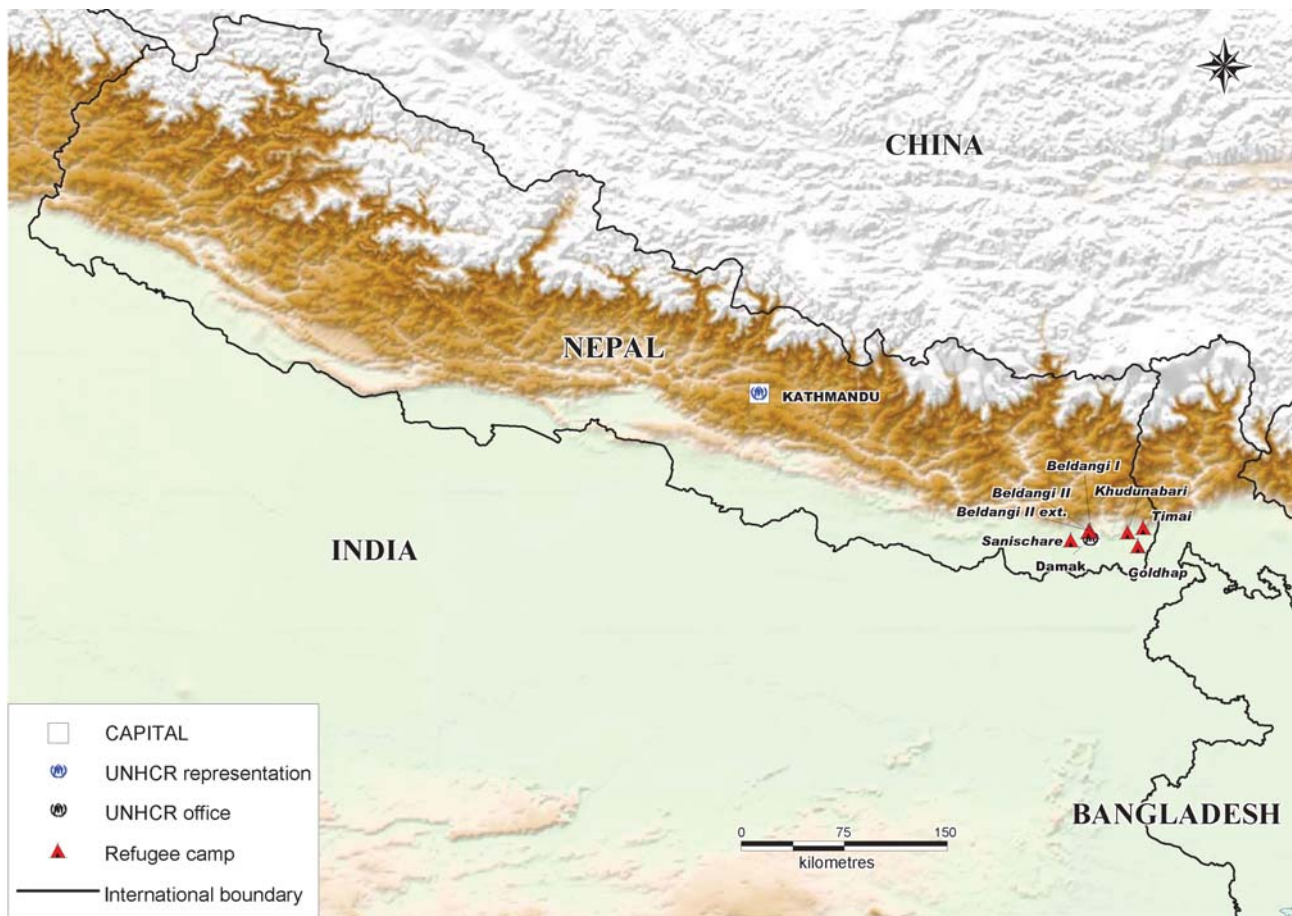


Nepal



Operational highlights

- In May, the Government of Nepal and UNHCR completed a census of refugees living in camps.
- In November, the Government of Nepal announced it would allow refugees from Bhutan who wished to apply for resettlement to do so.
- In December, the authorities began distributing photo identity cards to all registered refugees above 16 years of age.
- UNHCR assisted more than 2,550 Tibetans in transit through Nepal, including some 2,150 new arrivals.
- In Kathmandu, the Office protected and assisted some 300 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 17 new arrivals. Twenty-one vulnerable refugees were resettled in third countries.
- UNHCR helped search for solutions for the estimated 50,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nepal by conducting 20 community-level consultations in the most affected districts.

Working environment

Despite significant achievements, such as the promulgation of an interim Constitution, the formation of an interim parliament and government, and new measures for participatory democracy, 2007 was a turbulent year in Nepal.

The Terai region, bordering India, remained particularly insecure due to continuing protests by the Madhesi community and other marginalized groups seeking proportional representation and regional autonomy.

The return of security forces to the refugee camps in October improved law and order. Conditions had deteriorated significantly in the summer of 2007, when two refugees died and several families fled the camps following violence by anti-resettlement groups.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Nepal were to:

- Seek durable solutions for refugees to bring an end to their protracted displacement, while ensuring that they receive adequate protection and assistance in the camps.
- Provide international protection to urban refugees and asylum-seekers pending assessment of their claims, and identify appropriate durable solutions for refugees.
- Support efforts to find solutions for people displaced by conflict within Nepal. This includes providing information related to their right to return to regions of origin.
- Improve the health and nutrition of the refugees in the camps.

Protection and solutions

Political instability in Nepal did not allow for the establishment of an international protection regime for refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. However, UNHCR continued to advocate for Nepal's accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Meanwhile, the Office assessed the individual claims of urban asylum-seekers and worked with an implementing partner to assist the most vulnerable.

The cooperation of the Government and the support of a core group of countries committed to finding durable solutions for refugees in Nepal paved the way for the census of camp-based refugees, distribution of refugee identity cards, improvements in camp security and the new national policy on resettlement.

In addition, UNHCR conducted workshops in Nepal's eastern and mid-western districts – the areas most affected by the country's 11-year conflict – to create an

environment conducive to the sustainable return home of IDPs. The Office also produced a comprehensive report on statelessness in the country, which included recommendations on how to improve conditions among disadvantaged groups, in particular the elderly and women.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Targeted programmes addressed the needs of different groups of refugees. Those affected by sexual and gender-based violence were provided with medical, legal and psychosocial support. Women held more than half the decision-making positions in the camps, with two women serving as camp secretaries.

Domestic needs and household support: Most refugees remained dependent on assistance to meet their household needs. All refugee families received cooking-fuel briquettes, and all refugee women and girls of reproductive age were provided sanitary napkins. The production of relief items in the camps created income-generation opportunities, particularly for refugee women with specific needs.

Education: Nearly all school-age children were enrolled in refugee-managed primary and secondary institutions. The drop-out rate remained at less than 2 per cent in 2007. Adequate educational and recreational materials were distributed throughout the year.

Food: While WFP provided basic rations for all refugees, UNHCR supplemented the rations of people with specific needs. Every refugee was given 260 grams of vegetables per week, and children with severe malnutrition were provided therapeutic feeding. A pot-gardening project helped 226 families with malnourished children. Females made up more than half of those involved in the distribution of food and non-food items, and no incidents of sexual exploitation related to food distribution were reported. The Office established quality control and distribution monitoring mechanisms for all assistance programmes.

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Bhutan	107,800	107,800	49	34
	Tibetans	20,200	-	48	-
	Various	220	220	-	-
Refugee-like situation	Bhutan	2,500	-	49	34
Asylum-seekers	Bhutan	1,600	-	42	31
	Various	80	80	-	-
IDPs		50,000	50,000	-	-
Returnees (IDPs)		50,000	50,000	-	-
Stateless		800,000	-	-	-
Others of concern	Various	140	130	-	-
Total		1,032,540	208,230		



UNHCR/V. Tan

Market in the Goldhap camp, Nepal.

Health and nutrition: The quality of health facilities was improved by renovations and the creation of private areas for counselling and testing, as well as obstetric consultations. Drugs, updated diagnostic equipment, furniture and anti-infection supplies were provided to Primary Health Care centres. Two ambulances and two referral vehicles were put at the disposal of the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia-Nepal (AMDA), one of UNHCR's implementing partner, and emergency ambulance services were provided to refugee patients in need.

Chronically ill patients received specific medications. Of the nearly 20 per cent of refugee patients who needed referrals, the vast majority were sent to primary health centres, and a small number to secondary and tertiary centres. More than 240 refugee patients benefited from consultations with a psychiatrist. Reproductive health services were strengthened through a six-month consultancy, which provided updated guidelines on safe motherhood, management of obstetric emergency care, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), prevention and diagnosis of sexually transmissible infections.

Legal assistance: All refugees in need of legal assistance, including all victims of sexual and gender-based violence, were given counselling and representation, if needed. Nepal Bar Association lawyers advised 71 refugees and represented 43 cases in court. Legal aid clinics, organized twice a month in the camps, raised refugees' awareness of issues pertaining to naturalization as well as the laws governing common crimes. UNHCR's advocacy persuaded the Government

to agree that from 2008 it would register refugees' vital events, such as births, deaths and marriages. Refugees, local authorities and police personnel were trained to be aware of refugees' rights and responsibilities in the prevention of, and response to, sexual and gender-based violence.

Operational support (to agencies): Adequate management structures supported all planned activities, and UNHCR contributed towards the operational costs of implementing partners.

Sanitation: Latrines were maintained, garbage was collected and cleanup campaigns were conducted regularly. The waste from health centres was safely disposed. Over 2,840 latrines were repaired and 1,991 roofs replaced for vulnerable families. More than 4,000 sunken latrine pits were shifted and 373 sunken latrines renovated, while 52 latrines damaged by natural calamities were renovated. About 100 waste disposal pits were maintained to ensure proper solid-waste management. Thirty refugee families were included in a pilot bio-compost project, helping them manage waste disposal within their households and earn income by selling the composted material produced.

Shelter and infrastructure: All families in the camps had adequate shelter, with 10 per cent of huts renovated and another 530 damaged by natural calamities and accidents repaired. Drainage development and river protection projects were implemented in the camps, footbridges and roads were kept in good condition, and some 170 solar street lamps were installed. In the Tibetan Transit Center, a

separate dormitory for women and girls guaranteed them more privacy and security.

Transport and logistics: Access to the refugee camps was unhindered, despite a difficult operational environment. Sufficient stocks of relief items and the participation of women in their distribution ensured smooth and fair deliveries.

Water: No outbreak of waterborne diseases was reported. The availability of drinking water in the camps was within acceptable standards and its quality was regularly tested.

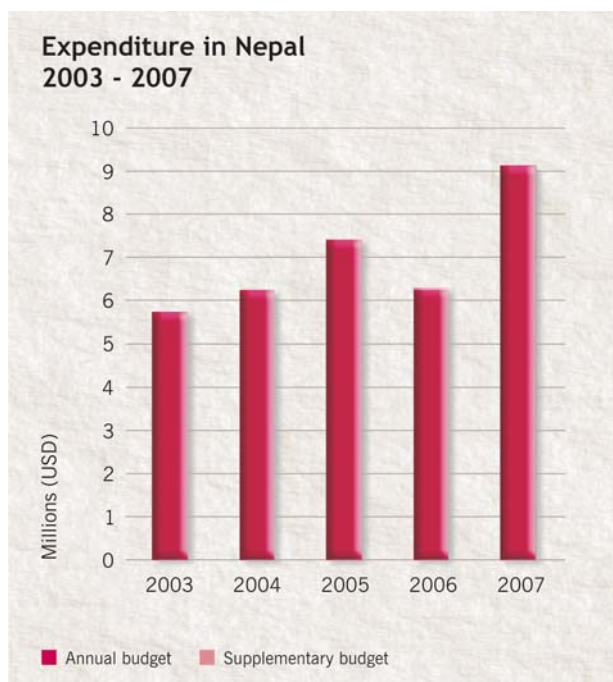
Constraints

While unpredictable security conditions and constant strikes at the local level remained a serious challenge, the return of police to the camps helped to reinstate law and order and defused the tensions and fears resulting from intimidation by anti-resettlement groups.

As refugees were not allowed to work, they remained dependent on UNHCR assistance. The camps were cramped, with almost no room for new construction.

Financial information

The operation in Nepal was fully funded. The timely receipt of additional resources ensured that the camp census as well as programmes to promote durable solutions, improve refugees' health and nutrition, and prevent and combat HIV and AIDS could be implemented. Expenditures in 2007 reverted to the trend that preceded the 2006 austerity measures.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR operated with 85 staff (27 internationals, including JPOs, deployees and UNVs, and 58 nationals, including national UNVs). UNHCR's Representation office in Kathmandu was responsible for the overall management of the country operation as well as for liaising with the Government, diplomatic missions and others. Operations in eastern Nepal were coordinated by the office in Damak.

Working with others

The Office consolidated implementing arrangements with nine partners (three international, including UNV, and six national, of which one was governmental). It also started a new partnership with three additional national NGOs. The Office cooperated with the other UN agencies, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the National Human Rights Commission on issues related to internal displacement.

Overall assessment

The concerted efforts of the Office, the Government of Nepal and the core group of interested countries opened up, for the first time, the possibility of durable solutions for a large number of refugees in Nepal. The registration activities and the distribution of individual identity documents provided significant protection dividends.

Moreover, UNHCR contributed to the creation of an environment conducive to the sustainable return of IDPs. The Office organized and conducted – with support from OHCHR, OCHA, the National Human Rights Commission and the Norwegian Refugee Council – a series of district-level workshops on IDPs issues in areas where needs were deemed greatest.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Ministry of Home Affairs/ National Unit for the Coordination of Refugee Affairs

NGOs: Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (Nepal), CARITAS (Nepal), Nepal Bar Association - Jhapa Unit, Lutheran World Federation, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs-Associations of Nepal, General Welfare Pratishthan, Knight Chess Club, Maiti Nepal, ProPublic, Informal Sector Service Centre, Norwegian Refugee Council, Forum for Protection of Public Interest

Others: Tribhuvan University - Faculty of Law

Operational partners

NGOs: NRC, ICMC, IRC

Others: UN Country Team

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	9,459,349	5,340,420	3,868,848	9,209,268	9,133,527

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,901,006	0
Community services	152,386	14,687
Domestic needs and household support	1,138,359	222,116
Education	527,099	84,421
Food	162,574	25,865
Health and nutrition	1,168,455	156,577
Legal assistance	915,307	17,818
Operational support (to agencies)	235,996	18,538
Sanitation	16,877	6,404
Shelter and infrastructure	170,432	6,159
Transport and logistics	121,411	18,634
Water	71,512	6,469
Instalments with implementing partners	1,086,556	(577,687)
Sub-total operational activities	7,667,971	0
Programme support	1,465,556	0
Total expenditure	9,133,527	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure		(5,357)
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	4,682,893	
Reporting received	(3,596,337)	
Balance	1,086,556	
Previous years' report		
Instalments with implementing partners		
Outstanding 1st January		631,382
Reporting received		(577,687)
Refunded to UNHCR		(24,249)
Adjustments		(1,765)
Balance		27,681