Human Development – Towards Bridging Inequalities

**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 collaboration between UNDP-Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) on human development, the project aims to promote policy dialogue based on evidence-based research and analysis backed by disaggregated data.

**About the project**

The project focuses on providing innovative policy options to tackle issues of persistent exclusion, particularly at the state level and analyzing inequality, with attention to gender and social injustice. 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.
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 on select flagship schemes and 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 and 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

- Presented the Manav Vikas Award. For details, visit: http://indiahumandevelopmentawards.undp.org.in
- Supported Government of Odisha in the preparation of the state's 12th Five-Year Plan
- Supported the preparation of a State Human Development Report for Bihar
- Developed a base paper on ‘Monitoring National Plan Targets: Status of Data Availability’ for the 11th Five Year Plan (2013)
- Developed a base paper on ‘Monitoring National Plan Targets: Status of Data Availability’ for the 12th Five Year Plan (2014)
- Released second Delhi Human Development Report-2013
- Released Maharashtra Human Development Report 2012
- Conducted five training programmes on human development analysis and procurement of services at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati; Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration, Pune; Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar; the Administrative Training Institute, Mysore in 2014. 113 officials were trained across 19 States and Union Territories.
- Conducted a two-day national workshop on ‘Building Institutional Capacity for Mainstreaming Human Development’ at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar in 2014
- Released a resource book on good practices in social sector delivery in 2015

Looking to the future

- Project activities have been initiated in Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha and Tamil Nadu
- Finalize the Human Development Report of Bundelkhand
- Initiated the preparation of the Tribal Human Development Report
- Initiated the preparation of a Human Development Atlas for India
- Research papers to be commissioned on priority thematic areas

Last Updated: September 2015

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