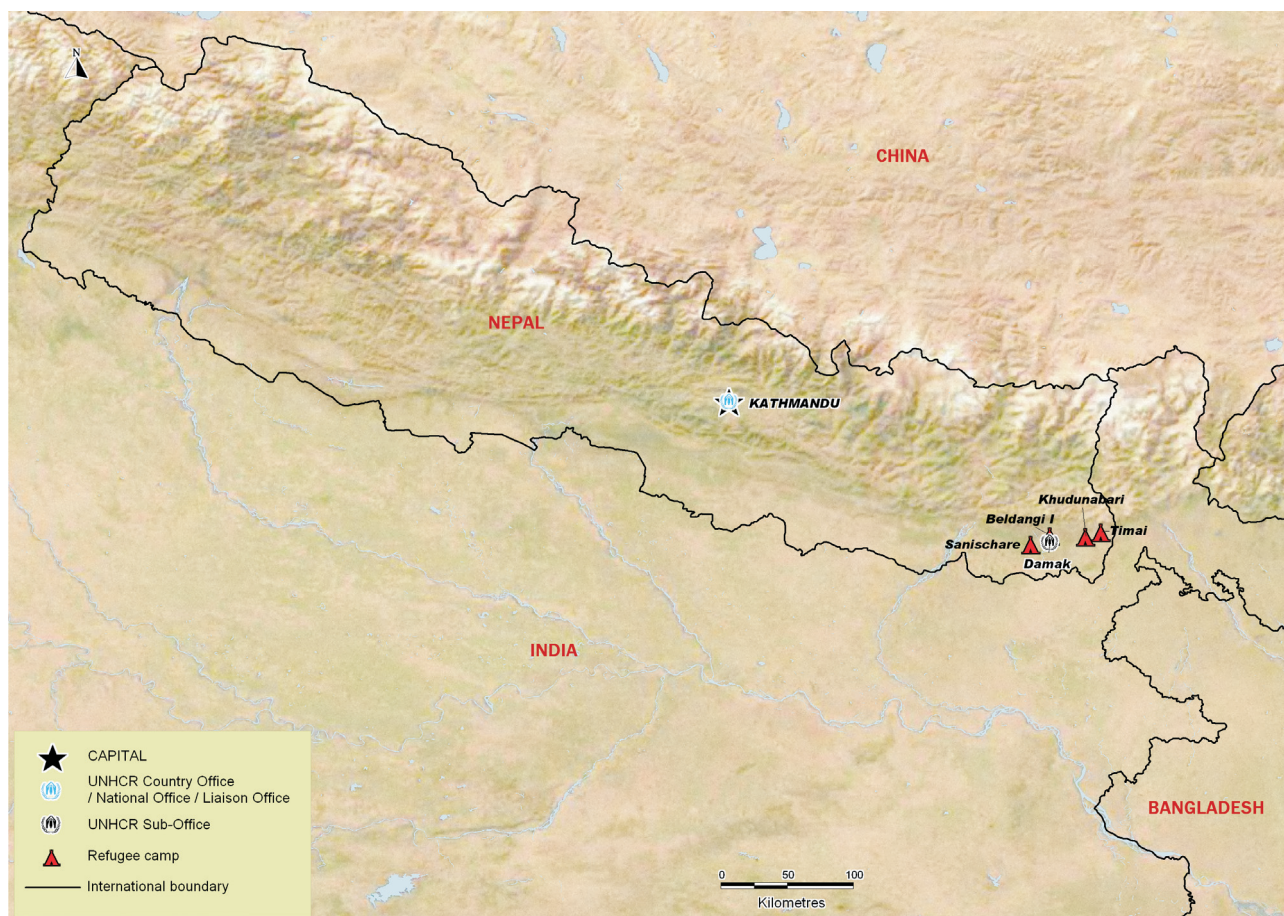


# NEPAL



## Operational highlights

- UNHCR's resettlement programme for refugees in Nepal was the largest such programme globally. In 2011, it helped some 18,100 refugees, originally from Bhutan, to depart for new homes in eight countries. Some 58,500 people have been resettled since the programme began in late 2007.
- As the refugee population declined, UNHCR, with the support of the Government of Nepal, started consolidating the camps. The administration of the three camps in Beldangi in eastern Nepal was combined, while the Goldhap and Timai camps were closed. This left only three camps out of the original seven at the end of 2011.
- UNHCR, with the Government of Nepal and the UN Country Team, initiated a five-year Community-Based Development Programme aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host community in Jhapa and Morang districts.
- In collaboration with other UN and national partners, UNHCR supported legal aid and awareness-raising to assist individuals in need of citizenship certificates. Alignment of the citizenship chapter of the new

## Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
<b>Refugees</b>	Bhutan	55,000	55,000	49	34
	Tibetans	15,000	-	50	-
	Various	270	270	38	35
<b>People in a refugee-like situation</b>	Bhutan	2,400	-	50	-
<b>Asylum-seekers</b>	Bhutan	900	-	38	25
	Various	10	10	43	21
<b>People without citizenship certificates<sup>1</sup></b>	People without citizenship certificates	800,000	4,500	50	-
<b>Others of concern</b>	Various	500	130	100	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>874,080</b>	<b>59,910</b>		

<sup>1</sup> 800,000 is an estimated figure of individuals who lack citizenship certificates in Nepal. The exact number as well as the exact reasons for not having the certificate are currently not known. In 1995, the Government of Nepal sponsored the Dhanapati Commission, which concluded that approximately 3.4 million Nepalis were lacking citizenship certificates. A Government-initiated task force then distributed 2.6 million certificates in 2007. The estimate of 800,000 was arrived at by deducting 2.6 million (number of certificates issued) from the original estimated figure of 3.4 million. The Government of Nepal is also supporting access to citizenship certificates through mobile registration teams organized in some districts, in the context of a voter registration exercise.

Constitution with Nepal's international obligations was also strongly advocated.

- UNHCR worked closely with the Government, NGOs and refugees to provide assistance following the devastating fires at the Goldhap and Sanishare camps in March 2011.

## | Working environment |

Several changes of government in 2011 slowed the drafting of a new constitution, now due to be completed in 2012. There were also frequent strikes by political parties and social groups, while concerns with respect to the integration of ex-Maoist combatants in the national army were of major political significance. With these issues dominating the political agenda, UNHCR faced certain challenges in its work, for instance in advocating for the adoption of domestic asylum legislation.

Despite the changing political situation in the country, the Government supported UNHCR's programme, particularly for refugees from Bhutan. Urban asylum-seekers and refugees, although considered illegal immigrants by the authorities, have been allowed to stay in the country, while Tibetan new arrivals have continued to transit through Nepal en route to India.

With respect to the long-staying Tibetan population, an estimated 15,000 Tibetans who arrived in Nepal prior to 1990 have been recognized by the Government as refugees and been allowed to stay in the country. However, their rights are limited and many lack documentation, which is a key protection concern.

UNHCR worked with both national and international partners to advocate for citizenship provisions in the new Constitution which are in line with Nepal's international obligations.

## | Achievements and impact |

### • Main objectives and targets

In 2011, UNHCR aimed to ensure access to asylum, protection and durable solutions for all people of concern to it. Other key objectives were to continue third-country resettlement for refugees from Bhutan, and ensure that standards of protection and assistance for all people of concern took account of age, gender and diversity.

### Favourable protection environment

- The Government continued to provide asylum to some 55,000 refugees from Bhutan in the camps in Morang and Jhapa districts in east Nepal. The overall security situation in the camps remained favourable due to the support provided by law enforcement authorities, and to the mobilization of community watch teams.
- UNHCR provided Tibetan new arrivals in transit to India with protection and assistance during their short stay in Nepal, and advocated for the Government to uphold and respect the principle of *non-refoulement*. The aim was to ensure that Tibetan new arrivals seeking international protection continued to enjoy access to Nepalese territory, and to find durable solutions in a third country. An

estimated 15,000 Tibetans who arrived in Nepal prior to 1990 are in principle recognized as refugees by the Government, but a significant number of them have remained unregistered and undocumented. UNHCR advocated with the authorities at all levels to provide these Tibetans with documentation.

- UNHCR protected and assisted 300 refugees and asylum-seekers of 10 different nationalities, seeking to improve their physical and psychosocial well-being.
- While there are no official figures for people in Nepal without citizenship certificates, estimates put their number at some 800,000. UNHCR worked with national partners on legal aid and awareness-raising activities to help disadvantaged groups to acquire citizenship certificates. The Government of Nepal is also supporting access to citizenship certificates through mobile registration teams, in the context of a voter registration exercise.

### Fair protection processes

- Some 2,100 refugees from Bhutan were given identity cards following an exercise to identify those who had missed out on previous card distributions, and/or had reached 16 years of age. Measures were taken to prevent fraud. During the camp consolidation process, UNHCR worked with the Government to ensure that the documents held by relocating refugees remained up-to-date.

### Security from violence and exploitation

- Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were sustained by multi-sectoral assistance programmes and training sessions for various stakeholders. Survivors of all reported cases of SGBV received support. Particular emphasis was placed on building the capacity of the gender focal points within the refugee community to respond to cases in camps, and on highlighting the positive role males could play in combating SGBV.
- Refugees' access to legal protection was improved by the regular presence of full-time lawyers in the camps. These professionals conducted legal awareness sessions, represented refugees in court and improved community mediation services.
- UNHCR continued to improve its efforts to address child protection issues systematically, including the setting-up of child protection working groups and a mentor programme for at-risk youth in the camps. An early child development centre was set up within the host community, while Beldangi camp saw the expansion of its community-based child care centre.
- For urban refugees, UNHCR increased social and legal counselling and provided psychosocial support.

### Basic needs and services

- Mortality and morbidity indicators remained at standard or improved levels. Educational initiatives continued, although as a result of camp consolidation the total number of schools in the camps was reduced from 22 to 12,



This 99-year-old grandmother in Beldangi Refugee Camp has opted for resettlement with her family members rather than returning to her country of origin, Bhutan.



UNHCR / P. BAIDYA

with the standards of services remaining at acceptable levels. Some 300 children with various disabilities attended formal school in the camps, under the inclusive educational programme. Some 20 public schools in host communities received educational materials and equipment. The establishment of a Community Technology Access (CTA) Centre in Beldangi camp allowed some 30 students, both from the camp and host community, to receive training in basic computer programming.

- All refugee women and girls of reproductive age received sanitary materials produced in the camps. Clothes donated by the retailing chain UNIQLO were given to some 45,000 refugees, especially vulnerable individuals and families.
- As they did not have the right to work, urban refugees were provided with a monthly subsistence allowance, education grants and medical care. Special food supplements were made available for vulnerable individuals, especially children, pregnant or lactating women, the elderly and the sick.
- UNHCR worked with an NGO partner to provide Tibetan new arrivals with basic humanitarian assistance, including food and shelter, during their short stay in Nepal.

### Community participation and self-management

- Joint needs assessments for the Community-Based Development Programme (CBDP) were conducted with respect to the environment, gender, social inclusion, legal

and community services, education, health and livelihoods. UNHCR and the Government, UN agencies, bilateral donors, NGOs and representatives of refugees and of the host community participated in these assessments, the results of which were validated in June 2011, at a workshop hosted with the Ministry of Home Affairs. Following the assessment, UNHCR and the UNCT prepared detailed programme documents for the Nepali authorities, in anticipation of formally launching the CBDP in 2012.

- Meanwhile, UNHCR implemented small-scale projects that benefited both refugee and host communities to strengthen peaceful coexistence. The main activities in this regard included supporting public schools and health centres, establishing a CTA Centre and continuing income-generation programmes targeting both refugee and host communities. Such activities facilitated the access of female refugees in particular to financial resources, as an alternative to rigid gender roles.

### Durable solutions

- UNHCR continued to work and advocate with the Government of Nepal, the eight main resettlement countries, and the Government of Bhutan to find comprehensive solutions for refugees from Bhutan in Nepal. Thanks to the generous support of the resettlement countries, since large-scale resettlement began in late 2007, more than 58,000 refugees from Bhutan have been resettled in third countries. In 2011 alone some 13,200 refugees were submitted to



resettlement countries, and 18,100 departed for their new homes.

- A high acceptance rate (99.6 per cent) was maintained for all submitted cases, and UNHCR was able to facilitate the resettlement of emergency cases as required. The launch of a mobile counselling project allowed information teams to visit families and those with special counselling needs. This helped resolve the cases of 3,000 persons in families for whom resettlement processing had been halted due to disagreements or indecision.
- With the substantial numbers of resettlement departures, UNHCR began camp consolidation in 2011.

## External relations

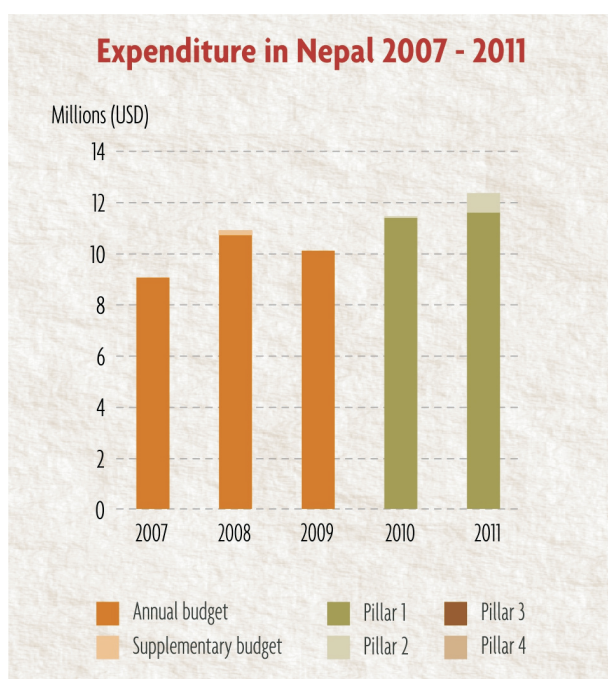
- UNHCR continued to facilitate missions by various stakeholders and donors to the camps. A documentary highlighting the success of the resettlement programme for the refugees from Bhutan was widely distributed. Regular contacts with donors and stakeholders through such briefings and updates helped foster a clearer understanding of UNHCR's activities.

## Logistics and operational support

- Implementing partners received UNHCR training in programme and financial management, helping them to comply with financial verification and audit report requirements. They were also assisted with transport and communications, and provided with data processing equipment.

## | Constraints |

UNHCR had difficulty in maintaining the quality of services in the camps due to the departure for resettlement of skilled and experienced refugees, especially health workers, teachers and camp management volunteers.



In the absence of domestic refugee legislation, urban asylum-seekers and refugees continued to be treated as illegal immigrants and could be in principle be subject to heavy fines or detention for overstaying their visas. In practice, however, the authorities generally recognized their specific circumstances and protection needs. Nevertheless, the lack of registration and documentation prevented refugees from becoming self-sustaining and increased their protection risks.

## | Financial information |

Total requirements based on identified needs were USD 16.8 million, of which UNHCR received only USD 3.6 million (some 20 per cent) through earmarked contributions. Although most basic and priority activities were pursued, there were a number of unmet needs among populations of concern as described below.

## | Organization and implementation |

UNHCR maintained a Country Office in Kathmandu and a Sub-Office in Damak. Changes in staffing and operational arrangements have accompanied the gradual decline in the size of the population in the camps, and the transition from relief to development activities.

## | UNHCR's presence in 2011 |

□ Number of offices	<b>2</b>
□ Total staff	<b>161</b>
International	12
National	68
JPOs	1
UNVs	7
Others	73

## | Working with others |

UNHCR was an active member of the UN Country Team and worked closely with agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, particularly in preparing a common framework to initiate the CBDP, together with the Government. Two new partnerships were concluded with the national NGOs - Forum for Women, Law and Development and the Dalit NGO Federation.

In 2011, UNHCR joined UNFPA and UNICEF in the regional programme to combat SGBV.

## | Overall assessment |

While striking a balance between competing priorities and needs among different population groups was an ongoing challenge, UNHCR was able to provide protection and basic assistance to persons of concern, even though various unmet needs remained. It also advocated for support from various stakeholders, strengthening partnership with relevant actors, and maintaining constructive relations with the Government, the UNCT, IOM, and donors.

## | Unmet needs |

- Interventions to address specific needs, such as mental health and addiction problems or specific needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities among refugees from Bhutan, had to be reduced to a minimum.
- Vocational training and income-generation activities responded to only about 50 per cent of the needs identified. A special income-generation project targeting people with specific needs could not be initiated.
- Educational support, such as the provision of uniforms, was insufficient to meet the requirements of all students, and a special educational programme to assist school drop-outs could not be implemented.
- Only a limited amount of subsistence allowances or medical or educational assistance could be provided to urban refugees, despite the rising cost of living.

Partners
<b>Implementing partners</b>
<b>Government agencies:</b> Ministry of Home Affairs
<b>NGOs:</b> Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, CARITAS, Dalit NGO Federation, Forum for Protection of Public Interest, Forum for Women, Law and Development, Lutheran World Federation, Nepal Bar Association, Trans-cultural Psychosocial Organization, Vajra Foundation Nepal
<b>Others:</b> Tribhuvan University - Faculty of Law, UNOPS, UNV
<b>Operational partners</b>
<b>Others:</b> International Catholic Migration Commission, IOM, UN Country Team, WFP

## Budget, income and expenditure in Nepal | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>15,445,714</b>	<b>1,397,775</b>	<b>16,843,489</b>
Income from contributions	3,594,654	0	3,594,654
Other funds available	8,106,397	765,719	8,872,116
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>11,701,051</b>	<b>765,719</b>	<b>12,466,770</b>

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN			
<i>Favourable protection environment</i>			
National legal framework	162,283	120,448	282,731
Prevention of statelessness	0	241,270	241,270
Cooperation with partners	77,048	0	77,048
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	77,048	0	77,048
Access to territory	72,852	0	72,852
<i>Non-refoulement</i>	53,743	0	53,743
Environmental protection	176,208	0	176,208
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>619,182</b>	<b>361,718</b>	<b>980,900</b>
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>			
Reception conditions	352,512	0	352,512
Registration and profiling	347,871	0	347,871
Fair and efficient status determination	83,012	0	83,012
Family reunification	63,864	0	63,864
Individual documentation	183,717	0	183,717
Civil status documentation	61,639	0	61,639
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,092,615</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,092,615</b>
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>			
Law enforcement	80,569	0	80,569
Community security management	66,969	0	66,969
Gender-based violence	109,285	0	109,285
Protection of children	239,681	0	239,681
Non-arbitrary detention	41,163	0	41,163
Access to legal remedies	219,010	0	219,010
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>756,677</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>756,677</b>

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>			
Nutrition	359,976	0	359,976
Water	194,980	0	194,980
Shelter and other infrastructure	869,345	0	869,345
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,385,221	0	1,385,221
Primary health care	1,467,531	0	1,467,531
HIV and AIDS	105,766	0	105,766
Education	901,004	0	901,004
Sanitation services	104,201	0	104,201
Services for groups with specific needs	548,876	0	548,876
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,936,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,936,900</b>
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>			
Participatory assessment	141,192	0	141,192
Camp management and coordination	140,020	0	140,020
Self-reliance and livelihoods	264,022	0	264,022
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>545,234</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>545,234</b>
<i>Durable solutions</i>			
Durable solutions strategy	309,019	0	309,019
Resettlement	948,055	0	948,055
Local integration	477,865	0	477,865
Reduction of statelessness	0	275,347	275,347
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,734,939</b>	<b>275,347</b>	<b>2,010,286</b>
<i>External relations</i>			
Public information	339,894	0	339,894
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>339,894</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>339,894</b>
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>			
Programme management and coordination	609,376	103,133	712,509
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>609,376</b>	<b>103,133</b>	<b>712,509</b>
Other objectives	303	0	303
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	65,933	25,521	91,454
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,701,053</b>	<b>765,719</b>	<b>12,466,772</b>