

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia possesses 25% of the world's proven petroleum reserves. It ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum and plays a leading role in OPEC. The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 75% of budget revenues, 45% of GDP, and 90% of export earnings.

Bilateral Relations

Nepal and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia established their diplomatic relations on 15 March 1977. Nepal's then-Prince Gyanendra visited Saudi Arabia on an official visit in 1983. Similarly, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud visited Nepal in November 2010.

Saudi Arabia maintains its Embassy at Maharajgunj, in Kathmandu. Mr. Abdulnaser bin Husien Al-Harhi is the present (December 2021) Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Nepal.

Development Cooperation

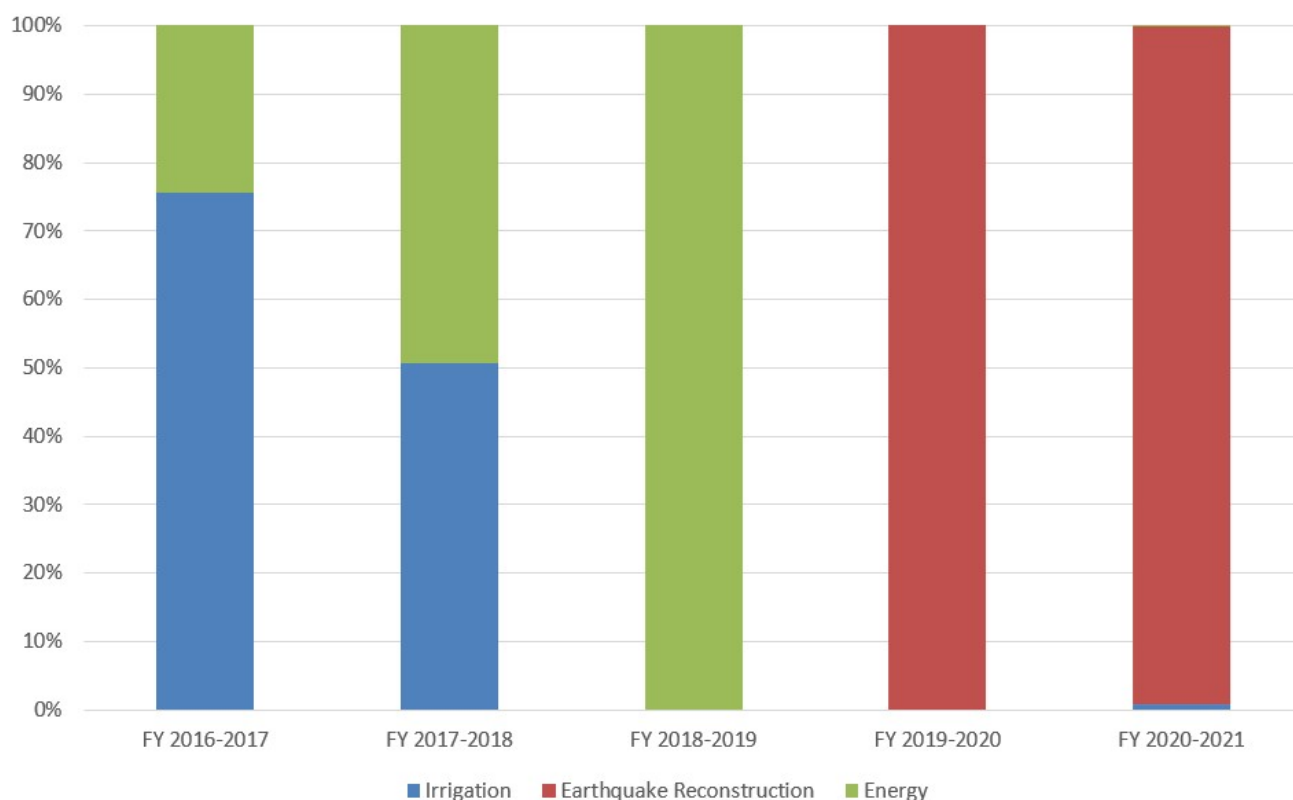
Economic cooperation between the two countries began in 1978 when Nepal opened its Embassy in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The economic cooperation extended by the Saudi Arabian Government in Nepal initially focused on uplifting the Muslim community, agricultural development and emergency assistance.

The assistance to Nepal from Saudi Arabia is currently being provided through the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). The SFD is an official agency for development cooperation established by Royal Decree in 1974.

SFD commenced operations in 1975 with the objective of participating in the financing of development projects in developing countries through the granting of loans and encouraging national non-crude-oil exports. SFD operates from a capital base provided by the Government of Saudi Arabia.

foods, as well as a cash grant of US\$ 1 million for the procurement of equipment.

Saudi Arabia's Major Support to Nepal by Sector



Source: Aid Management Information System

Disbursement from SFD during FYs 2016/17 to 2020/21 (in US\$)

Over the last five-year period beginning from FY 2016/17 to FY 2020/21, SFD has disbursed a total of US \$ 23 million. In terms of the volume of the disbursement the highest disbursement was of US \$ 16.7 million in fiscal year 2020/21 whereas the lowest disbursement was limited to US \$ 0.16 million in fiscal year 2017/18 which is less than the average annual disbursement of US \$ 4.6 million during the five-year period.

Over the five-year period, SFD and GoN had an agreement of financial cooperation of US \$ 29.1 million once in fiscal year 2020/21. There is no direct relationship between financial agreement amount and the disbursed amount though all the disbursed amount are based on agreed commitment.

Fiscal Year	Agreement Amount	Disbursement
2016/17		2,382,612
2017/18		168,108

2019/20		3,110,778
2020/21	29,163,542	16,768,405

Source: Aid Management Information System

Note: The Agreement Amount is not comparable with disbursement because disbursement here accounts for disbursement of each fiscal year only, whereas Agreement Amount refers to the project cost over the period (not only for single fiscal year but also beyond).

Development Cooperation Strategy

SFD provides untied concessional loan which has no specific geographical or sectoral limitations. Nepal has been utilized SFD loan for the development of infrastructure such as power generation, road construction and irrigation development.

Loans extended by SFD carry a 15-25 year repayment period and a loan charge of 2-5% interest, depending upon the nature of the loan. The Saudi Charter allows the SFD to finance up to 50% of the project costs.

Updated

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