

INCREASING CLIMATE BUDGET TRANSPARENCY IN NEPAL

UNDP is partnering with Civil Society Organisations to promote the transparency of climate funds, ensuring they flow to those who need them most



THE CHALLENGE

Even when governments produce information regarding budget allocations and expenditures relating to climate change, these technical, data-heavy documents are difficult for non-specialists to understand.

As a result, the people meant to benefit from the investments don't have access to critical or meaningful information.

UNDP recognised the need for government budget data to be translated into a clear, accessible format. Using this information, those most vulnerable to climate change can better track where and how assistance designed to benefit them is being spent.

OUR SOLUTION

UNDP's Governance of Climate Change Finance (GCCF) has been working in partnership with the Nepal Government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to assess the impact of climate investments.

One of GCCF's objectives is to increase capacities of CSOs to partner with government to strengthen budget monitoring to overcome a key barrier to action: limited access to knowledge on government spending.

Freedom Forum–Nepal, an NGO experienced in strengthening press freedom and increasing access to budget information, and the Nepal Government are leading the effort to make the local picture on climate finance clearer.

With GCCF support, Freedom Forum created a Citizens Climate Budget—the first of its kind in the region—and conducted a Public Expenditure Tracking Survey for a large agricultural extension programme.

Nepal Citizen's Climate Budget

Printed in July 2017 in Nepali and English, the booklet features easy-to-understand graphs and tables as well as bite-sized chunks of information on climate spending. While the general public and media were the main target audiences for the publication, it was also distributed to other relevant stakeholders including local governments, ministries, and donors.

Publication and dissemination of the booklet resulted in more widespread media coverage of climate spending with newspaper articles providing the public with clear and accurate information on the topic. This has also led to an increase in public understanding of how climate finance could impact their future. The information was also a useful aid to Parliamentary discussions

Public Expenditure Tracking Survey

Climate finance can only be transparent if funding can be tracked from its source (the treasury) all the way to its last recipient.

Conducting a public expenditure tracking survey (PETS) is a way to assess the efficiency of public spending and verify the quality of service delivery. PETS can determine how much of the originally allocated resources reach each level, and how long they take to get there. It is thus a powerful tool for tracking climate spending and helping the government to ensure that the target beneficiaries of programmes are being reached

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Management and Cooperatives, Freedom Forum conducted a PETS in the districts of Bardiya and Udayapur with technical support from UNDP. It found

that a longstanding agricultural extension programme was very useful in addressing declining water resources and building climate resiliency and identified certain areas where reforms to programme design and delivery would strengthen the targeting of the program to more effectively reach vulnerable population groups such as women-led cooperatives.

MOVING FORWARD

Plans are underway to continue efforts to sensitize CSOs, the media, and Parliament in Nepal on climate budgeting issues so future expenditure can better reflect priority needs on the ground and address existing gaps in adaptation financing. The PETS and additional analysis of the current budget will also be used to better target service delivery to the needs of those most vulnerable farmers to climate risks and ensure more equal participation of women in key climate-relevant programmes funded by the Nepali treasury. Continued work with local CSOs will also focus on providing knowledge and expertise to help them develop similar exercise as PETS and Citizens' Climate Budgets to influence government spending.

Useful links

www.CFADE.org
<https://www.climatefinance-developmenteffectiveness.org/countries/nepal>

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