GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER 2022 FIRST EDITION

Country Report

Nepal

General Country Score

19

South and East Asia
33

Global
33

Capabilities	Governance	Availability	Use and Impact
23	**17**	**18**	**19**
South and East Asia 37 Global 42	South and East Asia 36 Global 36	South and East Asia 29 Global 30	South and East Asia 28 Global 22

KEY FINDINGS

Nepal has comparatively low scores regionally in Governance and Capabilities. Comprehensive frameworks and government support for open data, data sharing, data management are lacking. However, Nepal does have data available for certain issues such as procurement and climate vulnerability, and the collaboration between its Public Procurement Monitoring Office (PPMO) and the Open Contracting Partnership indicates a potential improvement in data disclosure.

CAPABILITIES

The Nepal Administrative Staff College doesn't have any dedicated curriculum and training program to develop civil servants' data literacy and data skills, but there is isolated evidence of the government supporting these trainings, usually organized by civil society.

Nepal currently doesn't have any evidence of the government providing support for data reuse and still lacks the government-led open government data initiative. Data is often published in a manner that prevents re-use, due to lack of usable formats. Decentralisation is also a challenge, although some local governments are found developing data portals.

	Country	Region
Open data initiative	🔴	6/11 🟢
Sub-national institutional capabilities to manage data	🟡	2/11 🟢
Widespread and regular training for civil servants	🟡	6/11 🟢
Support for data reuse	🔴	2/11 🟢

Table 1: Comparison of selected indicators of Capabilities in the country vs region. Green circles refer to availability widespread and regular evidence in the government, yellow circles refer to isolated evidence in the government, and red circles refer to no evidence. x/11 countries refer to x countries reviewed which achieved the corresponding circle.

GOVERNANCE

The Privacy Act, 2075 (2018) of Nepal overall covers the protection of personal data within the public bodies but it fails to bind the private sectors from misusing the data as private sectors are not incorporated.

Nepal does not have comprehensive or explicit frameworks for consistent data management, data publication and data sharing, however the Statistics Act, 2015 and the Right to Information Act, 2007 cover some aspects of data publication.

	Country	Region
Data protection laws	🟢	7/11 🟢
Data management frameworks	🔴	1/11 🟢
Data sharing frameworks	🔴	7/11 🟡

Table 2: Comparison of selected indicators of Governance in country vs region. Green circles refer to existence of framework with full force of law, yellow circles refer to existence of frameworks but no force of law, and red circles refer to no existence of such frameworks. x/11 countries refer to x countries reviewed which achieved the corresponding circle.

AVAILABILITY

Nepal has data available for company register, existing land use, RTI performance data, budget and spend data, public procurement data, climate vulnerability, vital statistics, real-time healthcare system capacity and COVID-19 vaccination.

However, there is low availability of data in areas such as beneficial ownership, land tenure, political finance data, asset declarations, lobbying data, public consultation data, emission and biodiversity.

	Country
Scored ≧ Global Average	-
Scored < Global Average	Public Finance, Public Procurement, Political Integrity, Health & Covid 19, Company Information, Land, Climate Action

Table 3: Comparison of modules (except Capabilities and Governance) in the country against global average. Note that these are modules, so may have overlapping indicators with Use and Impact.

USE AND IMPACT

Nepal has opened up some amount of company registration data as part of their Open Government Data (OGD) initiatives, but the data lacks a vast amount of other required information to support due diligence. Use of land data is also limited to influence policy in the interests of more equitable land tenure and use. Similarly for political integrity data, there are limited cases of such uses. The Public Procurement Monitoring Office (PPMO) in collaboration with Open Contracting Partnership is implementing the "Public Procurement Transparency Initiative in Nepal (PPTIN)" project.

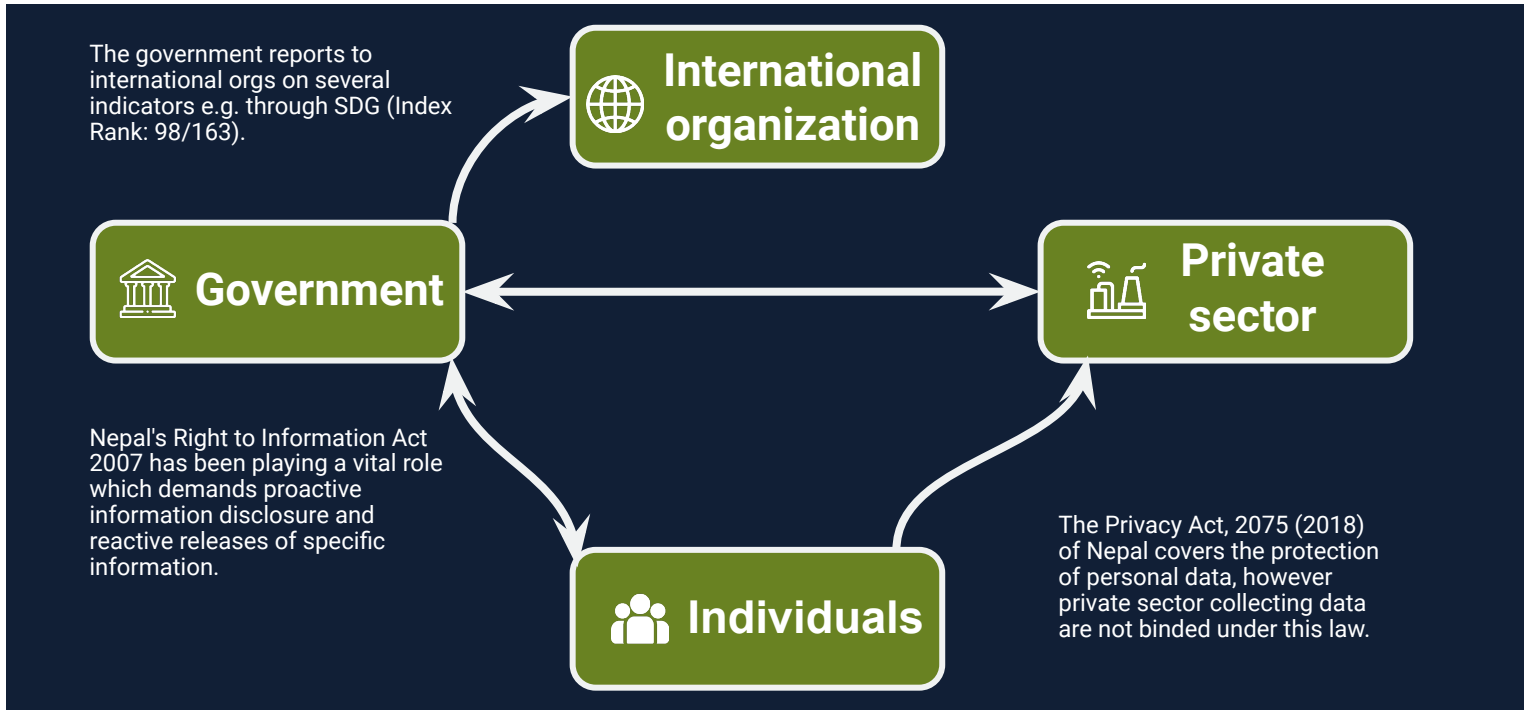| Use cases	Country	Region
Corporate due diligence	🔴	2/11 🟡
Influencing policy for inclusion and gender	🟡	5/11 🟡
Accountability use of political integrity	🟡	2/11 🟢
Procurement data analytics	🟢	5/11 🟢

Table 4: Comparison of selected indicators of Use and Impact in country vs region ranked by green referring to uses that are widespread, regular and embedded, yellow referring to uses in isolated cases and red referring to no evidence of use. x/11 countries refer to x countries out of 11 reviewed which achieved the corresponding colour rank.
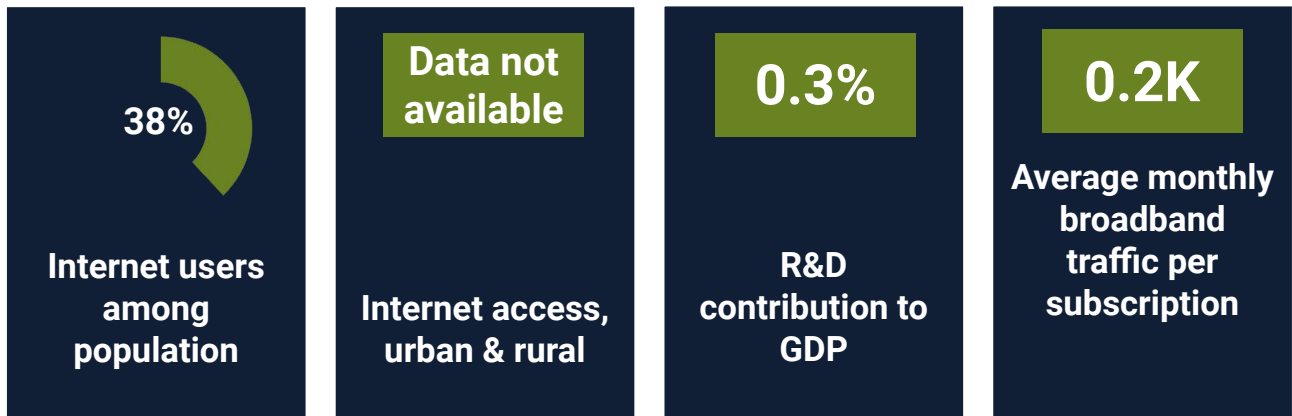
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SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUND

Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia with population of 30.2 million and urban population of 21 percent. Nepal has a diverse geography, including fertile plains, subalpine forested hills, and eight of the world's ten tallest mountains including Mount Everest. Politically, Nepal is a parliamentary republic with a multi-party system. Nepal had an annual growth rate of 6.6% in 2019, and expanded 4.2% in 2021. Remittances in Nepal amounted to 28% of the GDP due to workers primarily in India. However, during the pandemic, there was a decline in tourism spending and remittances.

DATA ECOSYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

The government reports to international orgs on several indicators e.g. through SDG (Index Rank: 98/163).

International organization

Government

Private sector

Individuals

Nepal's Right to Information Act 2007 has been playing a vital role which demands proactive information disclosure and reactive releases of specific information.

The Privacy Act, 2075 (2018) of Nepal covers the protection of personal data, however private sector collecting data are not binded under this law.

OTHER INDICATORS

38%
Internet users among population

Data not available
Internet access, urban & rural

0.3%
R&D contribution to GDP

0.2K
Average monthly broadband traffic per subscription

NOTES:

Data sources in this country report include the World Bank (https://data.worldbank.org/, https://www.worldbank.org/), World Population Review (https://worldpopulationreview.com/), Sustainable Development Goal Index (https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles) and Digital Development Dashboard (https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Dashboards/Pages/Digital-Development.aspx).

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The Global Data Barometer is a collaborative project that aims to measure the state of data in relation to urgent societal issues. Building on the Open Data Barometer, which has been used to drive policymaking, advocacy, and academic research, the survey was implemented from May 2019 - May 2021 to create a benchmark encompassing data governance, capability, availability, and use and impact of data for public data.

Full report and downloadable datasets can be found here: https://globaldatabarometer.org/.

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