

Nepal: Data governance profile

1. Vision and policy intent

[The Fifteenth Plan](#) has been prepared with the long-term vision of fulfilling the shared national aspiration for “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali”. The plan includes initiatives (ref. Chapter 10) to improve data management systems, make data more credible and accessible, use data in policy formulation and decision making of all levels, and develop a statistical system in line with the federal structure by achieving interagency and intergovernmental coordination in statistical activities.

The [Vision of the National Statistics Office](#) is “Establishment of a coordinated, functional and sound national statistical system.”

[The National Strategy for Development of the Statistical System](#) objectives include the establishment of coordination among federal, provincial and local governments of Nepal involved in statistical activities.

The [Digital Nepal Framework](#) initiatives include the digitisation and upgrade of systems (health, education) and development of policies and regulatory framework for data security, data protection and online privacy.

2. Data Management: policies, rules & institutions

A National Statistics Council, established under the [Statistics Act, 2079 \(2022\)](#), determines the national standards and can give directions to agencies related to data collection, storage, processing and dissemination.

The Council may form inter-agency working groups on statistics as per need to maintain coordination and uniformity in methods of sectoral data collection, access to data and data management

3. Data custodians and data stewardship

The [National Statistical Office](#) (NSO) is the central agency for the collection, consolidation, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistics. It is under the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) of Nepal and serves as a national statistical organization of Government of Nepal. It generates timely and reliable socio-economic statistics mainly through the operation of censuses and surveys.

It carries out different household surveys and censuses regularly to assess the socio-economic condition of the country.

Government agencies are also authorized to collect data however, agencies planning to collect or publish data (at national level) must obtain permission from the NSO

The data collected by the agencies shall be linked into the National Statistical System.

4. Data sharing, accessibility and integration

Published data is shared through the website and data portal of the data producers. The NSO also distributes microdata to users through a [microdata catalogue portal](#) comprising a collection of datasets from the NSO and Department of Health Services, Civil Registration and Ministry of Agriculture Development. The NSO has different data portals for sharing data from the population census and some other datasets.



[Open Data Nepal](#) is one example of a civil society initiative which aims to make Nepal's data permanently accessible online.

[National Data Profile](#) (NDP) is a database system that aims to provide easy access to key official statistics of all three layers of government.

In 2022-3, the National Statistics Office of Nepal participated in a [project on strengthening the capacity to implement data integration approaches for official statistics](#). The project involved a practical exercise of integrating multiple data sources and included capacity development activities.

5. Data sharing, risks & mitigation

Article 28 of the [Constitution of Nepal, 2072 BS](#), explicitly outlines the right to privacy.

Privacy in Nepal is regulated by the Statistics Act 2079 (2022), the Privacy Act 2075 (2018), and the Individual Privacy Regulation 2077 (2020) ('Privacy Regulation').

The [Statistics Act, 2079 \(2022\)](#) has a strict provision that records only be used for statistical purposes and that individual information obtained by the data collector in course of data collection shall not be used elsewhere or made available

