

TA COMPLETION REPORT

Division: AWEH

TA NO./NAME: TA No. 2421-NEP: Education & Health Sectors Assistance Strategy Study			TA AMOUNT APPROVED: \$345,000	SOURCE: TASF
REVISED AMOUNT: no change in TA amount				
EXECUTING AGENCY: National Planning Commission			TA AMOUNT UNDISBURSED: \$97,856	TA AMOUNT UTILIZED: \$247,144
DATE:	APPROVAL:	SIGNING:	FIELD:	CLOSING:
	13 October 1995	14 April 1996	22 July 1996	Original: 21 October 1996 Actual: 29 May 1998
<p>TA DESCRIPTION: About half of Nepal's people remain trapped in poverty. The determinants of poverty are well known, and include high population growth, unemployment, lack of education, and poor health and nutrition status. The Government has set ambitious goals for human development under the Ninth Plan period (1997/98-2001/02), including increasing literacy from 40 percent to 67 percent, increasing primary school enrollment to 100 percent for boys and 80 percent for girls, and providing universal access to a basic package of primary health care. However, human development so far has been slow. For example, literacy has increased at only one percent per year compared to the planned five percent per year for the next five years. There was a felt need to analyze the major financial, managerial, and human resource constraints impeding human development, and identify strategies to accelerate human development. The Bank has been supporting the education sector but not the health, nutrition and population sector in Nepal, and was requested to provide advisory TA to explore opportunities to achieve human development goals in the medium and long term.</p> <p>TA OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE: The objectives of the advisory TA were to (i) advise the Government on mobilizing resources and improving efficiency towards human development goals; and (ii) help the Bank formulate a medium term assistance strategy in the education and health sectors in Nepal. The education and health components were to review overall trends in the education and health sectors; identify issues, constraints, and lessons learned in the subsectors; compare Government plans and practices; consult stakeholders to identify realistic human development priorities and targets; and estimate resources currently available and additional resource requirements in these sectors. The public sector management component was to analyze how public personnel and financial management affect these two sectors in terms of quality, efficiency, and equity; and propose strategies to improve public sector management. The social sector financing component was to analyze contributions and expenditures of national and local Governments, donors, nongovernment organizations, the private sector, communities, and households; estimate resources required for prioritized education and health plans and programs under the education and health components; and explore opportunities for mobilization of funds.</p> <p>TA INPUTS EVALUATION: The TA was carried out by four teams working for a period of about three months. Each team consisted of an international consultant, a domestic consultant and a Government counterpart. The teams respectively focused on (i) public sector management, (ii) social sector financing, (iii) education, and (iv) health, including nutrition and population. Specific studies were contracted out to local firms or consultants to gather information for preparing the national education and health accounts, economic and financial analysis, management and absorptive capacity analysis, and to understand beneficiary perceptions.</p>				

Prepared by: Vincent de Wit

Designation: Health Specialist, AWEH

The contract of the team leader (the international institutional development and management expert) was extended for two months because of the scheduling of the different international experts, and to assist with developing the sector policies of the Ninth Five-Year Plan and the Bank's sector strategy. The TA was guided by a steering committee including representatives of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Ministries of Finance, Education and Health. Consensus building among the various Government officials was further facilitated through extensive consultations, meetings and three workshops. The design and objectives of the study were considered appropriate. The terms of reference were adequate, and the performance of the consultants was satisfactory. The TA was supervised through two Bank review missions.

TA OUTPUTS EVALUATION: The output of the TA included (i) a main report, four component reports, and four study reports providing summary descriptions and analysis of the education and health sectors, their financing and governance; (ii) a general agreement among the Government representatives and donors to focus more on addressing governance and allocative efficiency issues affecting these sectors; and (iii) a proposed assistance strategy for the Bank in the education and health sectors in Nepal. The four reports on education, health, social sector financing, and public sector management were satisfactory in terms of scope, analysis and direction, and the additional sector studies were informative and generally of reasonable quality. These reports have been circulated, and are being used by the Government, the Bank and other donors. The reports emphasize the need to improve governance in the social sector. The Government was particularly appreciative of the TA's analysis of the financing and expenditure patterns in the education and health sectors, the proposed phasing of strategies to improve public sector management, the identification of the programmatic and financial gaps in basic education and primary health care, and the emphasis on improving allocative efficiency and mobilizing the private sector. The donors, in a follow-up meeting, supported the sector analysis and indicated that they would incorporate the findings in their plans. The TA has had a substantial impact on the education and health components of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. In addition, the TA contributed to the long term perspective plan for the health sector and to strengthening the Bank's role, visibility and donor coordination in the education and health sectors. The findings of the study also provided the basis for the education and health sectors review and negotiations of the 1998 Country Program Mission with the Government. Education and health sector summaries have been prepared to incorporate the findings in the forthcoming Country Assistance Plan.

TA OVERALL ASSESSMENT/RATING: The TA is rated as generally successful. It has helped the Bank increase its understanding of the problems, and formulate the Bank's position in the sector.

MAJOR LESSONS LEARNED: The NPC as an Executing Agency was effective in implementing the TA, despite changes in the Government and staff constraints. The TA was very useful in increasing the Bank's presence in the social sector in Nepal. The TA also highlighted the need to address governance issues in the social sector.

FOLLOW UP ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The NPC will further disseminate the findings of the study through dissemination of the final report within the Government and presentations of the findings in workshops. The Nepal Resident Mission will also assist in disseminating the findings among the donors and major NGOs, and follow-up any proposed assistance with the Government. It is recommended that the Bank further strengthens its policy work and donor coordination in the education and health sectors in Nepal.

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The following Technical Assistance Completion Report is attached for information:

11/19/1998
IN 1114/98

03/11/1999
IN 1115/99

01/11/1999
IN 1116/99