Q-Step Internship: DFID Nepal Project

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Introduction

The Department for international development is responsible for effectively distributing the UK's aid budget to tackle world poverty through sustainable economic development and social empowerment. These aims are in line with the sustainable development goals recommended by the World Bank and are adapting to deal with the challenges of our time specifically conflict, insecurity and the multiple negative effects on our world of climate change.

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about

Objectives

My role was to come up with a way to represent the data found in the log frames for the Nepal projects in a professional and accessible way to be presented to visitors and government officials. Using economic indicators and the World Bank's Sustainable Development goals (SDG's) I was able to create a narrative that presented the data in a more logical way, by the end of the internship the objective was to have some provisional infographic ideas completed.

Method

My first job was to collate and clean the data sent in the log frames – logical framework approach, for indicators relating to DFID projects in Nepal. The logframes had information relating to different ongoing projects in Nepal, they contained combinations of output, impact and outcome indicators and the measurable results for such where they were available. My job was to analyse and then format these into a spreadsheet ordering and group the indicators into categories related to the specific area they were attempting to advance, ie. hunger, health, gender equality to name just some.

Many overlapped and fitted more than one category. I then sought a way to represent the indicators in a way that identified those that were most common across categories. From here I was able to match output, impact, and outcome indicators that best fitted together to tell a narrative of the progress being made in Nepal through the work of the Department. It was important that within their narrative I demonstrated how the Department was making a difference to the issue identified by the World Bank in its most recent SDG's and in line with the departments key ethic,' Leave No One Behind' (LNOB).
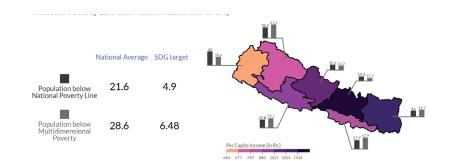
The last step was to begin to design the infographics making them accessible and engaging using knowledge I had learnt during a visualisation course with Andy Kirk which was an invaluable part of the internship. The course with Andy was a wonderful experience and the timing was very convenient falling toward the end of the internship. It allowed me to explore different ways to engage audiences in the material represented whilst also making the data clear and accessible and truthful. The last two points were the most important to my work at DFID but the enjoyment aspect was also useful and fitted with the story telling aspect of the brief. Over the course we covered typography, colours, different data representations, at the end of which we were able to work on a mini project overseen by Andy which was a very useful way to get feedback on my working style before returning to my internship work and applying the skills he taught.

Conclusion

The work I underwent during my internship was used to create these provisional infographics showing social and economic indicators that demonstrate poverty trends in Nepal. Furthermore, the infographics aim to demonstrate where improvements have been made giving to DFID policies and where improvements are still to be made. There are more representations of the data for further indicators that are in the process of being finalised for gender and health amongst others.

Provisional Infographic

Fig. 1 is one of the infographics representing the per capita income across Nepal. It is an idea I formulated during the infographic course. It is a very useful way to get a quick impression of how distribution of income is spread across the country demonstrating how income is distributed across rural and urban areas. The graph clearly shows that per capita income is on the higher end of the scale in most provinces and is generally lower in those mountainous areas of the Himalayas. Looking in more detail, the image also shows the percentage of the population living below the national and multidimensional poverty line which is noticeably high in comparison to the SDG target highlighting that more work is still to be done however again by representing the data in this way it is clear to see that the highest population of those living below the poverty line are concentrated in the more rural areas. By combining indicators in to one graphic like this the data is placed in context and is therefore more useful for creating a narrative of development. NOTE: these designs are just provisional so far and are not yet confirmed DIFID resources.

	National Average	SDG target
Population below National Poverty Line	21.6	4.9
Population below Multidimensional Poverty	28.6	6.48

Per Capita Income [in Rs.]
660 677 799 888 1021 1024 1534

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