



1983 UN Volunteers to Bhutan.

## Our areas of work

Since 1973, UNDP has been part of Bhutan's transformation to the country it is now. It is with this long-term partnership and experience that UNDP's support to Bhutan has evolved to meet Bhutan's development needs at different stages. UNDP's current areas of focus are:

**1. Economic Integration and Innovation:**

To reduce poverty to less than 5 per cent and multi-dimensional poverty to 10 per cent by the end of 2018.

**2. Inclusive Governance:**

To ensure transparent, accountable and inclusive development with efficient public service delivery.

**3. Climate Change Mitigation and Energy:**

To address emerging environmental issues into national policies, plans and programmes and to enhance human development.

**4. Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction:**

To promote policy and implementation of community-based disaster risk management and to build community resilience to climate change by diversifying livelihoods.

## The future we see

Bhutan can look back at remarkable progress in reducing poverty, improving health, education, gender parity and environmental sustainability over the lifespan of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). But significant work still remains.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must finish the job that the MDGs started, and leave no one behind in Bhutan's progress and achievements.

Supporting SDG implementation is a UNDP priority, building on our 15 years of experience in tracking, campaigning for, accelerating and achieving MDG results with our development partners.

# Sustainable Development GOALS

Website: [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)



Empowered lives.  
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Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

## UNDP: Bhutan's partner for happiness since 1973



# Our Vision

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works with people from all levels of society to help nations withstand crisis and drive sustainable growth to improve the quality of life for everyone. We empower lives and build resilient nations.

## UNDP Bhutan

UNDP has been working with the Royal Government and the people of Bhutan since 1973 to reduce inequality, build resilience and empower the disadvantaged to achieve Gross National Happiness.

UNDP continues to support Bhutan through innovative partnerships, cutting-edge global knowledge, and technical and financial assistance.

# How we do work?

1. We strengthen community climate change resilience by improving livelihoods and protecting people from disasters.
2. We provide innovative partnerships and cutting-edge knowledge through the global UNDP's network of offices.
3. We empower people and improve their living standards through human development.
4. We reinforce equal, inclusive and sustainable progress in people's lives, their needs, efforts and rights.



**Conservation:** UNDP, in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund and the government, started the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC) with an endowment of 20 million.

Today, BT FEC's investment portfolio amounts to 52.22 million. This has helped establish 10 protected areas covering 16,396.43 km<sup>2</sup> which is more than half of the country's total land area.

## 1970s

## 1980s

## 1990s

## 2000s

## 2010s

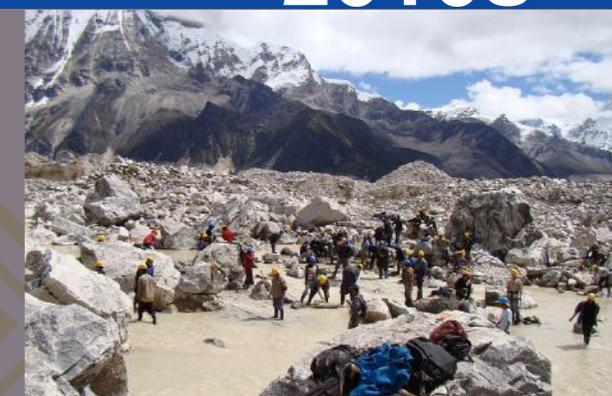
**Human Resources:** Through the 1970s, UNDP supported human development and provided special skills training. Today, one of every 30 Bhutanese is a civil servant. Currently, there are 23,970 civil servants.

**Tourism and Energy:** The 1970s also saw UNDP support to develop tourism and energy sectors. As of 2014, tourism contributed Nu. 4.392 billion to annual revenue while hydro-power generated a total revenue of Nu. 13,905 million.



**Telecommunications:** In collaboration with the International Telecommunications Union, UNDP helped develop Bhutan's first-ever Telecommunications Master Plan in 1989. Bhutan currently has over 1,001,228 fixed line telephone and mobile connections.

**Airline:** Through UNDP support, Bhutan was connected with the rest of the world after the launch of the country's first airline, Druk Air, in 1981. Today, Druk Air has more than 551 employees and passenger travel via Paro Airport has increased from 12,282 in 1990 to 159,922 in 2011.



**Climate Change:** With Bhutan's glaciers receding at the rate of 30 to 60 meters per decade, UNDP helped mitigate potential disasters from Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in Lunana between 2008 and 2013, protecting villages and agricultural land. Through the project, 350 workers drained lake water lowering the Thorthormi Lake by five meters and averting the immediate threat of flooding.

**Good Governance:** In 2006, UNDP supported the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Since then, ACC has undertaken 4,500 investigations. Bhutan is currently ranked as the 30<sup>th</sup> least corrupt country out of 175 countries around the world.

**Disaster Management:** When Bhutan was hit by Cyclone Aila in 2009, 4,614 households were affected at an estimated damage cost of USD 17 million. UNDP channeled international reconstruction efforts, ensuring support to the most vulnerable.

**Media:** In 1974, UNDP Bhutan helped Kuensel procure a press machine from India. In 1986 Kuensel was reformatted and published weekly as Bhutan's only newspaper by the Ministry of Communications' Department of Information.

Today, Kuensel is currently the most trusted print media firm in the country with a weekly readership of over 130,000. Currently, there are 11 newspapers, five radio stations and one broadcast media firm in the country.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015

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THAT THE PEOPLE SHALL BE INFORMED

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**Lead Story**

**91.2% of Bhutanese are happy: GNH survey**  
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Happiness level decreased in areas like psychological wellbeing, community, and diglam namtsha

**Survey:** The provisional findings of the latest Gross National Happiness (GNH) survey show that 91.2 percent of Bhutanese are happy, it was revealed at the opening of the International GNH conference in Paro, yesterday.

**Picture Story**

Opened: A worker clears debris at the newly completed gate near the Centenary Farmers' Market in Thimphu, which is now open to traffic.

**Latest News**

**International conference on GNH begins today**  
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**GNH:** The largest ever conference on Gross National Happiness held in Bhutan, comprising of more than 110 experts in various fields and around 500 international participants, begins today in Paro.

**Business**

**Four JV projects to raise Nu 140B loan**  
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The project authorities would be exploring the Indian financial market

**Hydropower:** An investment of around Nu 200B, almost twice the size

**Focus Point**

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