UNDP Nepal Annual Report 2018 – ESP

Context:
For Nepal, the year 2018 was a year of implementation of federalism – having elected all three tiers of government through a long, yet peaceful and credible electoral process. It was a perfect time for the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) to look back and review the electoral process to draw lessons for future elections. UNDP, in partnership with the European Union, continued to support the ECN in building its institutional capacity through a number of initiatives.

Key Achievements:
UNDP supported the ECN in carrying out a review of the entire process. The review provided an important opportunity to reflect on the first elections under the new federal system and draw lessons for future elections. The review produced over 100 recommendations in 18 different fields, including the legal framework, voter registration, the campaign, voter education, polling and counting, dispute resolution and the use of technology.

The review was conducted in all seven provinces and engaged over 300 people, including electoral staff, representatives from government and the judiciary, political leaders, security officials, observers and the media. The report forms the basis for the new ECN five-year strategic plan (2019-2024).

UNDP also supported the ECN in a dedicated review of the electoral process from GESI perspective. The study confirms the importance of special legal measures for the representation of women and historically marginalized groups and will inform the ECN Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan.

In addition to this, UNDP carried out an impact evaluation of the capacity-building using the BRIDGE methodology that ECN conducted in Nepal with support from UNDP and other partners from 2008 to 2016. BRIDGE stands for Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections. It is a modular professional development program with a particular focus on electoral processes. The evaluation concluded that BRIDGE has been...
very successful in Nepal, including in building the capacity of ECN to conduct the 2017 elections. It also made recommendations for ensuring ECN can conduct its capacity-building without external assistance in the future. UNDP has started implementing these recommendations, including through support to six additional BRIDGE events conducted in 2018.