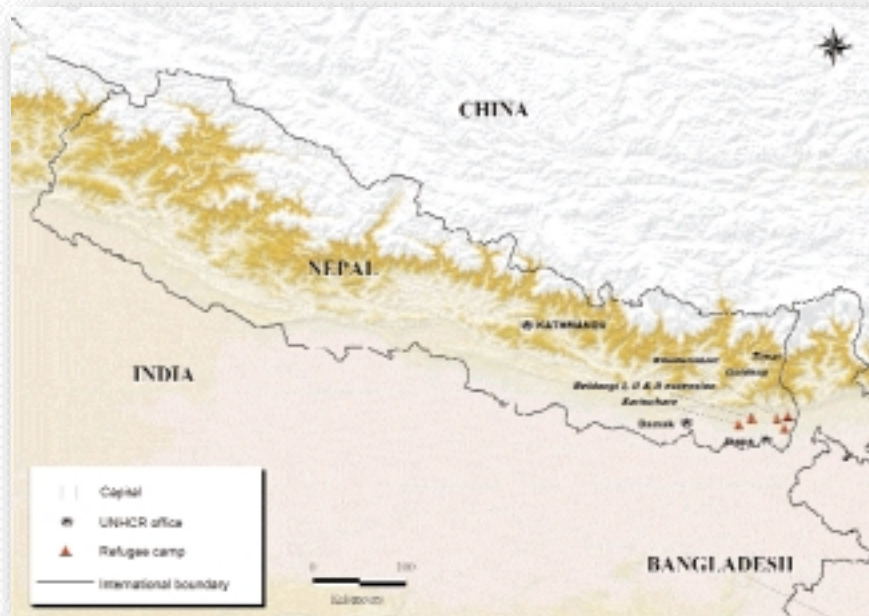


# Nepal in short

## Main Objectives

- Facilitate bilateral discussions between the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal to seek durable solutions for Bhutanese refugees.
- Provide protection and assistance to Bhutanese refugees until a lasting solution is found.
- Promote self-reliance for Bhutanese refugees and encourage their active involvement in camp management.
- Assist Tibetan arrivals in transit and provide legal advice and assistance to other asylum-seekers.
- Promote the adoption of a national law on Refugees.



## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

To support bilateral talks between the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal, the High Commissioner paid an official visit to the two countries in April-May 2000. During high-level discussions, both Governments stressed their determination to seek an early solution to the Bhutanese refugee problem. UNHCR shared its electronic refugee database with both sides and emphasised its readiness to provide technical advice.

Subsequently, during the ninth round of bilateral talks between the two Governments, held in Thimphu, Bhutan in May 2000, agreement was reached on various long-standing issues relating to the joint verification of the refugees. Governments of Bhutan and Nepal could not, however, agree on the precise definition of the 'family unit', which would provide the basis for verification, and sought UNHCR's advice on this matter. UNHCR proposed a formula for the verification and the

### PLANNING FIGURES

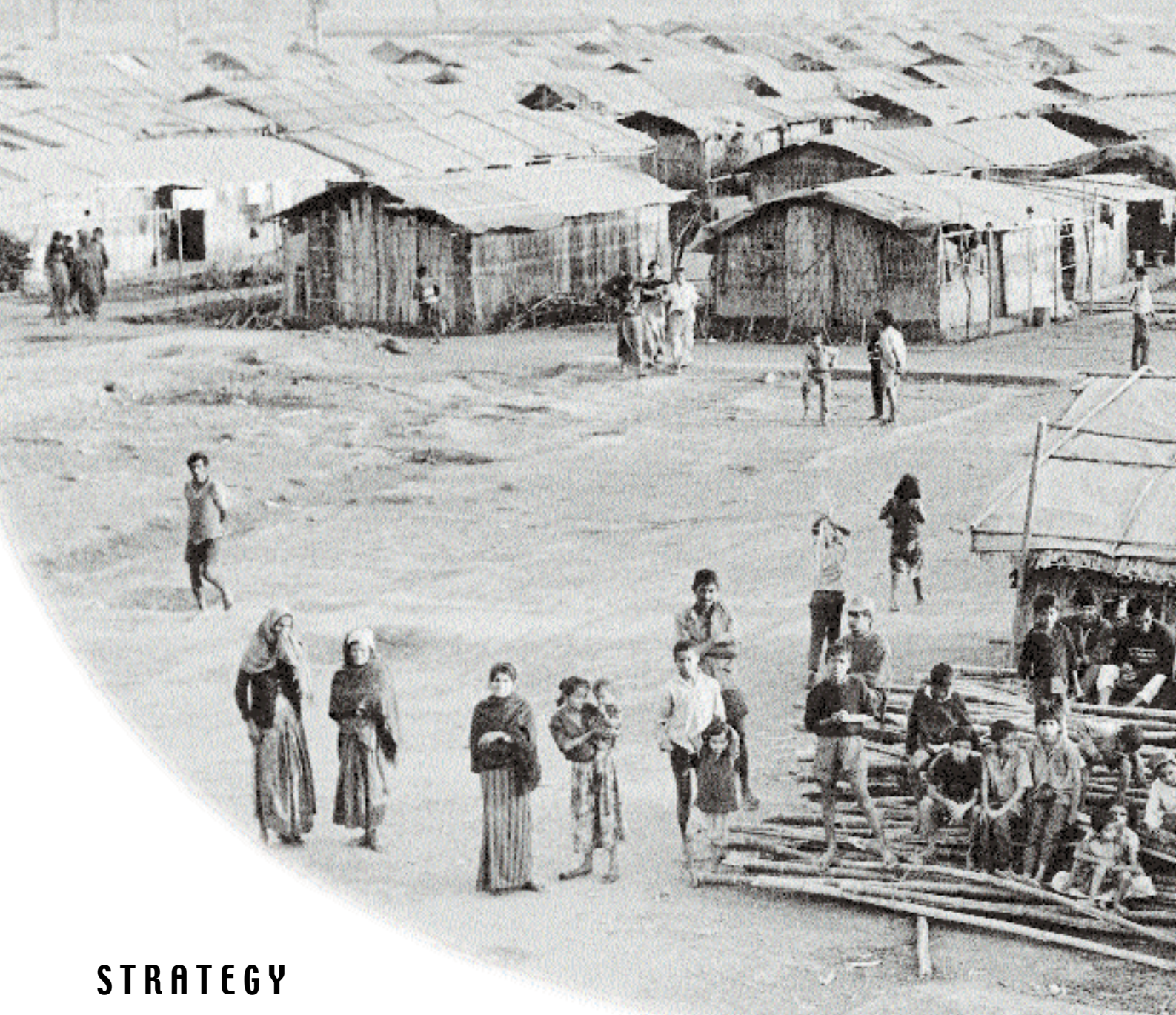
Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Bhutanese Refugees	98,500	98,500
Tibetans	2,400	2,400
Other Individual Refugees	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,925</b>	<b>100,925</b>

### TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 5,434,790

Government of Nepal has indicated its willingness to accept this proposal. The Government of Bhutan is, however, unwilling to proceed on this basis. UNHCR is continuing discussions with the Bhutanese authorities.

### Constraints

The majority of Bhutanese refugees wish to repatriate, but have lived in camps for almost a decade, waiting for progress towards durable solutions. UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance in all seven refugee camps. Although active refugee participation in camp management is encouraged, the refugees continue to be dependent on external assistance.



## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

Pending an agreement between the Governments of Bhutan and Nepal on solutions for the Bhutanese refugees, UNHCR will continue to ensure that their basic rights are respected in accordance with internationally recognised principles. UNHCR will also continue to provide humanitarian assistance to all seven refugee camps located in eastern Nepal.

Some 20,000 Tibetans who arrived in Nepal prior to 31 December 1989 were permitted to reside in Nepal and do not require UNHCR's material assistance. UNHCR will continue its discussions with the Nepalese authorities on the issuance of refugee identity and travel documents to all members of this group. Each year some 2,500 Tibetans arrive in Nepal. UNHCR will continue to provide assistance in the form of food, shelter and health care for new Tibetan arrivals and facilitate their transit to third countries.

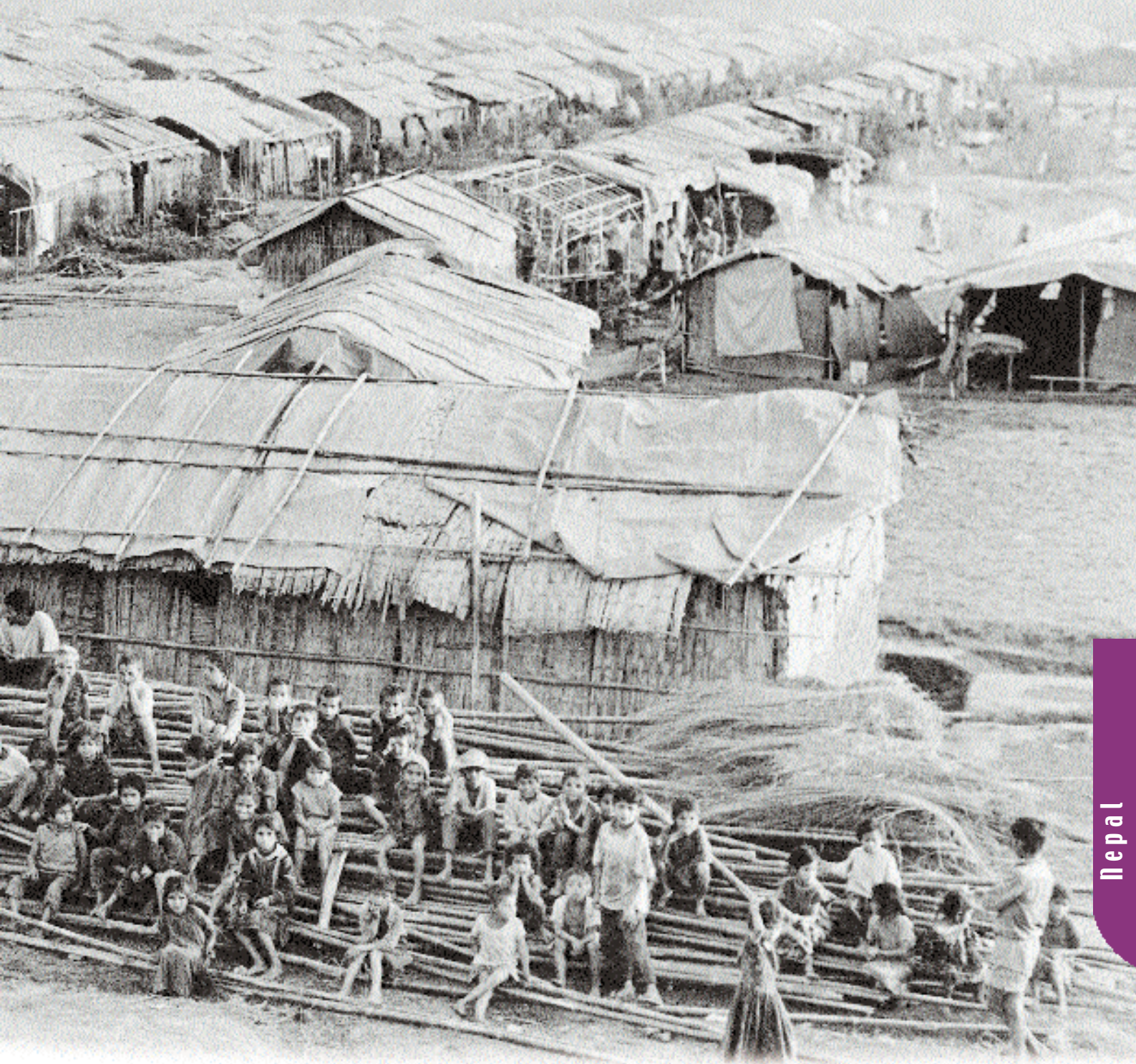
The Regional Consultations on Refugee and Migratory Movements in South Asia adopted a model law on refugees

and asylum-seekers

at its annual consultations in Kathmandu in November 1998. The Eminent Persons Group conducting these consultations has worked vigorously to raise awareness of refugee and migratory issues in the region. The Group will submit the model refugee law to the Nepalese authorities and advocate its adoption as a National Legislation on refugees.

### Assistance

UNHCR will continue to promote activities conducive to self-reliance for the Bhutanese refugees and encourage their involvement in decision-making and camp management. This approach has already contributed to an increase in the refugees' self-esteem and reduced assistance delivery costs. Some 1,700 Bhutanese refugees are currently working with various agencies in the camps, 30 per cent of them women. Educational assistance,



income-generating and skills-training projects will continue. UNHCR will ensure access to primary education for all refugee children in camps and arrange training for refugee teachers.

In order to prevent environmental degradation, UNHCR will continue providing kerosene for cooking. Refugee shelters and essential health facilities will be rehabilitated as required. Refugees play an active role in the provision of health services and the rehabilitation of shelters and camp facilities. Extremely vulnerable refugees, including the elderly, the physically disabled, and the mentally ill will continue to be identified and assisted.

Basic assistance will be provided to Tibetan arrivals in transit in the country. UNHCR assists with voluntary repatriation or resettlement of a small number of asylum-seekers from various

countries. UNHCR will continue to advocate an end to *refoulement* and see that the detention of asylum-seekers is kept to a minimum.

### Desired Impact

Bhutanese refugees will receive adequate protection and assistance until a bilateral agreement allows for their voluntary repatriation or other long-term solution. Pending such a solution, refugees will actively participate in camp management and in community-development projects. Women will play a greater role in management and decision-making. All children will have access to educational facilities.

The basic needs of Tibetans will be met upon their arrival in Nepal and during their temporary stay in the country.

# ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

## Management

In 2001, UNHCR will operate with 34 staff in Nepal (seven internationals including one Junior Professional Officer and 27 nationals). The Office in Kathmandu is responsible for overall management of the programme as well as liaison with the Government, diplomatic missions and NGOs. Operational activities for the Bhutanese refugees are co-ordinated through an office in Bhadrapur, Jhapa district in eastern Nepal and supported by a field presence in Damak, Morang district.

### OFFICES

Kathmandu	Jhapa
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## Co-ordination

UNHCR works with three international and three national NGOs. On all refugee matters, UNHCR co-ordinates with the Ministry of Home Affairs, through its Refugee Co-ordination Unit in Jhapa. Other UN agencies, such as UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, provide technical assistance to UNHCR in their respective areas of expertise. WFP provides basic food rations; various international and national NGOs help provide other forms of assistance. Each camp has a Camp Management Committee, a Refugee Women's Forum and a Users' Committee through which the refugees participate in camp management, skills-development, health and sanitary services, and fire prevention.

### BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	570,893
Community Services	134,683
Crop Production	1,085
Domestic Needs/Household Support	1,135,590
Education	641,548
Food	565,454
Health/Nutrition	631,625
Legal Assistance	109,119
Operational Support (to Agencies)	387,661
Sanitation	78,796
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	234,811
Transport/Logistics	236,324
Water (non-agricultural)	91,604
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>4,819,193</b>
Programme Support	615,597
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,434,790</b>

### PARTNERS

#### Government Agencies

Ministry of Home Affairs/National Unit for the Co-ordination of Refugee Affairs

#### NGOs

Association of Medical Doctors in Asia	CARITAS/Nepal
Lutheran World Federation	Nepal Red Cross Society
Save the Children Fund (UK)	Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office

