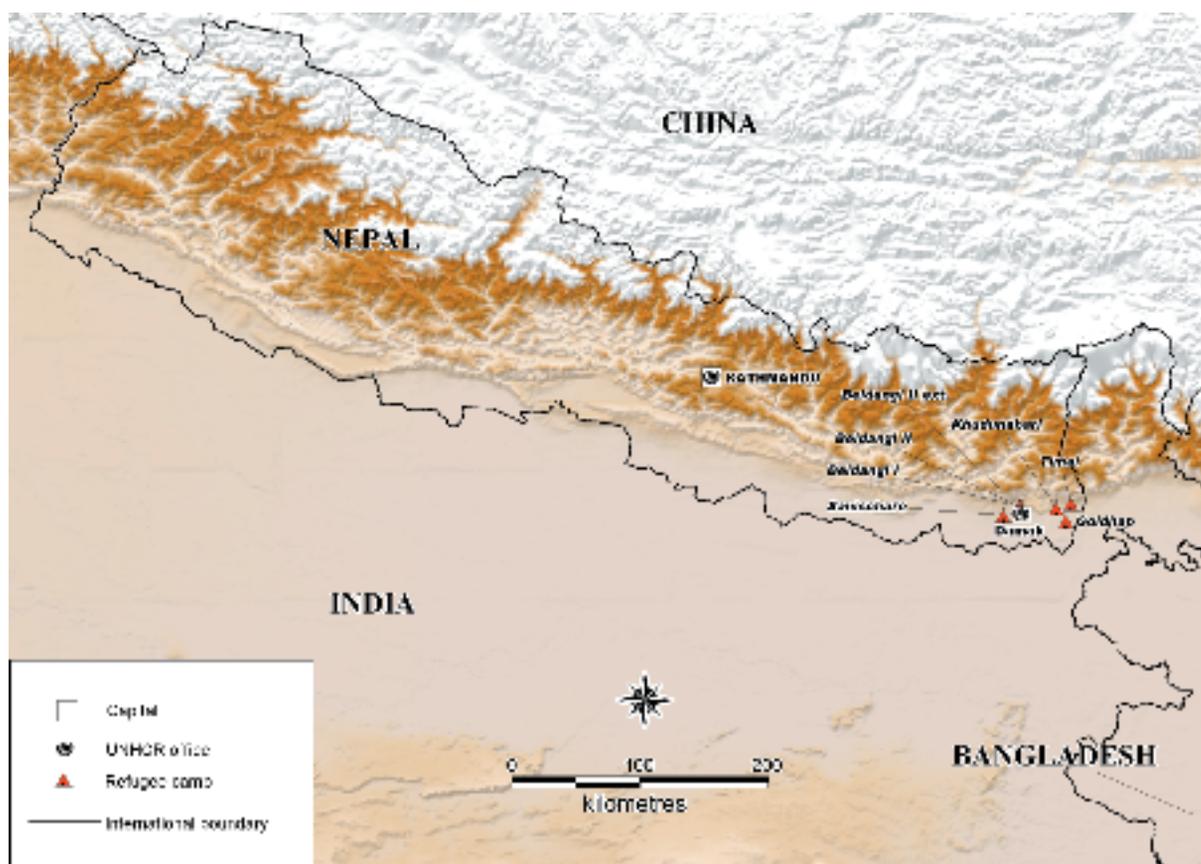


Nepal



Main objectives

- Provide legal and physical protection to refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern while pursuing durable, comprehensive solutions with relevant governments. Populations of concern include newly arrived Tibetans and individual mandate refugees.
- Actively participate in the inter-agency response to internal displacement; assist and protect internally displaced persons (IDPs) and seek to identify solutions within a collaborative approach.
- Promote harmonious relationships between refugees and surrounding communities, by means of joint development projects and environmental protection.

Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
IDPs ¹	200,000	200,000
Camp population	105,000	105,300
Tibetan refugees (settled)	20,000	20,000
Tibetans (in transit)	3,000	3,000
Mandate urban refugees/asylum-seekers	675	190
Total	328,675	328,490

¹ The number of IDPs in Nepal is an estimate, as currently there is no formal or comprehensive system for identifying or registering Nepalese IDPs.

Total requirements: USD 6,865,442

Working environment

Recent developments

In February 2005, the King dismissed the Government and assumed direct executive powers. National protection has been severely weakened by the resulting impasse – involving the Government, political parties, and rebels – as well as military clashes and civil unrest. In the rural areas, basic health, education, social and legal services are on the point of collapse. Tens of thousands of Nepalese have moved from their villages for protection and basic survival. As a result, the favourable protection environment towards refugees and asylum-seekers that prevailed in the past is being jeopardized.

The opening of an office by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to monitor, investigate and report on escalating human rights violations reflects a deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation. A concerted international effort is required to prevent the country from heading towards a serious complex emergency. UN and other international organizations are therefore putting forward a consolidated response plan, appealing for a total of USD 64.5 million.

Constraints

Volatile political and security conditions hinder progress in the search for durable solutions and continue to threaten the protection environment for persons of concern to UNHCR. General strikes have restricted UNHCR's ability to access and monitor the camps on a daily basis and have hampered the timely delivery of relief items. The lack of police presence in the camps is a cause for serious concern, as insurgents' activities have increased in the vicinity of the camps.

For the camp population, the protracted stay, lack of meaningful work opportunities and no apparent prospect of solutions fuel frustration and alter social and political attitudes within the refugee community. Pressure on primary health centres grows, with increased prescriptions and referrals

for further treatment for an ageing and anxious population; there are more chronically ill and psychiatric patients than ever. The camp space has become overpopulated and the average area per person is sub-standard.

While UNHCR remains committed to the comprehensive solutions approach to resolving this protracted situation – and there has been growing interest among the international community to support these efforts – much depends on the extent to which the two governments will be willing to broaden their approach within the framework of the bilateral process. To ensure adequate protection of the beneficiaries, UNHCR has recommended the implementation of its new registration system and standards in Nepal. The Office is still awaiting the approval of the Government to initiate this important and long overdue task.

The global increase in oil prices has reduced the already limited resources available for the refugees. In 2006, UNHCR will begin to introduce viable alternative energy sources to replace the kerosene used for cooking.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

Promoting protection and the identification of durable solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people will be coordinated with the Government, UN agencies, donors, displaced populations and NGO partners. The Office will pursue the improvement of the quality of asylum, emphasizing registration and individual documentation. It will also advocate for the right to work, access to education and health facilities and provide direct legal support, counselling and referrals. A similar approach will be adopted for IDPs, as many lack the basic but vital documents necessary to access public services within Nepal.

While respecting the bilateral process involving the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan in regard to repatriation, the Office will, in the interim, promote the resettlement of vulnerable refugees for



Bhutanese refugee boys in Khudunabari camp take a little respite from the monsoon rains. *UNHCR / J. Pagonis*

whom repatriation is clearly not an option. Local integration opportunities will be explored within the context of the comprehensive approach.

In 2005, the Government restarted individual status determination processes for asylum-seekers and new arrivals. With UNHCR supervision, case processing continues, in an effort to address the backlog of pending applications and appeals. In the camps, the Government has recently recognized 500 children who were not previously recognized as refugees, and has started providing temporary rations for them. UNHCR will work with the Government to build on this positive development.

To maintain peace and stability within the refugee camps, UNHCR will further enhance the role and responsibilities of community-based mechanisms in the camps requiring significant capacity building and close supervision.

Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the camps and among displaced groups is a high priority activity. The Office will maintain the current comprehensive and effective mechanism for response to SGBV survivors and their families and will further increase awareness among the community and local authorities. Problems such as early and forced marriages and the trafficking of women and girls will be addressed through mass information campaigns and educational and skills training activities. In order to carry out the same work for IDPs, intensified cooperation with UN agencies is required.

Due to the absence of local integration prospects for mandate refugees in Nepal, this population will be proposed for resettlement as soon as they are formally recognized as refugees.

UNHCR will continue to conduct mandate individual status determination of asylum-seekers in

Kathmandu. Due to prevailing conditions of insecurity, no substantial increase in the number of new asylum-seekers is expected, but the day-to-day protection concerns of those already in Nepal have increased. The Office will work to ensure that the detention of refugees and asylum-seekers is minimized.

UNHCR will continue to assist Tibetans transiting through Nepal to a third country by ensuring safe passage through Nepal and appropriate assistance en route, provided minimum security standards are met. The Office will increase missions to borders and other areas to ensure that the access of Tibetans to transit through Nepal is upheld.

Assistance

The assistance programme for the refugee population covers all aspects of their needs including food, health, education, shelter, water, sanitation, prevention and response to SGBV, as well as legal counselling and representation. The assistance component will be constantly reviewed and modified, focusing on durable solutions and self-reliance of the refugee population as well as protecting the environment and promoting coexistence between the refugees and host population. Female refugees will be given priority for skills training and leadership training activities. The refugee community will be encouraged and empowered to identify vulnerable families and design the appropriate safety net for each family. Increased self-reliance will continue with a particular emphasis on involving greater numbers of women in income-generating projects. In anticipation of a potential outbreak of avian flu or other threats to public health, a contingency response capacity will be built up in the areas of the camps.

The urban asylum-seeker and refugee populations are also heavily dependent on external support as they lack opportunities for self-reliance. The changing demographics of this group and their growing educational and psychosocial needs will be addressed through local partners. UNHCR will continue to provide urban refugees with protection, legal counselling and subsistence allowances. The Office will also continue to facilitate the passage of Tibetans who are of concern to UNHCR and

who are transiting through Nepal en route to a third country and will assist them with food, temporary shelter and medical care.

Within the context of the inter-agency humanitarian response in Nepal, UNHCR will provide protection, shelter and non-food assistance to needy IDPs. In addition to direct legal services, registration and documentation for IDPs, UNHCR will establish open information centres and mobile teams for displaced and vulnerable persons.

UNHCR will also continue to provide protection assistance to the pre-1991 Tibetan arrivals, especially regarding the issuance of identity cards, birth certificates for children born in Nepal and travel documents to those departing for family reunification abroad.

Desired impact

The camp populations, while receiving adequate protection and assistance pending durable solutions, will play an active role in managing their own communities, ensuring order in the camps and identifying and prioritizing their needs. Sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking incidents will decrease, with greater awareness and appropriate follow-up including legal action.

The mixed urban refugee groups' applications will be adjudicated by UNHCR protection staff within a reasonable period of time and according to procedural standards. Those recognized will be considered for resettlement.

The situation of IDPs in Nepal will be properly assessed on the basis of the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. Registration and documentation will be provided according to international standards. IDPs in need of shelter and basic domestic items will be identified and provided with material assistance as appropriate.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

UNHCR will operate with 59 staff (17 internationals, including JPOs and UNVs, and 42 nationals, including national UNVs). The Office of the Representative in Kathmandu is responsible for overall management of the country operations, as well as for liaising with the Government, diplomatic missions, NGOs and other interested parties. Operations in eastern Nepal are coordinated by the sub-office in Damak.

Coordination

UNHCR will lead standard setting for protection and assistance for refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern, working closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs. UNHCR will also coordinate the inter-agency response to shelter needs of IDPs in Nepal, and, together with OHCHR and OCHA, help set standards and responses to the protection needs of IDPs.

Refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs will be involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the activities relevant to their protection and well-being, including the participation of refugee women in camp management.

In order for refugees to be included in national programmes for health and education, coordination will continue with concerned government ministries, sister UN agencies, refugee organizations and international and national NGOs.

UNHCR will be actively involved in the UN Country Team (UNCT) on the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes. UNHCR continues to be an active member of the UN Security Management Team and Disaster Management Team. UNHCR coordinates or is represented on inter-agency groups focused on IDPs and matters related to sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking of women and girls and the promotion of birth registration and certification.

Offices
Kathmandu
Damak

Partners
Government agency
Ministry of Home Affairs / National Unit for the Coordination of Refugee Affairs
NGOs
Association of Medical Doctors of Asia
CARITAS (Nepal)
Lutheran World Federation
Nepal Bar Association
Norwegian Refugee Council
ProPublic
Others
WFP
OCHA
OHCHR

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,663,725
Community services	92,859
Domestic needs	2,054,683
Education	488,336
Food	114,193
Health	677,360
Legal assistance	114,817
Operational support (to agencies)	297,160
Sanitation	30,093
Shelter/other infrastructure	159,186
Transport/logistics	170,542
Water	61,771
Total operations	5,924,725
Programme support	940,717
Total	6,865,442