




Nepal



 In the past two years Nepal has moved from armed conflict and absolute monarchy to a peace process and democratic transitional government. Norwegian development cooperation increased in 2007 as a result.


Governance and human rights

  Norway supported two UN programmes for decentralisation. Indigenous peoples and women of low castes were an important target group. 13,000 women received training in organisational work. The Nepal Peace Trust fund was established to provide support for the camps of former Maoist soldiers, rehabilitation of IDPS and the election of a constituent assembly. Norway also channelled support to UN weapons inspectors and sent key personnel to the UN peace mission.


The Norwegian LGBT Association is working with the Blue Diamond Society to give lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons in Nepal greater awareness of their rights. The cooperation made a breakthrough in December 2007 when the

Supreme Court of Nepal instructed the new constituent assembly to grant this section of the population full protection against discrimination.

Education

 Norway has for several years supported the national sector programme for basic and primary education. 89 per cent of the birth cohort were enrolled in the first grade in 2007. Norway worked with Save the Children Norway to raise school attendance among girls and marginalised children.

Private sector development/energy

 Energy projects in rural areas brought power to 17,000 new households. Norway also funded initiatives to achieve sustainable hydropower development and increase investments in the energy sector.

Climate/environment

 Norway signed a five-year agreement on allocation of support to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a regional knowledge centre on environmental and climate

issues. The impact of climate change on snow melting and water resources in the Himalaya region is being researched in cooperation with the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo and the UNEP information and monitoring centre in Norway, GRID-Arendal.

Facts

Estimated population (2006): 27.6 million

Gross national income per capita (2006): USD 320 (LDC)

Average annual economic growth (GDP) (2000-2006): 3.9%

Economic structure: percentage of GDP by sector (2006): agriculture 41%, industry 22%, services 37%

Malnutrition among children under 5 years of age (2006): 39%. Figures over 30% are an indicator of widespread poverty

Human Development Index (HDI) Level (2005): 0.534. A country with an HDI level between 0.500 and 0.800 is regarded as having a medium quality of life. A change of +0.111 has been registered for Nepal in the period 1990-2005, indicating a positive development.

Child mortality rate per 1000 (2006): 59. Change 2000-2006: -36

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 births (2005): 8.3

HIV infection rate, 15-49 age group (2007): 0.5%

Children in primary education (2004): 80.1%

Illiteracy rate 15-24 age group (2007): 29.7%

Ratio of girls to 100 boys in primary/secondary/tertiary education (2004): 95/89/40 (2006)

Percentage of women in parliament (2008): 17.3%

Estimated pay for women as percentage of men's pay in the formal sector (2005): 50%

Forested area (change 1990-2005), negative numbers indicate deforestation as a percentage): -25%

Area protected to conserve biological diversity (2007): 16.6%

Percentage of population with access to safe drinking water (2006): 89%

Percentage of urban population living in slums (2005): 60.7%

Corruption Perception Index (TI) (2006): 2.5. The index ranges from 10 to 0, where 10 is totally clean and 0 is totally corrupt.

Fragile state, according to OECD/DAC (2006): No
Defence spending as a percentage of GDP (2006): 2.0%

Aid per capita (2005): USD 16

Aid as a percentage of GDP (2006): 6.3%

Bilateral assistance¹ for Nepal, by partner, 2007

Development cooperation partners	NOK 1000	Per cent
Government-to-government, etc. ²	137 980	53,1
International NGOs	18 881	7,3
Local NGOs	6 436	2,5
Norwegian NGOs	39 288	15,1
Regional NGOs	400	0,2
Nordic research institutions/foundations	641	0,2
Multilateral organisations ³	56 100	21,6
Total	259 726	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance

2) Including public institutions, ministries, consultants, the private sector, etc.

3) Earmarked assistance channelled through multilateral organisations (multi-bilateral)

Bilateral assistance¹ for Nepal, by sector, 2007

Sectors	NOK 1000	Per cent
Economic development and trade	12 780	4,9
Emergency relief and other unspecified assistance	4 621	1,8
Environment and energy	36 876	14,2
Good governance	124 543	48,0
Health, education and other social sector areas	79 622	30,7
HIV/AIDS	1 284	0,5
Total	259 726	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance