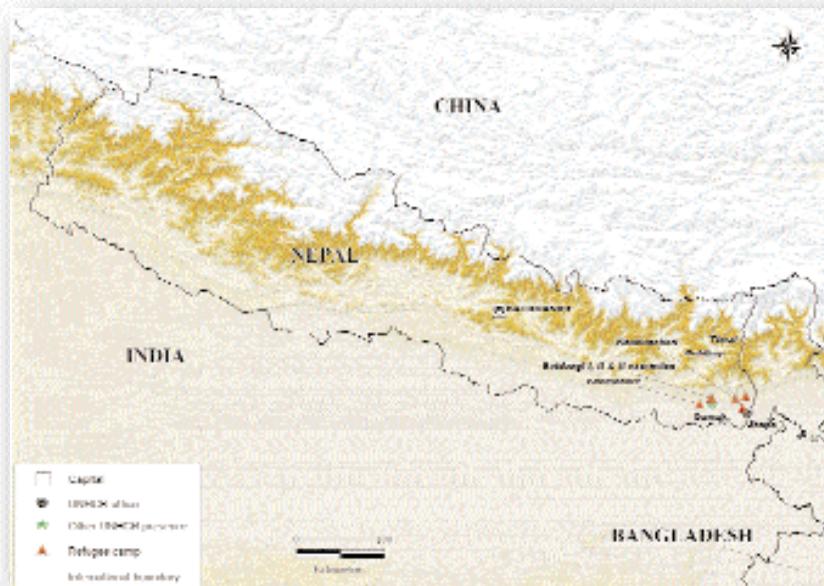


Nepal

Main Objectives

- Facilitate the bilateral verification process being conducted by the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal and seek durable solutions for the Bhutanese refugees.
- Protect and assist Bhutanese refugees until a lasting solution is found.
- Promote self-reliance for the Bhutanese refugees and encourage their active involvement in camp management.
- Assist newly arrived Tibetans during their transit through Nepal.
- Conduct refugee status determination of asylum-seekers and provide legal advice and assistance to urban refugees.
- Promote accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the adoption of a national law on refugees.



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

In the pursuit of a durable solution for some 100,400 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal held their tenth round of bilateral talks in Kathmandu in December 2000. During these talks the two Governments agreed upon a definition of the nuclear family unit to be used by a Joint Verification Team. The Joint Verification Team will classify the population of the camps with a view to identifying those who may be considered eligible for return to Bhutan. The bilateral agreement so far precludes any formal role for UNHCR in the verification process, which began in March 2001. Further to the 11th Ministerial Joint Committee meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan in August 2001, procedures have been simplified and the verification process has been slightly accelerated. Voluntary repatriation is expected to take place after the two countries have harmonised their positions on the durable solutions on the camp population including eligibility for return.

PLANNING FIGURES		
Population	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002
Bhutanese Refugees	100,400	103,300 ¹
Tibetans	2,500	2,500
Other Individual Refugees	25	25
Total	102,925	105,825

¹ Figure may need to be adjusted according to the number of Bhutanese refugees authorised for repatriation to Bhutan.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 5,760,044

Constraints

UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance to the 100,400 Bhutanese refugees hosted in seven refugee camps in eastern Nepal. Not being allowed to work, the refugees remain dependent on external assistance.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

Pending completion of the verification process by the Joint Verification Team, UNHCR will continue to ensure that the

basic rights of the Bhutanese refugees are respected in accordance with internationally recognised principles and standards. Humanitarian assistance will be provided in all seven refugee camps.

It is expected that the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal will address issues relating to voluntary repatriation to Bhutan, as well as alternative durable solutions. UNHCR will continue to provide technical expertise and assistance on these matters based on the UNHCR mandate.

Refugees from Bhutan, income-generating activities from chalk-making for Nepalese schools.
UNHCR/H. J. Davies.



Some 20,000 Tibetans who arrived in Nepal prior to 31 December 1989 have been permitted to reside in Nepal. As a result of the Office's on-going dialogue with the Nepalese authorities, it is anticipated that identity and travel documents will be issued to all members of this group. Each year some 2,200 Tibetans arrive in Nepal. UNHCR will continue to assist new Tibetan arrivals and facilitate their onward journey to third countries, as to ensure that those Tibetans willing to return to their place of origin can transit Nepal in safety.

UNHCR will assist a small number of mandate refugees (see glossary) with either voluntary repatriation to various countries or resettlement. UNHCR will continue to advocate non-refoulement and ensure that the detention of asylum-seekers is kept to a minimum.

The Eminent Persons Group, consisting of prominent academics, former judges and former high-ranking government officials, has worked to raise awareness of refugee and migratory issues in the region. The Eminent Persons Group of Nepal will continue to encourage the Nepalese authorities to adopt the Model National Law on Refugees.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to promote activities conducive to greater self-reliance in the refugee camps and greater participation in camp management by the Bhutanese refugees themselves. This has already proved useful in reducing the cost of delivering assistance and has contributed greatly to raising refugees' self-esteem. Some 1,900 Bhutanese refugees (30 per cent of them women) are currently working with various agencies in the camps. Educational assistance, income-generating and skills training projects will continue.

UNHCR will continue to provide kerosene for cooking purposes, in order to reduce environmental degradation. Refugee shelters and essential health facilities will be rehabilitated as required. Refugees will continue to play an active role in the provision of health services and the rehabilitation of shelters and camp facilities. Extremely

vulnerable refugees, including the elderly, the physically disabled, and the mentally ill, will continue to be identified, assisted or referred to appropriate institutions. UNHCR will ensure access to primary education for all refugee children in camps and will arrange training for refugee teachers.

Basic assistance in the form of food, shelter and health care will be provided to Tibetan arrivals in transit in Nepal.

Desired Impact

Bhutanese refugees in Nepal will receive adequate protection and assistance until a comprehensive bilateral agreement allows for their voluntary repatriation or the attainment of other durable solutions. Refugees will participate actively in camp management and in community development projects. Women will play a greater role in management and decision-making. All children will have access to education.

The basic needs of Tibetans will be met upon their arrival in Nepal and during their temporary stay in Nepal.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

In 2002, UNHCR will operate with 36 staff in Nepal (eight internationals, including two JPOs, and 28 nationals). The Office in Kathmandu is responsible for overall management of the programme as well as liaison with the Government, diplomatic missions and NGOs. Operational activities for the Bhutanese refugees are co-ordinated through an office in Bhadrapur (in Jhapa district, eastern Nepal) and supported by a field presence in Damak.

CO-ORDINATION

UNHCR works with three national and two international NGOs. On all refugee matters, UNHCR co-ordinates with the Ministry of Home Affairs, through its Refugee Co-ordination Unit in Jhapa. Other UN agencies, such as UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, provide technical assistance to UNHCR in their respective areas of expertise. WFP provides basic food rations; various international and national NGOs assume other forms of assistance. Each camp has a Management Committee, a Refugee Women's Forum and Sub-Committees through which the refugees participate in camp management, skills-development, health and sanitary services, and fire prevention.

OFFICES

Kathmandu
Jhapa

PARTNERS

Government Agency

Ministry of Home Affairs / National Unit for the Co-ordination of Refugee Affairs

NGOs

Association of Medical Doctors in Asia

CARITAS Nepal

Lutheran World Federation

Nepal Red Cross Society

Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	802,360
Community Services	85,493
Domestic Needs	1,301,810
Education	558,261
Food	582,818
Health	603,552
Legal Assistance	303,658
Operational Support (to Agencies)	343,270
Sanitation	73,361
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	240,706
Transport/Logistics	257,780
Water	104,191
Total Operations	5,257,260
Programme Support	502,784
Total	5,760,044