

Annual Report

2016-17

VALUES



Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society



Dear Friends,

Welcome to UMN's annual report for 2016-2017, written on the cusp of a great national change. For the first time in two decades, Nepal has elected local government bodies; they will enjoy an unprecedented degree of decentralised authority.

This renewal of locally accountable governance represents an extraordinary opportunity for Nepal, if the laws, rules, and practices shaping the new system are driven by the vision of a strong local government working alongside a strong local civil society.

"Civil society" is a much-used term in the NGO world, usually referring to organisations like ourselves. But "NGOs" – formally registered organisations that implement externally-funded projects – are of course only one shape that civil society may take.

At a fundamental level, civil society exists wherever Nepali citizens come together for a voluntary collective purpose, exercising their rights to free association and expression. Some of the most transformative civil society groups are not grant-takers or project-implementers. Networks of disabled people or people living with HIV, faith groups, and voluntary community-based organisations often have a legitimacy and a mobilising power that NGOs struggle to match. A strong school management committee improves education more than an NGO project that provides "hardware" for the school.

UMN has worked intensively for decades with civil society organisations based in poor and remote areas of Nepal. Some of the outcomes are

EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY



EDUCATION



GOOD GOVERNANCE



HEALTH



INTEGRAL MISSION



LEARNING, POLICY & STRATEGY



PEACEBUILDING



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



WHERE WE WORK



HOSPITALS



CENTRAL SERVICES



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



FINANCE



THE BOARD



PARTNERS



represented in this report, but focusing on any single year can miss the broader impact: a growing, diverse network of local voluntary groups working alongside government to identify and address poverty issues. We look forward to supporting these partners' relationships and cooperation with newly elected local bodies.

Many thanks to all of our partners in Nepal and globally, who share UMN's vision. Please continue to pray for our work and for all of Nepal's elected representatives.

Sincerely,

JOEL HAFVENSTEIN
Executive Director

Thank you to all who contributed stories and photographs for this Annual Report
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Cover Photo by: Ramesh Man Maharjan

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Along with the upgrading of 14 temporary learning centres to permanent school buildings, schools were also provided with materials to create a child-friendly teaching learning environment.



Public taps like this has made washing and collecting water easier and nearer for many families.



Children enjoy the drinking water taps which are built at different heights.



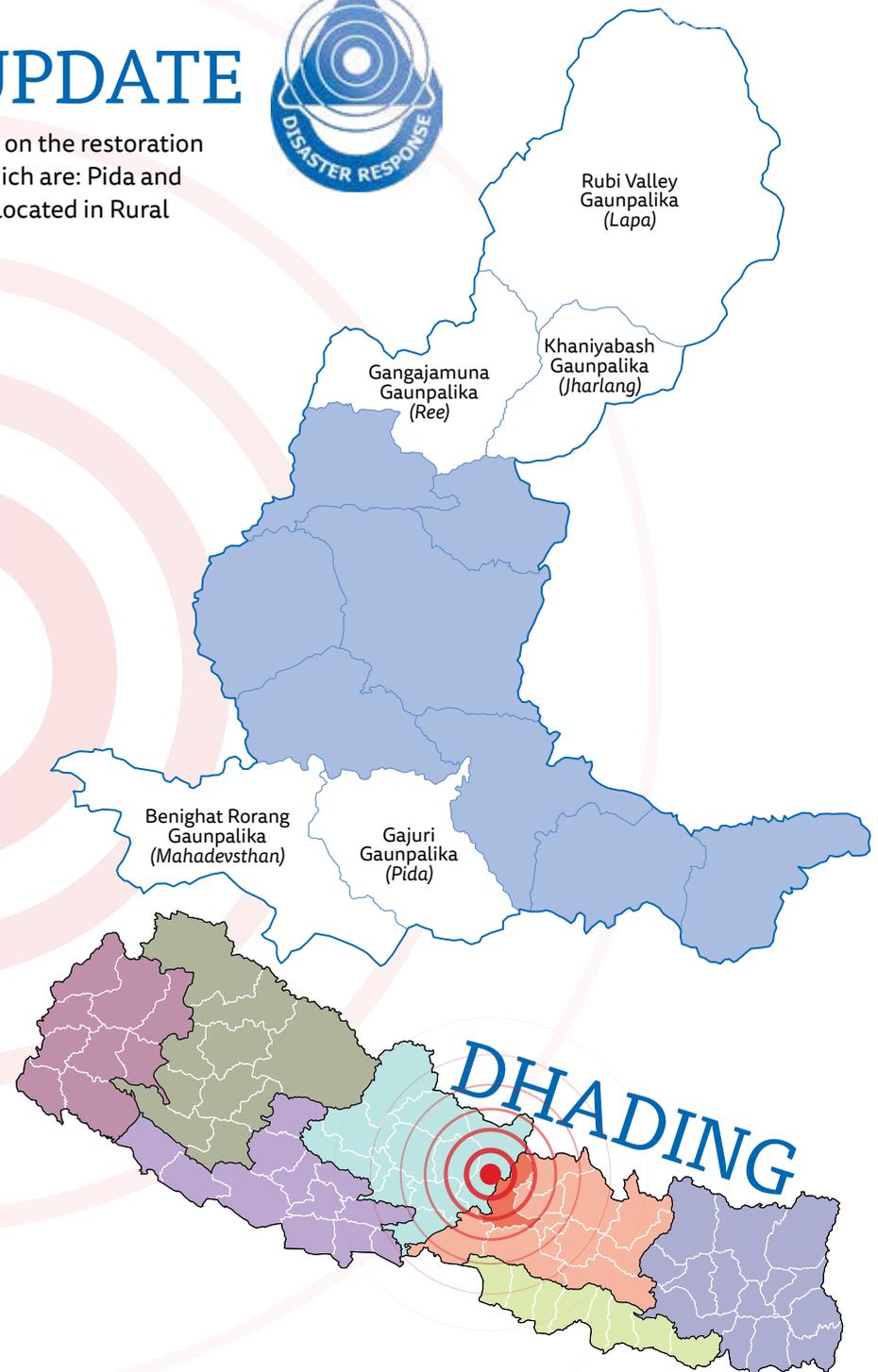
EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY UPDATE

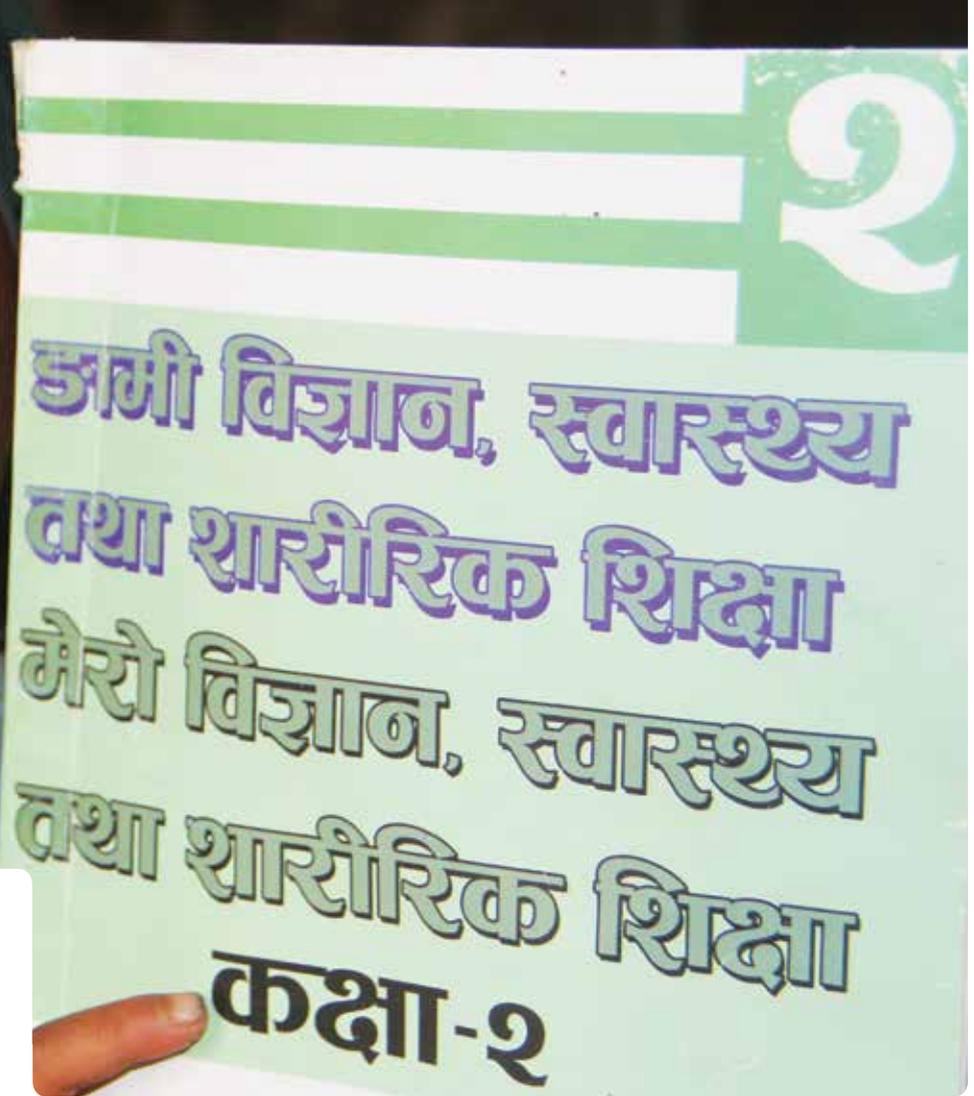
Two years after Nepal's 2015 earthquake, UMN's phase II programme continues to focus on the restoration and re-construction of communities and their infrastructure in five areas of Dhading which are: Pida and Mahadevsthan located in Rural Municipalities in the South and Jharlang, Ree and Lapa located in Rural Municipalities in the North.

AT A GLANCE



- 5 demonstration houses constructed.
- 14.68 km of foot trails/roads repaired.
- 22 toilets constructed in schools.
- 2 blocks of two-room permanent school buildings constructed.
- 38 drinking water supply schemes constructed in schools and Health Posts.
- 3,027 people (1,393 adults and 1,634 students) have taken part in hygiene and sanitation awareness.
- 7 water mills restored (traditional grinding mill operated by water).
- 308 farmers supported with an improved livestock breed and 668 households benefited through the animal health camps, where 13,522 animals were treated.
- 101 potential entrepreneurs provided with training on business plan, 10 have started micro-enterprises.
- 1,331 farmers trained on commercial agricultural techniques and 25 farmers on bee keeping.
- 758 adolescents received the Life Skilled-based Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health training and Menstrual Hygiene Awareness.
- 688 members from 34 Trauma Healing Groups benefited through regular trauma healing sessions.
- 1,250 students participated in School Mental Health sessions.
- 22 households have received biogas plants to promote alternative energy.
- 8,000 tree saplings planted in schools to reduce the risk of landslides.
- 456 people received citizenship cards, 55 disability cards and 92 elderly citizen identity cards through Integrated Service Delivery camps organised in remote places in coordination with District Administration Offices.





ENJOYING LEARNING

When seven-year-old Karuna Budha Magar was first admitted to school, she was surprised to hear her teachers speak in a strange language. Later she found out that it was the Nepali language. She is a Grade 2 student at Tribeni Secondary School in Rukum.

Karuna speaks Kham Magar at home as this is her mother tongue. With the teachers not speaking her language and with all her text books in Nepali – a foreign language – Karuna did not look forward to going to school. She struggled to understand the basic concepts of maths and science.

UMN's Integrated Education Improvement Project developed and translated the school books into the Kham Magar language with the help of local teachers to promote literacy in their first language. Teachers were trained in the Multi Lingual Education approach and the transitioning phase later to another language.

UMN's partner in Rukum, MIC Nepal, organised various training programmes for members of the School Management Committee and

Parent Teacher Associations on child-friendly teaching methods. Now with additional learning materials in their mother tongue, so many ethnolinguistic minority learners like Karuna can enjoy and understand their lessons.

Teacher Shila Gharti says, "Earlier, Karuna could not recognise the letters. We could see that she was struggling. Sometimes she even missed classes. But now, Karuna has improved so much and we see her as one of the smartest students in the class."

Karuna is a happy school girl who has made her parents proud by securing fourth position in her class.

EDUCATION

UMN is currently working with 146 schools in seven districts to establish and support child-friendly teaching methods in schools as per the Government of Nepal's Child-Friendly School Framework. This year, 146 teachers have received training in child-friendly education techniques and 120 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Mugu, Rukum, Dhading, Sunsari, Doti and Bajhang districts have been supported in various ways by UMN. Forty-two schools from these districts received materials for classrooms, such as carpets, cushions and shelves for book corners, and 410 School Management Committee and Parent Teacher Association members were provided training on school management. As a result of this, these ECD centres now meet the minimum standard set by the Government of Nepal for ECD management.

UMN continues to work on the Multi-Lingual Education (MLE) programme in the ethnic minority areas of Rukum district. Eight schools in Bhume Rural Municipality have received bilingual textbooks in their mother tongue and Nepali. This is critical in reducing the early grade dropout rate among children who do not understand any Nepali when they start school. Currently about a thousand children of Grade 1-3 in Bhume are benefiting from the MLE work. UMN is coordinating with the District Education Office and Department of Education for further expansion of this programme.

Child clubs – where children meet weekly as part of the national child clubs programme – are active in 105 communities and partner schools benefiting 2,512 students. Members of child clubs are involved in effective programmes to improve the school environment, monitor teachers' performance and to raise awareness in the community of issues such as child marriage, alcoholism and girls' trafficking.

UMN is committed to increasing access to school for under-privileged children by facilitating and providing scholarships. There are about 136 so called low-caste, marginalised and needy children receiving additional scholarship support for their education through UMN. Forty-eight Dalit (so called low-caste) girls from Mugu and eight children with disabilities have also received scholarships.



Our computer lab installation support to community schools continues to grow. With computer hardware support from EduTech Nepal, 40 schools in Rukum, Doti, Bajhang and Dhading now have computer labs. Twenty schools are scheduled to receive computer labs in the near future.

AT A GLANCE 

-  **136** scholarships were provided through the education programme: **88** general, **48** for Dalit students, **8** for children with disabilities.
-  **288** women participated in post-literacy programmes.
-  **105** Child Clubs are active and running well. **2,512** children are directly benefiting from this.
-  **146** teachers received training in child-friendly teacher training.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

As a member of the Association of International NGOs (AIN) Education Working Group, UMN has helped to formulate the Early Childhood National Education action plans. UMN representation on the GoN Quality Education working group contributed in making the guidelines for Early Years Education. UMN has also helped to initiate a parenting education module in line with the School Sector Development Plan (2016-22).



ROAD BRINGS COMFORT

Om Bahadur Saru from Nawalparasi is the coordinator of the Ward Citizen Forum. He participated in the Participatory Planning Process facilitators' training organised by UMN's partner Isai Samaj Nawalparasi (ISN) and learned to identify the community issues. He also gained knowledge about budgeting and the planning processes of the government.

Dhaulabaseni is a remote village in Hupsikot Rural Municipality which wasn't connected to a motor road. Children, old people and pregnant women faced difficulties to get to a hospital if they fell ill. Om Bahadur met with the community people, coordinated meetings with the local authorities, political party representatives and other stakeholders who could influence the planning process.

With his leadership the council approved the proposal for the road construction allocating NPR 200,000 (USD 1,947) to complete the work. Members of each household put in their labour as a contribution to the

construction. Converting their labour into cash, around NPR 1,400,000 (USD 13,628) was raised from the community people.

Today, two-wheelers, tractors, ambulances and jeeps run on this road. Farmers are now able to take their products to the market too! Forty-seven households have directly benefited from the project. Everyone in the community has appreciated Om Bahadur's leadership and the successful completion of this project.

GOOD GOVERNANCE



The country's transition to a federal state and the re-structuring process in Nepal has had some impact on the work of Good Governance this year. The team has been strengthening local level governance by building the capacity of communities, social leaders and office bearers of the local bodies. We are very pleased and take pride in reporting that 12 people who won the local level elections this year were trainees and facilitators of UMN's Good Governance work in the clusters. Many of them have acknowledged that their training with UMN has enriched their experience in Good Governance work, which greatly helped them during the election.

Organisational development and capacity building of our partners have been the priority in UMN. All of our 44 local partners have conducted internal and external financial audits, maintaining transparency, and also social audits to ensure accountability. Our partners have also completed a Participatory Organisational Self-Assessment to assess their progress and to identify areas to improve. Out of our 44 partners, 28 have reached the maturity stage and 14 are at the consolidation stage (two are new partners to UMN from July 2016 and so don't feature in the organisational growth chart) (see page 10).

Not only the partners, 566 community groups have also assessed their capacity through the Group Capacity Assessment tool which showed that 474 (84%) of them are at the developing and start-up stage. Action plans were developed and are being implemented to address the gaps. The Good Governance Team is working closely with the Learning, Policy and Strategy Team of UMN to further build the capacity of our partners to develop their gender policy and support them in drafting its operational plan.

Our work with the Karmarong community of Mugu district continues. More and more women are becoming aware of their rights and are starting to take state-provided benefits and entitlements such as social security allowances and health services. In the community groups, they are now participating in the decision making process along with men to improve the conditions of public services in schools, health and other public institutions.



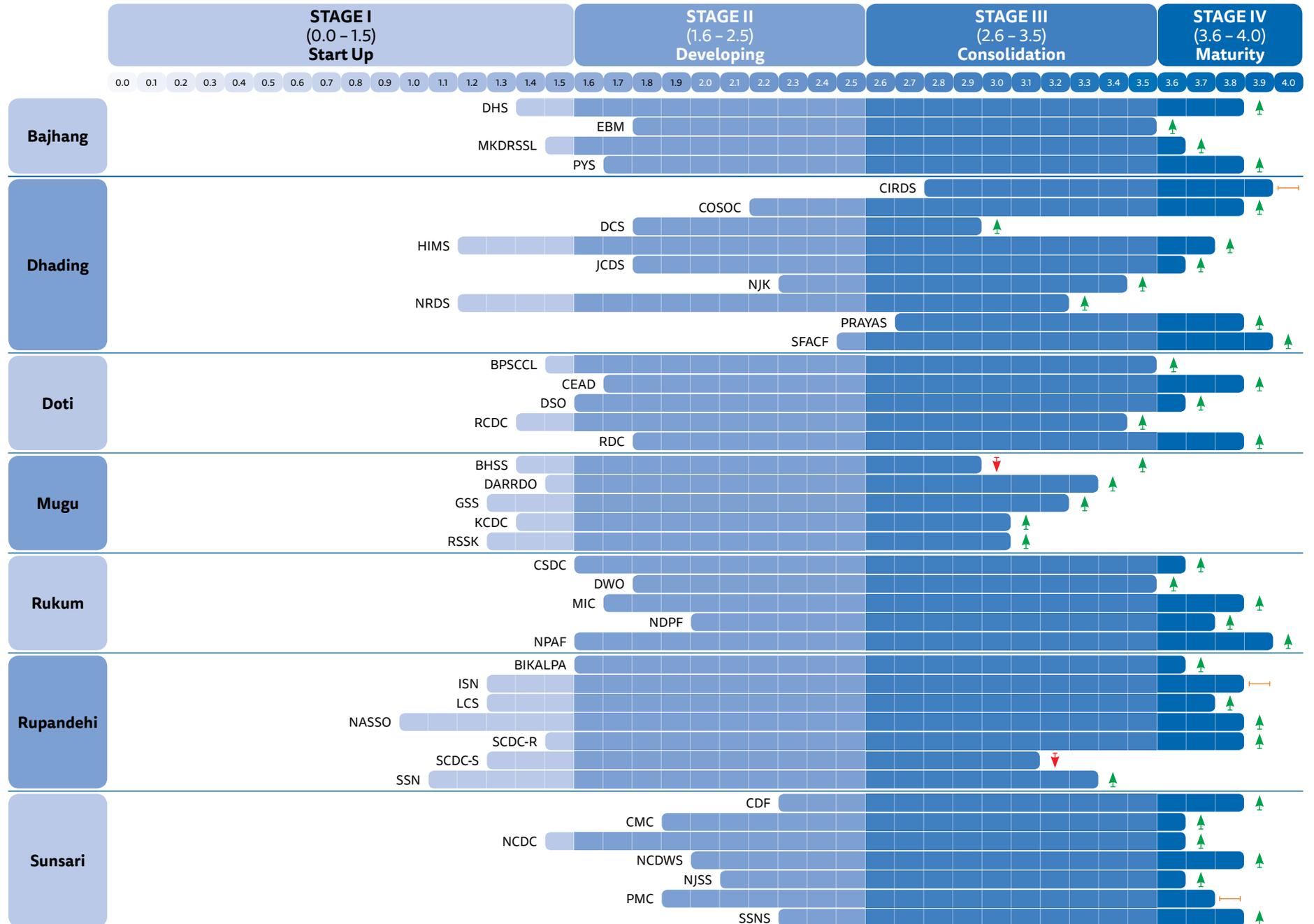
AT A GLANCE

- 6** public service institutions were supported by UMN to improve the public service system and social accountability.
- 80** Ward Citizen Forum members were trained on Participatory Planning Process and **90** community development proposals were approved.
- 3,102** people (**1,675** male and **1,427** female) participated in civic education sessions on various topics, i.e. planning process and budgeting, social accountability and legal matters, entitlements and public services.
- 562** out of **572** households of Mangri, Kimri and Pulu of Mugu district were involved in regular group meetings.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

The Good Governance programme has been building the capacity and strengthening the governance of the local service providers. Communities, social leaders and office bearers were trained in the participatory planning process and social accountability tools. Relationships with the local bodies have been strengthened.

PARTNERS ORGANISATIONAL GROWTH (from the beginning of partnership to Dec 2016)



See page 42 for full names of Cluster Partners





CONFIDENT UJELI

Ujeli Devi, a Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) from Bajhang can now confidently deliver health messages in mothers' group meetings. Earlier, she couldn't speak confidently, let alone conduct meetings and teach in a group.

Ujeli Devi shares, "Earlier, I tried to conduct health education sessions during group meetings but I wasn't good at it and felt very uncomfortable during these sessions. But now I feel confident and capable. All the credit for this change goes to the Birth Preparedness Package training that I received where we had an opportunity to learn about safe motherhood, child health issues and also the important role of a FCHV to uplift the health status of mother and child in local communities."

UMN's partner Pragati Yuwa Samaj works in the Maternal and Child Health project in Bajhang and this year they trained all the FCHVs of Daulichau on the Birth Preparedness Package. She feels pleased to see mothers discuss, learn and ask questions about their health and other health-related issues facing the community. Many mothers have also referred pregnant women to health facilities for proper services. Women in this village of Bajhang are united to work and share their knowledge and skills with each other in regular monthly meetings.

HEALTH

UMN has been addressing the immediate health needs of local communities across the ten districts of Nepal. Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning, Child Nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV & AIDS, Mental Health and Health System Strengthening are the core programme components of UMN's health programme.

One hundred and sixty-five Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) have received Birth Preparedness Package training. These trained FCHVs identify pregnant women in their community and counsel them on antenatal care, institutional delivery, post-natal and neo-natal care.

Along with the FCHVs, 197 male volunteers have also been trained to educate the community in family planning. Three thousand young people have benefited from the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health programme this year including HIV and AIDS education from 276 trained Peer Educators. The Community Home Based Care Programme continues to provide much needed care and support to the people living with HIV and AIDS.

Tackling the issue of malnutrition, this year 93 children affected by malnourishment benefited from the Positive Deviance (PD) Hearth programmes in Doti, Bajhang, Mugu and Rukum where mothers and care givers increased their knowledge and skill on preparing infant food by using locally available food.

UMN supported various technical training sessions to government health workers and also strengthened the 24-hour birthing centre services by providing some equipment and by helping build placenta pits.

Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) from rural health facilities of Bajhang, Doti and Dhading received a two-month long Skilled Birth Attendant training from government-certified training sites in coordination with the National Health Training Centre. ANMs and Auxiliary Health Workers also received implant insertion and removal training and now the trainees have started providing delivery and implant services through local health facilities.



Two batches of basic mental health training were organised and 40 health workers participated from Bajhang, Doti and Dhading districts. A total of 765 people have received mental health treatment services from 16 different local health facilities of Rukum, Rupandehi, Doti, Bajhang and Dhading.

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- 165 Female Community Health Volunteers have received training on birth preparedness.
- 224 mothers' groups have been strengthened in Dhading, Sunsari, Mugu, Bajhang, Doti and Rukum and have been given useful orientation on maternal and child health issues.
- 40 Health Workers received training on mental health from the rural health facilities of Dhading, Doti and Bajhang districts.
- 141 people living with HIV and AIDS are receiving Community and Home Based Care.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

UMN has been actively participating in the Annual National Reproductive Health Review and Planning Workshop every year organised by the Family Health Division, Department of Health Services and Ministry of Health. Various health projects of UMN's health programme have been incorporated in this. The training programmes for the health workers have also been included in the Annual Training Plan of the National Health Training Centre. UMN has been contributing as a coordinator for the health working group of the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN).



BUILDING BRIDGES

Bhim Bahadur Rana, 54, from Nawalparasi, pastors a small congregation in Khasuwa village. Bhim tells us about a very sad mishap in his village.

“Last year, one student was swept away in the river when he tried to wade through the swollen waters. The suspension bridge constructed a decade ago had collapsed when the water level rose. Even after such a shocking accident we kept doing the same old mundane work, as if we had heard nothing.” recounts Bhim.

He was troubled and wanted to do something about it. But, he believed the bridge should be fixed by the government and hesitated to take any action. Bhim explains, “We learnt that the mission of the church spins through social as well as spiritual spheres. Our journey in integral mission has made us realise we no longer have to wait for someone to care for our needs. So we decided to do something before we let one more student drown.”

Bhim has been involved in *Sangsangai* for the last two years as a facilitator where he has been teaching about the ways the church can serve the holistic needs of the community. “We offered to volunteer our resources, time and skills to repair the bridge. Some of us brought wooden planks, nails and a few volunteered as carpenters. One thing led to another and in no time we completed the task.” shares Bhim, pointing proudly to the repaired bridge.

Bhim’s bridge story has spread through the village and people who use it every day can only thank him for making life so easy again. This has strengthened Bhim’s relationship with the local authorities. The local government has acknowledged his leadership and has also provided some funds for Bhim’s church. They have used this grant to bolster their worship centre.

INTEGRAL MISSION



UMN's Integral Mission (IM) work encourages people to discover their strengths and capabilities to achieve positive social changes. The project participants examine the existing resources and capacities in their communities which can be harnessed for serving the poor and the needy people.

The *Sangsangai* process has developed the leadership skills of the facilitators who work closely with groups that are formed in their communities and churches. The groups are growing in their knowledge about the roles that local churches can and must play from helping their communities transform and move towards fullness of life. These *Sangsangai* groups are also becoming the catalyst for community-driven small-scale development activities in their villages and towns. A total of 23 groups in Dhading and Nawalparasi are engaged in their communities. One of the many examples of our impact comes from Khasuwa village in remote Nawalparasi (see 'Building Bridges' on page 14).

We are also contributing in the formation of new values, attitudes and action plans in our project areas. The churches and communities continue to engage in the well-being of children, women and other people groups by providing educational support, organising groups for local advocacy and helping the homeless to access a safe home. The IM work has worked hand-in-hand with communities in developing roads, repairing community drinking water schemes, promoting clean environment through conservation and developing healthy food habits through the promotion of communal vegetable farming.

AT A GLANCE



- 38** teachers from **10** theological institutes are engaged in learning and implementing the new IM course benefiting **183** students.
- 3** *Sangsangai* workbooks were developed and are being used.
- Integral Mission Forum continues to create learning and growth opportunities for its member organisations under the leadership of the IM Team in UMN.
- 318** Christian youths from UMN clusters received Integral Mission training.
- 90** children (including **32** children affected by AIDS) received educational material.
- 4,102** people benefited through the services developed by faith groups (including **43** single women, **90** children and **1** person with disability).



NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

'Integral Mission Course Book' was published this year which has become yet another milestone in the history of theological education in Nepal, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Nepali theologians, who felt the need for this course in this direction. The course is being implemented in 20 theological institutions around the country, tremendously impacting the lives and practices of teachers and their students in mission. This work will no doubt be a real blessing to many aspiring students and young leaders for many years to come.

REPORT LAUNCH on

CAUSES, PROCESSES and VULNERABILITY & SEXUAL TRAFFICKING IN NEPAL

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The research on “Causes, Processes and Vulnerability of Sexual Trafficking in Nepal” has not only formed the basis for UMN's anti-human trafficking project, but has also contributed to the understanding of other stakeholders. Speaking at the National Level-finding Dissemination Programme, the Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Mr Khagraj Baral, commented that the research has provided insights into deeper level issues creating vulnerability for trafficking. As the study was in-line with Nepal Government's National Plan of Action, he added that the research has strongly complemented the efforts of the government. CNN Hero of the Year 2010, and a leading figure in anti-human trafficking, Ms Anuradha Koirala, inaugurated the research paper and congratulated UMN for the remarkable contribution it has made in fighting poverty and injustice including human trafficking. More than 30 national level stakeholders, key actors, policy makers and practitioners (including ILO, UNICEF, Women Commission, Human Rights Commission, Nepal Bar Association and Nepal Police) were present in the dissemination programme.

This year UMN also contributed to a three-year research project “Exploring the linkage between child and youth participation and development effectiveness”, which was carried out in partnership with Transform Aid International, ChildFund and Live and Learn in Australia and their partners in Nepal, Laos and Fiji and an academic institution. In June 2017, UMN represented the research partners at a conference in Australia to share the research findings. The conference was attended by academics and practitioners from all over the world.



LEARNING, POLICY & STRATEGY



We have been looking critically at our projects and their impacts in our target communities. Who among the communities have benefited from our work? In what ways have their lives and living conditions changed? What evidences are there to suggest that our interventions have contributed to such changes? What have we learnt from the experience and how are such lessons being used for the betterment of the lives of the people? UMN is improving our ability to answer these core questions, particularly in the Programme Team.

The LPS Team worked closely with the Programme Team this year to devise mechanisms in response to these questions. Project and partnership evaluations were carried out with a focus on (likely) outcomes of the interventions. Such evaluations have informed stakeholders about the key achievements, have helped to identify areas for improvement and have provided insights on important aspects of our partnerships.

Baseline, midline and endline studies relevant to the projects were carried out. With this system in place, tracking the change and assessing the results have become more effective. The LPS Team has also started a quarterly learning newsletter which is circulated online to UMN staff.

The launch of two research papers on Child and Youth Participation (CYP) in Development Effectiveness and Human Trafficking were also the highlights of our work this year. The findings of the CYP research were disseminated at a conference in Australia and that of Human Trafficking in Kathmandu with the national stakeholders (see page 16). Mainstreaming of Gender and Environment and Climate Change as cross-cutting issues were taken further. The sensitivity towards these development issues has increased among UMN and partner staff as well as in the communities we work in.

The LPS Team's engagement with the communities, UMN's Programme Team and partners has been a catalyst. We have seen communities be inspired and become hopeful and confident when they see evidence of changes in their community.

AT A GLANCE

- 8** evaluations (**6** projects and **2** partnerships) were completed.
- Baseline surveys of **7** projects were carried out.
- 2** research papers accomplished and launched.
- 103,851** beneficiaries were reached through UMN projects (**37,880** male; **65,971** female).
- 106** UMN staff, **76** partner staff and **381** community members received participatory gender and development training.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:
 The LPS Team together with the Peacebuilding Team conducted research on "Causes, Processes and Vulnerability of Sexual Trafficking in Nepal" and launched the research paper in June 2017. The research has complemented the Government of Nepal's National Plan of Action. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare requested UMN to present the findings of the research to their staff.



THE POWER OF DRAMA

Ayesha Khatun, currently studying in Grade 10, comes from a Muslim family in Sunsari.

The legal age of marriage is 20 for both men and women in Nepal, but despite this law girls are still married off early. Child marriage in Ayesha's village (a Muslim community) is not a new thing. In fact, her older sister was married off at 13 and has four children. Girls are given away even before their first menstrual period in fear of not finding a suitable groom and also to avoid the big dowry burden on the bride's family. As a result, women in this village face problems of uterus prolapse and are victims of gender and domestic violence.

The interfaith youth group, led by UMN's partner Community Development Forum, organised a street drama on gender and domestic violence in Ayesha's community. Ayesha had a role in the drama which was of an educated girl standing against gender stereotypes and religious harmful practices in the community. The moving drama which revealed the horror and evils of child marriage, was effectively communicated to the audience. Many men who saw the drama, were led to reassess this practice. The Muslim Imam, or head of the community, was also present at the drama presentation. On the same night, her father decided to let his daughter Ayesha continue her studies and not hurry into getting her married. He regretted the decision he made for his eldest daughter.

Ayesha bubbles with joy and says, "I can now turn my dreams into reality. I never had the courage to talk to my father about this issue. This drama has truly changed my father's perspectives and my life too." Ayesha is a bright student and has been securing first position in her class.

PEACEBUILDING



To raise awareness and increase prevention of human trafficking, we recently started a new project on Anti-Human Trafficking in June 2017 in Rupandehi. Many crucial stages have been successfully completed for the project to progress well, including group formation and much-needed coordination with the district line agencies. UMN and its local partner working on this project were given training about advocacy skills, sexual abuse and community mapping.

This year we were able to run disability projects in all seven clusters of UMN. We have noticed that the stigma associated with disability has reduced in the communities where we work. People have seen that some forms of disability can be treated with timely surgical and rehabilitative care which can transform lives. The schools have also accepted admission of children with disabilities to offer a better quality of life and remove barriers to education. UMN works closely with eight blind and deaf schools in Mugu, Rukum and Bajhang.

The community groups working against the Harmful Traditional Practices in Bajhang focused on reducing harmful alcohol consumption this year. New rules and guidelines were formed to help this initiative. One of the rules prevents any selling and consumption of alcohol before five in the evening. Some of the villages in Bajhang have even been declared alcohol-free zones.

The Integrated Peacebuilding Project is also an important component of our work. This year 492 people from various backgrounds participated in a number of training programmes facilitated by UMN which have equipped them with skills to positively transform relationships in their family, community and also at a wider level.

The focus of Local Capacities for Peace (LCP) project this year was on empowering youth to work on the existing conflicts in their communities. UMN hosted an International Youth Convention for LCP South Asia Network in January 2017. About 80 youth and their mentors from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan came together to express solidarity, co-existence and peace among South Asian Youth.



The convention led to the commitment of South Asian youth to work for peace. An exchange programme between Pakistan and Nepal was also held for wider learning and sharing between the two nations.

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AT A GLANCE

- 57 community groups are actively engaged in addressing harmful traditional practices in Bajhang.
- 49 (24 women) beneficiary group members were candidates in the recent election where 30 of them (12 women) won and are key leaders of the local bodies.
- 153 children with disabilities are attending school and getting equal access to education where 6 special schools have improved their teaching standards with the educational material support through UMN partners.

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

The Peacebuilding Team together with national and international networks led four major national events: an International Youth Convention, a Pakistan-Nepal youth exchange programme and two Interfaith Peace Consultations. The youth and religious leaders gathered for the Interfaith Peace Consultations engaged in meaningful dialogues with key stakeholders of the communities, and showed commitment to address the pressing issues.

STINGING NETTLES FOR INCOME

Jaikala Devi is seen picking nettle leaves, blanching and drying them. This ordinary shrub has become a reliable source of income for her. The demand of the nettle leaf powder is growing by the day as people have become aware of its medicinal value. She sells the nettle powder packets and earns NPR 200 (USD 2) per kg. To date she has sold 80 kgs to local vendors.

Not too long ago Jaikala struggled to meet the family needs and provide for her family of nine members. She relied on the income she made from the little tea shop she ran. Hardworking Jaikala wanted to do more for some extra income but didn't know how she could possibly do it. As a member of Sangalo Agriculture Cooperative she had an opportunity to participate in training about nettle leaf processing organised by UMN's partner Rural Community Development Centre in Doti. The resource person of the training was an entrepreneur who established a processing factory for agricultural purposes. At the training Jaikala's eyes opened to the value of nettle leaves and its high demand in urban areas. Things fell into place after the training which got Jaikala into this business. Today, she's a happy and confident business woman who works hard to get as many nettle powder packets as she can to send to the market.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



The Sustainable Livelihoods Team has added three new projects this year to the other five ongoing projects. We have resumed the previously closed project of Syarpu Lake in Rukum, which originally focused on the socio-economic benefits of the community. This time we are focusing on the issues of natural resource conservation.

Our technical support at the cluster level led to an increase of production and income for our beneficiaries. The programme beneficiaries were given improved varieties of seeds and were involved in trials of new technologies which involved providing them with new equipment.

We have also tried to measure the value-for-money of our interventions. We have continued to promote right-based developmental approaches, especially for the poorest people that we work with.

This year we were able to help two more schools in updating their school disaster-preparedness plans and also support them financially to help put those plans into action.

Various activities were jointly carried out with the support and involvement from the local government offices. Notable instances include health camps (human and animals), soil testing, plant clinics and embankment construction. These efforts have added great value to the communities in helping to keep them safe and protected. It has also helped to strengthen the bond between the community groups and government bodies.

As we move into the new fiscal year, we have some opportunities and challenges to look forward to. The local-level elections throughout the country after 20 years stands out as the most significant highlight at a national level. The new policies and decisions made will have impacts on our programmes and project beneficiaries.



AT A GLANCE

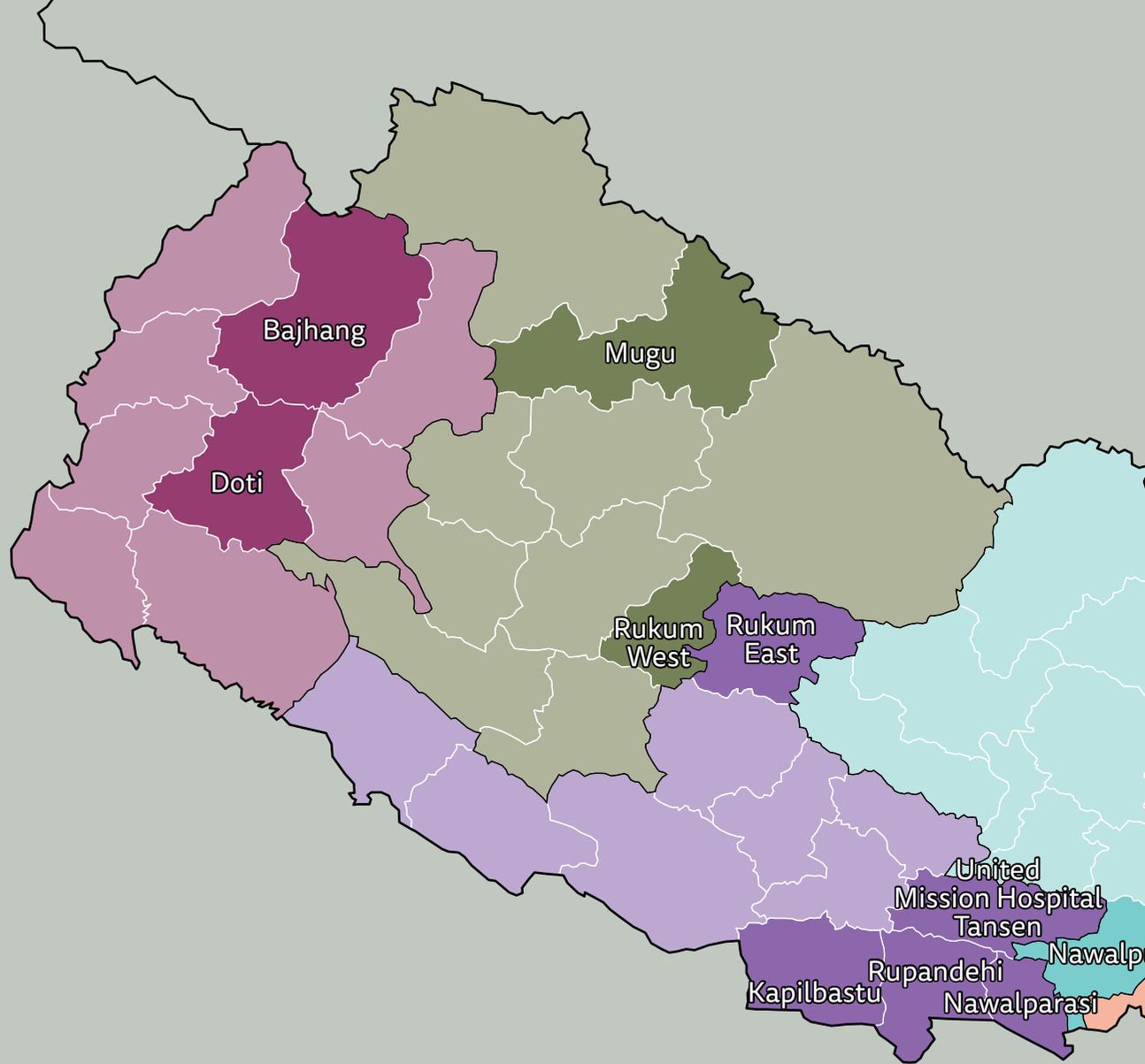


-  Relief support for various small-scale disasters during the year was provided to **5,796** beneficiaries worth NPR **1,479,637** (USD **14,403**). Disaster Risk Reduction training was also provided to **9,223** people in the community, which also included the relief recipients.
-  A gabion wall was constructed in the banks of Rohini River in Rupandehi. The **45** ft long barricade will protect around **80** households against flood.
-  The registered Self-Reliant Groups could access NPR **6** million (USD **58,404**) from the government for various development projects.
-  **12** Community Empowerment Centres have been established benefitting **298** women in Bajhang, Doti, Rukum and Dhading.

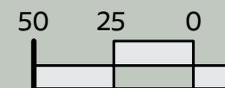
NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION:

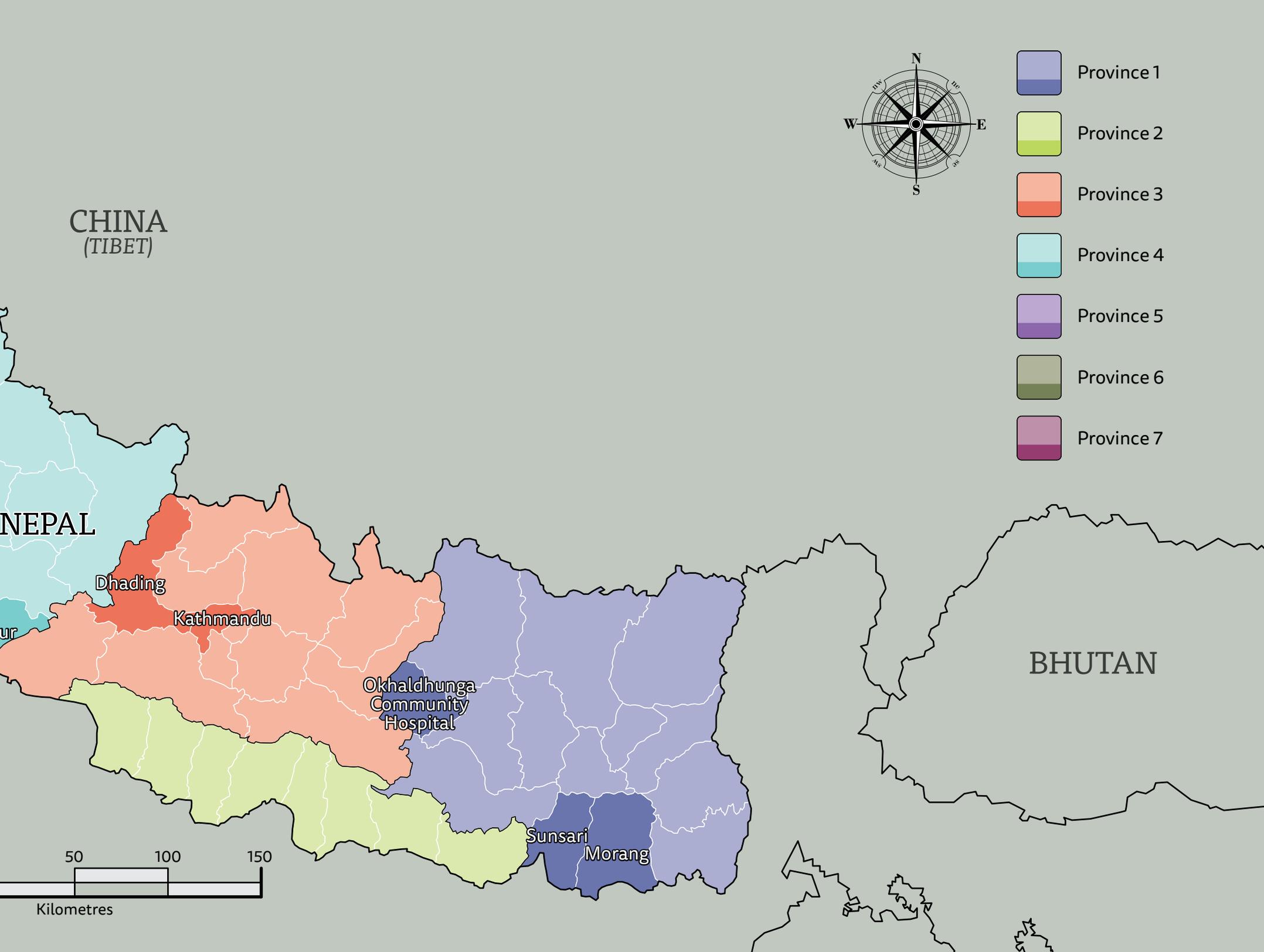
UMN's successful Joint Land Ownership Certificate campaign supports and contributes to the government's goal to promote women's rights by ensuring rights on land ownership. Women's engagement in the agriculture sector stands at a staggering 73% in Nepal with ownership of land at only 20%. Eighteen couples in Bajhang and Rukum have received Joint Land Ownership certificates.

WHERE WE WORK



INDIA





CHINA
(TIBET)

NEPAL

BHUTAN

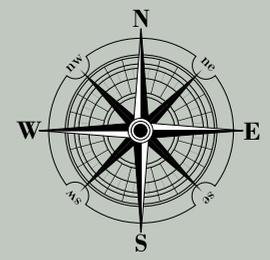
Dhading

Kathmandu

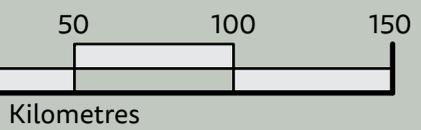
Okhaldhunga
Community
Hospital

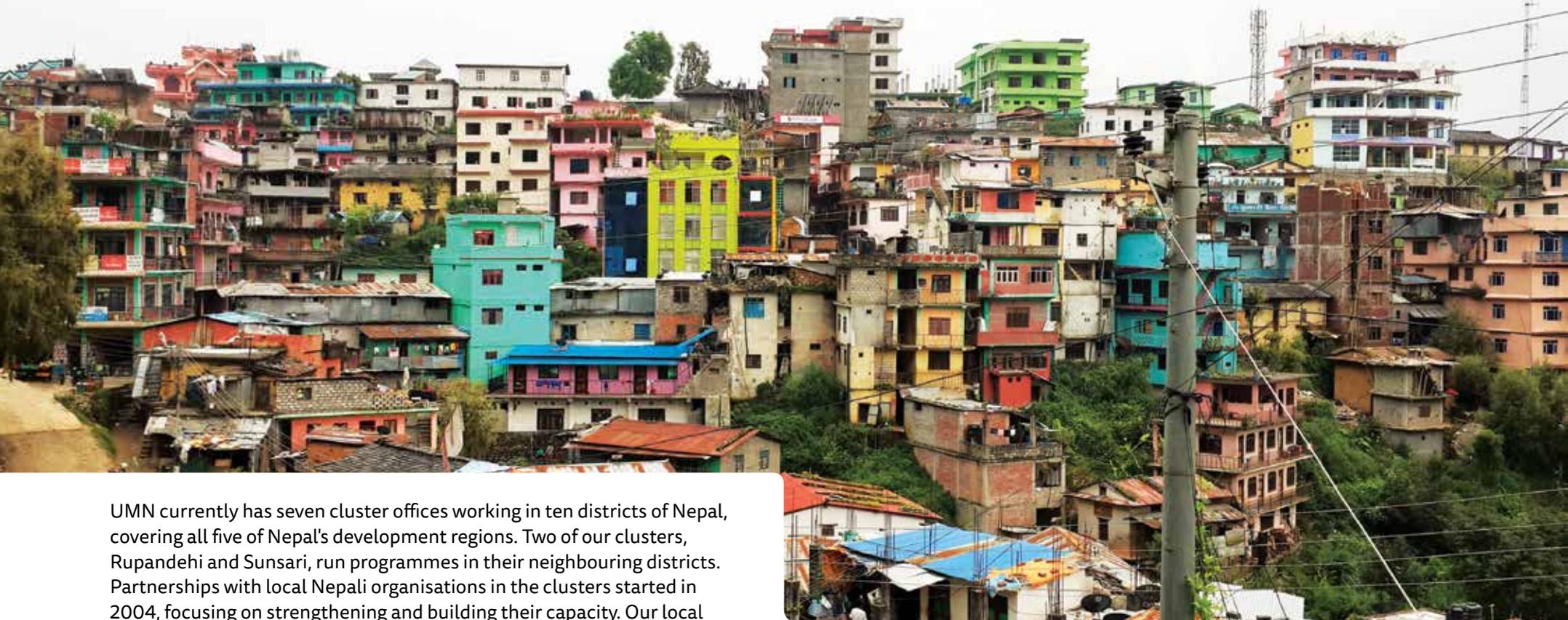
Sunsari

Morang



- Province 1
- Province 2
- Province 3
- Province 4
- Province 5
- Province 6
- Province 7





UMN currently has seven cluster offices working in ten districts of Nepal, covering all five of Nepal's development regions. Two of our clusters, Rupandehi and Sunsari, run programmes in their neighbouring districts. Partnerships with local Nepali organisations in the clusters started in 2004, focusing on strengthening and building their capacity. Our local partnerships at the district level include:

- * NGOs
- * Local government
- * Schools
- * Co-operatives

Currently, UMN partners with 45 organisations in the clusters, including some Christian organisations, implementing a range of community projects focused on education, health, livelihoods, and peacebuilding (see page 42 for a full list of partners). UMN also continues to run two hospitals – the United Mission Hospital Tansen (Palpa District) and Okhaldhunga Community Hospital in Eastern Nepal.

The new constitution of Nepal has recently grouped the districts under seven provinces. The old Village Development Committees (VDCs) that made up each District have been replaced by Municipalities and Rural Municipalities with a group of old VDCs merged to make each new Municipality or Rural Municipality. There are now 481 Rural Municipalities out of 744 local units.

UMN'S CLUSTERS AND PARTNERS: (as of July 2017)

CLUSTER	TOTAL	NGO	CO-OP	GoN	SCH.	AREAS
Bajhang	4	3	1	0	0	11
Dhading	9	8	1	0	0	12
Doti	5	4	1	0	0	7
Mugu	5	4	0	0	1	3
Rukum	5	5	0	0	0	7
Rupandehi	9	9	0	0	0	15
Sunsari	8	7	0	1	0	12
National	1	1	0	0	0	-
Total	46	41	3	1	1	67

NGO = Non-governmental organisation

Co-op = Co-operative

GoN = Government of Nepal

Sch. = School

Areas = Number of Rural Municipalities worked

For a full list of partner names, see page 42



We are excited about our work and how it is able to touch lives and make a difference in the poorest communities of Bajhang. In the last financial year we carried out ten projects including two new ones.

Teachers in local schools have taken part in training programmes supported by UMN. Children with disabilities (blind, deaf and intellectually disabled) are also equally participating in teaching and learning activities. UMN has supported a school with provision of Braille materials and training to teachers on Braille. Two blind students have secured first position in their school examinations. Ten families who have children with disability were provided with an income-generation support.

This year 71 people from marginalised groups were engaged in UMN supported enterprise development activities. Livestock insurance, though a fairly new concept, has been very well received by the community people. Three hundred and thirty-two livestock from 246 households were insured and 528 animals were given medical treatment through trained animal vets.

All 16 schools in which UMN has been involved have been applying the Continuous Assessment System to evaluate children's academic performances. Two schools have carried out a social audit as well. Each of these 16 schools have Early Childhood Development classes where 258 children in total are enjoying bright classrooms with a safe, nurturing and responsive learning environment.

We facilitated a two-month long training course on becoming Skilled Birth Attendants to five health workers from five different health posts. There has been a 10% increase in Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in two health facilities.



BAJHANG AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
195,159

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
15,317

UMN WORKING AREAS:
9 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
3 NGOs, **1** Co-operative

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Violence and discrimination against women; food insecurity; seasonal migration; lack of access to quality education; poor nutrition and discrimination against people with disability.

TYPE OF WORK:
Awareness and training; group empowerment and mobilisation; livelihoods, education improvement; nutrition; treatment and support to people with disability.

Working Area
Non-Working Area

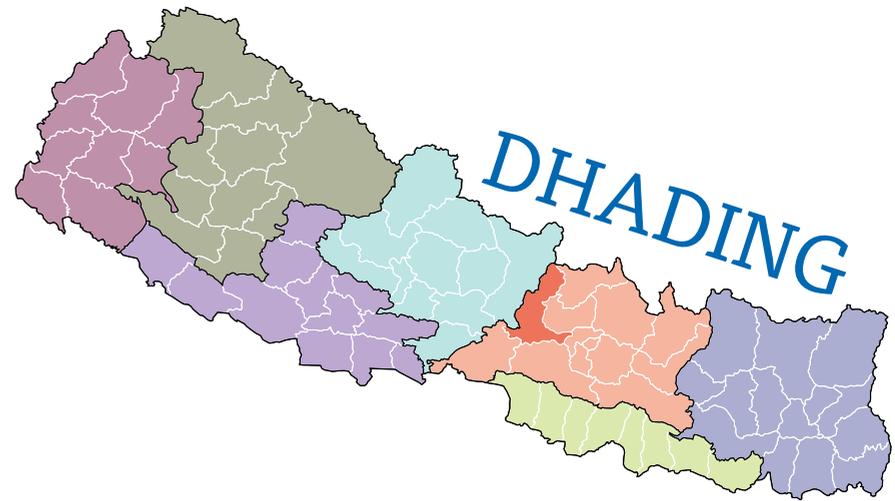


UMN Dhading Cluster and its nine local partners have implemented ten projects this year, and we are encouraged with the positive changes we are able to see in our project areas. One of the highlights for us was reviewing and updating our partner's current policies and also formulating new policies on child protection, conflict sensitivity and climate change.

Twenty-five farmers in Baireni were given 16 weeks of training on Integrated Pest Management. A 35 day long training course was provided to Village Animal Health Workers who have been giving basic vet services to the community in Naubise.

We are running 41 child clubs in Dhading who have further strengthened their capacity by listing out doable action plans and mini-projects through a session of self-assessment this year. These child clubs give the children an opportunity to get together to address the problems they have been facing and also learn about their rights. We were also able to help 27 community schools of South Dhading to improve their classroom management.

Improved Washable Pads (IWP) have become more popular among adolescent and older girls. They are now able to talk confidently about menstruation and important health issues related with it. Ninety-three Self-Reliant Groups, who are strong change agents in the community, have conducted self-assessment sessions and were able to develop new action plans. All of these groups are linked with the Community Based Organisation Network which will help to sustain their projects.



DHADING AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
336,067

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
8,483

UMN WORKING AREAS:
9 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
8 NGOs, **1** Co-operative

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Poor modern technology, tools and mechanisation in agriculture; less organic farming; poor health facilities; lack of access to quality education; child labour; early marriage; human trafficking; lack of WASH; HIV and AIDS; vulnerability to disasters.

TYPE OF WORK:
Community health; mental health; nutrition; adolescent sexual and reproductive health; food security; climate change awareness; child-centred community development; disability awareness and empowerment; child disability physical treatment; integral mission; education and good governance.

Working Area

Non-Working Area



The new governance structure following the local elections has brought with it opportunities as well as challenges. It was a good opportunity to once again look closely at the problems and issues facing the district, but working in new areas with new authorities has also slowed down some of our work processes. Hence, a challenge lies ahead for us to let the new system settle down and establish meaningful relationships with new local authorities.

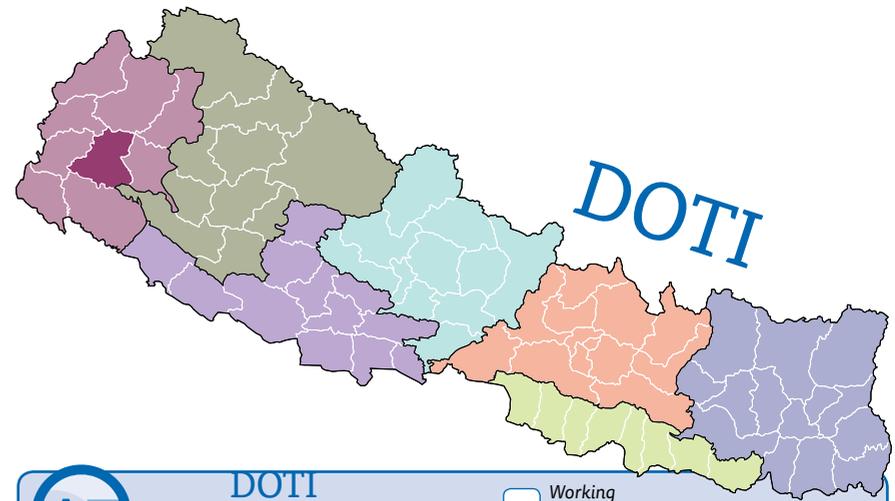
Fifty malnourished children were enrolled in a community-based nutrition centre (PD Hearth) which runs for six months. The improved weight gain of these children has yet again proved the effectiveness of PD Hearth programmes.

Five children with disability have received treatment and are now able to continue their study. To ensure they have adequate school stationery, 15 children with disabilities were provided with school materials.

Currently UMN is involved in supporting 26 schools in different ways. Forty-four teachers received very useful training to learn to make educational materials through locally available resources.

UMN has constructed four multiple-use water tanks, four soil-cement tanks and has repaired two irrigational canals which have benefited 207 households in various areas in Doti. This has provided a reliable water system for kitchen gardens for hundreds of families and also for commercial vegetable production.

A total of 424 community people (17 males, 407 females) are involved in 18 civic education groups in our project areas. Women learn and also provide valuable input, insights and ideas as these groups discuss and plan on important issues in the community.



DOTI AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
211,746

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
15,701

UMN WORKING AREAS:
5 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
4 NGOs, **1** Co-operative

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Lack of employment opportunities resulting in high seasonal migration; social-economic inequalities based on gender and caste; limited access to health, nutritious food and quality education; low agricultural productivity; poor rural infrastructure; vulnerability to natural disasters.

TYPE OF WORK:
Good governance, food security and agricultural improvement; mental health, community health and adolescent sexual and reproductive health; support and empowerment for people with disabilities; livelihoods improvement; nutrition; quality education, maternal and child health.

Working Area

Non-Working Area



Although development activities have reached Mugu there is still widespread poverty in this district and limited access to health facilities and education. Through UMN's projects we have been able to make some progress in a few important issues.

The Dalit Girls' Scholarship Programme gives excellent education opportunities to the socially marginalised girls in Mugu. The caste barrier is rigid in these remote regions of Nepal, and the Dalit (so called low-caste groups) girls are among the ones who are most vulnerable to the evils of society and exploitation. Forty-eight Dalit girls have received UMN scholarships this year, 17 Dalit girls have got employment within and outside the district and 35 Dalit girls have passed in the School Education Examination this year.

There is very little education and a very low awareness of family planning in most communities of Mugu. This important issue can be central to gender equality and women empowerment. This year we have provided training to traditional healers about the importance of family planning. As a result of this around 50 families have used contraceptive methods.

UMN's involvement in five schools continues to strengthen the School Management Committees, helping them to become more accountable in their roles and responsibilities to lead their school. We have seen a vast improvement in regular attendance of both teachers and students.



MUGU AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
55,286

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
3,442

UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities, **1** Municipality

UMN PARTNERS:
4 NGOs, **1** Government School

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Poor quality education; acute food insecurity and lack of basic health services.

TYPE OF WORK:
Nutrition, sanitation and family planning; adolescent sexual and reproductive health; support for girls' education (Dalit and Karmarong); support for child-friendly education and special education (deaf and blind); enabling children with disabilities and their families to attain improved quality of life as equal citizens.

Working Area
Non-Working Area



This year we were able to run 12 projects through our partners in Rukum. We have shifted our focus to more remote regions of the district and the poorest of the poor communities.

Sixty-five families received Improved Cooking Stoves in Rangsi and Syalakhadi villages. These villages are a couple of days' walk from the district centre. The stoves consume less fuel, save cooking time and create a smokeless environment in the house.

Seventy-three people have benefited and have increased their income through micro-enterprises, income-generation projects and improved agriculture practices.

We have carried out mental health programmes in Rukum for the last four years. There has been a growing awareness and openness in communities on this issue. Access to basic mental health services in three health facilities in Rugha, Khara and Bhalakcha villages have made it possible for 96 people to receive regular mental health counselling services this year.

Child-friendly teaching methodology is being practiced in 11 schools which has improved the attendance record of students in schools. The multi-lingual education (local language Kham Magar) currently being used in eight schools has shown excellent improvement in the learning achievements of the students.

Rukum experienced excessive rainfall this year but fortunately we did not suffer from landslides or flooding.

All five of our partners have drafted policies on environment, anti-corruption and gender. It is encouraging to see our partners grow stronger in their capacity and develop more confidence in their work.



AT A GLANCE

RUKUM

POPULATION:
208,567

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
7,748

UMN WORKING AREAS:
4 Rural Municipalities, **3** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
5 NGOs (**1** Christian faith-based organisation)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Food insecurity; lack of quality education; poor health service; child marriage; poor nutrition; disability and inadequate physical infrastructure.

TYPE OF WORK:
Disability; disaster management and climate change; mental health; multilingual education; community health; water and sanitation; integral mission; adolescent and sexual and reproductive health; good governance and livelihoods.

Working Area
Non-Working Area



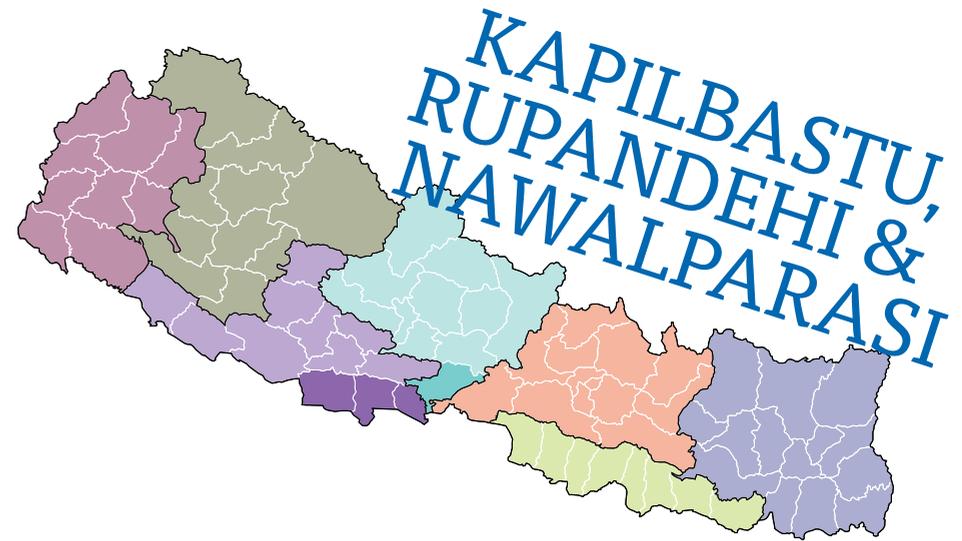
We want to make sure our projects reach the neediest people living in poverty and that our interventions lead to positive outcomes. This year we were able to directly benefit 23,188 people through 18 projects.

Farmers in our project areas have become more aware of animal and crop insurance. Forty-one farmers have insured a total of 179 livestock and five mushroom growers have insured 290 packets of mushrooms in Nawalparasi and Rupandehi districts.

The HIV prevention, care and support project in the last four years have been providing much-needed help to 2,124 people living in the urban slum areas of Butwal, out of which 25 people are living with HIV and AIDS.

The Integrated Peace Project in Kapilbastu continues to promote and establish peace and harmony between different religious groups. There are eight women groups with members from different ethnic, caste and religious backgrounds, four adolescent groups and also a men's network to support the work of the groups. The formation of these groups will facilitate helpful discussions and participatory activities and raise awareness of citizenship rights, birth and marriage registration, government facilities, gender equality and child marriage. This process will also lead to increased confidence in these women, and will help them to gain decision-making status in their society.

The Rupandehi Team is happy to report the completion of orientations on UMN's Anti-Corruption and Child Protection Policy which were given to all project and cluster staff.



KAPILBASTU AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
571,940

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
3,982

UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
2 NGOs

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Lack of quality child-friendly education; child marriage; malnutrition; gender-based violence; poor WASH facilities; poor child and maternal health facilities; poor income, livelihoods and irrigation systems.

TYPE OF WORK:
Integrated peacebuilding; adolescent sexual and reproductive health; WASH; family planning; community disability rehabilitation; good governance; child marriage and domestic violence.

Working Area (white box)

Non-Working Area (blue box)



POUPANDEHI AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
880,200

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
9,370

UMN WORKING AREAS:
3 Rural Municipalities, **3** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
4 NGOs (**2** Christian faith-based organisations)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
HIV and AIDS; human trafficking; child marriage; malnutrition; gender-based violence; poor WASH facilities; poor income/livelihood; climate change and environment degradation.

TYPE OF WORK:
Livelihoods (livestock and vegetables); climate change; environment and disaster management; mitigation and adaptation; HIV and AIDS intervention; mental health services and awareness; nutrition; community health; and WASH.

NEWALPARASI AT A GLANCE

POPULATION:
643,508

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
9,836

UMN WORKING AREAS:
4 Rural Municipalities, **2** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
3 NGOs (**1** Christian faith-based organisation)

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Human trafficking; HIV and AIDS; lack of quality child-friendly education; gender-based violence; high migration; poor WASH facilities; poor income/livelihoods; climate change and environment degradation; high alcoholism and drug abuse by youths.

TYPE OF WORK:
Child-friendly education and support; good governance; livelihoods (dairy, livestock and vegetables); climate change; environment and disaster management; mitigation and adaptation; HIV & AIDS and community health.

This year we implemented 12 projects with eight partner organisations, benefiting 29,953 households.

Currently we have 1,433 children affiliated in 53 child clubs in our project areas. Child clubs play a significant role in influencing their families and the communities to bring positive changes. An example of a result of child club awareness programmes was a stop to seven child marriages this year in coordination with the Village Child Protection committee.

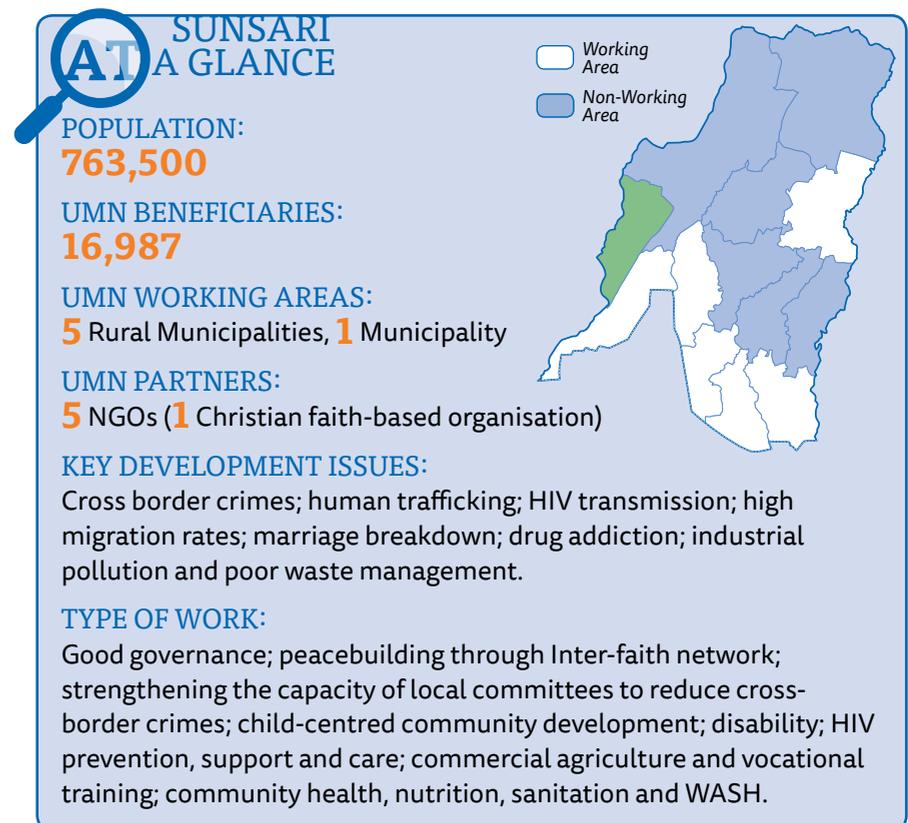
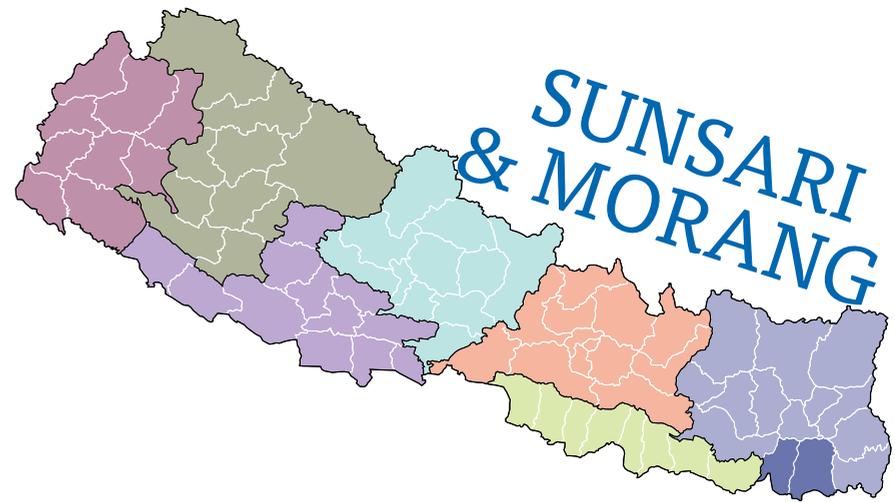
There are a total of 2,888 women and men involved in 135 Self-Reliant Groups. Among these, 53 groups are affiliated in co-operatives and have received financial services. 1,200 households are involved in various income generation activities.

Many people with disability experience a range of barriers in education, health care and basic services.

Four hundred and seventy-eight participants who were either school teachers, school management committee members or representatives of the association of guardians and students were involved in inclusive education and awareness-raising programmes. As a result of this, ramps were constructed in All-Islaha Ideal school which has allowed children with disability to have better access to classrooms, toilets, drinking taps and offices.

With UMN's support, 35 local farmers are selling milk at the milk collection centre through Amuna Agriculture Co-operative. The co-operative has recruited two staff at the milk centre where more than 150 litres of milk is collected every day. This has given these poor farmers an income and also an opening to a small-scale savings scheme.

We are also proud to report that six Local Peace Committee Members with whom we work with closely have won key posts (one Rural Municipality chairperson, one vice-chairperson, one ward-level chairperson and three ward members) in the local elections held in Sunsari this year.





MORANG A GLANCE

POPULATION:
965,370

UMN BENEFICIARIES:
12,966

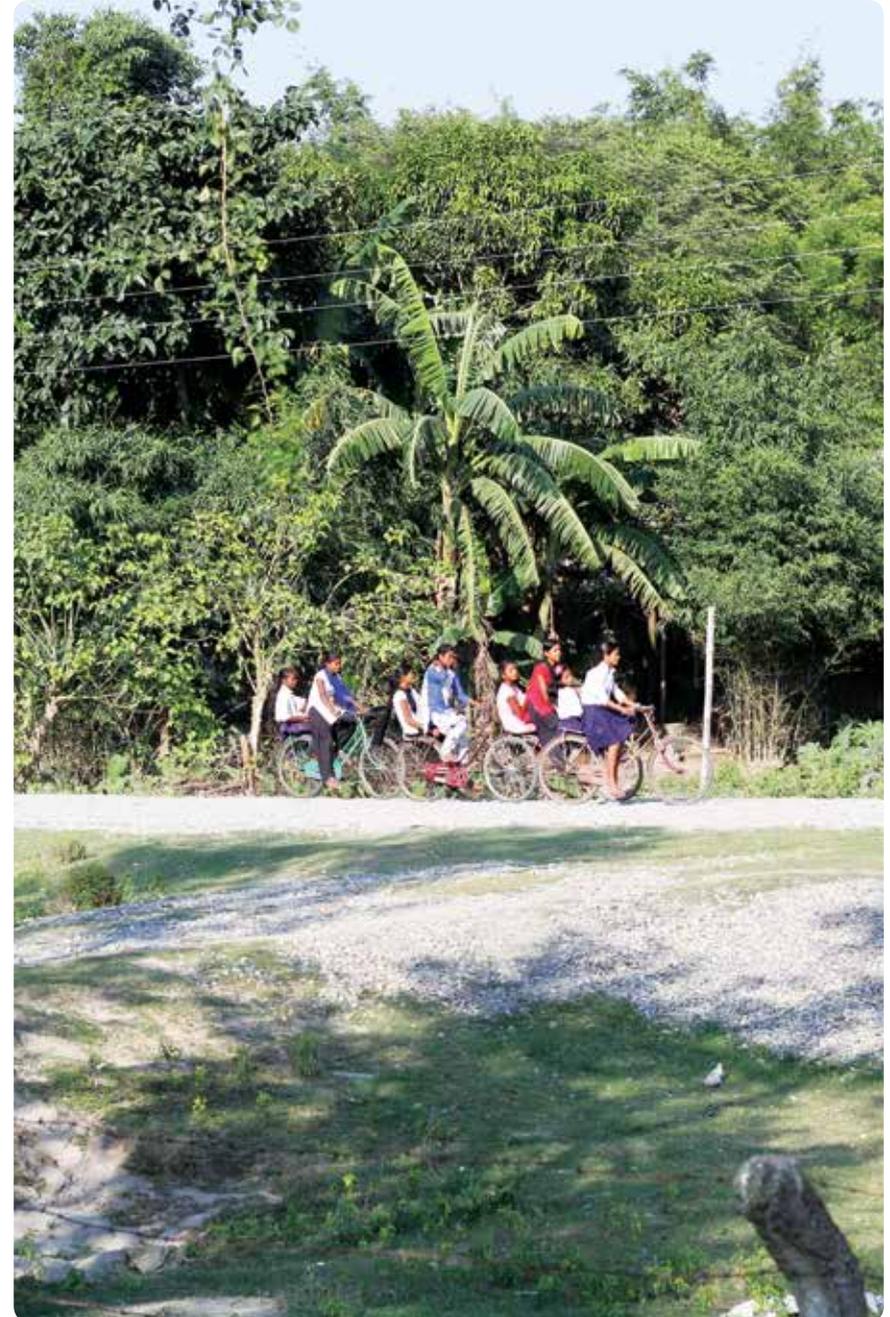
UMN WORKING AREAS:
2 Rural Municipalities, **4** Municipalities

UMN PARTNERS:
2 NGOs, **1** Government organisation

KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:
Cross border crimes; human trafficking; HIV transmission; high migration rates; marriage breakdown; drug addiction; industrial pollution and poor waste management.

TYPE OF WORK:
Good governance; peacebuilding through Inter-faith network; strengthening the capacity of local committees to reduce cross-border crimes; child-centred community development; disability; HIV prevention, support and care; commercial agriculture and vocational training; community health, nutrition, sanitation and WASH.

Working Area
 Non-Working Area



DHANA KALA'S STORY

United Mission Hospital Tansen (UMHT) opened a neuro rehabilitation department five years ago for patients who have had strokes or suffered spinal cord injuries. They receive more intensive rehabilitation therapy from our team of physiotherapists, occupational and speech therapists.

About a year ago Dhana Kala had a fall – probably from a tree while cutting fodder to feed animals. When she fell, she broke her back and is now paralysed from the waist down. She had an initial stay in the hospital of about one month, but her husband, who is a daily-wage worker, needed to return home, so he took her back to their house. Their children were given to other family members to care for, and her husband went back to his work – leaving each morning early and returning at night. The paralysed woman was left in her bed all day – with no one to turn her or care for her. She came back in the hospital with terrible bed sores which were beyond what our surgeons could operate on.

Our rehab doctor and the social services staff spent much time on the phone trying to find a place that would take her for the specialised pressure surgery. Finally, someone at Sushma Koirala Memorial Hospital located outside Kathmandu agreed to do the surgery and to cover the costs of her hospital bed, and the cost of the surgery. The patient would only need to pay for food and medicines needed during their stay. Even this amount was daunting for this village family – but it turns out that this woman fell from a tree and broke her back while actually cutting fodder for a neighbour's family. So, people from the village raised some money to help pay some of their costs. The rest was covered by the Medical Assistance Fund at the hospital.

Early one morning at 5 am, Dhana Kala was loaded onto UMHT's mission bus, laying across a set of seats, and her husband and a friend from the village went along with her. Initially her husband stayed with her, but later he left and the older daughter (who had finished her school exams) stayed with her. They had to spend several months there, and some of the operations were not as successful as had been hoped, so recently Dhana Kala came back to the Tansen rehab ward. We are thankful that she has improved and is even able to sit up now – which wasn't possible before. We have hope that she will be able to completely heal and learn to get around in a wheelchair and once again help care for her family. We are especially grateful for the care and support of our pastoral care staff who did much of the work to help Dhana Kala and her family learn to live with this new "normal".



IMPORTANT STATISTICS: (2015/16 in brackets)

ITEM	TANSEN	OKHALDHUNGA
Beds	169 (169)	50 (50)
Bed Occupancy	81% (83%)	127% (153%)
Out-Patient Dept.	98,390 (98,338)	28,778 (32,420)
In-Patient Dept.	12,774 (12,728)	5,832 (4,847)
Surgery	7,198 (7,672)	2,474 (2,088)
Delivery	2,337 (2,295)	1,126 (874)
Emergency	15,350 (15,380)	3,310 (2,686)
Total Income (NPR)	375,694,625 (350,610,207)	91,224,899 (69,433,381)
Total Expenditure (NPR)	375,694,625 (350,610,207)	84,144,353 (65,087,263)
Free Care (NPR)	17,887,793 (19,145,504)	23,441,699 (17,032,081)





HOSPITAL SERVICES OFFICE

HSO continued its central support to the hospitals. It also liaised with line ministries of the Government of Nepal and other partners. This year the Ministry of Health has asked us to insure the number of beds for both hospitals. The Government of Nepal's Health insurance programme has also started in Tansen as a short pilot project. The Hospital Executive Committee met three times during this reporting period with the meeting in May 2017 approving the annual plans and budget for the new fiscal year.

UNITED MISSION HOSPITAL TANSEN

An achievement for us this year is the hospital's oxygen plant that is now able to generate enough oxygen for use in the hospital. We have also developed a better waste and recycling system. This year we have increased in our number of in-patient, out-patient and delivery services but the number of surgeries and emergency room visits were less. We have also started using a cardiotocography monitoring system for high risk deliveries which monitors the baby for any signs of distress before and during labour.

Our regular pre-service training course, Medical Doctorate in General Practice, was conducted this year as usual. We also continued the one-year Anaesthetist Technician Course under the National Health Training Centre and Proficiency Level course in Nursing and Laboratory Technician under the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training. We also continued our regular in-house courses such as Skill Birth Attendant Course and Mid-Level Practicum Course. The Diploma in Pastoral Healing Ministry course was also conducted this reporting year.

As an attempt to provide medical care for all, direct free care worth NPR 17,887,793 (USD 174,120) was provided. We also provided Anti Retro Viral treatment, TB and leprosy medicines and some heart medicines free of cost from the Government of Nepal. We also provided free food to all in-patient children admitted to the Children's Ward.

The Community Health Department (CHD) conducted regular under-five clinics, Antenatal Clinics and Maternal and Child Health Clinics in two rural areas. These activities were carried out in coordination with the District Health Officer. It also managed safer motherhood projects in two remote VDCs and a Nutritional Rehabilitation Unit in Tansen. This year CHD saw a total of 4,681 children below five years-of-age and a total of 3,545 pregnant mothers at the town clinic.

OKHALDHUNGA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Both curative and public health services continue in Okhaldhunga Community Hospital (OCH). The highlight this year was the Grand Opening of the newly-built 50 bed main treatment building and other new facilities on 14 March 2017. Chief Guest, Honourable Norwegian Ambassador to Nepal and two Members of Parliament were present as special guests. Statistics showed an increase in all the curative services provided by the hospital except the number of out-patient services. Bed occupancy remained above 100% despite the hospital's upgrade to 50 beds. Free treatment for children under three years-of-age and those weighing less than 12 kgs, the nutritional rehabilitation centre for malnourished children and the waiting home for high risk mothers continued this year. The free treatment policy continued, spending NPR 23,440,000 (USD 228,165) for free care for those who cannot afford to pay for medical services.

OCH has been a training site for Medical Doctorates in General Practice residents during their district posting period. Mid-Level Practicum, a refresher course for paramedics in partnership with Nick Simons Institute, continued.

In our work in the Public Health Unit, four VDCs were handed over to the stakeholder. We also started work in two new VDCs in the eastern part and three VDCs in the western part of the district. Various training programmes were organised in these project areas to build the capacity of the staff. The Disaster Relief and Risk Management unit continued working in the earthquake affected areas.

Challenges for the hospital this year at the local-level included a shortage of drinking water and electricity, as well as the recruitment and retention of senior-level Nepali staff.

CENTRAL SERVICES



BOARD

The overall governance and direction for UMN is the responsibility of the UMN Board of Trustees, who are elected by the supporting partner organisations. This is a skill-based board and its focus has continued to be the governing of the organisation through Carver Policy Governance, and strengthening the financial governance through the Board Audit Committee.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

UMN's Leadership Team is led by the Executive Director and currently consists of seven members after Sanu Raja Ranjit (Liaison Director) retired from UMN in October 2016. The LT continues to focus on the implementation of UMN's 2015-20 strategy, and has been reviewing the fit of UMN's current structure and processes with our vision and mission. The team continues to meet formally every two months and weekly for prayers and updates.

COMMUNICATIONS

Along with our regular publications and newsletters, we were able to produce a number of Nepali language booklets and manuals. We continue to provide communication-related services to all UMN teams and also run short relevant training for staff. This year we hope to increase our sales of the 2018 calendar and Christmas cards. Our Facebook followers are now well over 8,000.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The ITS Team have connected UMN's cluster offices to the Thapathali office network using secure VPN connections. Now they can also enjoy all the IT services which were otherwise accessible only to Thapathali staff.

We have worked closely with the HR Team to release a beta version of new HR software which would serve as the basis for the future Management Information System solution in UMN. We introduced a facility booking system as an Outlook-based solution and conducted various Outlook workshops to increase awareness of the software.

We revised many of our existing IT policies, processes and procedures to match our increased services and facilities. This has enhanced our efficiency and has increased transparency on how we work. As the IT infrastructure in Nepal continues to expand and improve, we continue to ensure that UMN is at the forefront of using this new technology.

FUNDING & FINANCE

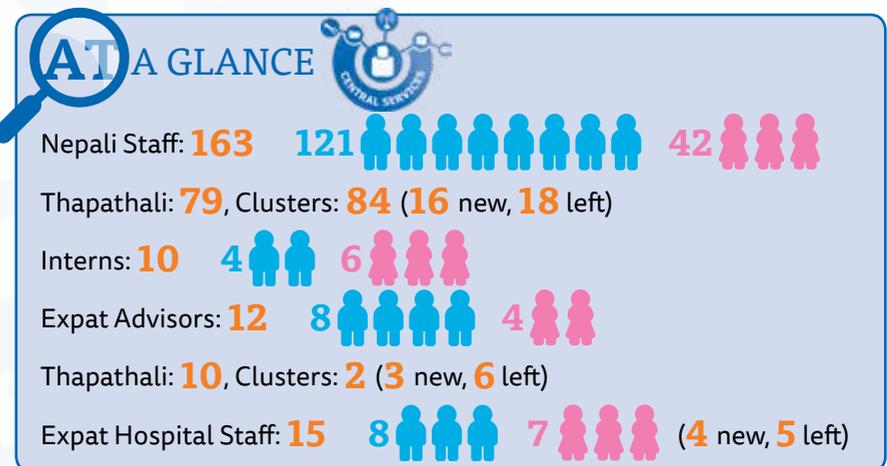
It has been a challenge for us to cover the indirect programme costs including central common costs and core cluster costs through project contributions and existing designated income. We are working with our donors to increase the designated income which will enable us to fully cover the indirect programme costs.

We have also developed a Common Cost Allocation Guidelines which outlines UMN's common costs and the methodology that we use to cover these costs.

Together with the ITS Team, we explored different options for a new accounting application to improve our budget monitoring and financial reporting system. Considering a few important factors we decided to upgrade the current accounting software (MoneyWorks) rather than use a separate standalone version for different clusters. We have tested the latest version and have successfully implemented it from the beginning of the new financial year.

HUMAN RESOURCES & SITE MANAGEMENT

The Medical Treatment Plan for UMN staff was reviewed and revised, and the MetLife insurance plan was purchased for all staff. A Cross-Culture Management Advisor was recruited this year to assist and strengthen the organisational culture of UMN. We continue to provide logistics support to cluster teams and to Thapathali HQ.





CROSS-CUTTING DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

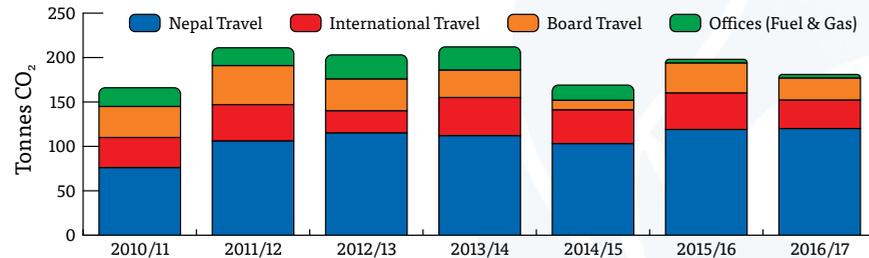
ENVIRONMENT

Since 2007, UMN has been calculating its carbon footprint every year to offset carbon emissions produced by our activities.

This calculation helps us to find out the amount of carbon produced by our activities, which includes travel and fuel used by both Nepali and expatriate staff, and the Board Members. It also challenges UMN programmes and projects to offset carbon emission to some extent. We are taking steps to become a carbon-neutral organisation.

The calculation from mid-July 2016 to mid-August 2017 includes information of travel (national and international) and fuel (petrol, diesel and gas) from all the teams and sources.

UMN'S CARBON FOOTPRINT



GENDER

The attempts to change entrenched and systemic gender inequality continue along two paths. One is in equipping frontline social mobilisers to work with community groups, the other is equipping UMN to produce gender equality outcome in organising itself and in doing its work.

Four six-day participatory community group gender equality facilitators' workshops were conducted in support of our partners. From the community groups, some degree of awareness raising was reported with different change objectives which usually centred around the family sphere. More effort ahead is needed to strengthen and sustain this work.

For the organisation, all UMN staff took part in the participatory gender and development workshops. Now the challenge is to narrow the gap between recognising the issues and changing our practice. Outstanding

Gender Equality Awards for staff with emphasis on practice were introduced during Bhetghat (annual staff get-together). Efforts through institution development also started to support the application of gender analysis to promote gender equality in our projects throughout the project cycle. The sexual harassment policy has been drafted for prevention and for practice.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

A shared definition of conflict sensitivity is the ability of an organisation to:

- ★ understand the context in which it operates,
- ★ understand the interaction between the context and its intervention,
- ★ act upon this understanding to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.

Mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity in UMN within programmes and partners remains an ongoing process. Past experiences show that not only relief and development activities but even peacebuilding activities can have negative impacts. Therefore it is important that a complex organisation such as UMN sees all its actions and operations through a conflict sensitivity perspective.

We learned that the key areas to impact mainstreaming are organisational commitment and motivation, enabling organisational culture and continuous capacity building.

Despite some challenges, we have achieved some results as expected:

AT A GLANCE

- 11 Local partners now have conflict sensitive policies
- 39 community-focused plans were reviewed from a 'Do No Harm' lens
- 17 proposals have incorporated conflict sensitivity
- 18 staff are capacitated on conflict analysis skills.

FINANCE



In the year ending 15 July 2017, UMN's consolidated income was USD 9,585,059 and consolidated expenditure was USD 8,811,902. The consolidated accounts of UMN include the full accounts of the Tansen and Okhaldhunga hospitals and the Hospital Services Office and Dhading Disaster Response Programme (DDRP). UMN's accounts have been prepared and guided by the requirements of the UK Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) published in March 2005.

INCOME

Consolidated Income was USD 9,585,059, a decrease of 27.7% on the prior year (USD 13,261,662). The hospital's income was USD 3,567,120 accounting for 37.2% of overall income. Grants from institutions and donations for UMN's clusters work and Dhading Disaster Response Programme amounted to USD 5,938,331 including USD 217,695 of expatriate volunteer services.

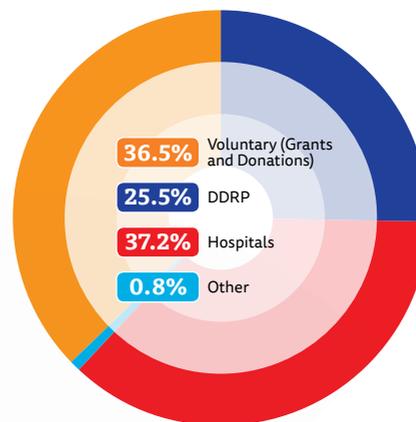
EXPENDITURE

Consolidated Expenditure was USD 8,811,902, a decrease of 14.7% on the prior year (USD 10,333,128). The hospital's expenditure was USD 3,132,275 accounting for 35.5% of overall expenditure. Thapathali and clusters charitable expenditure was USD 5,532,275 accounting for 62.8% of overall expenditure. Charitable expenditure includes Dhading Disaster Response Programme for USD 2,248,269.

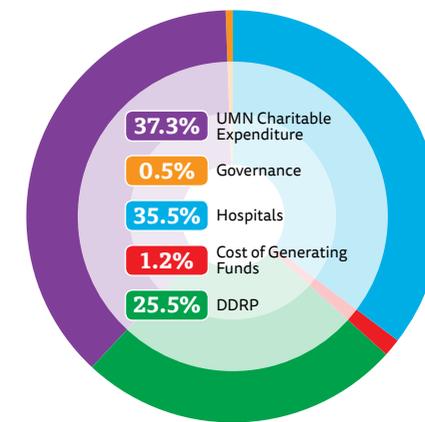
The cost of generating funds at 1.2% are the costs associated with activities to attract donors and individuals to support the work of UMN. Governance costs at 0.5% ensure that there is an adequate governance infrastructure within UMN and cover the cost of the Board, the bi-annual general assembly, financial governance and strategic management.

Excluding governance cost and cost of generating funds, the total expenditure of UMN was USD 8,665,134 (98.3% of total expenditure) including USD 356,740 of support costs allocated in direct proportion to direct costs. No support costs were allocated to the hospitals.

INCOME 2016-17



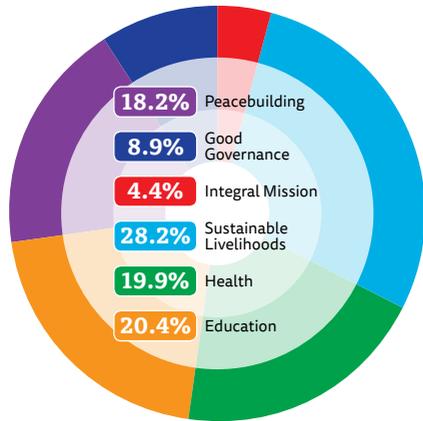
EXPENDITURE 2016-17



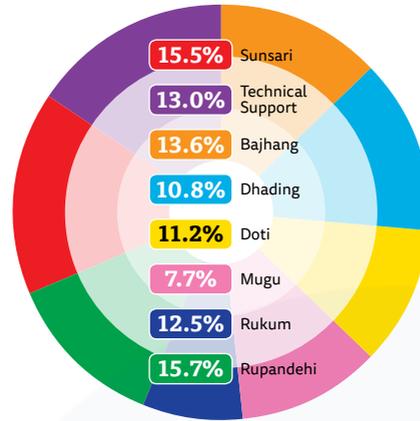
BREAKDOWN OF GRANT INCOME²:

DONOR	USD \$	%
Transform Aid International	\$1,037,174	18.1%
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	\$551,136	9.6%
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	\$480,420	8.4%
Church of Scotland	\$318,042	5.6%
Bread for the World	\$314,198	5.5%
HimalPartner	\$307,919	5.4%
ICCO & Kerk in Actie	\$305,608	5.3%
Tearfund UK	\$280,236	4.9%
TEAR Australia	\$276,238	4.8%
BMS World Mission	\$253,924	4.5%
InterAct	\$170,386	3.0%
PMU InterLife	\$149,869	2.6%
Woord en Daad	\$142,886	2.5%
Tear Netherlands	\$138,446	2.4%
UK Aid	\$132,872	2.3%
Others	\$861,283	15.1%
Total Grant Income	\$5,720,637	100%

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE 2016-17



CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE BY LOCATION 2016-17^{3,4}



BREAKDOWN OF CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE³:

DONOR	USD \$	% of TOTAL EXPEND.	% of CHARITY EXPEND. ⁴
Hospitals	\$3,132,860	37.6%	
DDRP	\$2,248,269	27.0%	
Sustainable Livelihoods	\$833,272	10.0%	28.2%
Health	\$588,406	7.1%	19.9%
Education	\$602,051	7.2%	20.4%
Peacebuilding	\$536,345	6.4%	18.2%
Good Governance	\$261,950	3.1%	8.9%
Integral Mission	\$130,415	1.6%	4.4%
Total	8,333,568	100%	100%

Dhading Disaster Response Programme expenditure totalling USD 2,248,269 represents 25.5% of UMN’s total expenditure³ this year. UMN’s expenditure for its clusters work totalled USD 2,952,439.

The hospitals work in specific geographical locations whereas the rest of UMN’s work is split over a number of geographic locations. The 2016/17 charitable expenditure of UMN is broken down by location (left).^{3,4}

Rupandehi, Sunsari and Bajhang were the locations in which the highest proportion of UMN’s charitable expenditure was spent. Technical support is provided to clusters from managers based in Kathmandu in order to ensure the quality and effectiveness of UMN’s work.



Mugu Cluster, proud recipients of the Annual UMN Audit Award.

Exchange rate: USD 1 = NPR 102.75

¹ Since all financial reports are denominated in NPR, for comparative reasons we have recalculated last year’s figures with this year’s exchange rate.

² Excluding Hospitals.

³ Including Hospitals.

⁴ Figures are given excluding Dhading Disaster Response Programme to allow comparison with previous years.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



FELICITY WEVER *(Chair)*

Felicity is based in Sydney, Australia, and has a background in international aid and development. She is currently the Head of International Programmes for UNICEF Australia. Felicity previously worked for Baptist World Aid Australia, helping to establish UMN's Child-Centred Community Development programmes.



ALEX SWARBICK *(Vice-Chair)*

Alex lives and works in Singapore as Regional Director for leadership development organisation Roffey Park. During the 1990s, Alex worked in Nepal as Personnel Director for the International Nepal Fellowship.



MAHENDRA BHATTARAI

Mahendra has been working as a development consultant for many years. He is Chairperson and leading pastor in a church group in Nepal. He is associated with several Christian organisations and is active in Christian/Non-Christian relations.



HENK BLOM

Henk served with UMN from 1981 until 1990 in Tansen, Palpa. He has fulfilled several leadership posts in different NGOs since then. Henk recently retired from his position of director of the Komensky Consultancy in Pune, India. He lives in Holland.



SHANTA MAYA GURUNG

Shanta is a public health professional and served for many years through faith-based and bilateral organisations within Nepal. Her experiences have mainly been in community health, development, drug & alcohol addiction and HIV & AIDS prevention in Nepal. For the last six years, she has been leading a team which ministers to girls involved in the sex trade.



GRACE KHALING

Grace is an active member of the Nepali Isai Mandali Lalitpur Church, where she serves as an elder, as well as in several volunteer roles. She has been working with the Asian Development Bank for over 28 years, and has considerable work experience with other international organisations. She also serves as a Board member for other para-church organisations.



HOM KHATRI

Hom worked with World Vision International Nepal as Finance Director, and previously as an Internal Auditor. He also serves as a Board Chairman for Bethel Saving and Credit Cooperative Ltd. As a member of Nepal Isai Mandali, he has been providing support in financial management as a finance committee member. He also previously worked for seven years with Nepal Bible Society as Finance and Admin Officer.



SUBASH PRADHAN

Subash is an ordained minister who served as the principal of Nepal Baptist Bible College for eight years. He now serves as one of the revisers in the Revision Team at Nepal Bible Society. Currently, he is on the board of the Living Baptist Church, and also serves as a Board member for other NGOs.



LALBIAKHULUI ROKHUM

Kuki, as she is more popularly known, is currently the Director of Training and Mobilisation of EFICOR, India where she has worked since 2002. Kuki is passionate about issues of justice and is involved in teaching about issues such as HIV and AIDS, creation care and climate change.



DHANAN SENATHIRAJAH

Dhanan is a qualified accountant and Lawyer from Sri Lanka. After serving as Vice President - Finance and Planning at National Development Bank PLC, he moved on to become the National Director for World Vision in Sri Lanka in 2016. He serves on the Sri Lankan Boards of Back To The Bible, Campus Crusade, Vision Fund, Lanka Bible College, and Healthcare Christian Fellowship. He was also Chair of UMN from 2013 -2017.



AJAY SHARMA

Ajay has been working in community development for more than 16 years. He is a Director of WACT, an NGO working in the far western region of Nepal. He has served on the board of different local and national level NGOs in Nepal. He has experience in conducting evaluations of development projects and organisational assessment of NGOs.



RICHARD SYKES

Richard was a lawyer specialising in international work with a London law firm for 30 years. After retiring in 2000, he worked for a year for INF in the Mid-West Region of Nepal. Since then he has returned to Nepal every year, either to work for INF or, more recently, in his capacity as a UMN Board member. He was for over ten years on the Boards of INF UK and the Nepal Leprosy Trust UK.

NATIONAL & CLUSTER PARTNERS



NATIONAL

Micah Network Nepal

BAJHANG

Dalit Sahayog Samaj (DHS)

Ekikrit Bikash Manch

Mahila Kalyan Bachat Tatha Rin Sahakari Samstha Ltd.

Pragatishil Yuwa Samaj (PYS)

DHADING

Chandrajyoti Integrated Rural Development Society

Committed Society For Change (COSOC Nepal)

Dhading Christian Society (DCS)

Himalaya Community Salvation Society (HIMS)

Jagat Jyoti Community Development Centre (JCDC)

Namaste Gramin Bikas Samaj (NRDS)

Nari Jagaran Kendra (NJK)

Prayatnasil Samudayik Bikas Samaj (Prayas Nepal)

Small Farmers Agriculture Co-operative Federation (SFACF)

DOTI

Bar Pipal Saving and Credit Co-operative Ltd. (BPSCCL)

Centre for Equal Access Development (CEAD)

Disabled Service Organisation (DSO)

Rural Community Development Centre (RCDC)

Rural Development Centre (RDC)

MUGU

Buddha Higher Secondary School

Disabled Rehabilitation & Rural
Development Organisation (DARRDO)

Gramin Samudayik Sanstha (GSS)

Karani Community Development Centre (KCDC)

Rinimokshya Samaj Sudhar Kendra (RSSK)

NGO

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RUKUM

Christian Society Development Campaign (CSDC)

Dalit Welfare Organisation (DWO)

Disabled Protection Forum (DPF)

Nepal Magar Society Service & Information Centre (MIC Nepal)

Nepal People Awakening Forum (PAF)

RUPANDEHI

Bikalpa

Dalit Social Development Centre (DSDC)

Isai Samaj Nawalparasi (ISN)

Kapilvastu Institution Development Committee (KIDC)

Lumbini Christian Society (LCS)

Nepal Abinash Social Service Organisation (NASSO)

Sakar Samuha Nepal (SSN)

Sunawal Community Development Centre (SCDC-S)

Sungabha Community Development Centre (SCDC-R)

SUNSARI

Community Development Forum (CDF)

Chandra Mukhi Club (CMC)

District Development Committee (DDC), Morang

Naba Jiwan Samaj Sewa (NJSS)

National Community Development Centre (NCDC)

Nepal Chelebeti Disabled Women Society (NCDWS)

Participant Mobilisation Centre (PMC)

Sundar Samaj Nirman Samuha (SSNS)

NGO

GoN

NGO

NGO

NGO

NGO

NGO

NGO

NGO = Non-governmental organisation

GoN = Government of Nepal

Sch. = School

Co-op = Co-operative

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

AUSTRALIA

Transform Aid International
TEAR Australia

FINLAND

Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission

GERMANY

Gossner Mission

IRELAND

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

THE NETHERLANDS

Tear Netherlands
ICCO & Kerk in Actie

NORWAY

Normisjon
HimalPartner

SWEDEN

InterAct

UNITED KINGDOM

BMS World Mission
Church of Scotland
Tearfund

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

World Mission Prayer League
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

MULTI-NATIONAL BODIES

Interserve

UMN is also grateful to the following organisations for their support this year

Bread for the World-Protestant Development Service, Germany
CEDAR Fund, Hong Kong
Church Missionary Society, UK
Cornerstone Trust, USA
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Germany
The Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief
Forum Wiednest, Germany
Mennonite Mission Network, USA
Mennonite Central Committee, USA
Methodist Church in Britain
Opportunity Education, USA
PMU Interlife, Sweden
Samaritan's Purse, Canada
SIM
Smyrna Church, Sweden
Tearfund, Belgium
UK Aid
UMN Support Trust, UK
United Methodist Church
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), USA
United Methodist Women, USA
World Relief, USA
Woord en Daad, The Netherlands
ZOA, The Netherlands

UMN is also grateful to many individuals, groups and churches around the world who provide faithful support to UMN.





Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society

UNITED MISSION to NEPAL

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