

# International NGO Presence in Nepal

## An Analysis of International NGO Presence In Comparison to District Need for Assistance

### Background

Nepal, a nation with a population of over 28.12 million, is classified by the World Bank as a low-income country. The country is home to a large non-governmental organization (NGO) presence, and according to the Social Welfare Council of Nepal, over 34,000 NGOs were registered in 2011. With so many organizations present in the country, questions of their efficacy, purpose, and ethical practices are often discussed and debated. A topic of debate is the factors that influence where NGOs work. There is concern that NGOs do not always work in the areas that in need of most assistance, but rather their project sites depend upon a number of other factors, including but not limited to political preferences, geographical barriers, or donor preferences. Given these considerations, I sought to evaluate the current landscape of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) working in Nepal. I focused my assessment upon INGOs, as their involvement within this foreign community is particularly controversial, as some view INGO presence as necessary assistance while parties view it as intrusion. I sought to evaluate which districts INGOs focus the most work in, and compare it to a vulnerability analysis of districts based upon variety of health, poverty, and humanitarian crisis indicators. With this analysis, I hope to shed light upon the efficacy of INGOs, and whether their efforts are focused upon the most-needed areas.

Research Questions:

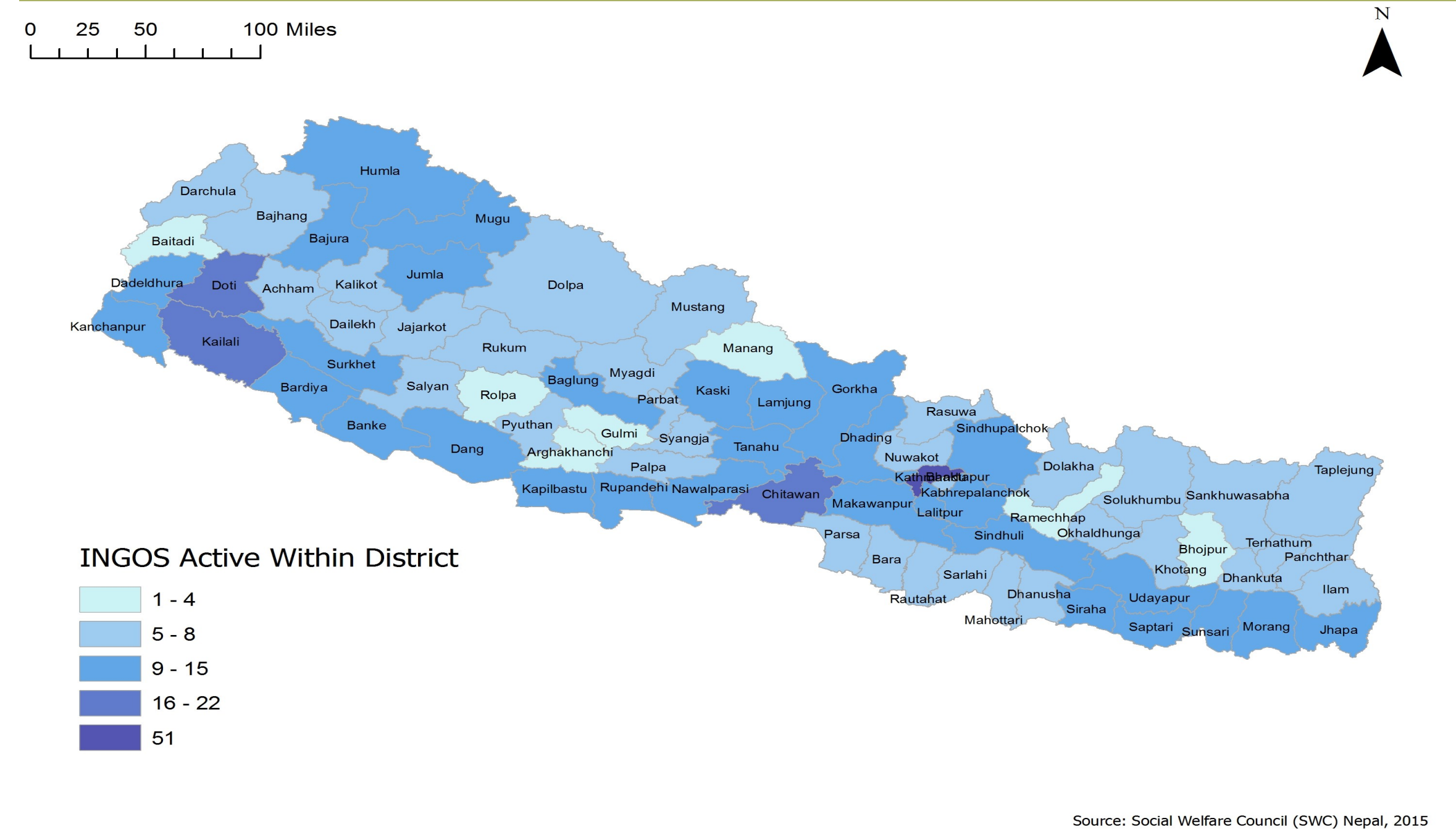
- Which districts do INGOs work in?
- Which districts are in most need of INGO assistance based off health and poverty indicators?

Data was extracted from several sources as seen in Table 1.

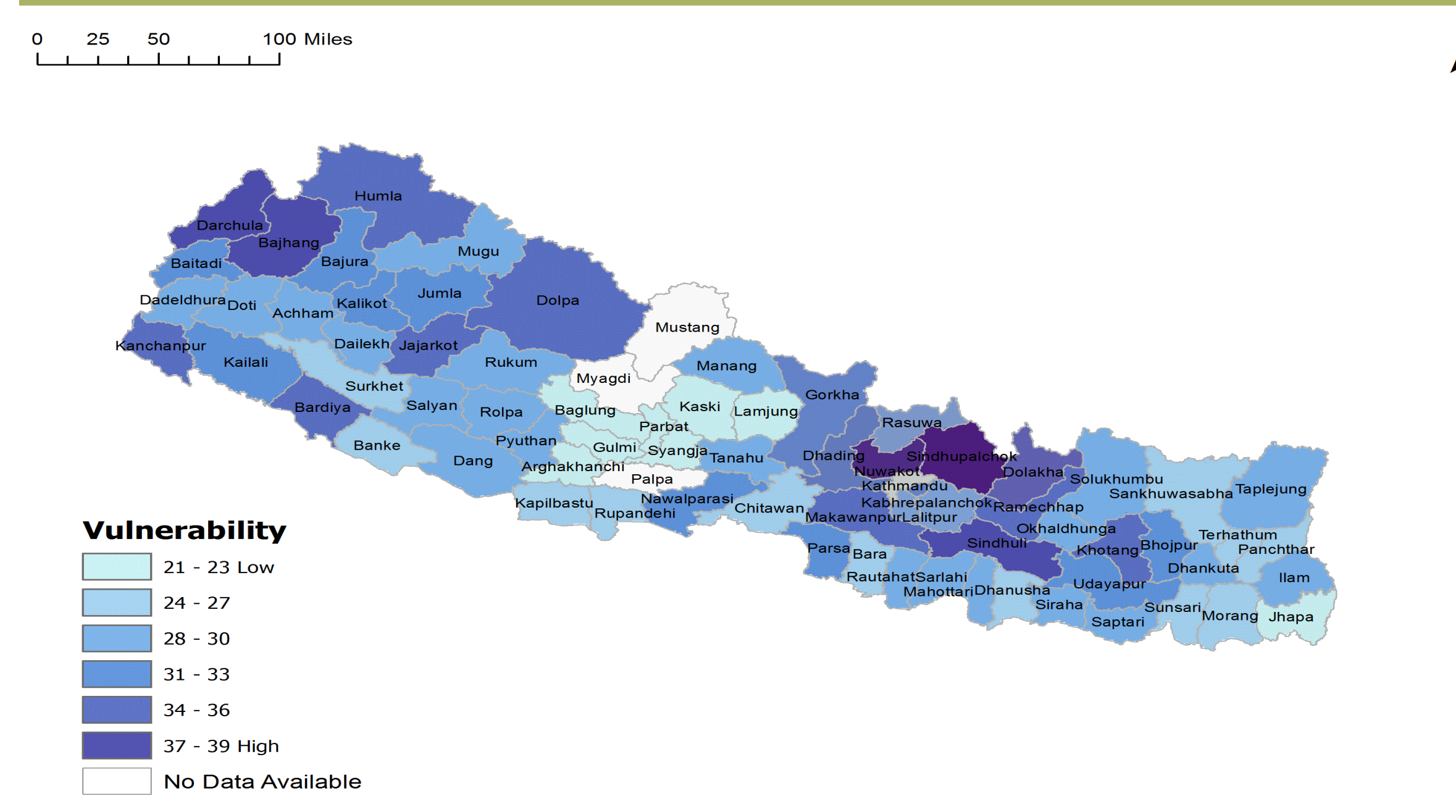
Table 1.

| Data  | Agency Name   | Format | Year      |
|---|---|--------|-----------|
| Nepal Districts Polygon   | Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal and Nepali Police, UNO-CHA Nepal                        | Vector | 2015      |
| International NGOs List   | Social Welfare Council Nepal  | Table  | 2015      |
| 2011 Nepal Census District Profiles (Vaccination Coverage, Global Acute Malnutrition, Skilled Birth Attendants) | United Nations Nepal Information Portal   | Table  | 2011      |
| Human Poverty Incidence   | Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, United Nations Development Programme | Table  | 2011      |
| District Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage   | United Nations Nepal Information Portal   | Table  | 2010      |
| District-wise Budget Allocation   | Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission                                       | Table  | 2013-2014 |
| Earthquake Deaths   | Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal and Nepali Police, UNO-CHA Nepal                        | Table  | 2015      |
| Health Infrastructure   | Government of Nepal, Ministry of Land Reform and Management                             | Vector | 2014      |

### INGO Count Per District



### District Vulnerability Analysis



### Methodology

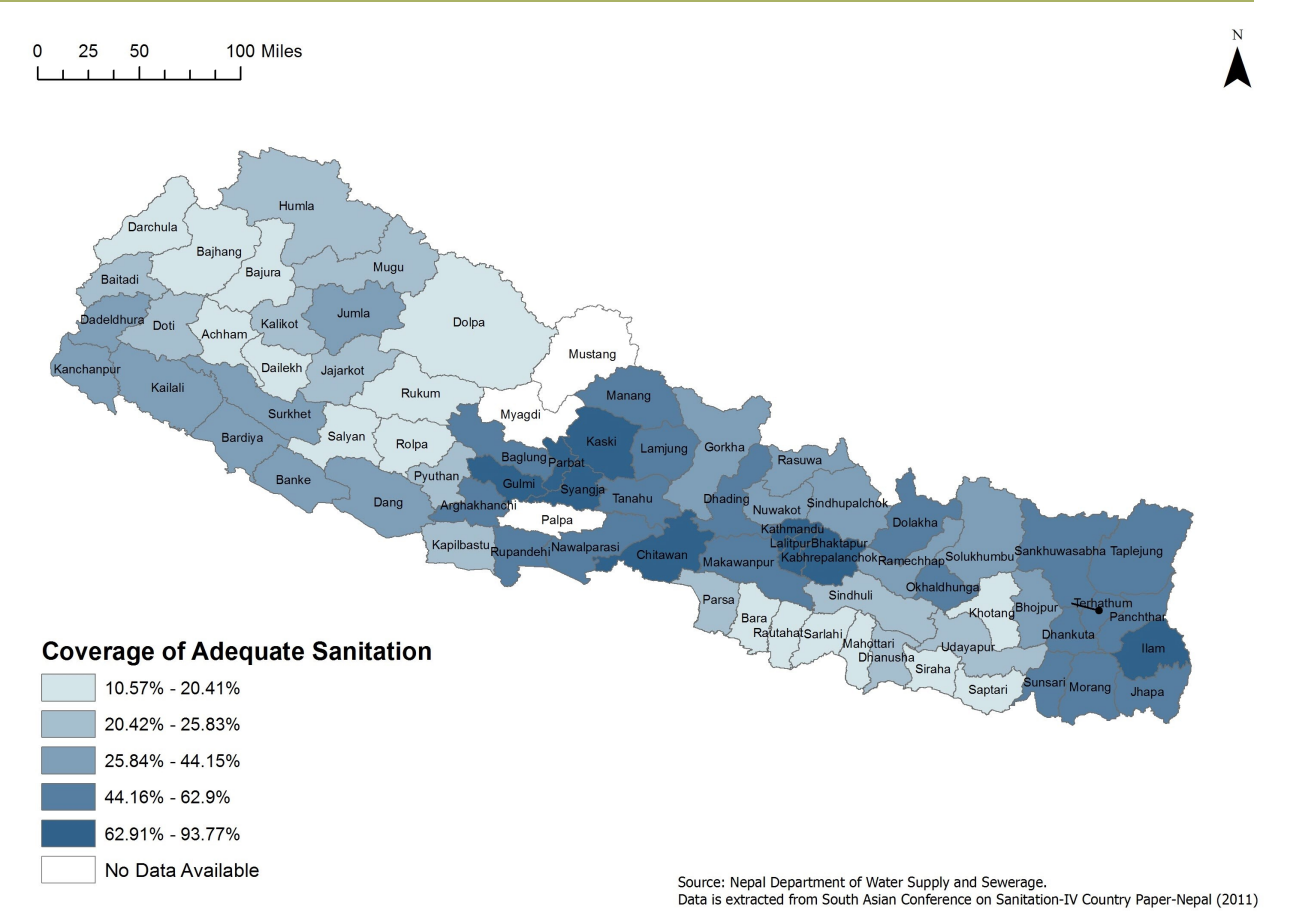
Analysis was conducted on a district-level. Vulnerability analysis factors and INGO district presence data was extracted from tables and joined with Nepal District Polygon Shapefiles. Vulnerability analysis was based upon 9 factors represented on a district level. Maps of each vulnerability factor were converted to rasters and reclassified. Each district was given a score of 1-6, with 1 correlating to least vulnerable or least in need of INGO assistance, and 6 representing most vulnerable and in need. The reclassified maps were summed using raster calculator, resulting in a vulnerability score for each district on a scale of 9-54. A score of 9 represented a district which received a score of 1 for each factor considered, representing a district least in need of INGO assistance based upon the 9 factors. A score of 54 represents a district received a score of 6 in for each factor, representing a district in highest need of assistance.

### Conclusions and Limitations

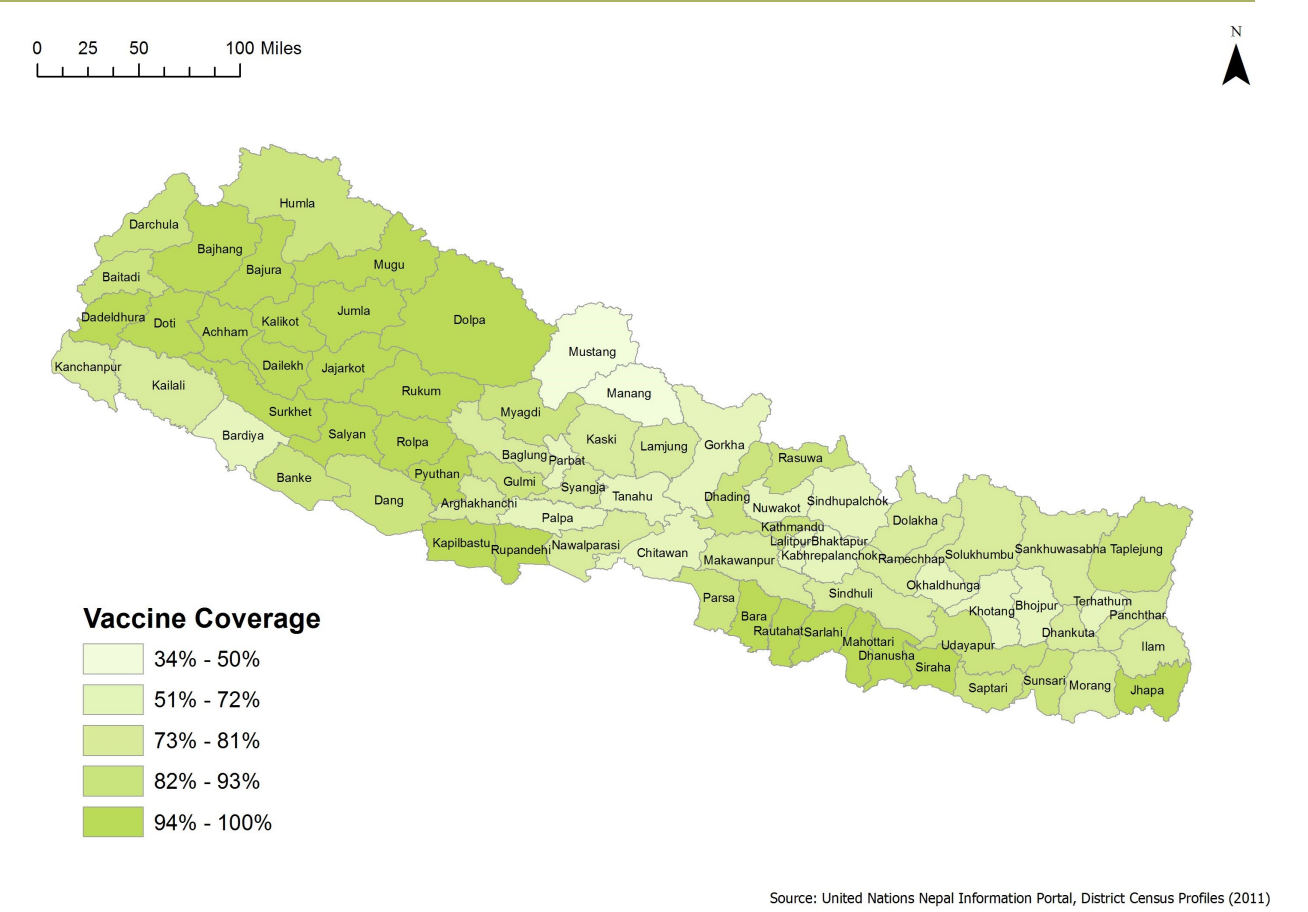
The results of this analysis allow comparison between district-level INGO presence and district vulnerability based upon 9 health and poverty-related indicators. There is a wide spread of INGO presence per district, though there does not appear to be trends in district INGO presence regionally. In terms of vulnerability, the most vulnerable districts in Nepal are found to be in the northwest region of the country, and also those which surround the district of Kathmandu. In terms of comparing INGO presence to vulnerability, there does not appear to be a correlation between the more INGO presence and higher vulnerability in a district. Conversely, in some cases there are more INGOs in areas of least vulnerability, as Kathmandu District has the most INGOs and the lowest vulnerability score. These results suggest that there are other factors involved in dictating the locations of INGO activity. There are limitations to this analysis, as water supply and sanitation coverage were not available for the districts of Palpa, Mustang, and Myagdi, and thus a vulnerability score could not be calculated for those districts. Additionally, this analysis considered only 9 health and poverty indicators. There are many other known and unknown factors which may influence a district's vulnerability, just as there are many factors which influence where an INGO decides to work. Regardless, this analysis is useful in showing general trends, or lack thereof in INGO district presence. The lack of general correlation between vulnerability and INGO presence in districts may be useful to Nepal Government Considerations of approving INGOs to work within the country. Additionally, this analysis may also provide the basis for a more specific analysis of sector-specific health indicators such as water supply, compared with sector-specific INGOs that work specifically in a water-sector related INGO.

### Vulnerability Analysis Factors

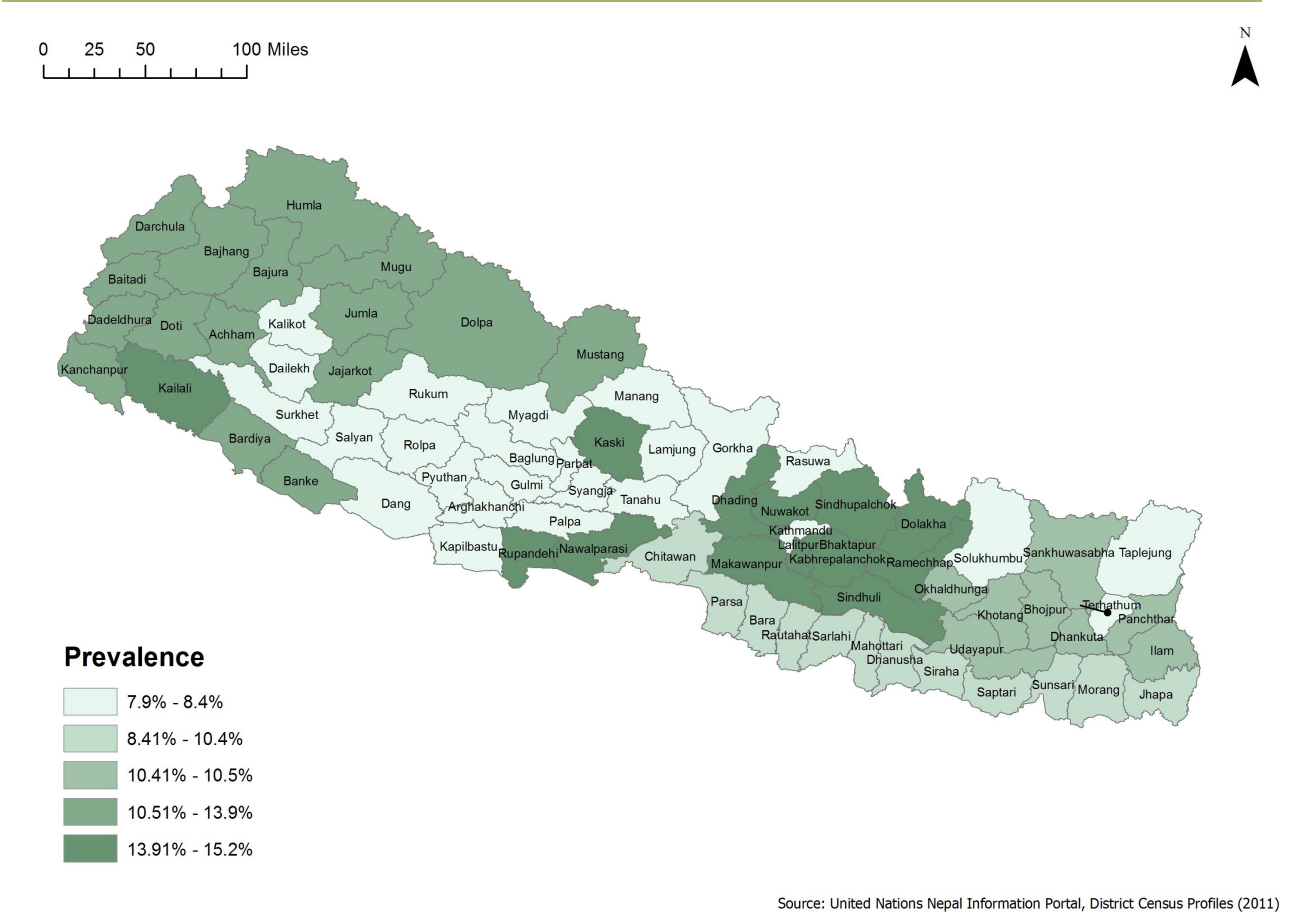
#### Sanitation Coverage Per District



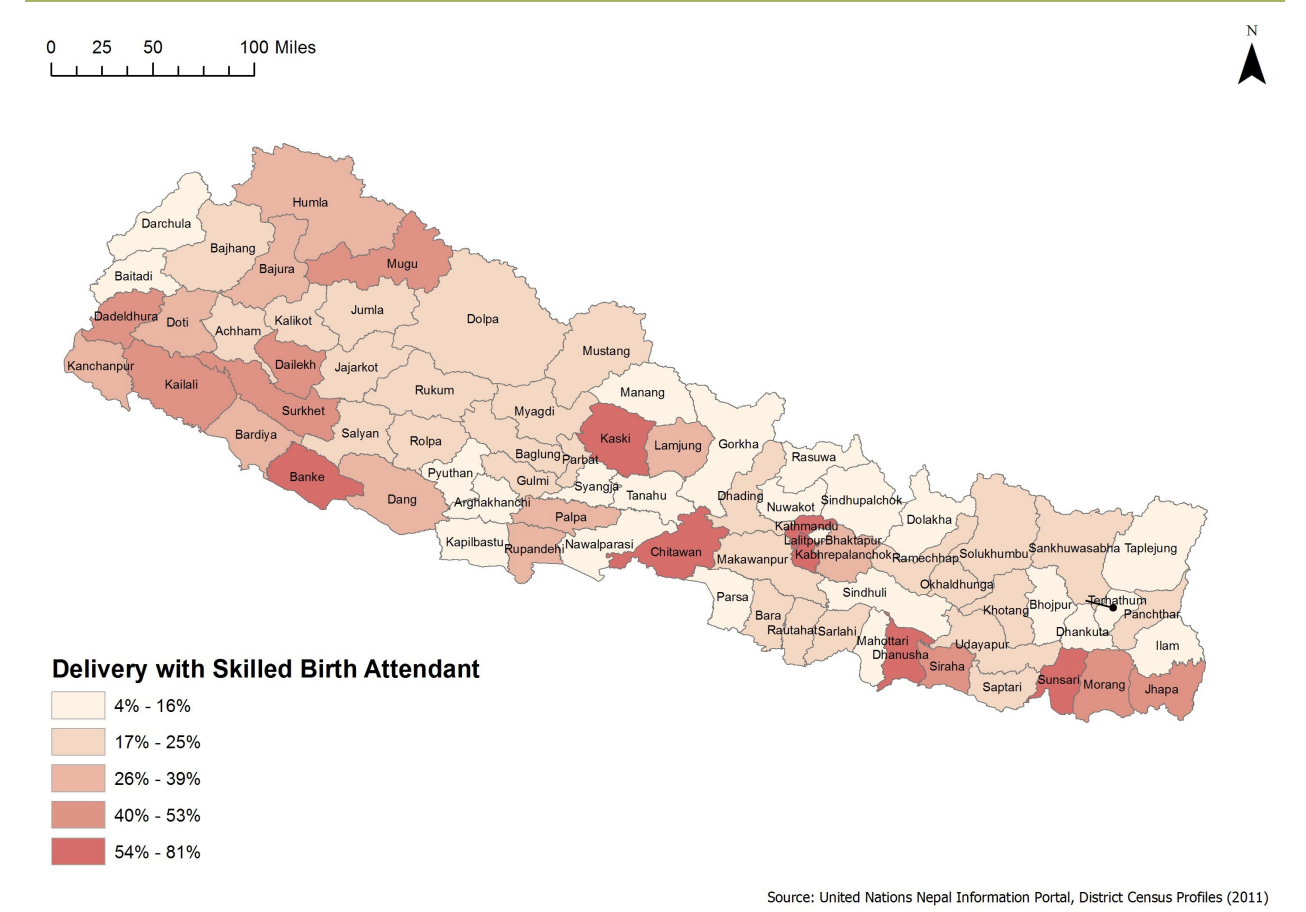
#### Measles Vaccine Coverage Per District



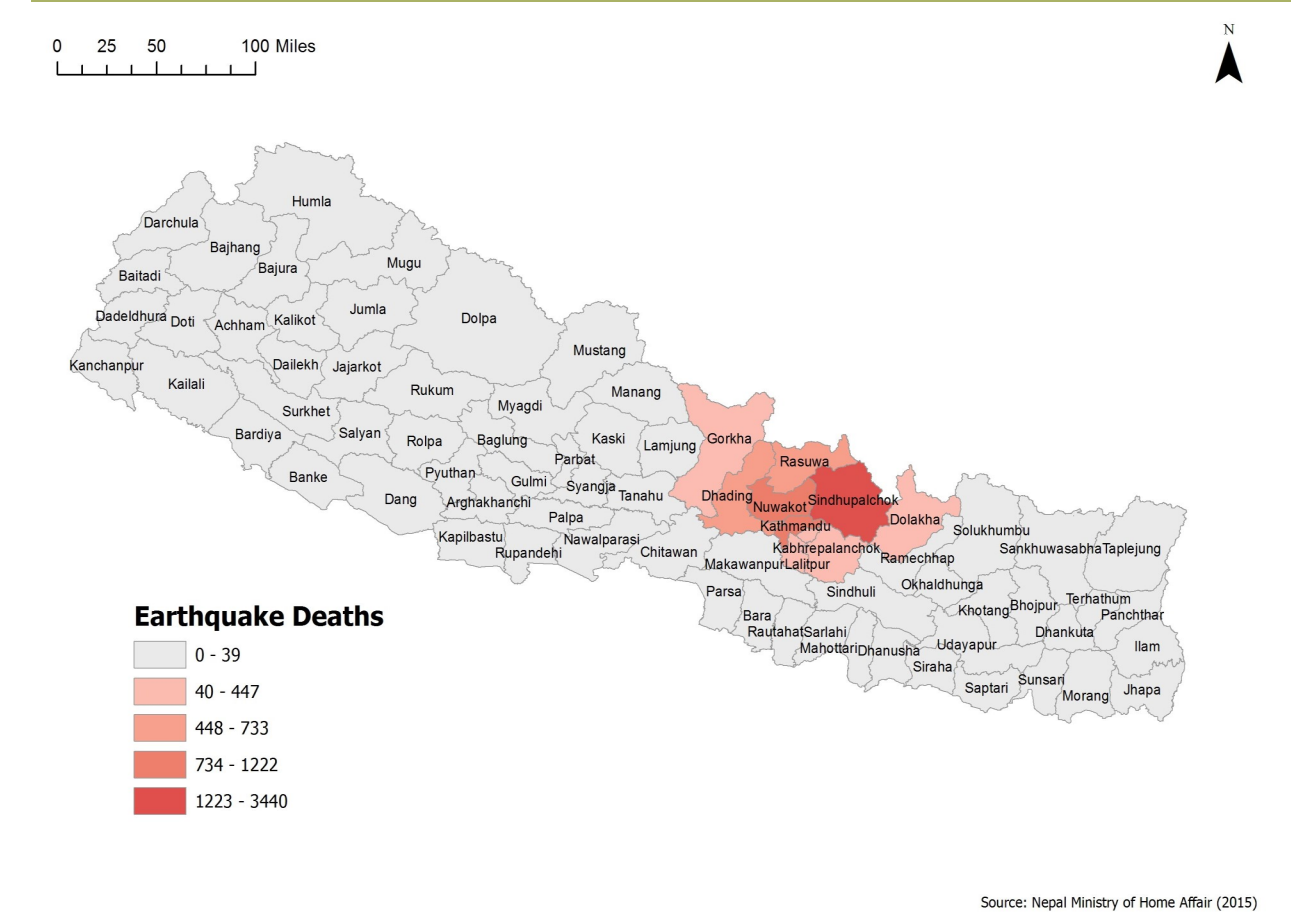
#### Global Acute Malnutrition Per District



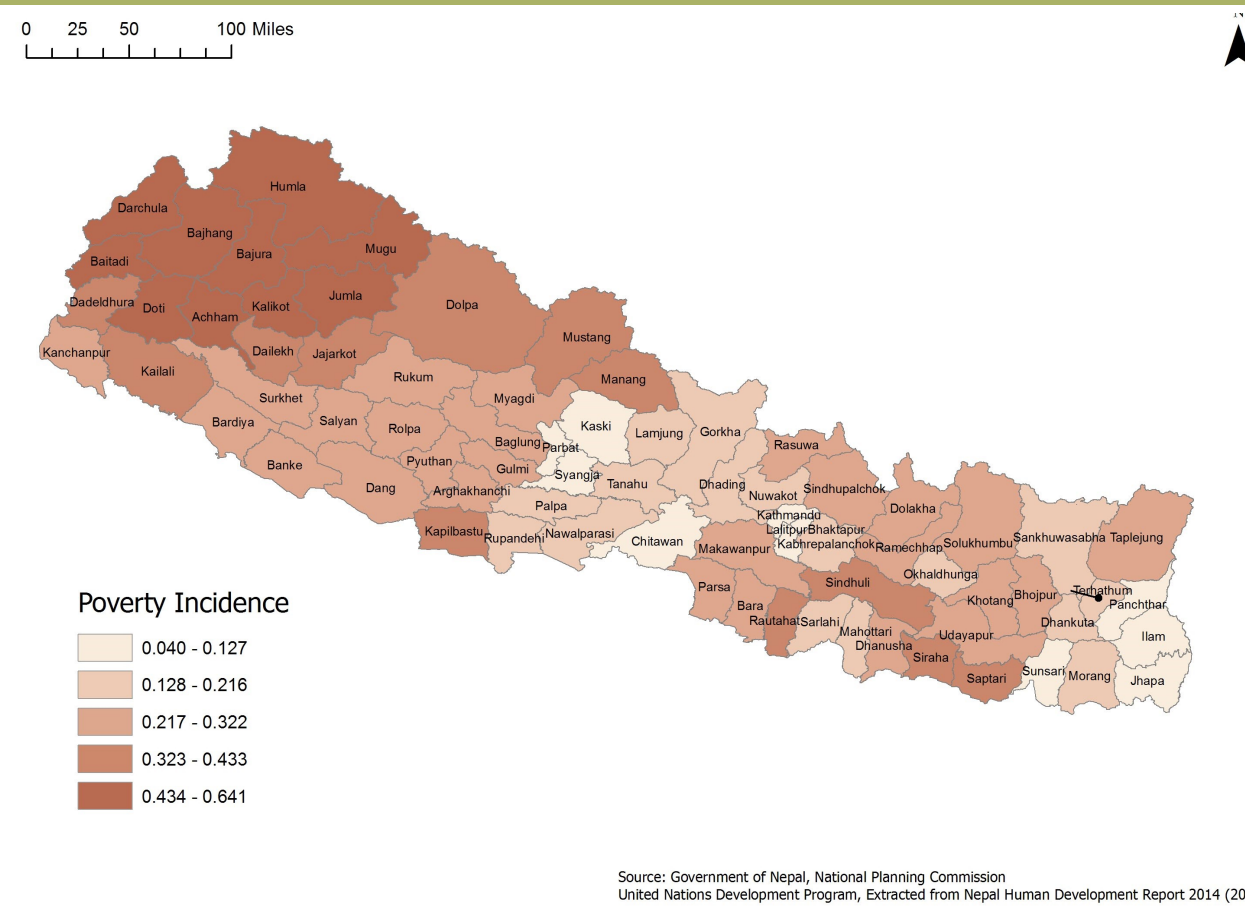
#### Delivery with Skilled Birth Attendant Per District



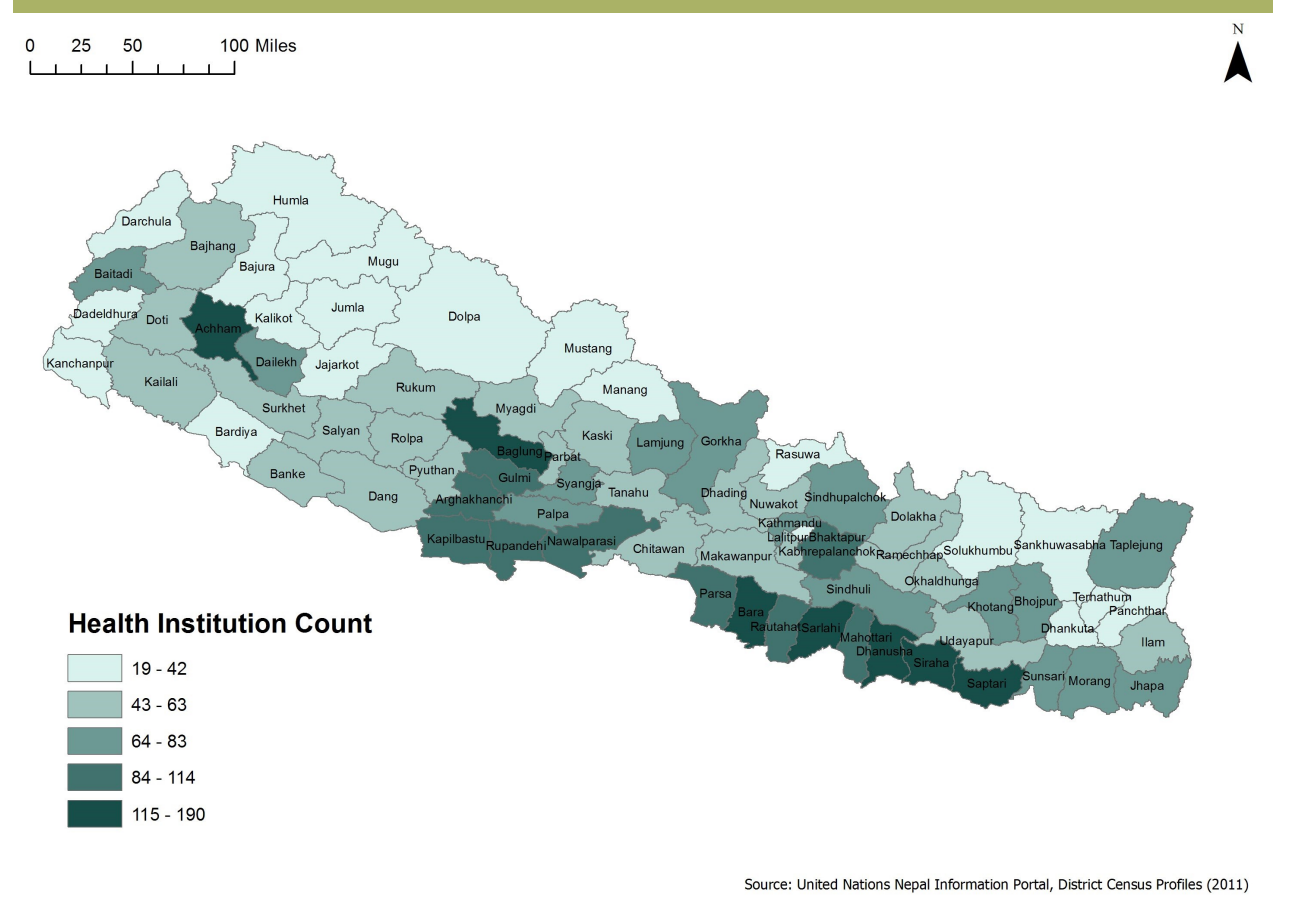
#### Deaths Due to 2015 Earthquakes Per District



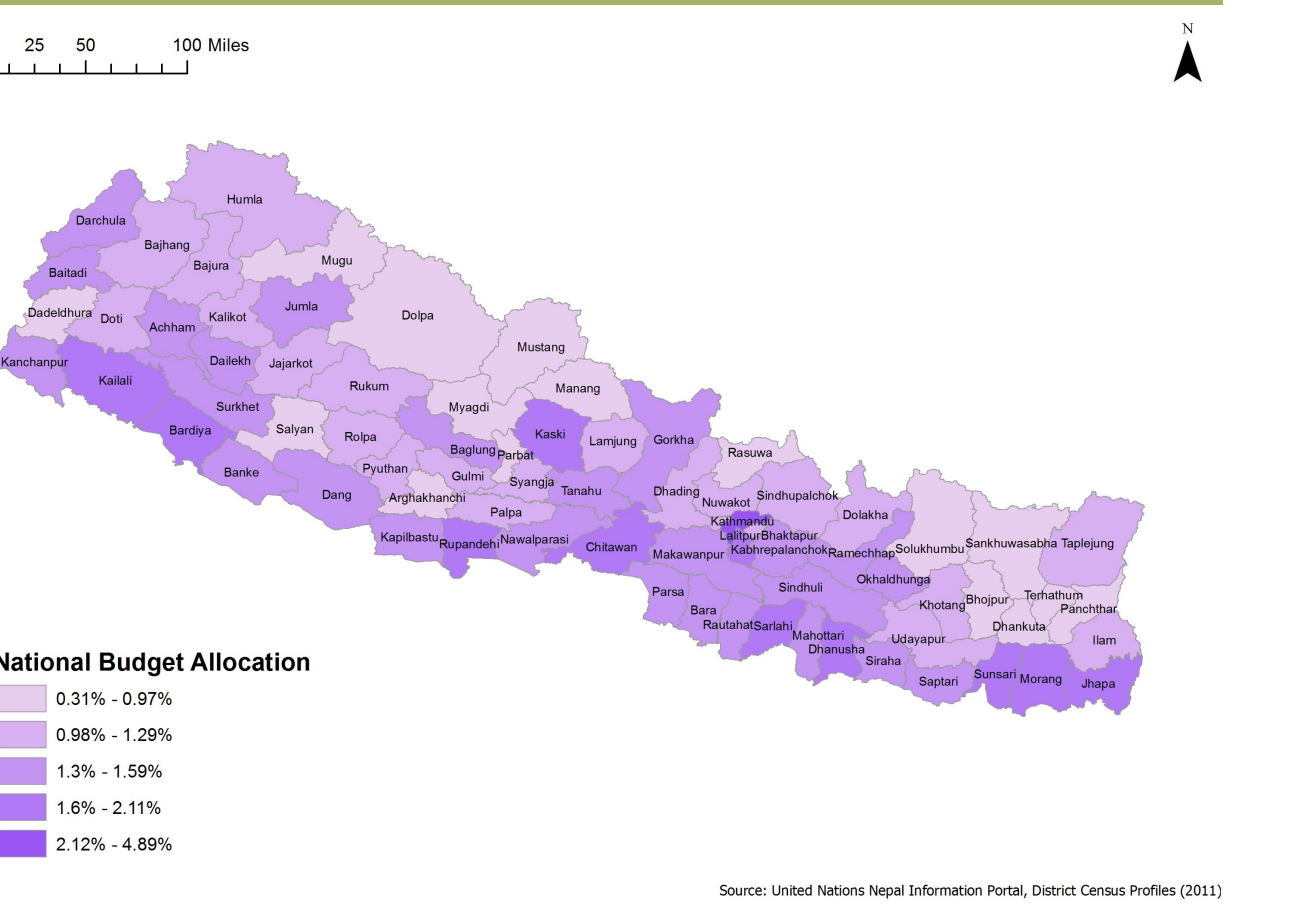
#### Poverty Incidence Per District



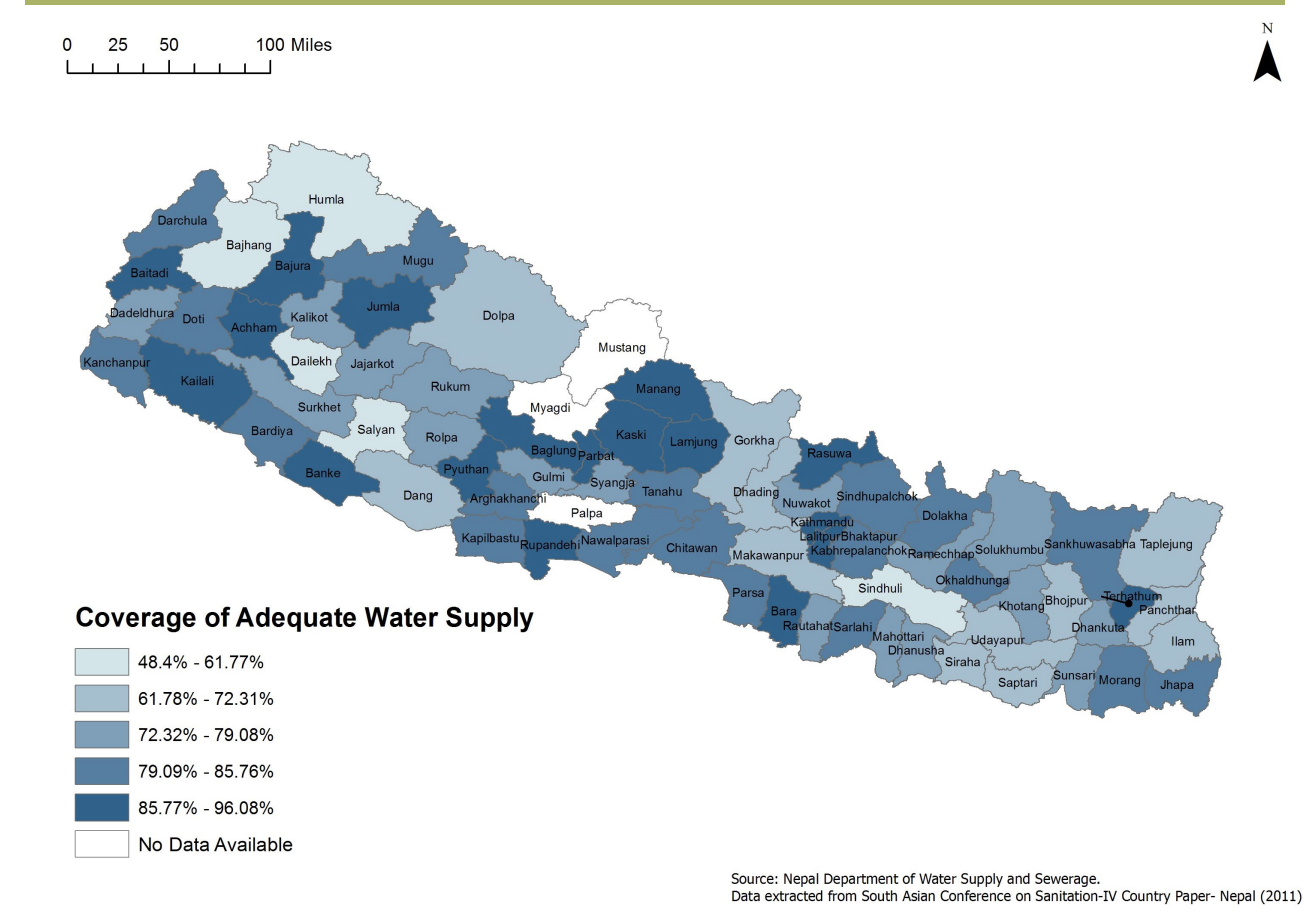
#### Health Infrastructure Per District



#### Budget Allocation Per District



#### Water Supply Coverage Per District



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