



सत्यमेव जयते



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# Human Development – Towards Bridging Inequalities



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## Millennium Development Goal:

Since the project focuses on developing capacities for local governance, it relates to all the Millennium Development Goals

## Targets:

- All targets

## Relevant India Development Goal:

All goals

## Background

India has witnessed steady economic growth in recent years. According to the Global Human Development Report 2010, India is among the top ten performers in income growth. However, India's growth story is also marred by persistent hunger, malnutrition and mixed performance on human development indicators. Further, spatial and social disparities continue to challenge policymakers.

Building on past UNDP-Planning Commission collaboration on human development, the project aims to promote policy dialogue on human development in India based on evidence-based research and analysis backed by disaggregated data.

## Objectives

The project focuses on providing innovative policy options for tackling issues of persistent exclusion, particularly at the state level and analyzing inequality, with particular attention to gender and social inequalities. This will be achieved through supporting preparation of the next round of state HDRs focusing on inequalities, state specific studies on inclusive and sustainable growth, and by focusing on advocacy and capacity development. The project addresses systemic gaps in statistical systems that result in lack of timely, reliable and comparable data which handicaps policy formulation and planning. Initiatives at the national level will provide an enabling framework for translating the human development agenda into action at the state level.

## Project Information

**Area:** Democratic Governance

**Budget:** US\$ 2.7 million

**Duration:** 2011-2017

**Implementing Partner:** Planning Commission

**Other Partner(s):** State governments, universities, private sector institutions and national resource institutions

**Geographical extent of the project:** 15 states



## Planned Initiatives

- Supporting state, regional and district level Human Development Reports which focus on social and spatial inequalities. Strengthening statistical systems for better monitoring of human development outcomes
- Human development advocacy, which includes-
  - Research-based policy advocacy to influence national and state planning through analytical research studies, identifying constraints in achieving inclusive growth and focusing on social and geographical disparities
  - Strengthening programme implementation through four to six high-quality research studies focusing on select flagship schemes, ascertaining bottlenecks in implementation and recommending improvements in service delivery mechanisms
- Capacity development of-
  - State officials and elected representatives to undertake human development-oriented analysis
  - Researchers through introduction of curriculum on human development
  - Civil society
  - Private sector
  - Media
- Institutionalizing community monitoring tools
- Analyzing fiscal policy including budget analysis from a gender lens of partner state governments to achieve human development outcomes
- Facilitating knowledge sharing including South-South collaboration

## Developments So far

- Manav Vikas Award presented. For more details, please visit <http://indiahumandevlopmentawards.undp.org.in>
- Supported State Government of Odisha for the preparation of state's 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan

## Looking to the Future

- Project initiated in the states of Karnataka, Assam and Maharashtra and proposals solicited from 16 more state governments
- Support provided to the preparation of a State Human Development Report for Bihar
- Preparation of Bundelkhand HDR initiated
- Preparation of Resource Book on Good Practices in Social Sector Delivery initiated
- Base paper on status of availability of reliable, timely and valid data on monitorable targets at the national and state levels and the process of identifying gaps being finalized
- Supporting the preparation of a Human Development Atlas for India
- Establishing partnership with universities and academic institutions for HD advocacy
- Research papers to be commissioned on priority thematic areas

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