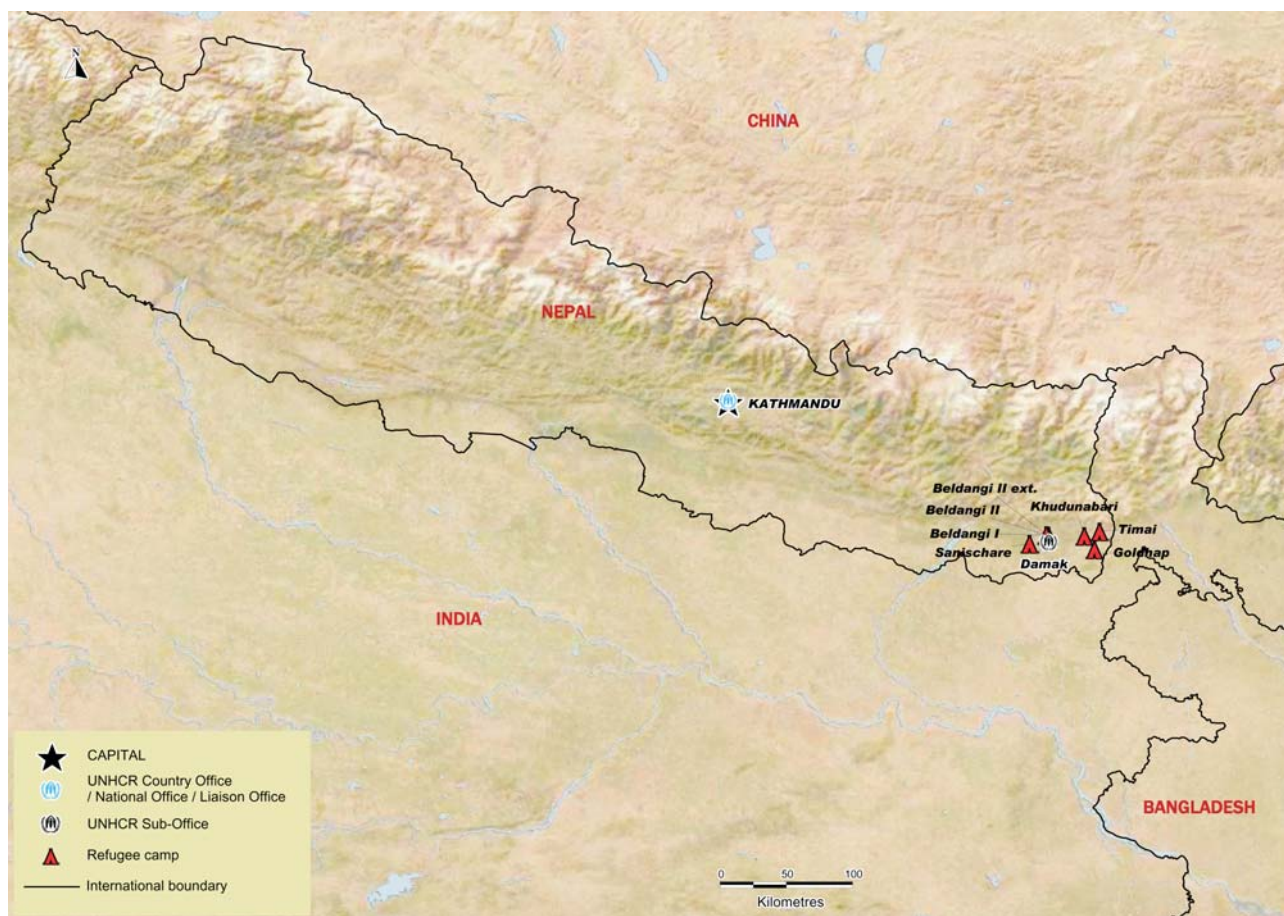


# NEPAL



## Operational highlights

- In 2010, UNHCR's Nepal operation ran the largest resettlement programme in the world, sending some 14,800 refugees, originally from Bhutan, to third countries. Since the large-scale operation began at the end of 2007, more than 40,000 refugees have been resettled. Of the 20,500 refugees referred to resettlement countries in 2010, 99 per cent were accepted.
- In December, the Government of Nepal formally endorsed UNHCR's proposal on camp consolidation and a community-based development programme in refugee-affected and hosting areas in the remote eastern districts of Nepal. The proposal was prepared in close consultation with UN agencies and other stakeholders.

- To prevent and reduce statelessness, UNHCR continued to work closely with a range of stakeholders to ensure that the citizenship policies adopted as part of Nepal's new constitution are consistent with international standards.

## Working environment

A political stalemate persisted in the country for more than six months, as Parliament failed to elect a new prime minister despite 16 rounds of voting following the resignation of Madhav Kumar Nepal in June 2010. Due to the political situation, the deadline for drafting the new constitution had to be extended for another year. Despite intermittent strikes called by different political parties and social groups, refugee camps remained largely accessible to UNHCR and its NGO partners.

## Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
<b>Refugees</b>	Bhutan	72,200	72,200	49	34
	Tibetans	15,000	-	-	-
	Various	270	270	39	38
<b>People in a refugee-like situation</b>	Bhutan	2,300	-	50	-
<b>Asylum-seekers</b>	Bhutan	900	-	38	28
	Various	20	20	35	41
<b>Others of concern</b>	Various	600	140	75	-
<b>Stateless<sup>1</sup></b>	Various	800,000	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>891,290</b>	<b>72,630</b>		

<sup>1</sup>800,000 is an estimated figure of individuals who lack citizenship certificates in Nepal; the exact number is currently unknown. In 1995, the Government of Nepal sponsored the Dhanapati Commission, which concluded that approximately 3.4 million Nepalis lack citizenship certificates. A Government-initiated task force then distributed 2.6 million certificates in 2007. The estimate of 800,000 was arrived at by deducting 2.6 million (number of certificates issued) from the original estimate of 3.4 million.



Some preliminary studies indicate that at least 800,000 people in Nepal, mostly from disadvantaged groups, do not possess citizenship certificates. In addition, the citizenship provisions in the current draft constitution put people at risk of statelessness.

Nepal has not acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, and has no domestic asylum law. In the absence of formal refugee legislation, the Government has adopted different approaches for different refugee populations.

## | Achievements and impact |

### • *Main objectives and targets*

UNHCR continued to search for durable solutions, mostly through the large-scale resettlement of refugees from Bhutan, while simultaneously ensuring adequate protection and assistance in the camps. Protection was provided to all urban refugees and asylum-seekers, with particular attention to those with specific needs. UNHCR assisted Tibetans in transit through Nepal, worked to ensure their access to protection and advocated for greater legal integration of long-staying Tibetan refugees in the country. At least half of the estimated 15,000 Tibetan refugees living in Nepal remain unregistered and undocumented. Advocacy on citizenship and the prevention of statelessness continued throughout the year.

## Favourable protection environment

- There were no major security concerns in the refugee camps. UNHCR worked closely with the local authorities and the Armed Police Force. Joint UNHCR-IOM resettlement processing was carried out without interruption, despite recurrent strikes by the local political parties affecting Jhapa and Morang districts. Meanwhile, UNHCR continued to protect and assist some 300 asylum-seekers and refugees living in urban areas. The Tribhuvan University Faculty of Law developed a model refugee law in consultation with UNHCR and civil society organizations.
- UNHCR prepared a series of technical papers on the proposed constitutional provisions relating to citizenship. The documents supported advocacy and helped to establish a national dialogue on the need for non-discriminatory access to citizenship rights.

## Fair protection processes

- Some 870 newly-arrived Tibetans received protection and assistance while in Nepal, and were helped to transit safely to India. Emphasis was placed on the needs of women and children, particularly unaccompanied minors. Since many Tibetans who arrived in Nepal before 1990 are still unregistered and without documentation, UNHCR is advocating for the issuance of identity documents for this group.



Clowns Without Borders from Scandinavia held a performance in six refugee camps in eastern Nepal, entertaining 7,500 refugee children.

UNHCR

## Security from violence and exploitation

- UNHCR strengthened its response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through improved reporting, multi-sectoral assistance and training and information dissemination. In 2010, more than 100 cases of sexual violence among refugees from Bhutan were reported, and all survivors were given adequate support and access to services. A total of 60 cases were registered in court, of which more than 40 received decisions. Five lawyers from the Nepal Bar Association provided camp-based legal assistance.
- Training and workshops were organized to improve the knowledge and capacity of the local authorities to address SGBV issues. The establishment of a community-based child care centre helped improve the protection of unaccompanied, separated and neglected children, while Best Interest Determination (BID) interviews were conducted for reported cases.

## Basic needs and services

- Almost all children of school-going age, of whom more than 50 per cent were girls, were enrolled in refugee-managed primary and secondary institutions. The education programme involved 800 volunteer teachers and school support staff. Children with disabilities attended school with the support of specialized teachers. Solar lights in classrooms allowed children to study during the evening hours. In addition, some 900 refugees (50 per cent female) received training in different vocational skills. Some 20 public schools in the host community were provided with material assistance to improve their capacity to receive refugee children.
- Efforts to protect the environment included the organized distribution of cooking fuel and use of solar cookers. WFP provided basic food rations to all refugees in the camps and supplementary feeding to targeted beneficiaries. UNHCR supplemented the rations with vegetables.
- The overall health and nutritional status of refugees remained at an adequate level. Refugee women were provided with cost-free birthing facilities in local hospitals, in line with national policy. UNHCR also supplied basic medical equipment to public health posts in the host community. Soap for laundry and bathing was distributed. Sanitary napkins produced in the camp by refugee women were provided to all refugee women of reproductive age.

## Community participation and self-management

- Women's representation and participation in refugee-elected camp management committees and various community-based groups remained high.

## Durable solutions

- UNHCR continued to work with the Government of Nepal, the Core Group countries – the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom – and the Government of Bhutan to find durable solutions for refugees from Bhutan in Nepal.

- Since the large-scale resettlement programme began in 2007, over 40,000 refugees from Bhutan have departed to the above-mentioned eight resettlement countries. In 2010, some 14,800 refugees departed from Nepal. The camp population was reduced to some 72,000 individuals by the end of the year from an initial population of some 108,000 persons before the start of the resettlement programme.
- In 2010 alone, just over 20,500 individuals' cases were submitted to resettlement countries, bringing the total number of submissions to more than 73,000. The acceptance rate remained high, at almost 100 per cent. In addition, some 15,000 refugees submitted a declaration of interest in resettlement. UNHCR ensured that refugees had access to all necessary information in order to make free and informed decisions regarding durable solutions for themselves and their families. It also expanded efforts to ensure the integrity of the resettlement programme and prevent fraud.
- For urban refugees, resettlement continued to be the only durable solution.

## External relations

- The Government has continued to uphold its commitment to facilitate the resettlement of refugees from Bhutan. The strong support of the Government of Nepal and the Core Group countries as well as close cooperation with IOM proved crucial in ensuring the uninterrupted processing of resettlement submissions.
- The resettlement programme continued to receive wide media attention, with the major highlights being the departure of the 40,000<sup>th</sup> resettled refugee and the start of the resettlement programme in the United Kingdom. UNHCR facilitated a number of donor missions as well as visits of other stakeholders. Some major public events, including exhibitions organized as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNHCR in December, helped UNHCR gain greater visibility.

## Logistics and operational support

- UNHCR continued to train and build the capacity of its implementing partners, while regularly monitoring their activities to enhance programme-management capacity and ensure effective use of funds. Moreover, adequate staffing and administrative resources were given to support the implementation of various activities related to protection, durable solutions and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Nepal.

## | Constraints |

The political stalemate had an adverse impact on the implementation of some of UNHCR's planned activities which required the engagement of Government bodies. Maintaining camp services at the desired level was challenging owing to the departure of skilled and experienced refugee workers, especially in health and education, as well as volunteers from camp management committees. UNHCR implemented a training programme



that included the local community to ensure the continuation of services.

## Financial information

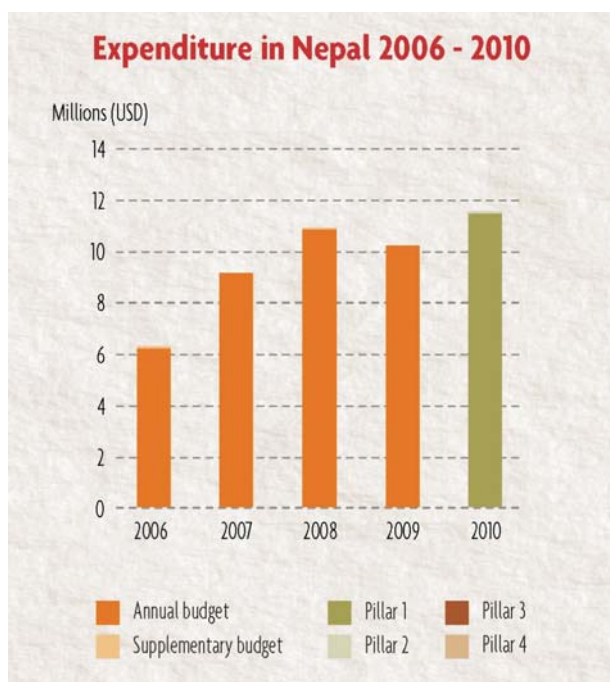
The operation in Nepal was on the whole well funded, with earmarked contributions from the European Commission (EC), Finland, Japan and the United States as well as the CERF. A multi-year commitment from the EC covering 2011 to 2014 will help ensure that core activities continue.

## Organization and implementation

In 2010 UNHCR maintained a Country Office in Kathmandu and a sub-office in Damak. The majority of staff are based in Damak, undertaking activities in the refugee camps and facilitating the resettlement programme.

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	<b>2</b>
□ Total staff	<b>174</b>
International	17
National	70
JPOs	3
UNVs	10
Others	74



## Working with others

UNHCR's initiatives on statelessness, community-based development programmes and camp consolidation involved intensive coordination with UN agencies, the Government and civil-society groups as well as donors. The Government provided continuous support and collaboration for resettlement activities. During 2010, UNHCR began a new partnership with Vajra Foundation Nepal to continue the solar cooker project, so that solar energy could be used as an alternative fuel for cooking by refugees in the camps. A new partnership was also initiated with Happy Nepal, a local NGO, to raise awareness and offer rehabilitation and counselling services to substance abusers.

## Overall assessment

The Nepal operation is both diverse and complex, making it challenging to strike a balance between competing priorities and operational needs. The UNHCR proposal on camp consolidation and a community-based development programme was the result of broad consultations with various ministries, other UN agencies, NGOs and bilateral development actors, and their support for this initiative remains crucial.

With regard to urban refugees, UNHCR continued to cater for their basic needs—including through durable solutions such as resettlement. UNHCR will continue to advocate for the prevention of statelessness in Nepal, especially as the current draft of the new constitution contains provisions which create a serious risk of *de jure* statelessness.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<b>Government:</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>NGOs:</b>	Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, CARITAS, Forum for Protection of Public Interest, Lutheran World Federation, Nepal Bar Association, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, Tribhuvan University, Vajra Foundation Nepal.
<b>Others:</b>	UNOPS, UNV
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<b>NGOs:</b>	Center for Legal Research and Resource Development
<b>Others:</b>	International Catholic Migration Commission, IOM, WFP

## Budget, income and expenditure in Nepal | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>14,000,436</b>	<b>70,351</b>	<b>14,070,787</b>
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	3,756,636	0	3,756,636
Other funds available	7,727,614	69,343	7,796,957
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>11,484,250</b>	<b>69,343</b>	<b>11,553,593</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN</b>			
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>			
National legal framework	182,968	3,475	186,443
Prevention of statelessness	0	56,565	56,565
Co-operation with partners	101,348	0	101,348
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	35,151	0	35,151
Access to territory	81,410	0	81,410
<i>Non-refoulement</i>	46,486	0	46,486
Environmental protection	97,236	0	97,236
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>544,600</b>	<b>60,040</b>	<b>604,640</b>
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>			
Reception conditions	476,175	0	476,175
Registration and profiling	210,344	0	210,344
Fair and efficient status determination	47,328	0	47,328
Family reunification	202,696	0	202,696
Individual documentation	145,008	0	145,008
Civil status documentation	26,363	0	26,363
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,107,915</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,107,915</b>
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>			
Law enforcement	141,274	0	141,274
Community security management system	32,260	0	32,260
Gender-based violence	126,138	0	126,138
Protection of children	193,507	0	193,507
Non-arbitrary detention	34,643	0	34,643
Access to legal remedies	110,927	0	110,927
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>638,747</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>638,747</b>
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>			
Nutrition	354,401	0	354,401
Water	167,103	0	167,103
Shelter and other infrastructure	261,703	0	261,703
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,186,575	0	1,186,575
Primary health care	1,086,571	0	1,086,571
HIV and AIDS	109,013	0	109,013
Education	808,242	0	808,242
Sanitation services	61,993	0	61,993
Services for groups with specific needs	881,415	0	881,415
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,917,015</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,917,015</b>

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	132,003	0	132,003
Community self-management and equal representation	37,704	0	37,704
Camp management and coordination	121,663	0	121,663
Self-reliance and livelihoods	346,924	0	346,924
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>638,294</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>638,294</b>
<i>Durable solutions</i>			
Durable solutions strategy	134,996	0	134,996
Resettlement	970,501	0	970,501
Local integration support	103,548	0	103,548
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,209,044</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,209,044</b>
<i>External relations</i>			
Public information	159,461	0	159,461
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>159,461</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>159,461</b>
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Supply chain and logistics	678,101	0	678,101
Programme management, coordination and support	875,230	0	875,230
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,553,331</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,553,331</b>
Instalments to implementing partners	668,752	9,303	678,055
Other objectives	47,092	0	47,092
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,484,250</b>	<b>69,343</b>	<b>11,553,593</b>

<sup>1</sup> Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities - mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.