



Nepal

Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment





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This publication has been edited externally.

United Nations publication issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2017/11



NOTE

Within the UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics, the ICT Policy Section carries out policy-oriented analytical work on the development implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and e-commerce. It is responsible for the preparation of the Information Economy Report (IER) as well as thematic studies on ICT for Development.

The ICT Policy Section promotes international dialogue on issues related to ICTs for development and contributes to building developing countries' capacities to measure the information economy and to design and implement relevant policies and legal frameworks. It also monitors the global state of e-commerce legislation (unctad.org/cyberlawtracker). Since 2016, the section has coordinated a new multi-stakeholders' initiative entitled eTrade for all (etradeforall.org), which aims to improve the ability of developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), to use and benefit from e-commerce.

Reference to companies and their activities should not be construed as an endorsement by UNCTAD of those companies or their activities.

The following symbols have been used in the tables:

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not separately reported. Rows in tables have been omitted in those cases where no data are available for any of the elements in the row;

A dash (-) indicates that the item is equal to zero or its value is negligible;

Reference to "dollars" (USD) means United States of America dollars, unless otherwise indicated;

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to the totals because of rounding.



PREFACE

The eTrade for all Initiative, launched at the fourteenth Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD in July 2016, is a practical example of how to harness the digital economy in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 8, 9, and 17. The initiative seeks to raise awareness, enhance synergies, and increase the scale of existing and new efforts by the development community to strengthen the ability of developing countries to engage in and benefit from e-commerce by addressing seven relevant policy areas:

- E-commerce readiness assessment and strategy formulation
- ICT infrastructure and services
- Trade logistics and trade facilitation
- Payment solutions
- Legal and regulatory frameworks
- E-commerce skills development
- Access to financing

As part of the initiative, demand-driven assessments are envisaged to provide a basic analysis of the current e-commerce situation in the countries concerned, and to identify opportunities and barriers. The resulting reports will serve as a valuable input to these countries' involvement in various discussions related to e-commerce and digital trade, the new UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

It may furthermore help LDCs to identify areas in which they could benefit from assistance by partners of eTrade for all.

The Nepal Rapid e-Trade Readiness Assessment is the fourth such assessment conducted by UNCTAD. It has benefited from excellent collaboration with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), which funded the report. It is hoped that the report will contribute to the Government of Nepal's quest to build a robust, safe and business-friendly e-commerce ecosystem.

With the EIF and other eTrade for all partners, UNCTAD is committed to continue supporting Nepal in its resolve to harness the potential of e-commerce for its development.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Rapid eTrade Readiness Assessment for Nepal was prepared by Sven Callebaut, UNCTAD Consultant, with the support of Shiv Raj Bhatt, National Consultant, under the supervision of Cécile Barayre, Economic Affairs Officer, Marian Pletosu, UNCTAD Consultant, Rahul Bhatnagar, Economic Affairs Officer, and the overall guidance of Torbjörn Fredriksson, Chief, ICT Policy Section, Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD.

The consultant wishes to express his profound gratitude to the Honourable Naindra Prasad Upadhaya, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Nepal, Toya Narayan Gyawali, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Nepal and Vidur Ghimire, National Programme Manager, National Implementation Unit of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) programme in Nepal for their guidance and kind advice before, during and after the eTrade readiness assessment in-country mission and for providing access to the most updated e-commerce data.

In Geneva, the assessment was made possible thanks to the timely support of the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, the Executive Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework and UNOPS office, acting as the EIF Trust Fund Manager.

The assessment benefited from inputs from more than 60 Nepalese institutions in both public and private sectors, through the eTrade for all online surveys and subsequent interviews in Kathmandu. The consultant wishes to thank all individuals who took part in the focus group discussions in the Ministry of Commerce facilities in Kathmandu.

Appreciation also goes to the Nepal Economic Forum and the Economic Policy Incubator (Nepal) for sharing up-to-date data on e-commerce payment flows in Nepal. Data from their most recent reports were used extensively in the Payment Solution section of this report.

Desktop publishing was prepared by Nathalie Lorient and the cover was designed by Nadège Hadjémian. The document was externally edited by Nancy Biersteker.

Funding for this report was provided by the Enhanced Integrated Framework, a core partner of the eTrade for all initiative.



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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFT	Aid for Trade
APGML	Asia / Pacific Group on Money Laundering
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
ATM	Automatic Teller Machine
B4ETD	Business for eTrade Development
BFI	Banking and Financial institutions
BPO	Business Processing Outsourcing
CIB	Credit Information Bureau
CIC	Community Information Center
COD	Cash on Delivery
CRMSAP	Customs Reform and Modernization Strategies and Action Plan
DoC	Department of Customs
DP	Development Partner
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
EIF ES	Executive Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework
EPI	Economic Policy Incubator Programme
ETA	Electronic Transaction Act
EU	European Union
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FCGO	Financial Comptroller General Office
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FNCCI	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FSP	Financial Service Providers
FY	Fiscal year
GoN	Government of Nepal
HLCIT	High Level Commission for Information Technology
IBN	Investment Board of Nepal
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTPR	ICT Policy Review Programme
IME	International Money Express
ISP	Internet service providers
IT	Information Technology

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