



Terre des hommes

# Letters from Kathmandu

Volume 8, February 2006

## Terre des hommes in Nepal

With this newsletter we report about the present commitment of *Terre des hommes* in Nepal and provide an overview of our present project activities.

“Nepal faced the prospect of renewed conflict in January 2006, when armed followers of the Maoist faction of the Communist Party of Nepal ended a four-month unilateral ceasefire. The Maoists launched their armed rebellion against the state in 1996 and ended their latest ceasefire in response to King Gyanendra’s failure to reciprocate. Nepalis living outside the capital, Kathmandu, remain hostage to a climate of impunity that has evolved over the last decade. They are caught between local Maoist commanders and a security regime that has often operated beyond the confines of the law.”  
(*Between Two Stones - Nepal’s decade of conflict - IRIN Web Special, December 2005*).

Nepal is a country poised on the edge of the abyss. Seventy percent of the territory of the Kingdom of Nepal is now under the control of Maoist rebels. Since the Maoist uprising began in February 1996 more than 12,800 people have been killed: 8,283 people were killed by the State and 4,582 by the Maoists until November 2005. Among them were 2,027 agricultural workers, 141 teachers and 14 journalists. Both sides killed an almost equal number of children: 172 by the State and 169 by the Maoists (INSEC). According to last week’s report from Human Rights Watch, Nepal has the dubious distinction of recording more disappearances than any other nation on earth. People living in outlying communities are particularly vulnerable to forced recruitment and extortion by the insurgents on the one hand, and indiscriminate reprisals by security forces on the other. The rule of law has effectively been vanquished, with criminal elements now operating in much of the nation.

The physical and psycho-social effects of the conflict on children and women will reverberate for years to come.



Children from Rolpa – Midwestern district

## Projects and Programs in Nepal

*Terre des hommes* is working in Nepal since 1985, and implements its projects through presently 15 local partner organisations. Projects and programs include disability in children, malnutrition in children, child protection projects within the framework of the armed conflict, and anti-trafficking initiatives and programs.

14 Nepali citizens are regularly employed (plus four consultants) in the two offices with seven female and seven male staff respectively. Around 180 local staff in partner organisations are paid through *Terre des hommes*’ commitment in Nepal.

In order to better respond to the worsening conflict *Terre des hommes* established its first field office in Nepalganj, Midwestern Nepal in 2005.



## Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children HRDC

Since 1985. The Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children HRDC is *Terre des hommes* oldest program in Nepal – operational since 1985 and nowadays implemented through our local partner: the Friends of the Disabled FOD. This service is targeted to the under-privileged children with physical challenges and has been providing comprehensive rehabilitation care throughout the country continuously.



*The coverage of HRDC : Community based rehabilitation plus mobile health camps in Nepal*

1985 – *Terre des hommes* started in Nepal with a view to provide treatment and rehabilitation services to disabled children of the poorer and disadvantaged section of society.

1992 - *Terre des hommes* handed the project over to the Nepali NGO "*Friends of the Disabled*" in order to empower local expertise and ownership, but it remained as a the biggest donor to the program and local partner.

Over 15% of all children with disabilities in Nepal have been treated so far - 20,908 disabled children from mainly poor families from 74 districts, except Manang District.

111,890 children throughout Nepal have been screened for possible disabilities.

The doctors at HRDC successfully carried out 21,292 surgical procedures.

The workshops at HRDC fabricated and distributed 23,163 orthopaedic devices.

The unique Community Based Rehabilitation program provides follow-up care to the children patients in their homes and villages in 20 districts.

The project covers 40 City districts throughout Nepal, half of them with the assistance of local partner NGOs, is in the process of decentralizing its services in order to reach even more children.



*In Brasse, Humla District, children play a game of jacks with rocks. The child in the center is obviously malnourished. Photo Thomas Kelly*

## Urban Nutrition Project

Since 2001. Nepal has among the highest figures of malnutrition internationally. A 2005 State of the World's Mothers report denotes that Nepal is rated 103 out of 110 countries. The index ranks the status of mothers and children and is based on ten indicators relating it to health and nutrition.

When malnutrition in Nepal is already a public health problem, the ongoing conflict situation is adding to it.

The Urban Nutrition Project, implemented by SAGUN in its first phase (in 2001), is now implemented by a new grass root volunteers' organisation Chhimeki. Established and registered in late 2004, Chhimeki has a total of 287 registered member, and mobilises more that 500 project volunteers, predominantly beneficiary mothers. Chhimeki has an elected executive board of 9 members.

Chhimeki employs 11 community facilitators, and an office assistant, and is closely supported by a technical team of *Terre des hommes*.

Presently CHHIMEKI is operating in seven wards of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, targeting 34,599 families in nine wards.



*It covers more than seven districts of Kathmandu City*

## Rural Nutrition Project

Since 2001. The local partner NGO RICOD very closely works with the mother group, area health post and sub-health posts in the remote hill district of South Lalitpur.



*South Lalitpur is close to Kathmandu but very remote and difficult to reach.*

The escalating conflict throughout the country compounds the reality of lives for women and children. An increased number of migrating people from rural areas to urban sectors raises the problems of unequal distribution of available resources like water, rapidly increasing unemployment, increasing gap between rich and poor people, threats and crimes. Likewise in the rural sector, because of the increasing migration of young people particularly male members, female and older members of the family are left with tremendous workload. Hence, mothers are unable to give priority for their family health care.



*The ongoing decade long conflict is known to have brought untold sufferings in the common people which invariably includes women and children. There are reports of mass exodus from rural community to urban settings and to the neighboring countries. The phenomenon of internally displaced people is being increasingly seen as reality in Nepal. Terre des hommes works in Rajhena camp and other locations with IDPs*

## Aid to Displaced Children - Victims of the Armed Conflict in Nepalganj Area, Nepal



Since May 2005. Responding to a growing concern of a large scale population displacement largely due to the ongoing armed conflict in Nepal, Terre des hommes Nepal – with funding from the Swiss Solidarity CDB - joined hands with the local partner DOCFA Nepal to extend assistance to children victims of armed conflict in Banke district. This humanitarian aid covers about 1,800 children living in Rajhena IDP camp and children of conflict affected families who were living in the host community in the four VDCs prior to the establishment of Rajhena IDP camp.



*Nepalganj is the most important city in Midwest*

## Kolkata Anti-Trafficking Project

Since October 2005. In November 2003 Terre des hommes began with preparations to conduct a qualitative study on trafficked Nepalese girls and women in Mumbai and Kolkata, India. The study itself began on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2004 and has been completed on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2005. Underlying this study was the assumption that the use of trafficked and coerced persons, the use of children, and the use of enslaved or bonded labour for prostitution is an abuse of human rights and should be ended.

The purpose of the study was to provide information that would assist Terre des hommes (Lausanne, Switzerland), governments and other national and international organizations to design and implement activities that aimed to: prevent the use of children, trafficked and coerced persons, and enslaved or bonded labourers in the prostitution industry, to withdraw from prostitution all children, enslaved labourers, bonded labourers, and those with an expressed intention to leave prostitution, with all respect for the rights of those adults who choose to conduct prostitution, and to facilitate the social

reintegration of children, bonded labourers, and those who wish to leave prostitution. *Terre des hommes* began immediately after the completion of the study with project activities based on the findings of the research.

Two local Indian NGOs have been chosen for collaboration with the aim to end the trafficking and use of children for the purpose of debt bondage and slavery in Kolkata and West Bengal.



## Protection of Children Affected by the Armed Conflict in Nepal – 10 Mid Western Districts



Since November 2005 *Terre des hommes* is implementing a child protection project to reach more than 9,000 children in ten Midwestern districts of Nepal, supported by the European Commission through its Humanitarian Aid department.

The children of Nepal are particularly vulnerable. Since the end of the cease-fire agreement in 2003, violations against Nepali children have been steadily increasing by both parties to the conflict. The armed conflict has eroded fragile and tenuous gains in literacy, child mortality and other key indicator areas, as the general standard of living and quality of life for all Nepali children continues to deteriorate.



*The project area – Midwestern Nepal*

The 12-months project tries to provide psychosocial counseling to 1,500 children in need, support for education to 4,400 children, and to provide access to health through mobile health camps to about 3,200 children in ten remote hill and mountain districts of Midwestern Nepal.



*Rolpa is one of the districts where the armed conflict started 10 years ago - on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1996*

## Developing a Rights-Based Approach for Anti-Trafficking Actions in South Asia

From 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2006. The project aims at developing at national as well as regional level good governance on the issue of trafficking in women and children throughout South Asia (India, Nepal and Bangladesh).



*Project area – central & southern Nepal*

A human rights-based approach in the development of legal and social measures will be promoted through the mobilization of Law Schools in the region, national and regional stakeholders and local communities. Implemented by four different *Terre des hommes* and technically led by TDH-Italy with financial support of the European Commission in Brussels.

In Nepal *Terre des hommes* supports the Kathmandu School of Law and its partners to implement the project for a period of three years, to train local communities and law enforcement agencies mainly in the southern lowlands.