

PEOPLE IN NEED NEPAL COUNTRY STRATEGY 2025-2029



VISION

We strive for a world in which people can fulfil their potentials, live in inclusive societies and in a sustainable manner.

PIN NEPAL'S MANDATE AND ADDED VALUE

PIN Nepal strives to address the root causes of inequality and injustice, and promote systemic local solutions for climate resilience and inclusion.

PEOPLE IN NEED NEPAL

People in Need (PIN) Nepal seeks to work with national and local actors and contribute to a more resilient, inclusive and environmentally friendly Nepal. In line with PIN Global, the country programme is guided by the Locally led Action (LLA) approach as a process of shifting power dynamics, where local humanitarian and development actors gain greater power, resources (both financial and human), and a stronger voice. LLA builds on our existing commitments laid out in the Relief and Development Department (RDD) and Partnership strategies and commitments to external frameworks we are signatory of, such as the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), Charter for Change and Locally-Led Adaptation Principles. LLA shows how these commitments, and related tools and guidance, feed into the Seven Dimensions of Localization Framework.

RELATIONSHIP QUALITY	PARTICIPATION REVOLUTION	FUNDING & FINANCING	CAPACITY	COORDINATION MECHANISMS	POLICIES AND STANDARDS	VISIBILITY AND CREDIT SHARING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respectful and equitable • reciprocal transparency and accountability • 'decision-making' not just 'implementing partners' • Unequal power not abused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deeper participation of at-risk & affected populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better quality • greater quantity • adaptive • financial health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained and growing organisational capabilities • collaborative capabilities • stop undermining capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national actors' greater presence and influence • beyond 'avoiding duplication' – collaboration for collective impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national actors can contribute to and influence global and national policy and standards-development, and their application in their contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roles, results and innovations by national actors are given credit and communicated about by international actors

Global Mentoring Initiative (2020), [Practical Dimensions of Localisation](#)

Multiple disasters affect the populations in Nepal every year, which is further induced by climate change, with Nepal being the 4th most vulnerable country to climate change (CC) in the world. In this context, the gains of development and recovery are often taken back by new shocks disproportionately affecting marginalised groups, including women, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other socially excluded communities. Therefore, PIN Nepal works to support people in Nepal, including the local communities, the most vulnerable groups, and marginalized populations while engaging the three tiers of the government (federal, provincial and local), civil society, private sector and other key stakeholders to find sustainable and resilient ways to live with disasters. We seek to provide timely and relevant humanitarian assistance, with the aim of saving lives, mitigating suffering and maintaining the dignity of the most underserved of the affected people. Recognising the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of different groups, we integrate gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approaches in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response.



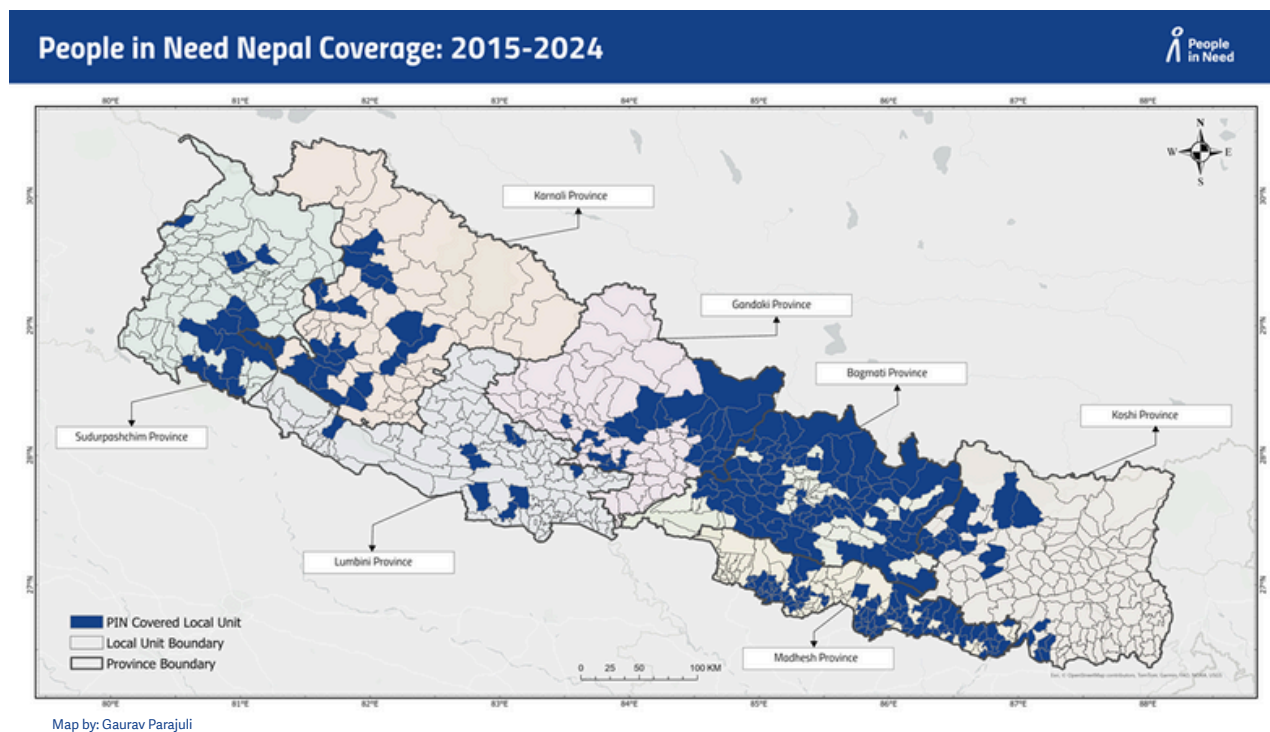
We seek to bridge the innovations, science and best local practices to anticipate the disasters while empowering local communities - especially those at the highest risk and local stakeholders to protect themselves in the more sustainable and resilient way. We also work to strengthen the Government of Nepal (GoN)'s preparedness and response capacity across the three tiers of the government with the aim to ensure the inclusivity, effectiveness, and functionality of disaster preparedness, Anticipatory Action (AA) and emergency response systems in reaching those most at risk, who often face systemic barriers to recovery and resilience-building.

Nepali society and political spaces are composed by a complex series of interconnected inequalities and exclusions, being geographical, ethnical, gender, class and social groups, cultural and inter-generational as well as political. PIN Nepal supports the creation of enabling policy environment in multiple topics including education, GBV prevention, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation to promote a more inclusive and equal society. We do this through supporting the inclusive implementation of federalism reform and partnering with government across the three tiers. We create platform between government entities with civil society and expert for policy and behavioural change. Rooted in our commitment to empowering and working alongside national and diverse local actors, we support civil society to play a key role in this process. We provide opportunities for civil society actors, especially youth and grassroot organisations representing marginalized communities, including Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to develop the technical and management skills and mechanisms to become more effective development, governance and humanitarian actors. We link them with the private sector and work to support broad-based and open access partnerships. In these ways, PIN Nepal aims to contribute to the graduation of Nepal from Least Development Country (LDC) status in 2026 and laying ground to healthy, prospering and truly inclusive society in Nepal.

At the same time, we will respond to any small, middle and large-scale disaster in Nepal according to Emergency Preparedness Plan, in collaboration with Government of Nepal and clusters, and in collaboration with Alliance 2015 as specified in Joint Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (JEPREP).

PIN'S GEOGRAPHICAL PRESENCE

PIN has worked in 40 districts after the 2015 Earthquake, and implemented numerous programme from humanitarian aid to disaster preparedness, climate resilience, inclusive education programming and civil society strengthening. In the strategic period 2025 to 2029 the country programme aims to expand its footprint from the Eastern part of the country to the vulnerable Western provinces.



PIN'S NEPAL KEY STRATEGIC LEARNING

We have learned how to empower local actors and most marginalised groups to ensure their access to governmental services (for example through social protection schemes, governmental grants before, during and after disasters, long-term support for inclusion in education and protection for the most marginalized girls and boys, women and men), how to work with and support GoN across the three tiers to achieve these goals in newly federalized structure, and we are taking these learnings to inform our systems strengthening, inclusive and innovative programmatic approaches and building broad partnerships across the public, private sphere across the three programmatic pillars.

We have also learned how to use open access technologies and innovations in the rapidly changing context affected by numerous shocks (pandemics, economic crisis, outmigration, global conflicts) and by social changes (social media impact, increase of violence in the social media sphere, etc.), and will continue to advocate for the access of these among the youth and most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Nepali society.

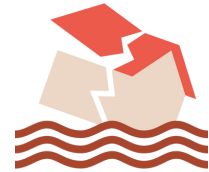


PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

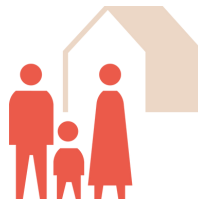
PIN Nepal works in line with the 3 priority pillars of PIN's global Relief and Development Department's Strategy, that are



1) Emergency Response and Recovery



2) Climate Resilience



3) Civil Society and Inclusive Governance

PILLAR 1: EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Emergency response and recovery is a programmatic priority for PIN Nepal to be implemented in line with its mandate, added value and in accordance to the Humanitarian Principles.

PIN Nepal adopts a multi-hazard approach building on the previous extensive experience in responding to EQ, floods, landslides, draught, cold waves and C19 pandemics in Nepal and globally. We acknowledge the increasing severity and complexity of emergencies further exacerbated by climate change (off-season disasters, etc.). In the 2025-2029 strategic period PIN NPL will work to ensure to reflect climate change considerations into the emergency preparedness planning and implementation. PIN Nepal will also invest into establishment, broadening and strengthening its support to local actors in western Nepal, in anticipation of major EQ in this region, including communities and Local and Provincial governments.

The Emergency Response and Recovery will be closely aligned and build on the Strategic Pillar 'Climate Resilience' activities, especially in regards to Emergency Preparedness, Anticipatory Action, strengthening of Early Warning Systems, and strengthening of social safety nets and Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP).

PIN Nepal will also continue to effectively mainstream emergency preparedness and response in all its existing programmes, as well as advocate with the government of Nepal across the three tiers for more systematic and interconnected approaches (better awareness on the existing disaster policies and guidelines, data access, etc.). We will furthermore strategically invest into the capacity building of CSOs and other local actors in their emergency response and preparedness (in alignment with Pillar 'Civil Society and Inclusive Governance'). The aim is to develop a network of local actors through which to deliver our response to crisis in line with PIN's approach to locally led action.

During the strategic period of 2025-2029, we aim under Pillar 1 to respond the most urgent needs of the vulnerable populations through PIN's approach to Locally led action. Specifically, under this pillar we will work with local actors on the following dimensions: 1) relationship quality involving partners in the whole project cycle and share risks; 2) participatory revolution for meaningful community engagement; 3) need-based capacity strengthening and 4) coordination mechanism in particular area-based coordination.

This approach will lay the foundations for longer-term solutions through leveraging GoN grants, local resources and donor funding in partnership with local level stakeholders. In this strategic period PIN NPL will establish and train a dedicated Emergency Response Team made from the CP staff to be able to be deployed at short notice to work in complementarity and supporting local actors in their ability to respond in case of medium and large emergencies.

We will respond to disasters as per the criteria specified in the Emergency Preparedness Plan, that is annually reviewed under the leadership of Emergency and Anticipatory Action Lead, including updating of the potential risk, stakeholder mapping and priority areas of focus during the emergency response and defining the roles and responsibilities for the participation in cluster mechanisms and deployment.

We will always collaborate closely and promote the coordination with: CSOs (Nepal Red Cross Society, local NGOs and CBOs); Local Government; District level agencies, Provincial level agencies, Federal Government agencies and other Stakeholders (Clusters, Technical Working Groups (TWGs)/network/alliances, Community of Practices (COPs), AIN Technical Group on Disaster Management (AINTGDM)) as well as with Alliance 2015 and START Network partners, in particular, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and other important district stakeholders should be continuously coordinated with for the project's effective implementation.

We will also always carry on, and/or build on the existing market system rapid assessment for the thematic interventions under Pillar 1. The analysis will rely on the crises and related needs of affected populations, potential response strategy, scope and timeframe, target populations, and intervention areas already identified by the agency in existing programmatic strategies and priority.

To ensure a comprehensive and inclusive response, we will integrate GEDSI in Emergency/Disaster principles, ensuring that emergency response mechanisms address the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women, children, Dalits, persons with disabilities, and other excluded communities. We will incorporate intersectionality in post-disaster MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) systems. This approach will address multiple layers of vulnerability (gender, caste, ethnicity, disability) and develop inclusive response mechanisms to reduce barriers to access for marginalised groups.

THE THEMATIC AREAS UNDER PILLAR 1 ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Shelter and non-food items (NFI) including infrastructure rehabilitation

Shelter, NFIs and infrastructure rehabilitation is the thematic priority for PIN Nepal based on its previous post-EQ reconstruction experience since 2015, as well as long-term engagement with National Housing and Settlement Resilience Platform (NHSRP), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and other key actors, supporting the government and local communities in these regards prior, during and after the disasters. After geophysical disasters in Nepal, the shelter sector needs the most priority and the management is often challenging to meet the requirements. Displaced families unable to find shelter tend to rapidly fall into extreme vulnerability, facing heightened protection risks, and poverty. Shelter needs are also acute in the Terai region where every year people face water inundation and flooding, that causes high level of damage and destruction of private and public infrastructure.



Photo by: Sajana Shrestha

PIN with partners will ensure the sustainability of its actions by directly linking the shelter and NFI support to the existing GoN support, and orienting both communities and local governments in the existing policies and guidelines on both temporary shelters as well as reconstruction/rehabilitation, and through supporting disaster- affected households and local governments for unlocking bottlenecks for relocation process.

2. Multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) including cash as a crosscutting modality

Multipurpose cash assistance is the thematic priority for PIN Nepal, especially in regards to having cash as a cross-cutting modality, and to advocate for the use of cash in the emergencies.

Despite the advocacy of humanitarian agencies and Association of International NGO Cash Coordination Group (CCG), the situation with MPCA in Nepal is complex. Cash transfers are preferred modality among the local authorities and communities, and it has been in a limited way implemented by the development and UN agencies, when LGs provide a grey area to use MPCA. On the contrary, the federal government has not been familiar with cash assistance in humanitarian settings. Without overarching national framework for the MPCA, the federal government has decided to disallow MPCA as a modality of humanitarian aid for INGOs. However, national actors have more room for manoeuvring by working directly with LG and distributing MPCA. Having facilitated MPCA and digital cash in the past, PIN will work with partner in this modality in the future to meet needs in a flexible, effective and dignified way. For this purpose, we will closely coordinate with Cash Coordination Group (CCG) to identify the Minimum Expenditure Basket for further support to the community also advocating jointly to integrate the Cash Base Assistance (CBA) approaches in disaster response planning.

We will work to strengthen capacity of our team and of our partners to apply various Cash and Voucher Assistance modalities for response where practically relevant and depending on the thorough context analysis.

Sustainability of the interventions will be achieved through advocating for CBA as the preferred modality of assistance under the GoN Social Security Policy as well as in improving the Shock Response Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard 2025 in coordination with NDRRMA. We will advocate for accountability of governance and organizations agencies, since integrating cash-based responses should be the default approach to assistance where it is appropriate; it is more flexible, effective, and efficient assistance. This approach will be designed with a GEDSI lens, ensuring that cash assistance is accessible, safe, and responsive to the diverse needs of marginalized and socially excluded communities.

We will also learn from the global experience in cash modalities to be prepared to larger emergency where cash transfers, and especially group cash transfers and cash for protection are increasingly seen as more effective and empowering types of humanitarian assistance.

3. Education in Emergencies integrating Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

In this thematic area, PIN Nepal team will build on its and partners' continuous work under Pillar 3 on inclusive education and in improving the access of the most vulnerable groups to governmental and public services before, during and after disasters. We will build on some flagship approaches (distant teaching learning (DTL)) and/or good practices from the Leave No Girl Behind (LNGB) programme (2018-2024) creating and supporting safe spaces and focusing on children's wellbeing. Additionally, in line with PIN's Education in Emergencies (EiE) Standards and Guidance PIN PSS Best Practice Guide will be adapted to ensure that psychosocial support interventions are inclusive, effective, and tailored to the needs of marginalized communities, particularly in crisis and post-disaster contexts.

Photo by: Sajana Shrestha



4. Protection mainstreaming

Protection mainstreaming lies at the heart of all PIN Programming in Nepal. PIN considers the universal characteristics and ensure the rights of the people we work with for humanitarian assistance and identify the gaps and support required to enhance the capacity of vulnerable people to maintain dignified life. Part of the EPP includes the conduction of a rapid gender analysis to prioritize and focus the protection-related actions to be taken for the most vulnerable individuals who have been facing basic hygiene and dignity items. In this process, we analyse the protection risk, conduct referral mapping, assess the capabilities and social, economic conditions of targeted peoples.

PIN believes that when protection is mainstreamed, the quality and the protective impact of the intervention are maximized and that PIN activities target the most vulnerable groups of the population, enhance safety and dignity of the communities that PIN supports, that PIN is accountable for its actions and towards these communities and that we promote and protect the human rights of the beneficiaries we aim to serve.

PIN Protection Mainstreaming Approach is guided by the four global interconnected key elements, namely:

1. **Prioritise safety and dignity and avoid causing harm:** Avoiding or mitigating the effects of physical and psychological threats (internal and/or external) that affected populations face when access services
2. **Meaningful access:** Access is provided in proportion to needs and without barriers
3. **Accountability to affected populations:** Maximising transparency, ensuring feedback and complaint mechanisms are in place and accessible to all and promote inclusive participation
4. **Participation and Empowerment:** Ensuring that beneficiaries are actively involved, they receive information and have the right to participate in the decisions that affect them.

PIN emphasizes mainstreaming protection in emergencies, and we will also keep the IASC guidelines in mind, as well as the Protection cluster strategy of Nepal.

In case of larger emergencies, in addition to the thematic priorities mentioned above, PIN Nepal will activate its global experience, Coalitions and previous track record in Nepal during the post-EQ reconstruction and will consider working in the following thematic areas:

- 1. Nutrition-sensitive food security:** In this thematic area, we will closely collaborate with A2015 partners (WHH, Helvetas) who both actively focus on food security especially in nexus and development programming. We will also follow JEPREP that describes the division of labour.
- 2. Recovery of livelihoods, integrated with social safety nets and markets:** In this thematic area, PIN Nepal team will build on its continuous work under the Pillar 2 on SRSP and social inclusion, as well as on urban resilience programming that integrates livelihoods, social safety nets and markets, that are designed to increase the climate resilience of the vulnerable communities as well as to decrease the investment in case of disaster or needs in case of humanitarian assistance.
- 3. Water, sanitation and hygiene:** In this thematic area, PIN Nepal team will combine with PIN global expertise such as during the response to C19 and under LNGB, Her Safety and other programmes.

KEY PLANNED ACTIONS FOR PILLAR 1

- 1 Strengthen PIN Nepal's Emergency Preparedness Planning and the Emergency Response Team's capabilities**
- 2 Develop a strong and effective network made of local partners and engage local authorities in order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of our response**
- 3 Increase the involvement in government coordination, cluster coordination and networking with international actors**
- 4 Escalate advocacy and innovation work in emergency preparedness and response specifically around cash programming, locally-led responses and Social Responsive Social Protection**

PILLAR 2: CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Nepal is prone to climate change, which further increases severity and complexity of both disasters as well as long-term impacts of Climate Change (CC) on local development and inclusion. People face multiple hazards (e.g. floods, landslides, cold/heatwaves, droughts, EQ), which amplifies household level vulnerabilities, leaving 80% of the population subject to repeated shocks and stressors. It is therefore necessary to develop systemic solutions that pre-empt and respond to needs at scale, rather than relying on repeated, small-scale humanitarian responses.

The concepts of Anticipatory Action and Forecast based Action (Early Action) is evolving in Nepal. Also, the coverage of people through disaster management or Social Security Allowance (SSA)/Social protection and in particular the Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard 2081 (2025) schemes is inadequate and disconnected. Both Disaster Management (DM) policies and SSA target vulnerable populations (e.g. offering relocation, reconstruction, but also providing SP to people with disability, children under 5, etc.), however enrolling onto the schemes requires documentation (which the most vulnerable people/groups often do not have (i.e. birth registration, citizenship card, disability card, etc.) and often includes bureaucratic process that require collaboration and contributions from the three tiers of the Government of Nepal as well as district authorities. Essentially, this work is hampered by numerous administrative and political bottlenecks. Similar situations occur with CC adaptation and circular economy solutions, though some good grassroot and locally led initiatives do exist that we can build on and/or learn from. Furthermore, though Nepal has robust Disaster Management and Climate Adaptation policies, as well as a strong Social Protection and Emergency Response policies on paper, the policies are not linked to each other. This is a missed opportunity for maximizing existing systems for effective response.

Despite the gaps, Disaster Management, Social Protection and Climate Adaptation in Nepal has evolved over time and each of these systems are being strengthened by a multitude of actors. To address the scale of upcoming needs and benefit from institutionalising different climate resilient policies will demand a commitment over a number of years, with sustained and repeated reinforcements, and with broad-based partnerships including engagement of private sector and civil society. It will be also important to generate evidence that approaches, which have been successfully run as pilots, can be scaled up, to build a case with the GoN about the importance and feasibility of Anticipatory Action, SRSP and climate change adaptation / circular economy.

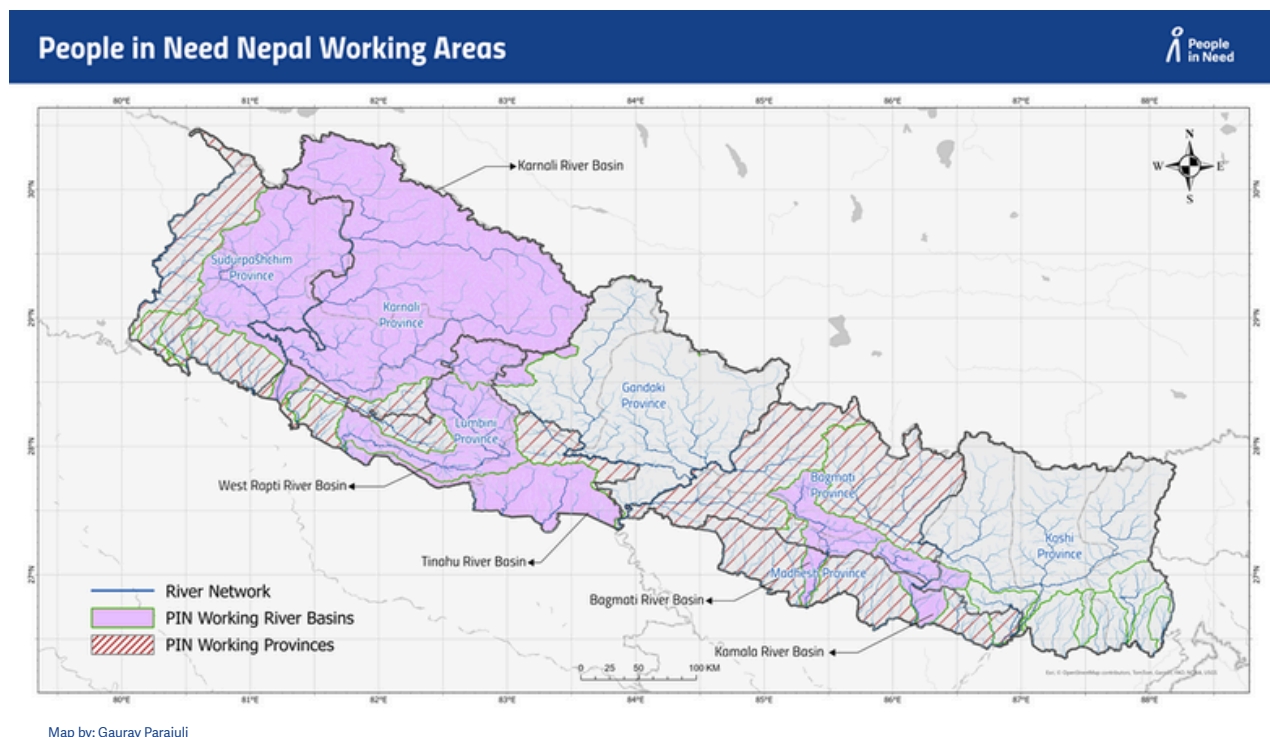
PIN Nepal's 2025-2029 Country Strategy under the 'Climate Resilience' Pillar will focus on contributing to strengthening the local and provincial government systems for disaster preparedness, Anticipatory Action, Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution, as well as improving the interventions before, during and after crisis. We will work in alignment with the major donor and national strategies, such as the MIP 2021-2027 Priority Area 2 and building resilience to shocks, FCDO, 16th Plan, NAPA, National DRR Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030), National DRR policy, NDRRMA led Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment Framework and Multi-Hazard EWS. Local communities, and most marginalised groups, will continue to be in the forefront of these programmes, inclusion will be key.

We will also through public-private partnerships support green jobs and circular economy approaches.

PIN will be working across

5 provinces, 5 sub-basins (Bagmati, Kamala, Tinau, West Rapti and Bheri)

12 river systems (Balan, Gagan, Kamala, Ratu, Aurahi, Lakhandehi, Jhim, Lalbakaiya, Bagmati, Banganga, West Rapti and Bheri)



1. **Karnali** - Karnali province and river basin is among the least developed regions of Nepal, faces multiple hazards and is forecast to be impacted by a major earthquake (EQ).

2. **Lumbini** - Lumbini Province faces significant vulnerabilities due to both climatic and non-climatic hazards due to its susceptibility to natural disasters such as flooding, earthquakes, and landslides.

3. **Sudurpaschim** - We will extend our support to communities in the West, where development indicators are extremely low and in anticipation of major EQ in this region that has been confirmed by recent increase of EQs and catastrophic level of local infrastructure).

4. **Bagmati**

a. The Koshi River basin and hill areas of Bagmati province were severely impacted by the 2015 EQ and a study by Durham University and PIN reported a threefold increase in landslides as a result. We will build on the learnings from the implementation of programmes here and transfer it to the West

b. We are piloting urban resilience programming in this province and will work to strategically expand this focus elsewhere.

5. **Madhesh Pradesh** - Madhesh Province is one of the least developed, poverty stricken and highly flood-prone provinces in Nepal. We will build on our extensive DRR and inclusive education programming there as well as resilient housing pilots.

We will take strong GEDSI considerations into the account and incorporate it into any programme design and implementation, as per NPL CP GEDSI strategy.

Photo by: Sajana Shrestha



THE THEMATIC AREAS UNDER PILLAR 2 ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Shock-responsive safety nets

During the 2025-2029 strategic period, we will focus on enhancing the reach and vulnerability targeting of social protection schemes in areas prone to climate change induced shocks and stresses such as droughts, floods and landslides. We will continue to invest into Anticipatory Action, and work for its integration with Early Warning Systems.

1) Anticipatory Action and trialling forecast-based early action models (focusing on multi hazards) –

PIN Nepal has been at the forefront of piloting the early action models in the landslide affected areas, as well as innovating on EWS in regards to the cascading hazards. In 2025-2029 we will further develop this work, through:

- bringing systemic EWS improvements to the sub-national levels (in collaboration with DHM and NDRRMA, and other key stakeholders),
- strengthening of capacities of Provincial Governments, Local Governments and district authorities in preparedness, AA and response,
- strengthening of capacities of local CBOs and CSOs representing the most marginalised in preparedness, AA and response
- broadening focus to other hazards (lightning, floods – riverine and flash, fire, heatwave, cold wave, drought etc.)
- continuing research on cascading disaster in collaboration with academia, thinktanks and private sectors.



2) Disaster Preparedness with emphasis on systematic inclusion –

- Risk informed disaster preparedness – understanding risk (hazard, exposure, vulnerability, adaptive capacity); ensuring that the plans and policies developed by LGs and PGs are inclusive and reflect the needs of the most vulnerable; simulation exercises.
- Supporting at risk communities including stateless and displaced to access government designed solutions on relocation and reconstruction
- Small scale climate resilient infrastructure – safe shelter, safe evacuation centre, flood resilient housing.

3) Disaster Risk Financing

- Support national and subnational governments in tailoring the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy.
- Support inter-governmental resource transfer for disaster preparedness
- Support to localize provincial Disaster Risk Insurance programmes and national health insurance programmes.
- Piloting risk transfer solution for most vulnerable population.
- Generate evidence on advantages of adopting Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) approaches and tools and share it in different TWG and forums, NDRRMA and MoFAGA for possible scale up.

4) Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard 2081

- Increasing coverage - ensuring those who are eligible for the grants are enrolled
- Improving needs-based targeting - expanding the reach of the GoN's, including SP system to meet needs based on the climate and socio-economic data
- Improving disbursement system – ensuring those who are enrolled are receiving payments on time and of the right value
- Evidence and research-based advocacy – gathering evidence of what works through rigorous, science backed research to inform sustainability

Throughout all interventions partners will take a structured approach of GoN involvement at all levels, alignment with GoN systems and joint design to support and reinforce existing systems.

2. Productive and climate resilient landscapes

In the context of recurrent disasters and climate change, land and landscapes are important topics in Nepal for any climate resilience programming work. During 2025-2029 we will prioritize the improved local capacities in understanding of geohazards, environmental degradation and climate-induced changes to the land, water and other resources that people depend on for livelihoods in Nepal. We will also work to integrate nature-based solutions and CC adaptation with the disaster preparedness.

We will specifically continue to focus on trialling solutions how to mainstream CC in local decision-making more effectively with focus on disaster preparedness, improving needs-based targeting and management and LG investments/programme management into the adaptation. We will focus on:

1. How to build the community of people – at the local level – interested in the climate change – so that the climate knowledge does not remain only with experts (contribute to bridging the research and practice): Explore mechanisms to integrate expert knowledge on climate science and indigenous understanding of climate change impact
2. Strengthen the accessibility of climate knowledge (open access, innovations) and local ownership
3. Support LG and communities in mainstreaming climate resilience in their annual planning process through tools and digital platforms.
4. Standardization of geohazard assessment procedure through engagements in technical working groups through experts, all tiers of government, academia, think tanks, including exploring digitalization, localization and contextualization
5. Integrate nature-based solutions through locally available resources and community engagements for landslides and also explore for floods, heatwave, droughts.
6. Integrate agro-met advisory exploring the nexus between people, agriculture, land, landscapes and anticipatory action (for e.g. resilient crop selection)

3. Green jobs and the Circular Economy

Urban communities are exposed to recurring shocks and especially the most vulnerable groups have not had adequate strategies to face the shocks. PIN Nepal is supporting the communities in urban slums, peri-urban areas and excluded communities to improve their resilience through strengthening their livelihood skills and improving access to Social Safety nets, insurance, etc.

We will work to help diversify livelihood options and equip individuals, particularly those from underrepresented groups, and build the skills for green enterprise relevant to the evolving market and urban resilience. We will focus on promoting circular economy approaches through the waste management/recycling sectors working with local government and private sector.

PIN plans to support the establishment of gender responsive value chain for low grade plastics working with informal waste workers, many of whom are women and marginalized individuals, and scrap dealers in Kathmandu valley together with private company Biocomp Nepal. This will be closely interlinked with the Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) and GEDSI considerations including the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) in informal sectors, ensuring safer and more equitable working conditions for all.

KEY PLANNED ACTIONS FOR PILLAR 2

1

Improving and expanding investment across different hazards, such as landslides, flood, lightning, heatwave, cold wave EWS in Nepal through integrated system, localizing at subnational level and expanding investments with priority focus on people -centric risk communication and dissemination mechanism.

2

Investments on tailored learning and advocacy initiatives to influence government for system strengthening through and increased investment by donor in climate risks

3

Invest for meaningful partnership with private sector, academia, think tanks, research institutions, networks and open access communities at national and international level. Continue investing in Innovation and proof of concept around Citizen science (participatory GIS), human-centred approaches, nature-based solutions for climate adaptation, risk transfer instruments, green jobs linked to waste management and recycling of low-grade plastics

4

Continuous investment in Capacity strengthening and learning of PIN team and partners on Disaster Risk Financing, Anticipatory Action and environmental greening

PILLAR 3: CIVIL SOCIETY AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

PIN's role and commitment globally and locally is to empower local actors. In order to achieve this goal, PIN strives to ensure that civil society plays a key role in social, economic and democratic development, as well as in humanitarian crisis, good governance and climate resilience. PIN Nepal in 2025-2029 will continue to work to provide opportunities for, and partner with, NGOs and CSOs, for developing technical skills and mechanisms to become more effective governance, development and humanitarian actors.

PIN will also continue to support and partner with civil society to engage with GoN to advance participatory democratic processes (inclusive planning, decision making, implementation of GoN's policies) and ensure inclusive access to governmental and public services. We will specifically continue to target a range of civil society actors, including local actors, youth and those representing marginalized communities in order to ensure that government policies and services represent their needs. In parallel, we will work to promote active citizenship, empowering individuals to exercise their rights, engage in democratic processes and hold government officials accountable.

We will also focus on supporting the inclusive governance system in Nepal and creating the enabling environment for an increased civil society role, especially in the areas of education, GBV prevention, disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

Nepal has approved an ambitious constitutional reform that has divided Nepal into 753 municipalities (rural and urban) with considerable authorities, responsibilities towards the citizens since 2015. The three-tier system of governance in Nepal aims at the robust and inclusive governance structure, however, many challenges remain in its implementation. LGs lack capacities and resources to act as accountable and inclusive governors; provincial governments have limited scope of capacities and resources, and federal authorities maintain control over the budget and some of the processes (along with former district authorities in some cases). The governance thus remains in essence still largely centralised. Furthermore, there is a lack of coordination across the three tiers of the government in Nepal that further contributes to the situation when that policies and GoN's grants do not, or rarely, reach the most vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Throughout PIN's programmes together with local partners, we will continue to build the successful case to advocate for a model LG that is accountable and has adequate resources and capacities to implement GoN's policies, plans and schemes (with special focus on Social Protection schemes, grants before, during and after disasters, climate funding, loss and damage, accountability mechanisms including in spheres related to social norms, GBV prevention/response and education and/or other relevant topics).

PIN will also further support enhanced coordination between the different tiers of GoN, strengthening capacities of LGs, provincial authorities as well as federal agencies to lead on important agendas and fulfilling SDGs, GoN's periodic plan and climate goals, and moving towards the LDC graduation, and to specifically allow for more inclusive and effective unlocking of GoN's grants and policies for the most vulnerable.



Photo by: Sajana Shrestha

THE THEMATIC AREAS UNDER PILLAR 3 ARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Empowerment of Civil Society Actors

Locally-driven, adaptive approaches to support the organisational and technical development of civil society, including civil society organizations, informal civic groups and grassroots activists.

We will expand the Civil Society Now (CSN) as a tool within this process, as well as use other tested approaches, and globally proven by PIN, such as Learning by doing, CSO Sub-Grants, and capacity development of CSOs. PIN Nepal will also partake in capacity sharing with local actors in humanitarian sphere in alignment with Pillar 1 ambition.

Programmatically, PIN Nepal will focus in

- i) strengthening the capacity and support of local CSOs, CBOs and groups (youth group, mother groups and other marginalized groups like disability, Dalits, LGBTIQ+ etc.);
- ii) strengthening CSOs' role in evidence based policy-advocacy and decision making process at local level;
- iii) promoting social accountability through civil society and strengthening community feedback and complain mechanism;
- iv) building alliances and networks to facilitate multi-level coordination and learning.

PIN Nepal will also play active role in the EU funded long term project called "Strengthening Civic Space and CSO's role at all levels of the Federal Governance System in Nepal" (in short Civic Space Project (CSP)), thus contributing to enabling environment for CSOs from a local perspective.

2. Inclusive Governance of Public Services

The priority strategy of PIN Nepal for inclusive governance will focus on enhancing community participation, accountability, and equity to ensure marginalized and excluded community/groups have access to and opportunity in local decision-making processes. PIN Nepal will adopt PIN global tested "Participatory Planning for Social Inclusion (PPSI)" approach for participatory local policy development and monitoring of key public services including, education, WASH, GEDSI, and public health/nutrition and social services.

Based on the previous strategy analysis, learning and expertise, under this pillar PIN Nepal's strategy 2025-2029 will empower civil society actors and strengthening of their capacities to influence the following key areas of focus.

1) Promoting Inclusive education

2) GBV prevention & GEDSI mainstreaming

3) Climate resilience

Programmatically PIN Nepal will focus in

- i) strengthening inclusive community participation through local actors and groups (like Girls and Inclusive Education Network-GIEN);
- ii) system strengthening support for local governments in terms of building their institutional and technical capacity including providing support with accountability mechanism;
- iii) addressing inequalities by improving/supporting local government and actors for GEDSI responsive budgeting and decision making processes;
- iv) mitigating structural barriers and institutionalize inclusive governance practices through CSOs engagement for GEDSI focused policies and planning and
- v) fostering localization, partnership and multi-stakeholder collaboration at all levels.



KEY PLANNED ACTIONS FOR PILLAR 3

PIN Nepal plan to focus on building strong system and capabilities (within PIN and outside with CSOs) as key area of interventions under pillar 3. These will include

1

establishing and capacitating strong partnership and civil society unit team, focusing on localization, partnership and CSO strengthening agenda across all PIN Nepal's programme;

2

regular learning capturing and sharing and capacity assessments to ensure the continuous development and learning of the staff and partners

3

strengthening working relations and partnership with existing relevant networks/ alliances like Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), National Housing and Settlements Resilience Platform (NHSRP), National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN), GIEN, I/NGO federations and other related national/regional/international stakeholders;

4

scaling up of the Civil Society Now platform for the strengthening of Civil Society organizations in Nepal

5

support and engage in LG Inclusive planning process in local level and interlinkage between three tiers of government

6

digitisation efforts with digital tools, platforms and data driven decision making

PEOPLE IN NEED NEPAL STRATEGIC APPROACHES

STRENGTHENING AND TRANSFORMING PARTNERSHIP:

In line with PIN Locally Led Action we will always carry out the interventions in equal partnership with local partner organization(s) so that the target groups, communities, and/or civil society actors lead the designing, monitoring and implementing the interventions and in collaboration with the local governments (LG). By continuously coordinating with the LG, their ownership will be increased, as their participation in the planning, implementation, and monitoring evaluation ensured. PIN share indirect cost from donor funded project with partners and always credit our partners for their work in communication materials. In this strategic period, we will invest in programmes which focuses on CSN, strengthen the capacity of medium and small local CBOs to analyse their context and act through sub-granting. As a mainstreaming principle, we will focus on supporting the enabling environment and will work to empower and activate local actors – be it communities or local authorities on local and provincial levels – to design, plan and implement locally-led and localized durable solutions within the federal framework and with its support.

We will work to ensure sustainability by empowering the government and local communities to be at the front seat and taking longer, but more sustainable route by programme approach, adaptive management and not replacing GoN mechanisms, rather than supporting it. Gathering evidence by learning is another major thing to do, as it helps to build the case and share learnings to other areas/localities of Nepal.



MAXIMISING PROGRAMME QUALITY:

GEDSI mainstreaming is a key strength of and focus for PIN NPL strategy 2025-2029. In line with PIN NPL GEDSI strategy, Political Economic Analysis and Contextual GEDSI analysis represent the basis of design and implementation across all PIN Nepal's programmes. Intersectionality is another principle that PIN Nepal will follow in its current strategic plan to ensure for highly contextual programming across our pillars. We will adopt and promote approaches such as positive masculinity and Gender Transformative Social Norms (GTSN) Toolkit in our programmes to promote gender transformation. We aim to build on existing GoN's policies and commitments in regards to GEDSI, in order to make it work better for the most marginalized and vulnerable groups through our Interventions. GEDSI mainstreaming includes:

1. Assessment and analysis

- ensure that projects/programmes are based on a Political Economic Analysis and GEDSI analysis to better understand and consider how gender and societal norms, roles, inequalities and relations influence specific vulnerabilities and that we do not perpetrate or consolidate inequalities and dynamics of exclusion and marginalisation through our actions, but to the contrary contribute to equality and inclusion.

2. Project/programme design

- ensure that women, men and different gender identities, persons with disabilities, and socially vulnerable and excluded groups equally participate in the planning and design of the project
- programme in the area where women and people from the most vulnerable and marginalized groups are living. PIN Nepal targets the most vulnerable groups, mindful that new vulnerabilities may emerge due to crises, natural disasters and other hazards which may not be predefined.

3. Project/programme implementation

- ensure that equal involvement and participation of women, men and different gender identities, persons with disabilities, and socially vulnerable and excluded population groups are ensured throughout project/programme implementation, including in decision making processes.

4. Monitoring and evaluation

- ensure GEDSI consideration in its progress monitoring, reporting and evaluations tools and documents successes and challenges, and lessons learned related to the GEDSI ensuring the inclusion of dedicated targets/outcomes, and dedicated indicators

5. Community Feedback and Response Mechanism

- ensure the prioritisation of strong community feedback and response mechanism with crisis affected population to be able to adapt project/programme implementation based on their needs and aspiration and strengthen accountability at all levels.



Considering the areas of intervention in the 2025-2029 period our safeguarding priorities will focus on ensuring safe programming across all operations, grounded in the following key areas:

1. **Enhancing accountability through robust mechanisms** to strengthen accountability, we will regularly evaluate and improve these systems, ensuring they remain accessible, effective and culturally sensitive for diverse populations.
2. **Building capacity for effective safeguarding.** Safeguarding is a shared responsibility. We will implement mandatory safeguarding and risk management training for all staff, partners, reinforcing their roles in safe programming, in particular with specialized training for provincial safeguarding focal points .
3. **Integrating safeguarding into risk management and programming.** Risk registers, maintained at both project, consortium and CP levels, will be actively reviewed to identify and address safeguarding risks.
4. **Monitoring and continuous improvement.** Regular safeguarding risk reviews will ensure compliance with internal policies, donor expectations, and safeguarding standards, while identifying areas for growth.
5. **Learnings** from safeguarding practices will feed into programme improvement, ensuring that safeguarding remains a dynamic and evolving priority.
6. **Prioritising duty of care and staff wellbeing** to create and enabling and caring working environment.

During emergency response and recovery, development and governance programmes and their data management, PIN and partners will use its Do No Harm Policy, Data Protection Policy, Safeguarding Policy (which includes Protection from Sexual and Exploitation and Abuse and Child Protection) to ensure respect to people, engagement and transparency. PIN NPL commits to the Environmental Policy to mitigate and, where possible, prevent the potentially negative environmental impact of its operations and programmes. It ensures all the environmental compliance during the activity's implementation plan.

RETAINING STAFF:

During this strategic period, we will focus on putting policies in place and facilitating a work culture that:

- enables PIN NPL staff to have opportunities to grow within the country programme and within PIN globally
- prioritises the well-being of staff in particular workload and work-life balance
- ensures that PIN's NPL approach to pay and benefits is perceived by staff as fair and transparent
- promotes a decentralised decision-making at the right levels
- encourage affirmative actions in recruitment to promote inclusion

MOBILISING RESOURCES:

In this strategic period PIN NPL aims to focus on the financial sustainability of the programme by:

- investing in piloting and providing evidence based of effectiveness in new innovative tools and modalities, such as the CCRTM and sub-granting
- Focusing on learning capture and sharing for positioning
- Structuring proactive donor engagement
- Diversifying donors





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