Nepal, a new Constitution and Implications for Development Investment

Action Area C. SC5

It is worth investing in integrated statistics for integrated analysis

Presenter:
Craig Irwin
DFID Nepal
Slides

- Background: The Nepal Data Ecosystem
- Emerging Priorities:
  - National Statistics System
  - Data Generation
  - Data Use
  - Open Data
- DFID’s Changed Approach
The Nepal Data Ecosystem

• New constitution and federal structure - 2015
• Nepal’s NSS officially centralised but in reality decentralized with top-down
• Central statistics sometimes considered not to reflect realities by local officials
• Provincial and local government are now data producers and users
• Provincial and local governments need data to develop policies, plans and budgets

#apstatsweek2020
Emerging Priorities: NSS strengthening

• The Constitution provides for a statistical office to be established in each province but these are not yet in place

• There needs to be clarity around the leadership and coordination roles of CBS across government

• In March 2019, a new NSDS was adopted, and a new Statistics Act has been drafted and progressing through Parliament

• Government have plans to address these issues and the UK will look to support implementation where possible
Emerging Priorities: Data Generation

• CBS are continuing their successful implementation of core statistical activities – including survey and census production

• Critical need for a LT production schedule for national surveys – esp. those supported by Development Partners

• Analysis reveals that at least 200 surveys conducted in Nepal since 2010: >75% funded by DPs.

• However, the majority (80%) of the survey data identified were not available for public access.

• For example there is an urgent need to update official data on poverty.
Emerging Priorities: Data Use

• Respond to data needs of provincial and local governments

• Support short-term immediate data needs through access and use of existing statistics and data

• Skills development in data management, governance and use for policy making, planning and budgeting.

• Build capacity for data production, processing, analysis and use for evidence-based decision-making.
Emerging Priorities: Open Data

• Already a strong open data community in Nepal, strengthening demand, supply and use of open data.

• Open data portals share open data on a wide range of issues including disability, hydropower, taxation and more.

• The demand for (open) data has grown in urban areas, however use remains limited.

• Data products are shared ad-hoc. DPs contribute to hundreds of surveys but few are available online.

• Need to develop a more open and transparent approach to data access and dissemination.
DFID’s Focus to now

• Since 2016 DFID have managed a programme of support through the Evidence for Development (E4D) programme.

• The first phase of E4D worked with:
  ➢ World Bank – NSS and data generation
  ➢ The Asia Foundation and Development Initiatives have worked with local partners - to grow demand, sharing and use of open development data.
  ➢ UNDP worked with the Ministry of Finance on aid effectiveness.

• However the focus of all this work has been on supporting government and other organisations largely in Kathmandu

#apstatsweek2020
DFID’s Changed Focus

• Phase two of E4D is underway and has been designed to have a greater emphasis on developing the wider data ecosystem across all tiers of government across Nepal.

  ➢ The World Bank – NSS, data generation and use
  ➢ TAF and DI - continue to support development of the open data ecosystem. Also support LG data use
  ➢ UNDP will support evidence-based policymaking and aid effectiveness.
  ➢ UNFPA will support the 2021 Census – technical planning and logistics
Stakeholders

• The data ecosystem includes a number of other stakeholders all contributing to increased production, supply and use of data, including:
  ➢ Private sector firms
  ➢ Nonprofit organisations
  ➢ Civil Society
  ➢ Nepalese citizens
  ➢ Development partners