

Rural Reconstruction Nepal
ANNUAL REPORT
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Photograph on cover page
Women farmers participating in vegetable production training in Deurali VDC, Kaski

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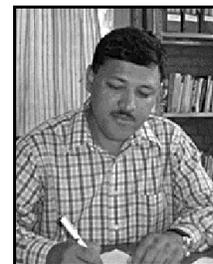
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FOREWORD



Millions of people across the globe live in squalid conditions of hunger, disease, and desperation. This pandemic of poverty represents the world's most pernicious and deadly scourge. Yet for the privileged minority, the horrors of poverty seem to be a natural, inevitable part of the geopolitical landscape. Leaders in the developed world profess their commitment to "poverty eradication," but none are willing to address the systemic causes of poverty. Furthermore, the political and corporate elites at the helm of the world economy have a powerful interest in maintaining the economic status quo.

Multilateral institutions devoted to "development" overwhelmingly adhere to neo-liberal growth oriented strategies of capital accumulation, privatisation, and investment. These institutions, including the World Bank, consistently ignore evidence that growth does not necessarily alleviate poverty and may, in fact, exacerbate it. The goal of eradicating poverty, a social, ethical, political and economic imperative, can only be achieved through an integrated and coordinated approach. This necessarily calls for co-ordinating programmes and galvanising resources aimed at people living in poverty with policies and strategies that meet the fundamental needs of all.

Today in Nepal, we are at a difficult point of time. The nation is caught in a protracted armed conflict; destruction and decimation have been the order of the day; and the democratic process is on hold. There is no governance, let alone good governance. As a result, the development process in the country is at a standstill.

It is in this context that we present RRN's Annual Report outlining our work in 2003. RRN works with people whose lives are dominated by extreme poverty, illiteracy, and discrimination. Eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development and lasting peace continue to remain the major challenges for us. With multi-faceted development interventions, RRN strives to bring about positive change in the quality of life of poor people in Nepal. Despite practical difficulties caused by the conflict, RRN has continued to implement its development programmes in 25 districts across Nepal. I deem RRN has played an important role in 2003 in the field of rural reconstruction by addressing issues such as rural poverty, discrimination, conflict, injustice, unequal social relationships, and the denial of access to economic, social, and cultural rights. RRN's programme work has been backed up with research, policy and advocacy work highlighting the challenges faced by rural communities and possible solutions.

RRN's projects and programmes are implemented by more than 650 dedicated staff members and volunteers who are working vigorously to achieve our goals. On this occasion I would like to thank all of them for their valuable contribution. Finally, without the support of our funding partners, it would have not been possible to reach such a large number of poor, oppressed and exploited people in rural and remote villages of Nepal. Therefore, I would like to extend my earnest thanks to all of our funding partners and to my colleagues for their immense contribution and support in all respects and also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for their work.

Thank you,

Arjun Karki, PhD
President



INTRODUCTION

The overriding objective of development efforts in Nepal is poverty eradication. Poverty in Nepal has persisted for decades, and it is recognised as a deep-rooted and complex phenomenon, for which there are no quick and easy solutions. Following the Democracy Movement of 1990, people's expectations rose, but they have remained largely unfulfilled. People have not had the opportunity to realise social equality in their daily lives. Social problems - poverty, underdevelopment, unequal distribution of resources, social injustice, exploitation, caste-based discrimination and gender inequality - have all continued; unemployment is growing among literate youths; poor people are dying of disease and hunger. The ongoing insurgency has perpetrated great hardships on poor Nepalis and has cost thousands of precious human lives. It has created considerable insecurity in many parts of the country, making it difficult for development activities to continue in such areas.

It is under such circumstances that RRN worked in 2003. RRN's programme interventions are focused towards the realisation of all human rights, poverty eradication, people's empowerment and social transformation. RRN has been able to reach more than **seven hundred thousand** poor people in Nepal and has been able to learn much more about people's development needs, especially issues related to the rural poor, landless people and their autonomous development.

RRN has a family of more than **650 employees** and volunteers working in 19 different development projects and six advocacy projects including at 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 of people through self-development, human rights advocacy and other lobbying and networking programmes. RRN is also actively involved in several national platforms and umbrella networks. We have worked as the national secretariat of civil society organisations for the World Food Summit and World Summit for Social Development and in 2003 we are working as the regional secretariat of the South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and the LDC Watch.

We have been working in partnership and co-ordination with government line agencies, local government bodies such as DDCs, 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 with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



STRUCTURE

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

The central office acts as the principle administrative and co-ordinating body of the organisation. There are three divisions within RRN:

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

Finance and General Administration

The Finance and General Administration Division is in charge of regulating financial and general administration including personnel administration of the organisation. The division arranges the timely release of funds to the projects, and supports the field offices with necessary logistics and equipment, as well as supporting the maintenance of accounts and inventory records, and collecting financial reports from the field for consolidation as necessary. The division is responsible for the recruitment of staff and administers this centrally in coordination with the concerned centres and units through Regional/Project co-ordinators, directors at the regional/ field offices or at the central office as appropriate. There are three units under this division:

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

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

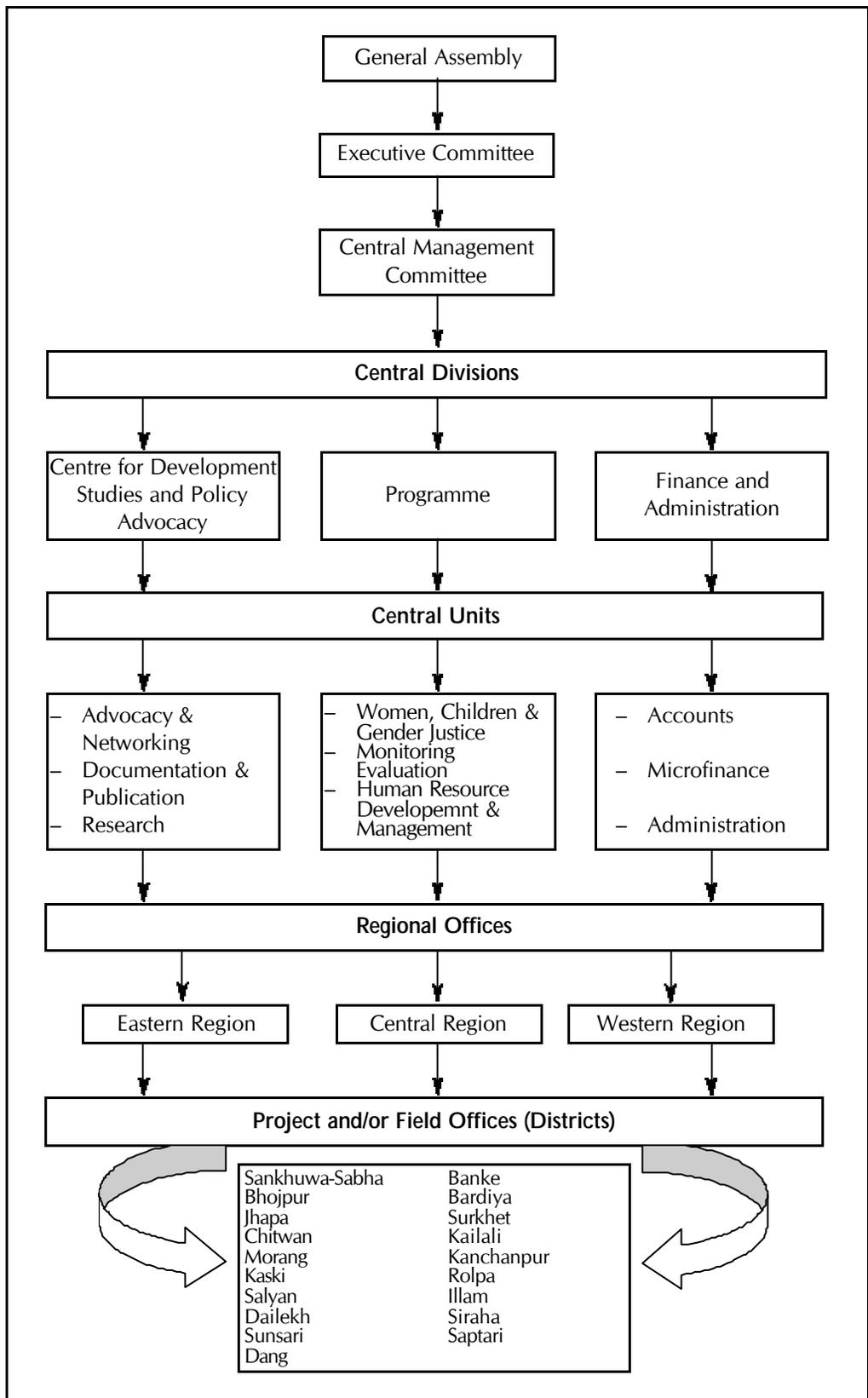
Administration Unit: This unit is responsible for organising general and personnel administration, maintaining personal records of the staff and arranging to support the project offices with logistics and equipment.

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, liaises with funding partners and other organisations, and works in close co-ordination with field offices and other divisions in the Head Office. This division is also responsible for carrying out the programmes and activities related to Women, Children and Gender Justice. It co-ordinates all activities related to gender issues and provides input and support to the central management for the integration of gender and child issues into the ongoing programmes and future activities of the organisation. It also promotes advocacy on gender and child issues in co-ordination and co-operation with the



ORGANOGRAM



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 society
- The rural poor have the potential powers for self-development, what they lack is the opportunity to release and develop these powers
- The rural poor also have personal dignity and, should, therefore, be regarded with respect, not pity.

THE CREDO

RRN subscribes 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 an 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 acceleration of ecological imbalances.
- To conduct action-oriented research on 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 the rural poor.
- To campaign at the local, national and international levels on the root causes of poverty, human rights violations 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 through campaigns and advocacy at the local, national and international levels about the root causes of poverty, the problems of the poor, socio economic and cultural rights and the right to development.

RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT

A rights-based approach is founded on the conviction that each and every human being, by virtue of being human, is a holder of rights. A right entails an obligation on the part of the government to respect, promote, protect, and fulfil it. The legal and normative character of rights and the associated governmental obligations are based on international human rights treaties and other standards, as well as on national constitutional human rights provisions. Thus a rights-based approach involves not charity or simple economic development, but a process of enabling and empowering those not enjoying their ESC (economic, social and cultural) rights to claim their rights. RRN believes that promoting human rights is an integral part of improving development in Nepal. Therefore, RRN has adopted an explicitly human rights approach to its development programmes. 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 - is integrated into all levels of programme policy and planning at RRN. This brings all marginalised people and communities into the mainstream of development.

PRIORITY THEMES

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

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

Education is central to all development. Accumulated evidence as well as development theories, teach us that education is a powerful instrument of economic, cultural and social change. Education empowers people to ensure their own rights are not denied. It allows people to communicate at a deeper level and to participate in the global community.

There are many kinds of ongoing literacy and continuing education programmes at the grassroots level being carried out by RRN. In the year 2003, RRN conducted both adult and child education programmes. It has implemented non formal education programmes for adults through basic literacy, post literacy, legal literacy and different functional training activities. Similarly, under the child education programme, Child Literacy, Out of School Programme (OSP), Early Childhood Development, Parenting Education, Vocational Training, Formal Schooling Support and activities to bridge non-formal and formal education have been implemented.



Children attending an OSP class.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

A livelihood is sustainable when it allows people to make a living without foreclosing on options for others to make a living today or in the future. Sustainable livelihood encompasses the activities intended to help economically disadvantaged members of society meet their daily subsistence needs in a manner that is dignified, locally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable. 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 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.



A woman with an improved bee hive in her kitchen-garden.

Reducing poverty through sustainable development is a strategic priority for RRN. RRN's programmes continue to focus on the livelihood sector, aiming to increase sustainable productivity and reduce rural poverty through its actions. RRN's livelihood programmes include Sustainable Agriculture and Social Forestry, Kitchen Gardening, Livestock Rearing, Rural Micro Finance, and other income generating activities.

HEALTH

Health can be defined as "the capacity of people to adapt to, respond to, or control life's challenges and changes". Health care problems are varied and enormous. The philosophy





Improved cook stoves are very popular in the community.

about nutrition, sanitation, immunisation and early treatment, many people are facing poor health conditions.

RRN's activities under this component include training for traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and Village Health Volunteers (VHVs), health education, primary health care and child delivery care, general health check-ups through outreach/mobile health clinics, immunisation, nutrition, sanitation, latrine construction campaigns and the provision of drinking water.

SELF- GOVERNMENT

Skills development training for self employment.



Self-government can be defined as the act of governing one's self or the state of being governed by one's self, self control, and self command. Self-government is indispensable for sustainable local development and is understood in terms of empowering the deprived population 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 can get organised to 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 to build their own organisations and has facilitated institutional development leading towards self reliance and institutional participation in the development process. The process of empowerment and self-government includes awareness raising through analysing problems, potentials, opportunities and constraints, organising people, capacity building through management, leadership and technical skills training and federating and networking the people's organisations. We have encouraged and facilitated the project beneficiaries to organise into functional groups to implement development projects. In fact, we implement the programmes through such groups as building blocks for their organisational development and institutional participation in the development process.

PARTNERS

RRN works together with implementing partners and funding partners. In 2003, the following partners provided funds for RRN's development projects and programmes.

- European Commission
- 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 Co-operation (CECI)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- RDP/GTZ
- RMDP/ His Majesty's Government of Nepal
- United Nations Environment Programme
- Department for International Development (DFID - Nepal)
- Global Environment Facility (UNEP/ GEF)
- Canadian Cooperation Office (CCO)
- HIVOS, the Netherlands
- Netherlands Organisation for International Development Co-operation (NOVIB)
- University of Calgary/ Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- World Education

Some National, Sub Regional, Regional and International Networks RRN is involved in include:

National

- NGO Federation of Nepal
- 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)
- Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN)

Sub-Regional, Regional and International level

- South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
- Asian Regional Exchange for New Alternatives (ARENA)
- Asia-Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)/Jubilee South
- Least Developed Countries Watch (LDC Watch)
- Micro Finance Summit Campaign
- NGO Forum on Asian Development Bank
- NGO Working Group on the World Bank
- Social Watch Uruguay (International) and the Philippines (Asia and Pacific)
- World Alliance for Civil Society Organisations (CIVICUS)





RRN in Anti-debt campaign.

ADVOCACY, LOBBYING AND NETWORKING

Advocacy is about enabling people to say what they want, obtaining their rights and gaining the services they need. People are entitled to be in control of their own lives but sometimes, whether through frailty, disability, financial circumstances or social attitudes, they may find themselves in a position where their ability to exercise choice or represent their own interests is limited. In these circumstances an advocate can help to ensure that the individual's views are heard, respected and acted upon. Since its inception, all RRN programmes and projects have been oriented towards policy advocacy, lobbying,

campaigning and networking. RRN, in collaboration with its partners and networks, is involved in lobbying and advocacy work at national, regional and international levels. In 2003, we have been involved in campaigns on debt, quality and accessibility to basic rights, Poverty Reduction Strategies, sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty, impact of globalisation, conflict resolution and institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, WTO.

In 2003, RRN organised and participated in workshops and seminars on various development and human rights issues organised by different national and international agencies.

1. Seminar on "Global Governance in Crisis; Challenges to the UN and Global Civil Society" 4 – 6 June, Geneva, Switzerland.
2. Seminar organised by South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) on "Power, Politics and Poverty in South Asia" 14-16 June, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
3. Regional Meeting of ARENA Board, August 29 – 31, Hong Kong
4. ECOSOC meeting on Least Developed Countries, July 13 – 18, Geneva, Switzerland.
5. Social Watch Assembly, October 1 – 5, Lebanon
6. Seminar organised by the Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Millennium Development Goals and the Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger, 6-8 October, Bangkok, Thailand
7. GEF Council meeting, November 16– 21, Washington D.C, USA.
8. Jubilee South/APMDD meeting on "Debt and Water Privatisation", December 8 – 12, Bangkok, Thailand

RRN training centre in Morang district



REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

From more than a decade of experience in development efforts, we have learnt that there is no better method for improving the quality of life of people in a country like ours than through human resource development. Healthy, educated and skilled people not only secure better lives for themselves and their families but also contribute to the economic growth and development of the nation. Therefore, we have established our own multi-purpose training centres: in the Chitwan district, Morang district and Sankhuwa-Sabha district. These training

centres are fully equipped with modern training facilities. The amenities include basic necessities and accommodation, two spacious training halls with ample furniture for 60 participants at a time, multimedia projector, and 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.

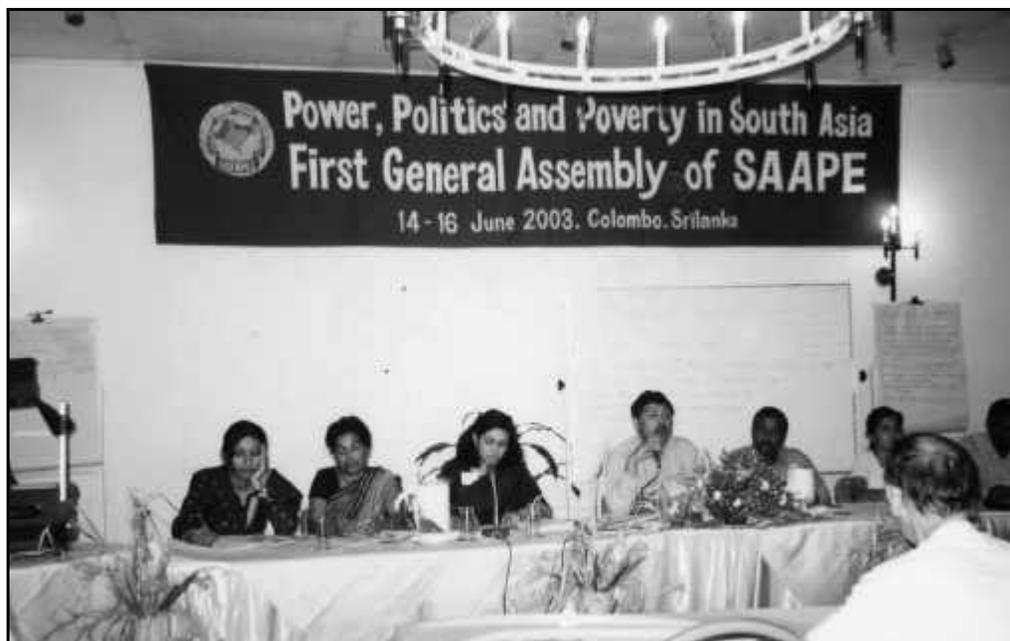
CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In 2003, we implemented the following development projects. Their funding sources, time frame and districts covered are given below:

Districts	Name of the project	Time Frame	Funding Partner
Sankhuwa-Sabha	Arun Valley Sustainable Resource Use and Management Pilot Demonstration Project (AVASRUM PDP)	Feb 2001 – Jan 2004	UNEP/GEF
Sankhuwa-Sabha	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (RWSSP)	Feb 2001 – Mar 2003	Fund Board / HMG
Sankhuwa-Sabha	Sustainable Rural Livelihood Programme (SRLP)	Nov 2001– Dec 2004	Horizont 3000
Bhojpur, Surkhet, Rolpa Dailekh, and Sankhuwa-Sabha	Ashaya Balbalikako Lagi Jiwan Ra Jibika/Life and Livelihood for Helpless /Vulnerable Children (JJ Initiative)	Oct 2002 – Oct 2004	World Education
Dailekh, Surkhet and Rolpa	Migration programme (supplementary to JJ project), Dailekh,	May 2003 – Feb2004	World Education
Bhojpur	Rural Development Programme (RDP)	Apr 2000 – Mar2004	RDP/GTZ
Morang	Girls Access to Education Programme (GATE)	Sept 2002 – May 2003	World Education
Morang and Sunsari	Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP)	Jun 1999 – Jul 2004	CECI/ CIDA
Morang	Brighter Future Project (Kishori Shiksha)	Jun 2003 – May 2004	World Education
Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Banke, Bardiya,	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through Farmers Field Schools Programme (FFS)	Jun 2003 – Jun 2004	World Education
Kaski and Chitwan	Integrating Health and Bio-Diversity Resources Management with Women's Empowerment (IHBRMP)	Sep 2002 – Nov 2003	CCO
Banke	Prevention of Family Indebtedness with Micro Finance and Related Activities	Jan 2002 – Jun 2003	IPEC/ILO
Banke and Bardiya	Rehabilitation and Sustainable Livelihoods for Freed Kamaiyas in Western Nepal with a Focus on Children's Education and Empowerment	Nov 2002 – Nov 2004	IPEC/ILO
Banke and Bardiya	Peace Building Initiative At Local Level	Jan 2003 – Dec 2003	Action Aid
Morang	Micro Credit under Integrated Women Development Programme	Jan 1995 – Nov 2003	RRN's own Fund
Dailekh, Rukum, Rolpa, Sindhuli, Sankhuwa-Sabha	Improving Access of Conflict Affected People on Health Facilities	Oct 2003 – May 2004	CCO
Bhojpur, Sankhuwa-Sabha, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Surkhet, Salyan, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur Rolpa	Rural Community Support for Social Mobilisation for Peace Building from Below Project	Jul 2003 – Jul 2004	DFID
Banke, Dang, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur	Sustainable Livelihood for the Liberated Kamaiyas (SLLK)	Sep 2002 – Mar 2003	European Commission
Illam, Jhapa and Morang	Programme of Economic Empowerment and Alternatives for Communities Vulnerable to Conflict (PEEACVC)	Sept 2002 – Mar 2003	European Commission

CURRENT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

SN	Name of the project	Time frame	Funding Agency
1	South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)	September 2002 – September 2005	HIVOS/NOVIB
2	World Organisation Against Torture	October 2003 – May 2004	OMCT
3.	Least Developed Countries Watch (LDC Watch)	Project established in 2003	
4	Food Security and Conflict	Research commissioned and report published in conjunction with EU	
5	ARENA	RRN is on the executive board of Arena for the period of 2003 – 2006. RRN is involved in ARENA's research project on militarisation and is providing a case study from Nepal for the regional report	
6	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	RRN is the representative for South Asia Civil Society until April 2004	
7	APMDD	RRN is a member of the core group and is involved in the debt campaign	



RRN in Anti-poverty Campaign



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

Project Area	Bhojpur, Sankhuwa-Sabha, Surkhet, Dailekh and Rolpa
Time Frame	October 2002 – October 2004
Total No. of Project Beneficiaries	1,343 children and youth

The present unstable situation caused by the on-going political insurgency has severely affected many aspects of life for youths and children. They have been killed and disabled; orphaned and traumatized. They have been left out of school and deprived of opportunities for the development of their future career. Because of this, the project focuses on the children and youths of the given areas, which have all been affected by the conflict, to enable them to have a more secure social and economic life and to provide them with education and vocational training skills.

Project Objectives

The project aims to provide personal, psychological and livelihoods/employment counselling to children and young people affected by the conflict; to support them through an academic scholarship programme so that they can attend school regularly and continue their basic education; to provide practical skills training on a needs basis and create self employment opportunities for displaced or orphaned young people and former child soldiers; and to assist displaced and orphaned children and youths by creating jobs and establishing linkages with employers to ensure their employment.

Project Components

- Rapport building and networking with stakeholders at district level
- Baseline survey of respective districts
- Counselling for conflict affected children
- Scholarship scheme for conflict affected children
- Vocational skill development training for young people
- Alternative flexible schooling programme (FSP)
- Monitoring and supervision

Achievements

The project staff have established good relationships among different stakeholders, community based organisations and local communities in the process of household surveys and in the execution of other programme activities. More baseline survey work was carried out to identify the number of children affected by the conflict in order to select children to receive scholarships. Counselling training has been provided to 1,060 children of different categories. Of them 530 were boys and 558 were girls. A total of 440 children have been provided with scholarships and enrolled in 132 schools. These children are of different groups in terms of age, communities, and ethnic and social status. Thirty-nine young people were given vocational skills development training in seven different vocational activities. Children, who have been deprived of the opportunity to go to formal schools for a range of reasons, have been provided with alternative flexible schooling programmes. A total of 154 children and youths have participated in this schooling programme.



MIGRATION PROGRAMME

Programme Area	Surkhet, Dailekh and Rolpa
Time Frame	May 2003 – February 2004
Total No. of Programme Beneficiaries	3,216 (male 1,597, female 1,619)

The ongoing insurgency in the country has severely affected both the economic activities and the social life of all people at all levels of society. Whether they are male or female, young or old, the consequences of the conflict have direct or indirect influences on every citizen in the country. However, children and young people remain the most vulnerable segment of the population. Therefore, this programme intends to counter some of the impacts of the conflict that particularly affect young people.

Programme Objectives

The overall objectives of this programme are to provide displaced and conflict affected children and young people opportunities to continue their education through non-formal education; to develop and enhance practical vocational skills through skills development training thereby ensuring some employment opportunities; and to enhance public awareness on safe migration, the worst forms of childhood labour, trafficking of children and HIV/AIDS.

Programme Components

- Collection of baseline survey
- Scholarship scheme for conflict affected children
- Non formal education/ alternative primary schooling programme
- Child rights training
- Vocational and skills development training
- Micro enterprise credit support for vocationally trained youths
- Leadership development training

Achievements

A baseline survey of children, youths and adults, the households and other project beneficiaries in different categories was carried out to identify the degree and size of the community affected by the conflict. Scholarships for children both in cash and kind have been provided. Non formal education or an alternative primary schooling programme has been provided to those conflict affected children who have been deprived of a basic education. OSP classes and adult literacy classes are taking place for widows affected by the ongoing insurgency. Training in Child Rights for the parents and guardians of conflict affected children has been conducted in all districts. The schools in all the districts have been supported through the provision of funds for the salary of temporary teachers, physical construction and supplying furniture and educational materials. A total of 39 youths, including 30 boys and 9 girls, were selected and provided vocational skills development training. In order to utilize the acquired skills from the vocational training in development and to generate income through the process of self employment, 100 youths have been provided with micro credit support.



RURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL MOBILIZATION FOR PEACE BUILDING FROM BELOW PROJECT

Project Area	Rolpa, Salyan, Surkhet, Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa, Sankhuwa-Sabha and Bhojpur
Time Frame	July 2003 – July 2004 (one year)
Total no. of Project Beneficiaries	272,594

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

Project Objectives

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

Project Components

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

Achievements

At starter level activities, communities have prioritised mainly school building rehabilitation and extension. The construction of 43 school and community buildings has been completed. School furniture was provided to seven schools in different districts. A deep tube well for irrigation and seven kilometres of road have been constructed. Eight farmer-managed irrigation schemes and three hand pump/tube well schemes (one scheme includes 5-10 hand pumps) have been completed so far. Different types of vocational training for youths have been started and commercial agro-enterprise development training has also been conducted in several districts. A total of 289 people were trained in 12 different events.



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

Project Area	Sankhuwa-Sabha district: Num, Hatiya and Pawakhola VDCs
Time Frame	February 2001 – January 2004
Total no. of Beneficiaries	1,517

Arun Valley, being one of the most important mountain areas with 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 to natural resources caused by human activity, especially in relation to the forest and water bodies, and to 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.

Project Objectives

The main objectives of this project are 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; and to find economic and policy incentives to promote the traditional knowledge of communities for conserving biodiversity.

Achievements

In the year 2003, the Conservation newsletter (Vol.3) was published. An inventory of the non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in different community forests was completed and the results were incorporated into the Community Forestry Operational Plans. *In-situ* and *ex-situ chiraito* cultivation trials at the project sites were established to promote *chiraito* production. Multipurpose plant nurseries established in the project sites were maintained. Trainings about different livelihood activities were carried out. A national sharing workshop and two district level workshops, to share findings and lessons learned from the project, were organised. Five improved watermills have been successfully installed at the project sites, and more than 50 households benefited from them. A drinking water supply scheme has been established in Pawakhola VDC-7, Nivare village. Eighteen households and fifty students at primary school have benefited from the scheme. Two Peltric sets, with a capacity of 2.25 KW in Pawakhola-7, Bhotegaun and 2.75 KW in Hatiya-9 Namase have been installed. A total of 17 households in Bhotegaun and 45 households in Namase were electrified through these schemes. Two micro-hydro schemes, with a capacity of 22 KW in Neguwakhola, Num bazar-4, 5 and 6; and 13 KW in Thulokhoa, Mangsima-2, have been commissioned. These schemes have electrified 152 households in Num bazar and 115 in Mangsima.



FARMERS' FIELD SCHOOL (FFS) ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Programme Area	Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali
Time Frame	June 2003 – June 2004
Total no. of beneficiaries	1,955 (1,385 females, 570 males)

RRN has implemented Farmers' Field School Programmes for the promotion and practice of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept, in the Morang district since June 1999 and in the Jhapa district since March 2001, in partnership with World Education based in Kathmandu. Originally, the project aimed to practice the IPM methods for rice crops. However, farmers have also been involved in the IPM activities in vegetable crops as well, at pre- and post-harvest times. Different modalities of IPM are useful for undertaking farming activities in different agro-ecological zones. The IPM methods emphasize organic/botanical pesticides, and physical and cultural control methods. The Farmers' Field Schools have proved to be effective in reducing farmers' dependency on harmful chemicals and in increasing the productivity of the land.

Programme Objectives

To increase the production and productivity of the land and to reduce dependency on chemical pesticides through adoption of IPM methods by farmers; to prepare farmers as a human resource at the local level for community IPM; and to encourage women and young people to participate in agriculture, farming and decision making processes.

Programme Components

- Vegetable field study
- Post harvest study
- Farmers' field school programme on chaite rice
- Farmers' field school programme on main rice

Achievements

157 people participated in the farmers' field school programme on chaite rice and 906 people participated in the FFS programme on the main rice. 96 people participated in the vegetable field study and 156 people participated in the post harvest study. From this training programme, their own harvests have improved through the knowledge and skills they have learned.



SOCIAL MOBILIZATION UNDER COMMUNITY GROUND WATER IRRIGATION SECTOR PROJECT (CGISP)

Project Area	Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, and Siraha
Time Frame	June 1999 – July 2004
Total no of project beneficiaries	1,147 (female 1,065 and male 82)

The majority of land in Nepal is un-irrigated. Surface irrigation is quite costly and water availability is a problem. However, without irrigation, agricultural production is impossible to achieve. The Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project (CGISP) has a target to install 13,500 shallow tube wells through water users' groups (WUGs) and associations, and a further 1,500 for individual users.

Project Objectives

To mobilize the small needy farmers (who have less than 1.5 Bigha of land) of the community to enable 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 their crops by providing irrigation through shallow tube wells (STWs) where there are no alternative possibilities of irrigation; formation of and capacity building for the Water Users' Groups (WUGs) and Water Users' Association (WUAs); and to ensure the irrigation programme is sustainable.

Project Components

- Carry out PRAs in villages that are potential shallow tube-well sites to prepare a socio-economic profile of the villages and identify their needs and set priorities.
- Facilitate in the formation and institutional strengthening of Water Users' groups (WUGs), and federate WUGs into Water Users' Associations (WUAs)
- Develop sustainable WUGs and WUAs through providing technical and managerial training programmes, and coordinate with concerned line agencies and private sector suppliers in the project area.

Achievements

During 2003, 309 water users' groups were active. Trainings were also conducted in agriculture and boring. The water users' groups continue to meet every 2 months. The WUGs have benefited in terms of gaining skills and knowledge about farming. 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. Until now, 963 hectares of land have been irrigated. The STWs installation process is going on. Altogether 33 STWs have been installed this year.

In the group saving component of this programme, each of the 105 groups have opened a new bank account. The group members have contributed their amounts for emergency situations and for the creation of income generating activities.



MICRO-CREDIT UNDER INTEGRATED PEASANT WOMEN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Programme Area	Haraincha, Mirgauliya, Sisbani Badahara, Tankisinuwari, Indrapur, Dulari VDCs and Biratnagar municipality ward No 4 and 5 of the Morang district
Time Frame	January 1995 – November 2003
Total no of beneficiaries	714 (all female)

The phase out activities of the Integrated Peasant Women Development Program (IPWDP) has focused on capacity building and institutional development of the groups/organisations of the beneficiaries formed during the project period.

Programme Objectives

The overall programme objectives are to strengthen the institutional development process of the beneficiary groups for the sustainability of the progress made during the project period; and to uplift the socio-economic condition of the community through income generating activities.

Programme Components

- Capacity building
- Income generation

Achievements

The micro credit was disbursed to all groups. Approximately Rs. 4,000,000 was mobilised among the groups. The group members have kept their savings for emergency situations and for the creation of income generating activities.



A woman showing her swine purchased through micro-credit.



GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION (GATE) PROGRAMME

Programme Area	Morang
Time Frame	September 2002 – May 2003
Total no of beneficiaries	292 (Girls aged 10 – 14)

RRN has been implementing the Girls' Access to Education Programme since September 2002 in partnership with World Education. The programme focuses on education for at-risk girls aged 10 – 14 in seven VDCs in the Morang district and serves girls who never entered the formal school system or were forced to drop out due to household responsibilities or other social and cultural constraints.

Programme Objectives

The overall objectives of this programme are to provide girls with the opportunity to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills with a particular focus on health issues; and to encourage the girls to enrol in formal primary school at an age-appropriate level.

Programme Components

- Village Orientation Programme
- Training for facilitators
- Matching fund distribution to schools

Achievements

The Village Orientation Programme (VOP) was organised in 10 places within the VDCs. Resource person training and facilitators' training was also organised. A total of 12 participants participated in that training. Ten non-formal education classes are running, reaching a total of 292 participants. Matching funds of Rs 15,000 each were distributed to the two schools.

Girls participating in an education class.



BRIGHTER FUTURE PROGRAMME

Programme Area	Morang
Time frame	June 2003 – May 2004
Total no of beneficiaries	450: Girls-272 (aged 10 – 14) Boys-178 (same ages)

RRN has been implementing the Brighter Future Programme since June 2003 in partnership with World Education. The programme focuses on the provision of education to child labourers aged 10 – 14 in four VDCs in the Morang district. It particularly targets those children who never entered the formal school system or were forced to drop out due to household responsibilities or other social and cultural constraints.

Programme Objectives

The overall objectives of the programme are to provide children with the opportunity to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills with a particular focus on health issues; and to encourage the child to enrol in formal primary school at an age-appropriate level.

Programme Components

- Scholarship programme for students
- Parent teacher association (PTA) meetings
- Non formal education classes

Achievements

In 2003, a total of 15 non formal education classes were run and 292 youths benefited from those classes. Two trainings were organised for the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), reaching 60 participants. A total of 40 students (33 girls and 7 boys) received scholarships of Rs.18,000 each.



Girls participating in an education class.



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

Programme Area	Morang, Jhapa and Illam
Time Frame	Mid - September 2002 – Mid - March 2003
Total no. of beneficiaries	4,379 (all female)

This project operates in districts that have received many Bhutanese refugees and are also highly affected by the on-going conflict. The people who have been most affected by the influx of refugees and by the insurgency are the local poor and vulnerable communities.

Programme Objectives

The overall objectives of the project are to compensate the communities surrounding the refugee camps for the socio-economic pressures exerted by the presence of the camps; to improve the socio-economic status of the poorest of the poor through sustainable livelihoods interventions; and to improve awareness within the community about local problems and their solution at the local level.

Programme Components

- Collect and update the baseline information
- Identify the target areas and communities and form community groups
- Organise training for Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)
- Support the renovation and construction of farmer-managed irrigation systems, community drinking water systems, schools and other related community infrastructures
- Construction of additional buildings and support for local initiatives
- Continuation and/or initiation of community drug schemes, vegetable production and micro finance support

Achievements

The baseline information was collected from 34 communities covering 1,149 households through interviews with 605 informants. Altogether 203 groups have been identified for the implementation of different project activities. Twenty-one on-the-spot trainings on vegetable production were conducted, reaching 192 participants. 55.5kgs of seeds of cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, cucumber, chillies, bitter gourd, lady's finger, onion, beans, peas, radish and others were distributed to the beneficiaries during the project period. A total of 112 farmers are involved in vegetable farming activities. In the group savings component, a total amount of Rs.2,323,247 was deposited by 203 groups. The accumulated group fund is being mobilised amongst the group members at a reasonable rate. Livestock health, education, vaccination and other health services are regularly provided.

Altogether 54 small and medium sized activities were completed during the year 2003. 55 pedal pumps to irrigate the vegetable fields and 33 hand pumps for underground drinking water were also provided to the community. TBAs and staff nurses are providing health services and health education to the community regularly. Group meetings, animators' meetings and staff meetings are being held regularly.



SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME (SRLP)

Programme Area	Sankhuwa-Sabha
Time Frame	November 2001 – December 2004
Total no. of beneficiaries	924 (all women)

The Sustainable Rural Livelihood Programme (SRLP) is a community development programme implemented by RRN in partnership with HORIZONT3000, European Commission, Austrian Catholic Women's Movement (KFB) and Austrian Government. The project is being implemented in Sankhuwa-Sabha district of Arun Valley, in the north-east of Nepal. The aim of this project is to improve the quality of life of the communities (especially women) in the project area through the expansion of capital assets such as natural capital, social capital, human capital, physical capital and financial capital.

Programme Objectives

The objectives of this project are to provide necessary aid to the poor and disadvantaged groups for livelihood support through micro credit and technical assistance; to provide technical and material support for the construction of small, community-managed micro hydro schemes; and to empower women and other socially excluded strata through education, awareness raising and confidence building.

Programme Components

- Group formation
- Collection of baseline information
- Action research on off-seasonal tomato production and improved bee keeping
- Various trainings (non formal education, women's leadership, gender sensitisation training, human rights and child rights, livestock management, savings and credit management, kitchen gardening, health and sanitation and local initiative support)

Achievements

A total of 43 groups (comprising 924 members) have been formed and 31 groups (comprising 491 members) have been participating in non formal education (NFE) classes. The monthly savings programme aids in keeping the groups intact and further strengthens relationships among the group members. The total savings of the groups is Rs. 626,974.80 and this activity is supporting seven locally formed community-based organisations (CBOs). Retail shops, piggeries, poultry farming and local vending are the major income generation activities performed by the women's group members using group loans. Various training programmes were organised for the members of the different groups. The group members grew and sold seasonal vegetables in the local hat-bazaar and it has been reported that women members received NRs.136,900 in 2003 through selling their vegetables. A total of 14 multi purpose nurseries have been successfully established so far.



INTEGRATING HEALTH AND BIO-DIVERSITY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WITH WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT IN CHITWAN AND KASKI DISTRICT (IHBRMP)

Project Area	Chitwan and Kaski
Time Frame	September 2002 – November 2003
Total no. of beneficiaries:	1,678

Nutritional deficiency is acute among women and children in the rural areas of Nepal. This has been further aggravated by poor access to bio-diversity resources and inadequate knowledge of management of bio-diversity 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 VDCs of Chitwan (a plain district) and Kaski (a mid hill district) in order to assess the impact of interventions under the improved bio-diversity resources management plan. The development intervention was conducted by organising women's groups including representatives of all selected ethnic groups as beneficiaries.

Project Objectives

The overall goal of this project is to improve the quality of life of the targeted communities through socio economic development activities leading to poverty reduction in the project area. This project aims to build strong women's groups; further train them for income generation through commercial vegetable production; and to empower them through institutionalised groups.

Project Components

- Establishing and strengthening of women's groups
- Savings and credit programme
- On the spot training in book keeping
- Community building support
- Construction support for waste water reservoir tank
- Irrigation support for off season vegetable production
- Improved stove installation support
- Model biodiversity garden and provision of materials to the groups
- Off season and seasonal vegetable production
- Training on nutritional cooking

Achievements

A four day training on gender and leadership development was carried out in the RRN training centre for the women's groups of both Chitwan and Kaski. Similarly, seed production training, healthy cooking training and post harvest and packaging training were also provided to the participants. Altogether, there were 44 participants including 23 from Kaski and 21 participants from Chitwan. All groups have been continuing savings and credit activity. On the spot training in book keeping was also provided to the women's groups. A total of 48 women participated from both districts. Cross visits were also organised to enable the group members to share their experiences and achievements. RRN has supported the construction of three community buildings during the year 2003. Trainings were provided to the local people in making improved stoves. During the year 2003, 45 additional improved stoves were made.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP)

Programme Area	Bhojpur
Time Frame	April 2000 – March 2004
Total no. of beneficiaries	3,245 (male 2,013, female 1,232)

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 into 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 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.

Programme 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 organisational development
- Economic promotion
- Small rural infrastructure support
- Strengthening rural self-help organisation

Achievements

A total of 170 new self-help groups have been formed and the project continued to work with the 146 existing groups. The project is supporting income generating activities through savings and credit revolving funds. Management and account keeping training was given to 148 participants. Similarly, training in conflict transformation was also organised, reaching 48 participants. 400 composite packages of vegetables were distributed to farmers and skills development training was carried out for Dalits residing in the district. Cost effective infrastructure projects such as drinking water systems, spring protection, irrigation projects, school roof, five improved ghatta (improved water mill), 50 improved cooking stoves, are implemented by the self help groups (SHGs) with support from the programme.



RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME (RWSSP)

Project Area	Khandabari Municipality
Time Frame	February 2001 – March 2003
Total no. of Project beneficiaries	1,564

The scarcity of clean and safe drinking water was a serious problem in the Khandabari Municipality. The community had to rely on unhygienic open streams, ponds and rivers for their drinking water, risking daily exposure to water borne diseases. They had to spend between two and four hours per day fetching water for drinking and cleaning. Since the women spent hours collecting water, they did not have time to look after children, animals or crops. This project aims to provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water supplies and to alleviate poverty through income generating programmes for the people of the municipality.

Project Objectives

The project objectives are to provide safe, clean and sustainable drinking water supplies; to raise awareness about health and education among women and children; and to protect people from water borne diseases.

Project Components

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

Achievements

Training programmes on the operation and maintenance of water supply systems were given to 48 participants. Social mobilization was conducted to construct 197 household latrines and three school latrines. The construction of infrastructure for water supply systems such as reservoirs, pipe lines, tanks, and valve chambers are also taking place.

*Access to clean water
is essential for
sanitation.*



PREVENTION OF FAMILY INDEBTEDNESS WITH MICRO FINANCE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Project Area	Banke
Time Frame	January 2002 – June 2003
Total no. of Project beneficiaries:	750 children

This project 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 skills training, primary health care, income generating activities, group organisation and social empowerment.

Project Objectives

The overall aims of this project are to prevent freed kamaiyas and other vulnerable families from falling back into bondage by reducing their economic and social vulnerability; to provide access to formal education for children of targeted families in the age range from 6-12 years and to provide access to non formal education and/or skills development training for children of target families in the age range 13-18 years.

Achievements

During 2003, 750 children were identified as vulnerable and began educational classes with the aim of improving their livelihood. Sixteen parents' advisory committees have been formed which include school teachers and other community members. Facilitators who have undergone training with RRN are providing counselling to parents regarding the importance of education for their children. Thirteen Out of School Programme (OSP) centres are running in the project areas. OSP classes are child literacy classes where children who have never been enrolled in school or who have dropped out for socio-economic and cultural reasons can participate and become literate.



Freed kamaiya children who have completed the OSP course.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR THE LIBERATED KAMAIYAS

Project Area	Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur
Time Frame	September 2002 – March 2003
Total no. of beneficiaries	1,200

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 the 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 also intended that this project will address the root causes of conflict in Western Nepal and help to abate conflict by an approach of building peace from below.

Project Components

- Project orientation and planning workshop
- Programme orientation seminars at district level
- Formation of groups
- Collection of baseline information and assessment of training needs
- Supervision and monitoring

Achievements

Baseline information was collected from the respective districts. Before the commencement of the study, orientation training on methods, processes, tools and techniques of participatory development was organised for the project team. Different trainings (off farm and on farm) were organised for the liberated kamaiyas and Dalits depending upon the training needs assessment. An expert team prepared the training curricula for the beneficiaries. Different trainings on human rights and social justice, gender and development, conflict management, good governance and democratic practices, decentralised development planning processes and local governance, leadership development and institutional development were also organised in the respective districts. The project activities were monitored and supervised in a transparent way with the participation of beneficiaries groups, other stakeholders, project staff and management of RRN central office.



LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR PEACE BUILDING

Project Area	Banke and Bardiya District
Time Frame	8 months (January to August 2003 but extended up to Dec 2003)
Total no. of beneficiaries	1,045

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

Project Objectives

The objectives of this project are to increase the capacity of victimized groups in order to build peace through the process of counselling, participation (such as training), medical and legal aid support; to facilitate the people to reduce confrontations through community mediation; to organise and strengthen people’s organisations at the grassroots level and to build networks; to provide basic medical services, legal aid and counselling services to the most needy victimized people; to mobilise the national and regional based media such as the press, radio and television for peace building; and to explore the causes of women’s and children’s involvement in the insurgency through interaction, discussion and process documentation.

Achievements

Several activities have been carried out under this project. Informal visits and discussions were organised with journalists of national and local newspapers, reporters of Radio Nepal, local political parties, school teachers and other possible stakeholders in the districts for effective implementation of the project. The baseline information was collected from both districts. The radio programme “Hatemalo” is being aired from the regional Radio Transmission Centre in Surkhet. Sixteen issues of “Peace Bulletin” have been published. Conflict management training to journalists was organised in Rajapur of Bardiya district. A fifteen day intensive campaign through print media was organised both through the local and national daily newspapers, weekly vernaculars, news bulletins and monthly magazines. A district level workshop on peace and conflict was organised and a total of 176 participants including 109 male and 67 females participated. An exposure visit was organised for 134 participants. Conflict management training for the implementing partners has also been organised for a total of 12 participants.



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

Project Area	Banke and Bardiya Districts
Time Frame	November 2002 – November 2004
Total no. of beneficiaries	6,701 (all children)

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 on the resettlement, rehabilitation and socio-economic development of released kamaiya families in far Western Nepal.

The programme mainly targets 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 programmes are being implemented in the two districts of Banke and Bardiya as the entry point of this project.

Project Objectives

The objective of this project 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.

Project Components

- Conduct baseline information on the ex- kamaiya children in both districts
- Enrol the children in schools if they are not already enrolled
- Provide stationery, school fees and other support to the children
- Provide training for the NFE facilitators

Achievements

The baseline information about ex-kamaiyas in Banke and Bardiya districts was collected enabling the identification of 6,701 children of ex-kamaiyas. 2,994 children were 6-9 years old and 3,707 were 10-16 years old. Among the children aged 6-9 years, 1,634 were not attending school while 1,360 were enrolled in the schools. Among the children aged 10-16 years, 1,823 were not attending school while 1,887 were enrolled in the schools. A total of 2,633 children of ex-kamaiyas (1,362 boys and 1,271 girls), who had not been attending school, were enrolled in 139 schools. School uniforms, bags, books, stationery, and school support (institutional support) were provided to the children enrolled under this programme. The facilitators' training was organised for the 70 Out of School Programme (OSP) facilitators and eight OSP supervisors were provided with training. Sixty-four NFE facilitators were trained.

The survey identified 261 Kamalhari girl children working as maids or domestic helpers. A total of 60 Kamalhari received financial and technical support for entrepreneurship under the Kamalhari rehabilitation programme.



SOUTH ASIA ALLIANCE FOR POVERTY ERADICATION (SAAPE)

South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) is a regional network initiative of like minded NGOs, mass based organisations, academics, trade unions and community based organisations. It was established in 2001 with the theme of "Fighting unitedly against poverty, hunger and injustice". It aims to work as a pressure group on government, SAARC and multilateral bodies active in the region, advocating policies and programmes for the elimination of poverty. SAAPE is working closely with European Non-Governmental organisations such as HIVOS, NOVIB, OXFAM, EUROSTEP, EURODAD and others.

RRN is heading the regional secretariat of this network in Kathmandu, Nepal. The role of the regional secretariat is to facilitate and co-ordinate country initiatives from the regional perspective, provide support to the country initiatives as and when necessary, disseminate information at the international level and liaise with different stakeholders for the cause of eradicating poverty and reinstating human rights and social justice in the region.

SAAPE has country focal organisations in each country of the region to co-ordinate and expedite the country based processes. The country focal organisations are also responsible for providing necessary inputs and feed back to the regional secretariat. They are chosen from among the member organisations of the respective countries.



Consultation with European civil society regarding the ALA Regulation of the EC, the Hague.

WORLD ORGANISATION AGAINST TORTURE (OMCT)

OMCT Research Project: The Geneva-based World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) and RRN have been jointly implementing a project started in October 2003. This project aims to look at the occurrence of violence in the context of violations of economic, social and cultural rights with a central hypothesis that "there is a correlation between the occurrence of violence and a situation characterised by poverty, along with violations of economic, social and cultural rights, lack of development opportunities and deep inequalities."

ASIAN REGIONAL EXCHANGE FOR NEW ALTERNATIVES (ARENA)

ARENA is a regional network of concerned Asian scholars, academics, intellectuals, activists, researchers and writers. It aims to contribute to processes of meaningful and people oriented social change. At present RRN is on the ARENA Executive Board for the period of 2003- 2006.

SOCIAL WATCH

Social Watch is an international network informed by national citizen groups which aims to follow up the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality.



Social Watch has a focal point in each country that is responsible for promoting the initiative; submitting a national report for the yearly publication; undertaking lobbying initiatives before the national authorities to hold them accountable for the policies in place regarding the agreed commitments; promoting a dialogue about the national social development priorities and developing an active inclusive strategy to include other groups into the national groups. RRN is serving as the national focal point for Nepal for the Social Watch Group.

THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WATCH (LDC WATCH)

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

LDC watch is led by civil society organisations in all LDCs and supported by NGOs in development partner countries. It is run by a Steering Committee with members from Nepal, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Uganda and Benin. RRN is working as the secretariat of LDC Watch.



Inauguration ceremony of SAAPE's first AGM, Sri Lanka.



FINANCE

Balance Sheet Summary (Statement of Liabilities and Assets)			
ACCOUNT HEADS		JULY 15, 2003 (Ashad end 2060)	
		Nepalese Rupees	
FIXED ASSETS			33,955,556.85
CURRENT ASSETS			58,189,532.16
Micro Credit Loans		1,899,941.99	
Disbursement to Groups	9,178,145.75		
Less Refunds	(7,278,203.76)		
Advances / Cash		56,239,590.17	
Cash and advances	60,583,714.80		
Less Advance Adjustment	(4,344,124.63)		
Investments	50,000.00	50,000.00	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		56,437,547.21	56,437,547.21
Creditors / outstandings	56,437,547.21		
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,751,984.95
NET ASSETS			35,707,541.80
RESERVES / PROVISIONS			35,707,541.80

Income and Expenditure Account Summary (Statement of Income and Expenditures)		2002/2003 (2059/2060)	
		Nepalese Rupees	
INCOME / RECEIPTS			
Project Grants		48,543,386.49	
Other Project Grants		8,498,671.06	
Project IDF Income		4,645,677.97	
Other Income		566,456.61	
Total Income			62,254,192.13
EXPENDITURES / PAYMENTS			
Administrative / General		18,161,647.51	
Depreciation		1,009,174.63	
Programme / Activities		30,206,658.31	
Other Project Expenses		10,629,053.12	
Total Expenditures			60,006,533.57
NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT			2,247,658.56

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
BPoA	Civil Society Initiative for Capacity – building to monitor the Brussels Programme of Action
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDSPA	Centre for Development Studies and Policy Advocacy
CCO	Canadian Co-operation Office
CGISP	Community Ground Water Irrigation Sector Project
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIVICUS	World Civil Society Organisation
CLC	Child Literacy Class
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DDC	District Development Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council for the United Nations
FIAN	Food First Information and Action Network
FFD	Financing for Development
FYM	Farm Yard Manure
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Horizon 3000	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 Developed Countries
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
NRS	Nepalese Rupees
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OSP	Out of School Programme
PE	Parenting Education
PHA 2000	People's Global Health 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 Organization
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendants
UC	Users' Committee
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAHW	Village Animal Health Worker
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHV	Village Health Volunteer
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WUA	Water Users' Association
WUG	Water Users' Group

