

As our partnership evolved, it became apparent that development had to be inclusive to be successful and sustainable. While working to improve the transfer of its extensive development knowledge, the World Bank became an active listener, seeking input from the local people who are the best authorities on their lives and their development needs. In the following decades it became increasingly apparent that greater investments were needed in its human resources, especially women, for Nepal to attain its full potential. At the

same time, for development to be sustainable, it needed to include measures to protect the country's natural resources. While Bank assistance in the traditional areas continued, an increasing amount of assistance was provided in education and health, and to support forest management aimed at conserving Nepal's precious biodiversity. Protection of the environment was also given increasing importance in all Bank financed projects.



As the partnership progressed, the World Bank learned valuable lessons about development effectiveness. Across the broad spectrum of its assistance to Nepal, the Bank began to place increasing emphasis on two key areas. One was on strengthening partnerships with other development organizations, the private sector, Nepali civil society, NGOs and CBOs, and particularly the local communities – women and men – who development projects are designed to benefit. The other area of increased emphasis was on fostering stronger governance and social accountability to maximize the benefits of development assistance. As our partnership moves into the next decade, the World Bank

Group will continue to help Nepal develop the systems, institutions and skills required to ensure that the Nepali State prospers and delivers the benefits of development to its citizens, especially women and vulnerable populations, in an inclusive and accountable manner. Consistent with national priorities, the Bank Group will continue to support Nepal's efforts at overcoming constraints in terms of productivity, connectivity and the delivery of public services, as well as help disadvantaged Nepalis cope with economic and social vulnerabilities. The Bank will also continue to bring resources and decisions closer to beneficiaries, where they are likely to be most productively used.



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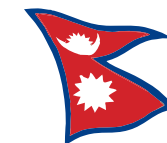
Data Sources:

Nepal's Three Year Interim Plan (2010-2013)
Nepal's Population Census, 2012
Nepal's Economic Survey, 2012
Nepal's Fourth Five Year Plan (1970-1975)



स्वर्णिम
यात्रा
SWARNIM YATRA

NEPAL AND THE WORLD BANK GROUP
50 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



A celebration of Nepal's Development Results

The World Bank Group has been a development partner in Nepal for the past five decades, providing financing, technical assistance and advice. Over the years, the Bank's support has evolved in focus and form to meet the changing needs of Nepal. But this partnership has always maintained a primary purpose: the reduction of poverty to raise the living standards of the Nepali people.



An Economic Mission from the World Bank visited Nepal for the first time in November, 1963. The team spent two and a half weeks in Kathmandu and also visited Biratnagar, Birgunj, Hetauda, the Rapti Valley and Pokhara. In its report, the team observed the following:

"...there are already signs that traditional attitudes are gradually breaking down under the impact of new ideas as more and more young people go to school and university or travel abroad. Many years more will be needed, however, to equip Nepal with the trained manpower, knowledge of public administration, management experience, economic information, and other attributes of a developing society. By its achievements to date, Nepal has established a good claim for continued external support..."

When the Bank Group first invested in a project, Nepal was starting its Fourth Five Year Development Plan (1970-75). The total public expenditure for the entire plan period was US\$ 257 million. Back then, Nepal's population was about 11 million. The size of the Nepali economy was less than US\$ 1 billion and per capita GDP was under US\$ 75.

Today, the Three Year Interim Plan envisages public expenditures of nearly US\$ 14 billion. Nepal's population has more than doubled in the meantime. The size of the Nepali economy

now is about US\$ 20 billion. Per capita GDP is around US\$ 730. World Bank assistance more than doubled since the 1990s to US\$ 1.3 billion today.

The World Bank provided its first technical assistance grant to Nepal in 1964 to finance and organize a transport survey. But the first credit was approved in 1969 for a telecommunications project. Over the next decade, the Bank's assistance focused mainly on agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure development in telecommunications, highways, power, and water supply and sanitation.

