

RRN RURAL RECONSTRUCTION NEPAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2002



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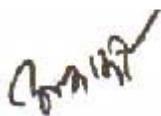
FOREWORD

The year 2002 has seen Rural Reconstruction Nepal continue to implement numerous integrated community development programmes for alleviating poverty, promoting human rights and social justice in Nepal. Through our development programmes, which are focused on the areas of health, education, environment, livelihood, biodiversity and self-government, we have been able to reach a large number of communities and citizens of this country.

Throughout the past year, continuing political instability and uncertainty has challenged Nepal. The political crisis in this country has made the working environment of development organisations very difficult and demanding. However, RRN is doing what it can to continue working under such circumstances and there is sufficient evidence to tell that our work is progressing well. RRN's programmes are making a difference to the lives of many people all over the country.

Not only through implementing development programmes and projects, but also through policy advocacy, lobbying and networking, RRN is successfully addressing issues such as rural poverty, injustice, unequal social relationship, economic, social and cultural rights and rights to development.

If it was not for the dedicated conglomeration of staff, volunteers and programme participants involved with RRN and of course the funding partners; none of our work would have been possible or worthwhile. We would like to thank all people and the institutions for their dedication to improving the quality of life of the rural communities of Nepal. We look forward to sharing another successful year with you all in 2003.



Arjun Kumar Karki, PhD
President



Sarba Raj Khadka
Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

Despite efforts to reduce poverty and increase the level of development of this country, a dismal livelihood remains the reality of the majority of the population. One major reason for the perpetual poverty in this country is the unequal access to resources and opportunities, favouring the political elites and upper class and privileged caste members of society. In this society where such inequality exists, the community is denied a role in the decision-making processes of resource allocation and development activities affecting their livelihood. With a government that is least accountable to the people it represents, the struggle for community involvement in determining access to resources, decision making process and opportunities is currently a far off dream, as is any hope of an improved livelihood.

The year 2002 saw RRN embark on many new development projects and the focus of the work the organisation is pursuing continues to adhere to the prevalent issues in the country while remaining focused on poverty reduction and promotion of human rights. Therefore, RRN is continuing and expanding its work at the grassroots level, focusing on improving the lives and livelihoods of the people, especially women, children, Dalits, bonded labourers and other marginalised strata of Nepalese societies. RRN also continues to focus on development projects in the areas of health, education and self-government.

RRN has a family of above 675 dedicated staff and volunteers working under 18 different projects and in the central office. The central office is located in Kathmandu with three regional offices in the eastern, central and western regions and development project offices in different districts across the country.

RRN works in collaboration with many like-minded civil society organisations in Nepal and abroad, particularly those involved in the empowerment process of people, protection and promotion of human rights, lobbying and networking to influence policy environment. RRN is also actively involved in several national platforms and umbrella networks. We have worked as national secretariat

of civil society organisations for World Food Summit and World Summit for Social Development and we are currently working as the regional secretariat of the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE). The SAAPE envisions just societies and esteemed individuals fully enjoying all human rights for dignified living.

We are working in partnership and coordination with government line agencies, local government bodies such as DDCs and VDCs, private companies, community based organisations and non-government organisations for sustainable rural development. We also share information with the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) based in the Philippines and other rural reconstruction movements worldwide. RRN has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC*) of the United Nations. It is also accredited to the Global Environment Facility (GEF**). We have also been involved in the UN World Summit for Social Development (1995 and 2000), UN World Food Summit (1996 and 2002), World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), Micro-Credit Summit (1996), International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD, 2002) and The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (2001).

* The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) was established by the charter as the principal organ, under the authority of General Assembly, to promote (a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.; (b) solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems and international culture and educational co-operation; (c) universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinctions as to race, sex, language or religion.

** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established to forge international co-operation and finance actions to address four critical threats to the global environment: bio-diversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters and ozone depletion. Launched in 1991 as an experimental facility, GEF was restructured after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to serve the environmental interests of people in all parts of the world. The facility that emerged after restructuring was more strategic, effective, transparent and participatory. The GEF can succeed in its global environmental mission only as a part of a world-wide movement toward sustainable development. GEF brings together 166 member governments, a number of leading development institutions, the scientific community and a wide spectrum of private sector and non-governmental organisations on behalf of a common global environmental agenda.

STRUCTURE

RRN's governing body is its Executive Committee, which is elected every three years from among the members of the organisation. The committee, headed by the President, makes decisions regarding the policies, objectives and strategies of the organisation. The committee appoints an Executive Director to co-ordinate the administration of the organisation and the project activities. The Executive Director works in co-operation with the Central Management Team, Regional and Project Co-ordinators. The central office acts as the principal administrative and co-ordinating body of the organisation.

Three divisions support the organisation's central office:

- ❶ Finance and General Administration Division
- ❷ Programme Division
- ❸ Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy

Finance and General Administration

Division: The Finance and General Administration Division is responsible for regulating financial and general administration including personnel administration of the organisation. The division arranges the timely release of funds to the projects, supports the field offices with necessary logistics and equipment, support to maintain books of account and inventory records, collects financial reports from the field and consolidates them as necessary. The division is responsible for the necessary arrangements of the recruitment of staff and administers centrally in co-ordination and co-operation of the concerned centres and units at the central office and the Regional/ Project co-ordinators/ Directors at the regional/field offices. There are three units under this division:

Account Unit: This unit is responsible for managing financial transactions of the organisation and maintaining books of accounts.

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

Administration Unit: This unit is responsible for organising general and personnel administration, maintaining personal records of the staff and arranging to support the project offices with logistics and equipment.

Programme Division: The programme division centrally controls and regulates all programmes and projects in the field. This division monitors and supervises project activities, finalises project proposals and reports, liases with funding partners and other organisations and works in close co-ordination with field offices and other divisions in the Head Office. There are three units under this division:

Women, Children and Gender Justice Unit: This unit co-ordinates all activities related to women, children and gender issues and provides input and support to the central management for integration of gender and child issues into the on-going programmes and future activities of the organisation. It also promotes advocacy on gender and child issues in co-ordination and co-operation with the Advocacy and Networking Unit at the central office.

Monitoring and Evaluation Unit: This unit commands all the programmes and projects in the field and is responsible to formulate programme guidelines, direct, supervise, monitor and support the project activities and evaluate the performance of the project staff. It collects reports from the field. It is also involved in designing new programmes, whose propositions are initiated by the field situation and community needs assessments.

Human Resource Development and Management Unit: This unit co-ordinates the non-formal and functional educational programmes and skill and technical training to the project beneficiaries and arranges necessary support for the NFE programmes to run smoothly at the field level. It is responsible for the management and smooth running of RRN's training centres. This unit is also responsible for developing education and HRD policies and packages.

Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy: This centre is entrusted to carry out research related to the impact of globalisation, IFIs, ODA, Debt, Poverty and other issues of unequal

socio-economic and political relations that affect the lives of the rural poor, ethnic minorities, Dalits, women and children in Nepal. The findings of such studies and research projects are incorporated into the planning and designing of RRN's development projects and policy advocacy. There are three units under this centre:

Advocacy and Networking Unit: This unit provides necessary input to the central management in relation to issue-based policy advocacy, lobbying and networking activities of the organisation. It is also responsible for making necessary arrangements for the involvement of the organisation in different fora, networks and alliances and participation in various campaigns, seminars and workshops at the local, national and international levels.

Documentation and Publication Unit: This unit makes necessary arrangements for the publication of the studies and research documents of the organisation and maintains RRN's library at the central office. The library contains publications of the organisation and relevant publications of other development agencies supported with a computerised catalogue system.

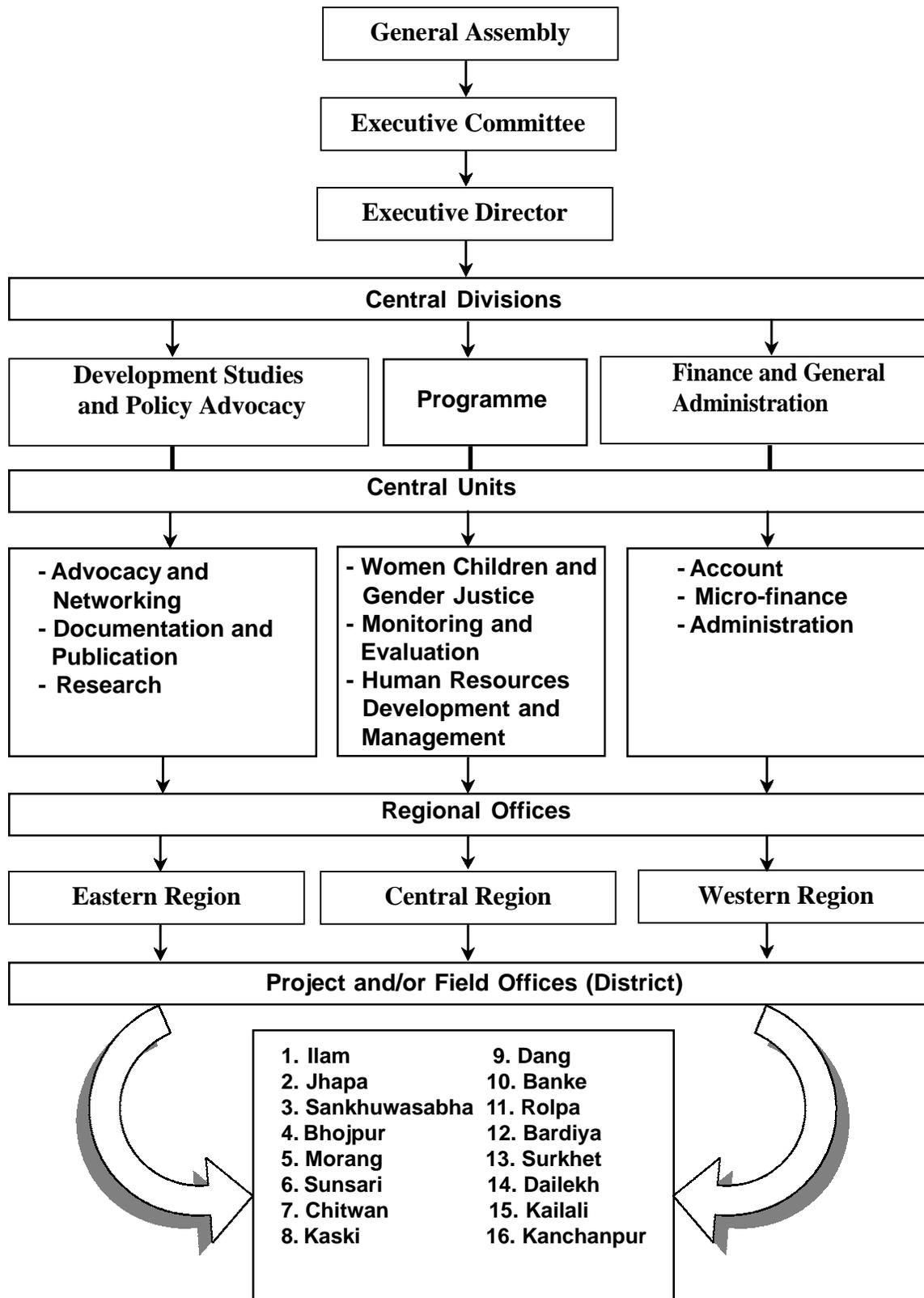
Research Unit: This unit is responsible for prioritising research issues and carry out studies in the areas of interest of poor, oppressed and exploited masses in Nepal. The findings of the research work and issues of national and international development and the issues of women, children and other disadvantaged groups are incorporated into policy advocacy.



RRN's Documentation and Publication Unit

ORGANOGRAM

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE OF RRN



OUR BELIEFS

RRN believes that:

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

THE CREDO

RRN has subscribed to the philosophy and principles of the International Rural Reconstruction Movement. The Rural Reconstruction ethics and philosophy are encapsulated in the following credo.

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION CREDO

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

VISION

RRN envisions a world where all human beings enjoy opportunities for their progress with JUSTICE, EQUALITY, PEACE and PROSPERITY FOR ALL CITIZENS.

MISSION

RRN's mission is to improve the lives of the rural poor, particularly rural women, small farmers, landless people and other most disadvantaged and socially oppressed strata of Nepalese society, through providing them opportunities for their own socio-economic empowerment.

OBJECTIVES

RRN's strategic objectives are:

- ★ To implement development programmes from the rights perspective aimed at improving the socio-economic status of the poorest of the poor in rural areas and arresting the accelerating ecological imbalances.
- ★ To conduct action oriented research in relevant socio-economic issues and incorporate the results into our development programmes and campaigns.
- ★ To publish people oriented educational and promotional materials and development publications, which can be used by the majority of the rural poor, field workers and others involved in socio-economic and political transformation of rural poor.
- ★ To campaign at the local, national and international levels on the root causes of poverty, human rights violation and other related development issues.

STRATEGY

RRN has a two-pronged strategy:

- ★ To conduct action oriented research and implement development programmes focusing on the poorest of the poor, socio-economically vulnerable people and their sustainable rural livelihoods and,

- ★ To raise awareness, campaign and advocate at the local, national and international levels on the root causes of poverty, problems of the poor and socio economic and cultural rights and right to development.

PARTNERS

RRN works simultaneously together with implementation partners and funding partners. It is our strong belief that the community members are the real implementers of the projects and we are just the facilitators in their development endeavours. Thus, we involve them as our long-term active partners for development and not just as the receivers of development services and goods. The agencies who provide complementary funds to support the facilitation of the development processes of the rural communities are our funding partners. We solicit matching funds from our funding partners to complement programmes and projects in response to the community needs. In 2002, the following funding partners provided funding support to RRN:

- European Commission
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (HELVETAS Nepal)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)/ International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)
- Horizont3000 Austria
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board Nepal
- KFB Austria
- Austrian Government
- Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- RDP/GTZ
- RMDP/His Majesty's Government of Nepal
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO)

- University of Calgary/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- World Education

RRN is also working in partnership and coordination with government line agencies, local government bodies such as DDCs and VDCs, private companies and non-government organisations for sustainable rural development.

Some national networks RRN is involved in include:

- The NGO federation of Nepal
- Kamaiya (bonded labourers) Concern Group (KCG)
- Alliance Against Trafficking in Women and children in Nepal (AATWIN)
- National Alliance for Food Security (NAFoS)
- Globalisation Concern Group
- Disaster Preparedness Network (DPNET)
- Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice (ALLIANCE)
- Micro Finance Association of Nepal (MIFAN)
- Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN)
- National Co-Ordination Committee for People's Global Health Assembly

At the sub-regional, regional and international levels, we are involved in different fora and networks such as:

- Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA)
- Asia-Pacific movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)/ Jubilee South
- International NGO forum on LDCs
- NGO Forum on Asian Development Bank
- NGO Working Group on the World Bank
- Social Watch Uruguay (international) and the Phillipines (Asia and Pacific)
- CIVICUS- World Alliance of Civil Society Organisations.
- South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)

ADVOCACY, LOBBYING AND NETWORKING

RRN is actively involved in policy advocacy, lobbying, campaigning and networking on issues of national and international concerns towards protecting and promoting the social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights of marginalised people and on issues affecting women, children and other disadvantaged groups. In 2002, RRN's advocacy, lobbying and networking activities were mainly focused on the issues of sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty, abolition of the bonded labour system and the proper socio-economic rehabilitation of bonded labourers, impact of globalisation and institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO and conflict resolution.



Representatives of Different Organisations Participating in LDCs

RRN has been serving as the regional secretariat of the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE). In this regard, RRN had organised regional consultation workshops on building this alliance for poverty eradication.

In 2002, RRN organised and participated in workshops and seminars on various development and human rights issues organized by different national and international agencies.

- Preparatory Committee Meeting on the 4th Session of the Financing for Development, January 14- 25, New York, USA
- World Social Forum II, Jan 31- Feb 5, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Nepal Development Forum 2002, Issues and Concerns of Civil Society

- Organisations, February 6, Kathmandu
- Preparatory Committee Meeting for World Summit on Sustainable Development , Feb 28- March 10, New York, USA
- Consultation Meeting on Social Charter for Nepal, March 22, Kathmandu, Nepal
- World Civil Society Steering Committee Meeting, April 10, Geneva, Switzerland
- Regional and National Workshops on Food Security, May 15-17, Nepal
- NGOs/CSOs Regional Consultation in Preparation for the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, May 11-12, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Asia Pacific Ecological Debt Conference, May 24- June 5, Bali, Indonesia
- Consultation Workshop on the Updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2000-2007), June 4, Kathmandu, Nepal
- World Civil Society Forum, July 14-19, Geneva, Switzerland
- World Summit on Sustainable Development, August 26 – September 4, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Empowering the Poor and Delivering the MDGs: the Coming Reality, EURODAD Annual Conference, November 2-3, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Asian Civil Society Forum 2002, December 9-13, Bangkok, Thailand

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The real wealth of a nation is its people. And the purpose of development is to create an environment enabling people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. From more than a decade of experience in development efforts, we have learnt that there is no better method to improving the quality of life of people in a country like ours than through human resource development. Healthy, educated and skilled people not only secure better lives for themselves and their families but also contribute to the economic growth and development of the nation. Human Resource Development is one of the focal points of RRN's development activities.

REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

RRN encourages human resource development at both the community and organisational level. Therefore, we have established our own multi-purpose training centres; one is located in Chitwan district and the other in Morang district. The training centres are fully equipped with modern training facilities. The facilities include basic necessities and accommodation, two spacious training halls with sufficient furniture for 60 participants at a time, multimedia projector overhead projector, TV screen with VCR, Kitchen, dining hall and dormitory.

The buildings are surrounded by spacious land suitable for practical training in agriculture, kitchen gardening, nursery raising, bio-intensive gardening, and community forestry. Besides these two



RRN's Training and Resource Centre in Morang District

training centres, another two training centres are planned to be constructed in Sankhuwasabha District of Arun valley and Banke District in the near future.

DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATION

Publication, documentation and circulation of resource materials for strengthening access to information, education and communication have been major activities of RRN documentation and Publication Unit, which holds publications on Development Issues, People's Empowerment, Advocacy, Human Resource Development, Gender

and Environmental Justice, published by different organisations whether domestic or abroad. These publications are systematically arranged and updated with the help of a computer assisted software programme.



RRN's Publications

The centre also holds its own publications, which are used to disseminate information. Our publications are mainly targeted to project beneficiaries. However, they are equally useful to other development organisations working with the rural poor. Our publications include periodicals and special report series, books, booklets and posters covering the following subjects:

- Sustainable agriculture
- Kitchen gardening
- Forestry and plantation
- Crop and pest management
- Livestock management
- Food and nutrition
- Community health and sanitation
- Traditional birth attendants
- Human and legal rights
- Savings and credit
- Cooperative management
- Training manuals
- Pesticides and health hazards

RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT

RRN believes that promoting human rights is an integral part to improving development in Nepal. Therefore, we implement our development projects from human rights based approach. A rights based approach sets the achievement of human rights as an objective of development. This means changing systems, actions and priorities to respect and empower people with their rights. Respect for human rights including economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development are integrated into all levels of programme policy and planning of RRN. This brings all marginalised people and communities into the mainstream of development.

By putting human rights at the focal point of our development projects, we introduce an aspect of accountability for ourselves. It is our responsibility to ensure all humans have access to enjoy their rights and as an organisation to reinstate human rights of all the people.

PRIORITY THEMES

Poverty reduction is dependent on access to basic social services and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes affecting people's own livelihoods. Access to primary healthcare, clean drinking water, good sanitation, viable options for livelihood, and education are essential to the development of any country. If people have access to these basic social services then their ability to participate in the development of their community is enhanced. Poverty reduction is not only dependent on access to these basic services, but also on the involvement of the people in the decision-making processes and implementation of the services. Therefore, RRN's programmes and projects are based on the four-fold approach of rural reconstruction, which encompasses:

1. *Education and awareness -to combat illiteracy and empower people to access their rights*
2. *Sustainable livelihood -to fight poverty*
3. *Health -to prevent disease*
4. *Self-government -to overcome civic inertia*

EDUCATION and AWARENESS

Through education, people are able to gain knowledge and skills, which would otherwise be inaccessible to them. Education empowers people to ensure their own rights are not denied. It allows people to communicate at a deeper level and to participate in the global community. Education is essential for the development and advancement of any community, particularly rural communities in Nepal where if people participate in the development process of their own community then the efforts made are more likely to be sustainable and successful.

Sarita Tharu is ready to face all kinds of obstacles to continue her education

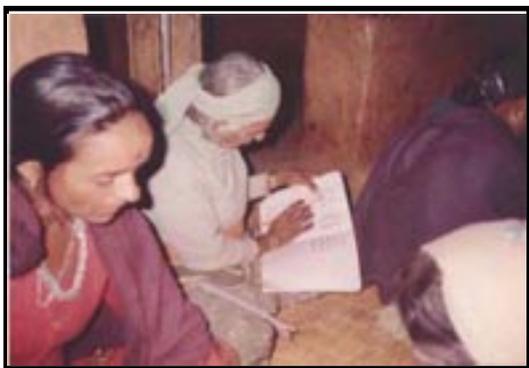
Sarita Tharu is fifteen years' old and lives in Naubasta VDC, Banke District. She told us "age will not be a barrier to my study" when we were conducting a monitoring visit to the Janta Adarsa secondary school. Sarita is attending this school after completing the out of school programme with RRN.

Mr. Ram Lal Tharu, Sarita's father worked as a Kamaiya for years to the local landlords. Because of the acute poverty he was living in, his three children did not have an opportunity to receive any formal education. Sarita worked as a Kamalhari with her two brothers as chhegarawars (goat attendants) since she was 10 years old. With the emancipation of the Kamaiya system in Nepal, Ram Lal Tharu was also released from his landlord.

From April 2001 until June 2002, RRN implemented the PRO- KAMLHARI project in eight districts of western Nepal including Naubasta VDC in Banke district. Sarita enrolled in the Out of School Program (OSP) for nine months. After OSP graduation, she started to attend a mainstream school in class four in the Janta Adarsa secondary school at the age of fifteen years. When she first started to attend this school she felt embarrassed at being much older than many of her classmates but gradually it became normal. Sarita worked very hard and scored first in her class in the half yearly examination of class four.

Now Sarita is very enthusiastic to continue her education and she says that age is no barrier for study. She is very much thankful to RRN for providing stationery, school uniforms and books for her study and financial support to her family for income generating activities. Sarita says "I have learnt a lot through RRN's program and now I know I can cope with any situation. I just want to continue to study". Her father is also willing to assist with the continuing education of his children and he is now sending all three of his children to local schools.

Although the literacy rate of children and adults in Nepal has substantially risen over time, access to quality education is still unavailable to many people and remains an issue that needs special attention. In the year 2002, RRN has conducted both adult and child education programmes. It has implemented non-formal education programmes to adults through basic literacy, post literacy, legal literacy, and different functional training activities. Similarly, under the child education programme, Child Literacy, Out of School Program (OSP), Early Childhood Development, Parenting Education, Vocational Training, Formal Schooling Support and bridging non-formal with formal educational activities have been implemented.



Old Woman Attending Adult Literacy Class

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities involved in generating a means of living or income. In the context of rural reconstruction, livelihood is affected by the objectives, scope and priorities of development projects. RRN affirms the belief that the paramount need of the rural poor people is not temporary relief from their sufferings but the release and development of their innate intellectual, productive, physical, political and organising powers, to enable them to undertake their own development. Only then, they - who comprise the majority of the human race, can become full participants in the building of a stronger foundation for a better world.

Livelihood continues to be one of the major sectors of RRN's programs to increase sustainable productivity and reduce rural poverty through

its project activities. Livelihood encompasses a wide range of development activities. RRN's livelihood programmes include sustainable agriculture and

A STORY OF SUCCESS

Mrs. Kamala Basnet, 40, is a resident of Madhumalla VDC, Mawa Toribari. She said that she moved from her previous area after it was affected by Mawa khola. Then she had only one kattha of land. She is married and has two sons and one daughter in her family. She had used her neighbour's 3 katthas of land grow there crops, potatoes and carrots for her livelihood.

RRN formed 'Machhapuchhre Women's Savings Group' in Kamala's local area. From the various work done by the group, Kamala was interested in the vegetable production programme. She received training on vegetable production, sustainable agriculture and social forestry. She also participated in a five-day farmer's tour. She has received good technical assistance and knowledge on seed technology of vegetables of different times. She then started vegetable production in 4 kattha of land and now she is earning Rs 2500 to 3000 per month. She is running her household comfortably and making some savings too. She is now planning to use all of her land to produce vegetables.

Kamala described some of the changes she has seen. From the income she made from her vegetable production, she bought her neighbor's 3 kattha of land at Rs 12000 per kattha and has now cultivated vegetables in 5 kattha of land. She can now earn Rs 3500 to 4000 per month by selling vegetables. She has also formed the 'Srijana Sustainable Agriculture and Unified Farmer's Group' and is the leader of the group. Now more than 35% of the group members are making an income through vegetable production. The farmers of Toribari village have planned to make their village a 'commercial vegetable production area'. Looking at the success of Kamala Basnet, other women of the village are also planning to follow her footsteps. And, viewing the changes in Kamala's life, the agricultural technicians of Damak have concluded that communities can be empowered economically if the members work as hard as Mrs Kamala Basnet.

social forestry, kitchen gardening, livestock rearing, rural micro finance, and other income generation activities. RRN's livelihood programmes are people-centred, responsive and participatory, dynamic and implemented in partnership with people in need and geared towards sustainably ending rural poverty.



A Peasant Woman Working in Her Kitchen Garden

HEALTH

The right to basic health care is a fundamental human right, which is essential for all people. Health and nutrition problems affect the majority of the rural population in Nepal due mainly to lack of access to reliable medical services and poor quality drinking water. The poor health of rural people is an obstacle to their self-development. Deliberate attention is needed to improve the health status of the people, especially women and children.

The focus of our health related programs has been on preventive measures and health education rather than on curative measures. The activities under this component include training, health education, primary health care, pre natal and post natal care, child delivery care, general health check-ups through outreach/mobile clinics, immunisation, nutrition, sanitation and latrine construction campaigns and drinking water provisions.



Health Technician Providing the Polio Vaccine to Children in National Immunisation Day

Traditional Birth Attended (TBA) and Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) Mrs. Devi Kala Bastola

Mrs. Devi Kala Bastola aged 50 years lives in Guthu VDC in Surkhet District. She is married and is literate. She has 10 children (4 sons and 6 daughters). All of her children are married and some have children of their own. She holds 10 Ropani of cultivated land, which provides her family with sufficient food for eleven months of the year. For the remaining month each year her family survives by selling buffalo milk and vegetables in Guthu bazar and her sons do wage labour work. Her sons earn approximately NRs 500 per month doing labour work. She has 4 oxen for ploughing land, two goats, two buffalo and 3 chickens. She also makes straw mats, which she sells for household use.

From CHDP/RRN support she has constructed a latrine at her home and she has installed an Improved Cook Stove in her house. There is also a CHDP/RRN supported water supply tap in her neighbourhood so she now has easy access to water.

She received training as a Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) and Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) from the CHDP/RRN in 2000 and 2002. She has also received vegetable and kitchen gardening training, pre and post construction of water supply schemes training and she has participated in some exposure visits to other parts of the district. From these training activities Mrs Bastola has gained knowledge on how to conduct clean delivery of babies and how to use a blade to cut the umbilical cord.

She is happy that she is able to provide some services to the women of her village during their pregnancy and delivery of babies. She is proud that she has saved the lives of some women by helping them to have a clean delivery and she can counsel people on pregnancy related matters. She is providing all these services free of cost. Some people give her gifts but she is happy to provide such services free of charge.

She highlighted that the most positive aspects of RRN's projects are as follows:

- Literacy and awareness level has increased
- Construction of household latrines and water supply schemes and behaviour change has occurred which has increased hygiene levels, and disease has reduced significantly
- Availability of medicinal drugs year round in the health institutions
- Vegetable production and establishment of cooperatives

She told us that she is confident to work as a TBA and FCHV and she will continue to do this work. She suggests that people should not think of quitting this work simply because it is volunteer work. This work is essential for the community. After her retirement from this work she is planning to hand over her community responsibilities to her daughter in law.

SELF-GOVERNMENT

RRN follows the principle that, for development to be relevant and sustainable, it must be planned and undertaken primarily by the “insiders”, the very people for whom the programmes are planned. Development workers; “the outsiders” can help by facilitating a participatory process, through which the people can collectively analyse their situation, identify their problems, select and plan solutions, mobilise resources, then implement, monitor and evaluate their own solutions to their own problems.

Therefore, RRN, as one of the vital components of its programmes, has encouraged and facilitated the beneficiaries for their own organisation building and institutional development leading towards self-reliance and institutional participation in the development process.

RRN, in the initial stages, assists the groups in developing a system and consequently, the groups become autonomous bodies capable of governing the system on their own. During the process of system development, such bodies are trained to become capable of electing their leaders and managing their own activities such as conduct of meetings, book keeping, savings and credit operations, conflict resolutions and community property management.



Group Members Taking Micro-credit for
Different Income Generation Activities

CURRENT RRN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In 2002, we implemented the following programmes. Their funding sources, time frame and districts covered are given below.

Districts	Projects	Time Frame
Jhapa & Morang	Socio-Economic Development for Refugee Affected Communities (SEDRAC)	September 1999-September 2002 (Completed)
Morang and Sunsari	Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP)	September 1999-May 2003
Morang	Brighter Future Project (Kishori Shiksha)	September 2002-May 2003
Jhapa, Morang, Chitwan, Bardiya and Banke	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field Schools Programme	July 1999-June 2003
Ilam, Jhapa and Morang	Programme of Economic Empowerment and Alternatives for Communities Vulnerable to Conflict (PEEACVC)	September 2002-March 2003
Bhojpur	Rural Development Programme (RDP)	April 2000- March 2004
Sankhuwasabha	Arun Valley Sustainable Resource Use and Management Pilot Demonstration Project (AVASRUMPDP)	February 2001-January 2004
	Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Programme (SRLP)	November 2001-December 2004
	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RWSSP)	March 2001-March 2003
Chitwan and Kaski	Integrating Health and Bio-Diversity Resources Management with Women's Empowerment (IHRMP)	February 1999-September 2003
Banke	Prevention of Family Indebtedness with Microfinance and Related Services	January 2002-June 2003
Banke and Bardiya	Rehabilitation and Sustainable Livelihoods for Freed Kamaiyas in Western Nepal with a Focus on Children's Education and Empowerment	November 2002-November 2004
Banke, Dang, Bardiya, Kailali Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilbastu, and Kanchanpur	Programme for Kamaiyas' Alternative Livelihood & Rehabilitation Initiatives (PRO-KAMALHARI)	March 2001-September 2002
Banke, Dang, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur	Sustainable Livelihoods for the Liberated Kamaiyas (SLLK)	September 2002-March 2003
Surkhet	Community Health Development Project (CHDP)	February 1996-January 2002
	Sustainable Soil Management Programme (BLESS MAN)	December 1999-March 2002
Surkhet, Bhojpur, Dailekh, Rolpa and Sankhuwasabha	Asahaya Bal Balikakolagi Jiwan ra Jibika/ Life and Livelihood for Helpless/Vulnerable Children (JJ Initiative)	October 2002-October 2004
Surkhet, Dailekh, Kalikot and Jumla	Resettlement Action Plan/Road Maintenance and Development Project (RMDP)	December 2000-November 2002

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR REFUGEE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES (SEDRAC)

Project Area

Jhapa District: Lakhanpur VDC and Damak municipality

Morang District: Pathari, Sanischare, Hasandaha, Letang, Jante, Uurlabari and Madhumalla VDCs

Time Frame: September 1999 – September 2002

Total number of project beneficiaries: 2017 (all female)

This project aimed to reduce the impact of refugees' on availability of local resources, focusing on the poorest of the poor who have become more impoverished due to the intense refugee influx over recent years and also give the local population the opportunity not only to improve their current socio-economic status, but, should the refugees end up integrated into the community, it would also put them in a better position to sustain such integration.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the program was to compensate the socio-economic pressures exerted by the refugees and to improve the socio-economic status of the absolute poor of the affected communities. Following were the specific objectives:

- To help the beneficiaries become literate and to increase their awareness on socio-economic issues through the provision of functional educational classes;
- To encourage sustainable agriculture and vegetable production through training and technical support;
- To improve the agricultural potential of the communities by renovating existing small irrigation canals;
- To mobilize the community to protect the environment through a program of community forestry;
- To improve the health of the communities by providing health education and basic health services;
- To encourage income generating opportunities through the operation of a "credit for the poor" programme.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The major activities revolved around the project components in the form of trainings/workshops focusing on functional/non-formal education, vegetable production, sustainable agriculture, social/community forestry, irrigation system support, health and sanitation and micro-credit/micro-finance support.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

The beneficiaries have shown improved reading and writing skills through participation in the Non Formal Education (NFE) classes and the practice of sending children to school has become popular. The level of income has increased due to the production of commercial vegetables; increased size and productivity of livestock and nursery raising as well as livelihood opportunities have improved through the establishment of micro-enterprises supported by micro-finance activities. The beneficiaries have gained health/sanitation and environmental awareness too. Coordination and linkages between the groups and local government bodies (VDCs & DDCs) plus the other development actors in the area have been properly established.

COMMUNITY GROUND WATER IRRIGATION SECTOR PROJECT (CGISP)

Project Area

Morang District:	Banigama, Haraincha, Bayarban, Keraun, Belbari, Sijuwa, Shanishchare, Hasandaha, Urlabari, Rajghat, Itahara, Govindapur, Ammardaha, Dainiya, Bardanga, Jhurkiya, Darbesa, Takuwa, Rangeli, Shorabhag, Kadmaha, Sisbanijahada, Nocha and Pokhariya
Sunsari District:	Lauki, Bhutaha, Narshing, Ramgunj, Bhokraha, Babiya, Chhitaha and Sitagunj
Time Frame:	September 1999-May 2003
No of Water Users Groups:	71
Total number of project beneficiaries:	355 (all female)

The majority of the cultivable land in Nepal is un-irrigated. Surface irrigation is quite costly and water availability is a problem. However, without irrigation, agriculture production is impossible to achieve. The Community Groundwater Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP) has a target to install 13,500 shallow tube wells through water users' groups (WUGs) and water users associations (WUAs) and 1500 for individual users to increase access to irrigation water and therefore increase agricultural production and improve livelihood.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To mobilise the needy people of the communities and for them to benefit from the opportunities available through the CGISP;
- To improve the economic status of the farmers, especially the poorest of the poor by increasing the productivity of the crops by providing irrigation through shallow tube wells (STWs) where there are no alternate possibilities of irrigation;
- Provide loans to the small farmers who have no access to finances;
- Increase agriculture productivity in the long term;
- Formation of and capacity building for the Water Users Groups (WUGs) and Water Users Associations (WUAs);
- Ensure the irrigation program is sustainable.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The responsibility of RRN is to communicate with the villagers and VDC officials to make them aware of the opportunities available through the CGISP, organise the interested and needy people into water users' groups, facilitate them to be involved in community ground water irrigation programmes and coordinate the implementation of this programme among local political parties, social organisations, VDCs and NGOs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2002, 67 new water user groups were formed and registered, exceeding the original target of 60 groups. Trainings were also conducted in agriculture and boring. The Water Users Groups continue to meet every 2 months. The WUGs are responsible for the maintenance of the irrigation facilities. The success of the project depends very much upon the labour, skills and knowledge of the local community

In the group savings component of this program, each of the 67 groups opened a new bank account and a total of 344,778Rs were saved over the year (approximately 5145Rs. Per group). The group members have contributed these amounts for emergency situations and for the creation of income generating activities.

BRIGHTER FUTURE PROGRAMME

Project Area

Morang District: Mrigauliya, Dangihat, Shanishchare, Madhumalla, Takuwa, Darbesa and Govindapur

Time Frame: September 2002 – May 2003

No of groups/class: 10

Total no of project beneficiaries: 292 (Girls aged 10 – 14 years)

Less than two-thirds of girls of primary school age in rural areas of Nepal are enrolled in school, largely because of household or other work and traditional male dominated households. Despite their innocence, many children in Nepal are losing their childhood for hard work and earning a livelihood for themselves and their families. The Brighter Future / Girls' Access to Education (GATE) Programme focuses on the educational needs of girls who are at risk. Through this programme Girls aged 10 – 14 who have never entered the formal school system or were forced to drop out due to household responsibilities or other social and cultural constraints are provided with non-formal education where they learn literacy and numeracy skills and are educated to a level where they have sufficient knowledge to enter the formal education system at an appropriate level. At the completion of their non-formal education programme, the participants are encouraged to enrol on formal schools.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To provide girls at risk aged 10-14 with the opportunity to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills with a particular focus on health issues.
- To encourage the girls to enrol in formal primary school at an age-appropriate level.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2002, the first three months of this nine-month program were completed. During this time, staff were trained and 10 girls non-formal education classes began, staff meetings and class management meetings were conducted. The nine-month programme will conclude in May 2003 at which time the participants will be encouraged to join formal schools.

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

Project Area

Morang:	Indrapur, Harincha, Dangihat and Mirgaulia
Jhapa:	Lakhanpur VDC and Damak Municipality
Chitwan:	Bhandara, Khaireni, Piple VDCs and Ratnanagar Municipality
Banke:	Paraspur, Puraini, Indrapur and Chisapani
Bardiya:	Sorahawa, Mainapokhari, Dhodari
Time Frame:	June 1999 – June 2003
No of functional groups:	14
Total number of project beneficiaries:	692 (Female 507, Male 185)

The Farmers Field School (FFS) Programme is being implemented for the promotion and practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM encourages the development of pest control techniques at levels that are economically justified and safe for human health and the environment. IPM promotes growing a healthy crop, with the least possible disruption to the Agro-Ecosystem, thereby encouraging natural pest control mechanisms.

A Farmers Field School is a group of 25 to 30 farmers from one location who meet to conduct experiments such as comparing their standard farming practices to IPM practices. Each week farmers practice Agro-Ecosystem Analysis (AESA), which includes observation and collection of insect pests and natural enemies, as well as observation of the plants, water management, weather conditions, weed density and disease surveillance. Farmers use the AESA results to make decisions regarding management of the plots.

A highly participatory approach is used in the farmers' field schools where farmers learn to ask questions regarding crop management, how to conduct experiments leading to locally appropriate solutions, and they share their findings with other farmers. Farmers have found out for themselves that limited damage from insect pests does not decrease the ultimate crop yield. Therefore indiscriminate spraying of pesticides increases production costs and the risk of a further pest outbreak without benefiting crop production.

At least 40% of the farmer field school time is spent in the field. Simple experiments like simulation leaf damage, spacing transplants, monitoring pest population throughout the season and growing various seed varieties are conducted to understand plant growth and interaction between pests, natural enemies, pesticides and ultimate yield. In addition, other topics such as food chain, rat management and group dynamics are included in the weekly meetings.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To increase the productivity of the land
- To reduce dependency on chemical pesticides through adoption of IPM methods by farmers
- To prepare farmers as human resource at local levels to introduce IPM into the community
- To encourage women to participate in agriculture farming and decision making processes

ACHIEVEMENTS

Almost 700 people participated in the Farmers Field Schools in 2002 and their own harvests have improved through the knowledge they have learned. The main topics studied in 2002 were a vegetable field study; post harvest study and farmers field school programmes on chaite rice and main rice.

PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMUNITIES VULNERABLE TO CONFLICT (PEEACVC)

Project Area

Morang District:	Pathari, Sanishchare, Hasandaha, Letang, Jante, Urlabari, Sijuwa, Madhumalla, Rajghat, Bayarban, Indrapur, Haraincha and Govindapur
Jhapa District:	Lakhanpur of Damak Municipality
Ilam District:	Sakphara, Banjo, Chulachuli and Mahamai
Time Frame:	September 2002 to February 2006
Total Number of project beneficiaries:	3356 (all female)

This project is a follow up to the on going three-year project; Socio Economic Development for Refugee Affected Communities (SEDRAC). The project districts are under the influence of Bhutanese Refugees and the rebellion movement that has been going on in Nepal for more than six years. Located adjacent to the foot hills of the eastern hilly districts that is highly affected by the rebellion activities. The people who have been most affected by the activities of the refugees and the insurgency are the local poor and vulnerable communities.

There is an urgent need to prevent further marginalisation of the rural people, minimise the problems of conflicts through awareness raising and livelihoods interventions and create a conducive environment for developing amicable relationships between the refugees and the host communities.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to compensate the communities surrounding the refugee camps for the socio-economic pressures exerted by the presence of the camps and rebellion activities to generally improve the socio-economic status of the poorest of the poor through sustainable livelihoods interventions; and also to make the local people aware of the local problems and their solutions at the local level.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

- To built rapport with DDCs/ VDCs and other stakeholders
- Organise the target communities into functional groups
- Organise training for the selected traditional birth attendants
- Support for the renovation and construction of farmer managed irrigation systems, community drinking water systems, schools and other related community infrastructures
- Construct additional building
- Continuation and/or initiation of community drug schemes, vegetables production and micro-finance support
- Local initiative support

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the project started in the mid September 2002, only the preparatory activities have been completed so far. During this time the staff were hired and 32 animators were selected. A Programme orientation workshop was organised to provide training to all staff and animators. 163 groups were identified and were formed. 45.5 Kgs of seeds were supported to the group members for kitchen gardening and vegetable production. TBAs and staff nurses are providing health services and health education to the community people regularly. Group meetings, animators meetings and staff meetings are being held regularly. Constructions of small-scale drinking water schemes are in progress.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP)

Project Area

Bhojpur District:

Helauchha, Boya, Sangpang, Deurali, Kimalung, Tungechha, Keurenipani, Mulpani, Nepaledanda, Khartamachha, Kudak, Kaule, Kulung, Chaukidanda, Khatamma and Dobane

Time Frame:

April 2000 to March 2004

Total Number of Project Beneficiaries: 3507

This programme focuses on the poorest of the poor and other socially excluded sectors of the region. This section of society includes the majority of the population and unless these people are integrated into the development process, desirable change for social transformation will not translate in reality. The intended beneficiaries are poor households in the programme area, especially small farmers possessing less than 0.5 hectares of land as well as landless, socially discriminated caste groups, women and youths. This programme is based on a two-pronged approach; 1) capacity building of the organisations of the poor to increase their claim making capacity and 2) strengthening the capacity of the service delivering organisations to respond to the demands of the poor so that supported development in the rural villages can proceed.

OBJECTIVES

The programme goal of RDP is to reduce poverty and use the natural resources in a sustainable way to improve the living conditions of the majority of the rural inhabitants residing in the programme area.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

- Social mobilisation and promotion of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Self Help Organisations (SHOs)
- Economic promotion
- Community infrastructure development support
- Strengthening promotional organisations

ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of 50 new self-help groups are formed and the project continued to work with the 146 existing groups. The project is supporting the people in income generating activities through the provision of saving and credit revolving funds. Members of the SHGs have participated in the kitchen gardening activities and got success significantly in supplementing their family diets and income. Cost effective infrastructure projects such as drinking water system, spring protection, irrigation project, school roof, improved ghatta, improved cooking stove, etc. are implemented by the SHGs with small support and without support too.

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

Project Area

Sankhuwa-Sava District: Num, Hatia and Pawakhola VDCs

Time Frame: February 2001 – January 2004

Number of groups: 6 CFUGs from the 3 VDCs

Arun valley, being one of the most important mountain areas embodying rich fauna and flora of global significance, can contribute a lot if the natural resources are managed with the proper understanding of social and environmental sustainability. Rural people depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihood. This project aims to reduce the major threats of human activity on natural resources, especially the forest and water bodies, and design and evolve a management system with locally tested and proven solutions for integrating local community participation in the management of natural resources. This will integrate indigenous knowledge, skills and ecological principles.

The project has three major components:

- ❶ Forest biodiversity conservation through community forestry
- ❷ Micro hydro schemes
- ❸ Livelihood and income generating programmes

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To conserve the biodiversity and the forest ecosystem of selected eastern watershed areas of Arun Valley.
- To develop a community based sustainable natural resources use model based on indigenous knowledge systems.
- To develop alternative renewable energy sources through the promotion of locally adapted fast growing energy plants and micro-hydro schemes, which ultimately contribute to biodiversity conservation.
- To improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of the project sites through a number of livelihood and income generating schemes that can subsequently contribute to biodiversity conservation.
- To find out economic and policy incentives to promote traditional knowledge of communities for conserving bio-diversity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the year 2002, surveys were conducted to gather data related to the community forests. Such surveys included studies of forest resources and their consumption, mapping of community forests in the area, an assessment of agricultural bio-diversity, a study of economically viable and threatened species, and management and monitoring plans were created to conserve the forest resources. Training workshops were conducted in forest management and Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) processing. A multipurpose nursery was created and Chiraito cultivation trials were conducted on community land and private land.

Regarding the installation of micro-hydro schemes, feasibility studies and detailed design and cost estimates were conducted for the micro-hydro schemes to be implemented in the Arun Valley project area. These schemes will be implemented with the aim of conserving local natural resources. In regards to the livelihood section of this program, vegetable gardening trainings were conducted and vegetable seeds were distributed. Many community members are now benefiting from increased income and nutrition in their diet. Animal health worker trainings were conducted and beehives were distributed along with trainings on bee keeping as opportunities for the participants to create alternative livelihoods.

SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME (SRLP)

Project Area:	Sankhuwa Shaba District: Dhupu, Sitalpati, Matsyapokhari, Diding VDCs and Khandbari municipality
Time Frame:	November 2001 –Dec 2004
Number of functional groups:	22 (female groups)
Total number of project beneficiaries:	526

The project area for Sustainable Rural Livelihood Programme was selected on the basis of its potential for micro-hydro power generation as well as potential for production enhancement through irrigation development. The area has reduced socio-economic conditions, dwindling agro-ecological status, degrading conditions of rural women and restricted exposure to other development activities, which were also taken into consideration.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to improve the quality of life of the communities (especially. women) in the project area. The specific objectives are to facilitate:

- Necessary aid to the poor and disadvantaged groups (focusing women) for livelihood support through micro-credit and technical assistance.
- Technical and material support for the construction of small, community-managed micro-hydro schemes.
- Empowerment of women and other socially excluded strata through education, awareness-raising and confidence-building.
- Necessary assistance for capacity-building and institutional development of the local women's self-help groups and people's organizations.
- Promotion of community-managed health care delivery systems.
- Establishment of a rural livelihoods learning centre.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Numerous trainings/workshops were conducted pertaining to empowerment of women and the socially excluded, livelihood and income generation, community health, infrastructure improvement and institutional development. The key trainings/workshops conducted during 2002 covered child rights, human rights, non-formal education, women's leadership development, gender sensitization, legal literacy, natural and resource management, livestock management, saving and credit management, kitchen gardening, social forestry, entrepreneurship development, community nursery, health and sanitation and local initiatives support.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of 22 women savings' groups have been formed and 20 of them have been participating in non-formal education (NFE) classes. The monthly savings program aids in keeping the groups intact and further strengthens group relationships among the members. Retail shops, piggeries, poultry farming and local vending are the major income generation activities performed by the women's group members using group loans. According to the group reports from different sites, the group members effectively marketed vegetables worth NRs.65,203 in the year 2002. 4 multipurpose nurseries have been successfully established so far. Required land for the establishment of a learning centre has been acquired this year and construction of the centre will commence next year.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME (RWSSP)

Project Area

Sankhuwashaba District:

Khandbari Municipality Ward No 2, 5 and 9

Time Frame:

February 2001- March 2003

Total number of project beneficiaries: 1564

The scarcity of clean and safe drinking water was a serious problem in the Khandabari Municipality. The community people were relying upon unhygienic, open streams, ponds and rivers for their drinking water risking daily exposure to water borne diseases. They have to spent two to four hours per day fetching water for drinking and cleaning. Since the women spent hours collecting water, they didn't have time to look after the children, animals and crop fields. This project aims to provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water supply and to alleviate poverty through income generating programmes for the people of the projected Municipality.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To provide a safe, clean and sustainable drinking water supply
- Awareness raising to women and children on health and education
- To alleviate poverty through income generating programmes
- To protect people from water born diseases

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

Training programmes on different components of health and sanitation were conducted for the beneficiaries of the project. Training on vegetable production was also given to the women's groups. Construction of infrastructures for water supply systems such as construction of reservoir, valve chamber, and institutional latrine are also taking place.

INTEGRATING HEALTH AND BIO-DIVERSITY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WITH WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (IHBRMP)

Project Area

Chitwan District:	Bhandara, Chainpur, Khairahani and Piple DCs
Kaski District:	Arba Vijaya, Bharat Pokhari, Siddha and Deurali VDCs
Time Frame:	February 1999- September 2003
Total Number of project beneficiaries:	1678

Nutritional deficiency is acute among the women and children in the rural areas of Nepal. This has been further aggravated by poor access to biodiversity resources and inadequate knowledge of management of biodiversity resources especially in the rural areas of Nepal. This project aimed at identifying the status of malnutrition among the women and children in the selected village development committees of Chitwan a plain district and Kaski a mid hill district in order to assess the impact of intervention with improved biodiversity resources management plan. The research was conducted by organising women groups including representatives of all selected ethnic groups as research participants.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To assess and improve the health and nutrition conditions of rural communities with a specific focus on women and children through improved assessment and harnessing of the potential of local bio-diversity resources.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

- Group formation
- Baseline survey
- Staff orientation
- Panel Survey
- Bio-diversity Enhancement
- Health and Sanitation,
- Capacity building
- Awareness activities
- Group institutional Development
- Bio-diversity kit distribution
- Case study
- Participatory Observation

ACHIEVEMENTS

The project has been successful in assessing the baseline situation of the health and biodiversity resources and status of women and children with a focus on their nutrition. The baseline also outlined some research intervention strategies guided by the project advisory committee.

The research intervention was useful in generating desired results among the participating women groups. Though improvement in the nutritional status requires multiple strategies and interventions, in a short term of three years, this project has still helped reach a conclusion that harness the potentiality of the biodiversity resources and their proper management definitely will lead to improvements in the nutritional status of women and children of rural Nepal.

PREVENTION OF FAMILY INDEBTEDNESS WITH MICROFINANCE AND RELATED SERVICES

Project Area

Banke District: Rajena, Bankatuwa, Naubasta, Kachanapur, Bajjapr and Binauna VDCs

Time Frame: January 2002 – June 2003

Total number of project beneficiaries: 750 children

This project, by its services and activities will contribute to the rehabilitation of former Kamaiyas and to the prevention of bondage of vulnerable families in Banke District. As the indebtedness of families is linked to factors such as education and health, this project will try to address some of these problems with complementary services in the areas of public sensitisation, education and skill training, primary health care, income generating activities, group organisation and social empowerment.

The overall aim of the project is to prevent freed Kamaiyas and other vulnerable families from falling back into bondage by reducing their economic and social vulnerability

Component 1

Provide access to formal education for children of target families in the age range from 6-12 years

Component 2

Provide access to non-formal education and/or skill development training for children of target families in the age range 13-18 years

ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2002, 750 children were identified as vulnerable and they began educational classes with the aim of improving their livelihood.

16 parents advisory committees have been formed which include schoolteachers and other community members. Counselling is being provided to parents regarding the importance of education for their children by facilitators who have undergone training with RRN.

17 formal schools are monitoring the mainstreaming process for the 350 children aged 6-12 years who have been integrated into formal schools having completed bridging courses.

13 Out of School Program (OSP) centres are running in the project areas. OSP classes are child literacy classes where children who have never been enrolled in school or have dropped out for socio-economic or cultural reasons can participate and become literate. A total of 370 children aged 13-18 attended OSP classes from April 2002 until December 2002 in classes with their own age group. Some students are now attending a higher level OSP training and others are enrolled in the formal schooling system or are participating in various skill development-training programs. The training programs give the participants opportunities to gain skills and knowledge in a particular area of interest that they can use to improve their income and livelihood. Some areas trainings have been conducted in include livestock health and management, kitchen gardening, leadership development, traditional birth attendants for safe motherhood and legal literacy.

REHABILITATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR FREED KAMAIIYAS IN WESTERN NEPAL: WITH A FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Project Area

Bardiya District: Madawar, Motipur, Sorahawa, Kalika, Magaragadi, Deaudakala, Suryapatuwa, Thakurdawara, Bagnaha, Shivpur, Rajapur, Manpur Tapara, Bhimapur, Patavhar, Badalpur, Manau, Nayagaun, Khairichandanpur, Dhodari VDCs and Gulariya Municipality

Banke Districts: Fathepur, Binauna, Baijapur, Mehamanpur, Kachanapur, Naubasta, Bankatuwa and Rajhena

Time Frame: November 2002 – November 2004

His Majesty's government of Nepal outlawed the Kamaiya labour system on 17 July 2000. After this decision to abolish one of the worst systems of bonded labour, RRN has been working in resettlement, rehabilitation and socio-economic development of released Kamaiya families in far Western Nepal.

This program is mainly targeted at the children of ex-Kamaiya families to support them for their education and to integrate them into society through facilitating sustainable livelihood opportunities. Therefore, several formal and non-formal education support programs will be implemented in the two districts Banke and Bardiya as the entry point of the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objective of this program is for school age children of bonded labourers and bonded child labourers to receive appropriate high quality education and to be fully integrated into their schools and communities.

At the end of the programme

- About 3000 children of ex-Kamaiya who are 6-12 years and not attending school will be joining formal schools in the two districts (Banke and Bardiya)
- About 1500 children of former Kamaiyas who are 12-15 years and not attending school will have joined the Out of School Programs (OSP)
- 1200 graduates of OSP will be continuing their education in local schools
- 300 graduates of OSP who are above 15 years will admit in vocational training
- 1000 ex-Kamaiyas from two districts will be involved in functional education / non-formal education (NFE). This education program involves classes where the participants have the opportunity to become literate and numerate. The classes also act as training sessions for other relevant education and awareness issues such as health, human rights and sustainable rural livelihoods.

ACHIEVEMENTS

This program began in November 2002. Since then RRN has been working to identify children who will benefit from this project and enrol them in the Out of School Program (OSP) and Non-formal Education classes.

PROGRAMME FOR WORKING CHILDREN OF FORMER KAMAIYAS AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD AND REHABILITATION INITIATIVES (PRO-KAMALHARI)

Project Area: Nawalparasi (Bajarya), Rupandehi (Kerwani), Kapilvastu (Banganga), Dang (Bijauri & Rampur), Banke (Naubasta & Rajhena), Bardiya (Baganaha & Dhodhary), Kailali (Geta & Malakheti) and Kanchanpur (Daiji & Suda)

Time Frame: March 2001 – June 2002

Total Number of Project Beneficiaries: 800 children and 500 parents

The Nepalese government officially declared the abolition of the Kamaiya system on July 17, 2000. The Kamaiya system, prevalent in the mid and far west Terai of Nepal, was one of the most inhuman practices observed in the form of forced bonded labour. The liberated Kamaiyas and their children will face an even worse situation if the government and civil society fail to take immediate resettlement and rehabilitation measures. Based on previous work experiences with former bonded labourers and their children in selected villages of Bardia district, RRN felt the need of intervention with its Action Programme focused towards upliftment of the freed Kamaiyas.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the elimination of child-bonded labour especially the girl child (Kamalhari) from forced employment and protect their rights.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

During the year 2002, the Action Programme concentrated on issues of health, livelihood and education. Out of School (OSP) programme providing an opportunity for children who have not attended due to socio-economic or cultural reasons to become literate was conducted for the freed Kamaiya children falling within the age group of 10 and 16. Formal education support was provided to OSP graduates as well as to children between the ages of 6 and 9. Further, vocational and skill development training was imparted to OSP graduates of 14 to 16. The womenfolk of the freed Kamaiyas were given entrepreneurship and micro-finance management training plus preventive health education. Legal aid and counselling services were also provided to the freed Kamaiya families.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

About 800 working children have been graduated from OSP and 600 of them have already enrolled for formal education. 200 OSP graduates have received vocational and skill development training for gainful employment. About 500 freed Kamaiyas, mostly women are involved in micro-finance for an alternative to livelihood options. 13 co-operatives have been formed and registered and are functioning successfully.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR THE LIBERATED KAMAIYAS (SLLK)

Project Area: Banke, Bardia, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Dang Districts
Time Frame: September 15, 2002– March 15, 2003
Total Number of Project Beneficiaries: 1200

The mid and far western regions of Nepal are the least developed areas of the country. Within the societies in the region, there are prominent unequal social relationships and cultural practices in place that have kept the lower ladder of the society always at the bottom of development. To address the problems of ex- Kamaiyas, *dalits*, ethnic minorities, landless and other vulnerable people, this project is being implemented in selected districts of conflict prone areas of mid and far western development regions of Nepal.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this project is to improve the livelihoods and related socio-economic situation of “liberated Kamaiya” families and other people living in poor conditions through socio-economic empowerment. It is expected that this project will address the root causes of conflict in Western Nepal and help to abate conflicts by an approach of building peace from below.

Programme Components for six-months:

- Recruitment of project staff
- Establishment of one project office and five district offices
- Project orientation and planning workshop
- Program orientation seminars at district levels
- Selection of project VDCs and formation of groups
- Collection of baseline information and assessment of training needs
- Supervision and monitoring

ACHIEVEMENTS

Forty-six staff members have been hired, and one project office and five district offices were established according to the need of the project. Five-day staff training cum planning workshop was organised in the project office of Nepalgunj and Banke. District level seminars were organised in all five districts for one day each. In all the five project districts, the project has identified 30 VDCs/municipalities where the programmes will be implemented. A total of 73 groups comprising of 1,200 ex-Kamaiyas and other vulnerable people have been organised so far. The project has planned to prepare base line information on the target people at the district level as well as at the overall project level. Thus, a total of 5 district level profiles and one comprehensive profile are being prepared.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CHDP)

Project Area: Surkhet District: Gadi, Lekhgaon, Salkot, Guthu and Uttaraganga
Time Frame: Feb 1996 – January 2003
Total number of project beneficiaries: 21886

Without access to health care and individual knowledge of health and nutrition principles, the development of a community cannot proceed with full participation. Therefore, for the past 6 years the Community Health Development Project (CHDP) was implemented with the aim of strengthening civil society and quality of life in Nepal through increased self-reliance and community development.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

By focusing and emphasising on health and reduction of disease, the project aimed to:

- Develop sustainable community based organisations and to assist in the development and delivery of sustainable social and economic micro programs,
- Develop community owned, self reliant, sustainable, locally managed health models,
- Develop an operational model of integrated community development with a particular emphasis on community health.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Community development
- Health development
- Water, sanitation and rural infra-structure
- Income generation through saving-credit mobilisation
- Agriculture and livestock for income generation and nutritional improvement

ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2002, the final year of implementation of the CHDP, all activities of the project were finalised.

Water supply and sanitation sector

Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental aspect of a healthy life. In rural areas of Nepal, access to safe drinking water is rarely available to the people. Many people rely on unhygienic water sources such as open streams and rivers to access drinking water. Drinking water supply systems including rainwater collection jars, tube wells, pipe water and spring water protection have been implemented as part of this program.

In the water supply and sanitation sector of this project, nine water supply user committees were formed. Altogether the committees saved NRs23,500, which was deposited in their cooperative accounts for maintenance and operation of the water supply systems. The users committees were trained in maintenance and management of the water systems and 9 people were also employed as maintenance and operation workers. Six water supply projects were constructed and 3 irrigation schemes were completed, with people trained in the maintenance and operation of the systems.

Latrines were constructed in 199 households and 4 institutions. The installation of latrines has remarkably decreased the occurrence of disease and illness in the community and increased their level of sanitation. 44 Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) were constructed, benefiting 200 people to reduce their exposure to smoke while cooking.

Local committees have been formed to oversee the maintenance and operation of each of the constructed aspects of the CHDP.

Health Sector

Health Education programs in the form of discussion and interaction sessions were held with the purpose of raising awareness on health issues and hence improving the general health of the project participants. The topics discussed included sexual health, mother child health, contraction of communicable disease, nutrition, sanitation and HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS trainings were conducted for Health Educators, schoolteachers, trainers, and health institution paramedics. HIV/AIDS awareness trainings were conducted for barbers and truck drivers who have been identified as being at risk of transferring the virus. Teachers were also trained in health education.

Follow up trainings were conducted in regards to initial programs in management and orientation of Community Development Programs. Review meetings were also held with Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and Traditional Healers. FCHVs and TBAs are trained in the area of reproductive health including baby delivery, STD and HIV awareness. These volunteers are now able to provide services to their community for pre-natal and post-natal check up and counselling for other related health issues.

Agriculture Development Sector

Trainings were conducted in the areas of bee keeping, organic farming, ginger production, seed production, kitchen gardening and off-season vegetable production, drip irrigation, fodder tree plantation and issues of animal health for village animal health workers. Materials such as fruit saplings, vegetable seeds and chickens were distributed to the program participants. Some *Dalit* and very poor people were provided with trainings for pig farming and support with distribution of piglets.

RRN is also involved in the District NGO federation and the NGO/INGO networking committee, which continues to meet regularly to collaborate between the development work which is taking place in the region.

Community Development Sector

14 adult literacy class centres were established and trainings programs were provided to adult literacy class and post literacy class participants and trainers. These participants also had the opportunity to visit other parts of Nepal as part of their education and awareness program.

Income Generation Sector

Co-operatives were established in four VDCs with regular support from RRN. Representatives from each co-operative attended saving and loan management training and training on managerial skills were also conducted.

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

Project Area: Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha , Surkhet, Dailekh and Rolpa Districts
Time Frame: October 2002 – October 2004
Total Number of Project Beneficiaries: 320 (all children)

Since the outset of the recent insurgency in Nepal, the lives of many children and youths have been affected. Many young people have become orphaned and are socially and psychologically depressed or deprived from the right to go to school. Their economic situation has tragically deteriorated. Many children have been killed or disabled. Therefore, this project focuses on the children of the given areas affected by the existing social, cultural and political conflicts by ensuring that they at least have a secured social and economic life

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to provide personal, psychological and livelihood/employment counselling for children affected by the conflict and to support them with an academic scholarship program, so that they can restart their schoolings. The project also aims to provide practical vocational skills training based on job opportunities to the target children and to make linkages with the employers who may help the target children in providing them employment.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

- Programme orientation seminar at district level
- Identification of the affected children (age group, sex, area, severity and types of effects, etc)
- Analysis of data segregated by age groups and sex (under 6 years; 5-14 years and above 14 years until 18)
- Child development centre support (for children under 6 years) –establishment of Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC) or through Bal Mandir. ECDCs are set up with the intention of providing children of pre-school age with education to prepare them for entry into school and to supplement their diet with nutritious food for healthy growth.
- Scholarship support for school enrolment (6-14 years)
- Vocational education and training (14-18 years)
- Support the vocational training graduates for undertaking enterprises of their expertise and skills
- Support the schools to improve their physical infrastructures (where the selected children are enrolled)

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the project started very recently, only the preparatory activities have been carried out so far. Baseline information's from the project sites have been collected. The numbers of children displaced and households affected by the ongoing insurgency were identified.

RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN/ROAD MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (RMDP)

Project Area: Surkhet, Dailekh, Kalikot, and Jumla Districts
Time Frame: December 2000 – November 2002

The Road Maintenance and Development Project (RMDP) includes maintenance, upgrading and construction of new roads. The project places priority on: periodic maintenance of the strategic road network, rehabilitation of roads in the strategic network and construction and improvement of road access to hill districts which are currently not accessible by road.

The Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) has been designed by RRN to address the problems of displacement of local people during construction and maintenance of roads. RRN is facilitating the resettlement process of the people affected by the road maintenance and development project. The major activities carried out in this project by RRN include:

- Educating the Project Affected Persons
- Assisting them to obtain their compensation allowance
- Identifying Severely Project Affected People
- Providing assistance to Severely Project Affected People in developing income generating activities
- Helping to settle grievances
- Assisting in formation of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the project area.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The major objective of this project is to provide rehabilitation support measures for severely affected persons and households. Such support includes assisting Project Affected Persons to access displacement allowances, support with creating income generating activities and training in occupational/ life skills.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To conduct project information campaigns to ensure transparency of procedures;
- To conduct community and household consultations about entitlements, reinvestment of compensation and alternative income-generating opportunities;
- Assistance to Project Affected Persons to gain access to Governmental and non- governmental poverty alleviation and development programs;
- The assessment and development of alternative income-generating activities;
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation exercises, and
- Assist the Department of Roads and Local Consultative Forum in the formation of Community Based Organisations.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

No activities have been carried out in the project since January 2002. The project is being conducted in a volatile and difficult area of Nepal, which is actively involved in the political insurgency situation occurring in this country. As soon as it is safe for the project workers to resume their work in this area, RRN will continue to implement the RMDP activities.

FINANCE

Balance Sheet Summary (Statement of Liabilities and Assets)

ACCOUNT HEADS 2059)			JULY 15, 2002 (Ashad end Nepalese Rupees
FIXED ASSETS			12,296,117.48
CURRENT ASSETS			56,607,111.87
Micro Credit Loans		1899,941.99	
Disbursement to Groups	9,178,145.75		
Less Refunds	(7,278,203.76)		
Advances / Cash		54,657,169.88	
Cash and advances	59,001,294.82		
Less Advance Adjustment	(4,344,124.94)		
Investments	50,000.00	50,000.00	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		35,443,346.11	35,443,346.11
Creditors / outstandings	35,443,346.11		
NET CURRENT ASSETS			21,163,765.76
NET ASSETS			33,459,883.24
RESERVES/PROVISIONS			33,459,883.24

Income and Expenditure Account Summary (Statement of Income and Expenditures)

		2001/2002 (2058/2059) Nepalese Rupees
INCOME / RECEIPTS		
Project Grants		36,720,224.42
Other Project Grants		1,344,521.86
Project IDF Income		4,021,052.22
Other Income		5,369,160.19
Total Income		47,454,958.69
EXPENDITURES/PAYMENTS		
Administrative / General		12,473,193.23
Depreciation		904,591.49
Programme / Activities		16,928,204.14
Other Project Expenses		29,114,203.87
Total Expenditures		42,491,988.59
Net Surplus / Deficit		4,962,970.10

ABBREVIATIONS

AATWIN	Alliance against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ALC	Adult Literacy Class
ALLIANCE	Alliance for Human Rights and Social Justice, Nepal
ANGOC	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
ARENA	Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCO	Canadian Co-operation Office
CECI	Canadian Centre for International Studies and Co-operation
CGISP	Community Groundwater Irrigation Sector Project
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIVICUS	World Civil Society Alliance
CLC	Child Literacy Class
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DDC	District Development Committee
EC	European Commission
ECDC	Early Childhood Development Centre
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
FIAN	Food First Information and Action Network
FYM	Farm Yard Manure
GEF	Global Environment Facility
Helvetas	Swiss Association for International Development
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Horizont3000	Austrian Organisation for Development Cooperation
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
KCG	Kamaiya Concern Group
KFB	Austrian Catholic Women's Movement
LDC	Least Development Country
MCH	Maternal Child Health
MIFAN	Micro Finance Association of Nepal
MPTS	Multi Purpose Tree Species
NAFoS	National Alliance for Food Security
NFE	Non Formal Education
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
OSP	Out of School Programme
PE	Parenting Education
PHA 2000	People's Global Health Assembly 2000
PMC	Project Management Committee
RDP/GTZ	Rural Development Programme/German Technical Co-operation
RMDP	Road Maintenance and Development Project
RRN	Rural Reconstruction Nepal
SAFADIA	South Asian Forum against Destructive International Aid
SAPC	South Asian Peasants Coalition
SNV	Netherlands Development Cooperation
SSMP	Sustainable Soil Management Programme
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
UC	Users Committee
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Education Fund
USA	United States of America
VAHW	Village Animal Health Worker
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHV	Village Health Volunteer
WUA	Water Users' Association
WUG	Water Users' Group

