

Rural Reconstruction Nepal

Annual Report 2004



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Photograph on cover page: Women observing the beneficial and harmful insects in rice field, RRN, Morang.

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FOREWORD

Overall, the year 2004 did not bring encouraging messages in terms of development in Nepal. Although it could be disheartening to start a 'foreword' with a negative tone, we feel the ground reality should be laid bare: not to generate a feeling of hopelessness, but to urge everyone to think immediately and seriously about devising effective solutions to Nepal's development problems, which are aggravated by many national, regional and global factors.

Today in Nepal, poverty – despite what the official figures might suggest – is spiralling and is compounded by the protracted armed conflict which has enveloped the nation since 1996. Destruction and decimation continue to be the order of the day and the democratic process is at a standstill. The cases of human rights abuse are mounting – forcing the poor and marginalised to bear the heaviest burden.

Poverty is being created and perpetuated in Nepal by unequal socio-economic, cultural and political relations, along the lines of caste, gender, ethnicity and regionalism, and further aggravated by the neo-liberal development framework adopted by the national government. In Nepal, and globally, the poverty agenda is increasingly being captured by the ruling cliques, who define poverty as it suits their interests and prescribe self-motivated remedies. Nepal is in a situation now where, due to the absence of democracy, the 'politics of poverty' has been centralised in the hands of a few plutocrats who consider the neo-liberal, one-size-fits-all doctrine – imposed with an authoritarian iron fist – as the solution to the problem. This necessarily calls for the replacement of these harmful practices with genuine participatory and integrated development approaches that meet the fundamental needs of all, particularly the poorest of the poor.

It is in this context that we are presenting RRN's Annual Report outlining our work in 2004. RRN works with people whose lives are plagued by extreme poverty and discrimination. The desire to eliminate poverty and ensure sustainable development

and lasting peace continues to be our main motivating force. With multi-faceted development interventions, RRN strives to bring about positive change in the quality of life of some of the poorest people in Nepal and, despite the many difficulties and uncertainties, RRN continued to successfully implement its development programmes in 23 districts across Nepal throughout 2004. It has also undertaken valuable research, policy and advocacy work on key issues affecting the country and its people.

RRN's projects and programmes are implemented by more than 600 dedicated staff members and volunteers who are working hard to achieve our goals, often under very difficult political and physical circumstances. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of them for their selfless commitment and dedication to serving our beneficiaries in the highly conflict affected and remote areas of the country. Of course, my thanks are also extended to our funding partners and other partner organisations. Without their valuable and continued support and solidarity it would have not been possible to carry out our activities and raise the standard of living for so many poor, oppressed and marginalised people.

Writing now in mid 2005, we have witnessed yet another step backwards in terms of democracy and human rights in Nepal. Despite this, RRN remains committed and determined to defend and promote democratic governance, the realisation of human rights and an end to conflict, through our development projects and in our lobbying and advocacy work. Many difficult struggles lie ahead, but it is our sincere wish that future years will be marked not by further descent into conflict and violence, but by peace, democracy and the absence of poverty. We call on everyone to join with us and help to pave a path of progress and prosperity for the people of Nepal.

Thank you.

Dr. Arjun Karki, Ph.D.
President



INTRODUCTION

2004 saw no end to, or alleviation of, the evils that plague Nepal. Poverty, discrimination, exploitation, injustice, inequality and violent conflict continued to prevail, pushing the country deeper into deprivation and validating its continued status as a least developed country. No improvements were seen in terms of the political climate with democracy continuing to be eroded and the Nepalese people constantly living with volatility, fear and suppression. The heaviest burden borne by all is the protracted insurgency which entered into its ninth year, claiming a human toll of over 10,000 lives, as well as incalculable numbers of injuries, the destruction of infrastructure, the break up of communities and other fallouts that further battered a nation which was already reeling under desperate poverty.

Against such a dismal backdrop, RRN, with its family of 600 or more dedicated staff and volunteers, persisted in its mission to deliver a better life to the thousands of disadvantaged and marginalised rural poor across Nepal, particularly focusing on women and children as the most vulnerable members of society. Special credit and praise goes to all our staff in the field who worked enthusiastically and tirelessly with our beneficiaries despite the raging conflict around them. It is a matter of pride and inspiration too that, in 2004, RRN was able to expand to three new eastern districts – Ilam, Solokhumbu and Khotang – creating opportunities to reach out to many more deprived rural populations.

RRN, in collaboration with funding partners and like minded organisations, pursued its development programmes based on the four-fold approach of rural reconstruction, namely, education and awareness, health, sustainable livelihoods and self government, to effectively respond to the basic needs of the impoverished. In addition, the rights based approach adopted by RRN greatly enhanced the effectiveness of its development endeavours, particularly given the existing conflict scenario and the daily violations of fundamental human rights,

which is gradually taking the shape of a grave humanitarian crisis.

A key achievement was the fact that RRN continued to work successfully 'in conflict' despite the many risks, challenges and uncertainties. The year saw the Maoist insurgency and counter insurgency reach its worst intensity and mortality levels, making it even more difficult for development organisations to operate in remote rural communities. Notwithstanding this situation, RRN implemented projects in 23 (out of 75) districts in Nepal, engaging some 200,000 households in successful development work. Through its development projects, RRN maintained and strengthened social and economic capital at the local level by bringing community people together to identify, prioritise and implement projects of collective urgency. Engaging the community members in the implementation and monitoring of their schemes has contributed to institutionalising local leadership in community governance, and has been one of the main underlying causes of our continued success even in times of conflict.

RRN's programme work at the grassroots level is supported and enhanced by the many policy, research and advocacy activities that it undertakes at the national, regional and international levels, in collaboration with other like minded organisations. Issues such as pro-poor policies, promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, good governance and conflict transformation are high on our agenda. Currently RRN hosts the Secretariat of the South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), and of LDC Watch: just two of the many alliances which are helping in the fight for poverty eradication and the realisation of human rights for all. Enjoying a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, RRN also carried a pro-poor and pro-people voice to several UN meetings. Accreditation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) enabled it to successfully implement a Sustainable Resource Use and Management project in the Arun Valley in eastern Nepal.

STRUCTURE

RRN's Executive Committee, under the General Assembly at the top of the organisation, provides policy direction and guidance to the Management for the effective operation of the organisation's programmes and projects. It is elected every three years from among the members of the organisation. The President heads the management of RRN, and is responsible for making decisions regarding the policies, objectives and strategies of the organisation. The President works in co-operation with the Central Management Committee (CMC). Based on the Executive Committee guidelines, the CMC prioritises issues and concerns, develops programmes and projects accordingly, supervises and monitors their implementation and oversees the day-to-day functioning of RRN.

RRN's central office is located in Kathmandu, and acts as the principle administrative and co-ordinating body of the organisation. There are also three regional offices in the eastern, central and western regions and 23 different district offices across the country.

The organisation is made up of three divisions:

- ≪ Finance and General Administration Division
- ≪ Programme Division
- ≪ Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy

Finance and General Administration

The Finance and General Administration Division has responsibility for the financial and general administration, including human resource management. The division arranges the timely release of funds to the projects, supports the field offices with necessary logistical arrangements and equipment, ensures the maintenance of accounts and inventory records and collects and collates financial reports from the field. The division is also responsible for the recruitment of staff, in coordination with

concerned regional and district offices and central office staff. There are three units under this division:

Accounts Unit: responsible for managing the financial transactions of the organisation and maintaining the accounts.

Micro-finance Unit: responsible for monitoring, supervising and maintaining records of RRN's micro-finance related development projects.

Administration Unit: responsible for organising general administration and human resource management, including supporting project offices with logistics and equipment.

Programme Division

RRN's programme division facilitates and oversees all programmes and projects in the field. This division monitors and supervises the project activities, finalises project proposals and reports, liaises with funding partners and other organisations, and works in close co-ordination with field offices and other divisions in the central office.

This division also co-ordinates the non-formal education (NFE) programmes, skill development and technical training for project beneficiaries and for RRN staff as necessary. Furthermore, it is responsible for the management and smooth running of RRN's training centres.

Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy (CDSPA)

This division undertakes research on a wide range of issues, including poverty eradication, debt, trade, natural resource management, discrimination, human rights and peace and demilitarisation: all of which affect the lives of the rural poor, ethnic minorities, women and children in Nepal. The findings of such research are incorporated into the planning and design of RRN's development projects and policy advocacy activities. CDSPA is also

responsible for facilitating the involvement of RRN in different fora, networks and alliances, including South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and LDC Watch, and its participation in various campaigns, seminars and workshops at the local, national and international level.

This division also oversees the organisation's internal and external communication, the production of publications and the smooth running of the RRN resource centre, through the Communication and Documentation Unit (CDU). The CDU coordinates the publication of research documents, internal and external newsletters and all other RRN publications, including educational materials and posters



Publications available in RRN's Resource Centre

for RRN's project beneficiaries. In addition, it maintains RRN's reference centre at the central office, which comprises a broad collection of journals, books, booklets, reports, monographs and specialised publications produced by RRN, alongside relevant publications of other agencies. The CDU also has responsibility for disseminating information within the organisation, and to external stakeholders, including on RRN's programmes and policy and advocacy activities.

RRN
Publications

OUR BELIEFS

RRN believes that

- ⌘ The rural poor in countries such as Nepal are confronted by four basic and interrelated problems: poverty, ignorance, disease and civic inertia.
- ⌘ Because the rural poor comprise two thirds of the world's population, social peace will always remain an unattainable dream unless the rural poor are able to solve their basic problems, and achieve a standard of living equal to that of the rest of society.
- ⌘ The rural poor have the potential powers for self-development – what they lack is the opportunity to release and develop these powers.
- ⌘ The rural poor also have personal dignity and should be regarded with respect, not pity.

- ⌘ RRN subscribes to the philosophy and principles of the International Rural Reconstruction Movement, which are encapsulated in the following credo.

Rural Reconstruction Credo

Go to the peasant people
 Live among the peasant people
 Learn from the peasant people
 Plan with the peasant people
 Work with the peasant people
 Start with what the peasant people know
 Build on what the peasant people have
 Teach by showing, learn by doing
 Not a showcase but a pattern
 Not odds and ends but a system
 Not piecemeal but an integrated approach
 Not to conform but to transform
NOT RELIEF BUT RELEASE

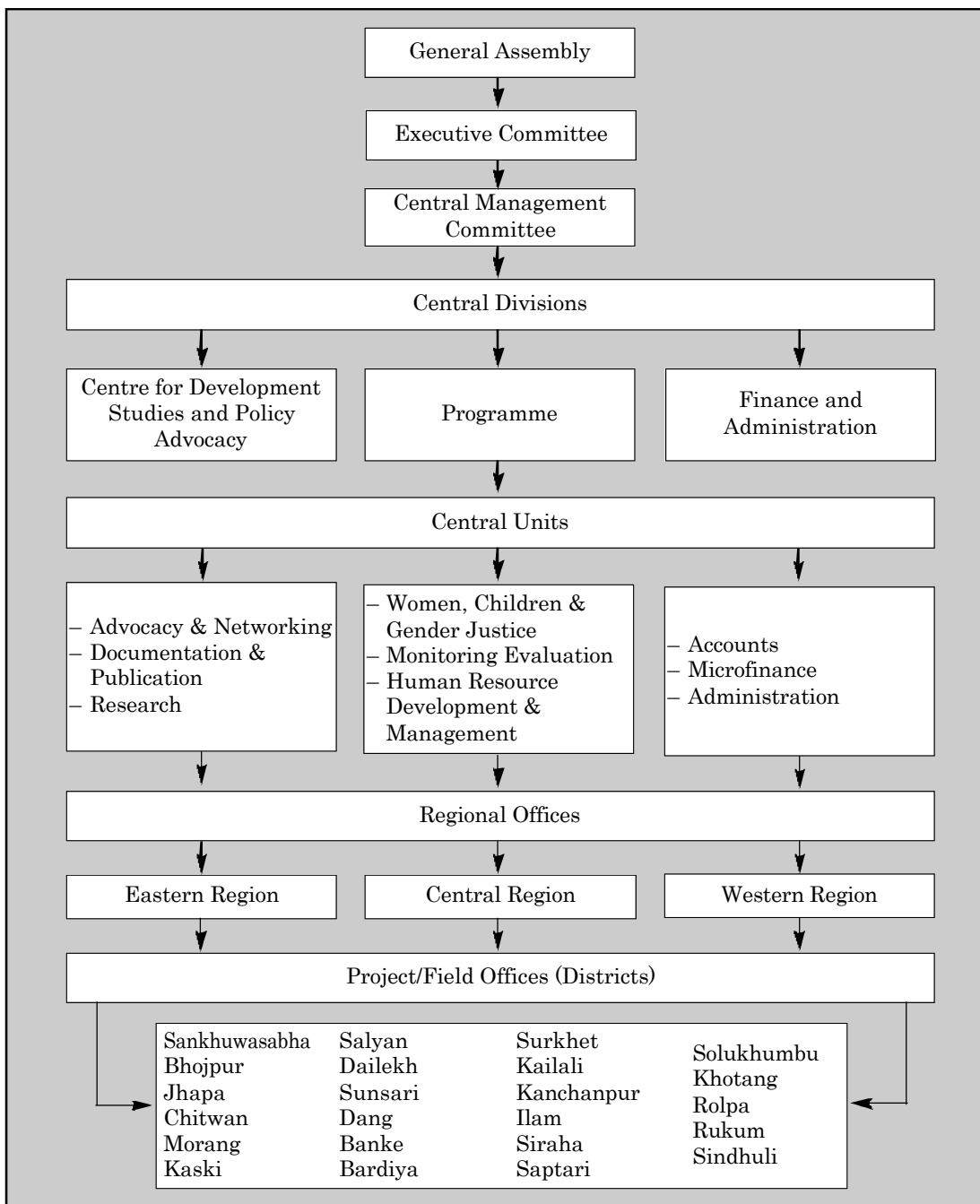
VISION AND MISSION

RRN envisions a world where there is JUSTICE, EQUALITY, PEACE and PROSPERITY for all citizens.

RRN's mission is to improve the lives of the poorest rural people, particularly rural

women, small farmers, landless people and other highly disadvantaged and socially oppressed strata of Nepalese society, by providing them opportunities for their own socio-economic empowerment.

ORGANOGRAM



OBJECTIVES

RRN's strategic objectives are to:

- ≪ implement development programmes from a rights based perspective in order to improve the socio-economic status of the poor, oppressed and vulnerable groups in rural areas and arrest the accelerating degradation of natural resources,
- ≪ conduct action orientated research on relevant socio-economic and environmental issues and incorporate the results into our development programmes and campaigns,
- ≪ publish people-oriented educational and advocacy materials and development publications, which can be used by the majority of the rural poor, field workers and others involved in rural development,
- ≪ Campaign at the local, national and international levels on the root causes of poverty, human rights violations and other key development issues.

STRATEGY AND APPROACH

RRN has a two-pronged strategy:

- ≪ To implement grassroots development projects and conduct action-oriented research focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable groups in rural areas.
- ≪ To raise awareness and promote policy changes through research, advocacy and lobbying at local, national and international levels about the root causes of poverty, the problems of the poor, social, economic and cultural rights and the right to development.

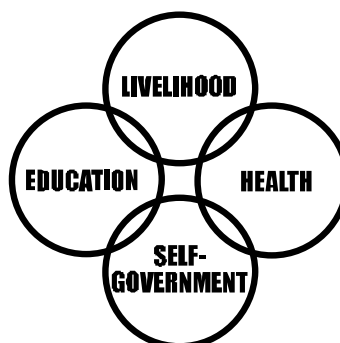
RRN actively integrates a rights based approach into all areas of its work. This approach is founded on the conviction that each and every human being is a holder of

rights and that promoting human rights is an integral part of improving development in Nepal. A right entails an obligation on the part of the government to respect, promote, protect, and fulfil it. The legal and normative character of rights and the associated governmental obligations are based on international human rights treaties and other standards, as well as on national constitutional human rights provisions. Thus a rights-based approach involves not charity or simple economic growth, but a process of changing systems, actions and priorities to enable and empower people to claim and realise their economic, social, cultural and political rights as well as the right to development.

PRIORITY THEMES

RRN's development projects and programmes are based on the four-fold approach to rural reconstruction, which covers

- ≪ Education and awareness to combat illiteracy and empower people to access their rights
- ≪ Sustainable livelihoods to fight poverty
- ≪ Health to prevent disease
- ≪ Self-government to overcome civic inertia



Education and Awareness

Accumulated evidence, as well as development theories, teach us that education is a powerful instrument of economic, cultural and social change. Education empowers people to ensure their own rights are not denied. It gives people options and opens doors to employment, skill development, participation and further learning. In 2004, RRN undertook a range of literacy and education programmes at the grassroots level, focusing on both adult and children's education. It has implemented non formal education (NFE) programmes for adults directed towards basic literacy, legal literacy, parenting education, and other practical training activities. Under children's education RRN sought to bridge the divide between formal and non-formal education through programmes focused on: child literacy, early childhood development and parenting education classes, out-of-school programmes (OSPs), vocational training and counselling, provision of scholarships and formal schooling support. Children at risk of child labour, those affected by the ongoing conflict and female children from the principle focus groups.

A woman practising in NFE class – Chewa, Sankhuwa sabha



Sustainable Livelihoods

Sustainable livelihoods encompasses the activities intended to help disadvantaged members of society meet their daily



Goat rearing for sustainable livelihood
– RRN Sankhuwasabha

subsistence needs in a manner that is dignified, locally appropriate and environmentally sustainable. RRN acts on the belief that the principal need of the rural poor is not temporary relief from their suffering but the release and development of their innate intellectual, productive, physical, political and organising powers, to enable them to undertake their own development in the short and long term. RRN's livelihood programmes include sustainable agriculture and social forestry, kitchen gardening, livestock rearing, rural micro finance and other income generating activities.

RRN also undertakes action and desk based research into sustainable livelihood options, such as on non timber forest products (NTFPs), livestock rearing and community forestry, the findings of which are then incorporated into project and programme development.

Health

Health can be defined as “the capacity of people to adapt to, respond to, or control life's challenges and changes”. The philosophy of Rural Reconstruction supports the transformation of “sick societies” into “healthy societies” not only in the physical sense but also in the social, political and economic sense. Health and nutrition problems in Nepal are varied, enormous and spiralling, particularly among the rural poor, and greatly impede their self-development. RRN therefore seeks to integrate a community health component into many of its development projects. We give emphasis



Patients recovering from eye operations in a health camp.

to preventive measures rather than curative measures, including through work on nutrition, sanitation, drinking water, training of health care professionals, health education, outreach/mobile health clinics and immunisation programmes.

Self-Government

Self-government is indispensable for sustainable development and is understood in terms of empowering the deprived and marginalised populations in society. RRN follows the principle that, for development to be pertinent and sustainable, it must be planned and undertaken primarily by the “insiders” – the very people for whom it is meant. Development workers – the “outsiders” – can help by facilitating a participatory process, through which the people organise themselves and collectively analyse their situation, identify their

problems, articulate their demands, select and plan solutions, mobilise resources and then implement, monitor and evaluate the actions taken. The process of empowerment, self-reliance and self-government includes awareness raising and active participation through analysing problems, potentials, opportunities and constraints, capacity building through management, leadership and technical skills training and federating and networking people’s organisations. As one of the vital components of its programmes, RRN has therefore encouraged and facilitated the beneficiaries to build their own organisations and institutions for their own development. Such people’s groups form the building blocks for bottom-up organisational development and genuine participation in the development process.

Community building built by a women’s group in Diding-5, Sankhuwasabha.



PARTNERS

RRN works closely with many implementing partners, funding partners and like-minded organisations from Nepal and overseas. In 2004, the following partners provided funds for RRN’s development projects and programmes.

- ≈ Action Aid Nepal
- ≈ Austrian Catholic Women’s Group (KFB Austria)
- ≈ Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- ≈ Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation (CECI)
- ≈ Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO)
- ≈ UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- ≈ European Commission
- ≈ Horizont3000 Austria
- ≈ Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries (HIVOS)
- ≈ International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- ≈ International Labour Organisation (ILO)/International Programme on the

- Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
- ≈ Netherlands Organisation for International Development Co-operation (NOVIB)
- ≈ Road Maintenance and Development Project (RMDP)
- ≈ Rural Development Programme/German Technical Co-operation (GTZ)
- ≈ Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board, Nepal
- ≈ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- ≈ University of Calgary/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- ≈ World Education

In addition, RRN is engaged with the following national, regional and international networks:

National

- ≈ Alliance Against Trafficking of Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN)
- ≈ Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice (ALLIANCE)
- ≈ Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNET)
- ≈ Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN)
- ≈ Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC)
- ≈ National Alliance for Food Security (NAFoS)

- ≈ National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders
- ≈ NGO Federation of Nepal

Regional and International

- ≈ Asian Commission for Human Rights (ACHR)
- ≈ Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
- ≈ Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA)
- ≈ Asia-Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)/Jubilee South)
- ≈ European External Policy Advisors (EEPA)
- ≈ Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP)
- ≈ Least Developed Countries Watch (LDC Watch)
- ≈ NGO Forum on Asian Development Bank
- ≈ Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PANAP)
- ≈ Social Watch
- ≈ South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
- ≈ World Alliance for Civil Society Organisations (CIVICUS)
- ≈ World Organisation against Torture (OMCT)

ADVOCACY, LOBBYING AND NETWORKING

People are entitled to have control over their own lives but sometimes, due to various factors and conditions, they find themselves in a position where their ability to exercise choice, articulate their own interests, and realise their rights is lost or limited. In these circumstances an advocate can help to ensure that such peoples' views are heard, respected and acted upon. Since

its inception, RRN has placed great importance on policy advocacy, lobbying, campaigning and research, in collaboration with other groups and organisations at national, regional and international levels. In 2004, we continued to actively lobby, campaign and undertake research on a range of social issues and concerns such as poverty reduction strategies, debt, human rights,

sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty, conflict resolution, demilitarisation, anti-globalisation and anti-neoliberalisation policies, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and more. The following are just some key events which RRN either organised or actively participated in during 2004:

- ⌘ The Peoples SAARC which coincided with the 12th SAARC summit in January 2004, Islamabad, Pakistan
- ⌘ Seminar on Food Security, Livelihoods and Human Rights at the World Social Forum in January 2004, Mumbai, India
- ⌘ SAAPE Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2004, Kathmandu, Nepal
- ⌘ Participation in an international meeting with European MPs and EC representatives on behalf of SAAPE in February 2004, Brussels, Vienna
- ⌘ Participation in an international meeting with European MPs, NGOs and civil society on behalf of SAAPE in September



2004, Vienna, Latvia and Czechoslovakia

- ⌘ Participation in the People's Caravan 2004 for Food Sovereignty and organisation of the culminating conference in September 2004, Kathmandu, Nepal
- ⌘ Participation in the Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit on the MDGs in September 2004, Hiroshima, Japan

Dr. Karki addressing a conference on Poverty Eradication in Pakistan held during People's SAARC

REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

Through more than a decade of work in rural development, we have learnt that there is no better method for improving the quality of life of people in a country like ours than through human resource development. Healthy, educated and skilled people not only secure better lives for themselves and their families but also contribute to the economic growth and development of the nation. In this light, we have established our own multi-purpose training centres in Chitwan, Morang and Sankhuwasabha districts. Each of these training centres is fully equipped with modern training facilities, including two large training halls with enough furniture for 60 participants, a multimedia and overhead projector, television and VCR, as well as a fully equipped kitchen, dining hall and dormitory. The buildings are surrounded by spacious land suitable for practical training



in agriculture, kitchen gardening, nursery development, bio-intensive gardening and community forestry.

RRN training building, Chitwan

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In 2004, RRN implemented the following development projects. Their locations, timeframes and funding sources are given below:

Name of the project	Location	Time frame	Funding partner(s)
Arun Valley Sustainable Resource Use and Management Pilot Demonstration Project (AVASRUM PDP)	Sankhuwasabha	February 2001- April 2004	UNEP/GEF
Sustainable Rural Livelihood Programme (SRLP)	Sankhuwasabha	January 2004- March 2005	Horizont 3000
Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP)	Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Siraha	July 1999- July 2005	CECI/ CIDA
Ashaya Balbalikako Lagi Jiwan Ra Jibika/Life and Livelihood for Helpless /Vulnerable Children (JJ Initiative)	Bhojpur, Surkhet, Rolpa Dailekh, Sankhuwasabha	October 2002- October 2004	World Education
Rural Development Programme (RDP)	Bhojpur	April 2000- February 2005	RDP/GTZ
Brighter Future Project (Kishori Shiksha)	Morang	August 2004- April 2005	World Education
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field Schools (FFS) Programme	Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur	June 2004- June 2005	World Education
Improving Access of Conflict Affected People to Health Facilities	Dailekh, Rukum, Rolpa, Sindhuli, Sankhuwasabha	October 2003- May 2004	CCO
Rural Community Support for Social Mobilisation for Peace Building from Below Project (RCSSMPBB)	Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Surkhet, Salyan, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Rolpa	July 2003- October 2004	DFID
Rural Community Infrastructure And Livelihood Support Programme (RCILSP)	Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Banke, Dang, Salyan, Rolpa, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, Ilam, Solukhumbu, Khotang, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Siraha, Saptari	October 2004- June 2007	DFID
Local Initiatives for Peace Building	Banke and Bardiya	December 2003- December 2004	Action Aid Nepal
Sustainable Elimination of Bonded Labour Focusing on Child Education and Empowerment	Banke and Bardiya	Nov 2002- May 2005	ILO
Preparedness and Relief for the disaster affected communities in Nepal (DIPECHO)	Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Dang, Chitwan, Kaski, Jhapa, Morang, Sankhuwasabha, Bhojpur	April 2004- March 2005	EC
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RWSSP)	Sankhuwasabha	June 2004- March 2005	Fund Board

DETAILED OUTLINE OF RRN'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

ARUN VALLEY SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE & MANAGEMENT PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (AVASRUM PDP)

Project area	: Sankhuwasabha district Num, Hatia and Pawakhola VDCs
Time frame	: February 2001 – April 2004
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 1,517

Arun Valley, being one of the key mountain regions in Nepal, is blessed with rich flora and fauna of global significance, which can immensely contribute to the livelihoods of the rural people if its natural resources are managed with proper understanding of social and environmental sustainability. This project aims to reduce major threats to natural resources caused by human activity, especially in relation to forest and water bodies, and also design and evolve a management system with locally tested and proven solutions (principally, indigenous knowledge, skills and ecological principles) for integrating local community participation in the management of natural resources.

Project Objectives

- ≪ To conserve biodiversity and forest ecosystems,
- ≪ To develop a community based sustainable natural resource use model using indigenous knowledge systems,
- ≪ To develop alternative renewable energy sources through promotion of locally adapted, fast growing energy plants and micro hydro schemes,
- ≪ To improve the living conditions of inhabitants of the project area through livelihood and income generating activities.

Project Components

- ≪ Biodiversity conservation through community forests and user's groups
- ≪ Livelihood and income generating programmes
- ≪ Micro-hydro schemes

Achievements

During the preliminary phase, baseline information from seven Community Forest User's Groups (CFUGs) of Pawakhola, Hatia and Num VDCs were collected; inventories of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in five CFUGs were carried out and the operational plans of these CFUGs were revised in association with the District Forest Office (DFO) and Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN). Training on medicinal plant cultivation and processing, forest and NTFP management, community forest resource assessment, natural resource management and nursery men were organised. Likewise, technical training was given on drinking water repair and maintenance, nursery raising, micro hydro operation and maintenance and basic Photo Voltaic (PV) systems. Five community nurseries were established which raised about 7,000 saplings of different plant species.

Four eco-clubs with a total of 81 members were formed to promote participation of young students in the conservation of natural resources through activities like sports events, quizzes, literacy, health and sanitation campaigns, plantation activities and awareness campaigns. Training and an exposure visit on NTFPs was organised for 33 participants, which encouraged cultivation trials of Chiraito and Khoria.

Five watermills have been successfully installed which has benefited more than 50 households. Under the drinking water supply scheme, five taps were installed in one village: benefiting 18 households and one school. A total of 458 households were electrified through the installation of two

peltric sets and three micro-hydro plants generating 60.5 KW of power. For long term sustainability, two local beneficiaries were trained in the management and maintenance of these schemes, and five community people were oriented during construction.

Last, the Conservation newsletter (Vol. 4),

Arun Upatyaka Sandesh and a documentary film were produced as part of the project. Programmes on natural resource management were also developed and aired on FM stations. A national sharing workshop and two district level workshops were organised to share the findings and lessons learnt from the project.

SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT (SRLP)

Project area	: Sankhuwasabha
Time frame	: January 2004–March 2005
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 1,374 (all women)

The Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Project (SRLP) is a community development programme implemented in partnership with HORIZONT3000, the European Commission, the Catholic Women's Movement (KFB) in Austria and the Austrian Government. The project is being carried out in Arun Valley, Sankhuwasabha district, in north-east Nepal. The project areas were selected on the basis of their relatively poor socio-economic conditions, dwindling agro-ecological status, level of impoverishment of rural women, number of marginal farmers and socially excluded groups and limited exposure to other development activities, as well as their potential for generating micro-hydro power and increased agricultural production through farmer-managed irrigation systems. The project has focused exclusively on women and has adopted a two-pronged strategy of women's empowerment: first, by providing them with training on sustainable rural livelihood options (economic empowerment) and second, by supporting the local self-help groups.

Project Objectives

The general objective of SRLP is to improve the quality of life of the communities (solely –women) in the project area through augmentation of resources available to them. The following specific objectives form the basis for the attainment of the project's overall objective:

- ≪ To empower women and other socially excluded strata through education,

awareness-raising and confidence-building,

- ≪ To promote community-managed health care delivery systems,
- ≪ To provide necessary aid to poor and disadvantaged groups (focusing on women) for livelihood support through micro-credit and technical assistance,
- ≪ To supply technical and material support for the construction of small, community-managed and built micro-hydro schemes,
- ≪ To provide the necessary assistance for capacity-building and institutional development of local women's self-help groups and people's organisations,
- ≪ To establish a rural livelihoods learning and training centre.

Project Components

- ≪ Empowerment of women and the socially excluded
- ≪ Livelihoods and income generation
- ≪ Community health
- ≪ Rural infrastructure improvement
- ≪ Institutional development/cooperation with local government

Achievements

Two batches of adult literacy classes were conducted which benefited more than 1,000 women. In addition, several training sessions/workshops on constitutional and

legal rights, children and women's rights, gender sensitisation, off-seasonal vegetable cultivation, livestock management, social forestry, fodder plantation and fruit cultivation were organised throughout the period. 66 women's groups are now functioning in the project area, which have mobilized a total of NRs 11,80,316 (US\$16,861). The women's groups have completed six medium-scale and fifty small-scale infrastructure projects such as spring protection, drinking water, rural roads, trails, schools and public toilets.

The SRLP also organised exposure visits and

distributed seeds, saplings and fruits. The women participants earned NRs 5,40,432 (US \$ 7,720), NRs 95,746 (US \$ 1367) and NRs 1,04,780 (US \$ 1,496) from goat rearing, off-seasonal vegetable cultivation and rainy season tomato production respectively. The micro-credit programme has been implemented since November 2004 and at the time of writing, 175 women from 55 women's groups have been provided with NRs 13, 99,000 (US \$ 19,985). The women participants were also provided with the necessary technical and input support to raise two fodder and fruit nurseries.

COMMUNITY GROUND WATER IRRIGATION SECTOR PROJECT (CGISP)

Project area	: Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, and Siraha
Time frame	: July 1999 – July 2005
Total no of project beneficiaries	: 2,002 (Female)

Much of the land in Nepal suffers from poor irrigation which makes increased agricultural production impossible to achieve. Surface irrigation is quite costly and water availability is a problem. The Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP) is solely focused on women and aimed at tackling the problem through the installation of 13,500 shallow tube wells (STWs) through water users' groups (WUGs) and associations, and a further 1,500 STWs for individual users.

Project Objectives

- ⌘ To mobilise the needy communities in the development process and provide them with livelihood opportunities,
- ⌘ To improve the economic status of the farmers, especially the poorest of the poor, by increasing the productivity of crops by installing STWs where there are no alternative possibilities of irrigation,
- ⌘ To provide loans to small farmers who have no access to credit,
- ⌘ To help increase long term agricultural productivity,
- ⌘ To build the capacity of the WUGs,
- ⌘ To assist in the formation of Water Users Associations (WUAs), strengthen coordination between WUGs and WUAs, and build their capacity for sustainability.

Project Components

- ⌘ Carrying out Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) in villages with the potential to have STWs to prepare their socio-economic profile and identify their needs and priorities
- ⌘ Facilitating the formation of WUGs and federating WUGs into WUAs
- ⌘ Developing sustainable WUGs and WUAs by providing technical and managerial training programmes, in coordination with concerned line agencies and private sector suppliers
- ⌘ Promoting savings groups

Achievements

During 2004, 63 WUGs were active, and met on a monthly basis. Training and workshops were conducted in agriculture, boring and operation and maintenance of the irrigation facilities. A total land area of 1,650 bighas (963 hectares) has been irrigated and 441 STWs were installed in 2004. Under the groups' savings component, each of the 63 groups has opened a new bank account, into which group members contribute funds for emergency purposes and the creation of income generating activities. The success of this project is in a large part due to the labour and acquired skills and knowledge of the local community.

ASHAYA BAL BALIKAKO LAGI JIWAN RA JIBIKA/LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD FOR HELPLESS/VULNERABLE CHILDREN (JJ INITIATIVE)

Project area	: Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, Surkhet, Dailekh and Rolpa
Time frame	: October 2002–October 2004
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 2,920 children and youths

The consequences of the outbreak of the Maoist 'People's War' in 1996 have affected everyone, particularly children and youths. Over 10,000 people have died, including more than 300 children, and it has caused the unprecedented displacement of families and communities. Against this backdrop, RRN started this project with a view to providing assistance to orphaned, disabled and displaced children and youths. A total of 2,920 people benefited from the project.

Project Objectives

- ⌘ To provide personal, psychological and livelihood/employment counselling for the children and youths affected by the conflict so that these individuals have greater opportunity to live a stable, healthy and prosperous life, with options for employment,
- ⌘ To create an academic scholarship programme for displaced and orphaned children, youths and former child soldiers, so that they can attend school regularly and continue their basic education,
- ⌘ To provide practical skill training on a needs basis and create self employment opportunities for displaced and orphaned children and former child soldiers,
- ⌘ To assist the displaced and orphaned children and youths by creating jobs and establishing linkages with employers to ensure their employment.

Project Components

- ⌘ Rapport building and networking with stakeholders at district level
- ⌘ Baseline survey of respective districts
- ⌘ Counselling for conflict affected children
- ⌘ Scholarship scheme for conflict affected children

- ⌘ Vocational skill development training for young people
- ⌘ Alternative flexible schooling programme (FSP)
- ⌘ Monitoring and supervision

Achievements

In the preliminary phase, rapport building programmes with the district level's stakeholders like the District Administration Office (CDO), Nepal Police, Royal Nepal Army Personnel, District Child Welfare Board, District Health Office, District Development Committee, Nepal Red Cross Society, District Education Office, District Livestock Development Office and District Agricultural Office including teachers, local community based organisations (CBOs), community leaders and influential individuals at the local level were organised. The purpose of the rapport building was to introduce the programme and get their agreement regarding the project activities. After the selection of the project areas, a counselling orientation programme was organised for children, youths and former child soldiers affected by the conflict on the recommendation of the CBOs and on the basis of prioritisation through household surveys. Likewise counselling training and orientation programmes for the VDCs and DDC Secretaries took place in the selected sites of the project area. A total of 1508 (male – 813 and female – 695) participated in such programmes throughout the period of the project implementation.

A total of 1,080 displaced orphaned children and youths received academic scholarship to attend their school regularly. Under the Alternative Flexible Schooling Programme (FSP), a total of 332 participants who were displaced, orphaned youth and children of former soldiers, received alternative non formal education and practical vocational skills trainings.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP)

Project area	: Bhojpur
Time frame	: April 2000 – February 2005
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 3,245 (male – 2,013, female – 1,232)

RRN has been implementing the Rural Development Programme in eight northern VDCs of Bhojpur district since April 2000. This programme is based on a two pronged approach of, first, capacity building of the organisations of the poor to increase their claim making capacity for securing services from service provider agencies and, second, strengthening the capacity of service delivery organisations. RDP has also supported the members of local people's organisations by enabling them to participate in activities aimed at improving their socio-economic status.

Project Objectives

- ≪ To build the capacity of the rural population to increase income from farm and off – farm business,
- ≪ To improve the socio-economic situation of the rural population, focusing on socially discriminated caste groups, women and youths as well as to improve access to services using natural resources for sustainable livelihood.

Project Components

- ≪ Social mobilisation and organisational development
- ≪ Promotion of economic opportunities
- ≪ Small scale rural infrastructure support
- ≪ Strengthening the capacity of service provider agencies

Achievements

A total of 186 new self-help groups have been

formed, out of which 14 are male groups, 26 are female groups and 146 are mixed. The groups have covered a total of 3,339 people (male – 2,101 and female – 1,238) as direct beneficiaries while a population of 18,346 have indirectly benefited in the project sites. The project was able to establish 10 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and 6 cooperatives and is supporting income generating activities through savings and credit revolving funds. The total saving fund amounts to NRs 31, 48,518 (US\$ 44,978) and the saving funds mobilization to NRs 4,04,69,327 (US\$ 5,78,133). Management and account keeping training was given to 507 participants (male – 373 and female–134) and training on 'Gender and Development' was imparted to 83 beneficiaries (male–40 and female – 43).

In order to strengthen the cooperatives, six campaigns on cooperative education were organised in which 202 (male – 124 and female – 78) people actively participated. Cost effective infrastructure projects such as five drinking water systems, ten small irrigation projects, one bridge (in partnership with the District Development Committee and five improved ghattas (water mills) have been constructed. The project also facilitated farmer's' training, supported vegetable growers, distributed vegetable seeds for kitchen gardens and facilitated the establishment of vegetable nurseries. Water harvesting technology was an effective achievement for many vegetable growers and the 'master farmer' approach to cluster basis training for vegetable production provided a valuable technical knowledge and was cost effective too.

BRIGHTER FUTURE PROGRAMME

Project area	: Morang
Time frame	: August 2004 to April 2005
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 500 children (girls – 290 and boys– 210) aged 10 to 14

RRN has implemented the Brighter Future Programme since August 2004, in partnership with World Education, focusing on the education of children (aged 10 – 14) who are at risk of hazardous forms of child labour. This programme has targeted those children who never entered the formal school system or were forced to drop out due to household responsibilities or other social and cultural constraints.

Project Objectives

- ≪ To provide children with the opportunity to acquire basic literacy and numerical skills,
- ≪ To encourage children to enrol in formal primary schooling at an appropriate level.

Project Components

- ≪ Scholarship programmes for students

- ≪ Formation and strengthening of Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)
- ≪ Provision of Non Formal Education classes

Achievements

In 2004, village orientation programmes took place in 25 sites in the project area. Two resource person training and facilitator training sessions (including refresher training for both) were organised with the participation of 25 people. 25 classes brought together a total of 500 participants for non formal education. Meetings of class management committees were conducted in all project sites. 5 PTA training sessions were organised which involved 75 participants. Scholarships equivalent to NRs. 1,800 (US \$ 25.71) were provided to 119 students which included 33 boys and 86 girl students.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) THROUGH FARMERS FIELD SCHOOLS (FFS) PROGRAMME

Project area	: Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari
Time frame	: June 2004 – June 2005
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 1,955 (1,385 females, 570 males)

RRN implemented the Farmers Field School (FFS) project in partnership with World Education, for the promotion and implementation of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept in the above districts. Originally, the project practiced IPM methods in rice cultivation; however, farmers have also been involved in IPM activities in the pre – and post – harvesting of vegetables. IPM emphasises the use of organic/botanical pesticides, physical and cultural control methods, judicious use of chemicals and local indigenous knowledge.

The IPM methods are adapted according to the different agro-ecological zones.

Project Objectives

- ≪ To increase production and the productivity of land,
- ≪ To reduce dependency on chemical pesticides through the adoption of IPM methods,
- ≪ To prepare farmers as a human resource for community IPM at the local level,

- ≪ To encourage women and students, male and female, to participate in agriculture farming and decision making processes.

Project Components

- ≪ Vegetable field study
- ≪ Post harvest study
- ≪ Farmers field school programme on chaite rice
- ≪ Farmers field school programme on rainy season rice

Achievements

The FFSs have proved to be effective in reducing farmers' dependency on harmful chemicals and in increasing the productivity

of land. In the eastern districts, a total of 1156 people participated in different activities, including the farmers' and students' programmes on chaite rice and main (rainy season) rice, seasonal vegetable production and vegetable field studies. The large number of females participating in the programme activities was particularly notable. In Banke and Bardiya districts in the western region, a total of 29 farmers' schools were organised which brought together 901 participants (male – 208 and female – 693) in the various IPM programmes. Likewise, in Kanchanpur district, 303 farmers participated in 7 Student Farmers School (SFS), 3 FFS, one vegetable study and one post harvest scheme. In Kailali district, the project saw the completion of 12 FFS programmes for main rice and 14 school programmes for

IMPROVING ACCESS OF CONFLICT AFFECTED PEOPLE TO HEALTH FACILITIES

Project area	: Sankhuwasabha, Sindhuli, Rukum, Rolpa and Dailekh
Time frame	: October 2003 – May 2004
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 9,848 people

The ill-effects of the ongoing conflict have been experienced by almost all sectors of rural life, including the health sector, with poor health delivery mechanisms prevailing in the rural areas. In particular, rural women and children are particularly vulnerable with the least opportunities to access health facilities. In this context, several health camps, necessary medication and treatment support programmes and formation of health management committees are being implemented by RRN under this project in Sankhuwasabha, Sindhuli, Rukum, Rolpa and Dailekh districts in coordination with concerned partners.

Project Objectives

- ≪ To re-establish and strengthen functional relationships between the health institutions and the local people for continuous health improvement,
- ≪ To improve the health standards of the rural people through the organisation of short duration health camps by providing

immediate treatment of treatable problems, especially targeting women, children, aged and underprivileged people entangled in the conflict.

Project Components

- ≪ Formation of health camp management committees (HMCs) and establishment of functional linkages with health institutions
- ≪ Coordination meetings and information dissemination
- ≪ Mobile health camps
- ≪ Post camp activities

Achievements

RRN, in collaboration with different stakeholders in the project districts, formed HMCs responsible for managing the health camps and also re-establishing and strengthening linkages with the local health institutions. The HMCs comprise

representatives from the general public, local government bodies (such as VDCs), local health institutions, local CBOs/NGOs/clubs, teachers and social workers in the communities, ensuring at least 50 per cent representation of women.

RRN in association with the HMCs has also organised district and community level coordination meetings with the relevant stakeholders (e.g. district administration office, district health office, political parties, security forces, VDCs or municipalities) to discuss the project and develop plans to provide direct health services to people in the remote rural areas. RRN provided technical support in arranging doctors, equipment and medicines for the patients while the local

HMCs arranged venues for the health camps. Mobile health camps, each lasting 2 – 3 days, were organised in all five districts, benefiting a total of 9,848 people (65 per cent of patients were rural women and children). Between four and ten doctors – comprising dentists, gynaecologists, surgeons, general medical practitioners and paediatricians – served in the camps. All essential medicines were distributed free of charge. The leftover medicines were donated to the local health posts/sub health posts under the supervision of the local HMCs for use by the local patients. The programme also supported referral services for surgical cases and around 50 cases were referred to well-equipped hospitals in Kathmandu. 39 people have already undergone treatment.

RURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL MOBILISATION FOR PEACE BUILDING FROM BELOW PROJECT (RCSSMPBB)

Project area	: Rolpa, Salyan, Surkhet, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa, Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur
Time Frame	: July 2003 to October 2004
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 2,75,227 People

RRN has been implementing the DFID Nepal supported and community managed Rural Community Support for Social Mobilisation for Peace Building from Below Project (RCSSMPBB) since July 2003. It aims to provide an immediate visible and positive impact on the lives of the poor and marginalised people in rural communities.

Project Objectives

- ≈ To establish and strengthen sustainable livelihood opportunities (farm and off-farm based enterprises),
- ≈ To reduce the level of poverty,
- ≈ To increase literacy and levels of awareness through an improved learning environment,
- ≈ To access education and facilities to improve the health, sanitation and hygiene of the community.

Project Components

- ≈ Construction of school and community buildings and provision of school furniture
- ≈ Deep tube well for irrigation
- ≈ Road construction
- ≈ Culvert check dams, water supply schemes
- ≈ Trails and bridges
- ≈ Peltric set/micro hydro provision
- ≈ Farmer-managed irrigation
- ≈ Vocational training
- ≈ Commercial agro-enterprise development training
- ≈ Maintenance workers' training and management training for user committees

Achievements

During the project period, many community groups such as users' committees, community forestry users' groups and school management committees played a key role in the infrastructure project development. Before commencing the infrastructure activities, groups were provided with two types of training – commercial agro-based training and vocational training, which was organised for one to three weeks and three months respectively. Under the latter, training in carpentry, house wiring, livestock, bamboo crafting, automobile

maintenance, plumbing and masonry was organised for unemployed youths, while under the commercial agro-based enterprise development training, dairy production, off-season vegetable production, kitchen gardening trainings were organised.

The 501 different projects have benefited 2,75,227 beneficiaries directly whilst the number of indirect beneficiaries is far higher, including those benefiting from the construction of village roads and culverts. Among these projects, 488 construction works and 13 peltric set (micro hydro) projects have been completed.

RURAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAMME (RCILSP)

Project area	: Kanchanpur, Bardiya, Banke, Dang, Salyan, Rolpa, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, Ilam, Solukhumbu, Khotang, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Siraha and Saptari
Time Frame	: October 2004 – June 2007
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 3,50,000 People

Following the successful implementation of the Rural Community Support and Social Mobilisation for Peace Building from Below Programme (RCSSMPBB), an extension was granted until June 2007 and the project was renamed the Rural Community Infrastructure and Livelihoods Support Programme (RCILSP). The beneficiaries of the project are mostly youths, marginalised communities (dalits and ethnic minority groups), women and other vulnerable groups living in rural areas. This project is expected to benefit more than 3,50,000 people in more than 350 VDCs by the time of completion in 2007. In the year 2004, the project has extended to further five districts – Ilam, Solukhumbu, Khotang, Siraha and Saptari. This project's objectives are the same as those of RCSSMPBP but with an additional objective to establish and strengthen local peace building initiatives through community mobilisation and implementation of development activities.

During the first quarter (October to December 2004) a total of 216 separate

schemes have been implemented under the RCILSP in the mid and far west where the communities have contributed nearly NRs 3,93,76,827 (US \$ 5,62,526) and the project's contribution is NRs 4,40,62,350 (US\$ 6,29,462) 56,700 households covering 3,61,730 people (male – 1,78,320, female – 1,83,410) have so far benefited from this project. Vocational training on television/ radio maintenance, carpentry, house wiring and automobile maintenance has been received by 71 beneficiaries (male 63, female 8).

During the same period, in the eastern region, vocational and commercial agro-enterprise development training was given to 118 and 321 unemployed and marginalised youths respectively, in order to promote alternative livelihood opportunities. 56 farmer-managed irrigation schemes and four Shallow Tube Wells (STWs) for ground water irrigation have been completed in different districts of the region. A 24 km road, 36 check dams/culverts and three bridges have also been constructed so far.

L E S S O N S

What works in Conflict!

Ten years have elapsed since the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists) launched the 'People's War' in order to 'overthrow' the current 'moribund state' which, they argue, only serves the interests of feudal and imperial forces and not that of people. Imposing a political logic of destruction, the Maoists have sought to achieve 'genuine' development by destroying what is in place: the 'remnants of feudalism', in the Maoist lexicon. Their 'People's War' has affected all walks of economic, social and political life of the Nepali state. But the worst victim has become 'development' both as an institution and as a process because development, by its very nature, is concerned with creation and progress, rather than destruction.

Risks and threats abound in times of conflict. There is no predictability as events and circumstances change fast and without any warning. Contingency plans rarely work as intended, and there prevails an environment of hopelessness and fear. However, development organisations cannot afford to lose hope. It is in fact the fear – the fear of losing hope in the face of violence – that should give them additional courage to implement projects in the areas worst hit by conflict.

In 2004 RRN drew some encouraging lessons about how to work in conflict hit zones. Tentative though they are, they rekindle the belief that development projects can be used as a medium to reach out to conflict affected people, to engage them in collective action (for example, in the construction of irrigation canals, roads or schools or through the formation of self help groups) to meet their immediate needs, foster inter-community dialogue and pool resources. Collective engagement helps transcend fears and doubts and prevents disillusionment and a feeling of helplessness. As well as addressing some of the root causes of conflicts, such as discrimination, poverty, marginalisation, inequality and lack of services, development projects give people options – economic options – but also opportunities to overcome social and cultural and political difficulties and differences.

However, the methodologies that work at the best

of times may not work in conflict. Through its own learning, RRN can help to give some guidance to others about how to implement conflict compatible development projects. Although our work is focused on Nepal we hope that the basic guidelines can also be extrapolated to other conflict affected countries around the world.

Community ownership

The dominant top-down model of development is inappropriate in the majority of contexts and is particularly damaging in conflict situations. Instead, the development process must be truly and wholly owned and led by the community people. The genuine participation and ownership extends from problem identification, resource management, project implementation, book keeping and auditing, through to the long term continuation of the activities after the NGO assistance ceases. Projects fully owned and operated by the people are less likely to be captured by extremist ideologies.

One of the key strategies we have followed to foster community ownership is to encourage the people to mobilise and pool their own resources for development schemes. It may seem inappropriate to ask poor communities to put their meagre resources into such schemes, but the key is to retain flexibility and to tailor the contribution to each individual project site. Such community inputs do not have to be financial, but can also be through labour contributions and through the use of local physical resources and materials. When people put their scarce resources into a project, they take pride in its development, defend it in the face of adversaries and find ways to sustain it.

Transparency

Transparency builds social capital – mutual trust and confidence in this sense – an attribute that guides and regulates rural life. It is only through strong social capital that we, as 'outsiders', can enter conflict areas. When asked about the key to RRN's success in operating in rural communities, a field worker in Khotang says 'transparency'. He insists that transparency should be the number one standing norm in implementing any projects

and it should cut across all stages of a project cycle starting from the source of funding, if the source is external, to the audit. Transparency does not leave room for communities to harbour suspicion about the misuse of resources. It also enhances the acceptability of the project outcomes, particularly amongst the rebels, who can see for themselves how resources are being used, and welcome the high level of community ownership and participation. One of the key activities we have adopted to ensure transparency is the public auditing of incomes and expenses, and public handover of the projects, upon their completion, to user's committees.

Quick impact projects

Quick impact projects are extremely valuable in times of conflict. In the context of present day Nepal, which finds rural communities excluded and marginalised from the mainstream development efforts, the construction of low – input rural infrastructure that engages the beneficiaries to achieve a quick and sustainable result has proven very successful. This approach addresses the pressing needs articulated by the communities, yields quick and visible results which helps to maintain the trust of all parties and also, given the community ownership and contribution, challenges the notion of this form of 'development' as being externally imposed. The key however, is to ensure that the community is able to maintain and operate the small-scale infrastructure, whether it be a dam, a road, a school or a irrigation canal, long after the NGO has withdrawn. This requires combining the construction of hardware, with training, guidance and learning by doing in maintenance, operation and sustainability of the schemes. In this context the formation of user's committees, as well as community saving schemes, is once again vital.

Low-profile presence

RRN is not a visible and vocal manager-directing and instructing each step of activities – but a low-profile partner in community initiatives. It is important that the I/NGO speaks the language of the community, becomes immersed in their problems and works at the grassroots level to find collective, community driven solutions. The project staff, with the exception of technical experts, should be local, should wear attire that is appropriate to the local community and should not operate expensive, sophisticated vehicles. In communities simplicity earns a good image, and it is the image that is crucial to the acceptability of

the NGO by the people, and by other forces operating in the area.

Multi-stakeholder partnership

Working effectively in conflict requires the building of strong, long term relationships with various stakeholders while maintaining neutrality. Multi-stakeholder relationships are central to RRN's approach. Before any project is developed, RRN staffs meet with the project beneficiaries, as well as local leaders, local authorities, including administrative and security personnel, local opinion makers and influential community members. They take into account their views and perspectives and advise them of the modality and approach to be followed by RRN in implementing the project. All the stakeholders are routinely informed of the project's progress by way of meetings and assessment sessions. Multi-stakeholder relationships 'do no harm' to any stakeholder, but mitigate the possibility of backlash by building a synergy of various groups and various ideas.

Focus on the poorest of the poor

When conflicts rage in any country, they affect all members of the society, but the worst sufferers are the ones already at the margins. These are the most impoverished and discriminated against, which in Nepal include dalits, kamaiyas, women and children. Neglected as they are, they are vulnerable and risk being caught up in, and compelled to participate in, violence. To RRN, working in conflict means focusing mainly on these people and inculcating in them a sense of confidence and hope, in order to overcome poverty, isolation and neglect – the very factors which are often deemed to be the main root causes of the conflict.

Conclusion

RRN's experience suggests that rural development is the main way to cut the tentacles of conflict, the kind of development that people understand and are capable of undertaking themselves, one that ensures immediate livelihoods to the people and offers them prospects for the future while drying up the reservoir of frustration. We hope that these learnings will be of use to others working in conflict situations in Nepal and elsewhere. But ultimately it is our hope that one day all development organisations do not have to consider how to work in conflict, due to the realisation of peace, prosperity and the absence of violence.

LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR PEACE BUILDING

Project area	: Banke and Bardiya District
Time frame	: December 2003 to December 2004
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 3,256 (based on the 296 listeners club at 11 per club)

Since early December 2003, RRN has been implementing “Local Initiatives for Peace Building” project in Banke and Bardiya districts of mid-western Nepal with financial support from Action Aid Nepal. This project aims to promote peace-building processes and maintain social harmony by organising and empowering communities to exercise their human rights.

Project Objectives

- ≪ To organise and strengthen people’s organisations at the grassroots level and to build networks,
- ≪ To explore the causes of women’s and children’s involvement in the insurgency through interaction, discussion and process documentation.

Project components

- ≪ Hatemalo Radio programme broadcast weekly from Radio Nepal Surkhet
- ≪ Publication of fortnightly peace bulletin

Achievements

Informal visits and discussions with journalists from national and local newspapers and radio were carried out on a regular basis. The radio programme “Hatemalo” was aired (94 episodes on various issues) by the regional Radio Transmission Centre in Surkhet. 22 editions of the RRN “Peace Bulletin” have been published.

SUSTAINABLE ELIMINATION OF BONDED LABOUR FOCUSING ON CHILD EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Project area	: Banke and Bardiya
Time frame	: November 2002 to May 2005
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 4,437 (male – 2,273 and female – 2,164)

His Majesty’s Government of Nepal (HMGN) outlawed the kamaiya (bonded) labour system in July 2000. Since the abolishment (at least on paper) of one of the worst, inhumane systems of bonded labour, RRN has been working on the resettlement, rehabilitation and socio-economic development of the released kamaiya families in far western Nepal. The project mainly targets the children of ex-kamaiya families to support their education and to integrate them into society through the facilitation of sustainable livelihood opportunities. Several formal and non-formal education support programmes have been implemented in the two districts of Banke and Bardiya as entry points of this project.

Project Objectives

- ≪ Children of ex-kamaiyas in the age range of 6 – 9 years and not attending school will join formal schools in two districts,
- ≪ Children of former kamaiyas who are 10 – 16 years old and not attending school will join out of school programmes (OSPI and II),
- ≪ All graduates of the OSP-I will continue their education in formal schools whereas OSP-II graduates will enter in to vocational training/education,
- ≪ Ex-Kamaiyas (mainly women) from two districts will be involved in functional education (basic non formal education).

Project Components

- ⚡ School mainstreaming for out of school children
- ⚡ Kamlahari Support programme

Achievements

A total of 54 and 106 government schools in Banke and Bardiya district respectively were identified for support in school mainstreaming through enrolment of out of school children. Since then, 4,438 ex-kamaiyas' children have been enrolled in formal schools. In 2003 and 2004, 963 children (boys – 534 and girls – 429) in Banke

and 3,475 children (boys – 1,740 and girls – 1,735) in Bardiya benefited from the school mainstreaming programme.

A total of 225 kamlaharis (Banke – 37 and Bardiya – 188) received financial and technical support for entrepreneurship under the kamlahari rehabilitation programme, including through the establishment of 21 retail shops, 197 goat raising schemes and seven pig raising activities in both districts. A total of 1,076 children (boys – 434 and girls – 642) of former kamaiyas attended Out of School Programmes (OSPs) and 1,387 children (male – 216 and female – 1171) attended non – formal education (NFE) classes in both the districts.

PREPAREDNESS AND RELIEF FOR THE DISASTER AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN NEPAL (DIPECHO)

Project area	: Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Dang, Chitwan, Kaski, Jhapa, Morang, Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha
Time frame	: April 2004 to March 2005
Total no. of project beneficiaries	: 5,950

The DIPECHO programme was implemented by RRN in partnership with Caritas Austria, and funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) in the western, far western, central and eastern districts of Nepal. The 12 month project focused mainly on preventative action against water induced disasters, such as floods and landslides, including by raising awareness on disaster preparedness among vulnerable communities as well as the implementation of suitable preventative and control measures to help mitigate future risk.

- ⚡ Community Based Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Management Groups and Community Forest Users' Groups Formation (CBDP, DMG and CFUG)

- ⚡ Training/workshops on disaster preparedness

- ⚡ Construction of preventive measures like check dams, landslide gully control and gabion spurs

Achievements

The DIPECHO project has been able to target some of the most vulnerable communities living in the main disaster – prone regions of Nepal. Reducing the vulnerability of the population through the awareness raising programme has proved to be an effective component. People's participation was facilitated and strengthened through the formation of Disaster Management Groups (DMGs) and Community based Disaster Preparedness groups (CBDPs) at the community levels. The programme was able to cultivate a sense of ownership, not only among the group members but also among the community as a

Programme Objectives

- ⚡ To enhance the capacity of the local people and institutions to manage the calamities in their communities through disaster preparedness and awareness work,
- ⚡ To reduce incidences of natural calamities by introducing and implementing suitable preventive/control measures.

Programme Components

- ⚡ Baseline survey

whole, about their role in reducing and protecting themselves from water induced, and other, disasters. The programme was also able to build good linkages with government bodies, I/NGOs and communities working on similar issues.

Small scale infrastructure support was also provided to the needy communities in the project sites. Under the mitigation activity, a large area of denuded land covering 84 hectares was planted to protect the land against soil erosion. Likewise, small scale infrastructure such as check dams, protection walls, and river training systems were built with the initiation of the community group members, volunteers and

the community people themselves. About 40 percent of total costs incurred in the construction work were contributed by the project beneficiaries through skilled and unskilled labour.

Another important accomplishment was the production of trained human resources at the community level to ensure the long term sustainability of the project activities. In order to enhance awareness on disaster preparedness and management, advanced training manuals on disaster preparedness and guidelines on plantation methods and other flood and landslide prevention methods were published and widely distributed.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME (RWSSP)

Project Area	: Khandabari Municipality, Sankhuwasabha
Time Frame	: June 2004 – March 2005
Total no. of Project beneficiaries	: 1,851

The Khandabari Municipality ward no. 7, 13 and Kharang VDC ward no. 7 of Sankhuwasabha district suffered from the serious problem of a lack of clean and safe drinking water. Due to this problem, the community people had to rely on unhygienic open streams, ponds and rivers for their drinking water and other household activities which resulted in a high risk of exposure to water borne diseases. Fetching water for the household activities was very frustrating especially for women as they were compelled to spend hours fetching water only for drinking and cleaning. Since most of their time was spent fetching water, women could hardly give time to their children, and get involved in other household activities. Therefore, this project aimed to provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water supplies and to alleviate poverty through income generating programmes for the people of the municipality.

Project Objectives

- ≪ To provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water supplies,
- ≪ To raise awareness about health and education among women and children,
- ≪ To protect people from water borne diseases.

Project Components

- ≪ Health and sanitation
- ≪ Income generating activities
- ≪ Construction of household latrines
- ≪ Construction of water supply infrastructure
- ≪ Savings and credit mobilisation

Achievements

Training programmes on the operation and maintenance of water supply systems were given to 48 participants. 197 household latrines and 3 school latrines were constructed with the help of the project staff. This project has two phases comprising 9 months each for development and implementation. The development phase included organising the water users groups, the construction and maintenance of drinking water schemes, establishment of community contribution for the water supply systems and construction, groups savings and other preparation. The project is preparing to enter the implementation phase which comprises the construction of infrastructure for water supply systems including the distribution and management of water supply systems.

KEY RESEARCH, LOBBYING & ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)

The South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) is a regional network of like minded NGOs, grassroots organisations, academics, trade unions, community based organisations and individuals engaged with pro-poor and pro-people issues and concerns. It was established in 2001 with the theme of “Fighting unitedly against poverty, hunger and injustice”. It is made up of over 90 members from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Maldives, aiming to work as a pressure group on governments, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and multilateral institutions, for policies and programmes leading to the elimination of poverty. SAAPE is also working closely with European NGOs such as HIVOS, NOVIB, EUROSTEP and EURODAD.

RRN houses the regional Secretariat of this network. The role of the Secretariat is to facilitate and co-ordinate country initiatives from the regional perspective; provide support to the country initiatives; organize conferences and Annual General Meetings (AGMs); disseminate information at the regional and international level and liaise with different stakeholders for the cause of eradicating poverty and reinstating human rights and social justice in the region.

In 2004, SAAPE successfully organised four seminars, namely, “Poverty Alleviation, Food Security and Women and Children Trafficking” in a run-up to the 12th SAARC Summit in January 2004, Islamabad, Pakistan; “Food Security, Livelihoods and Human Rights” at the World Social Forum in January 2004, Mumbai, India; SAAPE AGM and Strategic Planning Meeting in June 2004, Kathmandu, Nepal and an international conference on “Food Sovereignty” in Kathmandu, Nepal which marked the formal closing of the People’s Caravan 2004. Besides, specific lobbying



programmes relating to Europe’s policies and national level campaigning on key issues such as food sovereignty, poverty eradication and human rights were year-round activities of the regional network.

**SAAPE AGM
2004**

OMCT/RRN Research on Violence

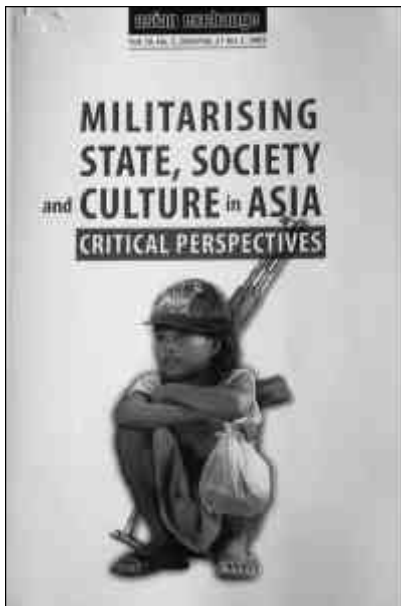
In 2004, RRN and the Geneva-based World Organization against Torture (OMCT) undertook a research project on violence in the context of the denial of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). The aim of the research was to examine the link between inequality, poverty, ESCR violations and violence, and identify specific actions to reduce such violence by acting on its economic, social and cultural root causes. This research is part of a global study being conducted by the OMCT with case studies from Nepal, Argentina, Egypt, South Africa and Uzbekistan. RRN is leading on the Nepal input to the project.

The project involves two key activities at the national level: a country report with a general overview of political, economic, socio-cultural and legal issues and a case study on an issue that directly relates to economic and social contexts of the country being studied. At the international level a conference is planned to share the lessons learned from country reports and case studies and to develop action plans. RRN has

completed both of the national level activities. In addition to the country report, it produced a case study on the Kamaiya system of Nepal, locating the Kamaiya issue and related freedom movements in a historical perspective as well as in the light of the post-freedom experience by Kamaiya themselves.

ARENA/RRN Research on Militarisation

The Hong Kong based Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA) and its members undertook a study on the nature and extent of militarisation in Asia. The study comprised case studies from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal from South Asia, and Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea and Japan from Southeast Asia. RRN completed the study on Nepal highlighting the emergence and intensification of militarisation against



the backdrop of the failure of democratisation and the rise of the Maoist insurgency and counterinsurgencies. The case studies have been compiled in the ARENA publication entitled 'Militarising State, Society and Culture in Asia: Critical Perspectives' which was published in December 2004.

Social Watch

Social Watch is an international network of national civil society groups which aims to track the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality. It has a focal point in each country responsible for promoting the initiative; submitting a national report for the yearly publication; undertaking lobbying initiatives to hold national authorities accountable; promoting dialogue about national social development priorities and developing genuinely inclusive strategies to include

other groups into the national groups. RRN serves as the national focal point for Nepal. In 2004, RRN contributed to the Social Watch publication "Social Watch Report 2004" which had 'Obstacles to Human Security' as the main theme.

The Least Developed Countries Watch (LDC Watch)

LDC Watch is an alliance of well-established regional and national civil society organisations based in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), supported by NGOs in development partner countries. It acts as a coordinating group for LDC civil society initiatives particularly in relation to key issues of trade, debt, foreign investment, human rights, good governance and conflict. It carries this out through a programme of lobbying, networking and advocacy and by working as a pressure group to ensure that the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for LDCs is implemented by LDC governments and their development partners.

LDC Watch is run by a Steering Committee with members from Nepal, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Uganda and Benin. RRN hosts the Secretariat.

People's Caravan for Food Sovereignty 2004

The People's Caravan first took place in November 2000, led by the Malaysia based Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific (PANAP) together with 14 grassroots organisations and NGOs. At that time, the Caravan travelled across India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, Korea and Japan for



People's Rally for Food Sovereignty

17 days with the theme “Citizens on the Move for Land and Food without Poisons”, supported by leaders and activists from the peasant sector, women, indigenous people, grassroots groups and NGOs. The People’s Caravan 2000 was a symbol of empowerment for marginalised sectors especially women; it was a symbol of solidarity among Asian grassroots organisations despite the diversity of cultures; and it was an occasion to celebrate a common agenda and determination to continue the resistance against oppression and injustice.

Four years later, and a year after the derailment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks in Cancun, PANAP and organisations that took part in the 2000 event as well as a much wider circle of other grassroots organisations came together for the second People’s Caravan with the theme “People’s Food Sovereignty: Asserting our Rights for Land and Food”. This event aimed to raise awareness about the issue of hunger and malnutrition and people’s lack of access to food and productive resources and, in addition, mobilise people and put pressure on policy makers on the issues that affect people’s food sovereignty such as trade, genetic engineering, pesticides and agrochemical multinationals. This time it was a month-long event from 1 – 30 September 2004 which commenced in Malaysia, and spread to 13 Asian countries plus three countries in Europe, eventually finishing in Kathmandu.

RRN – in collaboration with the All Nepal Peasants’ Association (ANPA) – took the lead in promoting the Caravan in Nepal and preparing and coordinating the culminating international conference. The Nepal chapter was marked by mass mobilisation, meetings, rallies, cultural activities and press conferences. The international conference took place on 29 – 30 September and featured a mass rally and meeting to formally close and celebrate the success of the People’s Caravan 2004.

RRN’s Annual General Meeting, 12 – 14 October 2004

The 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of RRN took place in Chitwan on 12 – 14 October 2004 with the theme “Peace for Development, Development for Peace”. The



Participants of
RRN Annual
General Meeting
– 2004

organisation of the 2004 AGM was hampered by the frequent transport strikes and blockades that paralysed the country, driven by the ongoing conflict. However, with resolve and determination a total of 80 RRN staff, and guests from other organisations, succeeded in getting together in Chitwan for the three day meeting.

The AGM comprised an open inauguration session and a closed, internal session. The inauguration programme was launched in Narayangadh on 12 October, attended by RRN staff, distinguished guests and a wide cross-section of the public. Dr. Mathura Prasad Shrestha, former Minister and noted peace and human rights activist, together with one of the first project beneficiaries of RRN, formally opened the AGM. An interaction programme, chaired by the RRN President, Dr Arjun Karki was held focusing on the theme of the AGM which initiated a constructive debate and dialogue.

The closed session took place at RRN’s Training Centre in Dhuseri, Parsa. The presentations and discussions were wide ranging, and covered programme reports and updates; sharing of ideas and experiences from the local to the international level; human resource matters as well as a special session on ‘working in conflict’ to share learning about the ground realities and address issues and concerns related to working in a conflict environment. All members also participated enthusiastically in the cultural programmes that were held each evening. Participants shared that, all in all, they had a positive, inspirational and enriching experience, and noted that the AGM had cemented relationships across the organisation and helped RRN improve its policy and project work.

FINANCE

Income and Expenditure Account Summary (Statement of Income and Expenditures) 2003/2004 (2060/2061)

INCOME / RECEIPTS	Nepalese Rupees
Project Grants	192,111,607.95
Project IDF Income	10,633,950.40
Other Income	
Interest from Micro-credit	3,482,328.10
Bank interest	1,082,166.08
Book sale	5,000.00
Exchange gain	4,132,573.56
Miscellaneous	925,000.00
<u>Total</u>	212,372,626.09
EXPENDITURES / PAYMENTS	
General & Administrative Expenses	12,267,209.19
Depreciation	1,159,791.92
Programme / Activities	147,734,670.37
Total Expenditures	161,161,671.48
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT	51,210,954.61

Balance Sheet Summary (Statement of Liabilities and Assets) JULY 15, 2004 (Ashad end 2061)

ACCOUNT HEADS			Nepalese Rupees
FIXED ASSETS			35,940,242.93
CURRENT ASSETS			104,850,854.97
Micro Credit Loans		-	
Disbursement to Groups	-		
Less Refunds	-		
Advances/Cash		104,795,854.97	
Cash and advances	104,795,854.97		
Less Advance Adjustment			
Investments	55,000.00	55,000.00	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		3,334,709.98	3,334,709.98
Creditors / outstandings	3,334,709.98		
NET CURRENT ASSETS			101,516,144.99

ABBREVIATIONS

AATWIN	Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal
ACHR	Asian Commission for Human Rights
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ALC	Adult Literacy Class
ALLIANCE	Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice, Nepal
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
AMPDD	Asia–Pacific Movement on Debt and Development
ARENA	Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives
BBLL	Bridge Building at Local Level
BPOA	Brussels Programme of Action
CBDP	Community Based Disaster Preparedness
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDSPA	Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy
CCO	Canadian Co-operation Office
CDU	Communication and Documentation Unit
CECI	Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
CFUG	Community Forest Users Groups
CGISP	Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIVICUS	World Civil Society Organisation
CLC	Child Literacy Class
CMC	Central Management Committee
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DDC	District Development Committee
DFO	District Forest Office
DIPECHO	Disaster Implementation Programme European Commission Humanitarian Office
DMG	Disaster Management Groups
DPNET	Disaster Preparedness Network
DFID	Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EEPA	European External Policy Advisors
ESCR	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
EURODAD	European Network on Debt and Development
EUROSTEP	European Solidarity towards Equal Participation of People
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
FFD	Financing for Development
FFS	Farmers' Field School
FIAN	Food First Information and Action Network
FORUM – Asia	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
FSP	Flexible Schooling Programme
FYM	Farm Yard Manure
GCAP	Global Call for Action against Poverty
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries
HMC	Health Management Committees
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Horizont 3000	Austrian Organisation for Development Cooperation
HRTMCC	Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee
IDRC	International Development Research Centre

I/NGO	International/National Government Organisation
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
KCG	Kamaiya Concern Group
KFB	Austrian Catholic Women's Group
LDC	Least Developed Country
MCH	Maternal Child Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MH	Micro Hydro
MIFAN	Micro Finance Association of Nepal
MPTS	Multi Purpose Tree Species
NAFoS	National Alliance for Food Security
NFE	Non Formal Education
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NOVIB	Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OMCT	World Organisation against Torture
OSP	Out of School Programme
OXFAM	A British Charity Organization
PANAP	Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific
PE	Parenting Education
PHA 2000	People's Health Assembly 2000
PMC	Project Management Committee
PTA	Parent Teachers Association
PV	Photo Voltaic
RCILSP	Rural Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Support Programme
RCSSMPBB	Rural Community Support for Social Mobilisation for Peace Building from Below Project
RDP/GTZ	Rural Development Programme/German Technical Co-operation
RMDP	Road Maintenance and Development Project
RRN	Rural Reconstruction Nepal
SAAPE	South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAFADIA	South Asian Forum against Destructive International Aid
SAPC	South Asian Peasants Coalition
SFS	Students' Farmers School
SNV	Netherlands Development Cooperation
STW	Shallow Tube Well
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendants
UC	Users Committee
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
VAHW	Village Animator Health Worker
VCRTV	Video Cassette Recorder Television
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHV	Village Health Volunteer
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WUA	Water Users' Association
WUG	Water Users' Group