

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it is a quotation
from Psalm 24 in the Christian Scriptures.

It is this conviction that inspires us in UMN in our daily
work. We are concerned about every person and
every part of God's creation.



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The earth is the Lord's and everything in it

annual report

2007 - 2008

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UMN Supporting Partners

Australia

Church Missionary Society, Australia
Tear Australia

Finland

Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission

Ireland

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Netherlands

Tear Netherlands *
ICCO & Kerk in Actie *

Norway

Normisjon *
Norwegian Himal Asia Mission

Sweden

InterAct

United Kingdom

BMS World Mission
Church Mission Society, Britain
Church of Scotland
Methodist Church in Britain
Tearfund UK

United States of America

Maryknoll Sisters Congregation *
World Mission Prayer League

Multi-national Bodies

Interserve

**Not involved in governance*

UMN Associate Organisations

Denmark

Danmission

Canada

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
Presbyterian Church in Canada
Volunteer International Christian Services

Finland

Evangelical Free Church of Finland

Germany

Der Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
Gossner Mission

India

Assemblies of God
Church of North India
Church of South India
Methodist Church in India
Presbyterian Church Synod Mizoram
SIM
United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India

Ireland

Church Missionary Society

Japan

United Church of Christ in Japan
Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service

Norway

Norwegian Pentecostal Mission

Singapore

Singapore Baptist Convention

South Africa

SAawe

Sweden

Swedish Pentecostal Mission

Switzerland

Swiss Friends for Mission in Nepal

United States of America

American Baptist Churches
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Global Ministries
International Technical Assistance Group
Mennonite Central Committee
Mennonite Mission Network
Navigators
Presbyterian Church
Southern Baptist Convention
United Methodist Church
Wesleyan World Mission
World Concern

Multi-national Bodies

South Asia Group

Partner List

Cluster Name	Organisation Name	Cluster Name	Organisation Name
NATIONAL	Children at Risk Network - Nepal	RUPANDHESI	Gramin Mahila Uddham Sahakari Sanstha Ltd
	Nepal Christian Relief Services		Siddhartha Samudayek Samaj
	Dhulikhel Medical Institute (DMI-Physio Therapy)		Sunawal Community Development Center, Nawalparasi
	Restoration Centre Nepal		Nepal Abinash Social Service Organisation
DHADING	Chandrayoti Integrated Rural Development Society		Sungabha Community Development Centre
	Nari Jagaran Kendra		District Public Health Office
	Dalit Welfare Organisation		Jana Kalyan Higher Secondary School
	Jagat Jyoti Community Development Centre		Bhrikut Community Learning Centre
	Small Farmer Cooperation Federation		Life Development Resource Centre
	Achane Higher Secondary School		Lumbini Christian Society
	Namaste Yuba Club		Sakar Samuha Nepal
	Himalaya Samudayik Mukti Karyekram	SUNSARI	Ramganj Yuba Club
	District Health Office		Nepal Chelebeti Disabled Women's Society
	Prayatnasil Samudayik Bikas Samaj		Sewa Saving & Credit Co-operative Society
MUGU	Committed Society for Change		Naba Jiwan Samaj Sewa
	Rinimokshya Samaj Sudhar Kendra		Participant Mobilisation Centre
	Gramin Samudayik Sanstha		Chandra Mukhi Club
	National Dalit Development Forum		Jana Chetana Samuha
	Chhayachhetra Community Development Centre		Sundar Samaj Nirman Samuha
	Malika Community Development Centre		Multi Purpose Rural Development Centre
	Mahakali Higher Secondary School		Purba Anchal Gyanchaksha Bidhalaya
	District Health Office		Kirat Yakthang Chumling
	Karani Community Development Centre		Vadgaun Sinuwari Higher Secondary School
	Disabled Rehabilitation & Rural Development Organisation		Sarada Higher Secondary School
RUKUM	Seto Gurans Bal Bikas Sewa		Brethren In Community Welfare Society
	Nepal Magar Society Service & Information Centre		Community Development Forum
	Nepal Red Cross Society District Chapter		National Community Development Centre
	Rukmini Higher Secondary School		District Development Committee (Morang)
	Disable Protection Forum		
	Christian Society Development Campaign		
	Nepal People Awakening Forum		
	District Public Health Office		

Dear Friends and Supporters of UMN,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you this Annual Report for the year 2007-08. It has been a very eventful year in Nepal with much change and new hope: The elections to the Constituent Assembly, the forming of a new government, the ending of the Monarchy and the early steps of developing a Republic. All this change along with the high hopes and expectations of people have offered particular opportunities and challenges for UMN over the past year. The war may be over but the benefits of peace still remain beyond the grasp of most Nepalis.

The opportunities to work with Nepali NGOs, often small and inexperienced, can be challenging while at the same time offering the chance for many poor and marginalised communities to engage in identifying and beginning to solve their own problems in participatory and sustainable ways. The official opening of the work in Doti district has been very exciting. The process of choosing and beginning to capacity build partners, focusing at the same time on transparency and accountability, takes time, effort and skill. Preparations are underway for a further Cluster to begin work in Bajhang. This brings the total number of Clusters to seven, the full complement for the period of this General Agreement with the Government of Nepal. The opening of a Support Office in Nepalgunj has enabled technical and logistical support to be provided to Clusters in the mid and far west in a more effective and efficient manner.

Our theme for the year 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' has certainly given scope and opportunity for UMN to engage more seriously with the issue of climate change and its effect in Nepal and to take more seriously our mandate of caring for all God's creation. There has been much organisational activity including water harvesting, a green house for raising plants and cotton bags to replace plastic ones. Along with this, through activities with partners there has been opportunity for awareness raising and engaging in activities to mitigate some of the effects of climate change generally. This focus will continue to become increasingly important for us in the coming years.

The satisfactory transitioning of the Oral Health Programme into a national NGO and the cessation of partnerships with a number of institutions marked another milestone in completing the transition period. Although much effort was made during the year to find an alternative arrangement. Tansen and Okhaldhunga Hospitals remain being managed by UMN while an appropriate new legal status is found and the partnership with Tansen Nursing School continues.

Social Audit (Accountability) has begun to be an important activity alongside monitoring and evaluating our work. This is an important way to involve a wide range of stakeholders in assessing our impact, accountability and transparency.

Our financial situation remains stable with many Supporting Partners and other donors continuing faithfully to support the work.

The staffing complement of both Nepalis and expatriate volunteers has increased in line with the expansion of the work.

During the year we undertook a UMN wide participatory process to

choose new Values for the organisation. It was very encouraging to see how much unity there was amongst the staff on the choice of the six new Values. We expect these values to guide all aspects of our work; interactions with partners; our processes and procedures; and our staff behaviour.

The provision in October 2007 of gratis official visas for expatriate volunteers was encouraging after over two years of individuals and families paying considerable sums of money to work here as volunteers.

We owe a great debt of appreciation to a large number of different group and individuals. The Government of Nepal at national and local level for co-operation and assistance rendered. The partners with whom we work and without whom we would not be in a position to impact the lives of poor and marginalised individuals, families and communities. The many organisations and individuals who contribute financial resources for the work. The staff, Nepali and expatriate, especially those based outside Kathmandu who shared their skills, knowledge, concern and compassion and are passionate about bringing positive change in the lives of others. Across the world there are many hundreds of people who faithfully pray for Nepal, her people and the work of UMN. Without them many things would not be possible.

Finally and most supremely we give thanks to God who has led and guided us over the past year, giving wisdom, courage, strength and encouragement. We play a very small part. It is His work and He gives the increase. It is our desire that through this work He may be further revealed.

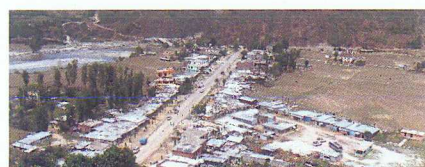
Jennie Collins
Jennie Collins
Executive Director
United Mission to Nepal





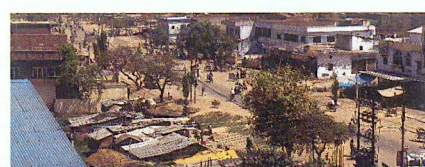
Bajhang

Bajhang is a high hill district in Nepal's Far Western Region. Access to many areas is difficult with only a seasonal road to district headquarters and irregular plane service. Bajhang has a high level of poverty and food production is inadequate, so after planting wheat, almost all the men migrate to India for employment until harvest time. The district is rich in medicinal herbs. The UMN office opened in November 2008.



Doti

UMN began working with its first group of partners in remote parts of northern and southern Doti in late 2008. The need is great, access is difficult and work by other agencies in these areas is minimal. The challenges include food insufficiency, poor education and lack of health care access. While most development work in the district is concentrated along the road, the team has taken up the challenge of working in the most inaccessible areas.



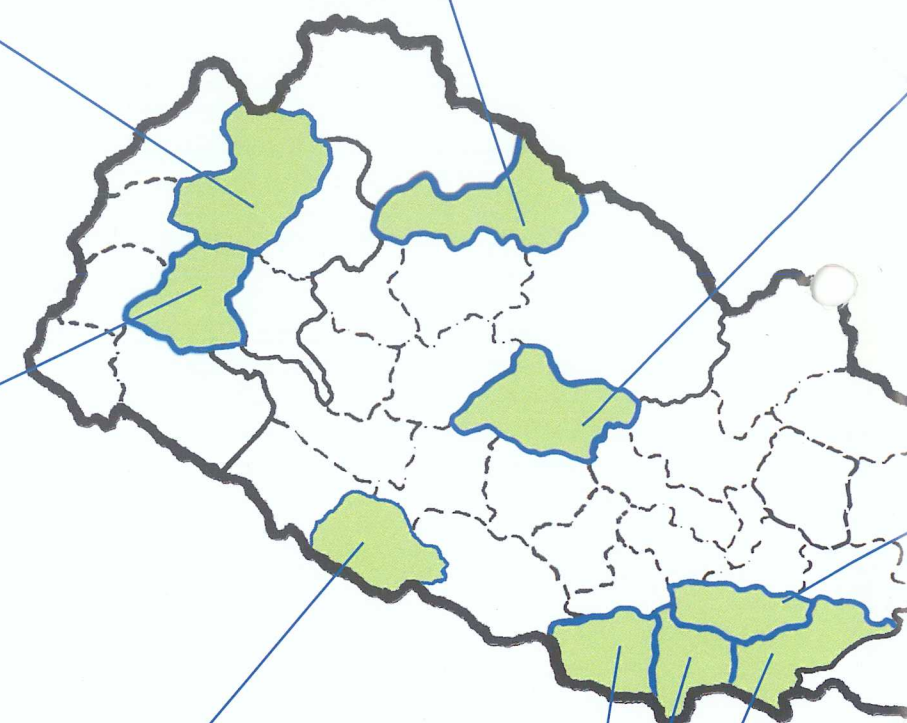
Banke

A small team of UMN advisors is based in Nepalgunj. Advisors work with officers and partners in Bajhang, Doti, Mugu and Rukum clusters*. The office provides logistical support to work in these areas and overnight accommodation for staff traveling to and from clusters*.



Mugu

Mugu is rich in natural beauty and natural herbs. It has potential for eco-tourism, herbal production and hydro power, but the steep slopes and low fertility of the land cause food deficiency and regular natural disasters. UMN partners work to address hunger and malnutrition among children and to increase access to health care and education for all.



Rupandehi

UMN's largest cluster* area covers the districts of Rupandehi, Nawalparasi and Kapilvastu. The team works with 11 partners on projects that include fishery development, increasing children's access to education, crisis care for people with AIDS and the development of peer educators to increase awareness on HIV and AIDS.

UMN's

"If we can contribute towards poverty reduction and ensuring truth and justice for all, I would be a happier person. I also hope that UMN is able to respond to and seek new ways of making a credible difference in Nepal."

— Fi McLachlan

Mahendra Bhattarai (Nepal): A development consultant and pastor, Mahendra's interests lie in agriculture, rural development, socio-economic development and planning and capacity building.

Peter Quesenberry (USA): Currently working and residing in Thailand as an advisor helping to develop the next generation of national Christian leaders in Asia, Peter and his family has served, since 1980, in Nepal, Laos, and Thailand in various roles, from village animal doctor to mission director.

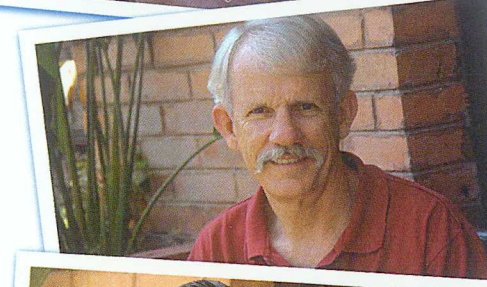
Roshan Mendis (Sri Lanka): An Executive Director for the Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service, Roshan has a keen interest in peace and reconciliation work and is equally passionate about empowering communities to make a difference.

Sandy Sneddon (Scotland): Associate Secretary for the Church of Scotland World Mission Council, Sandy has previously worked in training and community development in Pakistan.

Sareeta Giri Thapa (Nepal): Sareeta's passion is to educate people to help spread awareness for social change and she is currently serving as the Principal of Nepal Bible College.

Grethe Raddum (Norway): Grethe is the Executive Director for the Norwegian Himal-Asian Mission and has worked for 16 years in Bhutan in various roles and capacities. In addition, she has contributed 4 years of service as the head of a networking organisation in Asia.

Jane Furniss (Australia): As the International Director for Micah Network, Jane has a long standing interest and involvement in international development in Asia. She worked as a lawyer in South East Asia for 7 years before taking up her current position.

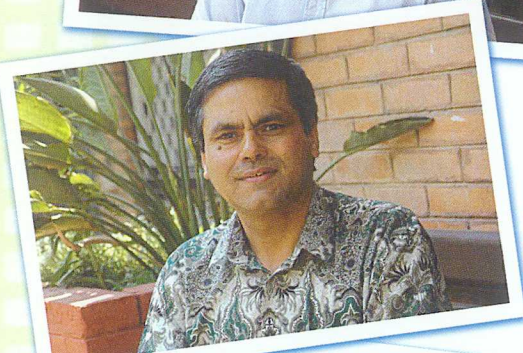


UMN Board of Trustees

UMN approved a new governance model in its General Assembly meeting in May 2007. One of the changes of this new model was that Board Trustees could now be elected from outside of UMN's Supporting Partner representatives. UMN now has 13 Trustees, including its Executive Director, ex officio. The following is a brief description of the 12 Trustees:



Adrian Watkins (England): Adrian is currently the South Asia Regional Manager for Church Mission Society in Britain. An ordained minister of the Church of North India and member of a parish church's leadership team in Ipswich, UK, Adrian has served Christian organisations in India and Pakistan for 14 years, focussing mainly on community relief and development.



Bal Krishna Sharma (Nepal): As the principal of Nepal Theological College, Bal Krishna's passion is to disciple and train people in an Integral Mission approach.



Daniel Subba (Nepal): Pastor of Itahari Baptist Church and President of Nepal Baptist Church Council, Daniel is involved in social issues of injustice, advocacy, and Integral Mission. He is also eager to work for the social transformation of communities through holistic ministry.



Dino Touthang (India): The current Chairperson of the UMN Board, Dino is the Executive Director for Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief. Passionate about Integral Mission, Dino has worked in community development in India for the last 25 years.



Fi McLachlan (England): Recently appointed as CEO of Mildmay Mission Hospital in London, Fi has a background in social care management for both statutory and non-profit sectors. She has worked as an organisational development consultant.

"My role is to oversee the purpose of UMN and its objectives and consult with the UMN Board for the fulfilment of its visions, to push each other to focus on UMN's vision, objectives, and God's greater purpose for Nepal."

"I see UMN as an agent of change because we cannot produce change unless we ourselves change from the inside."

— Dino Touthang

Working Locations



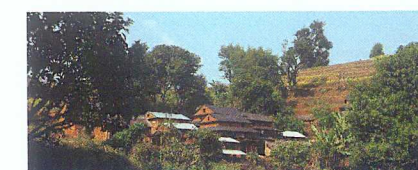
Rukum

Rukum is a mid-hills district. It was heavily affected by the conflict over the past 10 years. Scattered villages in the northern part of Rukum are very difficult to access and many areas lack even basic health and education facilities. UMN is working with partners to improve access to health care and education for all ages, to increase food production and to help women widowed during the years of conflict.



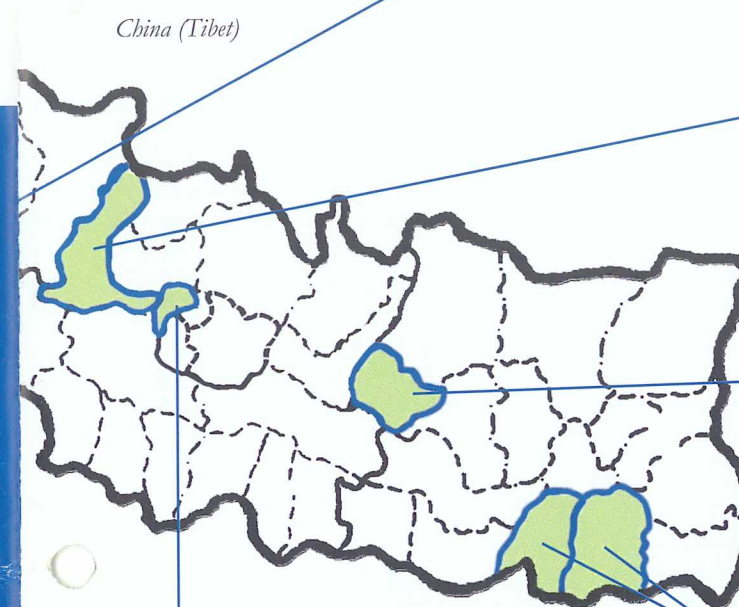
Palpa

Tansen Mission Hospital, established in 1954, serves a catchment area of almost one million people. An ancient hill town 1350 metres above sea level, Tansen is the administrative headquarters of Palpa district and lies in the Lumbini zone of Nepal.



Dhading

UMN has worked in Dhading since 2005. While not too far from the capital, large parts of the district, especially in the north, are very remote due to the lack of roads. UMN works with 11 partners whose work focuses on marginalised ethnic and Dalit groups (Tamang, Magar and Chepang). Gradually, beneficiaries are becoming aware of the root causes of their problems, raising their voices against poverty and taking positive action to transform their lives. Several partners focus on education for out-of-school children.



China (Tibet)



Okhaldhunga

Nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, Okhaldhunga Community Hospital is the only facility in Okhaldhunga district and additionally serves people in four surrounding districts, accounting for a population of more than 250,000 people.



Kathmandu

Kathmandu is where UMN's Thapathali office is situated. The Corporate and Programme Teams support the clusters* in their activities.



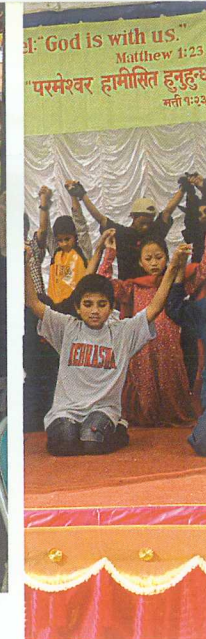
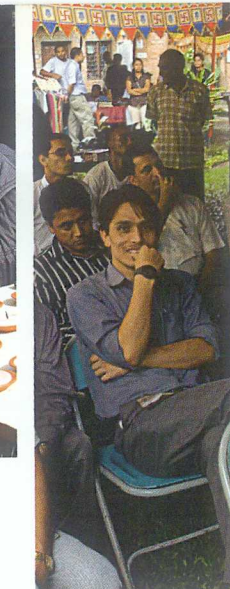
Sunsari

Movements for recognition of the ethnic and language groups of the Terai have stirred violent conflicts in Sunsari and Morang and this has seriously affected local residents. Amidst the tensions, partners are working on off-season vegetable production, early childhood education, increasing access to health care and HIV and AIDS prevention. UMN is helping partners evaluate the impact of their work, conduct social audits, and access new funding.

*UMN's work locations



corporate



Staff Issues

UMN's People Management Framework, a working document aimed at considering the welfare of Nepali and Expatriate staff, was updated. A key outcome from this process was the realisation that adjustments to the recruitment policies were needed to ensure a more inclusive recruitment process. Consequently, a decision was made that vacancy advertisements would be announced at the national and local district level and recruitment interviews when possible would be held at relevant clusters.

UMN also developed a Child Protection Policy Handbook aimed at advocating for the welfare and protection of children. We believe that every child is unique and special in God's eyes. In developing this handbook, the goal is that UMN and its partner organisations would work towards building a society in which all children have peace, security, protection from exploitation and violence, and have opportunities to learn and grow.

Security

The past year was historic in many ways for Nepal. In April 2008, a new Constituent Assembly was elected to write a new constitution for Nepal and for the first time, the Maoists emerged as winners to

take the largest number of seats. A few months later, the Monarchy was abolished after 240 years, giving way to the establishment of a republic. Many Nepalis are optimistic that with a change in the political scene, their social, physical and economic status will improve. Strikes

and demonstrations continued throughout the year but there was a marked reduction in the frequency of demonstrations. UMN further developed its security documents to prepare staff in case of any traumatic event and guidelines for movement during unsafe situations were published.

Values

Special concern for poor and marginalised people

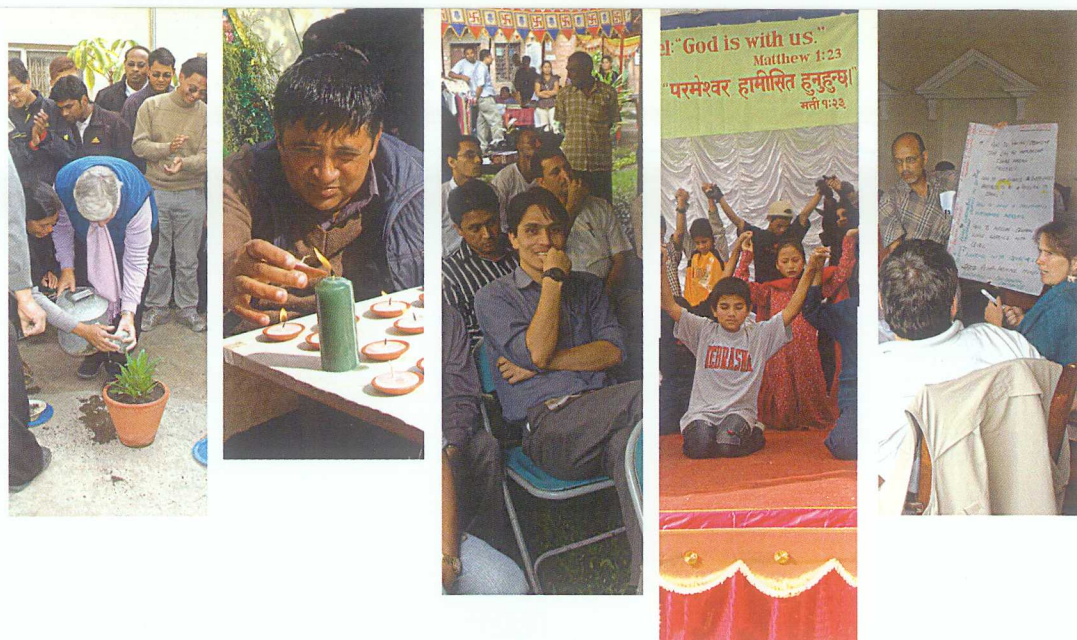
Love and service

Integrity

Innovation and creativity

Equity and social justice

Care for the environment



Board and Executive affairs

In May 2007, UMN approved a new governance model in its General Assembly meeting. One of the changes of this new model was that Board Trustees can now be selected from outside of UMN's Supporting Partners. In September 2007, two Trustees were re-elected and five Trustees newly elected by Supporting Partners. They join five members continuing their terms on the Board, making the total number of UMN trustees twelve.

Gary Hafvenstein, who had served as chairperson of the UMN Board of Trustees for six and a half years, completed his term. Dino Touthang succeeded him and UMN is pleased that the board members bring a broad range of backgrounds, gifts and skills which will serve UMN well in the coming years.

The Board appointed a consultancy firm to undertake the search for the next UMN Executive Director and supported the recruitment process. The process is ongoing.

Support for Clusters

UMN established a cluster support office in Nepalgunj to assist in the technical and logistical support needed for UMN's work in its four clusters in the mid and far western regions. Activities such as

staff recruitment can be done in Nepalgunj which is more convenient, transparent and appropriate.

UMN Values

Through various workshops on Mission, Vision, Values and Integral Mission, staff are now familiar with and can distinguish the functions of these statements. They now have a better understanding of how they relate to their work. The staff were actively involved in contributing to our new set of values. Following a thorough consultative process, 6 new values were selected and these are:

- Special concern for poor and marginalised people,
- Integrity,
- Love and service,
- Innovation and creativity,
- Equity and social justice, and
- Care for the environment.

Networks and Partnerships

UMN's role and participation on a large number of task forces, especially as a member of the Association of International NGO's in Nepal, was key in shaping and influencing policy and contributing to UMN's learning on important issues including Capacity Building,

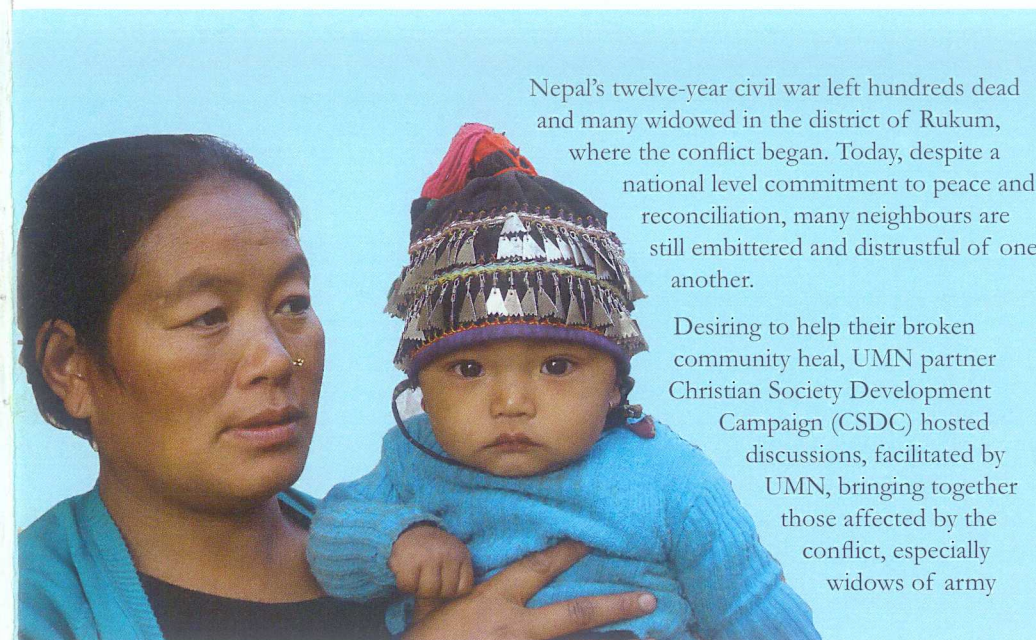
Health, Climate Change, HIV and AIDS, Education and Peace. The Association of International NGO's in Nepal considered UMN partnership guidelines and criteria as a model for preparation of its own guidelines. UMN is also part of Micah Network and Vision Network Nepal.

Going Green

In support of the global campaign to raise awareness on the issue of Climate Change, UMN actively played its part. Various climate change initiatives were started at UMN including the constructing of a rain water collection system, a 'go green' campaign involving planting and selling potted plants, recycling papers, composting, replacement of old bulbs with the compact fluorescent tube lights, and the production of an eco-friendly bag for staff.

Information and Communication Technology

In the past year, after a period of gradually moving the whole organisation towards using Open Source solutions, UMN successfully transitioned to using Open Source Office and will now start the process of switching to Linux.



Nepal's twelve-year civil war left hundreds dead and many widowed in the district of Rukum, where the conflict began. Today, despite a national level commitment to peace and reconciliation, many neighbours are still embittered and distrustful of one another.

Desiring to help their broken community heal, UMN partner Christian Society Development Campaign (CSDC) hosted discussions, facilitated by UMN, bringing together those affected by the conflict, especially widows of army

officers, the police, Maoists and civilians. It was the first time that many people directly affected by the conflict sat in the same room with their enemies.

One widow, openly hostile and bitter at the start of the meeting, could not hold back her tears as she listened to familiar stories of grief, hopelessness and hurt shared by other widows from opposing sides of the conflict. Their solidarity in grief opened their hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation with one another, and healing began. CSDC now plans to form a support group for widows in villages and initiate peace education training through non-formal education.

Conflict Transformation

This year Nepal underwent a major political change. The Maoists, once called insurgents, are now the main decision makers and rulers of new Nepal in a joint government structure. Since the Peace Accord and election on April 10 2008, the killing and fighting has decreased but ethnic conflict has emerged in some districts along the border with India.

At the national level, our Forgiveness and Reconciliation workshops helped faith based communities understand the importance of healing through forgiveness. 14 church leaders and pastors participated in a training that equipped them to involve their congregations and local communities in understanding and practising forgiveness.

In Rupandehi district, one partner successfully intervened between conflicting parties and supported relief work to people in temporary camps. The long-term aim is reconciliation between the Muslim and Hindu communities in this district. In Sunsari, a partner has

been able to form an interfaith network for peace to help prevent violent ethnic and religious conflicts.

A partner in Rukum has developed a three year proposal to support conflict affected widows and their children from both sides in the national conflict. The project includes income generation, trauma healing and reconciliation.

Some 26 family and community disputes have been resolved through the community mediation programme of our partner in Dhading.

Also in Dhading, Peace Education in schools has enabled partners to declare schools "zones of peace." Political groups agreed not to use schools and children for political purposes. In Mugu, there is also significant behavioural change in students.

Social inclusion training has helped partners become more sensitive and take an inclusive approach in their programmes and structures, irrespective of caste or gender.

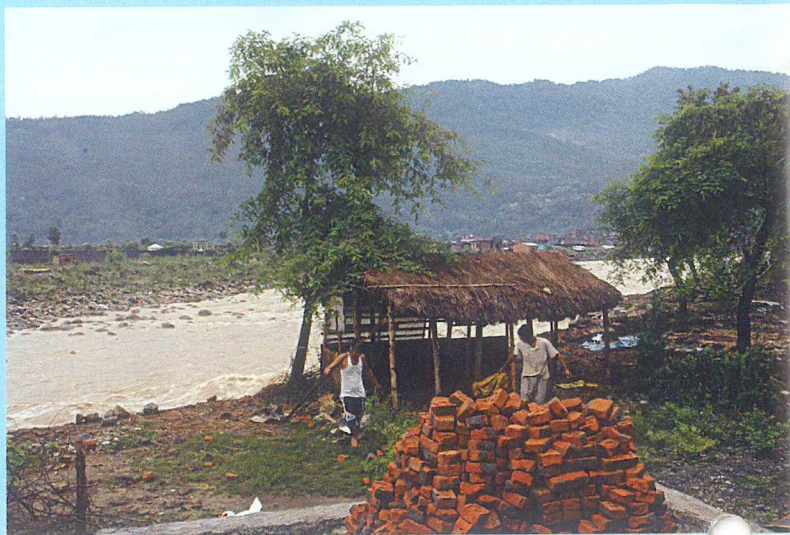
Helping communities to discover ways that lead to social harmony, improved relationships, and hope



Nabal Singh Khadka's family became homeless overnight during the 2007 monsoon. His was one of 100 families affected by floods and landslides in the Armakhola and Kholagaun VDCs in Rukum. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), in partnership with UMN, distributed relief materials such as clothes, utensils and blankets to affected families in December 2007.

Mr. Khadka was grateful for the relief materials that protected his family from the bitter winter cold. Another recipient shared, "Before we got the supplies, at least one member of my family had to spend six hours every day collecting firewood to keep us warm at night. Now, instead, she has time for earning wages."

As part of their post-flood rehabilitation programme, NRCS organised disaster preparedness and first aid trainings for 360 participants in target communities and distributed emergency kits. Local people helped build retaining walls that benefit 555 households in the landslide-affected areas. Nurseries were also established to supply saplings for planting on riverbanks to help control soil erosion and landslides.



Enhancing the capacity of communities to prevent, prepare for and respond to disaster and to minimize the impact of hazards before and after they strike

Disaster Management

Our Disaster Management programme added two partners and we now work with a total of twelve in disaster preparedness and response.

The yearly monsoon displaced more than 21,000 families in eastern Nepal and through its partners, UMN was able to serve 1,279 of these families in five districts. In addition, UMN assisted Nepal Christian Relief Services (NCRS) in obtaining funds to help a further 1,968 households in three districts. As part of rehabilitation programmes, UMN partners helped incorporate disaster resilient facilities such as emergency shelters, raised houses, safety boats and emergency kits. Off-season vegetable farming helped diversify livelihoods, compensate for loss and increase resilience.

Awareness programmes stimulated student and community concern for the environment. Participatory

community disaster profiling in two clusters has helped draft plans and create pressure on the district disaster relief committees to do more.

Our Disaster Management team conducted training in basic first aid and land mine awareness in three districts.

To create safe school environments, earthquake alarms were installed in partner schools in four clusters and significant progress has been made towards building disaster resilient infrastructure. We have also progressed in incorporating disaster risk reduction into the school curricula.

Seconded UMN staff assisted NCRS in forming a disaster management committee comprised mainly of church leaders in Pokhara and Nepalgunj to facilitate the Christian community's involvement in disaster management.

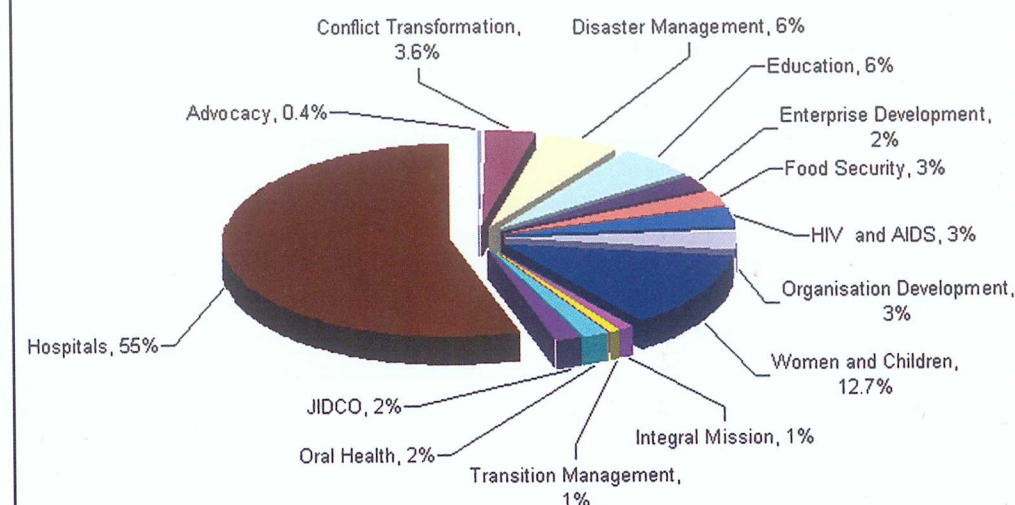
finance



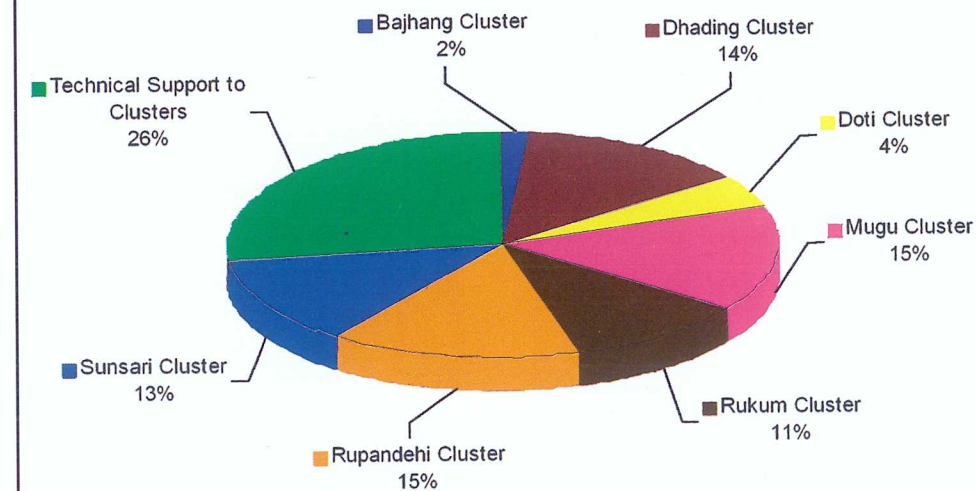
The Hospitals account for 55 percent of this expenditure with the next largest areas of work being Women and Children (12 percent), Education (6 percent) and Disaster Management (6 percent). The Oral Health programme closed at the end of 2007/08 and the work was handed over to the Government of Nepal and a local NGO, in line with the Oral Health Strategic Plan.

The hospitals and JIDCO work in single geographical locations whereas the rest of the work of UMN is split over a number of geographic locations. The 2007/08 charitable expenditure of UMN (excluding the hospitals and JIDCO) is broken down by location below:

Breakdown of Charitable Expenditure 2007/08



Charitable Expenditure by cluster (exc Hospitals & JIDCO)

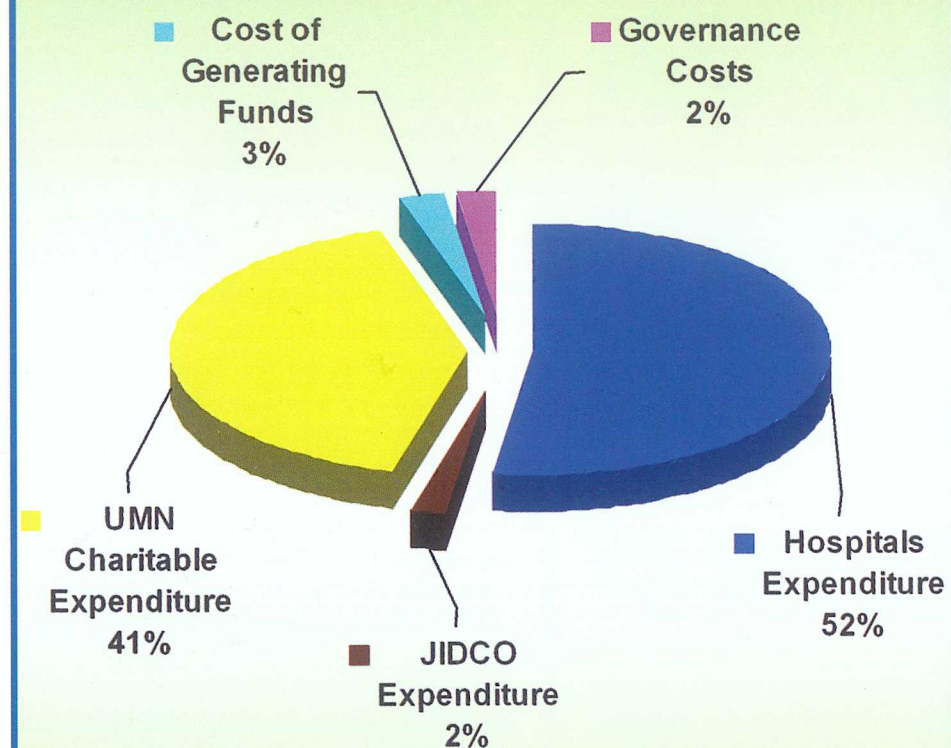


Mugu, Rupandehi and Dhading were the locations in which the highest proportion of UMN's charitable expenditure was utilised. In 2007/08 the work in Doti and Bajhang started so the work in these clusters will grow in 2008/09. A Kathmandu based advisory group gave technical support across the different clusters to ensure the quality and effectiveness of UMN's work.

US \$1 = NRs. 68.7



Expenditure in 2007/08



Breakdown of Charitable Expenditure:

	US \$	% of Total Charitable Expenditure	% Total Areas of Work
Hospitals	2,702,441	55	-
Women & Children	617,687	12	31
Education	290,487	6	14
Disaster Management	272,407	6	14
Conflict Transformation	176,171	3.6	9
Organisational Development	171,162	3	8
Food Sovereignty	145,012	3	7
HIV/AIDS	144,674	3	7
Enterprise Development	114,911	2	6
JIDCO	93,254	2	-
Oral Health	79,440	2	-
Integral Mission	62,820	1	3
Transition Management	37,221	1	-
Advocacy	18,718	0.4	1
Total	4,926,405		

Education

UMN has education-focused partnerships with 12 non-government organisations, six higher secondary schools and one Community Learning Centre (CLC) across all clusters. These partners are active in non-formal, formal and alternative education leading to skills, income generation and empowerment in the poorest communities.

Non-formal education facilitators and teachers are now able to adopt quality child/adult friendly learning approaches. In Mugu, training on practical agricultural skills has been incorporated into the curriculum and storybooks produced in local languages have inspired adult learners, while in Rupandehi activities based on Multilingual Education were initiated. Working through NGOs and CLCs, life long learning and livelihood development are encouraged.

Open and distance learning and information communication technology possibilities have been

explored with some partners. UMN has made links between Opportunity Education Foundation, USA and 20 schools, providing each with a TV, a DVD player and learning materials. Piloting these resources has taken place in Dhading.

Quality education for the youngest learners has been improved through early childhood development centres in Sunsari and Rukum. Action has been taken to get needy children into education through home visits and interaction programmes. Two hundred and thirty three students are receiving scholarships.

UMN's partner schools have become Leader Schools in their catchment areas, supporting, sharing and learning together. All have taken part in management and governance trainings that have enabled their school committees and parent associations to improve standards. UMN partners are also active in education networks for advocacy issues and access to resources for both adults and children.



Dhading has one of the lowest literacy rates in Nepal, especially among the low-caste Dalit population. Centuries of oppression has normalised low self-esteem and poor understanding of the value of education among Dalits. Therefore, instead of attending school, Dalit children often work in the fields or care for younger siblings while their parents work, despite the availability of education scholarships.

Determined to fight the prevailing attitudes about children's education and to get more children in school, the Dalit Welfare Organisation (DWO), a UMN partner, mobilised a group of volunteers with training on school enrolment and the importance of education. The volunteers returned to their villages eager to spread the word and went from house to house counselling and encouraging parents to send their children to school. Volunteers campaigned for several weeks, and many parents came to understand the importance of education. This resulted in a significant increase in school enrolment among Dalits, many of whom received education scholarships from UMN.

Improving practical education through enhancing quality and access to formal and non-formal education



Nepal Chelebeti Disabled Women's Society (NCDWS) is a UMN partner run by and for disabled women of Hasposa VDC, Sunsari, for whom earning an income is always a challenge. Recently, after many discussions, they decided to develop NCDWS into a training centre through which they can generate income via trainings and selling products they make. They chose to begin with tailoring (sewing, cutting, designing) and candle and chalk making.

Currently, two members of NCDWS are studying at a fashion design and sewing institute in Kathmandu, while another is receiving chalk and candle making training at a skill development centre for blind and disabled people. These women are excited to return to their village with new skills and independence, and begin training others and producing products they will sell to individuals and to local shops.



Empowering marginalised families to access regular cash income through increased opportunities



Enterprise Development

UMN has 15 partners across three clusters active in enterprise development, with 770 households profiting directly from these activities. Most of these beneficiaries have started or improved their businesses after gaining techniques and skills in entrepreneurial awareness.

UMN coaching and facilitation have helped partners to promote innovative practices at the community level. In Dhading, one partner has started seed storage, marketing, insurance and the construction of much improved sheds for goats. In Rupandehi, a partner rented three ponds to begin fish farming. In Sunsari a partner is delivering services in enterprise and micro-finance which will contribute to the sustainability of their programmes.

Partner organisations and beneficiaries have increased their knowledge and skills of enterprise development through exposure visits,

trainings, meetings with successful entrepreneurs and support from external resource persons. This has led to equal opportunities, empowerment, improved decision making and growth at all levels in the organisations. Therefore, enterprise development programmes are becoming popular among beneficiaries and partners. Such programmes ensure the meaningful participation of large portions of the poor and marginalised communities through activities like fish farming, goat and pig rearing, vegetable farming, candle production and marketing, retail and tea shops. These activities have empowered the participants in decision making, in accessing government services, involvement in the private sector, and market and financial services, all of which lead to healthier more sustainable businesses.

finance



Breakdown of Grant Income: (Excluding Hospitals and JIDCO)

Donor	US \$	%
Tearfund UK	300,446	18
TEAR Australia	263,214	16
ICCO & Kerk in Actie	211,101	13
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)	205,687	12
Norwegian Himal Asia Mission	94,081	6
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V (EED)	85,961	5
Support to Safer Motherhood Programme (SSMP)	85,849	5
Tear Netherlands	77,354	5
InterAct	56,970	3
United Methodist Church USA (UMC)	38,301	2
Others	241,278	15
Total Grant Income	1,660,242	

EXPENDITURE

Consolidated Expenditure was \$5,170,101 which represents an increase of 29 percent from the prior year (2006/07 \$4,003,259, restated to include JIDCO expenditure.)

The hospital's expenditure was \$2,702,441, accounting for 52 percent of overall expenditure. UMN charitable expenditure was \$2,130,710, accounting for 41 percent of overall expenditure. JIDCO expenditure was \$93,254, accounting for 2 percent of overall expenditure.

The cost of generating funds accounted for 3 percent of total expenditure. These are the costs associated with activities to attract donors and individuals to support the work of UMN. Governance costs accounted for 2 percent of total expenditure. These costs ensure that there is an adequate governance infrastructure within UMN and covers the cost of the Board, financial governance and strategic management.

The consolidated charitable expenditure of UMN was \$4,926,405 (95 percent of total expenditure) including \$429,528 of support costs allocated in direct proportion to direct costs. No support costs were allocated to the hospitals or JIDCO.



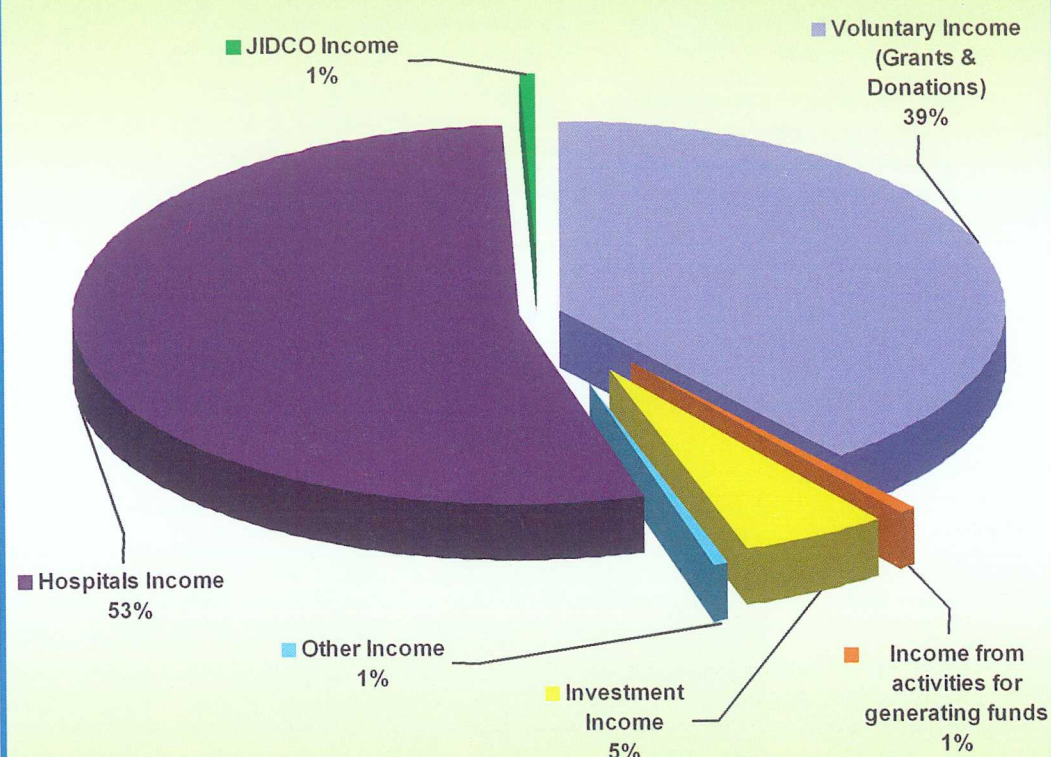
In the fiscal year ending 15th July 2008, the consolidated income of UMN was \$5,169,734 and the consolidated expenditure was \$5,170,101. The consolidated accounts of UMN include the full accounts of the hospitals at Tansen and Okhaldhunga and UMN's portion of the accounts of JIDCO, a company controlled (76 percent owned) by UMN, carrying out a development project for people adversely affected by an hydro-electric power station. UMN's accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the U.K. Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) published in March 2005.

INCOME

Consolidated Income was \$5,169,734 which represents an increase of 18 percent on the prior year (2006/07 \$4,398,219 restated to include JIDCO income). The hospitals' income was \$2,789,045, accounting for 53 percent of the overall income. Grants from institutions and donations from individuals amounted to \$2,024,276, including \$297,739 of expatriate volunteer services.

Included in the annual accounts is an additional \$2,115,434 of unrealised income, including \$168,866 of unrealised exchange gain on overseas cash investments and a \$1,905,734 unrealised increase in the value of UMN's investment in Butwal Power Company in Nepal.

Income in 2007/08



Buddhi Prasad Tripathi enthusiastically shares with fellow villagers news of a maize production miracle. Mr. Tripathi, a member of local UMN partner Small Farmer Cooperation Federation (SFCF), tells how he produced 200 kg of maize from 3 kg of seeds he bought from the cooperative. "It is double the produce compared to the same amount of other seeds we used before!"

His wife Amrita further explains, "We also used comparatively little manure and no chemical fertilizer. But the harvest was so good!" They plan to use the same seeds next year.

High quality maize seed was not easily available in Dhading and its nearby markets, so SFCF initiated a seed production project with support from UMN's Dhading cluster. The project produced and distributed about 2500 kg of seed among village farmers, and has proven quite successful, as the high quality seed was cost effective for the farmers and greatly increased their yield.

Food Sovereignty

UMN has 10 partners in three clusters who are working on food sovereignty issues.

The partners in Mugu have been active in promoting local food production, veterinary care and nutrition education in primary schools. Nutrition education is now taught in the schools and students have created vegetable nurseries. The creation of kitchen gardens has enabled households to include more vegetables in their daily diet. Farmers have adopted new production technology suitable to Mugu which has led to increased yields of green peas, onions and garlic. Increased production has also enabled seeds to be stored for use next year. Mustard oil production has been introduced for the first time and reports of crop yields have been good. Two trained animal health workers have provided veterinary services to about 1800 households.

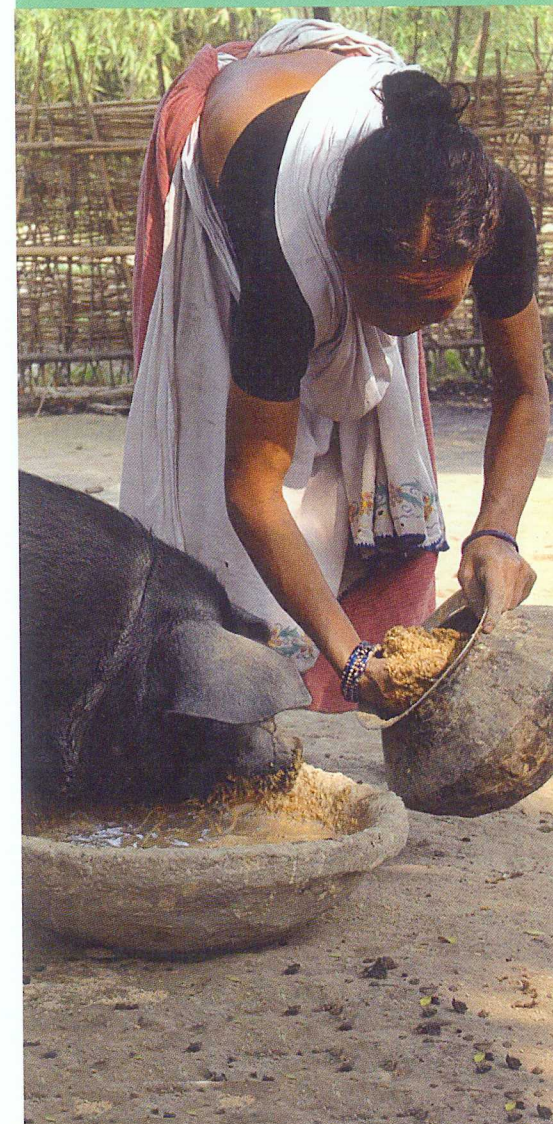
A partner in Dhading has implemented an integrated

programme addressing issues of malnutrition, income generation, primary health care and empowerment of Dalits and indigenous people. Another partner has implemented a three-year programme on goat raising, seed multiplication and animal health care. During the year farmers have doubled their production of maize and have been supported in marketing their seeds and scaling up production. Village animal health workers have received basic training and have gone on to provide services to about 5000 households.

In Rukum, an assessment of vegetable seed production and food insecurity mapping has been completed. This will be the basis for the development of intervention programmes in the future.

With UMN's encouragement, partners have become active in "Right to Food" networks which advocate on issues of hunger, malnutrition, food and production resources.

Empowering food insecure communities through enhancing their control over food availability, accessibility and utilisation



Preeti Subba, 29, learned that her husband was dying of AIDS just four days before his death in 1998. At that time she also found that she and one of her sons were HIV positive. Preeti felt hurt, betrayed and angry and resolved not to lie as her husband had, but to be open about her HIV status. She also moved from her remote village to the town of Itahari to access better care for her family.

Preeti was the first woman to reveal her HIV status in the town of Itahari.

She became an active member of the Dharan Positive Group, a support group for people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHAs).

After receiving training on many issues including home based care for PLHAs, Preeti made it her mission to visit and care for those who cannot access medical services and to fight the social stigmas toward PLHAs. She recently formed a women's group that goes into communities, visits the sick, and raises awareness, and she is known by all in her community for her work.

transition



Hospital Updates

Okhaldhunga Community Hospital

This 32 bed general hospital is the only such hospital in Okhaldhunga District. This year there was a 12 percent increase in outpatients and a seven percent inpatient increase. Children below five years accessing health care also increased significantly after the implementation of a free treatment scheme for children weighing below 12 kgs.

The number of surgical procedures increased and diagnostic procedures rose significantly. Due to high patient numbers, direct free care fees went up, totalling NRs. 3,049,651, about 14 percent of the total hospital budget, and 1813 patients benefited from this.

Public health activities continued to run in 10 Village Development Centres while new programmes were initiated in three village Centres. Some of the activities included organising health camps and outreach clinics, health education, on family planning and immunisation and a campaign against drug abuse.

Tansen Nursing School

Tansen Nursing School (TNS) has been running the Proficiency Certificate Level course since March 2000 under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) and United Mission to Nepal.

Tansen Nursing School is an autonomous, non-profit, financially sustainable institution made up of public and private partners. It provides high quality nursing education that is affordable and accessible, primarily to applicants from the western part of Nepal. Graduates are serving local communities with care and compassion and empowering people to meet their health needs.

Along with the academic nursing programme, TNS is also involved in community activities including starting up a children's library for children from slum areas and street children. The 1st and 2nd year students are involved in this library. TNS is also providing financial aid to more than 50 percent of the students.

Income for the school is from a CTEVT grant, which covers 17 percent of the total budget while the students' fee covers about 60.7 percent and 22.3 percent, is covered by school income projects, gifts and other grants.

The biggest challenges facing TNS are its human resources and financial sustainability. In the future, there are plans to have a MoU between Tansen Hospital and TNS to run a Bachelors in Nursing course that should help TNS move towards sustainability.



Preventing HIV transmission through education and awareness raising, and improving the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS through empowerment, care and support

HIV and AIDS

In Nepal, efforts made by the government, other stakeholders and UMN contributed to the reduction of HIV and AIDS infection and its impact. The infection rates are stabilising among sex workers, drug injecting users and homosexual men, due to a focus on attitude and behaviour change for HIV prevention. Partners ensured confidentiality and followed standards and guidelines to ensure quality services. The target groups were involved in planning and implementing awareness raising activities to enhance communities' responses to HIV and AIDS. The education, information and communication materials on HIV and AIDS, nutrition and care were developed in the Maithili language.

The community leaders campaigned against stigma and discrimination to raise acceptance of people living with HIV and AIDS and accessibility to treatment, care and support. UMN partners conducted skill training on treatment, counselling and peer education based on life skills to the target groups.

Through its partners, UMN strengthened district networks and worked closely with government line agencies, district AIDS committees, and district health offices to develop strategic plans and referral mechanisms. Pastors and church leaders from three Terai districts received training on HIV and AIDS and made a commitment to stop AIDS. Churches offered pastoral counselling to those infected by HIV and their families.

UMN partners attended the 3rd national AIDS conference in Nepal and shared information about their activities. One staff member presented a paper entitled "Study on knowledge, attitude, risk behaviour and access to services on HIV and AIDS, STI of adolescents and youth in Nawalparasi." Over 200 people attended a satellite session co-facilitated by UMN called "Role of religious leaders in response to HIV and AIDS." Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist religious leaders shared about their perspectives on and their roles in response to HIV and AIDS.





Hospital Updates

United Mission Hospital Tansen

This 165-bed general hospital successfully provided yet another year of quality care service amidst several uncertainties. The hospital's five-year strategic plan was prepared and approved by the hospital steering committee.

The Hospital treated 68,771 outpatients and 10,265 inpatients. 9,851 patients were treated in the emergency department and another 8,185 people at the town clinic. Total surgical procedures were 6,553 while total number of deliveries was 1,473. Bed occupancy remained at 78.6 percent. Charity amount (direct free care to the patient) was NRs 7,903,320, amounting to 8.7 percent of the recurring budget.

Other Highlights

- In addition to the regular and routine clinical work, the hospital started HIV and AIDS counselling and treatment services and is now a nationally certified treatment centre.
- The Community Health Department continued to run its existing programmes including nutritional support, school children's health,

antenatal and postnatal services. Two satellite clinics for maternal and child health were started in collaboration with the local communities, in Kaphalbutta and Siluwa, two of the most remote and under served parts of the district.

- New training programmes for personnel were conducted including Anaesthetist Assistant training, Advanced Life Support and Obstetrics, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Ultrasound. The hospital also

continued with its clinical learning placement for students from Tansen Nursing School and physiotherapy students from Dhulikhel Medical Institute.

- A new Emergency facility was completed and inaugurated in June 2008.
- The hospital hosted a parliamentary committee consisting of eleven members of Parliament and three government officials on a fact-finding and evaluation mission.



Recently, there has been much change at Jana Kalyan Higher Secondary School in Rupandehi. While it was not unusual to have as many as 80 students crammed into one inadequate classroom, there is now

a newly constructed building for higher secondary level classes and community members are working daily to renovate older classrooms. What is the secret behind this progress?

After UMN facilitated programmes on good governance and management training for the School Management Committee (SMC) and Parents Teachers Association (PTA), things began to change and these formerly inactive groups mobilised to improve the school. They secured a NRs 800,000 grant from the government for constructing the new higher secondary building and also got district funding to renovate existing classrooms.

Jaleshwar Prasad Tharu, Chairperson,

said, "It was possible to obtain the government grant because of UMN. UMN gave trainings and knowledge and skills for school management. The members are now actively involved in meetings and mobilising parents and local resources."

When the school received the funding, parents agreed to contribute labour to complete the new building and renovate older classrooms. From early morning to late evening, parents and community members are now voluntarily digging and making a foundation to renovate classrooms. One of the parents said, "It is our own school and we have to make space for our children to read. We are happy to contribute if the school asks us."

Organisational Development

The number of UMN partners has grown to 59. Forty-four of those are non-governmental organisations (NGOs), eight are educational institutions, three are cooperatives and four are district level health facilities.

This year UMN helped its partner organisations strengthen their existing governance systems. This included maintaining inclusiveness in the organisational structures and separation of dual roles of staff and executives. UMN helped partners to manage their financial and programme matters in a fair and transparent manner, produce reports and share in relevant forums and meetings. The partners were encouraged to use participatory approaches to ensure the inclusion of target groups and other stakeholders in programme processes.

Almost all partners have vision, mission and values statements and policies. They also have increased

confidence and skill in proposal writing, which has helped them to access funds. For example, several received financial assistance from local government and international NGOs to implement child education and development, women's literacy, agriculture, HIV and AIDS and conflict transformation programmes. In addition, partners have also become more responsive towards their stakeholders by involving them in the programme cycle. Some partners organised social audits to receive input from stakeholders about their work. They realised social auditing is a means of ensuring holistic transparency of finances, processes, practised values and programme impact.

Changes have also been seen in key organisational structures. For example almost all NGO, school and cooperative partners now have appropriate inclusion of women, Dalits and target groups in their executive committees.

Strengthening partners' organisational capacities to improve their effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability





Improving women and children's quality of life through empowerment and quality services

Women and Children

Fifteen staff working with 32 partners in all clusters have seen significant change in the partners' ability to identify ways to mobilise women's groups and establish children's clubs. Groups focus on empowerment, protection and participation of women and children. This approach has led to increased access to health services and quality education.

Four Children at Risk networks were active in raising awareness and advocating for children's rights. 62 child rights facilitators were trained to advocate for children's rights in their communities resulting in more children attending school. In two schools, child rights hearing committees were formed. They have resolved issues of bullying, fighting amongst children, beating and discrimination between children and staff.

UMN's partners screened children with disabilities for physical rehabilitation. As a result, 26 children accessed services and received rehabilitation. Subsequently, they became change agents within their communities through participating in community events and raising awareness on disability.

A manual for teaching practical family life education and sexual reproductive health was modified and translated for use by Christian young people. Church leaders and Christian youth from Kathmandu, Sunsari and Rupandehi were involved in this process. 36 Christian young people received training to become peer educators and will use the manual to facilitate sessions with other youth in their churches.



transition



Almost all of UMN's previous programmes, companies and institutions were transferred to local Nepali management before 2007-08 and this final year of transition marked the completion of the process with the remaining relationships. However UMN decided to continue the management of Tansen and Okhaldhunga hospitals until 2010, at which time these institutions will become independent. Similarly the relationship with Tansen Nursing School (TNS) will continue until July 2009 under an agreement with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training.

The major achievements of this year include the successful phasing out of the Oral Health Programme including the work of its impact evaluation. Capital items and copyright have been handed over to the relevant organisations. The secondments of expatriate specialists to partner organisations have been completed.

UMN's involvement came to an end in the following organisations:

- Butwal Technical Institute
- Gandaki College of Engineering & Science

- Oral Health Programme
- Patan Hospital
- Kathmandu University

At the end of the year a thanksgiving and end of transition celebration was held at the Thapathali office. The programme was attended by UMN staff and representatives from the outgoing partner organisations. These representatives were awarded a certificate of appreciation for their partnership and cooperation in the past. It is worth noting that for some

of the institutions, the relationship with UMN spanned more than forty years. All the Transition Team staff and those completing their input in the different organisations were specially recognised for their commitment and service during their tenure.

Overall this final year of transition was a good year because planned activities were successfully achieved in a timely manner and there was a sense of great accomplishment in the team.



UMN Family Celebration

स.एम.एन. पारिवारिक उत्सव



"One baby will be enough for me. I will look after him while he is young. Once he grows up he will work and earn money. He will give me half of his money and the remaining half will be for himself."

Ram Singh Sawat, age 42, shares this hope as he looks at his 15-day-old baby. Both he and his wife are deaf and therefore very poor and marginalised. (people often believe that disabilities are punishment for sin in a former life.) Their village is three hours' walk from Mugu's district headquarters. Without children, no one

would care for them as they get older. Their new baby is everything to this couple.

After marriage, Ram's wife delivered a baby at home, but two days later the baby died. After a few years, they rejoiced when his wife again became pregnant. But at delivery time, after two days of labour pain at home, Ram's wife went to a district hospital where she finally gave birth – to a dead infant.

This time, they came to the hospital as soon as her labour started. But the delivery was complicated, and they needed to go to a larger hospital in Nepalgunj for a caesarean section. For Ram and his wife it was impossible to even imagine securing the necessary 25,000 rupees for the journey from Mugu to Nepalgunj.

Fortunately, UMN provides financial support to send such cases to Nepalgunj, where Ram's wife underwent a successful caesarean section. Now they are a happy and healthy family of three.

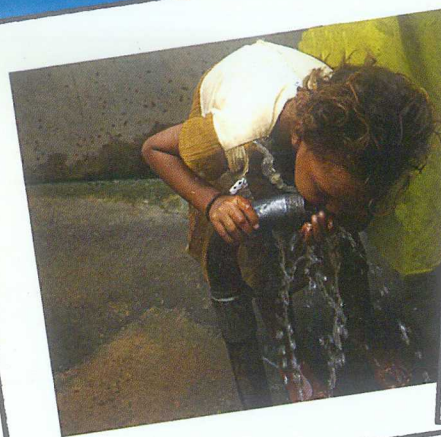


Through the maternal and neonatal health programme, five health centres in Rupandehi were providing 24 hour delivery services. These services were supported by health facility management committees who made regular visits to the facilities and were involved in the recruitment

and retention of local staff and solving problems as they arose. In Rupandehi, delivery service utilisation increased by 150 percent in Dhakdai primary health care centre and more than 900 percent in Parroha health post. In Mugu, the situation was different because few women went

to the centres for delivery and some lacked the necessary staff. However, in Mugu hospital deliveries rose by 17 percent and the number of women who received emergency obstetric care for complicated deliveries increased by 6 percent. In total, 90 percent of all recorded deliveries within the whole of Mugu district took place within the three UMN supported facilities.

More than 150 health facility staff and 2200 community health volunteers received training which equipped them with skills to assess and provide treatment for sick children under five years of age. This increased the availability and access to child health services at a community level. In Mugu, child deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea declined from 30 in 2006-07 to no deaths in 2007-08.



National Impact

UMN is an active member of the Association of International Non-Governmental Organisations (AIN), a common platform for most international NGOs working in Nepal. UMN is particularly involved in several of its working groups - Capacity Building, Climate Change, Education, Health, HIV and AIDS and Peace – all of which promote common understanding for more effective collaboration. UMN shared its experience on partnership guidelines and organisational development processes with the AIN members through its Capacity Building Working Group, which was formed to promote consistency in partnership process, good governance and transparency among the AIN partner organisations.

The Government of Nepal (GoN) planned to set up peace committees in every district of Nepal to promote peace initiatives in line with post conflict needs. UMN provided advisory support to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction towards defining the role and responsibilities of these committees. Execution

of plans, though delayed is now highlighted in the new government's work plan.

UMN continued working with national level Disaster Preparedness Network for implementation of a national Disaster Management Policy which was prepared with input from UMN. Through cluster and national partner staff. UMN made significant contributions to relief and rehabilitation support for flood affected people in Rupandehi and Sunsari. Nepal Christian Relief Services (NCRS), one of UMN's national partners, organised a workshop for leaders from different churches in the Kathmandu Valley to enable them to form an active network able to respond to disaster management needs.

UMN is a key player in bringing the Distance Education and Open Learning (DEOL) concept to Nepal. This will enable those who lack time and normal access to have the opportunity for education. Through interaction and sharing programmes with a forum of organisations actively

working in DEOL, practical learning has been linked with national policies.

In collaboration with GoN, Ministry of Education, Non Formal Education Centre and Educational Resource Development Centre Nepal, UMN supported the development of a Non Formal Education (NFE) Network in Nepal. UMN contributed to drafting a NFE Network Policy to ensure the network functions at the district as well as a central level to promote quality NFE throughout the country.

UMN staff participated in Nepal's first Micro-Finance Summit (MFS) in 2008 and is contributing to the preparatory planning of the second summit which will be held in 2010.

UMN hosted a South Asian workshop entitled "Water and Democracy" attended by participants from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal. The workshop identified and discussed the problems, policy framework and space for action needed to address the problems and issues related to drinking water,



Climate Change

Changes in weather patterns are already affecting people's lives in many parts of the world. Some effects are, as yet, temporary and insignificant, but what if the world's weather continues to change as most experts predict?

Already in Nepal the changing weather patterns result in many people suffering heavy losses. Possessions and livelihoods are destroyed or badly affected by flood or landslides and usually it is the poor who suffer the most, having no choice of where to live. When everything they have is destroyed including the seed for the next harvest, how do they start again, re-building their lives from nothing?

If the Himalayan glacier melt continues to increase, Nepal and its neighbours will suffer many years of intense flooding. Eventually the diminishing glaciers will cease to provide sufficient water with disastrous consequences for

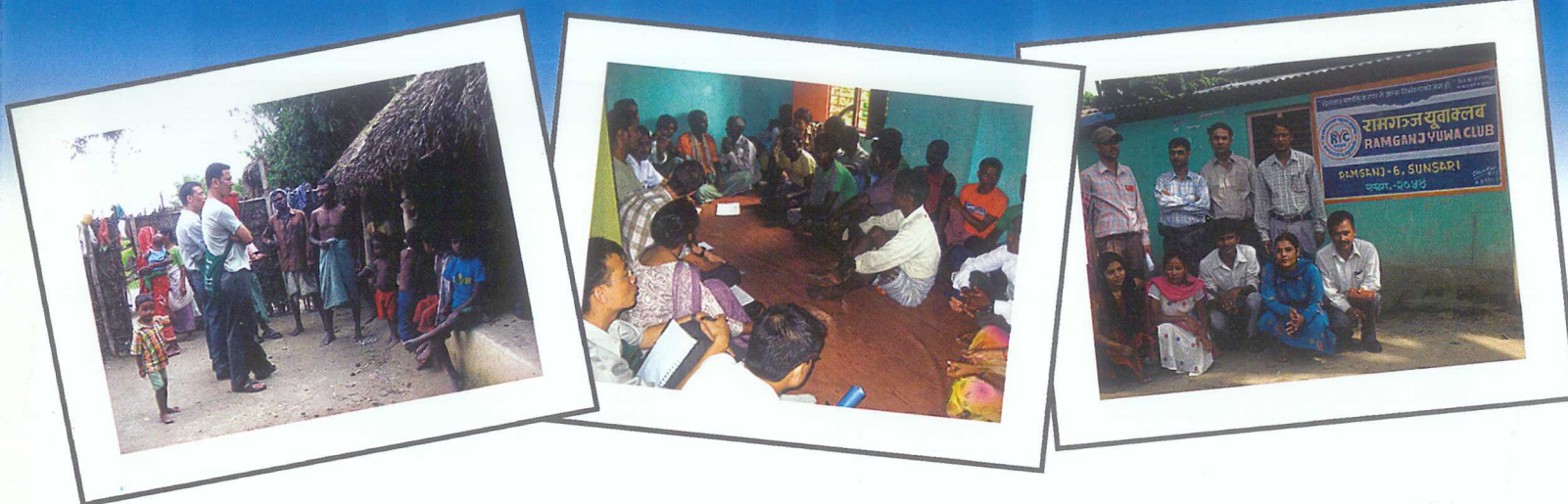
agriculture and power generation in the whole region.

Nepal's carbon output is small but the effect of climate change could be devastating to its economy and a large number of its people.

UMN is increasing its response on a number of levels. One officer interned in Brussels for six months to learn more about the international response to climate change. He and another staff member also attended the Bali Conference on Climate Change. Two new staff are joining from Australia who have an interest and experience in climate change issues, bringing advocacy and risk mitigation skills to our current Advocacy and Disaster and Risk Mitigation staff.

We will continue to lobby on an international and national level. We will facilitate partners to reduce the risks and the effects of floods and landslides. Training will also be provided to encourage good farming methods in response to changing weather patterns.

Raju Pandit Chhetri, UMN's advocacy officer, spent 6 months doing an internship in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. He participated in various climate change campaigns and worked with young people to promote understanding and action in this area. He says, "Climate change is an issue that affects everyone both in the developed and developing world. To address this challenge, global and personal initiative is needed and this will require a change in lifestyle."



Monitoring and Evaluation

UMN needs to know the impact and effectiveness of its work in order to plan for appropriately for the future. The Monitoring and Evaluation team provides technical support and coordination to make this happen. Recently the scope of monitoring and evaluation has expanded with a programme promoting involvement of local people and a process for UMN's Social Accountability or Audit, measuring UMN's contribution to society and the environment.

When partners from a number of clusters requested support in developing their ability to involve more local groups in projects, UMN responded by facilitating a discussion of what this means in reality and helped partners in Sunsari and Dhading clusters identify and involve interested groups.

Work has begun to introduce Social Accountability within UMN. We have defined this concept and devised ways to measure it, and will continue with further development in coming years.

UMN's existing process for measuring the social or material situation of Partner's target communities has been revised and expanded.

In addition, the Organisational Development staff designed a consistent method to assess the abilities and resources of our partner organisations.

Members of UMN Sunsari cluster partner Ramgunj Youth Club (RYC) attended a UMN Monitoring and Evaluation workshop on involving local constituents. RYC brought their relief and disaster mitigation project for a flood affected community, then in its early stages, to work on during the seminar.

During the workshop, RYC identified local landlords and neighbouring communities as key players to involve in their project. The project included construction of a drainage system that would use their land and RYC would need their permission to proceed. However, in another group exercise analysing existing involvement, RYC members realized that local landlords and neighbouring communities had not been contacted at all, and that the project had a high risk of failure if they were not involved.

As a result, RYC revised their project plan to involve local landlords and neighbouring communities. RYC members were impressed with the practical usefulness of the workshop and commented that their project was much more likely to succeed as a result.

food security, agriculture, energy and environment at local, national and South Asia Regional level.

UMN and Nepal Permaculture Group jointly organised a workshop called "Food Security amidst Climate Change" where those working in food security presented papers. The workshop aimed to raise awareness on climate change and its impact on food security.

The participation of UMN and its partners in the 3rd National AIDS Conference was an opportunity to influence the government and other stakeholders to prioritise needs of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA). At the conference, UMN and Sakriya Sewa Samaj, an NGO which evolved from UMN's HIV and AIDS programme in the past, organised a satellite session to advocate for the establishment of a faith-based Network to respond to HIV and AIDS. UMN has been at the forefront in influencing the Government of Nepal to have "National Community Home Based Care Policy and Standard Operating Procedures". The objective of the policies is to ensure minimum standards for the quality of care given to PLHAs. UMN was also a part of the task force to develop a three-year National AIDS plan.

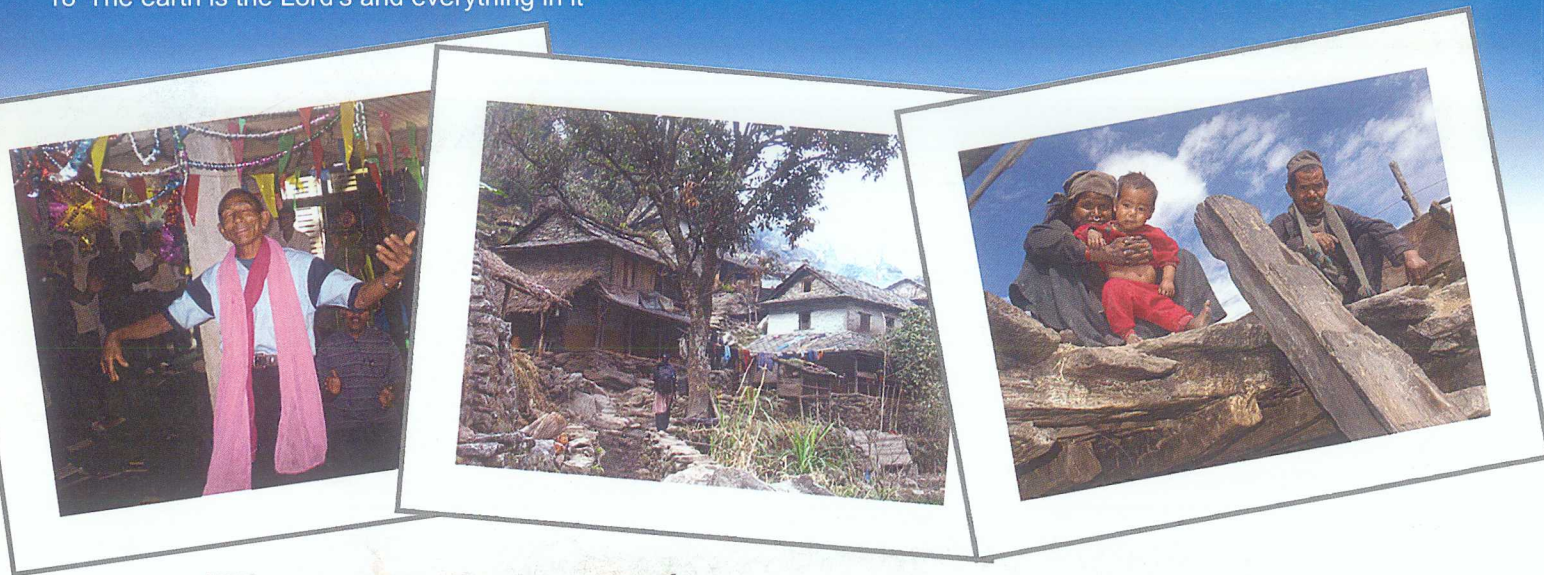
Dhulikhel Medical Institute (DMI) is a UMN national partner which runs the only formal physiotherapy training in Nepal with UMN's technical support. To date, 36 students have graduated. They are considered very skilled, and are sought after by hospitals and other organisations. UMN currently has a leading role in the preparation of a Bachelor level physiotherapy curriculum and is planning to bring in international consultants to help with curriculum development.

UMN continued to actively serve on the National Committee on Safe Motherhood and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness. A UMN technical advisor was involved in developing maternal and neonatal health related strategies including a referral strategy and birthing centre strategy to contribute towards the country's long term Millennium Development Goals to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health.



UMN contributes to the development of national impact, policies, priorities and strategies relevant to our areas of work.





Integral Mission

At UMN, our approach is to live, inspire, and encourage holistic transformation—material, social and spiritual transformation in the lives of individuals and in communities. We call this approach Integral Mission. As an organisation, we want to be agents of such change not merely by talking about it, but by living and working as holistically transformed people ourselves. As we do so, calling people to love and repentance in all areas of life, individuals, families, and societies are transformed on all levels. Integral Mission is a mindset underlying all that we do, and it is this mindset that helps us achieve our mission and vision. This past year, UMN focused on deepening understanding of Integral Mission among our staff.

UMN encourages leadership and community participation in development issues. To encourage them, UMN organised workshops on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for faith based organisations in three UMN clusters. Raising awareness of the MDGs proved an effective way to increase understanding and interest in developing Nepal. During the workshops participants made many personal commitments in areas such as sanitation and hygiene; encouraging education for children, especially girls; HIV and AIDS prevention; and caring for the environment.

As part of a leadership development programme eight young Nepali's were trained in UMN during 2007-08. The trainees now have an in-depth understanding of UMN, Integral Mission and five of them found employment after the training.

As a young man, Kalika suffered much persecution. During Nepal's insurgency, his brother was murdered and he was abducted and threatened. When he became a Christian, he was so ostracised by family and community that he left everything and moved from his home in Pokhara to Butwal in Rupandehi, where he now runs a small grocery stall and is an active member of Lumbini Christian Society (LCS), a UMN partner.

Kalika, however, had never experienced anything like the vicious ethnic clashes that engulfed Kapilvastu, his neighbouring district, this past year. Hostility between neighbours became deadly, flaring into riots and widespread violence. Many people were killed and displaced from their homes and much property was destroyed.

Though not personally enmeshed in the conflicts, Kalika and other members of LCS were moved by what they saw happening around them and knew they had to intervene as emissaries of peace.

Kalika volunteered to take the lead as coordinator between LCS and the divided communities as they invited them to dialogue about ways to ease tension and reduce violence. Yet with no experience in conflict transformation, he lacked confidence and doubted his own abilities.

UMN staff mentored Kalika as he held discussions with each side, meeting and praying with him prior to each community meeting. The situation is far from resolved, but channels of communication have been created and both sides see that LCS and UMN are genuine in their attempts to help them find lasting solutions.

Kalika has also been transformed. Once a slightly timid shopkeeper, he is now a man with the initiative and confidence to stand bravely between warring communities. He has chaired emotionally charged meetings that have lasted several hours and helped bring unity between embittered people. He is endlessly humbled and excited by how God has enabled him, protected him and worked through him in these situations.



Advocacy

The Constituent Assembly election in April gave several partners their first experience of advocacy on a 'rights' issue. They worked with many communities to enable people to get citizenship certificates and ensure that they understood the voting process. This built confidence in UMN's partner organisations and they are now ready to face new challenges.

For advocacy to be sustainable it needs to become a core activity of all partners. There are signs that this is happening as partners see how awareness raising is a step towards groups advocating for change in their local communities. Some of the changes occurring are sharing in the district level lobby about issues such as scholarships for Dalit children, changing the practice of making Dalit children who attend school sit on the floor while other pupils sit at benches, and being transparent about the use of organisational funds.

With support and coaching from UMN cluster based offices, partners are instigating change for good. Raising awareness on women's rights has resulted in local community members gaining motivation and encouragement to come out of their homes for better opportunities. They are setting up small businesses (goat raising, candle making, off season vegetable farming), learning to read and write, and ensuring their children attend school. In the districts where UMN is working School Management Committees are becoming increasing inclusive with more women and Dalit members. In response to active lobbying by partners, local business people, wealthy pupils and community leaders regularly contribute to scholarships.

"I want women in Nepal to know about the power of their vote and choose right leadership," said Manju Mehta of Sunsari.

Manju works tirelessly in the fields and at a factory to earn a small wage. She was hardly aware of the political changes sweeping Nepal this year and her role in the process. She had heard of the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections but had no idea what they involved.

In March, Manju attended a one-day CA election awareness training organised by a UMN partner and learned that the election would determine who would write a new constitution for the country. Once she knew what was at stake, Manju immediately began sharing in her community, making sure others also understood. On the 10th of April, Manju and her friends joined several thousands in casting their votes in the historic CA election.