

W O M E N ' S  
C O M M I S S I O N  
for refugee women & children



# Don't Call it Shangri-la



Conflict, displacement, under-development  
and refugees in Nepal

# Purpose

- Global study
- Examine current programs, gaps, needs and opportunities
- Review creative interventions
- Focus on refugees/IDPs/returnees
- Emphasis on women and youth



# Process

- Interviews with 16 UN agencies, government ministries, and international and local NGOs
- Visits to multiple project sites in conflict-affected midwest region and refugee camps in southeast
- Meetings with refugee women's and youth groups
- 10 focus group discussions with IDP/returnee and refugee project beneficiaries



# NEPAL: The Context





Nepal

Tibet

Birendranagar

Nepalgarh

Kathmandu

Damak



# IDP RETURN: Challenges, Opportunities, Programs





# Children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAG) project





# Goat dispersal project targeting returning CAAFAG









# Agro-collection center











Treadle pump  
irrigation for  
off-season  
vegetables



# Off-season vegetable production





# Aromatic plant distillation unit



लेमनग्रास  
(*Cymbopogon flexuosus*)



सिट्रोनेला  
(*Cymbopogon winterianus*)



पामारोजा  
(*Cymbopogon martinii*)



क्यामोमिल  
(*Matricaria chamomilla*)



मेन्था  
(*Mentha arvensis*)



फ्रेन्च बेसिल  
(*Ocimum basilicum*)



मसला  
(*Eucalyptus* spp.)



कचुर  
(*Curcuma zedoaria*)

सुगन्धित तेलयुक्त जडिबुटीको उद्यममुखि व्यवस्थापन  
गाउँ टोलको विकास तथा विपन्न समुदायको आर्थिकोपार्जन  
सोजन्या: बि.डि.एस. म्याप्स कार्यक्रम



# Aromatic plant distillation unit serves 500 families









# Plant collection





# Farmers' Market





# REFUGEE SITUATION



# REFUGEE SITUATION

- Expelled from Bhutan
- 108,000 refugees in 7 camps
- Displaced for 17 years
- Not allowed to work or move freely
- Impasse on return/local integration
- Resettlement starting





Relief  
substitution





*“We have only taken trainings. We have not had an opportunity to earn money.”*









*“I’ve sold 10 kilos for 80 rupees per kilo  
since I started two months ago.”*





*“In the beginning we were illiterate and knew nothing – we’ve come to know how to solve our money problems.”*





# Informal camp economy





Camp: Beldangi I  
FDP Counter No:1  
WFP



विश्व खाद्य कार्यक्रम







*“We want skills that will prepare us for life in a third country.”*

*“We have no ambition for the future. Training is a waste of time.”*





# Recommendations

## IDP/RETURNEE

- Humanitarian assistance actors should link with development actors
- Livelihood programs must be market demand-driven
- Livelihood programs need to be comprehensive with understanding of value chains and linked to regional/international markets
- Community-based approaches are most successful and help build the peace

## REFUGEE

- Training programs need to understand the in-camp economy and prepare refugees
- Training programs need to be comprehensive enough to provide competence in a skill area
- Need to prepare refugees for employment in the local economy – construction/porous borders – promote eventual local integration
- Need to design and implement training programs that prepare refugees for opportunities in third countries




# Next Steps

- De-briefed in country with UNHCR and IRC
- Advocacy with State Department
- Write report and disseminate to all actors on the ground, including refugees
- Learning and findings fed into Livelihoods Field Manual for international distribution
- Donor advocacy on funding cycles



# womenscommission.org




**WOMEN'S COMMISSION for REFUGEE WOMEN and CHILDREN**  
Working to Improve the Lives and Protect the Rights of Refugee and Internally Displaced Women, Children and Youth

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## First-Ever Family Detention Standards Released



Homeland Security's new family detention standards include Women's Commission recommendations for better treatment for immigrant families in detention centers. [Read our press release](#) ▶ [Read more on this issue](#) ▶


Photo by Michelle Brané/Women's Commission

REPORTS

- **Iraqi Refugee Women and Youth in Jordan: Reproductive Health Findings**, Sept 2007. Also available in **Arabic**.
- **Listening to Youth: The Experience of Young People in Northern Uganda**, Sept

FOCUS ON KENYA

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN POST-ELECTION KENYA:** Rape is on the rise, at least 600 have been killed and 250,000 displaced due to



DONATE

**SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS: Make your gift today** to improve the lives of refugee women, children and young people in 2008.

TAKE ACTION

**ASK CONGRESS** to protect the rights of **immigrant families** and ensure that children will be cared for when raids are carried out.

▶ **Take Action** on other issues.


GET EMAIL UPDATES: Sign up here for Women's Commission email updates.

EVENTS

- ▶ Find out how to attend this year's **Voices of Courage Awards Luncheon**, "Ending Violence Against Refugee and Displaced Women and Girls."

EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT

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# Namaste

