

Human Development

Project: Support for Human Development Initiatives and other projects



➤ Background

The Government of Nepal and its donors need up-to-date disaggregated information to gauge the status of development in the country. This helps them identify the development needs and direct their programmes towards the neediest sectors, geographic areas, caste and ethnic groups and other population groups.

For the past decade UNDP has provided funding and technical support to the Government to prepare and update two of the major means of recording Nepal's development progress — the Nepal human development reports and the status of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This support has successfully encouraged more pro-poor policy making.

➤ UNDP support

The UNDP's Support for Human Development Initiatives project began in 2006 to support and strengthen the monitoring of human development in Nepal. The project's three objectives are to produce Nepal's next human development report, to support the teaching of human development in its universities and to support the production of an MDG-based national plan.

➤ Nepal Human Development Report

UNDP has taken the lead internationally in redefining poverty away from being just about material well-being, as defined by income levels, to encompassing other indicators that show people's overall well-being. UNDP produced the first global Human Development Report and its associated Human Development Index (HDI) in 1990. This index combines measures of life expectancy, literacy, educational attainment and GDP per capita for countries worldwide as a standard means of measuring human development.

UNDP has supported the production of all three Nepal Human Development Reports and preparations are well advanced for the fourth. The preparation of these reports trigger and focus debate on Nepal's development status and the priority areas and measures needed to alleviate poverty. The reports themselves provide an accessible source of a range of facts, figures and analysis that is not easily available elsewhere.

Preparations for producing the fourth report went ahead with national consultations in the first half of 2007 led by top-level representatives from the National Planning Commission, other Government agencies, academia, civil society and the donor community. These and further consultations identified the key theme as the transformation of the state for human development.

Project details (SHDI)

Nepali name: मानव विकास पहलकालागि सहयोग

Duration: August 2006 to June 2009

Budget: \$536,439 (UNDP)

Implemented by: UNDP

Implementing partner: National Planning Commission

Donors: UNDP

Focus: Central level policy support

Nepal's human development status

The global Human Development Report, 2007/08 ranks Nepal as the South Asian country with the lowest level of human development. Although levels of income poverty have dropped considerably in Nepal — from 42% in 1996 to 31% in 2004 — social and regional inequality in income distribution and consumption has grown. The poorest 20% of the population's share in the national income decreased from 7.5% to 6% in the same period.



The 1998, 2001 and 2004 Nepal Human Development Reports



Nepal's human development progress, 1990–2005

| | 1990 HDI data | 2005 HDI data |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Life expectancy (at birth) | 52.2 yrs | 62.6 yrs |
| Adult literacy rate (% aged 15 and above) | 25.6% | 48.6% |
| Educational attainment (1990)/ educational index (2005) | 0.35 | 0.518 |
| GDP per capita (PPP US\$) | \$896 | \$1,550 |
| HDI ranking | 113/130 | 142/177 |
| | (low human development) | (medium human development) |

Note: 1990 data is from the 1992 human development report and 2005 data is from the 2007/08 report

The data for the report has been compiled and computed into the indices at various disaggregated levels, including by urban-rural, ecological region, development region and by 15 sub-regions. The report will also provide disaggregated data and rankings by broad caste and ethnic group — crucial given the great importance of improving the lives of the marginalised social groups that rank the lowest across almost all development indicators.

➤ Other support to human development

Support to universities — UNDP has supported Nepal's universities to incorporate the human development concept into their taught courses by providing them with reference books and other teaching materials. This has led to six departments of Tribhuvan University introducing modules on human development and Purbanchal, Pokhara and Tribhuvan universities launching courses at the postgraduate level.

MDG-based planning — UNDP is at the forefront of supporting the Government to make the achievement of the MDGs a focal point in planning for development. This happened with the Government's latest plan (The Three Year Interim Plan 2007/08–2009/10) where UNDP support enabled the Government to hold far wider consultations on plan priorities than ever before, with regional and district level consultations across the country. Furthermore, expertise was provided to assess the achievements of the previous plan and to align the plan with the MDGs. Accordingly the plan gives more attention than before to reaching the poorest and most disadvantaged sectors of society — the sectors that need to be reached for the attainment of the MDGs. UNDP will continue to support the Government for MDG-based planning and monitoring.

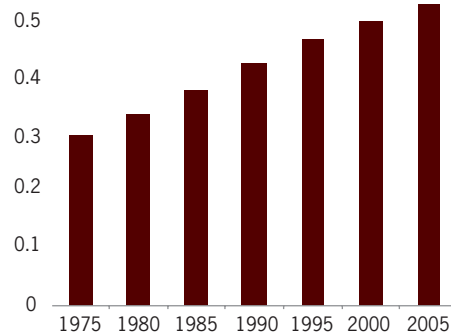
The Localization of MDGs in District Planning and Monitoring project (\$189,000, Jul 07–Aug 09) is supported jointly by SNV. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Local Development in six of Nepal's remotest and most underdeveloped districts to produce MDG-based district plans.

Labour Force Survey — Under a separate project, UNDP and the International Labor Organization are supporting the Government's Central Bureau of Statistics to carry out the second Nepal Labour Force Survey. This important sample survey collects the basic data needed for monitoring employment and labour market conditions.

Importance of these projects towards achieving the MDGs and consolidating peace

Information on the status of human development and the MDGs helps the Government and donors to better target their development interventions and thus to have a better impact across the MDGs. Progress towards the MDGs is crucial for overcoming the underdevelopment that was the main underlying cause of the ten years of violent conflict.

Nepal's Human Development Index score, 1975-2005



For more information:

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🌐 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/> for all global, regional and national human development reports

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