



Statement on 60 years of U.S. – Nepal Development Partnership

I congratulate the people of the Republic of Nepal and the United States Agency for International Development for 60 years of development progress together. As the United States' oldest development partnership, we have worked together to improve the lives and opportunities for generations of Nepalese. Countless hardworking Nepali men and women - from the private sector, from local NGOs and humanitarian organizations, from the Government of Nepal - and many, many dedicated Americans have devoted their careers to making this partnership work. Six decades of public service devoted to the improvement of a nation is a very important achievement.

The U.S. and Nepalese people share a common goal of establishing a peaceful, stable, and ever more prosperous Nepal. Our development efforts, in close cooperation with the Government of Nepal, are working steadily towards this common goal. As a focus country for all three of President Obama's development initiatives, we look forward to continuing our partnership and accelerating our development successes.

Every nation must pursue its own path to prosperity. Beginning with laying Nepal's first roads, installing its first telephone exchange, drastically reducing child mortality, and much more, Americans and Nepalese have worked hard, side by side for each step forward. As we continue to walk together, it will ultimately be the people of Nepal and their leadership that determine how fast and how far we will travel. It will be Nepali dedication and talent that will unleash broader prosperity. It will be Nepali skills that weave a stronger social fabric that lifts all Nepalese out of poverty.

We look forward to continuing our work with the people of Nepal for a brighter future.



Scott H. DeLisi
Ambassador, American Embassy

60 years of Partnership for Progress

On January 23, 1951, the United States and Nepal signed a diplomatic agreement that created a partnership for the development of Nepal. The U.S. became Nepal's first international development partner and over the past 60 years has provided more than \$1.2 billion in development assistance.



The 1950s The 1960s The 1970s The 1980s The 1990s The 2000s 2010 and Beyond



<p>Building a Foundation</p> <p>King Tribhuvan returned from exile in India in 1951 with a vision for his country; he strongly supported the new agreement between the two countries which focused on providing technical advisors and equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instituted a malaria eradication program • Founded the College of Education • Graduated the first class of 12 Public Health Nurses • Established Kathmandu's first modern telephone exchange 	<p>Forming a Framework</p> <p>In the 60s, USAID and Nepal further developed key public and private institutions including a reform program to refine government administration and promote economic growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established 104 health units nationwide • Added a surgical wing to Bir Hospital • Increased air traffic in Nepal by approximately 1000% building airports and funding planes • Helped establish the country's first and largest industrial district in Balaju 	<p>Integrating the Elements</p> <p>In the 70s, the partnership expanded to meeting the basic needs of the Nepali people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubled primary school enrollment • Developed roads linking the food-poor hills with the Terai farmlands • Increased the population served by health facilities from 16% to 46% • Established family planning services in 62 of 75 districts • Increased the yearly use of agricultural fertilizer by 18% 	<p>Tapping into Potential</p> <p>During the 80s, USAID and Nepal focused on strengthening both the private, profit-driven sector and Nepal's own NGOs to design and implement indigenous development efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased female literacy from 11% to 18% • Increased access to food in chronic food-deficit areas • Tripled the contraceptive prevalence rate • Increased real income by an average of 62% 	<p>Increasing Capacity</p> <p>Nepal became a democracy in 1990, opening up greater opportunities for its citizens. The partnership facilitated the transition by assisting in the privatization of state-owned enterprises and by streamlining government functions and expenditures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the number of women candidates so that 40,000 Nepali women were elected to local government • Turned over more than 170,000 hectares of land to over 1,300 Community Forest User Groups • Introduced 430,000 households to high-value agricultural production • Brought lifesaving Vitamin A supplements to more than 90% of Nepal's children 	<p>Forging Peace, Prosperity and Democracy</p> <p>The new millennium dawned amid political and social instability. Although the Maoists were integrated into the government and Parliament abolished the monarchy, unrest continued throughout the decade. The partnership played a key role during this period in moving the country closer to a "peaceful, prosperous, and democratic" Nepal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the 2008 Constituent Assembly elections, supported a nationwide voter awareness radio campaign and the printing of 50 million tamper-resistant ballots • Helped almost 200,000 rural households increase their incomes by at least 50% • Providing employment oriented trainings and targeted scholarships for 70,000 disadvantaged and conflict-affected youth 	<p>Partnership Grows Stronger</p> <p>Over the past year, President Obama has defined his vision through a number of new initiatives addressing global hunger and food security, health, and climate change. USAID with the Government of Nepal is currently launching new activities in support of these initiatives.</p> <p>Through its partnership USAID and Nepal continue to work together to support the peace process, strengthen democratic institutions and processes, and increase rule of law. USAID is committed to assisting the Government of Nepal in increasing opportunities for Nepali youth, improving education, and protecting Nepali citizens from the scourge of trafficking in persons.</p> <p>For 60 years, the United States has been a strong economic partner with Nepal and through its partnership with the Government of Nepal, the U.S. will continue to work to enhance opportunities for all Nepalese.</p>
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