## WOMEN'S COMMISSION 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 conflictaffected midwest region and refugee camps in southeast
- Meetings with refugee women's and youth groups
- I0 focus group discussions with IDP/returnee and refugee project beneficiaries

# **NEPAL:** The Context





## **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



## 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



"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







"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

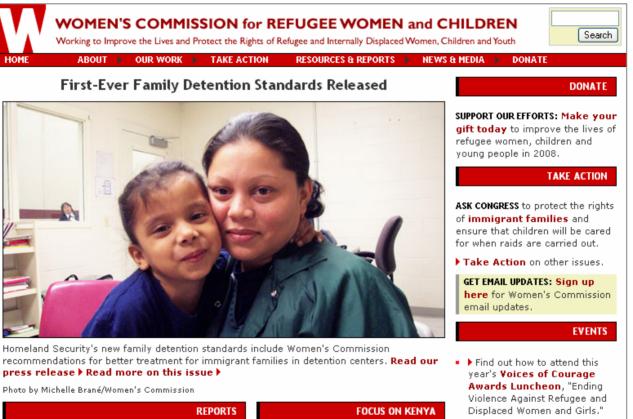
#### REFUGEE

- 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



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



Raise awareness of the right to education with our



# Namaste

