE project, a bilateral initiative between the Governments of Nepal and Switzerland, offering Dual VET-Apprenticeship training. With guidance from a village elder, he applied and was selected for a 24-month pre-diploma IT course at Adarsh High School, allowing him to study a subject he was passionate about.

Supported by his family, Tej relocated to Biratnagar, covering his NRs 2,000 monthly rent with a stipend for snacks and transportation. The program helped him develop interpersonal skills and build a strong professional network. After completing the 3.5-month institute-based learning phase, he began a 19-month apprenticeship at 3D Advertising Company, earning NRs 20,000 per month, which enabled him to send NRs 10,000 home to support his family.

Tej excelled in poster design, flex design, 3D design, and visiting card development, along with computer hardware and software maintenance. His dedication led him to win first place in an IT skills competition organized by Glocal Pvt. Ltd. in Kathmandu, competing against individuals from three provinces. This achievement established him as a role model in Koshi Province.

Grateful for the ENSSURE project, Tej credits it with transforming his future and enabling him to succeed in his chosen field. His journey reflects resilience, determination, and the impact of skill-based education in empowering youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Working Field: Private Sector Development

Helvetas works to establish a range of partnerships and advocate for policies that foster sustainable business environments, promoting inclusive economies that encourage the creation of decent jobs and support entrepreneurship in micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises across both farm and non-farm sectors.

The projects in this working field are as described below:

Project Name	Funding Source	Duration	Helvetas Role
InElam	Public donations	2017- Dec 2020	Project Management
SAMRIDDHI	IFAD	2018 – Dec 2022	Technical Assistance
Enhanced Skills for Sustainable and Rewarding Employment (ENSSURE)- II	SDC and GoN	2021 - July 2025	Technical Assistance
MITO (Strengthening Walnut Value Chain in Nepal)	Public donations, Happel Foundation	Jan. 2021 – Dec 2025	Project Management
Trail-based Tourism Development Project	SDC	May 2024 – July 2028	Technical Assistance

Helvetas Nepal collaborates with the private sector to promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable livelihood opportunities for marginalized groups. In 2024, projects such as InElam, ENSSURE, MiTo, and ReMi focused on enterprise development, skills enhancement, improving business environments, and utilizing remittances for entrepreneurship. Expanding its private sector partnerships, Helvetas Nepal engaged 439 private sector organizations, benefiting 14,431 individuals, including 8,127 from disadvantaged groups.

Key achievements during this period included signing an MoU with Chaudhary Group Corp Global to provide 100 youth apprenticeships as skilled technicians and partnering with Golchha Group to launch a dual Vocational Education and Training (VET)-Apprenticeship program. Additionally, a national seminar was held with key private sector associations—Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), Hotel Association Nepal (HAN), and Nepal Automobiles Association (NADA)—to discuss bridging the education-employment gap. Employers invested NPR 90 million (CHF 0.59 million) in skills development initiatives, reinforcing market-driven training programs.

The MiTo project continued its collaboration with private nurseries to produce high-quality walnut saplings, supporting local economies. Meanwhile, the ReMi project mapped private sector actors capable of providing economic reintegration services for returnee migrants, with plans to localize these services in 2025 through private sector engagement. The newly launched Trail-based Tourism Development Project (TTDP) focused on empowering micro-entrepreneurs, community-run ventures, and small enterprises in sustainable tourism. By promoting waste management, improved hospitality, and disaster resilience measures, TTDP strengthens Nepal's tourism ecosystem while fostering gender-inclusive employment.

The InElam project leveraged 25% of its investment, amounting to NPR 21.68 million (appx. USD 137,000), to drive enterprise development through private sector innovation. It strengthened member-based associations in banana, dragon fruit, and beekeeping industries, successfully influencing government policies such as the inclusion of dragon fruit in crop insurance and the increase of import tax and excise duty on bananas. Additionally, InElam supported the Startup Business Conference in Madhesh Province, which engaged 295 youth and private sector representatives in fostering entrepreneurial opportunities.

Through strong private-sector collaboration, Helvetas Nepal continues to create a sustainable and inclusive business environment that empowers disadvantaged groups and drives economic opportunities.

The allocation for "Private Sector Development" projects in the annual country program budget accounted for 6.22% of the total budget, with the corresponding expenditure of 6.07%.

Case Story: Pottery Product has Created Green Enterprise and Job

Nepal's pottery industry, rich in cultural heritage, serves both functional and artistic purposes while contributing to local and international markets. After losing his goldsmithing work due to COVID-19, Kaushal Sarraf, a 35-year-old entrepreneur from the Sonra community, ventured into pottery and established the "Pottery Production Industry" in Birgunj in 2022. Recognizing the increasing demand for eco-friendly, locally made products, such as teacups, water pots, and Lassi glasses, Sarraf aimed to revive the industry despite challenges like labor-intensive production, limited technology, and restricted market access.

Seeking solutions, Sarraf engaged Enterprise Service Provider Sunil Sah, who helped him develop a business plan and officially registered "Chirag Mataka Udhog" in Parsa district. Although his business has yet to achieve significant profits, he takes pride in creating jobs for 20 women and promoting environmental sustainability by reducing plastic use. One employee, Chanda Devi (20 years old), earns NPR 18,000 (appx. USD 131) per month, helping her support her household. Sarraf invested NPR 2 million (appx. USD 14,600) and achieved an annual turnover of NPR 1.8 million (appx. USD 13,100), with a profit margin between 15-20%.

To modernize pottery production, the project collaborated with the National Innovation Center to develop electric wheels, improving efficiency and productivity. Additionally, it has supported five

pottery businesses, creating 50 green jobs, while local service providers help sustain the industry through business development services. By promoting traditional occupations, upgrading technology, and enhancing market access, the project strengthens the livelihoods of pottery



Mr. Kuashal Sarraf has receiving business services through enterprise service provider (Mr. Sunil Sah) for product diversification by improving access to technology and market linkages of the product.

producers and contributes to local economic development. More importantly, pottery products are biodegradable, reducing plastic waste and fostering sustainable business practices.

Gender and Social Equity

Helvetas Nepal maintained its commitment to Gender and Social Equity (GSE) in 2024, positively impacting 881,030 individuals, with women comprising 36.24% of participants and 77.71% of beneficiaries belonging to disadvantaged groups (DAG). Key initiatives included securing the SheLeads: Skills and Empowerment Project, funded by the Ursula Zindel Hilti Foundation, to support young women in Madhesh Province. Additionally, GSE assessments were conducted for SDC-funded projects such as ReMi, ENSSURE, and SaMi, leading to capacity-building training on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) for project teams. Staff also received training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) to reinforce safeguarding and ethical practices.

During the September 2024 floods in Bagmati and Madhesh Provinces, Helvetas Nepal adopted a Humanitarian Nexus approach, prioritizing relief for disadvantaged groups, including the distribution of menstrual hygiene supplies for women and warm clothing for infants. The organization actively engaged in International Women's Day 2024, collaborating with the Family Planning Association of Nepal to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), fostering youth leadership in addressing inequality.

The organization's GSE outreach had a meaningful impact across multiple thematic areas. In WASH and water governance, 48% of females and 61.99% of disadvantaged participants gained access to clean water. Food security and agriculture initiatives improved productivity and income for 57.38% of women and 60.86% of disadvantaged farmers. Climate resilience programs strengthened adaptive capacities for 39.97% of females and 29.94% of disadvantaged participants. Governance and civic engagement efforts enabled 69.33% of women and 85.67% of disadvantaged groups to access inclusive public services. In safe migration, 29.5% of females and 80.9% of disadvantaged migrants benefited from interventions, while vocational training programs recorded a 25.53% completion rate for females and 44.67% for disadvantaged apprentices, contributing to economic empowerment and skill development.



Participants of a youth interaction program on sexual and reproductive health

Despite significant progress, challenges remain in LGBTIQ++ inclusion, the participation of persons with disabilities, and workforce diversity, which still requires gender and representation balance. In 2025, Helvetas Nepal will continue implementing the GSE Strategy 2021–2024, focusing on systemic and structural changes to eliminate barriers and ensure a more inclusive development landscape.

Urban Engagement and Youth



A participant in the Province Level Youth Conference 2024 in Madhesh Province

In 2023, Helvetas Nepal expanded its urban engagement in alignment with SDG 11 and the Helvetas Global Strategy (2021–2024), responding to Nepal's rapid urbanization. The organization reached 464,279 people in semi-urban and urban settings, with 366,996 from disadvantaged groups.

Under the Alliance 2015 Urban Resilience (A2015 UR) project (August 2023–August 2024), Helvetas Nepal, in partnership with PIN and WHH Nepal, strengthened urban resilience in Kathmandu and Lalitpur, enhancing economic empowerment and social protection. The project formalized two women-led enterprises, raised awareness among 360 households, trained 46 women in advanced felt handicrafts, and provided entrepreneurship and digital marketing training to 54 participants. The Urban FutureScape: Hamro Shahar project, launched in September 2024, focuses on integrated urban development, participatory governance, and municipal collaboration, reaching 403 individuals, including 106 from disadvantaged groups.

Helvetas Nepal continues to prioritize youth

empowerment, engaging young women, marginalized communities, persons with disabilities, indigenous groups, and those affected by disasters and conflicts. Through initiatives such as SheLeads, PROYEL, ENSSURE, SAMRIDDHI, SaMi, ReMi, and InElam, the organization promotes leadership development, career guidance, skill and enterprise growth, employment opportunities, safer migration, and humanitarian response. Collaborating with government and private sector partners across all levels, Helvetas Nepal ensures inclusive and responsive interventions, recognizing the pivotal role of young people in Nepal's demographic landscape.

Digitalization

In 2024, Helvetas Nepal advanced digitalization through targeted interventions. Technical training on knowledge management equipped 22 reporting focal persons in Lumbini with skills in data collection, processing, and visualization using Kobo Toolbox, Power BI, and QGIS. Similarly, a three-day Data Collection and Visualization training was conducted for AnfoGhar Project staff in Melamchi, Sindhupalchowk. To improve digital literacy, a webinar on Nepali Unicode typing was held, enhancing proficiency in Nepali script. A dedicated Kobo server was also established at the Country Office, ensuring secure, cost-effective data storage and operational control. Additionally, Helvetas Nepal migrated files to a SharePoint-based Document Management Site and set up a recording studio equipped with professional-grade tools for podcast and video production.

Several projects integrated digital solutions to boost efficiency and service delivery. IWRMP adopted SW MAPS, a GIS-based tool for rural water supply design, training 17 staff in its use. The SaMi project strengthened digital monitoring, supporting FEIMS and facilitating online legal linkages, digitizing 18,764 foreign employment-related cases. AfnoGhar introduced an MIS with real-time data collection, automated reporting, and visualization tools for decision-making. Samriddhi digitized training monitoring forms using tablets, cutting costs and time by 50%, and implemented GPS-enabled tracking for local governments. ENSURE offered Career Guidance Services via digital platforms, while ReMI developed the Employment & Reintegration Service Portal (ERSP) to integrate with MoLESS's NEMIS for labour data management.



A citizen using Smart Helpdesk in Barahathawa Municipality,

Further digital governance improvements included seven municipalities adopting e-governance platforms with youth-led IT support, enhancing local service accessibility. The PSP Extension introduced digital governance tools, such as the Chief Minister's Dashboard for real-time insights, the Digital Pradesh initiative for revenue collection, and e-governance solutions to strengthen citizen engagement in policymaking. These initiatives collectively enhanced decision-making, governance efficiency, and service accessibility, supporting Nepal's broader digital transformation goals.

Humanitarian Response

In 2024, Nepal faced an unprecedented flood that gave rise to a major humanitarian crisis. In late September 2024, heavy monsoon rains caused severe flooding and landslides across 39 districts in eastern and central Nepal resulting in loss of lives (249 deaths reported) as well as huge destruction of public and private infrastructure. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) stepped up with additional funding for the immediate relief items. With this fund pooled together with Helvetas own funds, essential food and non-food items were swiftly delivered to flood-affected communities in the Phidim Municipality and Phalelung Rural Municipality in Koshi Province, Panauti Municipality in Bagmati province, and Kshireswornath Municipality, Durga Bhagwati Rural Municipality, and Rajdevi Municipality in Madhesh province. These efforts

supported 1,254 flood-affected families. In addition, with support from the European Commission, through the project PROYEL, 94 flood-affected families received cash assistance of NPR 25'000 (appx. USD 182) per household.



Relief materials distribution to the flood victims in Phidim and Phalelung municipalities

In most of the areas covered by the humanitarian assistance, beneficiaries were selected based on based on the damage sustained. The process was led by the local government (municipality) and given the circumstances where access to affected areas was restricted due to floods/landslides/ broken road networks, it was the best possible methodology for beneficiary selection as well as organizing distribution. However, learning from the process is that although the lead would be still the local government, as far as possible, the beneficiary list should be prepared, based on specific criteria and confirmed before distribution begins. Also, direct participation of the affected households in determining their needs should be ensured rather than the local government and the multistakeholder platform deciding for the affected population. The need for orienting the staff team mobilized in the overall distribution process was also felt. The orientation should at least cover the basic documentation requirements, and issue resolution during the distribution process as well as post distribution monitoring survey.

Partnerships and Capacity Development

In 2024, Helvetas Nepal continued to strengthen partnerships at multiple levels, collaborating with 306 local and national organizations and expanding engagement with 474 local governments through various projects. The organization enhanced the capacity of local governments, NGOs, and enterprise service providers, ensuring effective project implementation. At the strategic level, partnerships with Fastenaktion, FEDO, and Alliance2015 members (WHH and PIN) remained strong, alongside collaborations with business associations, cooperatives, financial institutions, and corporate entities for skill and enterprise development. At the system level, Helvetas worked with employer organizations, the National Chamber of Industries, and the Federation of Water Users and Sanitation Committees, reinforcing institutional strengthening.

Helvetas Nepal prioritized impact, sustainability, and local ownership by fostering government collaborations in digital governance, citizen engagement, and service delivery through projects like IWRMP, SaMi, and ReMI. CSO and private sector partnerships facilitated skills development, reintegration, and economic empowerment under initiatives such as ENSSURE, Samridhi, and InElam. Despite increasing decentralization, regulatory changes, financial constraints, and

digitalization gaps posed challenges for CSOs and local governments. Strengthening accountability, transparency, and participatory governance remained a core focus.

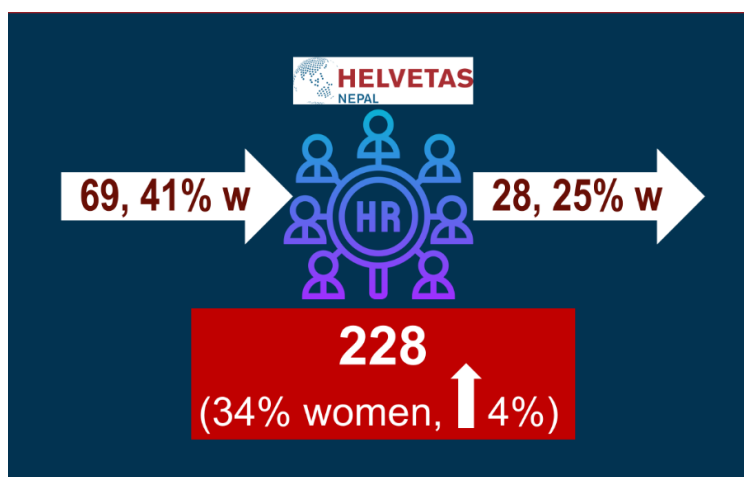
The Country Programme Management Meeting endorsed the Partnerships Guidelines, defining partnerships as formalized collaborations based on shared values and mutually agreed roles, with mandatory due diligence every three years for long-term partners. Helvetas expanded multi-stakeholder collaborations, integrating ReMI with MoLESS digital platforms and strengthening ENSSURE's private sector engagement. Government partnerships in SaMi and IWRM reinforced institutionalization, while AfnoGhar, Samriddhi, and ReMI improved grassroots outreach, migration governance, and vocational training. Peer-to-peer exchanges, including horizontal learning workshops and policy forums, facilitated knowledge-sharing and policy analysis.

Capacity-building efforts extended beyond project implementation, offering technical training on digital tools (Kobo, Power BI, GIS), financial management, M&E, and knowledge management for CSOs and local governments. Structured capacity development incorporated digitalization and institutional strengthening, exemplified by the Palika internship program, ReMI's case management system, and InElam's business service tracking system. The adoption of digital platforms such as ReMI, IWRMP, PSP Extension, and Samriddhi improved service delivery, efficiency, and accessibility. CSOs played an increasing role in policy engagement, labor migration governance (SaMi), and economic development (InElam), while government institutions leveraged e-governance tools (PSP Extension, PROYEL) for data-driven decision-making and improved citizen engagement, reinforcing transparency and accountability.

Human Resources (People and Culture)

As of the end of December 2024, Helvetas Nepal had a total of 228 employees under the employment contract, with women employees comprising 34%—a 4% increase from the previous year, reflecting the organization's commitment to gender diversity. In 2024, the organization recruited 69 new employees (41% women), for new projects as well as to fill vacant positions in ongoing projects. A total of 28 employees (25% women) separated from the organization, primarily due to the successful completion of projects like: GRAPE in *Humla*, *Afno Ghar*, and *SAMRIDDHI*.

In 2024, the organization organized capacity-building initiatives, including Knowledge Management Training (March 19–22, Lumbini) enhanced the data management skills of 22 reporting focal persons in Kobo Toolbox, Power BI, and QGIS; the first We@Helvetas Workshop (April 9–11) in Helvetas Nepal engaged CPMM members in experiential learning; the Grievance Handling workshop (April 12) strengthened grievance mechanisms. Additionally, workshops on preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) were conducted on 17 & 19 July, where 60 staff members participated. Staff members benefited from relevant in-house and international learning opportunities enhancing their professional capabilities. International opportunities included: the TRAC4Change Director's participation in the meetings in Ethiopia, Tanzania, the UK and the Philippines; the IWRMP Team Leader attended the UNC Water Conference in the U.S. Besides, five ENSSURE team members with six career guidance facilitators attended the MToT workshop in India. InELAM team and Dragon Fruit Association representatives visited Vietnam for knowledge exchange on dragon fruit and cocoa circular economy enterprises; Deputy Team Leader, ReMi along with officials from MoLESS had the exposure visit to Malaysia.



In 2025, Helvetas Nepal will continue its commitment to fostering workforce diversity by analysing its staff composition and actively attracting and retaining a diverse team. It will reinforce capacity development initiatives, including We@Helvetas, PSEAH, digitalization, federal state-building, good governance, fiduciary risk and compliance, and transversal themes, to strengthen the core competencies of its staff members.

Budget and Investment

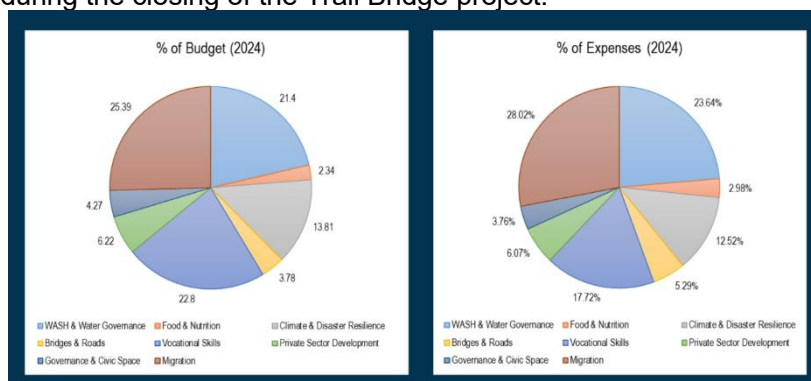
The approved budget for 2024 was CHF 13.43, which was a slight decrease from the 2023 budget of CHF 13.62 million. Although a couple of bigger projects like TBSU, and TA to Samriddhi ended in 2024, there were a couple of SDC mandates (TTDP, PSP) that compensated for the decrease in the budget. Over the next four years, the size of the organization is expected to be stable, with annual budget volume averaging about CHF 12.8 million.

The utilization of the budget has improved this year and has reached 82.91%, a sizable increase from the previous year's utilization of 77%. The budget utilization ratio segregated by working field is given in the table below:

Working Field	Budget	% of Budget	Expenses	% of Expenses	Variation	Variation %
WASH and Water Governance	2,873,484	21.40	2,632,298	23.64	241,186	8.39
Food and Nutrition	313,883	2.34	331,768	2.98	-17,885	-5.7
Climate and Disaster Resilience	1,854,271	13.81	1,394,394	12.52	459,877	24.8
Bridges and Roads	508,332	3.78	589,015	5.29	-80,683	-15.87
Governance and Civic Space	573,042	4.27	418,845	3.76	154,197	26.91
Migration	3,409,996	25.39	3,119,808	28.02	290,189	8.51
Vocational Skills	3,062,547	22.80	1,973,284	17.72	1,089,263	35.57
Private Sector Development	834,862	6.22	676,224	6.07	158,638	19
Total	13,430,417	100.00	11,135,636	100.00	2,294,781	17.09

As in the previous year, "migration" remains the major working field in terms of budget utilization, covering 27.5% of total expenses incurred and the budget utilization in this field has been good in comparison to other fields. Delay in a planned expansion of the ENSURE project to all seven provinces has resulted in significant underspending for working field "vocational skills". Also, later than planned start of the implementation activities for the new SDC Project Trail-Based Tourism Development Project (TTDP) has resulted in lower utilization in the "Private sector Development" Field. The project from the Mitigation Action Facility for the development of project proposal for Nepal: SFM and Bioenergy were also significantly underspent, mostly due to a change in the project development modality planned and this resulted in underutilization for the working field "Climate and disaster resilience". There was an overspending for "Bridges and Roads", mostly due to unplanned additional activities during the closing of the Trail Bridge project.

The annual audit for 2024 is ongoing and there have been specific donor audits as well as internal audits for selected projects. The report of these audits so far has not indicated any major control weakness or any material issues. The auditors have generally appreciated the robust systems in place.



The organization has continued its effort towards enhancing the internal control system throughout the organization. New initiatives started last year have been continued, including added control missions to projects as well as special reviews to address specific concerns for projects. Tools like the due diligence checklist for partnerships have been introduced.

Audit Report



PKF T. R. Upadhy & Co.
124 Lal Colony Marg, Lal Durbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

977 01 4510927, 4520026
trunco@ntc.net.np
www.pkf.trunco.com.np

Independent Auditor's Report on Financial Information

**HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation,
Maulbeerstrasse 10, 3001 Berne, Switzerland**

Opinion

Based on the FDFA's Terms of Reference, we have audited the financial information of the Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal, which comprises the following financial information:

- the consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2024 and the statement of income and expenditure for the year, starting on 1 January 2024 and ending on 31 December 2024,
- a breakdown of budget vs expenditure by project, and
- the notes (including schedules) to the financial information including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial information of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Nepal for the period ended 31 December 2024 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies described in the notes and comply with the requirements of the FDFA's Terms of reference dated 18.3.2022.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those provisions and standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial information' section of our report.

We are independent of the organization in accordance with the requirement of the IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

We draw attention to Note 3 of Schedule 8 to the financial information, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial information has been prepared under modified cash basis of accounting, which the management has determined to be an appropriate and acceptable basis for the preparation of financial information in given the circumstances.

The financial information has been prepared specifically to assist Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Switzerland in the preparation of its consolidated accounts for the purpose of an audit. As a result, the financial information may not be suitable for any other purposes.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.



PKF T. R. Upadhy & Co. is a member of PKF Global, the network of member firms of PKF International Limited, each of which is a separate and independent legal entity and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the actions or inactions of any individual member or correspondent firm(s).

Management's Responsibilities for the Financial Information

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial information. This responsibility includes, designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial information as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs always detects a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial information.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Shashi Satyal
Partner

PKF T. R. Upadhyaya & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Kathmandu, Nepal
21 March 2025


UDIN: 250321CA00008Dnn6L

Annex: Financial Information (including notes and expenditure per project), Questionnaire, Management Letter.


HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal BALANCE SHEET For the Year 2024: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024				
				Currency (NPR)
	Description	Reference/ Schedule Numbers	2024	2023
ASSETS				
1000	Cash in hand	1	255,667	169,395
1100	Cash at Bank	2	171,266,279	169,155,739
1400	Advances	3	342,174,427	189,920,319
1500	Deposits	4	32,032,549	28,534,789
	Total Assets		545,728,922	387,780,242
CAPITAL & LIABILITIES				
2000	Current Liabilities	5	42,031,928	75,031,366
2010	Statutory Liabilities		1,549,403	1,128,653
2020	Staff Liabilities		34,326,578	32,321,796
2030	Other Current Liabilities		4,951,867	5,747,656
2040	Program Creditors		1,204,080	35,833,261
	Fund Balance			
2100	CAPITAL HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Head Office, Switzerland		503,696,994	312,748,876
	Total Liabilities		545,728,922	387,780,242

The annexed notes/ schedules form an integral part of this Balance Sheet


As per our report of the even date




Pragya Adhikari
Head of Finance and Administration



Manish Pradhan
Country Director



Shashi Satyal
Partner
PKF T. R. Upadhyay & Co.
Chartered Accountants





Place: Bakhundole, Lalitpur
Date: 21 March 2025


HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal Statement of Income and Expenditure For the Year 2024: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024				
	Description	Reference/ Schedule Numbers	2024	Currency (NPR) 2023
	Income:			
9000	<u>Remittances / Grant receipts</u>			
	Remittances from Head Office	6	1,734,264,986	1,568,849,300
	Remittances from Local Donors	7	71,229,830	77,811,550
	Total Receipts		1,805,494,816	1,646,660,850
	EXPENDITURE			
51	<u>Personnel costs Expatriates</u>		829,310	408,900
5150	Expatriate Travelling and Representation Costs		711,880	357,120
5169	Other Expatriation Costs		117,420	51,780
52	<u>Personnel Costs Nationals</u>		514,406,547	509,577,786
5200	Personnel Cost Nationals		463,632,884	449,317,787
5250	Travel & Representation Costs National Staff		50,773,663	60,359,999
54	<u>Local Consultants</u>		35,808,383	19,926,304
5400	National Consultants Fees		33,597,943	17,923,750
5450	National Consultants Travel & Repr. Costs		2,210,440	2,002,554
71	<u>Operating Cost</u>		104,241,596	101,591,599
7110	Vehicles		32,931,817	32,914,455
7120	Office Costs		63,011,044	62,551,400
7150	Other Operating Costs		8,298,735	6,125,744
72	<u>Project Costs International</u>		934,892,349	825,944,238
7210	Education and Training Costs		165,524,482	153,068,463
7220	Investment and Equipment Costs		104,802	55,760
7231	Contribution to NGO		197,897,531	181,959,095
7232	Contribution to Govt Authorities		92,533,102	16,857,531
7233	Contribution to Private Sector		87,420,357	141,226,884
7234	Contribution to Beneficiaries		382,701,760	286,211,031
7239	Various Contribution to Partners		8,710,315	46,565,474
	Total Expenditure		1,590,178,185	1,457,548,827
	Other Receipts:			
8200	Bank Interest		-	-
	Surplus/(Deficit)		215,316,631	189,112,023


The annexed notes/ schedules form an integral part of this Statement of Income and Expenditure.

As per our report of the even date


Pragya Adhikari
 Head of Finance and Administration


Manish Pradhan
 Country Director


Shashi Satyal
 Partner
 PKF T. R. Upadhy & Co.
 Chartered Accountants



Place: Bakhundole, Lalitpur
Date: 21 March 2025

Ways Forward

Nepal's stability and development rely on strengthening democratic institutions, implementing federalism, and addressing political power struggles, with constitutional reforms crucial for governance and fiscal decentralization. The evolving aid landscape, shaped by shifts like U.S. project suspensions, requires strategic engagement with development partners. With Nepal's graduation from Least Developed Country status in 2026, careful planning is needed to navigate trade and aid impacts. Economic diversification, through investments in industrialization, infrastructure, SMEs, and human capital, is essential to reduce dependence on agriculture, tourism, and remittances. Rising youth migration demands job creation and entrepreneurship, while rapid urbanization calls for integrated planning and resilient infrastructure. Climate change poses significant risks, and addressing gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability is key for long-term stability. Strengthening provincial and local governance will ensure inclusive development.

Helvetas Nepal will be selective in supporting areas aligned with its ongoing country operational priorities, maintaining flexibility to adapt to the dynamic country context, driven by country demand, resource availability, experience, and complementarity with other development partners. Moving forward, Helvetas Nepal aims to deepen its engagement in rural-urban linkages, expand youth work, institutionalize migration governance, advance gender equality, enhance career counselling, and vocational skills, promote inclusive and sustainable tourism, and climate action. By strengthening partnerships with SDC, EU, the World Bank, Swiss and US Foundations and regional and global opportunities, building local capacities, and reinforcing advisory support and policy advocacy, Helvetas Nepal reaffirms its commitment to impactful, high-quality, and accountable programs that empower communities and foster resilient, inclusive growth.

Helvetas Nepal's program has emerged stronger and more stable, driven by resilience and a deep commitment to transformative change. As we look ahead, recognizing both the opportunities and challenges before us, Helvetas Nepal is dedicated to making a lasting impact. We will focus on three critical areas to ensure our work remains relevant, responsive, and deeply rooted in the needs of the communities we serve. Central to this is our commitment to building a collaborative and supportive work culture, empowering our staff, continuously strengthening our team with talented individuals, and reinforcing system strengthening to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. While prioritizing merit in recruitment and talent management, we also value workforce diversity, recognizing its role in fostering creativity, innovation, and inclusivity ensuring that skills and dedication drive success. Together, we aim for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Quality Programming

- Further strengthening operational efficiency with robust monitoring systems for both program and financial aspects.
- Continuing to improve donor intelligence, and expand and diversify acquisition efforts
- Consolidating a culture of cross-learning and knowledge sharing within and beyond

Systems and Compliance

- Further enhancing internal controls, internal audits, and grievance handling.
- Strengthening due diligence within partnerships and advancing capacity development
- Continuing to establish effective procurement plans and processes at the project and program levels

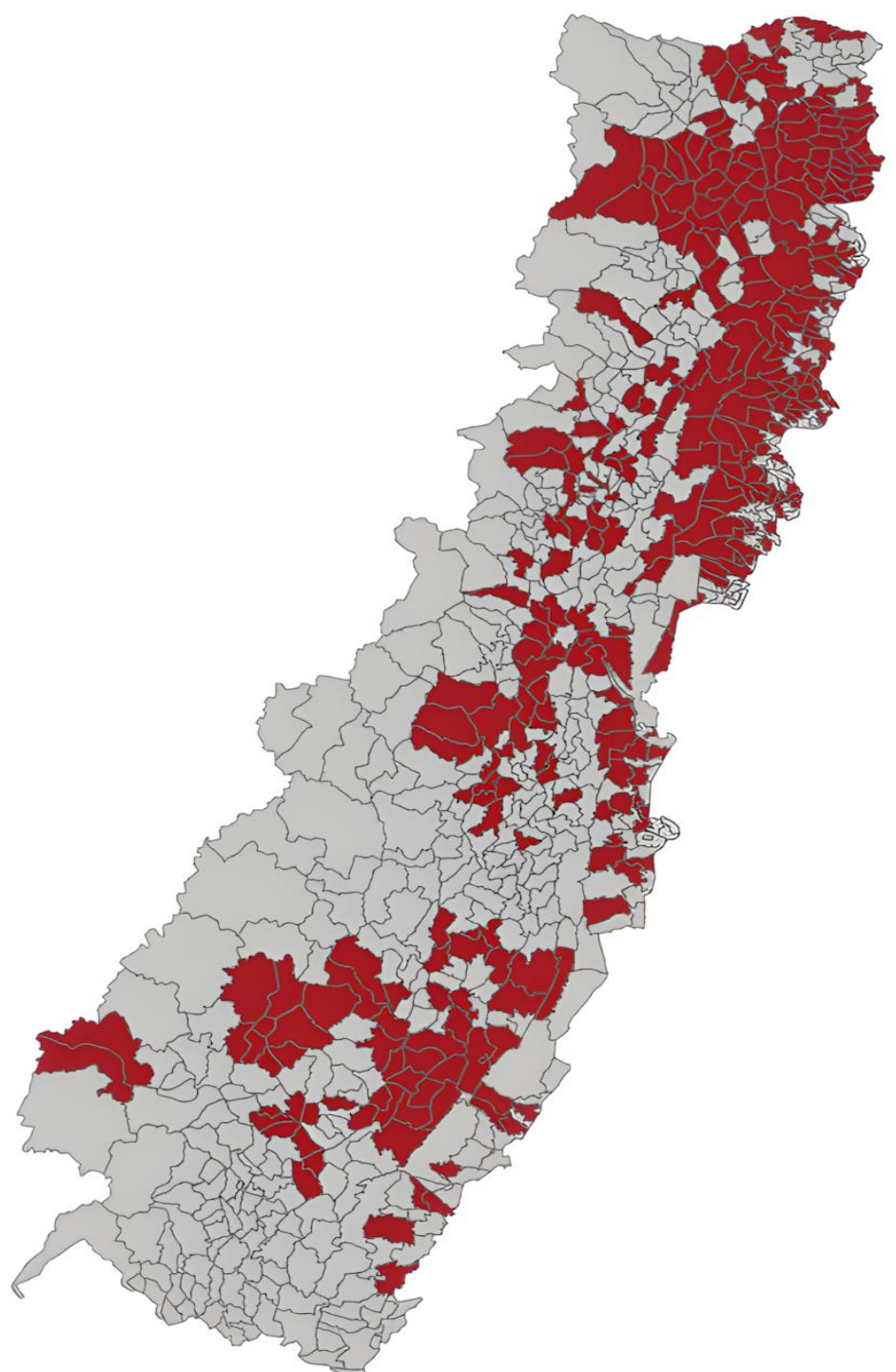
People and Culture

- Further cultivating a supportive and inclusive work environment
- Continuing to recruit young, local talent to strengthen the team
- Fostering innovation through diverse perspectives within the team

Thanks

We deeply appreciate the diverse organizations and individuals whose collaboration and dedication help advance our collective mission. This includes government agencies, donors, international and national implementation partners, as well as local non-governmental and grassroots partners. We are sincerely grateful to all those who consistently support our efforts in achieving impactful outcomes.

Additionally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to local resource persons, cooperatives, users' committees, experienced leader farmers, and consultants. Their invaluable expertise and commitment have been instrumental in driving progress, and we remain truly grateful for their contributions.

**7**

Province[s]

307

Palika[s]

14

Project[s]

Geographical Coverage of Helvetas Nepal