

InterAction Member Activity Report

Nepal

*A Guide to Humanitarian and Development Efforts of
InterAction Member Agencies in Nepal*

May 2006



Photo Courtesy of Catholic Relief Services

Produced by **Kristin Maresca**
With the Humanitarian Policy and Practice Unit of



1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite #701, Washington DC 20036

Phone (202) 667-8227 Fax (202) 667-8236

Website: www.interaction.org

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Map of Nepal



Courtesy of The CIA World Factbook

Background Summary

Nepal's history has been fraught with transitions among autocratic, quasi-constitutional, and relatively democratic governments. A landlocked nation with a highly agricultural society, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an annual per capita income equivalent to approximately \$279. This economic insecurity has further exacerbated the inequality pervading the caste-based system that divides Nepalese society. As a result of the government's failure to effectively address rampant poverty and structural discrimination, Nepal is now facing a crisis of democracy with an increasing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) a consequence of the ongoing civil war.

Nepal is an amalgamation of a number of previously independent hill states, combined in the late 18th century after Prithvi Narayan Shah, the ruler of the principality of Gorkha, came to power. His heirs were unable to maintain solid political control, resulting in increasing instability within the country. The precarious situation was exacerbated by Nepal's loss to the British in a 2-year war that lasted from 1814 – 1816. Stability did not return until the Rana family gained power in 1846, hurling Nepal into an era of autocratic rule and severing contact with the rest of the world. Although such policies protected Nepal from the colonialist threat that was impacting its neighbors, they also set the country up for an economic development deficit from which Nepal has yet to recover.

After almost a century of isolationism, the Shah family overtook Rana rule in the 1950s, introducing a new era of quasi-constitutional rule to Nepal. The political situation remained highly tenuous, however, resulting in the creation of two successive constitutions under King Mahendra. The initial constitution setting up a parliamentary democracy was quickly pronounced a failure and replaced by a second constitution reinstating the "partyless" *panchayat* system, one of whose goals was to adhere more closely to traditional Nepalese governance systems. In 1979, anti-regime activities and student demonstrations calling for the establishment of a multi-party system led Mahendra's son and successor, King Birendra, to call for a referendum to determine the nature of Nepal's government. In 1980, a democratically reformed *panchayat* won a narrow victory, and remained in place for the next eleven years.

Political party demands for a true democracy and free elections led to the creation of the "Movement for Democracy" in 1990. After initially violent government reaction to the demonstrations, the King ceded power in April of that same year. Generally free and fair democratic elections took place in May 1991 under the interim government headed by the Nepali Congress Party (NCP). However, lack of cohesion within the NCP led to its defeat by the United Marxist Leninist Party (UMLP) in 1994, setting the stage for five consecutive years of escalating political turmoil and the rise of a Maoist insurgency.

In response to the monarchy's perceived lack of response to systematic inequalities in the caste system and marginalization of a large portion of the Nepalese population, the Maoists launched the "People's War" in February 1996. The insurgency appears to have been spawned by widespread frustration with the government's failure to improve the quality of life of the Nepalese, especially the absence of land reform. The Maoists' stated goal is the replacement of

the constitutional monarchy with a democratic socialist republic. The initial targets of Maoist violence were police, main landowners, teachers, and government and political officials.

The internal conflict continued without significant government response until late 2001, when King Gyanendra assumed the throne after his nephew, Crown Prince Dipendra, murdered most of the royal family and subsequently committed suicide. An initial round of peace talks between the Nepalese government and the Maoists in August, September, and October 2001 was unsuccessful, and Maoist violence resumed. Gyanendra responded by declaring a state of emergency and suspending parliament, personally selecting another prime minister, and postponing elections indefinitely.

Gyanendra again replaced the prime minister with another of his choosing in October 2002, but in the face of mounting political instability and lack of support from the major political parties, the prime minister resigned. In January 2003, the Nepalese government and the Maoists reached another ceasefire agreement, which collapsed in August of that year after another futile round of peace talks. On February 1, 2005, Gyanendra once again dismissed the government and suspended almost all fundamental rights, with promises to reinstate multi-party democracy within 3 years.

In April 2006 an alliance of political parties initiated demonstrations calling for the restoration of democracy. At least 13 people were killed in violence between protestors and governmental security forces as the capitol was brought to a virtual standstill. On April 24 the King ceded to the demands of the demonstrators, announcing that he would turn the government over to the Parliament that he had dissolved four years earlier. He did not, however, explicitly address the demand for a referendum to redraw the country's constitution and let the people decide on the future of the monarchy.

Government attacks on suspected Maoist sympathizers have further aggravated the already difficult human rights situation in Nepal. In February 2005, the government went into the Kapilvastu district and killed 30 supposed Maoists and burnt 600 houses, leading to the forced displacement of between 20,000 and 30,000 people to the border with India. In addition, between August 2003 and May 2005, the army claims to have killed up to 4000 people identified as Maoist sympathizers; this classification included civilians who were suspected of having provided shelter, provisions, or assistance to Maoists, coerced or otherwise.

Internal displacement continues to be a serious issue in Nepal. The level of security in rural areas decreased markedly when Maoist violence resumed in 2001, causing people to flee to urban centers, many in an effort to avoid Maoist forced recruitment. Reports state that the Maoists have been forcing younger children to join the insurgency. Some Nepalese have chosen to take refuge in India as a result of the intensification of violence against civilians and the collapse of the economic and social infrastructure. Due to the complexity of the current situation, international NGOs have found it extremely difficult to disaggregate the number of Nepalese who migrate for economic reasons from those who are fleeing the conflict.

Government assistance to those who have been internally displaced has been slow and insufficient. Many who have been displaced by government security forces are reluctant to come

forward for fear of retaliation. The government responded to the UN Secretary General's criticism of the IDP situation with promises to develop a new IDP policy, although no signs of movement on this issue have been seen to date. Some estimates put the death toll from the Nepalese conflict over 11,500.

Report Summary

This report offers international agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, and the public an overview of the humanitarian and development assistance being provided to the people of Nepal by InterAction member agencies.

Six member organizations have reported on their current or planned relief and development operations in Nepal. The programs address a broad range of sectors, including: adolescent development; agricultural training and production; disaster and emergency relief; community organization; economic assistance, business development, and credit; education, training, and literacy; food security; gender issues and women in development; health rights; human rights, peace and conflict resolution; refugee and internally displaced persons (IDPs) assistance; reproductive health; shelter; social inclusion; and water and sanitation. These activities take place in a number of locations throughout the country.

The agencies in this report have presented various objectives for their programs in Nepal. While some members focus on longer-term development initiatives including expansion and enrichment of education and training systems, provision of health care services, and microenterprise development, others are implementing disaster response projects and responding to humanitarian needs resultant from the internal conflict. The most significant concern for all members working in the country is the recurring insecurity and violence, which have restricted development and response capabilities.

Many of the agencies in this report are operating in Nepal with the support of local partner agencies and other international NGOs, while receiving financial backing from private and public donors in the international community.

Organizations by Sector Activity

Adolescent Development

Save the Children

Agricultural Training/Production

Lutheran World Relief

Disaster and Emergency Relief

Catholic Relief Services

Habitat for Humanity

Refugees International

Save the Children

Community Organization

Lutheran World Relief

Economic, Business Development and Credit

CARE

Catholic Relief Services

Habitat for Humanity

Lutheran World Relief

Save the Children

Education, Training, and Literacy

Adventist Development and Relief Agency
International

CARE

Catholic Relief Services

Habitat for Humanity

Lutheran World Relief

Refugees International

Save the Children

Food Security

CARE

CONCERN Worldwide US

Gender Issues and Women in Development

CARE

Catholic Relief Services

Habitat for Humanity

Lutheran World Relief

Refugees International

Health Care

CARE

Habitat for Humanity

Lutheran World Relief

Refugees International

Save the Children

Human Rights, Peace, and Conflict Resolution

CARE

Refugees International

Save the Children

Refugees/IDPs

Catholic Relief Services

Refugees International

Reproductive Health

Adventist Development and Relief Agency
International

CARE

Shelter

Habitat for Humanity

Social Inclusion

Save the Children

Water and Sanitation

CARE

CONCERN Worldwide US

Glossary of Acronyms

InterAction Members

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency International
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
LWR	Lutheran World Relief
RI	Refugees International
SCF	Save the Children Federation

Other Acronyms

CBO	Community-Based Organization
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
UNDP	U.N. Development Program
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

U.S. Contact

Tereza Byrne — Bureau Chief for Marketing and Development
ADRA International
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Phone: 301-680-6398
Fax: 301-680-6370
E-Mail: TerezaByrne1@cs.com

Field Contacts

Mark Webster – Country Director
ADRA Nepal
P.O. Box 4481, Kathmandu, NEPAL
Phone: ++977-9851045795
E-Mail: mark.webster@adranepal.org

Introduction to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

ADRA is an international non-governmental organization operating in 120 countries and is mandated to provide relief and development to communities without regard to age, ethnicity, or political or religious association.

ADRA's overall mission is to:

- Reflect the character of God through humanitarian and developmental activities.
- Actively support communities through a portfolio of development activities that are planned and implemented cooperatively.
- Provide assistance in situations of crisis or chronic distress, and work toward the development of long-term solutions with those affected.
- Work through equitable partnerships with those in need to achieve positive and sustainable change in communities.
- Build networks that develop indigenous capacity, appropriate technology, and skills at all levels.
- Develop and maintain relationships with our partners and constituents that provide effective channels for mutual growth and action.
- Promote and expand the equitable and participatory involvement of women in the development process.
- Advocate for and assist in the increased use of communities' capacities to care for and responsibly manage the natural resources of their environment.
- Facilitate the right and ability of all children to attain their full potential, and to assist in assuring the child's survival to achieve that potential.

ADRA in Nepal

ADRA Nepal's overall objective is to actively strengthen communities through a portfolio of Millennium Development Goal oriented development activities which are planned and implemented through cooperative partnerships, equitably and in a sustainable manner.

ADRA Nepal implements development activities in the following districts of Nepal:

<u>East</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Mid-West</u>	<u>West</u>
Dhankuta	Bara	Banke	Rupandehi
Illam	Bhaktapur	Dang	
Jhapa	Kathmandu		
Khotang	Kavre		
Okhaldunga	Lalitpur		
Panchtar			
Sankhuwasaha			
Taplejung			
Tehrathum			
Udayapur			

Ongoing Projects

Reproductive Health

- Family Planning
- Safe Motherhood
- HIV and AIDS

Non-Formal Education

- Literacy and Numeracy
- Vocational Training
- Livelihood Development
- Organization Development

Funding Sources

ADRA receives private and public funds from organizations in the following countries:

- Australia
- Canada
- European Union
- Germany
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Japan
- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- Nepal

Scale of Programs

Total Program Expenditure in 2004 = US\$1,104,128

Total Estimated Beneficiaries in 2004 = 275,700

Total Projected Expenditure in 2005 = US\$2,200,000

Total Projected Beneficiaries in 2005 – 500,000

Cooperative Efforts with Local, International, and Governmental Agencies

ADRA Nepal works in close cooperation with:

Local Government

- Ministry of Health – Family Health Division, National Health Training Centre
- Ministry of Education – Non-Formal Education Department

International NGOs / Contractors

- Britain Nepal Medical Trust
- John Snow International

Local NGOs

- Backward Society Education
- New Young Star Club
- Asian Medical Doctors Association
- Nepal Red Cross Society
- Numerous Community Based Organizations

Ongoing Concerns

Security: The sensitive, ongoing conflict situation in Nepal has constrained implementation efforts for development activities.

CARE

US Contacts

Camber Cauthen
151 Ellis Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404.979.9228
Email: ccaauthen@care.org

Field Contact

CARE Nepal
Alka Pathak, Country Director
PO Box 1661
Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 977.1.552.2800
Email :alka@carenepal.org

Introduction to CARE

CARE seeks a world of hope, tolerance and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security.

CARE will be a global force and a partner of choice within a worldwide movement dedicated to ending poverty. CARE will be known everywhere for an unshakable commitment to the dignity of people.

CARE's mission is to serve individuals and families in the poorest communities in the world. Drawing strength from global diversity, resources and experience, CARE promotes innovative solutions and advocates for global responsibility. CARE facilitates lasting change by:

- Strengthening capacity for self-help;
- Providing economic opportunity;
- Delivering relief in emergencies;
- Influencing policy decisions at all levels;
- Addressing discrimination in all its forms.

Guided by the aspirations of local communities, CARE pursues this mission with both excellence and compassion because the people whom CARE serves deserve nothing less.

CARE in Nepal

CARE's General Objectives in Nepal: To strengthen the ability of poor men, women and children to fulfill their basic needs, and achieve social justice and empowerment in household and community.

Ongoing Projects

Churia Watershed Management Project

The Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management and CARE Nepal jointly implemented the Churia Watershed Management Project in the Churia range of Mahottari and Sarlahi districts. The project aims to enhance the livelihood security of communities by

improving forestry practices, soil and water conservation, sustainable management of natural resources, and agricultural production. It supports decentralization by building the institutional capacity of its partner organizations and monitors the implementation of government policies, strategies and practices for the effective management of resources in the Churia Hills. The project consists of 14 sub watersheds within 17 VDCs. The main target groups of the project are 25,600 households through community based organizations and NGOs of Sarlahi and Mahottari district.

The Nepal Family Health Program

The Nepal Family Health Program's (NFHP) objective is to support His Majesty's Government's long-term goal of reducing fertility and under-five mortality within the context of the National Health Policy and Second Long-term Health Plan (1997-2017). The main objective of this program is to strengthen the MOH's service delivery mechanism, particularly the monitoring and supervision parts. JSI is the primary recipient and managing partner of the cooperative agreement, Engender Health is the Co-Managing partner; JHU/CCP and JHPIEGO are the implementing partners, CARE, SAVE/US, MASS, NFCC, NTAG and ADRA are the collaborating partners. CARE provides district based technical inputs to health facilities in 7 core districts. CARE's NFHP aims to assure that a basic package of Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health services is available to a population of 3,161,434 at various levels of public Health Care system in the targeted districts by December 2006. The primary target groups are District Health Offices, Health Posts and Subhealth posts. The program intends to build capability of these health facilitators so as to enable them to deliver the health services to the catchments population efficiently and effectively.

Strengthening Actions for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources Program

CARE Nepal's Strengthened Actions for Governance in Utilization of Natural Resources (SAGUN) Program's overall objectives are to ensure that Nepal's natural resources are managed in a democratic way; that the performance of selected institutions is improved to meet the principles of good governance and participation; and in particular, that the benefits derived from natural resources are dispersed in accountable and transparent ways to the local communities and that they, and other earned revenues, are equitably distributed. The program strategy comprises three themes, broadly expressed as: building institutional capacity of NRM groups for natural resource governance; reinforcing local capacity to provide support services and; strengthening information systems. The program works with Community Forest User Groups, Buffer Zone User Groups, Water Users Associations, and committees at all levels of the irrigation systems.

Child Survival

CARE Nepal's Child Survival program aims to reduce child and maternal morbidity and mortality through strengthened community, local NGOs and MoH capacities in the Far Western Region of the country which is a more disadvantaged area. The main focus of the project is increasing access to health services and supplies, enabling health care providers to provide quality care, motivating the caregivers at family level to practice healthy behaviors, seeking timely and appropriate medical care and building the local capabilities. The project targets a population of 173,181 spread over five remote districts. In the implementation level, CARE Nepal intends to work with Mother's Groups, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs)

and the local level health facilities. The project duration is four years, starting from October 2003.

Churia Area Program Strategy

The conservation and management of the Churia hills resources have become a high priority of His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN). CARE Nepal seeks to make meaningful contributions towards helping the local communities of the Churia area succeed in their quest for prosperity and improved livelihoods. The primary focus of this program is the formulation of a Churia Area Strategy, implementation of pilot initiatives, and additional environmental conservation and development initiatives. The long-term goal of this program is to improve livelihood security of the inhabitants of the Churia Area through environmental conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

Participation of Women Enabling their Real Representation

POWER II aims to build on CARE Nepal's work in the Mid and Far Western Development Region of the country, by expanding and replicating the successes and lessons learned from POWER to two additional districts: Kanchanpur and Doti. The project goal is to see that the rights and gender interests of women are better understood and more fully acted upon by local government, political parties, civil society organizations and women leaders, for greater social justice. The project will focus primarily on developing political and social leadership among women. The new dimension in this second phase of POWER is that the project is expecting to develop the capacity of women social leaders who will complement women political leaders to create an enabling environment to take actions for women's priorities and needs, raise voices and pressurize the society, government and other relevant institutions for women's rights.

Doti Poverty Reduction Project

This project aims to reduce poverty of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, particularly women and land-poor families in the Doti district. The project anticipates directly benefiting 2,000 households (about 12,000 people) in the selected eight Village Development Communities (VCDs) of the district. Secondary beneficiaries will be selected civil society organizations and formal and informal leaders. The project strategy has two main thrusts. The first is a rights-based approach focusing on capacity building of individual women, Dalit leaders, and civil society organizations to promote greater participation and stronger leadership in district development processes, and to advocate for social justice and equity at district, regional and national levels. Secondly, the project will strengthen local civil society organizations to complement rights based programming with needs based outreach capacity to increase and diversify economic development strategies of the target groups in the selected eight-project area VCDs.

Accessing Services for Households

This project aims to improve the livelihood security of households in remote districts, with emphasis on the most marginalized women, men and children. The main objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction in the remote areas of Nepal through the development, application and dissemination of effective strategies at local and national levels. The focus in the extension phase will continue to be on reconstruction and rehabilitation of small scale rural

infrastructure activities that generally produce quick and tangible results that are manageable and highly desired by the beneficiaries, and have greater positive impact on marginalized households.

UJYALO Project

Project (UJYALO) aims to strengthen support for the victims of conflict and conflict affected communities through an integrated community level program that combines economic and social support activities designed to address the physiological and economic consequences of Nepal's conflict. The program will primarily target individuals, families and communities most affected by the conflict. The overall objective of the program is to promote peace through improved income, and support for local capacities for peace among conflict affected communities in Western Nepal.

Humanitarian Assistance to the Vulnerable Communities of Surkhet District of Nepal

The Humanitarian Assistance to the Vulnerable Communities Project aims to provide immediate, visible and positive impact on the lives of vulnerable communities in Surkhet district of Nepal through improved access to clean drinking water and sanitation. CARE anticipates reaching out to 1,620 households including Dalits and school children through the rehabilitation/construction of drinking water systems at the community level and in schools. Additionally, among these beneficiaries at least 500 households also will have access to toilet/pit latrine facilities, which will contribute towards better sanitation conditions. The project will give priority to rehabilitation/construction of drinking water systems in communities that have a majority of Dalit households however small the community may be. At all times project staff will ensure that there is equitable representation of women and Dalits in the user committees and if possible have positive disproportionate representation of women. The expected results of the project are increased access of people to basic services, particularly drinking water and sanitation, increased capacity of communities in management of community drinking water systems and greater awareness of communities to water borne diseases and personal hygiene.

Jaladh Integrated Watershed & Natural Resources Management Program

The Jaladh Integrated Watershed and Natural Resources Management Program (JIWAN, meaning "life" in Nepali) will be implemented in the river system areas of the Jaladh River in the Dhanusa district. The program area will cover nine Village Development Committees (VDCs) and will include approximately 62,500 people living there. The rivers like Jaladh originating in the Churia hills and flowing through all of these regions offers a crucial point to start conservation and to bring related issues to the attention of all concerned at different levels. Three Danish NGOs, CARE Danmark, Danish Forestry Extension (DFE) and the Foreningen af Folkeh jskoler I Danmark (Danish Folk High Schools Association - FFD) have formed an alliance to design and implement the JIWAN Program. The program will be implemented in close collaboration among the Alliance Partners and in partnership with local NGOs, higher level civil society organizations such as the Federation of Community Forestry Users in Nepal (FECOFUN), the National Federation of Water Users Association in Nepal (NIFWUAN), and the Terai Private Forestry Development Association (TPFDA), as well as other community based organizations.

Ongoing Concerns

Staff Security and Safety

There have been no major changes in our working areas after the Maoist ceasefire of September 2005. However, the security forces are likely to go deep into to the Maoist base area which will escalate violence and consequently lead to breaking of the ceasefire. This may have an impact on our program and staff. Therefore all staff in the field have been advised to monitor the situation carefully. Staff are also revisiting the previous guidelines/talking point/tools and techniques provided to them.

Humanitarian response to people affected by conflict (IDPs)

While the full magnitude of population displacement is unknown, best reliable estimates suggest that up to 200,000 Nepalese may have been internally displaced by the conflict, with perhaps 2 million or more moving to India in recent years. Many INGOs along with UN organizations are finalizing the objectives, strategies and indicators for humanitarian assistance not only for the distribution of non-food items to IDPs and other vulnerable populations but also economic recovery through the livelihood interventions to the population targeted. CARE Nepal is also planning to work on IDPs and strongly highlighted this issue in the preparatory work for the Intermediate Strategic Plan (ISP).

Imposition of Code of Conduct by the government to tighten control over NGOs work in Nepal

CARE is very concerned over the announcement by the government of a Code of Conduct (CoC) for Nepali and International NGOs (INGOs) through an ordinance, which potentially can have profound impact on their work.

Catholic Relief Services

US Contacts

Julie Ideh
Regional Representative, South Asia
209 W. Fayette Street
Baltimore MD 21201
Tel: 410-951-7448
E-mail: jideh@crs.org
Website: www.crs.org

Peter Constable
Resource Specialist
209 W. Fayette Street
Baltimore MD 21201
Tel: 410-951-7255
E-mail: pconstab@crs.org

Field Contact

Kevin Hartigan
Regional Director, South Asia
5 Community Center, Kailash Colony
New Delhi 110 024
India
Tel: +91-11-2648-7256
E-mail: khartigan@crsindia.org

Snigdha Chakraborty
Regional Program Manager
5 Community Center, Kailash Colony
New Delhi 110 024
India
Tel: +91-11-2648-7256
E-Mail: schakraborty@crsindia.org

Introduction to Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services is the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Founded in 1943, the agency provides assistance to people in over 90 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CRS is committed to provide assistance to the poor on the basis of need, not creed, race or nationality.

Catholic Relief Services in Nepal

CRS has been implementing programs in Nepal since 2001 as an outreach program managed from our Delhi Regional Office. Prior to this, CRS provided need-based support on disaster response to the local Caritas partner. As CRS looks to greater involvement in Nepal, there is on-going assessment of the operating challenges in the country and identification of opportunities to enhance the institutional capacity of local partner organizations in programmatic and organizational management.

Sectors into which programs in Nepal fall:

Disaster and Emergency Relief with Conflict resolution
Gender Issues/Women in Development
Education in relation to Refugees and Migration

Specific locations of projects or programs:

The largest focus of CRS programs is disaster response and preparedness. This is implemented in the west and far west for conflict induced disasters and throughout the country for natural

disasters. As a component of these programs, CRS also has conflict resolution activities in the west and far west of Nepal. In east Nepal, CRS supports an education program in seven Bhutanese refugee camps and gender programs in the border districts due to the high incidence of trafficking.

Scale of Programs:

The value of CRS' Nepal program is approximately \$410,000 annually. However, emergency preparedness training and conflict resolution programming is expected to expand.

In addition, CRS has been sharing technical support to local partners in specific program areas.

Cooperative efforts with other local, international or governmental agencies:

The principal local partner for CRS in Nepal has been Caritas Nepal. CRS is working with other local implementing partners through Caritas Nepal. Some of the local national organizations are: ABC Nepal (counter trafficking organization), Shakti Samuha (survivor organization working on counter trafficking); Him Rights (human rights organization) working on research analysis on “Impact of Internal Conflict in Nepal”. CRS has also been working with UNHCR for its refugee program in east Nepal through Caritas Nepal.

Special concerns:

The internal conflict has negatively impacted the security situation in Nepal. Conflict is no longer localized and has spread to the whole country in varying degrees of magnitude. The west and far west remain especially precarious.

The human rights situation has deteriorated after the Royal Coup in February last year and all parties of the conflict have played a role in increased incidences of human rights violations.

The source of funding is strictly scrutinized in rebel-controlled areas. In many cases, rebels have actually closed projects supported by the British and US governments. Likewise, the Government of Nepal has introduced regulations to strictly monitor the funding and geographical targeting of local NGOs in order to control movement of funds.

CONCERN Worldwide

US Contacts

Dominic MacSorley
Concern Worldwide
104 East 40th Street, Room 903
New York , NY 10016
Phone: 212-557-8000
E-Mail: dominic.macsorley@concern.net
www.concernusa.org

Field Contact

Concern Worldwide Nepal
Kieron Crawley
P.O. Box 23914
Sanepa, Lalitpur
Kathmandu,
Phone: 554 8040, 552 1988
E-Mail: kieron.crawley@concern.net

Introduction to Concern Worldwide

Concern Worldwide is dedicated to the relief, assistance and advancement of the poorest people in the least developed countries of the world. Concern's mission is to enable absolutely poor people to achieve major achievements in their lives, which are sustainable without ongoing support from Concern. To this end, Concern engages in long-term development work, responds to emergencies and seeks to address the root causes of poverty. Concern works with the poor themselves and with local and international partners who share our vision to create just and peaceful societies where the poor can exercise their fundamental rights.

Founded in Ireland in 1968, Concern Worldwide works in 30 countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, providing emergency relief and long-term assistance in the areas of education, health, livelihoods (including agricultural training and microfinance) and HIV/AIDS.

Concern Worldwide in Nepal

Concern Worldwide is registered as an official international Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) with the Government of Nepal and is currently defining potential program interventions. In light of Concern's field assessment, programming will likely focus on the areas of Water and Sanitation and Food Security in the Karnali zone, one of the poorest and most conflict affected areas of Nepal. Local NGOs and communities themselves have identified drinking water and food as major priorities—chronic problems which has been exacerbated by the ongoing conflict.

Given the current humanitarian situation in many districts and the prospect of further deterioration, Concern also plans to work with local partners to build their capacity to respond in a full-blown emergency. Emphasis will be placed on identifying the most vulnerable and ensuring capacity to deliver aid to international standards such as Sphere's Minimum Standards in Disaster Response.

Lutheran World Relief

U.S. Contact

Sara Romeis
Program Assistant for Asia and the Middle East
Lutheran World Relief
700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-230-2805
E-Mail: sromeis@lwr.org

Field Contacts

Ira P. Lowenthal
Country Director, Nepal
Phone: 509-557-8779
E-Mail: ilowenthal@adfusa.org

Introduction to Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) works with partners in 50 countries to help people grow food, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods, and recover from disasters.

Lutheran World Relief in Nepal

LWR's project is being carried out in 18 wards of Chalnakhel and Setidevi Village Development Committees in the Southern part of the Kathmandu District of Nepal. It is expanding to include two new adjoining Village Development Committees in the Lalitpur district, Dukuchhap and Chhampi, where families in 18 wards will benefit.

In the current phase of our project in Nepal, 1,129 families will benefit from the program by 2009.

Habitat for Humanity

U.S. Contact

Mario C. Flores
Director, Disaster Response Office
121 Habitat St
Americus, GA 31709
Phone: 229-924-6935 ext. 2267
Fax: 229-924-0577
E-Mail: mflores@habitat.org

Field Contact

Lousie Currie
Country Representative
Habitat for Humanity International Nepal
GPO Box 24037, 4th Floor
Sagaramatha Complex
Naxal, Kathmandu.
Phone: 00-94-1- 437-0814 (res)
Mobile: 00-977-1- 9851017867
E-Mail: lcurrie_nepal@yahoo.com.au

Aruna Paul Simitrarachchi,
Regional Program Advisor
Habitat For Humanity International Nepal
GPO Box 24037,4th Floor
Sagaramatha Complex
Naxal, Kathmandu.
Phone: 00-94-1- 4437-585 (res)
Mobile: 00-977-1- 9851017867
E-Mail: arunapaul_123@yahoo.com

Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. As of 2005, Habitat has built over 200,000 houses working in 3,000 communities in more than 99 countries around the world, providing safe, decent, affordable shelter to more than 1,000,000 people.

Habitat for Humanity International in Nepal

Habitat for Humanity Nepal began its work in 1997 and currently works in six districts in both rural and urban areas. There are affiliates in Chitwan, Kailali, Lalitpur, Morang, Surkhet and Kaski. The organization is registered with the Social Welfare Council of the Government of Nepal as an INGO.

The objectives for Habitat for Humanity in Nepal are as follows:

- To assist lower income groups and families with adequate housing solutions
- To empower communities thru promotion of sustainable community development
- To work in partnerships with other development organizations in Nepal
- To play a responsive role in disaster mitigation and response (long-term recovery)
- To effectively apply housing micro-finance systems promoting savings habits (Save & Build)

- To promote the Building & Training Center concept as a methodology to introduce cost-effective technology and expertise.

Habitat houses in Nepal are one-story structures with three rooms, a kitchen and a toilet. Buildings are made from bricks or cinder blocks, stone, wood, cement and galvanized tin roofs. A house is normally about 32 m² in size and takes three to four weeks to complete.

Habitat - Nepal has built its first homes under the “Save & Build” approach at Jhapa in eastern Nepal. “Save & Build” reaches lower-income families by substantially reducing housing costs and shortening mortgage repayment periods. Under a “traditional” Habitat model, Nepalese home partners take on ten-year mortgages that are repaid at an average of US\$12 a month. As of 2005, Habitat for Humanity Nepal has served 897 families and the target for next year is to reach 350 additional ones. Most funding comes from private designated donations through Habitat for Humanity International.

Cooperative Efforts with Local, International, and Governmental Agencies

Habitat – Nepal has established strong partnerships with:

International NGOs

- World Vision International Nepal
- ADRA International Nepal
- United Mission of Nepal

Local NGOs

- Samjhauta Nepal
- Sahara Nepal

Local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

- Samuhik Hatemalo Sewa Samuha

Ongoing Concerns

Security is the main concern, compounded by an on-going insurgency by political rebels in the west of the country.

Refugees International

U.S. Contact

Michelle Brown
Refugees International
1705 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-828-0110
E-Mail: michelleb@refintl.org

Field Contacts

Please contact Home Office.

Refugees International does not have a field office in-country, but will take periodic humanitarian assessment missions to Nepal.

Introduction to Refugees International

Refugees International generates lifesaving humanitarian assistance and protection for displaced people around the world, and works to end the conditions that create displacement.

Refugees International in Nepal

RI is working to raise awareness about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and working with UN agencies, donors, and NGOs to ensure that they respond to meet the needs of internally displaced persons and others affected by the conflict.

Although RI does not have any programs in Nepal, advocacy work has been concentrated in the following areas:

- Disaster and Emergency Relief
- Education/Training
- Gender Issues/Women in Development
- Health Care
- Human Rights/Peace/Conflict Resolution
- Refugee and Migration Services

Save the Children

U.S. Contact

Tom Tauras
AVP International Program Management
Save the Children Federation
54 Wilton Road
Westport, CT 06880
Phone: 203-221-4144
E-Mail: ttauras@savechildren.org

Field Contact

Keith Leslie
Field Office Director
P.O. Box 2218
Khatmandu, Nepal
Phone: (011-977-1) 4412-598
E-mail: kleslie@savechildren.org.np

Introduction to Save the Children

Save the Children is a leading independent organization that creates real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world. Founded in the United States in 1932, SCF is a nonprofit child-assistance organization endeavoring to make lasting positive change in the lives of children in need. SCF works in 17 states across the United States as well as in over 40 countries in the developing world to help children and families improve their health, education and economic opportunities. Save the Children also mobilizes rapid life-support assistance for children and families caught in the tragedies of natural and man-made disasters. Save the Children is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, an association of 26 independent organizations that provides child-oriented emergency response, development assistance and advocacy of children's rights in more than 100 countries.

Save the Children in Nepal

Save the Children's general objectives in Nepal include:

- *Early Childhood Education (ECE)*
Improved access to and quality of education and early childhood development (ECD) opportunities, with a special emphasis on reaching disadvantaged children
- *School Health and Nutrition*
Improved health status of school-aged children, with a focus on increased access to care, availability of potable water and sanitation, and behavior change
- *Adolescent Development*
Healthy, educated and fulfilled adolescents, with emphasis on improving educational attainment and reproductive and sexual health status of adolescents aged 10-18 years, and increasing income of adolescents and use of income for betterment of their lives
- *Economic Opportunities*
Improved economic status of poor and marginalized women, especially those from the most disadvantaged caste groups and those affected by conflict
- *Social Inclusion*

Promote equity, justice, inclusion and cohesion among all communities in Nepal, with a special focus on socially excluded communities, including dalits and disadvantaged janjati and women

- *Children in Emergency and Crises*
Mitigate the impact of crisis on children and their families, with a focus on basic survival and protection, including psychosocial well-being

Sector-Related Projects

Education

- Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- Primary Education (PE)

Within the education sector 262 child-friendly schools have already been established. The initiative has enhanced the relationship between school teachers, parents, students and community people, heightened the awareness of child rights, abolished corporal punishment, significantly reduced gender and caste discrimination, and improved physical and learning environments of the schools.

Health

- School Health and Nutrition (SHN)
- Saving newborns, and child health and survival
- Reproductive health: safe motherhood/family planning
- HIV/AIDS

Adolescent Development

- Experiential learning
- Adolescent reproductive & sexual health
- Livelihood

Social Inclusion

- Human Rights, Peace/Conflict Resolution

About UJYALO

SC is implementing various programs within this sector through UJYALO, a large conflict mitigation program through which key services are provided to victims of conflict (VOCs). These services include starter funds for war widows, displaced persons, war affected single women and other affected people, legal aid to victims of torture, education support and psychosocial services. So far 239 VOCs have been supported with income generation programs, and 2725 children have been provided with educational support.

Psychosocial Support

Psychosocial services are provided through Community Counselors (CCs) who receive six months training, as well as community-based psychosocial workers (CPSWs). CPSWs are also responsible for raising awareness about psychosocial issues at the community level; identifying people in need of support; and providing some level of support through normalizing the lives of VOCs. Similarly, Sanjivani, a five -week long resilience-promotion program for children is conducted in schools.

Children in Emergency and Crisis: Child Protection, Peace Education, Anti-Girl Trafficking

One of the key interventions of UJYALO is the establishment of village and district level Child Protection Committees (CPCs) that protect the neutrality of children through various peacebuilding activities and provide direct support for affected children in the areas of education, livelihood training, and psychosocial support. So far 98 CPCs have already been formed in the affected districts.

UJYALO has developed a community-based approach to develop local-level strategies to make schools safer places for children: the Child Protection in Schools (CPS) approach. Similarly, Peace Education is being piloted for the first time in Nepal. Peace education training has already been given to 30 teachers. In the future, this will be expanded to 95 more schools. Peace Building Trainings are being imparted to communities who can then be catalysts for positive change. Thus far, 1,382 people have been trained in peace building through UJYALO.

Partnerships for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict (PPCC) Project

Save the Children is also leading coordination among national and international organizations in Nepal through the Partnerships for Protecting Children in Armed Conflict (PPCC) project. Save the Children works closely with Watchlist in this effort. The group is working together using their existing capacities to document cases and trends relating to violations of children's right to education during armed conflict, and will seek response or remedy for children affected by this violation. The project aims to directly link the process of gathering information, with advocacy or activities that will provide a tangible response or remedy to this violation.

Other Areas of Focus

- Business Development, Cooperatives and Credit
- Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Responses
- NGO sector strengthening
- Programs for ex-Kamaiyas and dalit, and other marginalized communities

Specific Locations of Projects and Programs

SC private funded core programs, ECD, PR, and AD, are in the Siraha District in the Eastern region of Nepal, and Kailali and Kanchapur in the Far Western region. In addition to these, 39 out of 75 districts are covered by the grants funded programs.

Scale of Programs

In fiscal year 2004, around 755,000 beneficiaries were covered by Save the Children programs in Nepal, for a total cost of USD 4,470,722.

Funding Sources

- Save the Children Private Donations
- USAID Grants
- World Vision
- JSI
- FHI
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- Gates Foundation

Cooperative Efforts with Local, International, and Governmental Agencies

SC/USA and its implementing partnering NGOs closely collaborate with District Development Committees (DDCs), Village Development Committees (VDCs), INGOs and other district and regional level networking and coordination committees to facilitate advocacy initiatives on improving access and quality services in health and education, and to protect and promote rights of children in the working areas.

At the national level, SC/USA works with the Department of Education and Health, the National Health Training Center, National Health Education Information and Communication Center core members (CARE, PLAN, ADRA). The HFO also collaborates with other INGOs, i.e. ActionAid, The Asia Foundation, Winrock International and IDE.

Likewise, the collaborative work includes the Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) and national level networks such as the Coalition for Children as a Zone of Peace (CZOP) and the Save the Children Alliance.

Special Concerns

Save the Children is taking precautions on security issues, though there is one-sided ceasefire at the moment.