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Gross National Happiness Commission

Implementation of the IPoA

National Report: Bhutan

Priority Area: Human and social development

Meeting of the National Focal Points of the LDCs

November, 2019

LDC Graduation: Status Update

Criteria	1 st Triennial Review (2015)	2 nd Triennial Review (2018)
GNI Per Capita	USD 2277 (83.3% above threshold)	USD 2401 (95.2% above threshold)
Human Asset Indicator	67.9 (2.9% above threshold)	72.9 (10.45% above threshold)
Economic Vulnerability Indicator	40.2 (25.6% below threshold)	36.3 (13.44% below threshold)



Successes, Failures and Challenges

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Universal Primary Education
- ANER (Primary) 98.8 %
- GER (Basic) 103%
- GER (Secondary) 99%
- General literacy 71%

- Gender Parity Index (Tertiary)-0.85
- Concerns surrounding quality of education
- Low uptake of TVET
- Poor use of technology

POPULATION & HEALTH

- Infant mortality down from 60.5 deaths per 1000 live births in 2000 to 30
- Maternal mortality down from 255 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 86
- Stunting in children 6 to 59 mm of age fallen from 35%(2010) to 22%
- Extensive coverage of health facilities- 95% of population living 3 hours walk from nearest health facility
- Antenatal care coverage-98% (at least 1 visit), 82% (at least 4 visits)
- Increased contraceptive prevalence rate from 31% in 2000 to 66%

- Malnutrition-22% of children (6mm-59mm) stunted
- Quality of health care services
- Inadequate manpower
- Increasing cost of health care



Successes, Failures and Challenges

YOUTH

- Youth literacy rate 93%
- 12000 jobs created through skills development and engagement programmes

- Youth unemployment high and increased from 9.2 percent in 2011 to 15.7 percent in 2018
- Emergence of substance abuse and mental health issues

SHELTER

- High proportion of rural households living in houses (87%)
- 63% of households own their dwellings, rural ownership high (87%)
- Majority of households have piped water in the compound (50.4%), followed by piped water in dwellings (45.5%).
- 63% of households responded that they have 24 hours access to drinking water.
- 82% of households have access to flush toilet and 6% have pit latrine with a slab. 3% of households have ventilated improved pit and 0.3% of household have composting toilet/ecosan

- Affordable housing in urban areas and district headquarters a concern
- Physical access to infrastructure does not necessarily mean having access to water 24/7
- Water sources drying
- Land fragmentation and limited arable land



Lessons Learned

Development Approach & Policy Frameworks

- Unique development approach: Gross National Happiness
- State mandated to provide free basic education and health services by the Constitution
- Strategic frameworks for social sector put in place
 - National Health Policy
 - Bhutan Education Blueprint 2014-2024, Teacher Education Policy , Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Blueprint, Education ICT Masterplan

Financing

- Social sector received highest share of the capital allocation in both the 11th and 12th FYP periods
- Innovative financing mechanism for health financing instituted
 - Bhutan Health Trust Fund

Access & Quality

- Network of multi-tiered health facilities constructed across the country
- Non-formal Education Programme
- Teaching and health professionals became highest paid civil servants in Bhutan



Lessons Learned

- Targeted Poverty Reduction Programmes
 - National Rehabilitation Program – provision of land to landless and functionally landless to enhance productive asset base of the beneficiaries.
 - Rural Economy Advancement Program (REAP) – targeted at poorest and remote villages (104 in 11th Plan); Interventions developed based on local needs focusing on securing sustainable livelihood.
 - Targeted Household Poverty Intervention – recent initiative. Households identified based on 6 criteria (i) Standard of Living; ii) Health; iii) Education; iv) Community Vitality; v) Financial Security; and vi) Food Security). 3,154 household identified.
- Paid maternity leave increased from 3mm to 6mm for public service agencies



Recommendations

- Expanding productive capacity of the economy will be the basis on which countries can achieve meaningful structural transformation and sustain social gains. This will need to continue to be a priority to given the economic and climate related vulnerabilities.
- Science, technology and innovation are important means of achieving larger development goals. Addressing the limited capacity to harness the benefits of technology and innovation must feature prominently in the next development agenda.





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Thank You For Your Attention