



Government has agreed to large-scale resettlement within the framework of a comprehensive approach. The United States has announced its readiness to receive 60,000 refugees for resettlement and has begun preparations for large-scale resettlement processing. Canada has offered 5,000 places over the next five years, and other countries including Australia and New Zealand have indicated their commitment to provide resettlement places.

A census of the camp population conducted by UNHCR and the Government of Nepal was completed in May 2007. The census encouraged the Government to clarify status-related questions, allowed the systematic collection of information on specific needs and the identification of persons eligible for citizenship under Nepalese law. It also gave refugees the chance to raise individual protection concerns directly with UNHCR staff. Security needs that arose during the census operations and the ceasefire have motivated the Ministry of Home Affairs to begin reinstating the permanent police presence in the camps that had been absent since 2003.

The Government of Nepal has requested that UNHCR put on hold its refugee status determination of urban refugees, pending further consultations on possible modalities for future cooperation.

## The needs

The protracted nature of the refugee situation in Nepal leaves the refugees largely dependent on material assistance. Opportunities for income generation and small business promotion are limited due to the Government's restrictions. Priority needs include improvement of refugee shelters, latrines, waste disposal pits, water distribution systems and sanitation management in the camps. However, the situation is further hampered by limited space and overcrowding of the camps due to population increases and splitting of families.

Preliminary census results indicated a higher number of unaccompanied and separated children than reported earlier. Remaining gaps in the provision of material assistance, such as the provision of sufficient sanitary materials, clothing and blankets for refugee women and children, need to be filled. Activities to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS and expand access to voluntary counselling and testing need to be accelerated in 2008 to reach all groups at risk, particularly for young refugees and adolescents leaving the camps.

## Total requirements

2008: USD 8,816,251

2009: USD 8,893,496

## Main objectives

- Seek durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, notably through large-scale resettlement; ensure that they are able to make informed and free decisions; and that vulnerable members of the population enjoy legal and physical protection.
- Promote full registration and documentation to enhance protection and facilitate the search for durable solutions.
- Promote the development of a national protection regime in accordance with international standards.
- Assist Tibetans in transit through Nepal and prevent the *refoulement* of new arrivals.
- Ensure adequate nutrition for children and vulnerable persons, reduce the risk of HIV and AIDS, and improve water-supply, shelter and sanitation services.
- Provide international protection to individual refugees and asylum-seekers pending refugee status determination, as well as financial assistance to refugees in need pending durable solutions.
- Develop and promote a strategy to reduce statelessness.

## Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008 - Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Bhutan	104,500	104,500	93,000	93,000	75,000	75,000
	Tibetans	20,150	-	20,150	-	20,150	-
	Various	340	340	460	460	460	460
Asylum-seekers	Various	90	90	90	90	90	90
IDPs		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	50,000	50,000
Stateless Persons		1,000,000	-	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Others of concern	Bhutan	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
	Tibetans	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,237,580</b>	<b>207,430</b>	<b>726,200</b>	<b>696,050</b>	<b>658,200</b>	<b>628,050</b>



UNHCR/B. Reunier

Refugees in Goldhap camp, Jhafa district, eastern Nepal.

## Key targets for 2008 and 2009

- Camp populations and households are able to make informed and free decisions about their preferred durable solution.
- Group resettlement to third countries is available for the camp population.
- Conditions are in place for the voluntary repatriation to Bhutan of a first group of refugees.
- All refugees and asylum-seekers receive protection, and UNHCR assistance meets adequate standards.

## Strategy and activities

UNHCR will continue to work closely with the Government of Nepal, the Core Working Group of resettlement countries and the Government of Bhutan to find durable solutions for refugees in Nepal.

While the modalities for group resettlement are being determined, UNHCR will ensure that refugees fully understand the durable solutions options available to them, and will assist them to make a free and informed choice. The Office will also facilitate refugees' access to such solutions, including identifying and referring refugees for resettlement. In addition, UNHCR will work with the refugee community and the Government to facilitate access to other solutions, in particular the acquisition of Nepalese nationality for those who qualify under Nepalese law.

During the camp census carried out from November 2006 to May 2007, UNHCR reviewed the cases of non-registered children and adults as well as new asylum-seekers. The Office will encourage the Government to expeditiously screen and make decisions on these non-registered individuals, especially the children. The census, complemented by participatory assessments with refugees, will allow assistance to be targeted to meet individual needs. To enhance the protection of individual refugees, UNHCR and the Government will distribute photo identity cards to all refugees recorded during the census who are 16 years of age or older. Procedures to ensure the regular maintenance of registration data will be established by the Government with technical and logistical support from UNHCR.

New arrivals from Tibet transiting through Nepal will continue to seek protection and a durable solution in India. It is expected that India will provide *de facto* solutions for the vast majority of Tibetans. UNHCR will remain responsible for protecting and assisting Tibetans transiting through Nepal.

Approximately 20,000 Tibetan refugees who arrived in Nepal before 1990 have, to a large extent, integrated locally. However, their legal status in the country remains inadequate for their full and durable local integration. UNHCR plans to achieve progressive improvements in registration, the issuance of identity documents, and access to citizenship and civil registers for this group.

## Urban refugees

In the absence of national legislation on refugees, the Government considers them illegal immigrants. UNHCR will continue to advocate the adoption of legal instruments to address asylum issues. In 2008-2009 the Office will promote Nepal's accession to international refugee instruments and urge the Government to develop a national legal framework. UNHCR will continue discussions with the Government regarding refugee status determination.

## Stateless persons

According to a 1995 Government commission report on citizenship problems in Nepal, an estimated 3.4 million people in the country suffered from lack of access to citizenship. Statelessness was caused by restrictive legislation, which the Government amended at the end of 2006 with the adoption of a Citizenship Bill aimed at strengthening the ongoing peace process. UNHCR has made a thorough study of the citizenship/statelessness issue in Nepal. To reduce statelessness and the risk of it, the Office will seek further amendments to the law and improvements in its application through advocacy and technical assistance to the Government.

## Constraints

Intimidation and threats have been used in the camps to dissuade persons from accepting third-country resettlement. The lack of a regular police presence and insecurity in the camps is the greatest constraint to the implementation of durable solutions, and hampers refugees' ability to determine their preferred solution freely. Insecurity and the uncertain future of the peace process in Nepal continue to constrain camp access and delivery of assistance.

## Organization and implementation

### UNHCR presence

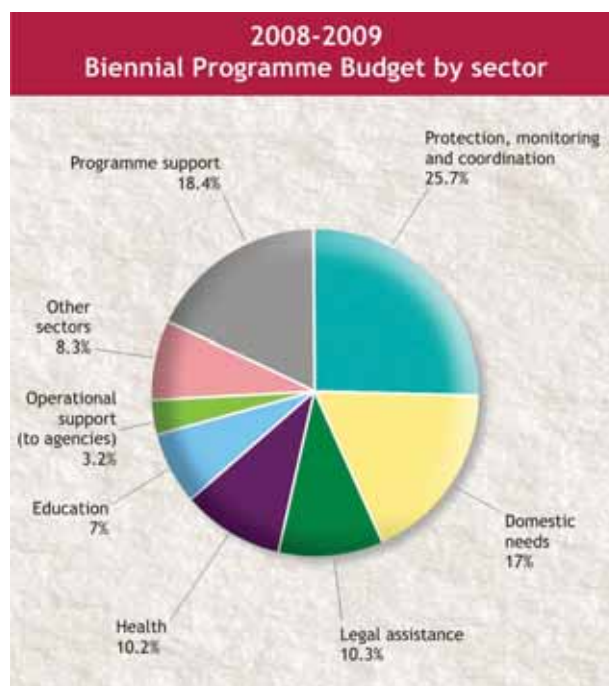
	2008	2009
Number of offices	2	2
Total staff <sup>1</sup>	76	76
International	9	9
National	40	40
UNVs	14	14
JPOs	5	5
Deployees	8	8

<sup>1</sup> Does not include additional staff for resettlement.

## Coordination

UNHCR will cooperate with the Government and the Core Group of resettlement countries on issues related to refugees in the camps. Coordination with WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OCHA, UNAIDS and implementing and operational partners will continue at the camp level.

Partners
<b>Implementing partners</b>
<b>Government:</b> Ministry of Home Affairs.
<b>NGOs:</b> Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (Nepal), CARITAS (Nepal), Nepal Bar Association, Lutheran World Federation, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs - Associations of Nepal, General Welfare Pratisthan, Knight Chess Club, Maiti Nepal, ProPublic.
<b>Operational partners</b>
<b>NGOs:</b> Norwegian Refugee Council, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Rescue Committee.
<b>Others:</b> UN Country Team.



## Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,790,507	2,323,081	2,222,480
Community services	82,665	200,241	178,759
Domestic needs	1,347,547	1,548,128	1,467,779
Education	584,698	598,298	635,372
Food	236,231	212,766	204,657
Health	654,883	1,018,594	789,066
Legal assistance	236,141	646,099	1,170,121
Operational support (to agencies)	194,419	230,476	327,554
Sanitation	19,239	21,277	17,336
Shelter and infrastructure	183,270	96,177	97,482
Transport and logistics	171,761	146,809	136,566
Water	61,220	81,135	80,212
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>5,562,580</b>	<b>7,123,081</b>	<b>7,327,385</b>
Programme support	1,413,063	1,693,171	1,566,111
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,975,643</b>	<b>8,816,251</b>	<b>8,893,496</b>