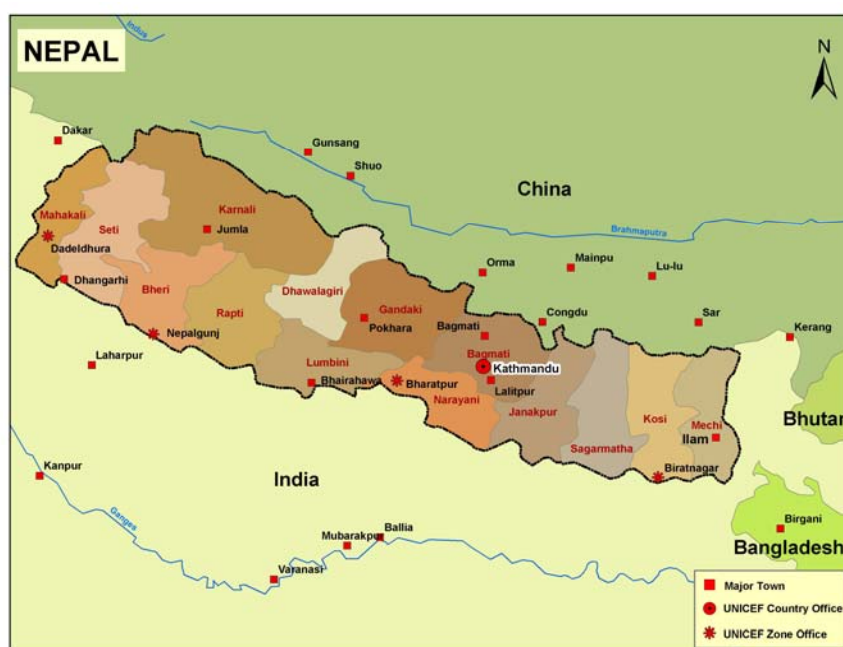


UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

NEPAL

IN 2007



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	12395
Population under 5 (thousands)	3639
U5 mortality rate	74
Infant mortality rate	56
Maternal mortality ratio (2000, adjusted)	740
Primary school enrolment ratio, 2000-2005, net (male/female)	83/73
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	75
% population using improved drinking water sources	90
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	75
% U5 suffering from moderate and severe underweight	48

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2007*

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2007

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	1,055,000
Water and environmental sanitation	495,000
Education	1,120,000
Child protection	3,320,000
Mine-risk education	368,000
Total*	6,358,000

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Due to the Maoist insurgency Nepal has suffered from a civil conflict since 1996. In April 2006 the King stepped back, a ceasefire was declared and a new interim Government was set up that must prepare elections to a Constituent Assembly. At the request of the Government, the United Nations Secretary-General assigned a Personal Representative to support the peace process. Negotiations to bring the Maoist into the political mainstream have just started and many difficult issues need to be addressed. The international community is ready to fully support Nepal's reconciliation and recovery efforts, but a relapse into civil war remains a possibility.

The armed conflict has severely affected children of all ages. In a number of cases, children were killed or injured as a direct result of the conflict, or detained by the Maoists or the State's security forces. Many children were abducted and recruited by Maoist rebels to carry ammunition and supplies, and act as sentries and messengers, or abducted and subjected to political indoctrination. Others were separated from their families or became orphans. Some were pushed into the labour market, including into the worst forms of child labour, and the conflict increased the numbers of children migrating to urban areas to find work in the informal sector. Birth registration was also seriously hampered, making children more vulnerable to exploitation. Access to education and health services has been affected and the number of health care workers and teachers in rural areas declined due to harassment and attacks by the Maoists. Schools were targets of attacks and grounds for Maoist recruitment and political indoctrination, discouraging many families from sending their children to school.

The parties to the conflict have used explosive devices across the country, placing children in grave danger. A recent UNICEF study puts Nepal amongst the 10 most affected countries for victim-activated explosions – ranking higher than Chechnya – and with the second highest proportion of child casualties in the world.

According to the Office of the Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) could be anywhere between 100,000 and 250,000. Generally, these IDPs have either gone to India or quietly settled in district headquarters. The majority wish to remain unidentified due to fear, insecurity or unawareness of their status. Post ceasefire, limited returns have been taking place, but many displaced are not yet ready to return due to security concerns and the absence of other conditions (food security, shelter, income opportunities, and social services).

During the first half of 2006, a severe drought affected 10 districts in the North-West, where child malnutrition rates are under normal circumstances already high. In response, WFP provided emergency food assistance to about 225,000 beneficiaries through food-for-work schemes. Many households lost their cattle and had to sell assets and valuables. Problems were compounded by the near total lack of functioning health facilities in the affected areas. Nepal is highly prone to earthquakes and other natural disasters. Since 1971 more than 3.5 million people have been affected by floods and landslides, which are yearly recurring events. The pre-positioning of drugs and supplies for safe drinking water and education materials has shown to be effective, as was demonstrated by UNICEF's ability to immediately respond to such situations in August/September 2006.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

UNICEF has been working closely with sister UN agencies (most notably ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNOCHA, WFP and WHO), local and international NGOs and bilateral agencies to respond to the needs of the Nepalese children and women affected by the conflict. Particularly, in the period before the ceasefire, national and local human rights organizations played an indispensable role in facilitating access to populations in conflict-affected areas.

There are several coordination mechanisms, including children associated with armed forces and armed groups, Education for All, and the Emergency Health and Nutrition Working Group.

A nationwide vitamin A supplementation campaign reached around 95 per cent of children in April 2006, and polio mop-up campaigns in September 2006 were successfully conducted in five remote conflict-affected districts. UNICEF, WFP and Action Contre la Faim consulted closely regarding standards and modalities for supplementary feeding interventions in 10 districts severely affected by drought. Conflict-induced migration and lawlessness have facilitated the spread of HIV/AIDS. In this regard, UNICEF supported primary prevention activities among young people as well as programmes for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and paediatric care and support. UNICEF carried out several district-level nutrition surveys, which have highlighted the pervasiveness of malnutrition, whether conflict-induced or caused by other factors.

Sanitation and hygiene promotion was conducted in 1,000 schools and the handwashing-with-soap campaign, launched in 2005, was expanded to at least 800,000 people through mass media. Intensive interpersonal promotion has reached over 350,000 in four focus districts and separate toilets for girls and boys were installed in 166 schools and an estimated 43,000 toilets installed in households. Some 150,000 tube-wells were tested for arsenic.

In the education sector, UNICEF continued to support the national welcome-to-school campaign, which it had pioneered in previous years. The focus was on the enrolment of lower caste children, especially girls, in 30 districts, where UNICEF also provided technical support for data management and micro-planning to cope with the increased enrolment resulting from the campaign. An extensive programme to improve quality and retention is also being implemented. In non-formal education UNICEF supported the child-centred out-of-school programme after which children can join the formal school system. UNICEF continued to support innovative HIV/AIDS programming for young people, using a life skills approach aimed at both formal and non-formal education sectors.

With respect to protection, UNICEF has been supporting community-based paralegal committees since 1999 when it started as an anti-trafficking project. With UNICEF's support their role continues to expand. Today these committees are active in over 300 villages in 15 districts in defending children and women's rights and are increasingly playing a role in reconciliation, particularly in the context of returning populations, including returning child soldiers. UNICEF and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are leading the Nepal Task Force on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on children affected by armed conflict violations (UN Security Council Resolution 1612). UNICEF has worked with local NGOs on the monitoring of child rights violations in the context of armed conflict covering 39 districts. In September, UNICEF and a group of UN and NGO partners carried out a first rapid assessment in five districts to identify concerns, risks and pre-conditions for the return of children associated with armed forces and armed groups. Taking into account the concerns of communities for the return of these children and their capacity to support them, a plan of action was developed and implementation started in late 2006.

UNICEF continued its systematic surveillance of victim-activated explosions in Nepal. An annual report will be published early 2007. In September UNICEF started implementing its plan of action for mine/improvised explosive device prevention.

As part of a coordinated response, UNICEF provided 2,000 households affected by heavy floods with hygiene and drinking water supplies, shelter and education materials.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2007

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF collaborates closely with the UN Country Team (UNCT), local and international NGOs and bilateral agencies. The 2006 Consolidated Appeal Process has been particularly fruitful in terms of coordination and the UNCT has continued to work in this spirit. The decentralized character of UNICEF's implementation modalities requires close coordination with district authorities and civil society.

Regular programme

The 2007 short-duration Country Programme focuses on community initiatives in 23 districts to improve the lives of children and women. Nationwide interventions include support to the national immunization and vitamin A programmes. The Country Programme has been adapting its implementation modalities to operate effectively in the context of conflict and post-conflict and the humanitarian activities are woven into the regular programme. UNICEF will target additional areas whenever particularly affected by the conflict.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 1,055,000)

Up to 900,000 people, mostly children and women in districts affected by the conflict or affected by drought or other factors impacting on their health and nutritional status, will benefit from the following key activities:

- Pre-position essential drugs and medical equipment for 50,000 people affected by emergencies;
- Develop micro-plans and train health staff on expanded programme on immunization in 10 districts in the far western part of the country;
- Provide technical assistance on emergency nutrition to the Emergency Health and Nutrition Working Group co-chaired by UNICEF;
- Conduct 10 nutrition surveys in areas affected by man-made and/or natural disasters;
- Establish community-based therapeutic care and treat 1,000 severely malnourished children;
- Provide therapeutic food (F-75 and F-100) to health centres for the treatment of 300 severely malnourished children;
- Rehabilitate health facilities in nine remote conflict-affected mountain districts.

Water and environmental sanitation (US\$ 495,000)

Some 21,000 people affected by the conflict or natural disaster will be reached through the following key activities:

- Rehabilitate 50 gravity-fed water supply schemes in disrepair due to inadequate maintenance during the conflict or damaged by floods, benefiting 2,500 households;
- Train user groups and village maintenance and sanitation workers (VMSWs);
- Train project beneficiaries and VMSWs in handwashing and point-of-use drinking water treatment;
- Provide drinking water and sanitation facilities to 10 schools with the help of child clubs;
- Prepare an intersectoral response plan to ensure immediate response to local disasters;
- Pre-position relief items for hygiene/drinking water supplies and shelter items;
- Translate, print and distribute instruction flyers to be used along with relief items;
- Orient relief agencies on proper use of emergency supplies.

Education (US\$ 1,120,000)

A total of 35,000 displaced and war-affected children will benefit from the following key activities:

- Conduct a rapid assessment on overcrowding in schools in six urban centres;
- Provide alternative education programmes for 3,000 urban out-of-school children affected by the conflict, including life skills-based education;

- Implement the schools as 'zones of peace' programme in selected districts;
- Develop, pre-test and print peace education modules, including psychosocial training;
- Pre-position stocks of basic emergency supplies and equipment for 6,000 children;
- Rehabilitate primary schools in nine remote conflict-affected mountain districts.

Child protection (US\$ 3,320,000)

Some 10,500 children associated with armed groups or otherwise affected by the conflict, as well as 20,000 women and children at risk due to other factors will benefit from the following key activities:

- Develop and implement a national strategy for the recovery and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups and children otherwise affected by the conflict, benefiting 10,000 children aged 10-18 years (advocacy, family tracing, alternative care for special protection cases, psychosocial interventions, formal and non-formal education, vocational training, income-generation, awareness and preparation of the communities and victims for the recovery process);
- Strengthen the Nepal Task Force on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on children affected by armed conflict violations (UN Security Council Resolution 1612) and expand coverage to at least 40 districts and seven core violations (use of children as soldiers, abduction of children, sexual violence, maiming and killing, attacks on schools and health facilities, denial of humanitarian access, and illegal detention related to the conflict);
- Train staff of child protection agencies in basic social work, case management and psychosocial interventions for vulnerable children;
- Establish and strengthen community-based paralegal committees to address violence, abuse and exploitation of children and women, and promote reconciliation in 23 districts.

Mine-risk education (US\$ 368,000)

Communities affected by improvised explosive device will benefit from the establishment of a mine-risk education programme, advocacy and victim assistance through the following activities:

- Regularly convene the Mine Risk Education Working Group;
- Establish a comprehensive management surveillance system;
- Develop awareness and victim assistance programmes;
- Conduct research on mechanisms for reaching target audiences;
- Identify populations most at risk, their location and behaviours that put them at risk;
- Promote systematic risk-reduction strategies, such as standardized marking/fencing.