



The Asia Foundation



development initiatives

THE DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT (D4D) IN NEPAL PROGRAM: IMPROVING THE SHARING AND USE OF (OPEN) DATA AS EVIDENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL



PROGRAM FACTSHEET

Nepal is facing many pressing developmental challenges related to poverty, accountability, transparency, economic development, gender, and social inclusion. To address these challenges, the use of evidence – reliable, accessible data and information – to inform decision-making, monitor progress, and evaluate development outcomes will be essential. Progress in the sharing and use of data for development in Nepal has been made over recent years – concepts of data transparency and rights to data have become increasingly known to champions both inside and outside government, and there is growing recognition of “open data” as an important tool for development. However, despite progress, there continue to be challenges in the sharing and use of data for sustainable development. In Nepal, the demand for, supply and use of data among government, civil society, and the private sector in open format is still at a nascent stage. Where data is available, it is often not in a format that enables analysis and re-use. Across stakeholder groups the capacity to use data still needs to be further enhanced as there is insufficient use of existing data to inform decision-making, implementation and monitoring of development efforts.

D4D Program Goal

The D4D Program aims to ensure that more and better data is available, accessible and usable by a range of government, civil society, and private sector actors at the national and subnational level to inform decision making, implementation and monitoring of development efforts. It builds on Development Initiatives’ efforts since 2011 to improve the sharing and use of data for sustainable development of Nepal by catalyzing a functional, inclusive and locally led data ecosystem as well as The Asia Foundation’s work in Nepal and across Asia to promote the use of data as evidence for development by policy makers, civil society and the private sector.

The D4D Program’s approach is built on five pillars – using politically informed programming that enables strategic targeting of stakeholders; building local ownership and leadership of the data for development agenda; encouraging multi-stakeholder collaboration between data

suppliers and users; piloting scalable innovations based on problem-focussed and user-centric approaches; and fostering learning to inform change.

Data for Development in Nepal (D4D) Program

Partners: The D4D Program is being implemented by The Asia Foundation in partnership with Development Initiatives.

Support: The D4D Program is funded by the UK government’s Department for International Development.



Timeframe: April 2017 to September 2019

Target Groups: Government, Civil Society and the Private sector

D4D Program Outcomes and Activities

Outcome 1: Increased demand for development data in open format by government, civil society, and the private sector.

Using a politically informed approach, the D4D Program conducts dialogue with government stakeholders, increasing their awareness of the benefits of open data and encouraging data openness through existing and pilot initiatives, policy and practice. To grow the demand for data the D4D Program engages with civil society, private sector and youth stakeholders to demonstrate the value of data to their work. The D4D Program also conducts activities to grow and strengthen a community of practice on (open) development data - Open Nepal – where Nepal's (open) data pioneers can share experiences and collaborate on collective action.

Outcome 2: Increased availability, openness, and accessibility of development data for government, civil society, and the private sector.


The D4D Program assesses the availability and accessibility of key development data to improve understanding of the data currently available to decision-makers. The program conducts research on the user-needs and use-cases of data to inform the development of data-sharing initiatives. Various home-grown initiatives by local partner organisations focused on collaborating with government to share data are supported, for example the opening of earthquake related data, data on waste collection, hydropower data and geospatial data.

Outcome 3: Increased capacity to use development data in open format among government agencies and civil society actors for evidence-based decision making, implementation and monitoring.

Following the identification of strategic opportunities to grow the use (open) data, capacity building activities will be conducted. Activities include peer-to-peer learning, technical trainings, and applied learning. The D4D Program's Open Data Innovation Fund provides funding and expertise to local organisations with innovative project ideas aimed at improving the availability and use of development data across a broad range of sectors.

Partners: The D4D Program supports a range of local organisations to work on initiatives that improve the sharing and use of (open) data as evidence for development. Organisations worked with so far include:



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