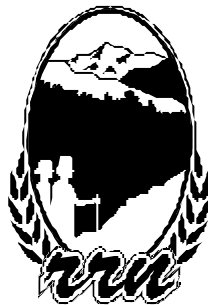


Annual Report 2005

Committed to Development, Democracy and Peace Building



Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)

Editors:

Neeraj N. Joshi
Sarba R. Khadka
Ram P. Gautam

Design and layout

Sushila Thapa

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For more information, please contact:

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)
Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy (CDSIPA)
P. O. Box: 8130,
667 Neel Saraswoti Marg,
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Tel: 977-1-4415418/4422153
Fax: 977-1-4418296/4443494
Email: rrn@rrn.org.np
Web Site: www.rrn.org.np

Photograph on cover page: RRN in lobbying and advocacy campaign for democracy.

FOREWORD

The year 2005 had remained extremely painful for the organisation, its partners and the country as a whole. The already beleaguered country due to violent political conflict for a decade was pushed further into socio-economic and political devastations. Whatever opportunities for empowering people, institutionalising democracy and addressing the issues of basic human rights had remained intact, resisting the conflict, after the 1990 popular movement, and somehow being enjoyed until the beginning of the year, were suddenly halted through the unconstitutional seizure of state authority by the King on the 1st of February 2005. All spheres of society including NGOs, media, professional organisations, trade unions, peasant associations, women associations, children organisations, and the general public were badly affected by this move. The democratic space was shrunk, resources for development were diverted to military purposes, and the catalytic role of the civil society organisations was questioned time and again by the undemocratic State and the rebels.



The government promulgated an ordinance by the name of Social Welfare Council and unilaterally prepared code of conduct for NGOs to control them. Despite strong opposition from NGOs and all forces active for democracy, human rights and peace -within and outside of the country, the code of conduct kept challenging the works of the NGOs and continued torturing their leaders. Under the pretext of promoting "corruption free" society, the activities of the NGOs were put in unnecessary scrutiny, and hence, the NGOs were forced to limit their performance that directly affected the people and their partners. Many of the NGO activists were warranted, arrested and put in detention under humiliating situation. The continued threat from the Maoist rebels was also equally responsible for limiting the performance of the NGOs. Many NGOs were subjected to extortion, forced registration with them or else faces consequences.

Even though these situations were frequently encountered by the people, its partners, volunteers and the staff, RRN could manage to continue its programmes with the similar humility as in the past. The results of which are assembled in this report. I believe, it has been possible only through conglomeration of strong bonds of all our partners, staff, volunteers and the people for whom this organisation is dedicated for. I hope, the readers will find this report a very useful tool to instill information and disseminate their understanding.

Please feel free to forward any comments, suggestions, critiques or queries so that we keep gaining strength for serving the marginalized strata of our societies. I feel honored thanking all our partners, the people, staff, volunteers and the well wishers for helping RRN towards materializing its vision, mission and goal.

I look forward working with you all as before. May the New Year 2006 be meaningful in reinstating democracy, human rights and peace in Nepal and the world.

Thank you,

Arjun Karki, PhD
President

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INTRODUCTION

Organised informally to involve themselves in the relief work in Nepal's Chitwan District which suffered from devastating floods in the year 1989, a group of graduates of Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science at Rampur, Chitwan decided to form a development organisation with the name 'Grass Roots Institute for Training and Services-Nepal (GRITS-Nepal)' in the same year. Later as a consequence of the impression received from the visit of RRN's one of the Executive Board members to the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction in the Philippines, it transformed its name into Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN). Since then 'rural reconstruction' became the RRN's centre of attention.

With the passage of time, RRN has expanded to one of the fast growing NGOs in Nepal in terms of the programme diversity as well as the geographical area coverage by programme activities and the size of the organisation. RRN enjoys a Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. RRN is also accredited to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Currently, it also hosts the Secretariat of the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), and LDC Watch: two of several of RRN's civil society alliances that are helping fight for poverty eradication and the realisation of human rights for all. Presently, RRN engages a total about 600 staff and volunteers to discharge their services for the benefit of the resource poor and disadvantaged segments of the population living in the county's rural and remote areas keeping in view the national development goal.

Remaining within the centre of Credo of the Rural Reconstruction Movement, RRN has been working with the poor and disadvantaged rural communities in Nepal for the past one and half decade. During this period, based on the four-fold approach of rural reconstruction - education, health, livelihood and self-government, it has implemented numerous development activities to address the crucial problems of the country and people. These include

education, healthcare, natural resource management, empowerment of women, children and the Dalits, and ethnic minority groups. Besides, it has also implemented activities that produced quick and tangible impacts on the community within a short period. Such activities included the emergency relief and rehabilitation, physical infrastructure development, skill development, and savings and credit programmes, among others.

Of late, in considering the escalating plights of Nepalese people resulting from the continued endemic poverty, inequity, and violent conflict, and absence of a stable and competent government, RRN has been focusing on the conflict affected areas as well by pursuing an approach of 'conflict sensitive development' with the intention of creating an enabling environment for development through peace building.

RRN has successfully implemented various kinds of integrated community development programmes in more than 30 districts out of a total of 75 districts in the country; covering mountainous, hilly and Tarai ecological zones. These programmes accrued benefits to some 200,000 households. Such approaches as participatory, integrated and rights-based, and the aspects like social inclusion, transparency, equity, pro-poor, short and long-term tangible impacts, collective action, demand driven, coordination, collaboration, community-led and sustainability are some of the key underlying elements of RRN's successes in the programme intervention.

One of the key factors that led RRN to significant achievement in its effort to organisational strengthening as well as programme implementation has been the unique culture it has developed through its own experiences and the lessons learned over time. This demonstrates that a development organisation like RRN needs a culture that is congenial for its operation and undertaking development activities.



RRN'S ORGANISATIONAL FEATURES

RRN is one of the leading national non-government organisations working in Nepal since 1989. So far, it has been able to reach more than six hundred thousand rural people in Nepal; devoted to helping people in marginalized communities improve their lives and achieve lasting victories over poverty. Its objectives are to implement integrated community development programmes focusing in community health, awareness, education, livelihoods and self-government, and work on policy advocacy front for socially and economically vulnerable people, Dalits, minorities, women, children and poor people. RRN has a family of about 600 employees and volunteers working in 19 different projects, including six advocacy projects and 13 integrated community development projects.

The Structure

RRN has a flexible organisational structure. However, with stronger and wider trust of the key stakeholders built on RRN, a more functional organisational structure has emerged. The present organisational structure is based on the types of functions RRN has been performing with its field offices scattered over the poverty stricken remote rural areas of the country.

RRN's Executive Committee, constituted by the General Assembly 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 general members of the organisation. The President heads the management of RRN, and is responsible for executing decisions regarding the policies, objectives and strategies of the organisation. The President works in cooperation 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 it acts as the principal Administrative and co-ordinating body of the organisation. There are two

regional offices located in the eastern and western regions, and 25 different district offices across the country. The organisation contains five major divisions, viz., Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy, Programme Development Division, Research Documentation and Publication Division, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, and Finance and General Administration Division, and 17 different functional units under these divisions.

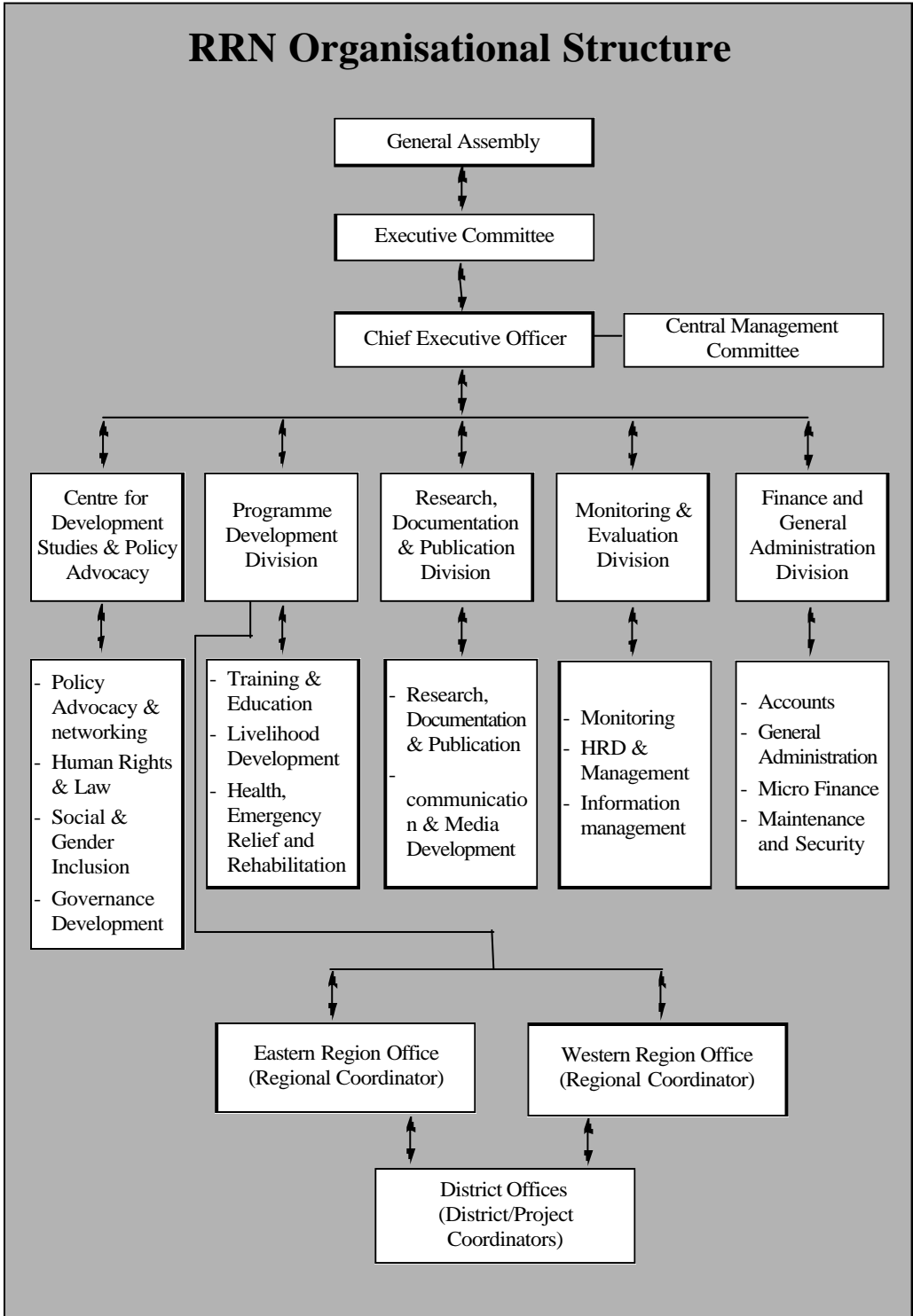
Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy

The Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy (CDSPA) is responsible for policy research, alliance building and policy advocacy. It undertakes wide-ranging research activities related to the impact of globalization, IFLs, WTO, ODA, international debt, poverty and other issues of unequal power and socio-political relations that affect the lives of the rural poor, ethnic minority groups, dalits, women and children. The findings of such research are incorporated into the designing of RRN's development programmes and policy advocacy work. Other major tasks of this Centre are to engage the organisation in different networks, alliances, campaigns, seminars and workshops for policy advocacy at local, national, regional and international levels. Under this Centre, there are four major Units to share the responsibilities. They are Policy Research, Advocacy and Networking, Human Rights and Law, Social and Gender Inclusion and Governance Development.

Programme Development Division

RRN's Programme Development Division is responsible for development, implementation and monitoring of the development programmes/projects. This Division oversees the project activities and liaises with funding partners and other stakeholders involved in development works. It functions in close co-ordination with regional and project/ field offices and other Divisions in the central office. Furthermore, it is responsible for the management and smooth running of RRN's training programmes. This Division has three major units, viz., Education and Training, Livelihood Development, Health, Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation.

RRN Organisational Structure



Research, Documentation and Publication Division

This Division is responsible for formulating research policy and facilitating research activities of the organisation. The Division also coordinates the publication of research documents, newsletters and all other RRN publications, including educational materials and posters for RRN's project beneficiaries. In addition, it maintains RRN's resource centre at the central office, which comprises a broad collection of journals, books, booklets, reports, monographs and specialized publications produced by RRN, alongside relevant publications of other agencies. Furthermore, the division also takes on the responsibility of disseminating information within and outside of the organisation. The major Units under this Division are: Research, Documentation and Publication, and Communication and Media Development.

Monitoring and Evaluation Division

The Monitoring and Evaluation Division is mainly responsible for framing monitoring and evaluation strategies and guidelines for the undertaking of overall monitoring and evaluation of the organisation and the projects together with financial matters. It, in turn, provides feedback to CMC/RRN for policy decisions, and to programmes/ projects for further necessary improvements. This Division is also responsible for strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacity of the staff and the organisation. The Units that share the responsibilities of this Division include: Monitoring, Human Resource Development and Management, and Information Management

Finance and General Administration Division

The Finance and General Administration Division oversees the responsibility of management of financial transaction and general administration, including RRN's micro-finance related development projects. The Division prepares budget plans for the projects, supports the field offices with necessary logistical arrangements and equipment, and ensures maintenance of accounts and inventory records. The Division prepares budget report for the organisation and funding agencies, and arrange for the organisation's internal and external audit. The Division is also responsible for the recruitment of

staff and volunteers. There are four functional Units in this Division; they are Accounts, General Administration, Micro Finance, and Maintenance and Security.

Beliefs, Philosophy and Credo

RRN's Belief

RRN believes that

- The rural poor in 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, hence, social peace will always remain an unattainable dream unless these rural poor are able to solve their basic problems and achieve a standard of living equal to that of the rest of the society.
- The rural poor have the potential power for self-development - what they lack is the opportunity to release and develop this power.
- 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.

Credo of Rural Reconstruction Movement

*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, Mission and Objectives

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 disadvantaged and socially oppressed strata of Nepalese society, by providing them opportunities for their own socio-economic empowerment.

Objectives

RRN's strategic objective is to empower people through;

- Implementing development programmes from a rights based perspectives 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,
- Conducting action orientated research on relevant socio-economic and environmental issues and incorporate the results into our development programmes and campaigns,
- Publishing people-oriented educational, advocacy and development related publications, which can be used by the majority of the rural poor, field workers and others involved in rural development, and
- Campaigning 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 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 fulfill it. The legal and normative character of human rights and the associated government obligations are based on the international human rights treaties and the

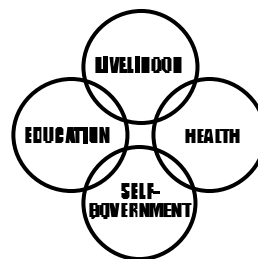
national laws. Thus, a rights-based approach involves not charity or simple economic growth, but a process of changing systems, actions and priorities to enable and empower people to claim and realise their economic, social, cultural and political rights as well as the right to development. RRN has adopted the following two-pronged strategy.

- Implement grassroots development projects and conduct action-oriented research focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable groups in rural areas,
- 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.

Programme Focus

RRN focuses all its development programmes on the four-fold approach of Rural Reconstruction as the foundation upon which its projects and programme activities are based. The approach consists of the following four key features:

- **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

RRN implements educational programmes with the credence that a human being could not be in the proper sense till s/he is aware and/or educated.



Members of a woman group participating in a non-formal education class for literacy and awareness



A woman harvesting off-season vegetables grown in a green house nursery supported by RRN

Awareness and education is essential to human progress. The truth is that people have a right to education, besides the vital necessities of life like food, clothing and shelter. RRN's education programme targets mostly those who are in the state of chronic poverty and constantly struggling to fulfill this basic need and who are usually left out by the development programmes of other agencies.

As in the previous years, in 2005, RRN undertook a range of literacy and education programmes at the grassroots level, focusing on both adult and children 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 counseling, provision of scholarships and formal schooling support. Children at risk of child labour, those affected by the ongoing conflict and female children form the principal focus groups.

RRN has also produced a variety of information and educational materials such as posters, manuals, booklets and leaflets to facilitate implementation of education and awareness raising activities at different levels.

Sustainable Livelihoods

Sustainable livelihoods encompasses the activities intended to help disadvantaged members of society meet their daily 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 short and long term development initiatives. 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, psychological, political and economic sense. Health and nutrition problems in Nepal are varied, enormous and spiraling, 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 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.



Villagers having rest after getting treatment from the mobile eye camp organised by RRN

Self-Government

Self-government is indispensable for sustainable development and is understood in terms of inclusion into governance by 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.

Resources

Over a period of more than one and half decade, RRN along with its organisational growth and

development has been able to create adequate physical and human resources within its jurisdiction. It is through proper utilisation of these resources that the organisation has been materialising its vision, mission and objectives in an effort to contribute to the economic growth and development for the poor people residing in the remote and conflict stricken areas in the country.

The organisation is staffed with professional expertise in various disciplines, development practitioners, human rights advocates, and persons with long-term experiences and competencies in the organisational operations and management. Besides, it has access to competent personnel who have been contributing to RRN.

In terms of physical resources, RRN has established its own multi-purpose resource centres in Morang, Sankhuwa-sabha, and Chitwan districts. It is going to set up such centres in Banke in the near future. The centres are fully equipped with modern facilities for organising all sorts of training, workshop, conferences, etc., with the provision of accommodations. These centres are also accessible to the outside organisations for such purposes.



RRN Regional Resource Centre in Morang District

Institutional Partners

RRN works closely with many funding and implementing partners and many like-minded organisations and networks within Nepal and abroad. In 2005, RRN partnered with the following different stakeholders for the implementation of various projects and programmes.

Funding Partners

- 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)/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- European Commission
- German Agro Action
- Horizont3000
- 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)
- 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

Implementation Partners

RRN is engaged with the following national, regional and international partners to implement the programmes and the projects:

National partners

- Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children, Nepal (AATWIN)
- People's Health Assembly (PHA)
- Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice (HR ALLIANCE)
- Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)
- Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP)
- Eastern Region Participatory Action Network (ERPAN)
- Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNET)
- Human Rights Home (HRH)
- Micro Finance Association of Nepal (MIFAN)
- Mine Risk Education (MRE) Working Group
- 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 partners

- 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 to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)
- Least Developed Countries Watch (LDC Watch)
- NGO Forum on Asian Development Bank
- Pesticide Action Network-Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)
- Social Watch
- South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
- World Alliance for Civil Society Organisations (CIVICUS)
- World Organisation against Torture (OMCT)

RRN'S FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

The failure of development and governance in Nepal created the pre-conditions - poverty, inequality, social discrimination and lack of social justice and democracy - for widespread discontent in the society. Discriminatory practices and the social exclusion of women and disadvantaged groups have also long been a source of frustration and conflict within local communities. The government has been ineffective in terms of addressing the needs of the poor, and is perceived as being working against the interests of ordinary people, and is failing to address the underlying causes of the conflict. The insurgency and the state counterinsurgency measures launched to contain the Maoists' movement have been a source of protracted humanitarian crisis in Nepal, particularly in the rural areas.

As in the previous years, in 2005 too, RRN in cognizant with the escalating socio-economic plights of Nepalese people resulting from the continued poverty, inequity and violent conflict, and absence of a stable and responsible government, implemented various development programmes in more than 20 districts out of a total of 75 districts of the country covering the mountainous, hilly and Tarai ecological zones. These programmes have accrued benefits to over 200,000 households with diverse needs and interests of men, women and children in the rural communities.

Rural Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Support

Providing immediate visible and positive impact on the lives of rural poor and marginalized communities and creating an enabling environment for peace building.

The DFID Nepal supported RRN to launch a wide-ranging rural community infrastructure development project with a special focus on enhancing people's livelihood and capacity of the poor and excluded. RRN launched this project in 16 districts covering



A dam constructed by the community people with support from RRN to provide irrigation facility to their farmlands.

Eastern, Mid- Western and Far Western Development Regions of the country. This project includes the principles of 'do no harm', broad-based people's participation, inclusiveness, local ownership, effective coordination, stakeholder collaboration, community ownership, transparency and promotion of rural livelihoods.

The project aims at providing an immediate, visible and positive impact on the lives of the poor and marginalised people in rural Nepal in order to reduce their socio-economic vulnerability and poverty by fulfilling their immediate needs of infrastructure and income generation. The purpose of this project is to create an environment conducive to building peace by responding to the high levels of need experienced by local ordinary people, particularly the poorest of the poor, Dalits, members of ethnic minority groups and unemployed youths living in rural areas, through community mobilisation and implementation of development works.

Project components

1. Farm and off-farm based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods: It includes micro enterprise support, skills development and employment generation training to reduce the level of poverty. Unemployed rural youths (mainly from Dalits, ethnic minority groups, poor and vulnerable communities

and dropouts from schools) have been supported for short to medium and long-term training sessions on specific vocational skills to promote alternative livelihood opportunities on agriculture, construction, plumbing, masonry, carpentry, house wiring, welding, painting, automobile/diesel engine repair and maintenance, dry food making and other practical fields, and health. Additionally, seed money and other appropriate support has been provided to enable the establishment of rural enterprises run by the training graduates. Implementation of farmer managed surface irrigation systems, ground water schemes for irrigation, construction and maintenance of village access roads or foot trails, landslide / flood control check dams and culverts are some other activities that support livelihood of the people.

2. Education, health and water and sanitation:

Rural schools are provided with furniture and teaching/ learning materials; communities are provided with safe drinking water schemes (piped supply, spring protection, shallow tube wells and hand pumps); and rural households are provided with alternative energy provisions including peltric sets and solar lights.

Achievements

Despite the breakdown of ceasefire RRN did achieve, in fact exceeded in many occasions, the planned targets. The project delivered immediate, visible and positive impacts to the communities. RRN's presence and successes in the conflict affected areas encouraged and enabled other NGO's as well to re-initiate their work in these areas, bringing additional benefits to the community members. The overall management of the project was effective and efficient, in terms of utilisation of project resources. It is the RRN's existing management procedures and policies that have made possible the effective implementation of the programme. This project is providing rapid and positive impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the rural people by enabling communities to meet their basic needs. Interventions have responded to some of the most critical community needs which are rarely addressed by the mainstream development endeavours. The stakeholders including the government line agencies and communities have expressed their satisfaction at the implementation of the project. They have identified further areas of need and articulated more demands.

Sustainable Elimination of Bonded Labourer

Contributing to the sustainable elimination of bonded labour in Nepal

The programme, implemented with the support from ILO/IPEC/declaration project is mainly targeted at the children, who are still de facto in debt bondage or at risk of falling back into bondage, and those who had worked as bonded labourers and are staying at home for having nothing to do, of ex-Kamaiya families to support them for education and integrate into society through implementation of sustainable livelihoods opportunities. The main aim of the project is to rehabilitate ex-bonded adult and child labourers and to prevent them from re-entering into exploitative forms of labour.

Project components

The major activities included; support for school enrolment of children of school-going age; pre-school activities, e.g., out-of-school programmes; non-formal education for adults; psycho-socio counseling to parents for rehabilitation of their children and livelihood support. Similarly, providing support to the schools for infrastructure development; participation in 'school enrolment campaign, soliciting cooperation and collaboration of the district line agencies, communities and local school management committees and OSP management committees, are the other components of the project.



Newly constructed school building by the community people with RRN's support

Achievements

i. Children's education

The first phase of the out-of-school programme (OSP-I) has been a significant step towards paving a path to social and economic development. The most appreciative aspect of this activity is mustering the children who had, in a sense, already missed out the opportunity to go to school due to various reasons (e.g., inaccessibility of the schools, lack of awareness on the part of parents about the value of education, miserable economic conditions, lack of favourable social environment, etc.).

The children, who were earlier engaged as child labourers, have conveniently been enrolled in the formal schools at appropriate grades, depending upon their cognitive abilities and the competency being developed during the OSP classes. Upon enrolment, these children were supported with necessary textbooks, stationery, school uniform, school bags, etc., for continuation of their education. The OSP has certainly helped the children to expose themselves to a brighter future.

The second phase of the OSP (OSP -II) was arranged for the children, in the age group of 15-16, who were either school dropouts or unwilling to attend formal schools mainly due to the age factor, among others. The graduates of OSP - II were later on encouraged to undertake income generation and livelihoods activities. The most appreciative aspect of this activity is that it has prevented the children from becoming labourers or re-entering into hazardous and exploitative works.

The programme has left far-reaching effects on its target beneficiaries in terms of providing education to them through various activities. The programme has been successful to a greater extent in terms of getting the ex-Kamaiya children out of their homes and mainstreaming them including some rescued Kamalharis (girls from Tharu community who were mainly engaged in domestic works at landlords' houses in more or less debt-bondage working relationships) into schools for formal education. Consequently, this activity has prevented them from and re-entering into exploitative and bondage forms of labour on the one hand, the programme has put these children into the process of development of human resource, which is imperative for bringing socio-economic prosperity in a society, on the other.

ii. Non-formal education

The effect of non-formal education as experienced and perceived by the NFE graduates include: enhanced awareness level leading to realisation to value education as a factor for bringing positive socio-economic transformation, capable of arranging group meetings, and recording the processes and decisions of the meeting in writing, and marking attendance by putting signature using a pen, instead of using thumbprints.

The NFE graduates who became literate articulate that they now know the significance of education. Consequently, they have been sending their children to formal schools. While a majority of them have demonstrated 'commitment' to continue to send their children to schools, their level of awareness about children's rights to education has been enhanced, besides them being socially and economically empowered.

iii. Rehabilitation of Kamalharis

Kamalharis are the girls working for their masters under a certain contract arrangement. One of the main reasons for the landless ex-Kamaiyas allowing their young girls to work for landlords is to have them an access to the land of the landlords for farming purposes. Through counseling to Kamalharis and their parents, and motivational activities (e.g., provision of alternative income generation opportunities to the families of rescued Kamalharis) RRN could bring a total of 228 Kamalharis back from the grip of their masters. While the programme has prevented Kamalharis from exploitative work, it has also contributed to minimising feminisation of poverty through livelihood supports.

iv. Social mobilisation

The Action Programme has been instrumental in mustering the unorganised communities and stakeholders through various activities towards providing access to education to the children, and thus contributing to mitigation of worst forms of child labour. The programme has created opportunities for individuals and institutions for unified actions for the cause of children's school enrolment. While the Action Programme has helped raise the awareness level of the ex-Kamaiyas in particular through NFE, it has been an eye-opener for the communities in general about the significance of education and other social development issues.

Sustainable Rural Livelihood

Improving the quality of life of the women members of the community through augmentation of capital assets- natural capital, human capital, social capital, physical capital and financial capital.

The Sustainable Rural Livelihood Project (SRLP) is being implemented in four village development committees and one municipality of Sankhuwa Sabha district. The project is co-financed by, Horizont3000 Austria, Austrian Government and European Commission. The main goal of the project is to improve the quality of life of the communities, mainly women, by enhancing social capital, human capital, physical capital, natural capital and financial capital.

Project components

The project focuses on empowerment of women through implementation of livelihood and income generation, community health, rural infrastructure and institutional development components. The project activities are; functional education, sustainable agriculture and social forestry, community health, leadership development, group saving, income generation and livelihood programmes, community managed-drinking water, micro-hydro power and irrigation systems, etc.

Achievements

The multi-faceted project intervention has brought about substantial positive transformation as experienced by the women beneficiaries and other stakeholders of the project. The women beneficiaries have found improved their social and economic status. The entry point used for this purpose was the concept of "Saving & Credit" which was well received by the community members associated with various groups being formed under the project.

i. Improved social status of women

All the members of the groups have significant increases in their family income due to the micro

credit they received from their groups which helped them to generate further income. This situation has improved their status in the family due to the fact that they have sound financial backings from the saving groups. The male counterparts in the community have changed their attitude towards women and have begun to respect them more than ever before. This has helped the women to acquire a higher status in their homes and communities. The members of the groups were exposed to various types of skills and awareness trainings ranging from vegetable gardening, literacy, gender, leadership to human rights. This helped the women to develop self-confidence, articulate their practical needs and aspirations clearly and openly.

ii. Changes in social practices

The efforts of SRLP have contributed to the transformation of the society as a whole. Most observable changes seen are in the status of women, behavioural changes in the family and entrepreneurship practices in the community. The project has created opportunities for the people, especially women, to come out from their houses to discuss social issues and play an effective role in the decision making process of the community. The communities' perspectives have been changed especially with regard to the status of women. The women members of the project areas have managed to come out of their traditional roles in their communities. They have become agro-entrepreneurs; grassroots level trainers; and even service providers in non-traditional roles such as in castration of bucks.

iii. Changes in farming practices

The beneficiaries of the project have become aware of the importance of fresh vegetables in their diets, and most of them have become self sufficient in vegetable production through the adoption of kitchen gardening and commercial vegetable production schemes. As a result of increased knowledge and skills on cultivation practices gained through off-season vegetable training programmes, some Dalit beneficiaries have become able to send their children to schools from the money they have made from the sale of off-season vegetables. Some women members have planted cabbages without using chemical fertilisers and chemical pesticides, during the last rainy season. They had a good harvest which they successfully marketed in the local markets and received a good price of their produce.

iv. Increased level of income

Saving and credit mobilisation with other support services (e.g., training, technical advice, irrigation, other production inputs, etc.) have enabled many beneficiaries to successfully undertake income generation activities. A substantial increase in income has been observed among the beneficiaries involved in off-season vegetable production.

Although the coverage of income generation activity is limited to off-season vegetable production due to lack of irrigation facilities and inadequate supply of seeds, an increase in average annual income in the range of Rs 2,000 to 10,000 per household has been reported among the groups involved in off-season vegetable production. Some active women in these groups have earned significant amounts of money from tomato cultivation out of action research and demonstration plots.

Some Dalit and marginal beneficiaries have used the group loans for livestock production (e.g., goats, pigs and poultry) to make their living. Increase in income has also been realized through saving of money previously spent on purchase of vegetables. A good number of the beneficiaries were found to have increased income through vegetables, fruits and fodder trees nursery.

v. Increased level of economic self-reliance

The main thrust of this project is to bring people, particularly women, together, build awareness and enable beneficiaries to demand programmes for their development as well as for the community. The project has helped the people to identify local resources, their potentials and to utilise them for their socio-economic development. In this process, women have become organised; they have identified and prioritised their needs for economic development.

Saving mobilisation has become a common activity among the beneficiaries. The group fund has provided a sense of economic security among the members. The saving scheme has greatly reduced their burden in times of family emergency or in acquiring small loans for family enterprises.

vi. Changes in health and sanitation practices

The improvement in the health situation of the people in the project area has been due to the dietary

changes brought about by vegetable gardening and the improved economic conditions of the members. It was observed that the people were consuming more vegetables being produced from their own gardens, and the beans and pulses purchased from the markets.

Although all the beneficiaries have not received support in the construction of toilets from the project yet, it was observed that many of them have initiated building of pit latrines themselves. The present positive changes have occurred due to the awareness in preventive measures practiced by the families in the homes. The members have realized that the construction of toilets and on the spot training on health issues have greatly contributed towards the positive health transformation of their villages. Everybody practiced simple methods like boiling drinking water during the rainy seasons, washing hands before eating, keeping their vicinity clean and the use of toilets.

vii. Motivated toward rural infrastructure development

The women beneficiary groups were found to be highly motivated towards infrastructure development in their areas. The project's efforts in creating awareness and providing support in this regard, especially in the construction of toilets, is commendable. Almost all of the members had constructed toilets with their own efforts and/or via the support of the project. Many of the project beneficiaries have constructed pit latrines which served the purpose of the local people well.

The drinking water schemes of the project have been highly appreciated. Though only basic materials were offered by the project, all the physical works were done by the group members and their spouses through labour support and cooperation. The taps constructed were found to be centrally placed, as it saved a lot of time and energy for women who had to fetch water from significant distances in the past. They could now invest this time in more productive activities such as vegetable gardening and caring for their children. Most of the women groups are motivated towards rural infrastructure development and have actively participated in building micro-hydro schemes, foot trails, community centres, etc.

viii. Enhanced organisational capacity of women

The organisational capacity of the women beneficiaries has improved as a result of their active

participation in the development of their own organisation/group. Besides, various capacity building activities including advocacy and networking, NFE, exposure visits, and group management, leadership development, account keeping, and saving fund management have significantly contributed towards this end. Most of the women's groups have started to conduct their meeting and maintain meeting minutes and group accounts independently.

Food Security and Livelihoods Promotion for the Poor

Supporting the rural poor and marginal and socially excluded women farmers to diversify livelihoods sources and enhance household food security status.

The Food Security and Livelihoods Promotion Project (FSLPP) is being implemented in two Village Development Committees (VDCs), namely Chainpur and Birendranagar of Chitwan with the funding support of German Agro Action. The overall objective of this project is to support the rural poor, such as marginal farmers, women and socially excluded people for improving their livelihoods by enhancing household level food security.

Project components

The project components include support for food security through intensive cultivation and diversification of food crops, and technical support for increased food production. The specific components include: (i) improvement of the skill and knowledge of farmers on sustainable agriculture production through trainings on sustainable/ecological agriculture, sustainable soil management practices and integrated pest management, (ii) income generating activities through goat/pig raising, and (iii) support farmers with seeds and seedlings of locally adopted high yielding crops, vegetables, fruits and trees.

Achievements

Presently, the project is in the middle of its implementation phase. The project has completed all the activities it is supposed to, as per its schedule

despite the disturbances caused by the then socio-political situation. The project has been supporting the target beneficiaries for improving their livelihoods and moving towards household level food security.

i. Training on sustainable ecological agriculture

The project provided support for human resource development on sustainable agriculture by organising training activities to the farmers. The training programme has focused on the following major aspects: (i) concept of sustainable / ecological agriculture, (ii) methods / techniques for sustainable agriculture, (iii) selection of crops and varieties and nursery management, (iv) organic manures and methods of land preparation, (v) biological control of insect/pest, (vi) storage, grading and marketing management. The main objective of this training was to provide knowledge and skills about sustainable / ecological agriculture for maximum production with minimum input or investment.

The participants have gained the knowledge and skills of sustainable farming. With the knowledge and skills gained from the training, the participants have started intensive farming practices by establishing kitchen gardening, vegetable nurseries, introducing high value crops on their own in their respective farms.

ii. Integrated pest management

The training on farmer field school (FFS) for the beneficiaries was conducted for the promotion and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) in the project area. Basically, the project practiced the IPM techniques in vegetable production emphasizing the use of organic/botanical pesticides, physical and cultural control methods, judicious use of chemical and local indigenous knowledge at the level that are economically justifiable and safe for human health and the environment.

The participants of FFS gained knowledge and acquired the skills required to grow healthy crops, with the least possible disruption to the agro-ecosystem. The beneficiaries got exposure and skills to conduct experiments such as comparing the conventional/traditional farming practices with IPM practices. As an integral part of the FFS, every week the participant farmers have practiced the agro-ecosystem analysis (AESA) which includes observation and collection of insect pest and natural

enemies, as well as observation of the plants, water management, weather condition, weed density and disease surveillance for about 3 months. The results of the AESA are used by the farmers to make decisions on the management of particular crops and field.

A substantial amount of time of the FFS was spent on the vegetable crop experiments plots. Simple experiments, like simulation of leaf damage, plant spacing, monitoring pest population throughout the season and growing different varieties, were conducted to understand plant growth and interaction between pests, natural enemies and pesticides. Other topics of special classes e.g. food chain, group dynamics were also included in the weekly meetings.

iii. Sustainable soil management practices

The training sessions for the participants were organised on sustainable soil management practices. These training sessions imparted knowledge and skills related to reduction of use of high intensity of inorganic fertilizers, which is not cost effective and ultimately damages physical properties of soil. The training has been perceived as being useful by the farmers for management practices to combat soil erosion, land degradation and loss of soil fertility, and eventually lead to increased soil fertility and agricultural productivity. All the participants of this training are adopting the soil management practices in their farm-lands. Further, the trained farmers are sharing their knowledge and skills with their fellow farmers and motivating them to follow the soil management practices.

iv. Crop diversification for sustainable livelihood

This project has been promoting and assisting for the diversification of crops and cultivars to enhance the sustainable livelihoods. The group members have been encouraged and oriented to use the seeds and seedlings, which are locally adaptable and manageable by small farmers. Diversification of crops for both the production and consumption is contributing to increase the incomes as well as improved nutrition on the part of poor farmers, especially among women and children.

With the application of knowledge and techniques learned from the training programme, all target households have established vegetable gardens utilising the vegetable seeds being provided to them by the project. More than 16 varieties of both the

winter and off-season vegetable seeds were provided to a total of 227 women farmers/project beneficiaries.

The technical staffs of the project are regularly providing technical guidance on the off-season and seasonal vegetables production, post harvest techniques, marketing of surplus vegetables and other agricultural products.

Social Mobilisation under Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project

Meeting the irrigation water needs of the farmers through mobilisation of women water user groups for higher agricultural productivity leading to enhanced socio- economic status

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

The project is largely aimed at improving the socio-economic status of the poor farmers by increasing the productivity of crops with the installation of STWs in locations where there are no alternative irrigation facilities. The other objectives included capacity strengthening of water users' organisations, and increasing the agricultural productivity as a source of livelihoods, coordination between WUGs and WUAs, and build their capacity for sustainability.

Project components

The activities under this project were providing loans to small farmers who lack access to credit, skill development training and workshops, promoting water user groups' saving, and formation of Water Users Associations (WUAs), strengthen coordination between WUGs and WUAs, and build their capacity for sustainability.

Achievements

With the installation of shallow tube-well during the project period, more and more areas of land have been brought under irrigation facilities. With the increased irrigation water available, the cropping intensity has been substantially increased for the benefit of the farming community in the project areas.

With the lessons learned from RRN's previous projects elsewhere, it considered the importance of the social system to manage and operate the physical systems (e.g., the irrigation system). Therefore, the project intentionally created and strengthened a number of groups/ associations of local water users through the discussions with them and other stakeholders, as well as through frequent training and workshops. These training and workshops provided opportunities for the water users to develop skills required for operating and maintaining the physical structure of the irrigation system and, improving agricultural practices.

As the sustainability of a social system itself matters in an effort to operate and maintain the physical system, the project also focused with equal importance on the institutional mechanisms to be adopted for the long-term sustainability of the physical systems. The project assisted the individual farmers to form groups. Consequently, there exist water user groups and association that are capable of operating and maintaining the shallow tube-wells through their own rules and regulations. By adopting the set governance mechanism the WUGs have been operating and maintaining the STWs being installed effectively and efficiently.

One of the elements that played significant role in keeping the WUGs going-on is the 'group saving' component, besides their labour and other contributions. The group-saving, into which group members contribute, funds for emergency purposes and the creation of income generating activities. The success of this project is largely due to the labour contribution, and knowledge and skills acquired and applied by the local communities.

The project activities eventually resulted in the improvement of the quality of life of the poor farmers through the increased income obtained from farming as a result of relatively assured irrigation facilities. Investments in their children's education, giving up of bad habits in the society, enhanced

gender awareness, and improved health status are some of the major aspects of social changes occurred in the water users as a result of their active participation in the project activities.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme

Providing continuously safe and clean drinking water and alleviating poverty through income generating programmes

This project is being implemented with the aim to continuously supply safe and clean drinking water, raise awareness about health and education among women and children and protect the people from water borne diseases. The project covered Ward No. 7 and 13 of the Khandbari municipality, and Ward No. 7 of Kharang VDC of Sankhuwa Sabha district, which suffered from the serious problems clean and safe drinking water. Much of the project areas, though lie within the Khandabari Municipality., are in fact having more of the rural characteristics.

Project components

In order to achieve the set objectives, the project undertook the following activities: training programmes on the operation and maintenance of water supply systems, health and sanitation, income generating activities, construction of household latrines, construction of water supply infrastructure, and community savings and credit mobilisation.

Achievements

The first achievement under this project was the adequate social mobilisation for the implementation of physical activities. Such activities as training on the operation and maintenance of water supply systems led to formation of construction committees, saving and credit groups, and water users groups for the purpose of implementing construction activities.

With the strong social infrastructure being developed, the project has been able to supply relatively better quality potable water through the construction of the water supply scheme for the benefit of the community people. The water users'

groups being formed and trained have been looking after the operation and maintenance of the scheme in order to provide long- term sustainability. The community people, who had earlier been relying on unhygienic open streams, ponds and rivers as their drinking water sources and other household activities resulting to high risk of exposure of water borne diseases, now have the taps with abundance of water flowing regularly. The social and gender implications of the scheme are that it used to be very frustrating situation for the women fetching water for the household activities from very distant places and compelling them to spend long hours. With the completion of the project, the women are in a better position to pay much needed attention to their children, and involve them in social and gainful economic activities in their communities.

The incidence of diseases has reduced to a substantial extent as a result of construction and use of latrines, together with implementation of other sanitation activities. The women members in the community now feel themselves empowered in social and economic terms with the formation of their groups and running of the micro-credit schemes by themselves for their own benefits. While the women's awareness level about the importance of education, health and sanitation has increased, their male counterparts have become more supportive to the farm and household activities, and community management as a consequence of indirect effect of the project.

Rural Programme Nepal

Strengthening the claim-making capacities of people's organizations for securing services from development agencies and strengthening capacity of service deliver organisations

The Rural Programme Nepal is currently in implementation in 15 northern VDCs of Bhojpur district. The project, initially commenced in the year 2000, is to continue until 2007. The main goal of the project is to improve the socio-economic status and quality of life of the poor and marginal people of the project VDCs. The project has two pronged approach: (i) building the capacity of people's organisations to enhance their claim-making capacity for securing services from service delivery

organisations and (ii) strengthening the capacity of service delivery organisations.

Project components

The project focused on social mobilisation and promotion of self-help organisations, small-scale rural infrastructures/local initiatives, and promotion of economic opportunities.

Achievements

i. Social mobilisation and organisational development

In the later part of the project, the social mobilisation activities and promotion of self-help organisations (SHOs) and cooperatives have played crucial role in unifying the communities for their own development. These organisations have established their relationship, linkage for coordination with many other local development stakeholders and private sectors in the district.



A group of women discussing its strategic plan in a meeting. Women groups are extensively promoted by RRN in its project area

With the strengthening of the capacities of the people's organisations (locally called as community based organisations and cooperatives) in such aspects as administrative management, leadership, credit mobilisation, participatory planning, and need/situation analysis, they have been able to obtain resources from the potential local development stakeholders for their own development activities. These organisations appeared to be well functioning, and started providing services to their members for conducting need assessment, participatory annual planning, establishing veterinary clinics, saving/credit collection and mobilisation, records/book

keeping, training services by their own capacity/resource persons, etc.

The cooperatives have formed a project level networking with the long term strategy and, the network is formally affiliated with the District Cooperative Association for their institutional sustainability. Some of the CBOs and cooperatives are involved in development activities, and management of disaster in the project area.

ii. Support for small rural infrastructure

The project made investments in the construction of cost-effective infrastructures (e.g., drinking water and irrigation schemes, bridges and water-mills locally known as pani ghatta). The construction of drinking water scheme has resulted in easy access to drinking water for household and farm purposes, besides the improvement in the hygiene and sanitary conditions in the project area. These schemes not only eased the pain of the women household members by reducing the distance to be traveled to fetch water, but also provided opportunities to be engaged in other social and economic activities because of more time they have saved. Similarly, the installation of water-mills has reduced the drudgery of women who are often responsible for grinding and pounding of food grains manually.

The irrigation schemes have contributed to the multiplication of the agricultural production and productivity eventually leading to increase in the farmers' income, while it has also created an opportunity for introducing new high-value cash crops. The pond irrigation scheme (e.g., in Keureninani -6) is a successful one for the benefit of the farmers who otherwise had no water sources around their farm lands. This innovative scheme has provided the opportunities even for vegetable production during dry season.

iii. Economic promotion

Economic promotion for the rural poor is the prime focus of the project. The target beneficiaries, especially poor and porters, have been supported with various income generation activities like semi-commercial vegetable production, street vending during the local weekly-markets (Haat bazar), fish-farming, and promotion of indigenous/traditional occupations (e.g., iron works, tailoring, etc.). Various training sessions have imparted them development skills required to undertake various activities

mentioned above. Their involvement in these economic activities has substantially enhanced their economic status.

Brighter Future Programme

Providing basic literacy and numerical skills and opportunities to the children encouraging them to enter into formal school systems

RRN has been implementing the Brighter Future Programme focusing on the education of children aged 10-14, who are at risk of hazardous forms of child labour in Morgan district. This programme has targeted those children who never had an opportunity to go through the formal school system or were forced to drop out due to household responsibilities or other social, economic and cultural constraints. The project has targeted a total of 500 children -290 girls and 210 boys, in this year.

The project was implemented to provide children with the opportunity to acquire basic literacy and numerical skills, and encourage them to enrol in formal schooling at an appropriate level.

Project components

The components included in the project are: scholarship programmes for students, conduct non-formal education classes, school enrolment and Parent Teachers Association (PTA) formation and mobilisation.

Achievements

The project benefited a total of 500 children, 290 girls and 210 boys, who were completely illiterate in the absence of opportunities. With the implementation of the project, many of the children were enabled with the basic literacy and numerical skills through nine-month long non-formal education, and were enrolled in the formal schools befitting their age and academic capabilities they have developed.

In the current year alone, a total of 273 children were enrolled in grades ranging from 2 to 7, and all of them have been doing better as compared to the average students. In order to enable the school enrolled children to continue their education, the

project provided 96 male and 162 female children with scholarships.

The project-supported schools have been performing satisfactorily in terms of providing quality education with the cooperation of the Parent Teachers Associations (PTA) being formed. The PTAs are mainly involved in creating congenial atmosphere in the schools.

Arun Valley Sustainable Resource Use and Management

Improving the socio-economic status of the poorest of the poor people through natural resource based income generating programme

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) has implemented a medium sized project entitled "Arun Valley Sustainable Resource Use and Management (AVASRUM)" in the Upper Arun valley with the financial support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project, founded on community based biodiversity conservation approach, is a pilot demonstration project, which offers a new dimension to the government's protected area through the support of community based management on a small scale. The project basically aimed at serving as a case or pilot study designed to learn from small scale, tested methodologies for integrating and promoting larger scale, the use of traditional knowledge, skills and the institutions for the benefit of sustainable use and the conservation of biological diversity in the Himalayas.

Project Components

The major components of the project include: income generating activities, establishment of Herbs Production and Processing Company, collection of NTFPs seeds from the alpine belts, training on NTFP production, processing, NTFP nursery establishment and marketing.

Achievements

i. Income generating activities

This project has launched income generating activities in the project areas for the members of

CFUGs. The forest users were supported to grow NTFPs in the community lands or in the open patches inside the community forests. The other activities like vegetable farming, NTFP farming with focus on Chiraito production, goat rearing, sheep farming, pig farming, weaving and cutting raw material of allo, poultry and duck farming, etc., with the view that they could generate income on their own on a long-term basis have also been implemented by the project.

ii. Establishment of Arun valley herbs production and processing company

The Arun Valley Herbs Production and Processing Institute has been founded by the training graduates of AVASRUM Programme in December 2005 in Khandbari Municipality-13 of Sankhuwa Sabha. The institute has a two-pronged strategy: (i) to conduct action-oriented income generating programmes focusing on the poorest of the poor, socio-economically vulnerable people and their sustainable rural livelihoods and, (ii) to raise awareness through campaigns and advocacy at the local and district levels about the root causes of poverty, and the problems of the poor and the ways to overcome them, and socio economic and cultural rights, and environmental /ecological problems.

iii. Seed collection of NTFPs from the alpine belts

The project has facilitated collection of seeds of the important NTFPs, e.g., Chiraito, Padamchal, Bikhma, Panch Aunle, Pakhanved, Jatamansi, Kudki, Maikopi, etc. from the forest of the Alpine belts of the Upper Arun region in the month of October - November. The seeds collected from this region were sown in the NTFP nurseries for their multiplication and planting in the private and public / community lands.

iv. NTFP production, processing and marketing training

A training programme on NTFP nursery establishment and cultivation was organised in RRN Community Learning and Training Center, Tumlingtar. With the knowledge and skills on the techniques of growing NTFP species, the participants committed to establish private nurseries in their own farms and to expand NTFP in four community forestry lands. The participants became familiar with some local NTFP species and have developed capacity in selecting appropriate species suitable for planting on their farm lands.

The participants identified 104 different herbal plant species of economic and medicinal importance. Out of 104 NTFPs, 17 plant species were rated as economically most potential plants in the region based on the volume of the trade and the monetary value.

A plantation programme was implemented in September in the public lands of Langling Community User Group of Num-4, with the active participation of the CFUG.

v. NTFP nursery establishment

In consideration with the contribution of the slash and burn or shifting cultivation practices to the livelihoods of the community as well as to biodiversity conservation in the upper Arun valley, the project has established NTFP nurseries. The species included in the plant nurseries are Chiraito, Padamchal, etc. The selected four CFUGs provided the land to establish NTFPs nursery in the community forests.

Life and Livelihood for Helpless and Vulnerable Children

Supporting the conflict affected children for formal education and social Psychological Rehabilitation, and the youth and widows for employment opportunities through vocational training

Because of the conflict that continued for almost a decade, many of the children are compelled to live amidst mental fear and threats. With such a situation, their rights, particularly the right to physical and social security, are questioned.

The overall goal of the project is to provide assistance to the orphaned, disabled and displaced children as a consequence of the conflict that began since 1996 in the country, and to support youths and the single women. The project targeted the children affected by the conflict providing them with the opportunities of education in formal schools and ensuring their normal life through the process of socio-psychological counseling. Similarly, the project also aimed at making efforts for more vocational training to the youths and widows so that they are ensured to get more employment. In order to

involve the widows in small scale income generating enterprises to improve their economic and social status and could afford for their children to continue education they are given the opportunities to receive the livelihood related trainings. Further to ensure quality education and income of the schools, this programme has aimed at assisting schools with physical support and federating Parents Teachers Association (PTA).

Project Components

The project activities for the children are: (i) scholarship support to enable them to go for formal schooling, and (ii) counseling services. Similarly, the components targeted to youth and single women include; income generating vocational training and financial support to single women for their livelihood and referral service. Besides, formation and mobilisation of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for improving the learning and teaching environment in local schools is also an important component.

Achievements

The project has been able to reach the target beneficiaries, i.e., children, youth and single women affected by armed conflict, internally displaced people at risk or vulnerable to risk despite the unfavourable socio-political environment prevailed in the entire project districts. The conflict affected children were encouraged and provided with supports for their access to basic education. These children have been continuing their education in various schools in the project area with the necessary financial and socio-psychological support.

The Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs), developed by the project were provided with some financial assistance for the sustainability of the initiatives. The PTAs networks thereby played very crucial role in enhancing the quality of education, community ownership and strengthening collaboration between teachers and guardians. The networks have then introduced some innovative programmes into the school curriculum such as HIV/AIDS, conflict resolution, peace building, and child rights education. Thus, the academic performance of the children is quite encouraging.

The project also provided some seed money to the schools where the children were enrolled with the intention that these schools could generate their own fund for providing the quality education including

peace education and required facilities to the students. PTAs have also been helping to ensure the income of the schools with the proper mobilisation of the fund provided them in the form of seed money.

Likewise, youths and widows who were in search of support for themselves and their young ones and other family members have been involved in the life skill training and in small scale income generating enterprises. It is observed that they are more enthusiastic and seriously involved in improving their economic and social status and are encouraged to afford for their children's continued education through the livelihood and training opportunities given to them.

Integrated Pest Management through Farmers Field Schools Programme

Developing farmers as local human resources for increased agricultural productivity through adaptation of IPM

RRN has implemented the Farmers Field School (FFS) project in partnership with the World Education and the local people for the promotion and implementation of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept in Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts benefiting a total of 1,385 female and 570 male farmers. Originally, the project practiced IPM methods in rice cultivation. Later on, the farmers have also been involved in IPM activities in the pre and post-harvest activities of vegetable crops. IPM emphasises the use of organic/botanical pesticides, physical and cultural control methods, judicious use of chemicals and local indigenous knowledge.

The main objectives of the project are, to : prepare farmers as a local human resource for community IPM at the local level, increase the production and productivity of land through adaptation of IPM methods, and encourage women and students, both male and female, to participate in farming and decision-making processes.

Project components

The major components of the project are: conduction of farmers' field school in vegetable crops, Chaite-

rice and main season rice, and post harvest storage of vegetable crops.

Achievements

The organisation and conduction of FFSs have proved to be effective in preparing the local farmers as farming-related human resource thereby helping reduce their dependency on harmful chemicals that cause increased destruction of productivity of the agricultural lands. The farmers who had participated in FFS activities practiced IPM techniques in different kinds of crops such as spring (Chaite) rice, monsoon (main-season) rice, and seasonal vegetable crops.

As an effect of the project, the farmers have applied the IPM techniques they learned from the FFS. Their main response was that they have been benefited from their participation in the FFS in terms of the reduction of the cost of cultivation and minimising post-harvest losses, and more importantly, the capacities they have developed to use the IPM techniques in a practical sense for the long-term benefits.

Preparedness and Relief for the Disaster Affected Communities in Nepal

Enhancing the capacity of the communities and local institutions to cope with and reduce the incidences of natural calamities

The project 'Preparedness and Relief for the Disaster Affected Communities in Nepal' was jointly implemented by Rural Reconstruction Nepal and Caritas Austria in ten disaster affected and/or disaster prone districts of the country. The project focused mainly on the preventive actions against the water induced disasters, such as floods and landslides. The principal objective of the project was to improve capacity of disaster preparedness and management, and provision of timely supply of relief materials to the people vulnerable to the natural calamities. It has targeted 5,950 direct and above 7,000 indirect, mostly resource poor and marginalised beneficiaries to deliver the project services.



RRN President selecting relief materials for flood victims

Project components

The project has implemented different types of activities under three different categories, viz. raising awareness through formation of community based disaster preparedness (CBDP), disaster management groups (DMG) and community forestry users' group (CFUG), capacity building (training on disaster preparedness) and relief and rehabilitation (e.g., construction of preventive measures like check-dams, landslide gully control and gabion spurs). A number of activities were implemented in collaboration with the 46 CBDP and 50 DMGs of the local people.

Achievements

i. Environmental aspects

The project helped minimize the flood, inundation and landslide hazards by constructing physical structures and planting trees. The activities such as plantation in the denuded landscapes and measures controlling flood inundation in the villages have been found positive for protecting general environment. The awareness raising activities have added on the existing knowledge of the people to care the environment and share the benefits.

The project was delivered to the people based on its declared motto of helping the disaster affected communities through suitable preparedness

activities. The project activities have helped to address the disaster mitigation needs of the marginalised communities, hence indirectly making them aware of their right to development and protection of their lives and property. The economic rights are also assured up to certain extent through the project activities, e.g., propping the livelihoods opportunities of the disaster affected communities, helping resource generation and organising them into similar interest groups to strengthen their bargaining power.

ii. Social aspects

The components of socio-economic empowerment helped reducing poverty and harmonised social relationships. The resource consumption patterns changed into the positive direction as a consequence of protected resources and improved livelihoods patterns.

The preparedness and protection activities of the project have positive impacts on the communities that are afraid of being swept away or displaced from their current settlements due to increased and repeated threats of disasters. The project helped positively towards developing human settlements. The local groups and other stakeholders engaged in introducing rational measures to mitigate disasters have taken due considerations of the environmental and development issues while making decisions. The project has been able to establish good working linkages with district based government line agencies, I/NGOs and communities engaged in similar issues.

iii. Economic aspects

The activities of the project improved the economic well being of the communities by protecting existing natural resources, e.g., land, and adding new resources, like community forests to the stock. Both of these activities have helped to increase the incomes of the people, and providing long-term bases for contributing overall development in the area.

LOBBYING, POLICY ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING INITIATIVES

The advocacy and lobbying is RRN's one of the most important programme missions that draws the attention of national and international policy makers, and other stakeholders and urges them to act accordingly. RRN, in collaboration with several like-minded civil society organisations and networks in Nepal and abroad; is actively involved in lobbying and policy advocacy works at all levels; national, regional and international. RRN has been continuously involved in advocating unconditional implementation of international instruments of human rights to which the state is a party, including the implementation of government commitments declared at different international fora. To institutionally push forward the concerns of the people within and outside of the country, different networks have been formalized to which RRN is an active partner. For example, it is a founding member and current coordinator of the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and the LDC Watch, among others, whose missions are briefly discussed hereunder.



The President of RRN, Dr. Arjun Karki (second from right) participating in a panel discussion on the issues of peace and democracy in Nepal at European Parliament, Strasbourg, France

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 now has over 100 members from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives, aiming to work as a pressure group

on governments, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and multilateral institutions, in relation to policies and programmes leading to the elimination of poverty. SAAPE is also working closely with European NGOs and partners such as HIVOS, OXFAM-NOVIB and Eurostep. RRN houses the regional Secretariat of SAAPE.

In February 2005, SAAPE had successfully organised the People's Summit for People's SAARC parallel to the official SAARC summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh; Strategy Planning meeting in March, New Delhi, India; conference on "People's Process for Post-Tsunami Rebuilding" in April, Colombo, Sri Lanka; AGM in June, Candy, Sri Lanka; 58th Annual UN Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO conference in September, New York; Poverty Report '2006 Authors' workshop in November, Kathmandu, Nepal and the international conference on Democracy, Peace, Food Sovereignty and Action Plan for "Road to Hong Kong" in December, Kathmandu, Nepal. Besides, specific lobbying programmes relating to Europe's policies and national level campaigning on key thematic issues of food sovereignty, gender, labour, peace and demilitarization, and democracy, governance and rule of law, were year-round activities of this regional network.

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 the development partner countries. LDC Watch monitors the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA), ensures that civil society is included in this implementation, and acts as a coordinating group for LDC civil society activities, particularly in relation to the key issues of poverty reduction, trade, debt, human rights, good governance and conflict. Its members implement a programme of lobbying, networking and advocacy at national and international levels to ensure that the BPoA is implemented by LDC governments and their development partners. The international Secretariat of LDC Watch is based at RRN.

In 2005, a proposal was developed for a two-day civil society strategy planning conference on the

implementation of the BPoA to develop a global strategy, and regional strategies as necessary, to feed into the mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the BPoA at the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September as well as the Regional Commission meetings, the June 2006 Benin Ministerial meeting, and the July ECOSOC public hearings.

Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA)

ARENA is a regional network of concerned Asian scholars and activists which aims to contribute to processes of meaningful and people-oriented social change. RRN is on the Executive Board of Arena for the period of 2003 - 2006. The President of RRN attended the Board meeting which was held in October in Seoul.

Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)/Jubilee South

APMDD/Jubilee South is an international network of organisations working for the total unconditional cancellation of international/ Southern debt. RRN's President attended the Global Assembly held in September in Cuba. RRN was elected as a member of the International Coordinating Committee in 2005.

Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty was launched at the World Social Forum, Porto Alegre, in January 2005. It is a global alliance of a range of actors engaged around the common cause of ending poverty: existing coalitions, community groups, trade unions, individuals, religious and faith groups, campaigners and more. The President of RRN presented a paper at the European Parliament, Strasbourg, on behalf of GCAP calling for more and better aid, fairer trade rules, debt cancellation and clear strategies to eradicate poverty and inequalities. RRN has represented Nepal at international co-ordination meetings for this major global campaign.

MDG Campaign

The MDG Campaign, also popularly known as the Millennium Campaign, is an initiative of the UN launched in October 2002 aiming to support citizens' efforts to hold their governments accountable for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). RRN is a part of the Nepali Millennium Campaign. RRN



People, volunteers, RRN staff and its network partners participating in a rally/street demonstration for democracy on the International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2005.

participated in December 10th Human Rights Day mass rally and meeting held in Kathmandu which specifically linked poverty with democracy, human rights and peace in Nepal.

Social Watch

Social Watch is an international network of national civil society groups which aims to track the fulfillment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality that were agreed at World Summit for Social Development (WSSD). 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 2005, RRN contributed the chapter for the yearly report entitled "Roars and Whispers" with the theme 'Gender and poverty: promises vs. action'.

Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC)

HRTMCC is a national coalition of above 44 human rights organisations based in Nepal, mainly monitoring the state's obligations to the UN's big six conventions, e.g., CEDAW, ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC, CERD and CAT. RRN is the ICESCR Sub-Committee Coordinator. RRN participated in fact-finding missions to Chitwan, Dhading, Makawanpur and Nagarkot. RRN also took part in numerous monitoring missions and observations of human rights during the mass demonstrations and rallies which dominated the year, taken out to defend democracy, peace and human rights in the country.

RRN'S RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

In 2005, the Research, Documentation and Publication Division of RRN initiated research activities on a wide range of issues that centred on social, economic, institutional and political themes. RRN also supported academic researches in order to enable the graduate students to undertake the research activity as part of requirements for their masters degree programme. Some highlights of the research findings in the form of RRN's contribution and effectiveness of the programmes implemented, and the implications for the future policy and practice are presented here under.

Bringing changes in people through education and training

A study was undertaken to assess the preliminary impacts of the project that targeted mainly at the children (either working as labourers or staying at home for having nothing to do) of ex-Kamaiya families to support them for education and integrate into society through facilitating sustainable livelihoods opportunities with a view to contribute to the sustainable elimination of bonded labour in Nepal. The highlights of the results of the study are described as follows.

Education for relieving from the exploitative works
One of the significant impacts has been that a large number of ex-Kamaiya children, who were barred from education, have been mainstreamed to the formal education system, while being free from the drudgeries under the cruel behaviour of their masters. The project also seemed to have contributed to creating an environment where the ex-Kamaiya children have the opportunity to enjoy a freedom as enjoyed by other children in the community. The children expressed their happiness over the opportunity to be with their own parents and other family members with their love and affection, and to be with own peer group in the community, and above all, to be in the school with books and pens, in sharp contrast to circumstances in which they worked.

The programme assessment study highlights the contribution of the programme towards substantially reducing the dropout rate (i.e., 2.36 % only) of the children being enrolled in formal schools. The very poor economic condition of the children's family is reported to be the key reason for the dropout. Such

families are still found to be involving their children in some farm and household activities.

Functional education

As an effect, the functional education programme for adult ex-Kamaiya women enhanced their awareness level leading to the realisation to value education as a critical factor for bringing positive socio-economic transformation and the capacity in terms of reading, writing and understanding the printed materials, e.g., newspapers, letters, etc. The programme helped reduce the chances of making mistakes by the ex-Kamaiya women while dealing with financial matters, as they can now recognize the currency notes by looking at the numeral. The programme also seemed to have developed the capabilities of these women to organise group meetings, and record the outcomes of the meeting in writing (e.g., decisions made), and marking attendance by putting signature using a pen, instead of using thumbprints, and dealing with simple household financial matters and keeping the records.

Overall, the programme has been successful in terms of preventing a significant number of children from re-entering into hazardous and exploitative works by encouraging them to go to formal school, and undertake some kind of income generation and livelihoods activities.

Enhancing livelihood capacity through training

As a result of training imparted to the members of women groups on natural resource management, these groups became knowledgeable and skilled to manage natural resources (nursery techniques, NTFP identification potentials, seasonal supply of forage and fodder).

Training on livestock raising refresher and animal health services are the two key capacity development components under livestock management. Besides the skills to manage the livestock in an improved way, the women group members who received the training have gained skills and knowledge about controlling and prevention of animal diseases, parasites and vaccination of animal.

The women members of the groups who received

training have been raising the livestock by following improved methods, rather than their traditional systems. They have become able to raise the livestock in a relatively larger scale adopting an improved management system of feeding, housing, health-care and breeding. Some women have even learned to castrate buffaloes, oxen, and bucks.

Social and gender inclusion perspectives in RRN projects

Social and gender inclusion is about reducing inequalities between the least advantaged groups and communities, and the rest of the society by narrowing down the opportunity gap and ensuring that support reaches those who need it most. RRN's concern is to ensure appropriate development benefits available to those who are currently excluded.

RRN's strategies are increasingly becoming sensitive to social and gender inclusion issues. Therefore gender issues are integrated into its most development programmes as well as organisational setting. A numerous RRN supported programmes are promoting gender equality.

'Sustainable Rural Livelihood Programme' (SRLP) in Sankhuwasabha is one such programme, that is focused solely on women as primary beneficiaries. The programme aimed at empowerment of women and socially excluded people by adopting 'Narrowing Down the Opportunity Gap Approach'. The experience of the programme suggests that the social and gender inclusion requires physical, social and economic investments and action to bring about the conditions of inclusion by removing socio-cultural barriers. Much along this line, RRN undertook a capacity assessment study in the project area. The findings are as follows.

i. Moving towards gender equality

The analysis of the study on the women group members in SRLP highlights the women belonging to women groups are being socially empowered as an effect of the programme intervention. The aspects of social empowerment included articulating individually and collectively in public even with the strangers (administrative officers, development workers, etc.) with whom the interaction was almost a dream before the project. Similarly, the women group members are able to make decisions in a more

rational way, present their opinions and views freely and frankly even in public than ever before.

The women members who were relatively submissive in character before the advent of the project have now become relatively more capable in terms of assuming leadership roles (e.g., preside over meetings, lead the group for a particular action, influence in decision making processes) not only within their groups but also outside their organisations. These women are also of the opinion that they have developed capacities to communicate as effectively and comfortably with individuals and organisations as their male counterparts.

With the participation in various training activities, the group members have become aware of the legal provisions related to various walks of the life as well as their fundamental rights (e.g., women's and children's rights to development) as human beings in the society. They have developed an understanding about the legal arrangements that have substantial bearing on their lives in general and violation at homes in particular, being capable of advocating their rights to all walks of life.

ii. Economic empowerment - a strategy for social inclusion

Social inclusion is about making sure that all people participate as valued members of society. RRN's strategy to bring people on the outside 'in' is through the project's economic activities such as tomato production and goat and pig raising that contributed to enhancement of the economic capacities of the beneficiaries. The strategies followed under the programme included adoption of new technology and changes in cropping pattern. The increment in income level has been possible through crop diversification. For example, the traditional rice crop has been replaced by commercial tomato cultivation leading to substantial increase in the income level of those who followed it.

With the participation in the economic activities, some so-called dalit women members have become able to afford for their children's education with the money they have earned from the sale of off-season vegetables. Many women group members have taken up kitchen gardening as an integral part of their cropping system. The beneficiaries of the project have become aware of the importance of fresh vegetables in their diets, and most of them have become self sufficient in fresh vegetables.

The so-called dalit and marginal beneficiaries, who were considered to be passive participants in development activities, have learned to utilize the group loans for livestock production (goats, pigs and poultry) to earn a living. With the proper utilization of the credit they borrowed from their groups, the level of household income has been substantially increased. The saving scheme has greatly reduced their burden in times of family emergency or in acquiring small loans for family enterprises.

iii. Social and gender inclusion in the relief for disaster affected people

The burnt of disasters could be observed in almost all people in the project area covered for preparedness and relief activities undertaken by RRN. However, the burnt of the disaster was more on the women and children, as they did stay at homes in the villages and

had to suffer by all kinds of disasters that occur in the villages. The youths remain away most of the time from the villages either attending services or education or businesses.

Under its relief action, the project paid due attention to include the marginal communities while implementing the project activities. In Nepal, Dalits (Kami, Damai, Sarki, Mushahar, etc.) are considered as traditionally untouchables and are put at the bottom of the caste hierarchy. They are highly marginalised and deprived of most of the amenities necessary for a decent living. Similarly, groups from ethnic minority communities such as Tharu, Rai, Limbu, Magar, Darai, etc. are also marginalised. Both of these groups are traditionally exploited by so-called upper caste people. In this backdrop, the project has served those marginalised and exploited.

INFORMATION ACQUISITION, DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION

The Research, Documentation and Publication Division (RDPD) oversees the internal and external communication, the production of publications and the smooth running of the RRN resource centre. It has multiple functions, i.e., collection, production, and dissemination of the information.

Collection/Acquisition

The Research, Documentation and Publication Unit (RDPU) acquires, classifies, catalogues, and indexes the information and documents obtained from various sources in order to make them easily accessible to readers. The RDPU collection focuses on rural development, environment, energy, natural resources, bio-diversity, socioeconomics, agriculture, forestry, water resources, human rights, gender and social justice, etc. The RDPU maintains books and documents, current serials and newsletters published in the country and elsewhere, and videotapes, CDs as its collection. The collection continues to expand speedily over time and covers the published as well as unpublished materials. These collections cater to the needs of academics, researchers, development workers, students and others.

Production/Documentation

The RDPU coordinates the publication of research documents, internal and external newsletters and all other RRN publications, including educational materials and posters for RRN's project beneficiaries and others. In addition, it maintains RRN's reference centre at the central office, which comprises a broad collection of journals, books, booklets, reports, periodicals, monographs and specialized publications produced by RRN, alongside relevant publications of other agencies. In the year 2005, RDPU successfully brought out the following publications and means targeted at various kinds of readers.

Reconstruction Newsletter: It is a quarterly publication in English; three issues have been published in 2005. The articles in these issues covered the life stories or case studies, experiences

and activities of RRN's programmes focusing on its four-fold approach - education, health, livelihood and self-government.

Punarnirman Newsletter: It is also a quarterly in Nepali; three issues have been published in this year. It is an essential reference for those who use and produce the supplement materials for post literacy.

Gatibidhi Newsletter: It is bi-monthly and internal newsletter in Nepali; six issues have been published in 2005. It includes the news of staff mobilised in seminar, workshop, meeting and training as well as new project. It is mainly for internal circulation among staffs of RRN.

Arun Sandesh Newsletter: This is a periodic newsletter in Nepali; two issues published in 2005; it includes the articles and activities news of Sustainable Rural Livelihood Programme- SRLP being implemented in Sankhuwa Sabha district.

SAAPE Newsletter: This is a quarterly Newsletter in English, and three issues have been published in 2005. Its intended readers are SAAPE members, academician and grassroots people who raise the voice on regional issues on poverty, democracy, human rights, food security, governance, gender, etc., in the South Asia Region.

Legal Literacy Booklet: The booklet contains the basics about legal literacy for the community people of Nepal mainly focusing on the property rights of women, legal provision of inheritance, legal provision of matrimonial, legal provision of divorce, practical knowledge of written documents, rape, abortion, robbery, man handling, child rights, child sexual abuse and exploitation, registration of personal incidents, trafficking, citizenship, positive provision of 11th amendments of civil code (Muluki Ain), format of applications-TAMASUK and CEDAW. It is in Nepali.

Leadership Booklet: The booklet, published in Nepali, is a useful reference and supplementary material to make the community people aware about the importance of leadership. It also serves the purpose of a training manual for trainers of leadership.

Participatory Disaster Management: This is a trainers' training manual, which contains training tools and techniques focused mainly on community based disaster management. Besides, it also provides information on various types of disasters in Nepal, together with the ways and means of combating them.

Conflict and Food Security in Nepal: This occasional report series published in English, seeks to contribute to the understanding of the dynamics underpinning the current conflict and its impact on the livelihoods of the Nepali people, and specifically the effect on food security for the poorest and most vulnerable groups.

RRN and SAAPE website as online resources: RRN and SAAPE websites have been maintained and are

regularly updated for effective information sharing and coordination. These websites can be viewed at www.rrn.org.np and www.saape.org.np.

Communication/Dissemination

The RDPU also disseminates information within the organisation, and to external stakeholders, about RRN's programme, and policy and advocacy activities through various media such as publication, web sites and organising events. Furthermore, the RDPU services are designed to meet the information needs of the staffs and outside readers. All the documents in the resource centre have been computerized that allows creating and searching the catalogue by author, title or keyword on a particular subject.



RRN Resource Centre

FINANCIAL STATEMENT


 Rural Reconstruction Nepal
 Income and Expenditure Account

For the period Srawan 1, 2002 to Ashad 31, 2002 (July 16, 2004 to July 15, 2005)

INCOME		NRS.	NRS.
<u>Program Fund Income</u>			
Rural Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Support Program(RCLISP)	11	177,612,253.87	-
South Asia Alliance on Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)	12	10,600,868.31	-
Sustainable Rural Livelihood Program (SRLP)	13	9,584,137.99	-
Rural Community Infrastructure Development Support Program (RCIDSP)	14	42,643,464.26	-
Reported Projects	4	12,027,968.03	48,041,435.13
Income from Capital Grant		2,346,905.65	
Interest	8	660,876.75	1,082,166.08
Institutional Development Fee	9	14,024,237.81	9,429,216.95
Other Income			910,000.00
Training Income	10	10,258,155.76	
		<u>279,658,868.43</u>	<u>59,482,818.16</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
<u>Program Expenses</u>			
Rural Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Support Program(RCLISP)	11	177,612,253.87	0.00
South Asia Alliance on Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)	12	10,600,868.31	0.00
Sustainable Rural Livelihood Program (SRLP)	13	9,584,137.99	0.00
Rural Community Infrastructure Development Support Program (RCIDSP)	14	42,643,464.26	0.00
Reported Projects	4	12,027,968.03	-
Advertisement Expenses		42,759.00	25,000.00
Audit Fees and Expenses		130,000.00	168,950.00
Bank Commission		23,416.23	3,950.85
Books and Periodicals		97,799.48	-
Communications		739,574.78	729,082.42
Conveyance /Transportation Expenses		33,003.00	-
Donation/Financial Support		105,500.00	292,360.00
Electricity & Water Charge		109,628.36	114,313.24
Farewell/Greeting		35,073.00	11,998.00
Fuel & Lubricants		196,194.00	165,977.30
Insurance Premium		272,470.60	148,896.50
Medical Expenses		10,000.00	13,015.00
Membership Fees		4,100.00	8,600.00
Miscellaneous/Others		151,289.80	23,463.37
Newspaper/Magazine		25,459.00	33,518.00
Office Materials		80,500.00	-
Office Rent		480,284.00	461,948.00
Office Sanitation		10,450.00	-





Printing and Stationery	312,264.75	216,774.80
Publication	390,249.00	254,200.00
Renewals And Registrar	2,420.00	415.00
Repairs & Maintenance	183,930.77	420,473.18
Research Expenses	30,610.00	1,396,830.00
Salary & Others	4,123,574.88	2,299,088.00
Staff Training-IRRD	121,364.00	-
Study Expenses	17,500.00	-
Lodging / Fooding & Tea/snack	197,548.57	84,294.18
Travelling Expenses	478,037.20	79,987.00
Vehicle Parking	3,750.00	-
Vehicle Paja	8,000.00	-
Vehicle tax	33,821.00	23,432.00
Vehicle Maintenance	27,400.00	133,303.00
Visa Fee	89,561.20	-
Meeting Expenses	23,780.00	-
Exchange and Fluctuation	786,882.24	-
Computer Parts	15,100.00	-
Kitchens/gardening	6,168.00	-
MHI expenses	409,695.54	-
Training Unit	7,621,370.30	-
Depreciation	7,162,122.20	1,159,791.71
Financing Charge	-	-
	<u>277,061,143.36</u>	<u>8,271,863.55</u>
Income Over Expenses transferred to capital fund	<u>2,597,725.97</u>	<u>51,210,954.61</u>

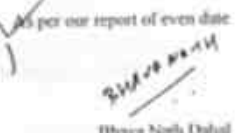
Income Over Expenses transferred to capital fund

Schedule 1 to 14 are integral part of this Financial Statements


Padam Badhotoki
Account Officer


for Project Director


Dr. Arjun Kumar Kurki
President

As per our report of even date

Bhavan Nath Dahal
BN Dahal & Company
Chartered Accountants



ACRONYMS

AATWIN	Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and Children, Nepal
ACHR	Asian Commission for Human Rights
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ALC	Adult Literacy Class
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
APMDD	Asia-Pacific Movement on Debt and Development
ARENA	Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives
BBLL	Bridge Building (programme) at Local Level
BOPs	Basic Operating Principles
BPoA	Brussels Programme of Action
CAT	Convention against Torture
CBDP	Community Based Disaster Preparedness
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCO	Canadian Co-operation Office
CDSPA	Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy
CDU	Communication and Documentation Unit
CECI	Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
CFUG	Community Forestry User Group
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
CZOP	Children as Zone of Peace
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DFO	District Forest Office
DIPECHO	Disaster Preparedness (of) European Community Humanitarian Aid Department (Office)
DMG	Disaster Management Group
DPNET	Disaster Preparedness Network
EC	European Commission/ European Community
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (of the United Nations)

EEPA	European External Policy Advisors
ERPAN	Eastern Region Participatory Action Network
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 to Action Against Poverty
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries
HMC	Health Management Committee
Horizont3000	Austrian Organisation for Development Cooperation
HR ALLIANCE	Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice, Nepal
HRH	Human Rights Home
HRTMCC	Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee
I/NGO	International/National Non-Government Organisation
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
ILO	International Labour Organisation (Office)
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
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, Nepal
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 Product
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OMCT	World Organisation against Torture
OSP	Out of School Programme
OXFAM	A British Charity Organisation
PAN AP	Pesticide Action Network-Asia and the Pacific
PE	Parenting Education
PHA	People's Health Assembly
PMC	Project Management Committee
PTA	Parent-Teachers' Association
PV	Photo Voltaic
RCILSP	Rural Community Infrastructure and Livelihood Support Project
RDP/GTZ	Rural Development Programme / German Technical Co-operation
RRN	Rural Reconstruction Nepal
SAAPE	South Asia 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	Student- Farmers School
SNV	Netherlands Development Cooperation
STW	Shallow Tube Well
TBA	Traditional/ trained Birth Attendant
UC	User 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 Animal Health Worker
VCR/TV	Video Cassette Recorder/ Television
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHV	Village Health Volunteer
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WUA	Water Users' Association
WUG	Water Users' Group

ANNEXES

Annex 1: RRN Executive Committee

- Dr. Arjun Karki - President
- Ms. Mana Dahal - Vice President
- Mr. Ratna Karki - Secretary
- Mr. Hari Tamang - Treasurer
- Ms. Rashmi Shah - Member
- Dr. Netra Timsina - Member
- Ms. Radha Tamang - Member

Annex 2: RRN Central Management Committee

- Dr. Arjun Karki - Coordinator
- Mr. Sarba Raj Khadka - Member
- Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari - Member
- Dr. Neeraj N. Joshi - Member
- Mr. Ratna Karki - Secretary
- Mr. Kulchandra Dahal - Member
- Mr. Balkrishna Chaudhary - Member

Annex 3: RRN Research Committee

- Dr. Neeraj N. Joshi - Coordinator
- Dr. Rishi Raj Adhikari - Member
- Mr. Sarba Raj Khadka - Member
- Mr. Ratna Karki - Member

Annex 4: RRN's Basic Operating Principles (BOPs)

- We do not discriminate on the basis of caste, class, creed, color, religion, sex and the region
- We do not perform/entertain any activity that either favours or adversely affects a particular religious, political and socio-cultural sect
- We do follow 'DO NO HARM' principle
- We do not provide donations or contribution to political parties or political institutions
- We do not engage in profit making activities
- We strongly believe in honesty, sincerity, competency and professionalism.
- We respects universally accepted principals of human rights, social justice and equity
- We are committed to the promotion, protection and empowerment of the people and the nation.
- We do not allow our resources to be used merely for political, bureaucratic, religious or cultural organisations' benefit
- We work in partnership, coordination and collaboration with people and other relevant stakeholders
- We accept critical criticisms with a philosophy