



# Project Update

## IND/03/010 – Strengthening State Plans for Human Development

### Background:

The paradigm shift in the concept and measures of development from economic development to human development has put people at the centre-stage. The objective of expanding the range of people's choices and creating an enabling environment for people to attain important capabilities of leading a long, healthy and creative lives, to participate in decision - making with a focus on poor and the marginalized embodies the idea of human development. Preparation of Human Development Reports, which has helped to promote this vision of development, has been catalytic in moving the agenda of Human Development: Analysis, Advocacy and Action forward. Reflecting the importance of promoting sustainable human development, Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) for the first time has introduced the monitorable targets for the States.

### Objectives:

- ✍ To consolidate the momentum gained in the process of preparation of SHDRs and ensure that SHDRs become part of the mainstream planning agenda at the national and State levels
- ✍ To strengthen the State Plan processes and dialogue to focus more on human development concerns by building the institutional capacity
- ✍ To pilot district-level and participatory HDR exercises
- ✍ To strengthen the statistical systems in the States for better collection and reporting of district and local level indicators of human development
- ✍ To identify strategic options for financing of human development at the State level
- ✍ To analyse the schemes for human development and document and disseminate best practices.

### Scope of the Project:

The key interventions under the project would include:

- ✍ Assisting State governments in follow-up to the SHDRs, by building the institutional capacity in the State Planning Boards and Departments, through the modality of Human Development Resource and Coordination Units in selected State governments. These will be the principle anchors for the various activities undertaken under this project such as research, training and formulation of action plans and programmes for improving human development attainments particularly in the low HDI districts. In order to provide advocacy support, networks of resource persons and institutions would be formed. Training support for this would be provided by national and State level training institutes such as the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Centre for Public Policy, Administrative Training Institutes and apex training institutes for the relevant thematic areas.
- ✍ Strengthening the State statistical systems for better collection and reporting of district and local level indicators of human development. It is necessary to improve the quality and credibility of data at the district and local level, which could provide better benchmarks for designing and monitoring plans, budgets and programmes. Manuals and toolkits for better estimations of district income, poverty, vital statistics and gender would be developed for the Directorates of Economics and Statistics. Training of statistical officers at the State and district level and also the users of data including civil society organisations, would be undertaken. The National Sample Survey Organisation and the Central Statistical Organisation would provide

necessary guidance and expertise. Cutting edge research would be carried out on construction of indices including better reporting on outcomes on related to marginalised and vulnerable social groups, and customising global and national indices to suit local context.

- ✍ While SHDRs have identified the human development deficit, the fiscal stringencies faced by State governments is a major constraint in operationalising the recommendations of SHDRs. Four major research initiatives and four training activities to identify and implement options for greater and more effective financing of human development would be carried out. Accordingly leading national institutions such as NIPFP and RBI training college would assist in the implementation of the above.

### Major Project Outcomes / Achievement in the last six months:

With the project becoming operational in July 2004, consultations with the State Governments and partner institutions identified in the Project Document began. Since then the following major activities have been undertaken to operationalise the project:

- ✍ A Planning Commission-UNDP joint consultation was held on 15-16 June 2004 in Rishikesh, to discuss and finalise the detailed work-plan of the project ([copy of workshop report, including agenda and list of participants enclosed](#)).
- ✍ On 30 July 2004, seventeen State Governments participated in a Workshop organised by the Planning Commission and UNDP to appraise the State governments on the activities to be undertaken in the project and to listen to their views ([copy of workshop report, including agenda and list of participants enclosed](#)).
- ✍ A **stakeholders' consultation** was organized in Jodhpur on 23-24 September 2004, which was attended by 14 State Governments and the resource institutions identified in the project document ([copy of workshop report, including agenda and list of participants enclosed](#)). The resource institutions presented their draft proposals to the State governments for feedback.
- ✍ Following the Jodhpur Consultations, draft MOU has been shared with the State Governments for signatures and proposals from the State Governments (requests for specific assistance under the project), including their readiness to set up Human Development Research & Coordination Units in the 8 States identified, are being received and reviewed, the proposals from partner institutions are being finalised for issuance of contracts.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- ✍ Human development priorities reflected in the State Plans on the basis of findings/ recommendations of State, district and thematic HDRs
- ✍ Human development progress benchmarked and measured with respect to national and international development targets
- ✍ Tenth Plan Mid-Term Review focussed on human development issues
- ✍ Range of issues and options for human development financing identified
- ✍ Human Development Research and Coordination (HDRC) Units established in State Planning Boards
- ✍ Best Practices regularly documented, compiled and disseminated
- ✍ Selected schemes (Central and State) for human development analysed
- ✍ Human development database deepened and strengthened.

### Policy Impact:

Government ownership of State-level Human Development Reports (SHDRs) and the partnership and networking among the Union and State Planning institutions around Human Development Reporting is a key element to the success of this project's predecessor initiative on *Capacity Building for Preparation of SHDRs*. In fact, State governments in India have a key role as implementers of development programmes, especially for the human development priority sectors (education, health, rural development, social security, HIV/AIDS, etc.). Second-generation SHDRs would help State governments have deeper analysis, updated information and data, and recommendations, not only on the status of

human development in the State but also a focused analysis on emerging issues relevant to the State. These include livelihood promotion strategies, strengthening State statistical systems, financing for human development, mainstreaming HIV/AIDS through creation of an enabling environment for the changes in behaviour, policy and programming to effectively respond to the HIV epidemic.

The Tenth Five-year Plan is firmly set within the Human Development framework. The Plan's stated objective is 'to enhance human well being' (Tenth Plan, Volume 2, pp.3). Further, the Tenth Plan has set 11 monitorable targets most related to human development. These targets are more ambitious than the MDGs. The Tenth Plan's role as a *reform Plan* involves intensification of dialogue with State governments, including assessment of performance vis-à-vis goals, documentation of best practices which can ensure replication and 'upscaling' of success stories as also operationalisation of public-private partnerships that promote accountability and greater effectiveness of public investment. The continued importance and relevance of human development initiatives, as proposed under this project, have been further and strongly validated in a Retreat on 'Critical Reflections on SHDRs' organized under the predecessor project in December 2003. The instant project is expected to impact on the reform strategies for the human development priority sectors that need to focus on effective and convergent action at the State level, within the national and State Plan parameters.

**For further information on this project, you may get in touch with:**

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