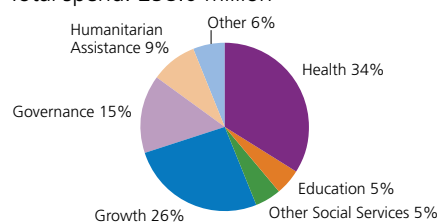


Nepal

| Indicator | Proportion of population below \$1 a day | Net enrolment in primary education | Ratio of girls to boys in primary education | Under 5 mortality ratio | Maternal mortality ratio | HIV prevalence, 15-49 years old | Improved water source |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Current assessment | Green | Green | Green | Green | Red | Amber | Green |

Bilateral aid by sector, 2008-09

Total spend: £58.0 million



Nepal is emerging from a 10 year conflict. An election was held in April 2008, and a Maoist-led coalition government was formed in August 2008.

Nepal is the 14th poorest country in the world. Poverty in the last decade declined from 43% to 31% largely due to remittances. But increasing food costs and the downturn of the global economy pose huge challenges to the progress made this far. DFID Nepal is working with the government and partners to support the peace process; provide better access to economic opportunities and reduce poor people's vulnerability to economic and climatic shocks. It is also helping to build a more effective and inclusive state which includes the delivery of basic services.

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Over 8 million people live below the national poverty line and almost 50% of Nepal's children are malnourished. The Livelihood and Forestry Programme in Nepal (£19m) have through supporting community forestry: reduced the vulnerability of three million people, and has substantially lifted 50,000 families out of poverty since the programme began in 2001. It captures three million tonnes of carbon monoxide each year, worth US \$30-50 million if tradable on the carbon markets. DFID Nepal supported programmes which provided employment in road construction (35,000 people), and helped improve livelihoods in forestry (75,000 people), agriculture (100,000 people), and providing vocational training (15,000 people) in 2008/9.

This support reaches a total of 225,000 people annually and increases their incomes. Over the next 3 years, we aim to expand our current work on jobs and growth so that at least 500,000 people benefit annually from these programmes from 2009-2012.

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

Literacy rates are as low as 29% in some ethnic groups in Nepal¹. DFID has committed £20 million over a period of 5 years (2004-2009) to the **National Education for All programme (EFA)**. The programme aims to improve access to schools, equity, efficiency and institutional capacity in the education sector.

Net enrolment at primary level increased from 89.1% to 91.1% in 2008². In 2007/8 the EFA programme constructed 4,670 new classes, rehabilitated 1,846 classes and improved school facilities to include latrines, drinking water and fences in 2,372 schools.

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women in Nepal suffer social, economic and political discrimination. However, significant progress has been made with female political empowerment in Nepal. The newly elected **Constituent Assembly (CA) has the highest percentage of women of any similar body in South Asia**. Of 191 CA women members, 41 were directly associated with partner organisations supported by DFID.

With DFID financial support of £3 million in 2008, **short term skills training was provided to 15,000 youths, 60% of which were women**.

My hands are ready for writing the constitution of the country

Hasina Begum is a member of the Constitutional Assembly (Parliament) She undertook General and Social Exclusion training to build her understanding around inclusion issues in order to influence the parliamentary process.

This training was supported by DFID and partners through the Rights, Democracy and Inclusion Fund Programme (RDIF). Hasina says that the training helped women leaders to bond and work together for common issues affecting women and excluded groups.



MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

In Nepal, 1 in 6 children die before their 5th birthday.³ In 2008/9 we provided £8m to Nepal's Health Sector. This support helped in immunizing 88% and 79% of children against DPT3 and Measles respectively. DFID support helped the **expansion of child health programmes in 48 districts, national immunisation campaign in 75 districts, special polio vaccination programme in 40 districts**, and Japanese Encephalitis immunisation in additional 8 districts. DFID's contribution is crucial in helping the government achieve its targets for MDG 4, for which it is on track.

MDG 5: Improve maternal health

Women in Nepal are forty times more likely to die in childbirth than in the UK.⁴ In 2008/9 DFID provided £7.64m to the **Safe Motherhood Programme (SMP)**. This **contributed to skilled birth attendance training; safe delivery incentives for women** and infrastructure development to both improve the availability and quality of emergency obstetric care services. It also increased the number of local birthing centres. This has resulted in an increase in health facility deliveries of 0.3 percentage points (from 15.5% to 15.8%) and an increase of 6.8% (from 18.1% to 24.9%) for emergency obstetric care.⁵ In January 2009 the **Government of Nepal introduced free delivery care in health facilities**; DFID was instrumental in developing and implementing this policy.

Women's group saves a life

"If I were not a member of the women's group, I might have died" said Pinky Kamat, a disabled woman from a very poor family in Biratnagar. As a member of the local women's group, she learned about risks related to pregnancy, whilst participating in the activities and interactions organised by the group.

When Pinky became pregnant she had antenatal check ups at the primary health care centre. When her labour started the group members took her to the hospital in an ambulance and paid the hospital bills from an emergency fund. In addition, she received Rupees 500 for transport costs under the government's safe delivery incentive scheme, which is funded by DFID through the Safe Motherhood Programme.

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Nepal faces major challenges in combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Some challenges faced are; lack of funding; poor coordination and insufficient monitoring of progress.

In 2008/9 DFID provided £3.4 million in support to the national HIV/AIDS programme. The fund has been managed by UNDP. It has successfully provided services to people living with AIDS and other vulnerable groups.

MDG7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Three quarters of Himalayan glaciers could disappear by 2030. This and other climate change impacts will lead to an increase in floods and droughts for the 500 million people that rely on rivers in Nepal and also India and Bangladesh. In 2008 DFID began its support for Nepal's National Adaptation Plan of Action which will deliver a cross-government strategy for adapting to climate change. We are also **supporting sustainable forestry through our forestry programme**, which reverses deforestation and **captures an estimated 3.3 million tonnes of carbon a year (worth at least £9m at today's market values)**.

1 DFID Nepal Country Business Plan (CBP), 2009/10 – 20011/12

2 Ministry of Education figures (Nepal)

3 Nepal CBP

4 Nepal CBP

5 Ministry of health, annual review report 2007/08