# Status of Decision-Making in Karnali province

## Province Profile



**Birendranagar**

**Karnali is the least developed province in Nepal. Karnali's rugged terrain has hindered and even discouraged the initiation of development activities.**

**Area: 27,984 sq. km**

**54 Rural and 25 Urban Municipalities in 10 districts**

**Total Population 1,688,412**
**(as of 2021 Census)**

**Literacy Rate**
**76.1%**

**Economic Growth Rate:**
**5.47**

**Per Capita Income:**
**NPR 110,966 (approx. USD 964)**

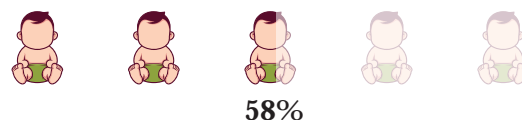**Contribution to national GDP**
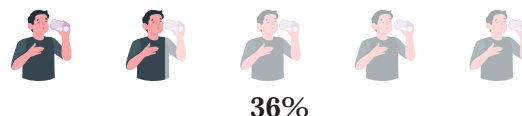**4.1%**

**Human Development Index**
**0.538**

**Multidimensional Poverty Index**
**0.169**

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**Transportation is always a hassle in Karnali due to the poor road connectivity, causing the hike in food prices up to 4 times the national average. This has led to serious problems in the health and nutrition in the province, especially for children.**

▶ **Malnutrition in children under 5 years**

**58%**

▶ **No access to clean drinking water**

**36%**

▶ **Households not having proper toilet facilities**

**50%**

## Introduction

- **Data-driven decision-making refers to the practice of using data and evidence to inform the development and implementation of policies.**

- **The use of data helps policymakers set priorities and respond to the aspirations of their people. In the present context of Nepal, data-driven decision-making plays a vital role in the successful implementation of federalism.**

## Methodology

**Data and information from various sources are used for the development of the paper.**



**Dialogue between governmental representatives, civil societies and private sectors**



**Desk review to better understand data-driven decision making in various contexts**

## Status of Karnali Province

The paper reveals an absence of evidence-based decision-making and a limited utilization of data, which hinders informed policy formulation and project planning. Moreover, there is a lack of feasibility assessments and stakeholder consultations, further exacerbating the challenges in Karnali Province. A fundamental contributing factor to these issues is the inadequate prioritization and budget allocation towards data-related endeavors.

## Challenges in the decision making process

| 1 | Lack of evidence-based decision-making while formulating policies |
|---|---|
| 2 | Lack of stakeholder consultation in policy making |
| 3 | Insufficient research during project planning |
| 4 | Severe lack of crucial data |
| 5 | Absence of research institutions in evidence-based policymaking |
| 6 | Challenges in collecting real-time data |
| 7 | Allocation of budget under political influence |
| 8 | Low priority given to data |
| 9 | Absence of policies and guidelines for data management |

# Status of Decision-Making in Madhesh province

## Province Profile

**Janakpur**

**Madhesh Province, situated in the south-eastern part of Nepal, has a huge potential in terms of agriculture and trade. It's fertile land has made the place into an agricultural hub. Commercial centers such as Birjung, which is one the busiest borders in Nepal, helps greatly in trade and commerce activities.**

**Area: 9,661 sq. km**

**59 Rural and 77 Urban Municipalities in 8 districts**

**Total Population: 6,114,600**
(as of 2021 Census)

**Literacy Rate**
**63.5%**

**Economic Growth Rate:**
**4.82%**

**Per Capita Income:**
**NPR 99,915 (approx. USD 868)**

**Contribution to national GDP**
**13.3%**

**Human Development Index**
**0.520**

**Multidimensional Poverty Index**
**0.109**

Madhesh Province faces a lot of governance challenges, among which corruption is one of the most significant problem. Transparency International Nepal ranks Madhesh Province as the second-highest corrupted province in Nepal. Moreover, it has also hampered the development and led to poor performance in several development indicators.

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## Methodology

**Data and information from various sources are used for the development of the paper.**



**Dialogue between governmental representatives, civil societies and private sectors**



**Desk review to better understand data-driven decision making in various contexts**

### Status of Madhesh Province

**The paper reveals an absence of evidence-based decision-making and limited guidelines and policies regarding the use of data. Moreover, the misaligned goals and aspirations between the tiers of government show poor prioritization of data, resulting in improper policy planning.**

### Challenges in the decision making process

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | **Decision making is highly influenced by political coercion** |
| 2 | **Inadequate planning and populist projects** |
| 3 | **Low priority given to data** |
| 4 | **Lack of coordination between tiers of government** |
| 5 | **Absence of policies and guidelines for data management** |
| 6 | **Unreliable data and false reporting** |

# Status of Decision-Making in Lumbini province

## Province Profile

**Lumbini is one of the promising province of Nepal. It is both country's third most populous province and its largest province by area.**

**Area: 22,288 sq. km**

**73 Rural and 76 Urban Municipalities in 12 districts**

**Total Population: 5,122,078**
(as of 2021 Census)

**Literacy Rate
78.1%**

**Economic Growth Rate:
5.36%**

**Per Capita Income:
NPR 126,966 (approx. USD 1103)**

**Contribution to national GDP
14.1%**

**Human Development Index
0.56**

**Multidimensional Poverty Index
0.078**

Lumbini Province is the country's third most populous province and the largest province by area. Their emphasis on tourism with the initation of Gautam Buddha International Airport has increased the scaling potential of the province. Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha, and National Parks, such as Banke and Bardiya, are major touristic attraction of the province.

## Introduction

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- The use of data helps policymakers set priorities and respond to the aspirations of their people. In the present context of Nepal, data-driven decision-making plays a vital role in the successful implementation of federalism.

## Methodology

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**Dialogue between governmental representatives, civil societies and private sectors**



**Desk review to better understand data-driven decision making in various contexts**

## Status of Lumbini Province

The reveals an absence of evidence-based decision-making, and insufficient resource-allocated in order to foster a proper system of data-driven decision-making. The relevancy and reliability of data are diminished as data is not readily available and hence contributing to the policy-making process being influenced by powerful opinions.

## Challenges in the decision making process

| 1 | Lack of reliable and relevant data |
| 2 | Decision-making is highly influenced by individual opinions of those who are in power |
| 3 | Lack of proper research in project implementation by the government |
| 4 | Insufficient budget and manpower to foster evidence-based decision making |
| 5 | Absence of project performance and outcome tracking |
| 6 | Delayed dissemination of collected data leading to its diminished relevance upon availability |