

Country Statement: Nepal

Although Nepal's current revenue efforts are satisfactory as revenue to GDP ratio has exceeded 20 percent in recent years. In the medium run, a substantial increase in domestic resource mobilization by the government will still be insufficient to finance SDG investment requirements. Beyond finance, a critical constraint in Nepal is the capacity deficit at the institutional level. Unless capacity development interventions are mainstreamed into the national planning and budgeting process, they may not get the obligatory priority and resources for expedited implementation. SDGs cannot be ensured without considering the values of human rights, equality and equity, inclusion, solidarity and respect for the people and environment they inhabit.

After having the new constitution of Nepal 2015, the government of Nepal has been restructured the administrative system. New system of governance has been created at the province and local levels. Now in Nepal there are 753 local and 7 provincial governments. A strong monitoring system with credible data is crucial for the success of the SDGs. Only an effective government with a strong statistical system can measure the progress across the goals. While donor agencies should maintain current contributions to statistics, recipient countries must commit to fill the gap, mobilizing domestic resources behind a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). It is necessary for Nepal to restructure and upgrade the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) into a national statistics office headed by secretary level with the legal and financial ability to arrange & produce all data needs required for SDGs monitoring system.

In Nepal, currently data for more than 100 global SDG indicators are not available. It is also necessary to have qualitative information – such as perceptions of citizens on public services, corruption and wellbeing etc. Here is Big difference between government recorded data and those compiled by non-governmental organizations. This is particularly the case with violence, crime, human trafficking, violation of human rights. The rapidly evolving innovation in data collection techniques/technologies and the capacity to distribute data widely and freely has expanded the horizon of possibilities. The current statistical system in Nepal is, however, yet to evolve that way. Particularly, access to public and even private sector data is a big challenge for independent monitoring agencies outside the government. Till even today, major surveys are often financed by donors, which is subject to delays in aid mobilization. The government will have to make necessary legal, organizational and operational changes in the existing data system to generate and share large, high quality and timely data for monitoring the progress of the SDGs.

All institutions of the state, mainly the parliament, judiciary and constitutional bodies and government need to be on the same way to advance the sustainable development agenda. Only a proper institutional mechanism among state and non-state actors can ensure that interventions related to SDGs are executed in a coordinated, coherent and complementary way. The role of the parliament would be crucial, particularly when it comes to creating and reforming laws facilitating and governing the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The country ownership of the SDGs is manifested in the institutional set up of the high-level steering committee chaired by the Prime Minister. Below this lies a coordination and implementation committee chaired by the Vice-Chair of the National Planning Commission (NPC), followed by thematic committees led by members of NPC.

NPC is implementing the National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) guidelines to make SDGs-friendly, among others. These will promote an enabling policy environment for tracking and evaluating the SDGs. The Government has internalized a results-based approach in its planning processes. Nepal has an integrated evaluation action plan for the period 2016- 2020 that incorporates the activities of government agencies, voluntary organizations of professional evaluators and UN agencies are taking part (pre determined role) under the leadership of NPC. This equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluation action plan aims to generate, share and use evaluation-based evidence in policy processes. These effort aims to track SDGs. NPC is gradually shifting from a narrow monitoring process to results-based monitoring and evaluation system. Its role is crucial in institutionalizing the culture of using evidence in the SDG-friendly planning and policy making process. It is in the way to conduct systematic monitoring and evaluation of SDGs collaborating with other partners and produce evaluation-based evidence.

New statistics act is in its final stage of approval by the government of Nepal to replace the old statistics act 1958. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) comprise the Mission (*to produce quality statistics and provide statistical services needed for the sustainable development of Nepal*), Vision (*to be an effective, well-coordinated and highly functional National Statistical System*) & Strategic Objectives (*Produce statistics in required quantity and quality that meet the needs of all levels of government for evidence-based policy measures, and the needs of the wider users in the national and international community*) is in final stage for approval by the government.

CBS is in progress to prepare National Data Profile (NDP) portal which will be supposed to help national, 7 province & 753 local levels to update the necessary SDG indicators timely & accurately. It may be historical development in the history of statistical system of

Nepal. From this all users, researchers will be benefited by easy access & updated statistical information mainly related to SDGs.

CBS has completed the field work of Nepal Labor Force Survey (NLFS) III according to 19th ICLS, preparation of NMICS (Nepal Multi Indicator Cluster Survey) is in progress & supposed to complete in 2019. In 2019/20, CBS has also plan to conduct Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS) IV. Nepal is in the way to implement the Global Flagship Program on Gender Statistics “Making Every Nepali Women and Girl Count (MEWGC-Nepal). The program aims to ensure that gender statistics are available, accessible, analyzed and used to inform policy-making, advocacy and accountability for delivering gender equality and women’s empowerment at national and subnational levels. In 2019 CBS has plan to conduct the first Time Use Survey (TUS). These surveys (NLFS, NMICS, NLSS & TUS) are conducting/suppose to conduct with collaboration/partnership ILO, UNICEF, WB & UN Women respectively. Central Bureau of Statistics has plan to conduct the 12th National Housing and Population Census in 2021.