



Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihood (RERL)



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Local people in Gorpang, Dolakha enjoy a video in a parlour run by Pasang Sherpa using electricity from a micro-hydro plant. © Chandra Shekhar Karki/UNDP Nepal

The RERL project aims to institutionalise rural renewable energy development activities.



BACKGROUND

Despite a sharp increase over the past two decades in the number of households with access to electricity, 30 Percent of Nepali households, almost exclusively in remote rural areas, do not have access to electricity. In rural Nepal, about 92 Percent of all cooking energy comes from traditional biomass. This continued reliance on fuelwood, agricultural residue and cattle dung for cooking depletes the forests of trees and farmers' fields of natural fertilizers. Other factors that make renewable energy for rural areas a development priority are the 7 Percent annual growth of Nepal's energy needs, the lack of national energy generation on capacity and the importance of conserving the environment.

Quick Facts

Duration: 2014 to 2019

Focus Area: Renewable Energy and Livelihood

Source of Funding: Government of Nepal, UNDP and GEF

Implementing Agency: UNDP, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre

Collaborating Partners: Government of Nepal, UNDP and GEF

Budget for total project period: UD\$ 5 million



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Farmers irrigate their crops using a lift irrigation system. © RERL / UNDP Nepal

Main Achievements so far...

- Completed 423 micro hydropower plants with a total capacity of 9.1 MW, connecting over 94,131 households, since 1998.
- Provided technical and financial assistance to install and operate 627 electricity-based enterprises.
- Established a mini-grid synchronizing six micro hydropower plants, the first of its kind in Nepal.
- Supported the Alternate Energy Promotion Centre (AEPCC) and District Development Committees to operationalize District Energy and Environment Units in all 75 districts.
- Supported institutionalization of functional groups as cooperatives in 31 micro hydropower plants.
- Installed five Micro-hydro operated lift irrigation systems.
- Installed two biomass gasifiers in Sarlahi district.
- Provided micro-hydro installation training to private companies.
- Prepared a manual for micro hydro managers' training.
- Developed and updated community mobilization guidelines.

Gender & Social Inclusion Interventions

- > RERL emphasizes the mobilization of the community to ensure that all sections of the population, including women, poor and marginalized groups, benefit from energy systems and have increased control over local resources.
- > 50 Percent women participation in decision making at the community level.
- > Marginalized groups represented in cooperatives and functional groups.
- > Additional subsidies focused on women and social inclusion.

Expected Project Results

(by the end of project cycle)

- Support for formulation of innovative financial mechanisms to attract private investment in the renewable energy systems and productive energy uses.
- Support NRREP to develop 10 MW from mini and micro hydropower plants, 2.5 MW of solar PV systems and establishment of mini grids connecting Micro-Hydro Plants (MHPs) of 300 kilowatts (kW) capacity to pool energy.
- Support to build up capacity of local fabricators, installers & system integrators.

Where We Work



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