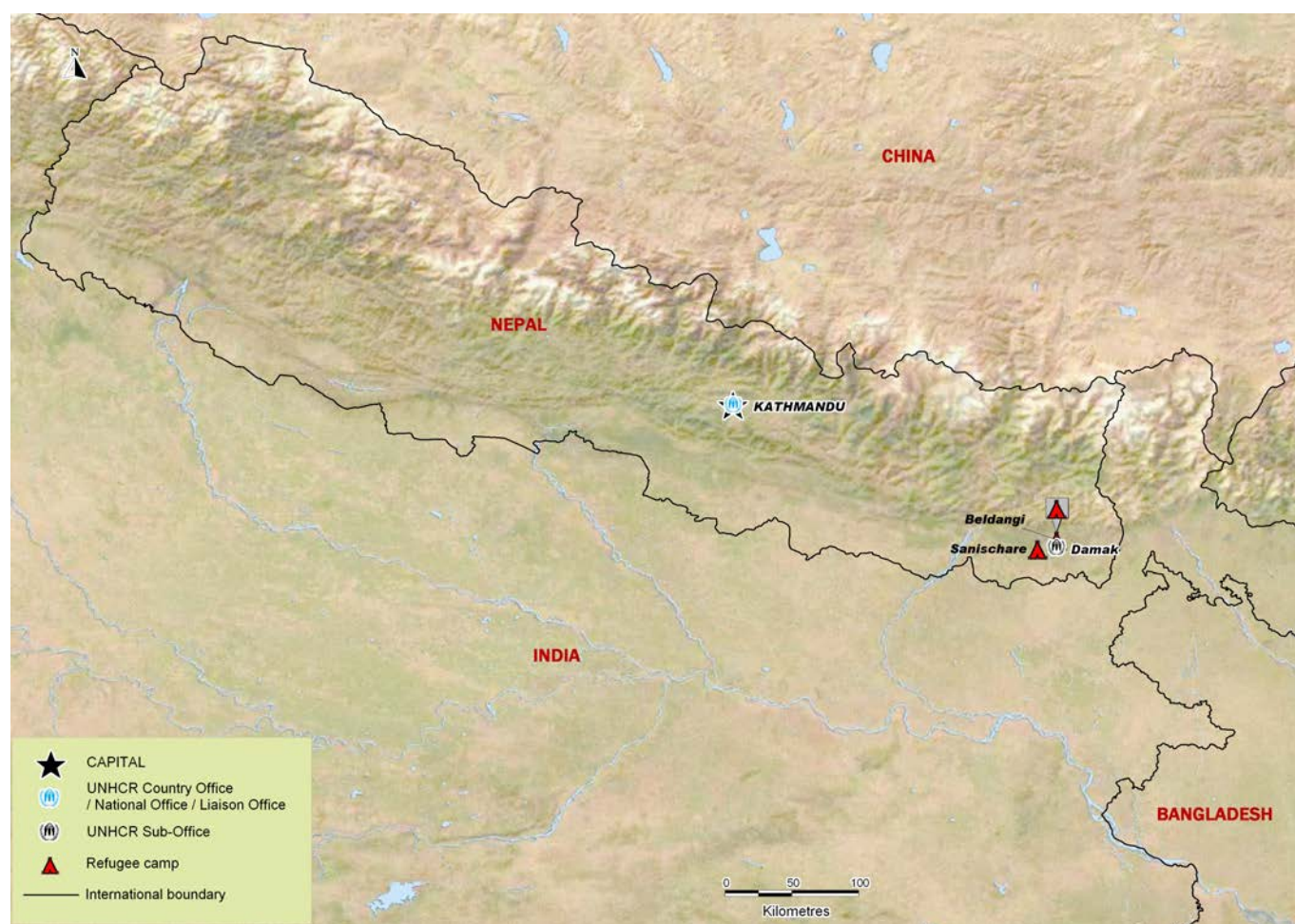


NEPAL



| Working environment |

o The context

Nepal continues to host a large number of refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Bhutan. However, since the start of a third-country resettlement programme in late 2007, more than 69,000 of the original 108,000 refugees from

Bhutan have departed for eight different countries. The United States of America has accepted the largest number of refugees, followed by Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The resettlement departures have allowed the Government of Nepal, with the support of UNHCR, to reduce the number of refugee camps for the refugees from Bhutan from seven to two.

Planning figures for Nepal

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Bhutan	39,810	39,810	28,190	28,190
	Tibetan	15,000	-	15,000	-
	Various	280	280	280	280
Persons in refugee-like situations	Bhutan	1,890	-	1,890	-
Asylum-seekers	Various	20	20	30	30
IDPs	Nepal	50,000	-	50,000	-
Stateless people ¹	Stateless	*	*	*	*
Others of concern		660	250	660	250
Total		107,660	40,360	96,050	28,750

¹ UNHCR previously reported an estimated number of 800,000 persons who do not possess a citizenship certificate as stateless. The Government of Nepal has stated that individuals cannot be regarded as stateless only on the ground that they have not obtained the citizenship certificate. UNHCR will continue its dialogue with the Government of Nepal to clarify and address the situation.

UNHCR staff provide information about durable solutions to a Bhutanese mother in Beldangi refugee camp.



UNHCR/P. GHIMIRE

UNHCR has submitted the plans for a five-year Community Based Development Programme/Transitional Solutions Initiative (CBDP/TSI) to the Government for its approval. The CBDP/TSI is a comprehensive strategy to facilitate the transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development in the refugee-hosting and impacted areas, promoting peaceful coexistence between communities and pending the voluntary repatriation of the refugees.

While Nepal has generously hosted thousands of refugees from Bhutan and other countries for several decades, it is not a

signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. UNHCR continues to advocate for Nepal's accession to the international refugee instruments and the adoption of a national legal framework to address asylum issues.

● *The needs*

Although the number of refugees in Nepal is declining, the needs for protection and assistance among those who remain are high. UNHCR will continue to seek comprehensive solutions for

Main objectives and targets for 2013

Favourable protection environment

- Access to territory is improved and the risk of *refoulement* reduced.
 - ☞ No credible cases of *refoulement* are reported.

Security from violence and exploitation

- The risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is reduced and quality of the response to it is improved.
 - ☞ All survivors of SGBV receive support.
- The protection of children is strengthened.
 - ☞ Best Interest Determination (BID) interviews are conducted for 75 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children.
 - ☞ Some 25 per cent of out-of-school adolescents are assisted through targeted programmes.

Basic needs and essential services

- The health status of the population is improved.
 - ☞ All persons of concern have access to primary health care.
- The population has optimal access to education.
 - ☞ All persons of concern aged 6-13 are enrolled in primary education.

Durable solutions

- The potential for resettlement is realized.
 - ☞ All identified persons of concern are resettled or have their cases submitted for resettlement.
 - ☞ All persons of concern deemed to need urgent or emergency support are resettled.

UNHCR's presence in 2013

□ Number of offices	2
□ Total staff	157
International	10
National	62
JPOs	2
UNVs	4
Others	79

the more than 44,000 refugees from Bhutan still in Nepal as of July 2012. In 2013, UNHCR will facilitate the resettlement of up to 15,000 refugees. Resettlement referrals have seen a remarkable 99 per cent acceptance rate, and more than 34,000 of the remaining refugees have expressed their interest in resettlement.

While fulfilling the protection-related needs of the remaining refugees from Bhutan remains a priority, UNHCR is planning to implement the CBDP/TSI with the support of the Government and the UN Country Team. These activities have been designed to promote peaceful coexistence and the sharing of public services by the remaining refugees and the approximately 350,000 local residents in the refugee-hosting areas. The final programme document is currently pending the Government of Nepal's approval.

UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to some 300 urban refugees and asylum-seekers from some 10 different countries. They are considered as illegal immigrants under the law of Nepal. This creates protection challenges for UNHCR, although in practice the authorities have been respecting the principle of *non-refoulement*. The search for durable solutions continues to be challenging, and resettlement remains the only option.

Some 800 Tibetans continue to transit through Nepal to India annually, although this number may be lower in 2013. UNHCR protects and assists them during their short stay in Nepal and facilitates their safe transit. Nepal also hosts an estimated 15,000 Tibetans who arrived in the country prior to 1990 and were recognized by the Government as refugees. However, not all of them have been registered and many remain without documentation. UNHCR will continue to promote registration and documentation of the long-staying Tibetans.

A number of eligible Nepalese do not have citizenship certificates, which has an impact on their access to rights and services. UNHCR and other agencies conduct a broad range of educational and sensitization activities aiming at helping those without citizenship certificates to gain access to such documentation.

| Strategy and activities |

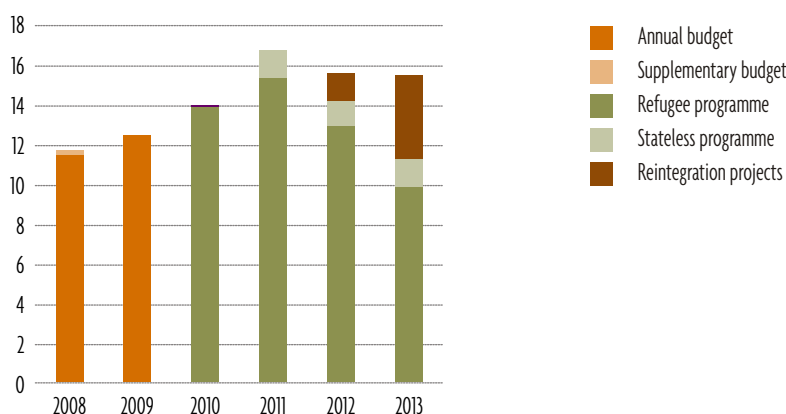
UNHCR will continue to implement the large-scale resettlement programme for refugees from Bhutan in cooperation with the Government of Nepal, resettlement countries and IOM. At the same time, it will work to protect and assist refugees in the camps, with a particular focus on women, girls and people with specific needs. UNHCR will continue to work with the international community to promote comprehensive solutions, in particular voluntary repatriation.

To help refugees make free and informed decisions, UNHCR will provide information on durable solutions through targeted sessions as well as mobile counselling, which has already been successful in the camps. Anti-fraud efforts will be given priority. UNHCR will also strengthen measures to prevent, identify and respond to child protection issues, particularly for children with specific needs and those who are unaccompanied or separated. The risk of exposure to SGBV for individuals deemed especially vulnerable to it will be significantly reduced through targeted and sustainable community-based SGBV prevention programmes.

In cooperation with the Government and the UN Country Team and after the programme document has been endorsed by the Government of Nepal, UNHCR will implement joint projects under the CBDP/TSI for refugees and host communities. It will also encourage other

UNHCR's budget in Nepal 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



UN agencies to work in refugee-hosting areas.

UNHCR will continue to promote the protection of urban refugees and asylum-seekers. It will also work to ensure that refugees' basic needs are met and vulnerabilities addressed in a timely and systematic manner. Resettlement as a durable solution for urban refugees with specific needs or protection concerns will be pursued alongside advocacy with the Government to simplify the visa waiver process for refugees accepted for resettlement.

For Tibetan new arrivals, UNHCR will ensure comprehensive protection and assistance and facilitate their travel to India. UNHCR will also work closely with the Government at all levels to ensure respect for the principle of *non-refoulement* and advocate for the issuance of refugee documents to the long-staying population of Tibetans in Nepal.

In collaboration with other UN partners, UNHCR will sensitize the Government and NGO partners on the issuance of citizenship certificates and birth registration documents. Particular attention will be paid to women and disadvantaged groups.

● *Constraints*

The loss of skilled and experienced refugee workers as a result of resettlement poses challenges for the maintenance of basic services in the camps. The commitment of the eight core resettlement countries will be essential if family unity in resettlement is to be maintained. Some family members of those who have been resettled have expressed a wish to observe the lives of their relatives in the resettlement countries before taking the decision to declare their interest in this durable solution. This is particularly so among vulnerable individuals who face the prospect of short-term or permanent separation from their already resettled family members. The situation requires appropriate resources to undertake individual counselling and organize out-reach information dissemination taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable individuals.

Organization and implementation

● *Coordination*

In 2013, UNHCR will liaise closely with other UN agencies on issues of common

interest. Once the programme has been approved by the Government of Nepal, development agencies will be involved in implementing the CBDP/TSI activities that would benefit both refugees and host communities. With regard to access to citizenship certificates, UNHCR will work with other UN agencies, local NGOs and academic institutions to advocate for laws and practices that meet international standards as well as for the adoption of a national refugee law.

UNHCR will continue to work closely with the Government, receiving countries and IOM on the resettlement of refugees from Bhutan. Partnerships with the local authorities and Armed Police Force will be strengthened, particularly in the areas of refugee safety, delivery of assistance and third-country resettlement.

Financial information

The reduction in the number of refugees in the camps as a result of resettlement has led to a drop in the overall requirements to USD 15.6 million for 2013. The cuts are mainly related to the camp management programme for refugees from Bhutan, although there are increases in the requirements for CBDP/TSI components after the programme has been endorsed by the Government of Nepal. Protection and assistance programmes for other persons of concern will continue.

Consequences of a funding shortfall

- UNHCR's capacity for resettlement processing/submissions would be affected, preventing it from meeting the targets of resettlement countries. This could hurt refugees' opportunities for resettlement.
- Education in the camps would suffer due to cuts in the provision of school supplies, a reduction in opportunities for vocational/skills training and a lack of resources for the replacement of teachers leaving for resettlement.
- The delivery of basic services and non-food items for refugees from Bhutan would be reduced, with supplies of fuel and soap and the construction of semi-permanent shelters for vulnerable refugees being drastically affected.
- UNHCR's ability to adequately address issues such as SGBV and domestic violence would be negatively affected.

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies

Ministry of Home Affairs

NGOs

Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

Caritas Nepal

Forum for Protection of Public Interest Nepal

Lutheran World Federation

Nepal Bar Association

Trans-cultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal

Vajra Foundation Nepal

Forum for Women, Law and Development

Dalit NGO Federation

Others

UNOPS

UNV

Operational partners

Government agencies

Ministry of Home Affairs

Others

IOM

UNDP

UNICEF

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

WFP

WHO

2013 UNHCR's budget in Nepal (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
Law and policy	0	455,871	0	455,871
Access to legal assistance and remedies	416,627	0	0	416,627
Access to territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	225,216	0	0	225,216
Subtotal	641,843	455,871	0	1,097,714
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Reception conditions improved	805,046	0	0	805,046
Registration and profiling	393,501	0	0	393,501
Refugee status determination	51,669	0	0	51,669
Subtotal	1,250,216	0	0	1,250,216
Security from violence and exploitation				
Prevention and response to SGBV	176,348	0	0	176,348
Protection of children	321,687	0	0	321,687
Subtotal	498,035	0	0	498,035
Basic needs and essential services				
Health	1,515,095	0	0	1,515,095
Reproductive health and HIV services	455,866	0	0	455,866
Nutrition	563,123	0	0	563,123
Water	177,707	0	0	177,707
Shelter and infrastructure	504,816	0	0	504,816
Access to energy	1,231,512	0	0	1,231,512
Services for people with specific needs	978,946	0	0	978,946
Education	1,330,935	0	0	1,330,935
Subtotal	6,758,000	0	0	6,758,000
Durable solutions				
Integration	0	0	4,258,080	4,258,080
Resettlement	616,609	0	0	616,609
Reduction of statelessness	0	947,885	0	947,885
Subtotal	616,609	947,885	4,258,080	5,822,574
Leadership, coordination and partnerships				
Camp management and coordination	125,673	0	0	125,673
Subtotal	125,673	0	0	125,673
Logistics and operations support				
Operations management, coordination and support	26,979	0	0	26,979
Subtotal	26,979	0	0	26,979
Total	9,917,356	1,403,756	4,258,080	15,579,191
2012 Revised budget (as of 30 June 2012)	12,955,089	1,351,420	1,411,101	15,717,610