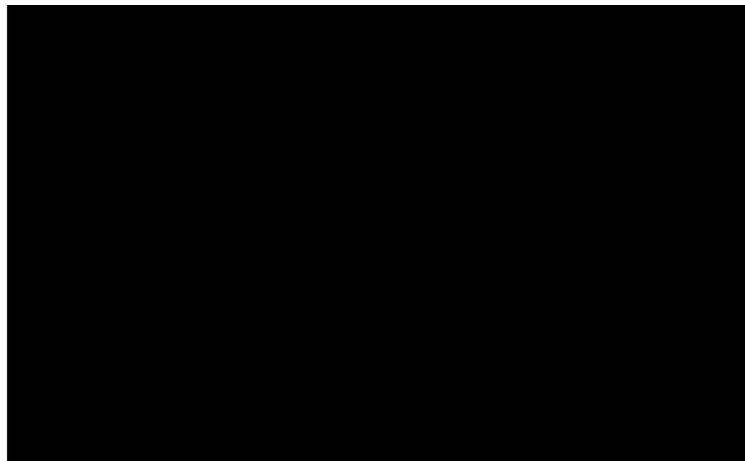


Data Source: www.aim2flourish.com

In context of these changes, a small research study was undertaken in June/July 2019 to understand private sector contributions to SDGs in Nepal. The research focuses on two aspects of SDG contributions. First, through the CSR channel and second, through taking a deeper dive into selected SDGs having high business impact and high business opportunity. The CSR activities of 30 business units (business companies and houses) were selected for the study. These units represent organized, relatively large-scale modern-day business organizations in Nepal engaged in different sectors like finance, manufacturing, tourism, airlines, and communication. These units probably explain 60-80% of CSR activities in Nepal. With regards to business relevant SDGs, using SDG Selector maintained by PwC, five SDGs with high impact and high opportunity were selected. These included SDG 8 on Decent work, SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 13 on Climate Action, SDG 3 on Good Health and well-being and SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production. These two approaches provide a bottom up (micro level) and top down (macro level) approach to understanding business contributions to SDGs. If the study of a company's CSR activities provides a bottom-up approach then the study of five SDGs provide a top-down approach.

There is a surge in CSR activities, particularly after 2015. Four sectors, namely, health, education, environment and livelihood explain 65% of all CSR activities (refer to the chart below). These four groups of CSR activities, including others are very much commensurate with SDGs. However, many of these CSR activities are one-off, ad hoc activities primarily

guided by corporate giving or philanthropy rather than systematic thinking guided by the SDG framework. The companies are also found to be performing a broad spectrum of CSR activities rather than focusing on one or two specific activities securing high impacts. As the SDGs are broad and all-encompassing, any activities performed by the business can be related to SDGs. Though the word “sustainability” appeared in many company websites, only three out of 30 units found to have articulated SDGs in their policy documents. There is a need not just of orienting business community on SDGs but also streamlining their CSR activities in terms of corporate performance, monitoring and reporting. The imposition of mandatory CSR activities is going to be a major challenge for private sector business in the days to come.



Of the five selected SDGs for deeper study, two SDGs namely, SDG 8 on Decent Work and SDG 9 on Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation have high business impact, that is, business can contribute extensively to achieve these two SDGs. Two SDGs, namely, SDG 12 on Sustainable Production and Consumption and SDG 13 on Climate Action provide more of an opportunity or SDGs contributing to business rather than business contributing to SDGs (impact). The remaining SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being represent a midway between business impact and opportunity.

The SDG 8 on Decent Work is the single most priority goals for business to contribute to the achievement of SDGs in Nepal. The business can do so primarily by creating jobs. A substantial portion of jobs in Nepal are created by or in the private sector business. These included sectors like agriculture, trade, industry, construction, tourism, finance

private sector on SDG 3 can be looked from two perspectives. First, as a part of economic liberalization initiated in early 1990s, the Government has opened up private sector investment in health and education sectors. The sector is very much involved in the delivery of health services through private sector operated hospitals and health insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies. Second, by customers and suppliers, the private sector business can contribute to