

CLIMATE CHANGE CASE STUDY: UK International Climate Finance in Action

Helping Local Communities Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change in Nepal

Nepal lies at the heart of the Greater Himalayan region - the water tower of Asia. The glaciers of the Himalayas are the largest body of ice outside the Polar Regions, two thirds of which are now retreating, largely due to climate change. Within Nepal, the scale of climate change is already apparent, with temperatures rising, glaciers melting, and the increasing occurrence of erratic rainfalls leading to frequent floods and droughts. These climate impacts will be most felt by the 10 million poor rural people, many of them women and from socially excluded groups, who are already highly vulnerable to existing risks. Without effective climate adaptation support, these groups will remain trapped, or be tipped back, into poverty by the additional stresses climate change will bring.

UK International Climate Finance

The UK Government established the **International Climate Fund (ICF)** in 2011 as part of its commitment to reduce poverty by helping developing countries adapt to climate change, take up low carbon growth and tackle deforestation. The ICF will provide **£3.87 billion of climate finance** from within the existing UK aid budget from **2011 to 2016**.

The ICF contributed to the UK delivering its pledge of almost **£1.55 billion "Fast Start" finance between 2010 - 2012**.

Promoting climate resilience at local level

The UK, in partnership with the European Commission, is supporting the **Nepal Climate Change Support Programme (NCCSP)**. This programme responds to Nepal's climate vulnerability, focusing on building community

resilience to climate change and demonstrating that low carbon, climate resilient growth at scale is feasible.

The UK Government has committed **£4.5 million ICF finance** to support the use of a simple adaptation planning framework - Local Adaptation Plan of Action (**LAPA**) – endorsed by the Government of Nepal as the national policy framework for implementing all climate adaptation activities in country.



Image: Communities preparing LAPAs

Building community resilience

Nepal is the first country to develop such a framework which is responsive and flexible, ensuring the needs of the poorest and most climate vulnerable people in Nepal are addressed first.

Expected Results

By 2015 the NCCSP programme will **assist 3 million** people from the poorest and most vulnerable groups - over half of them women and girls – to adapt to the already evident impacts of climate change.

The programme will also provide support to **200,000 vulnerable communities** with access to clean energy technology and practices and support the **sustainable management of community forests** which capture 16,900 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

Results to date include:

- 2000 communities which have developed local adaptation plans (LAPAs) with a clear focus on gender and the most vulnerable groups.
- 250,000 people with increased climate resilience.
- 28,000 people with access to clean energy, half of whom are women.

Integrating climate into local development planning process

The use of LAPAs has created a strong local demand to integrate climate change into local development planning cycles. This has necessitated a need to strengthen the capacity of local government bodies to understand the relation between climate

change impacts and local development. As a first step towards such capacity building, the programme has supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder climate coordination body named **District Environment Energy**



Image: A meeting of Rolpa District Climate Change Coordination Committee to discuss integration of climate change into local development plan.

and Climate Change Coordination Committees.

“District Environment Energy and Climate Change Coordination Committees have a crucial role to play in prioritising practical and implementable local adaption plans. We need to encourage a clear division of responsibility between all represented members”.

- Mr. Hiralal Regmi, Local Development Officer, Rolpa District

District Environment Energy and Climate Change Coordination Committees are legal bodies formed at district level under the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and National Planning Commission provide policy coordination support to help link local and national development plans.

Although at an initial stage of formation, the District Environment Energy and Climate Change Coordination Committees have been found to play an effective role in integrating climate change adaptation into local development planning.