

Denmark in Nepal 2012

Denmark's development cooperation aims to contribute to reducing poverty in some of the poorest countries in the world and helping people to take charge of their own lives. Denmark's engagement is based on partnerships with actors who can and wish to create change. The development cooperation is mainly focused on 26 partner countries with whom Denmark has a long-term strategic partnership – Nepal is one of them. Denmark aims to assist Nepal in the present challenges of ensuring stability and peace and reducing poverty.

Nepal became a partner country in 1989 and a long-term partnership was established. Through this partnership, Denmark aims to contribute to poverty reduction, political stability and to strengthen economic growth, employment and access to energy. It is a Danish priority to promote integration and alignment of the development assistance with national structures and priorities. Hence, the Danish development assistance in Nepal is based on Nepal's own priorities and development strategies.

Denmark's development assistance is organised to allow for flexible and comprehensive development cooperation making use of a variety of instruments. Denmark focuses its development efforts in Nepal in the areas of education, renewable energy, human rights and good governance, the peace process and business partnerships. A new programme on growth and employment is presently being developed.

Education 2009-2012

Programme	Education Programme
Grant	USD 40 million (2009-2012). USD 23 million (2012-2013)
Main partners	Government of Nepal (GoN), Ministry of Education (MoE)
Geographic focus	Nationwide

Achieving a basic level of education is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty. Recognising this, Denmark has been a leading supporter of education in Nepal since 1992. The objective of Denmark's support to education is to assist the Government in improving all children's access to education, enhancing the quality of public school education (e.g. through teacher trainings and by improving the conditions in the schools), and developing institutional capacity. About 90 pct. of the Danish financial support to the Sector Wide Approach Programme is channeled through the Government of Nepal's budget based on a Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) between the Government and nine development partners. The remaining part of the Danish support is allocated to capacity development, technical assistance and monitoring and evaluation.

Significant progress had been made over the last decade in getting children into primary school; especially the number of girls in school has increased. Progress still needs to be made, though. Drop out and retention rates for children in primary school are worrisome with only 66 percent of children completing primary education (grade 8). About 27.1 percent of students complete secondary education (grade 12). There are large disparities between the enrolment and completion rates in rural areas and urban areas, and children from marginalised communities and those living in rural areas often receive poor quality education. Rural schools struggle to find and keep good teachers and many schools have poor infrastructure facilities.

Rural Renewable Energy 2007-2012

Programme	Energy Sector Assistance Programme (ESAP)
Grant	USD 27 million
Period	2007-2012
Main partners	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) and Ministry of Environment
Geographic focus	Rural districts in Nepal

For more than 20 years, Danish development assistance has been improving the lives of rural Nepali families by supporting Government efforts to provide electricity and sustainable, renewable energy solutions to millions of the rural poor. Another aim is to establish policies to protect and enrich environmental resources. Nearly 17 million people – 60 percent of the population - primarily poor, rural families in Nepal live without electricity in their homes. Nepal’s geography and the isolation of many communities pose great challenges for rural electrification. Increasing access to electricity – particularly in rural areas – is a critical factor for increasing opportunities for production and employment, and for improving living conditions e.g. doing school work.

The Danish support to the energy sector in Nepal began in the late 1990s. The programme aims at improving rural access to renewable energy in the form of improved cooking stoves, solar panels to households and micro-hydro installations in areas where there is no access to the national electric power network. The support includes: Institutional strengthening of the public and private organisations in the renewable energy sector, funds for subsidy for the installation of renewable energy and technical support for the promotion of the technologies. Denmark contributes with USD 27 million to Phase II of the programme. The main partner is the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC). A new phase is being designed together with the Government and other donors.

Human Rights and Good Governance 2009-2013

Programme	Human Rights and Good Governance (Phase III)
Grant	USD 30 million
Period	2009-2013
Main partners	National Human Rights Commission, Election Commission, Ministry of Local Development, and civil society organisations
Geographic focus	Nationwide

After the decade-long conflict, Nepal faces challenges within aspects of human rights and good governance. A part of the rebuilding process includes strengthening capacity within the government and state institutions and within civil society to address the human rights violations of the past, to strengthen the rule of law, and to preserve and protect democratic principles and basic human rights for all of its citizens.

Denmark has supported human rights and good governance in Nepal since the early 1990s, and from 1998 through a programme of Human Rights and Good Governance implemented mainly through the advisory unit DanidaHUGOU. At present, USD 30 million of Danish assistance has been committed for the 2009-2013 period

to promoting human rights and good governance in Nepal during this critical, post-conflict transition period. Social inclusion, conflict transformation and accountability are overarching themes in the programme.

Phase III of the programme has three components: 1. "Inclusive Democracy" which focuses on the promotion of an inclusive and democratic political culture and system. The component supports the strengthening of democratic actors, institutions, and public dialogue. 2. "Human Rights and Justice" which advances a safe and non-violent environment for all Nepalese through support to human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy and enhanced access to justice for poor and marginalised women and men. 3. "Local Governance" which supports a new national and multi-donor programme on local governance and community development.

The programme's cooperation with civil society is based on long-term strategic partnerships with a limited number of organisations. Partnerships are established with national institutions such as Election Commission, National Human Rights Commission, and the Auditor General. Support to political parties with the aim of strengthening multi-party democracy will start in 2012.

Peace Support 2011-2013

Programme	Nepal Peace Support Programme (Phase III)
Grant	USD 13 million
Period	2008-2013
Main partners	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the United Nations, local and international NGOs
Geographic focus	Nationwide

Denmark's support to the peace process in Nepal has been provided to a variety of actors at national and local level. The ongoing phase III of the programme has a budget of USD 13 million and is designed to respond to the demands in Nepal through two strands, namely the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Accord and the strengthening of public security and progress in key enabling aspects of the wider peace process.

The current phase has five components:

1. The Nepal Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) which is the main vehicle for the Government of Nepal to directly support the implementation of the peace process.
2. The UN Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN) where Denmark acts as a lead donor. The UNPFN is aimed at supporting areas of the peace process not addressed by the NPTF.
3. Nepal Police under the Ministry of Home Affairs to increase its effectiveness in crime investigation and its relations with the community.
4. The INGOs International Alert and Saferworld and their national partners. Their civil society activities aim at strengthening the demand and supply of security provision to meet local needs thus resulting in increased security. They also contribute to the development of stronger and more informed policy on security provision.
5. The INGO Search for Common Ground which aims to strengthen peace-building initiatives at local level in order to mitigate conflict by enabling dialogue and communication on conflict and security at community level. Thus, current communication and information gaps between central and district levels are addressed.

Growth and Employment from 2013

Denmark has also initiated the preparation of a new programme on growth and employment in Nepal. It will support Nepal in increasing economic growth with a focus on employment and improved living conditions. The programme is expected to be operational from mid-2013. It will go hand-in-hand with the Danish business support mechanism "Danida Business Partnerships".

Danida Business Partnerships

The Danida Business Partnerships Programme provides opportunities for support to business development in Nepal. The objective of the programme is to improve the competitiveness of Nepalese companies through long-term partnerships between Nepalese and Danish companies. The programme provides support to realising a common commercial business idea and transfer of capacity and technology to Nepalese companies.

Small-scale support

The Danish Embassy supports smaller scale activities and projects implemented by a variety of partners including local civil society organisations and UN-organisations. Focus is given to activities that 1) protect or improve the lives of women, 2) protect or improve the lives of children and youth, 3) prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS or that provide assistance to those living with HIV/AIDS, and 4) preserve or promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity in Nepal. Furthermore, it is sought that activities are innovative and complementary to the other programmes supported by Denmark.

Support to Bhutanese refugees

Denmark has played an active role in negotiating long-term durable solutions for more than 100,000 refugees from Bhutan living in refugee camps in Nepal for nearly 20 years. In 2005, Denmark, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and the United States organised themselves under the Core Working Group (CWG) on Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal in order to encourage a comprehensive solution to the protracted refugee issue. In 2007, as opportunities for repatriation back to Bhutan became less realistic, the CWG and the Government of Nepal agreed to provide third-country resettlement options for more than 100,000 refugees from Bhutan still residing in Nepal. As of October 2011, more than 55,000 refugees from Bhutan have been resettled in CWG countries, with the vast majority going to the United States. Denmark has received more than 300 refugees to date, and has committed to accepting up to 150 refugees from Bhutan annually over the next few years. Denmark continues to be an active member of the CWG and to support the refugees from Bhutan in Nepal through continued pressure for durable solutions. Along with advocacy, the Danish government provided emergency funds in 2009 and 2011 to WFP to cover a gap in food assistance, ensuring that refugees continued to receive their full food ration.

Danish NGOs in Nepal

In addition to bilateral assistance through the Danish Embassy, Denmark also provides assistance to the Nepali people through Danish non-government organisations (NGOs) operating in Nepal. Some of these NGOs include: MS ActionAid Denmark, Care Nepal, Danchurch Aid, Ulandssekretariatet/LO-FTF Council, Mission East, Danish Red Cross, Disabled People's Organisation of Denmark (DPOD) and Trianglen.

Danish development assistance in numbers (USD)

Programme	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planned
Education	22	20	15	12	11	19
Energy	6,5	7	6	7	3	2
Human Rights and Good Governance	4,5	4	6	4	4	12
Peace Support	6	1.5	5	5	5	4
Others	1	2	2	2	2	2
Total	40	34.5	34	30	25	39

Further information

For further information about Embassy of Denmark's work in Nepal, please visit Embassy of Denmark's website at www.nepal.um.dk/en or contact Manju Lama at manlam@um.dk.