

# United Mission to Nepal

यूनाइटेड मिसन टु नेपाल



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annual report  
1999-2000

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A former Board Member of the United Mission to Nepal visited Kathmandu after an absence of six years and remarked, "There are so many changes, I barely recognise Kathmandu." For those of us who live in Nepal, it may be difficult to see the changes. Often dwelling on idealistic goals, we fail to recognise advances which have enabled Nepal to enter the mainstream of world events.

Telecommunication advances are the most dramatic. Twenty-five years ago, the only reliable way to communicate externally was by a telegram or cable. When the telephone system was improved, phone

calls could be made anywhere in the world. In the late 1980s the fax was introduced, only to be surpassed a few years later with email communication.

As one problem is solved or a new technology developed, new issues emerge. Among them, is the increasing need to address security issues in UMN programmes. During the past financial year modifications were required in some current UMN projects. However, no projects were curtailed nor suspended. Staff continue to follow their strategic plans and are committed to the communities in which they work.

One highlight was the negotiation and signing of a new five year General Agreement with officials of His Majesty's Government (HMG). The General Agreement is the basis for the work of UMN in Nepal and the foundation on which the sectoral agreements are negotiated and signed in health, education, rural development and engineering and industrial development. These agreements allow UMN to continue to participate with HMG in the development of Nepal and provide meaningful employment for over 1,000 Nepali staff.

This year as before, according to HMG statistics, hospitals related to UMN provided over 20% of all out-patient visits recorded country-wide; UMN community health and non-formal education projects assisted in providing safe motherhood, maintaining immunisation levels, and generally improving the quality of life for people of Nepal. In July, 2000, Khimti I began to produce electricity increasing power resources to an under-served national grid. Although Khimti is not a UMN implemented programme, there was direct UMN involvement throughout the construction work in the provision of highly skilled, technical professionals through the UMN related companies. Rural Development Programmes continued to explore creative interfaces of work with NGOs in Nepal.

The past year also included the beginning of the Mugu Education Project, the Community-Based Organisation Development for Empowerment Programme in Achham and the Tansen Nursing School, a joint venture with HMG's Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training.

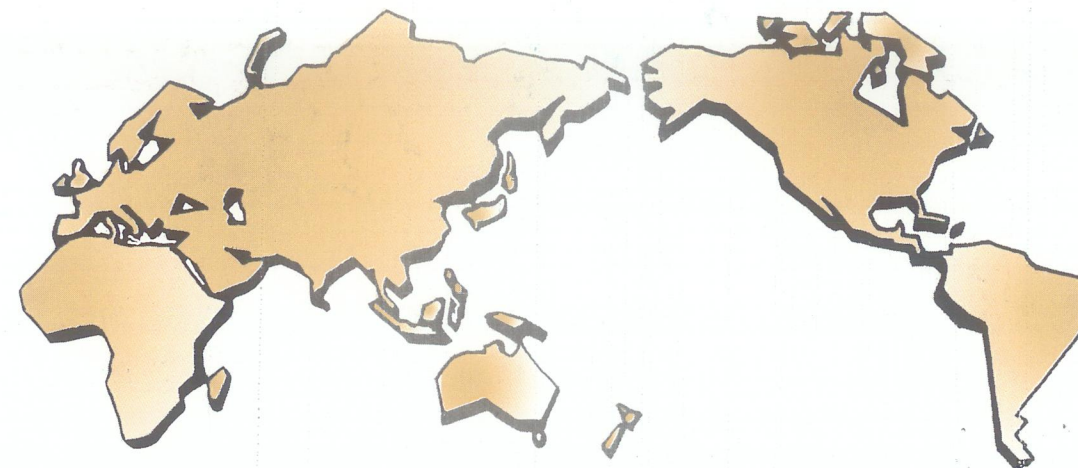
During this year Helen Parsons was honoured by the National Library Association. She was presented with the International Saraswati award for exemplary service in library work in Nepal.

Ten years of democracy have passed. Though some aspirations of democracy have remained unfulfilled, the people of Nepal will keep the dream alive supported by His Majesty's Government. It is a privilege for UMN to continue to be a part of these chapters in Nepal's development as the dream is fulfilled.

With pleasure, this report is shared with officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and with members of the UMN Board of Directors.

*Norma Kehrberg*

**Norma Kehrberg**  
Executive Director



United Mission to Nepal is a joint effort by 33 Member Bodies and 20 Affiliated Member Bodies from 17 countries "to minister to the needs of the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ", in close co-operation with Nepali individuals, organisations and government.

## UMN MEMBER BODIES (Affiliated Member Bodies in *italic*)

### Australia

Church Missionary Society of Australia  
*Life Ministries*  
*TEAR Australia*

### Canada

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

### Denmark

Danmission

### Finland

Evangelical Free Church of Finland  
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission

### Germany

Committee for Service Overseas  
Gossner Mission

### India

Church of North India  
Church of South India  
Presbyterian Church Synod, Mizoram  
*Methodist Church in India*  
*United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India*

### Ireland

Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
*Church Missionary Society*

### Japan

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

### Korea

*Korean Christian Medico Evangelical Association*

### Netherlands

*TEAR fund*  
*Uniting Churches in the Netherlands*

### Norway

Norwegian Himal-Asia Mission  
*Baptist Union of Norway*  
*Norwegian Santal Mission*  
*Pentecostal Mission*

### Phillipines

*Lutheran Church in the Phillipines*

### Singapore

*Singapore Baptist Convention*

### Sweden

InterAct  
Swedish Free Mission

### Switzerland

Swiss Friends for Mission in Nepal

### United Kingdom

Baptist Missionary Society  
Church of Scotland  
Church Mission Society  
Methodist Church, Britain  
Tear Fund

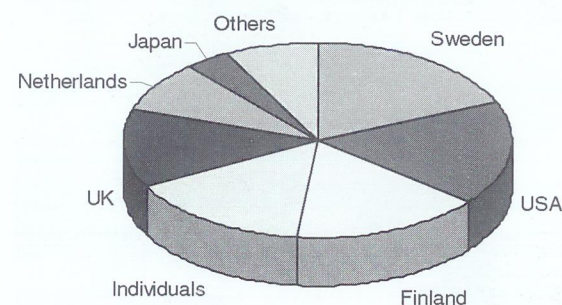
### United States of America

Assemblies of God  
Common Global Ministries Board  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
International Technical Assistance Group  
Mennonite Board of Missions  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
United Methodist Church  
World Mission Prayer League  
*Navigators*  
*Southern Baptist Convention*  
*Wesleyan World Mission*

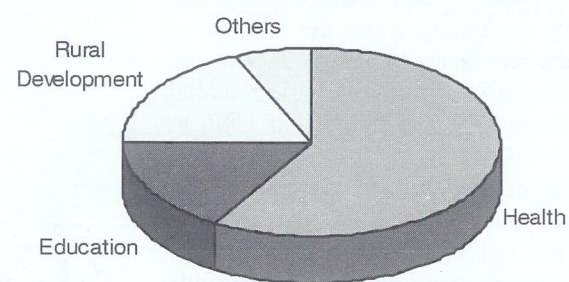
### Multi-national Bodies

Interserve  
World Concern  
*South Asia Group*

**Source of Gifts and Grants 1999/2000**



**Gifts and Grants received 1999/2000, by Department**



### Contribution

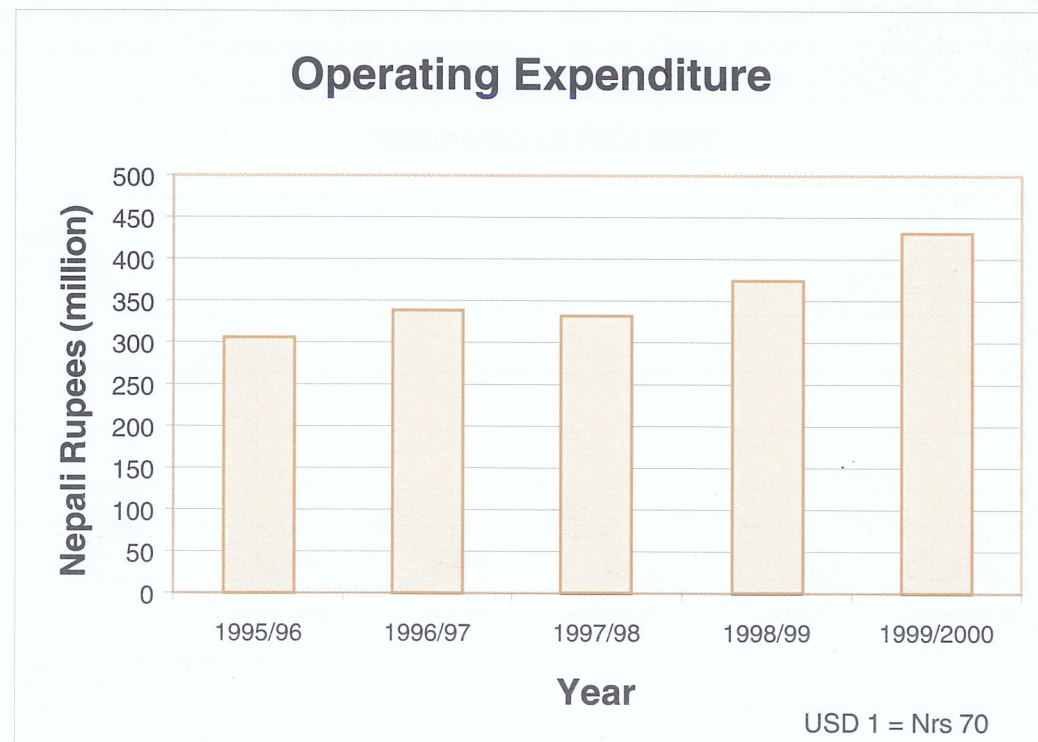
The Finance Department receives and processes gifts and grants from the world-wide community that supports UMN financially. In 1999/2000 gifts and grants were received from over 50 organisations and hundreds of individuals in over 15 countries. The amounts received were faithfully passed to the UMN programmes and used as the donors intended. The sum of gifts and grants was exceeded by locally generated income, in particular in UMN hospitals where patients pay for the service provided. Charity funds make it possible for those who cannot pay to receive treatment.

### Co-operation

UMN employs over 1,000 Nepalis in its various programmes. UMN also has expatriate volunteers who are committed to working alongside their Nepali colleagues. These expatriate volunteers, from many countries of the world, are fully supported to come and live in Nepal by their sending organisations. As the costs of these volunteers are fully paid by their sending organisations no part of the gifts and grants received by UMN is used to remunerate expatriate volunteers.

### Consolidation

Over its long history of working in Nepal, UMN's operating expenditure has steadily increased to over Nrs 430 million (USD 6 million) in 1999/2000.



The Office of the Executive Director (OED) devoted the first half of the past financial year to finalising the UMN Programme Review. Substantial efforts have been put into this work, with numerous seminars, workshops and discussions resulting in material helpful for future planning in UMN. The planning of new activities in the changing context of Nepal will also benefit from this review.

In mid-December 1999 Norma Kehrberg took on the responsibility as UMN's Executive Director. A major task was negotiating the terms of the new General Agreement with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG). Negotiations went smoothly and resulted in the signing of the agreement on 11 September 2000.

Another achievement was the adoption of a Gender Statement by the UMN Board of Directors in May 2000. The statement had been initiated and prepared by the Advisory Group on Nepali Women (AGNW). It is a comprehensive document relating to all aspects of UMN's work, emphasising the importance of equal opportunities for men and women.

An innovative effort by AGNW in the past year was the sponsorship of 46 "Milijuli" radio programmes on women's concerns, aired by Radio Nepal. AGNW also assisted in the formation of a women staff Savings and Credit Co-operative Programme, now registered as a NGO.

The UMN Archives in Edinburgh, Scotland,

scanned over 820 photographs of historical interest, with captions, into a CD-ROM. Historical documents are also being collated in CD-ROM format, to facilitate access to UMN data.

The Communications Office increased its services and enhanced the quality of UMN productions and publications. A new venture was the production of a multi-media presentation of UMN's work to the Board of Directors in May 2000. The production is available in video format. Much effort was put into the building of a new website, launched in August 2000.

The Disaster Response Programme continued to conduct trainings, to raise awareness and to be active in the growing network of organisations involved in disaster preparedness and mitigation.

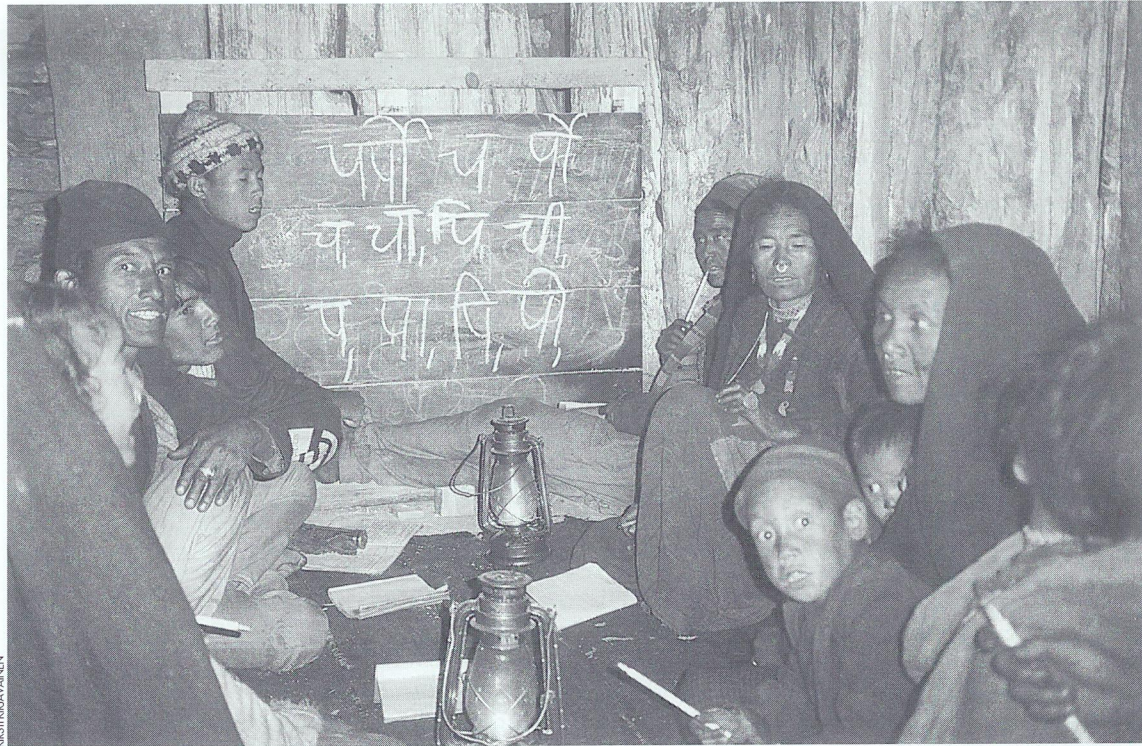
The Tri-Agency Partnership, involving UMN, the Churches Auxiliary Group for Social Action, India, and the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh planned and began implementation of its third phase. Co-operation is increasing on issues of common concern relating to disaster and development.

The Mission-wide Support Project continued to implement its user friendly service programme to facilitate mission need. Last year vehicles and motorcycles travelled 165,652 kilometres, 275,000 parcels were handled, almost four million items of office supplies were transacted, 413,945 photocopies were made and 17,520 guest nights were recorded in the guesthouses.



The new General Agreement between UMN and HMG was signed on 11 September 2000, by Madhav P. Ghimire, Joint Secretary Ministry of Finance and UMN Executive Director, Norma Kehrberg, assisted by K.S. Joshi, Liaison Officer.

- OED activities**
- Advisory Group on Nepali Women Annual Conference Archives
  - Communications Office
  - Disaster Response Programme Headquarters/ Mission-wide Support Project
  - Tri-Agency Partnership



During the past year UMN started Non-Formal Education classes in the remote district of Mugu.

With a majority of Nepal's population still non-literate, many of its children deprived of a quality primary education, and lack of educated professionals in many fields, UMN last year continued its efforts to enhance education. As the 10-year involvement in Non-Formal Education in Jajarkot was phased out, new energy was directed further north, into the Mugu Education Project, commencing in 1999. Another major achievement was the start of the Gandaki College of Sciences, supported by UMN.

Political unrest disturbed some of the activities, particularly in projects in western Nepal. However, the overall impact of the work helped to transform many lives throughout the country.

### Directly implemented projects

The Jajarkot Non-Formal Education (NFE) Project officially closed with a ceremony in January 2000, attended by numerous representatives from government, political parties, local administrators, Non Government Organisations (NGOs), ex-staff and others. A final training programme was held for Village Development Committee (VDC) chairpersons to ensure that small-scale, locally controlled development activities will continue.

The Jajarkot NFE Project has been UMN's most ambitious non-formal education and community development project so far, conducted in a remote area characterised by

difficult circumstances. The activities have covered 28 out of the 30 VDCs in the district. A total of 11,486 people, including 7,747 women and girls, and 4,087 members of particularly disadvantaged groups, have participated in non-formal education classes.

The Mugu Education Project (MEP) was successfully established in 1999. Mugu, located by the Tibetan border in the far north-west of Nepal, is considered one of the country's poorest districts, with very limited infrastructure and harsh living conditions. The villagers' plight grew even worse as a drought resulted in severe food shortage. In partnership with the VDCs and the World Food Programme, UMN implemented a small-scale Food for Work Relief Project for three months. The results have been very powerful, in terms of relieving the immediate need, helping the community to develop some basic infrastructure, and establishing the credibility of UMN.

In the initial year of MEP, much time was spent on building relationships among VDC and district leaders, walking and talking with villagers, setting up the head office and recruiting staff. Furthermore, NFE classes for adults and out-of-school children as well as community development activities were started.

The Dailekh Non-Formal Education (NFE) Project continued its support to villagers, especially women, mainly through Development Co-operative Groups (DCGs) and non-formal

There has been a clear trend in the United Mission to Nepal over the last few years: Nepali employment is increasing while the number of expatriate appointees is decreasing. Expatriate numbers have reduced from 178 visa-holders in 1996 to 136 at the end of last financial year. The number of Nepali staff increased from 1,050 to 1,084 over the last year. This figure does not include employees of institutions jointly managed by UMN and His Majesty's Government (HMG), such as Patan Hospital and Gandaki Boarding School, nor employees of UMN related companies.

One reason behind the trend is that more and more senior positions are being filled by Nepali staff. UMN continues to experience difficulties in recruitment of expatriate professionals, particularly doctors and teachers. Due to urgent vacancies, the Okhaldhunga, Tansen and Patan hospitals, the Kathmandu International Study Centre, the Gandaki College of Science and the tutorial groups in Okhaldhunga, Amp Pipal and Kathmandu were all dependant on short-term personnel, most of whom served for one year.

A comparison of UMN's Policy of Employment with the Labour Act was initiated in order to clarify any ambiguity in staff employment. The Staff Association and Representation System was fully reviewed. Implementation of the new system is scheduled for January 2001. A task force was established to review UMN's salary system and to prepare recommendations for



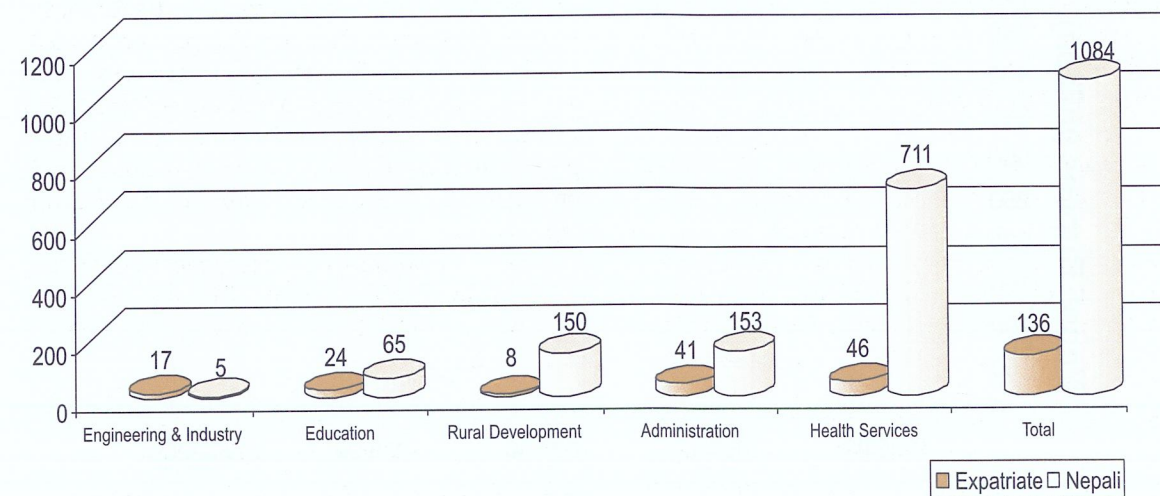
All expatriates are given a five month language and orientation course before they commence working in projects.

UMN's Executive Committee in December 2000.

Twenty-eight new expatriate appointees were recruited for approved visa posts. Those who had not previously been working in Nepal attended the Language and Orientation Programme (LOP), which also provided post-basic training to 30 students.

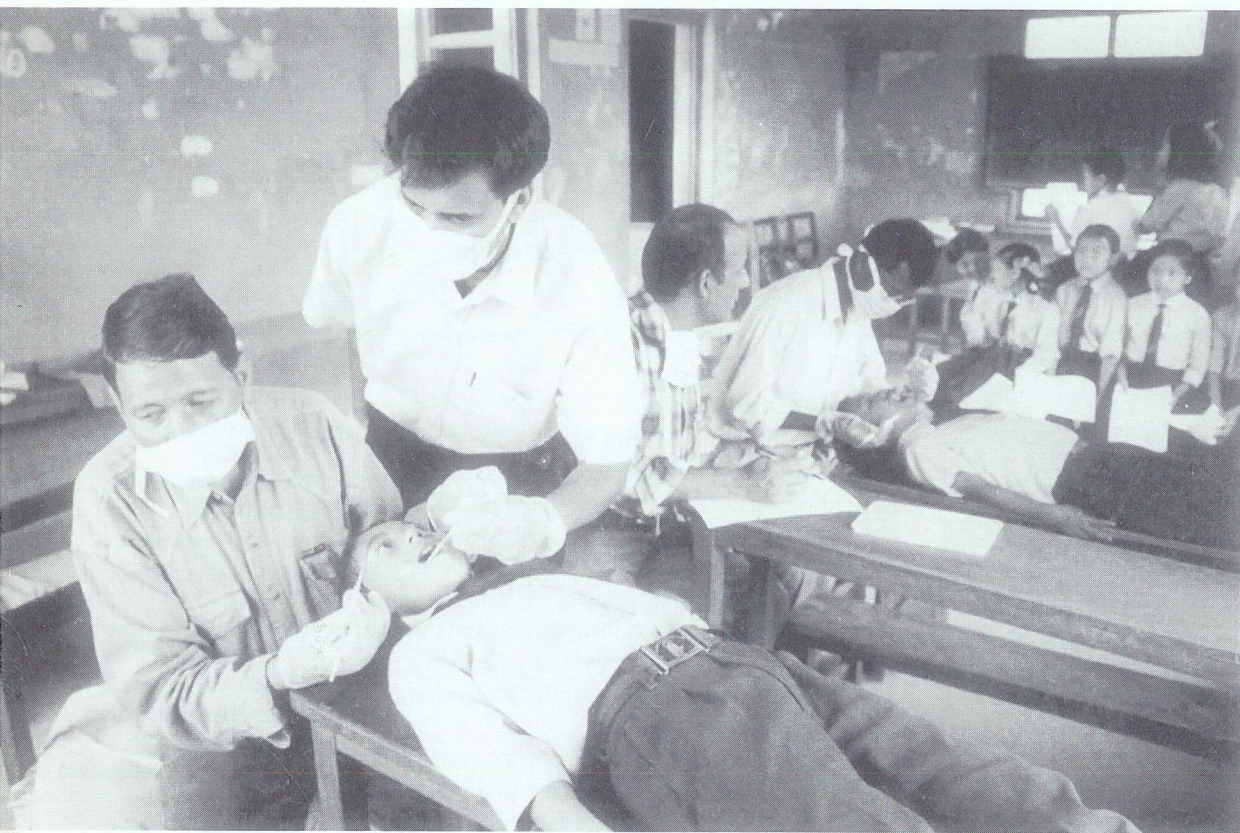
The Training and Development section (T&D) continued to assist UMN staff and projects in their learning and development process. It rejoiced over the successful completion of the Henley Certificate in Management by eight managers. A leadership development programme for the Rural Development Department was completed. New trainings included Proposal Writing, Consultancy and Facilitating skills. The Learning Centre continued to provide interactive learning services and was widely used by staff.

### UMN Staff by Department



### Personnel Department activities

- Employee Relations
- Appointee Support and Administration
- Recruitment
- Language and Orientation Programme
- Training and Development Section



A training organised by the UMN Oral Health Programme.

The Lalitpur Nursing Campus opened a new library in February 2000, thereby significantly improving the working environment for the students. The graduates showed excellent results, with 100% pass for the PCL as well as for the Bachelor of Nursing (BN) students.

**Specialised programmes**

UMN's Oral Health Programme works with a three-fold approach: research, education and training. The research and advocacy efforts last year resulted in the production of an affordable fluoridated toothpaste in Nepal by a private company. Eleven "health promotion schools and orphanages" were established, with over 1,000 schoolchildren brushing daily with fluoridated toothpaste. Oral health training was given to Community Medical Assistants (CMAs), teachers, nurses and volunteer health promoters.

The Mental Health Programme pursued its awareness raising efforts on the national level as well as in communities. It rejoices over the mental health legislation due to be approved, giving legal protection for the mentally ill for the first time. Three staff were seconded part-time for postgraduate teaching at the Institute of Medicine. Trainings were organised in the western regions in particular, for health workers, auxiliary nurse midwives, traditional healers, schoolteachers and other relevant personnel.

The Nutrition Programme raised awareness on nutrition issues, mission-wide and particularly in the districts of Dailekh, Salyan and Jumla. The Jumla Community Nutrition Project was inaugurated. Many trainings were conducted and follow-up was carried out for 56 malnourished children in Dailekh and Jumla. The District Training Programmes in Dailekh and Salyan were handed over to the respective District Health Offices.

The Sakriya Unit (HIV/AIDS) was entrusted to facilitate a technical working group of UNAIDS on the subject of Counselling, Care and Support. A range of materials for awareness raising on HIV/AIDS was developed. Eleven new projects were selected and visited for training of managers, link persons and staff. The projects were assisted in developing HIV/AIDS plans. The Sakriya Unit was also involved in advocacy and consultancy on HIV/AIDS issues.

The Rehabilitation Facilitator gave lectures on rehabilitation of physically disabled to students at Lalitpur Nursing Campus, conducted workshops on disability awareness and assisted the Hospital Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children (HRDC) with their physiotherapy training. She also continued providing consultancy and networking with Nepali organisations.

The Medical Supplies Department continued to provide medical supplies to mission and other non-profit hospitals and health programmes.

The administrative support to the "tb.net" network continued, with activities over the tb.net website and e-mail list increasing. Approximately 125 participants from 15 countries attended the conference on Power, Poverty and TB held in Kathmandu in February 2000.

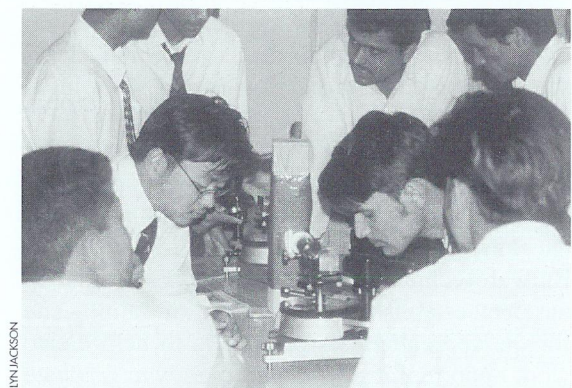
education classes. Thirty-five new DCGs were formed, bringing the total of active DCGs in the district up to 74 with 1,319 female members. Over one hundred NFE classes were conducted and more than 2,000 women completed the basic course. The community development activities included constructing drinking water schemes, toilets and smokeless stoves, organising agricultural fairs and practical trainings, planting trees, and assisting groups in opening savings and credit schemes. Support was also given to primary schools, and out-of-school children were helped to enrol.

**Partnership projects**

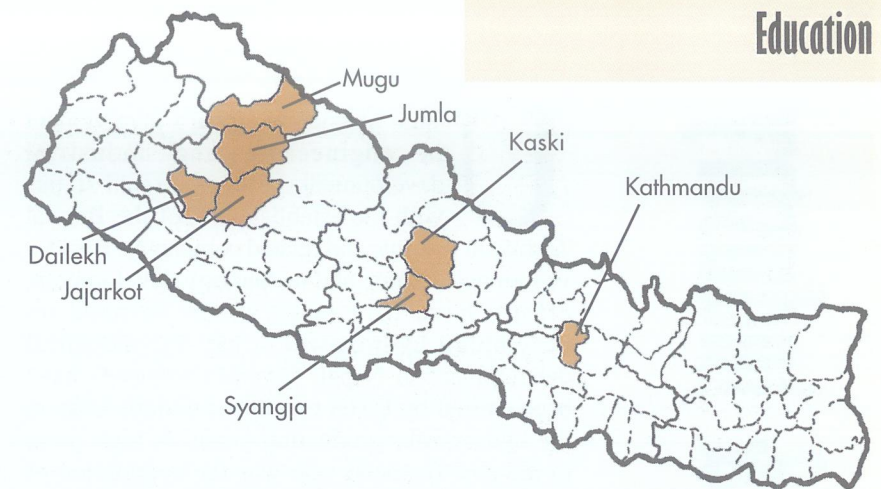
The Karnali Community Skill Training Project (KCST) in Jumla district completed the last year of its first five-year agreement with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). In these five years, numerous non-formal education classes have been held, community development work has been established in three VDCs, and skill training has been provided to local people as well as to students from Karnali Technical School (KTS). Several UMN teachers have contributed to the teaching quality at KTS.

These activities continued during 1999-2000 and will increase further in the years to come, in concordance with KCST's new five-year agreement with CTEVT, signed in July 2000.

The efforts of the School Partnership Project resulted in distinct improvements of school management and teaching practices in both Dullu and Syangja in the last financial year. In Dullu, efforts focused on harnessing community support for the local schools and strengthening management, while the emphasis in Syangja was more directed towards teacher training, with two UMN expatriates based at the partner high school, and visiting trainers helping with training programmes.



Gandaki College of Sciences started in August 1999 with a Bachelor of Applied Science course.



One major event at the Gandaki Boarding School (GBS) was the commencement of its first tertiary education programme, the Bachelor of Applied Science course, in co-operation with Pokhara University. The course started in August 1999 with 30 students, and was formally inaugurated in November 1999 by Nepal's Minister of Education, Mr. Yog Prasad Upadhaya.

GBS continued to achieve excellent results. For the sixth time in seven years, it received the Bir Birendra Shield as the best secondary school in the Western Region. A quarter of the students come from poor backgrounds, and can afford the education through the provision of the GBS scholarship programme.

The partnership with Mahendra Bhawan Girls High School continued, with two UMN teachers seconded for a part of the year. The UMN seconded to the computer science section of Kathmandu University handed over the responsibility for the section to a Nepali colleague whom he has been mentoring for that purpose.

In February 2000, Ms Helen Parsons who had been seconded part-time to the Nepal National Library, ended her 16 years of service in Nepal. She was duly awarded with the International Saraswati Award by the Nepal Library Association in January 2000.

**Support Services**

The Non-Formal Education Support Office and the Book Project were merged into one unit. A Resource Centre was organised at the UMN Headquarters and the publication and distribution of literacy training materials continued, including the popular "Pipal Pustak" books, readers for newly literates. The Scholarship Programme continued to provide scholarships to about 100 disadvantaged students, at both school and vocational levels.

The students at Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC), representing around 20 nationalities, obtained excellent results in their examinations. Tutorial groups operated in six UMN project locations.

- MUGU**  
Mugu Education Project
- JUMLA**  
Karnali Technical School  
Karnali Community Skills Training Project
- DAILEKH**  
School Partnership Project, Dullu  
Dailekh NFE Project
- JAJARKOT**  
Jajarkot NFE Project
- SYANGJA**  
School Partnership Project, Syangja
- KASKI (POKHARA)**  
Gandaki Boarding School  
Gandaki College of Sciences
- KATHMANDU**  
Scholarship Fund  
Library Development  
NFE Support Office  
Tutorial Group Support  
Kathmandu University  
Kathmandu International Study Centre  
Mahendra Bhawan Girls High School

United Mission to Nepal's involvement in engineering and industrial development started in the mid-sixties with the establishment of the Butwal Technical Institute and related companies. Besides vocational training and technology development, efforts have to a large extent focused on developing hydropower, a key for industrial development in Nepal. Several companies have been started by UMN to address various links in the hydropower production chain. A high point in the past financial year was the completion of the 60 megawatt Khimti I Hydropower Project, in which UMN related companies have been highly involved.

Recognising the changing context in Nepal, UMN last year made an assessment of its work in the area of engineering and industrial development. A "Strategic Directions Concept Paper" was approved by the UMN Executive Committee in May 2000, giving the framework for a new Strategic Plan. Enterprise Development is emphasised as a major focus for the future. UMN's Engineering and Industrial Development Department (EIDD) has agreed with the government's Department of Cottage and Small Industries (DCSI) to start an Enterprise Support Programme as a part of the Institute of Technology and Industrial Development (ITID). Simultaneously, the EIDD involvement in vocational and university education, infrastructure development and development of appropriate technology will continue.

### ITID institutions

Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) and Development and Consulting Services (DCS) are jointly managed by UMN and DCSI through the ITID Board. Discussions continued during the past year regarding future structure and targeted self-sustainability of these institutions.

Due to high demand from the industries, large numbers of applicants, and funding available for development of training tools and machinery, BTI increased its intake of apprentices to 72 for the two year training and 28 for the 2+2 year training. The numbers of graduates also increased to 39 and 28 respectively. Measures were taken to increase the number of girl trainees and promote acceptance of female workers in partnering industries. BTI also organised a number of short-term trainings and workshops for BTI graduates and employees of small and medium scale industries.

DCS gains more than 70% of its total revenue from its involvement in micro hydro development. In the past financial year, six micro hydro



A welder at work in the Nepal Hydro & Electric workshop.

schemes were installed in remote areas of Nepal. One of them, a 50 kilowatt plant serving 430 households in Humla, was inaugurated on 18 May 2000 by former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. Another major achievement was the installation of a Low Cost Cold Store pilot scheme in a village in Syangja district in December 1999. The research work on this technology continues. A second version of DCS's Electronic Current Cut Out for Micro Hydro plants was developed. Several new research projects with UMN funding are now being undertaken.

### Partner organisations

A large part of EIDD's work is carried out through partner organisations to which UMN sends expatriate professionals and gives input at board level.

Jhimruk Industrial Development Centre Pvt Ltd (JIDCO), a recent initiative in Pyuthan district, has recruited 16 trainees from the area surrounding the Jhimruk Hydropower plant for training at the Butwal Technical Institute. JIDCO's workshop has been established and serves as a training site for the apprentices. A priority is to help create work opportunities for the trainees who graduate in January 2001. A contract was entered into with DCS to implement enterprise development activities. Several enterprise and animal and poultry

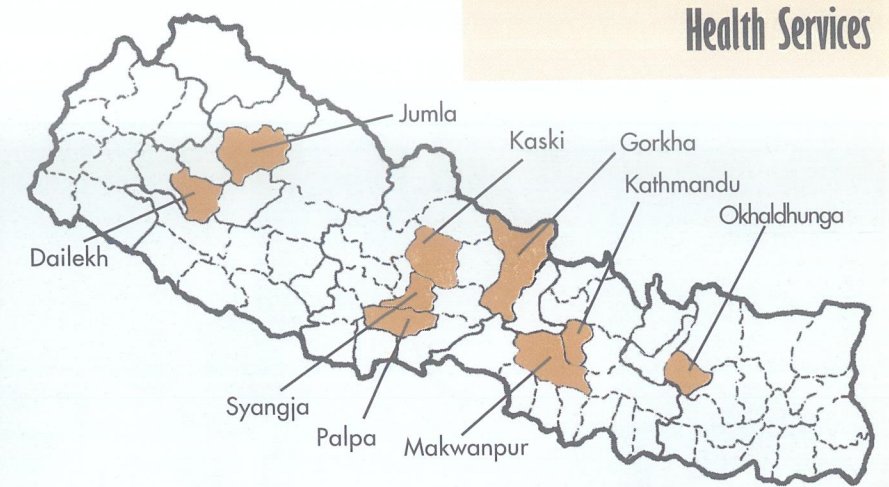


Child care is an important part of UMN's Community Health Programmes.

The two rural mission hospitals in Amp Pipal and Okhaldhunga noted a decrease in the number of patients. In Amp Pipal the TB work continued to be a priority, resulting in the best figures reported in Nepal's Western Region. Besides the daily activities, a health camp was organised in Larkye in the northern part of the district, and an eye camp within the hospital premises. A structural survey of the hospital buildings showed that the hospital structure is essentially sound.

The Okhaldhunga Health Project gave high priority to training and awareness raising on HIV/AIDS. Health education in general is emphasised in Okhaldhunga, where community health and hospital activities are integrated in the same project. The on-going development of a district-wide referral system involving government health posts and sub-health posts is showing positive results. In mid-November a TB DOTS (Directly Observed Therapy Short-course) programme started in the district, with the hospital as the diagnostic and treatment centre.

Training continued to expand in the UMN hospitals. Patan Hospital now has 13 doctors at any time from the Institute of Medicine's post-graduate programmes. United Mission Hospital, Tansen, received approval to take medical interns for the first time and Okhaldhunga Hospital became part of the Medical Doctorate in General Practice (MDGP) programme.



### Community Health

UMN's community health projects continued to reach out to poor and disadvantaged groups and individuals in the districts of Palpa, Okhaldhunga, Gorkha, Lamjung, Lalitpur and Makwanpur. Support to government health posts and village clinics was given high priority. The Community Development and Health Programme and the Yala Urban Health Programme were involved in a new decentralised community health programme in Lalitpur, initiated by HMG.

A wide range of activities was carried out in the community health programmes. The emphasis was on establishing community groups and organising non-formal education and health-related trainings with the aim of raising awareness and strengthening public health. The development activities included construction of toilets and water systems, cultivation of kitchen gardens, distribution of livestock and seeds.

The Yala Urban Health Programme's (YUHP) partnership with the Patan City Council to improve the health status of the urban population blossomed during the past year. Its DOTS programme was selected as a model of public-NGO partnership for the WHO "Stop TB" campaign. One YUHP staff member was seconded to the recently established Public Health Unit.

### Nursing Education

The opening of the Tansen Nursing School gave life to the premises below the mission hospital, which have been empty since Auxiliary Nurse Midwife education was discontinued in 1993. A first batch of 31 students, selected out of more than 400 applicants from all over Nepal, started their Proficiency Certificate Level (PCL) course in March 2000. Fourteen of them have been awarded scholarships for their education. In two years 90 students will fill the renovated campus. Students obtain their clinical practice in the mission hospital, the Palpa Community Health and Development Project and other neighbouring hospitals.

### JUMLA

Nutrition Programme

### DAILEKH

Nutrition Programme

### SYANGJA

Mental Health Programme

### PALPA

United Mission Hospital, Tansen

Community Health & Development Project

### MAKWANPUR

Community Development & Health Project

### OKHALDHUNGA

Okhaldhunga Health Project

### KATHMANDU/LALITPUR

Anandaban Leprosy Hospital

Community Development & Health Project

Institute of Medicine

Lalitpur Nursing Campus

Medical Supplies

Department Mental Health Programme

Nutrition Programme

Oral Health Programme

Patan Hospital

Sakriya Unit

Yala Urban Health Programme

### GORKHA

Amp Pipal Hospital

Gorkha Community Health Programme

### KASKI (POKHARA)

Mental Health Programme



*In UMN hospitals patients do not only receive good care, they are also met with love and compassion.*

**H**ealth status indicators show that public health in general is improving in Nepal. The government (HMG) is committed to continuing to develop health services, and increasingly emphasises the importance of private/non-governmental partners. During the past year UMN was asked to participate in the national planning process, as the largest non-governmental health care provider in Nepal. UMN also assisted the government with the work on developing a hospital accreditation system and operational manuals for public as well as private hospitals, work that is continuing this year.

Public-private partnership is expressed by HMG as the way of the future. Patan Hospital, jointly run by the Ministry of Health and UMN, has for many years been an outstanding example of such co-operation. The opening of the Tansen Nursing School in March 2000 as a joint venture of the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) and UMN, paved the way for further partnerships.

Although improvements have been made in the health sector, Nepal still has much ground to cover when it comes to "responsiveness" and "fairness", two elements in health care emphasised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its "World Health Report 2000". UMN addresses these elements by promoting local people's participation

at all levels, and through charity funds covering costs for those who cannot pay for their treatment themselves.

Among issues hindering full success of UMN's health work in the past year were political instability in several working areas, and difficulties in filling vacancies in urgent positions. Shortages of both Nepali and expatriate professionals have caused problems. Continuous efforts are being made to fill further senior positions with Nepali staff.

### Hospitals

Patan Hospital saw a considerable growth in activities in the year 1999/2000. The number of outpatients increased by 6.4% from the previous year. On three successive days in June 2000, over 1,400 outpatients were seen. The number of inpatients increased by 6.5% and the laboratory procedures by 22%. The Intensive Care Unit, which opened in 1999, is now well established and the orthopaedic services expanded.

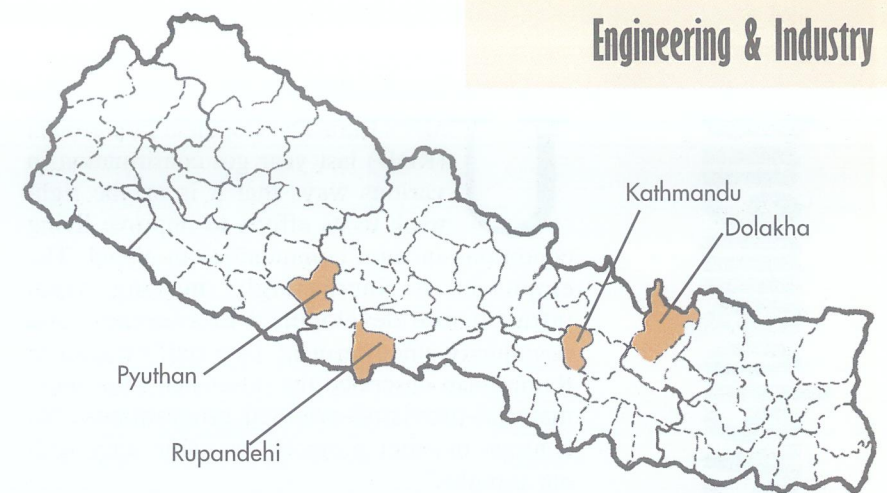
High numbers also prevailed in United Mission Hospital, Tansen, with a bed occupancy of 95%. A Burns Unit opened, relieving pressure on surgical beds. Dental patients increased by 50%. Plans were prepared for constructing a new building for outpatients and surgical consulting.

farming activities have resulted out of trainings in enterprise creation and income generation.

Hydro Consult Pvt Ltd (HCPL) was recently established to carry out consultancy work related to hydropower development. The company is promoted by People, Energy and Environment Development Association (PEEDA), an Non Government Organisation whose members have all had long associations with UMN related organisations. HCPL commenced business in July 2000 and has applied to the Department of Industry to be licensed as a consultancy. It is expected that UMN will second expatriates to this company.

Butwal Power Company Ltd (BPC) continued its process towards privatisation. UMN expatriates have played an important role in the work of the company, particularly in the Hydroconsult Department. A major milestone was the completion of the 60 megawatt Khimti I Hydropower Project, generating power to the national grid ahead of schedule. UMN has supplied dozens of key personnel over the years. The UMN secondment through BPC to the general manager post of Himal Power Ltd (the developer of the project) ceased at the end of the last financial year.

Himal Hydro and General Construction Company Ltd (HH) and Nepal Hydro and Electric Pvt Ltd (NHE) have also been part of the Khimti I Hydropower Project. UMN's support to the



development of these companies continues with secondment of expatriate engineers and share ownership of HH.

Butwal Plywood Factory Pvt Ltd (BPF) failed to obtain a lease certificate for the land in Jogikuti, Butwal, on which its trees are planted. Therefore it was decided to close the company, which is now in the process of liquidation. The forest has been handed over to the government and equipment has been sold to a private party.

Kathmandu University (KU) received continued support by EIDD through secondment of teachers to the School of Engineering. A new two-year agreement was signed in October 1999 between UMN and KU allowing for the placement of up to seven UMN expatriates to the university at any one time.

- PYUTHAN (JHIMRUK)**  
Jhimruk Industrial Development Centre Pvt Ltd
- RUPANDEHI (BUTWAL)**  
Butwal Technical Institute Development and Consulting Services  
Nepal Hydro and Electric Pvt Ltd  
Butwal Plywood Factory Pvt Ltd
- DOLAKHA (Khimti)**  
Himal Power Ltd
- KATHMANDU**  
Butwal Power Company Ltd  
Himal Hydro and General Construction Ltd  
Kathmandu University  
Hydro Consult Pvt Ltd



*Butwal Technical Institute is still the only apprenticeship training institute in Nepal. It provides training to both girls and boys.*

UMN's Rural Development Department (RDD) last year got confirmation in various ways that it is on the right track in its efforts to improve living conditions in rural communities in Nepal. The emphasis is increasingly moving from infrastructure development to awareness and community empowerment. One staff member in Ramechhap described the difference from more material-provision-oriented programmes; "In contrast to other projects, we came only with our mouths."

But this approach has proved successful. As UMN staff are phasing out of communities where they have lived and worked for a long time, groups express their gratitude and appreciation for the skills they have acquired to continue their own development work. In several cases efforts have resulted in the formation of new independent Non Government Organisations.

RDD hopes that the same development will take place in Achham, where a new project was launched in January 2000. It is UMN's first community development project in Nepal's Far Western region.

Partnership with Nepali organisations is steadily increasing, in many cases as a result of former RDD projects reformulating as independent NGOs. RDD is also working continuously to improve co-ordination with government activities. A two-day co-ordination workshop was organised

together with the Ministry of Local Development in March 2000. The participants included District Development Committee (DDC) chairpersons, vice chairpersons, secretaries and local development officers from UMN working areas, UMN personnel and representatives from the Ministry of Local Development and the National Planning Commission.

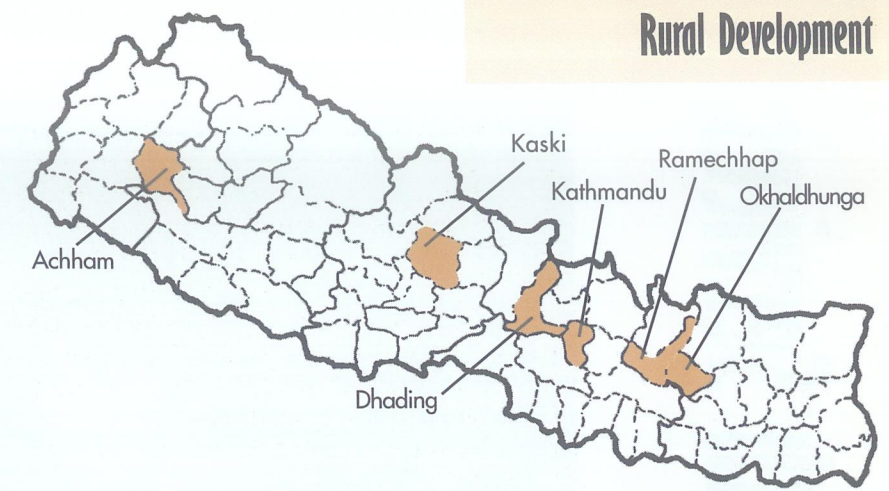
### Community Empowerment and Development Projects

The opening of the Community Based Organisational Development for Empowerment (CODE) project in the remote Achham district on 17 January 2000 was one of the high points for RDD during the past financial year. Many representatives from His Majesty's Government (HMG), UMN and local communities took part in the ceremony, including DDC chairman Krishna Prasad Jaisi. In the initial phase of the project priority has been given to establishing relationships with local authorities and NGOs. Activities have focused on staff training and identification of marginalised communities and their concerns, in Mastamandu, Ganjara and Babla VDCs. The project will continue to work with these communities using "codes" in the form of pictures, stories, role-plays etc to initiate discussions about problems identified in the groups. The aim is to give group members skills to find solutions to their problems using locally

available resources. As soon as a group functions well on its own, the project staff withdraw and offer consultancy, leadership training and other kinds of support. The target is to establish 90 active, self-sustained and interdependent community groups within five years.

The Ramechhap Community Development Project (RCDP) continued working with the 44 community groups formed in six VDCs of the district, building on the previous year's achievements. A further 48 groups were formed in the year 1999/2000. Of the total of 1,582 group members at the end of the financial year, 53 percent were women. Leadership and community development trainings were given according to the needs expressed by the groups.

The Dhading Resource Management Project (DRMP) kept its focus on forming and equipping Forest User Groups with skills to manage community forests and to carry out community development activities. Women in particular have been encouraged to participate in Forest User Groups. A total of 33 Community Forests were handed over by the government to over 11,000 beneficiaries. A positive development was the formation of an independent NGO by staff members from DRMP. This NGO will implement some of the DRMP activities in the next financial



year. Another highlight was the successful completion of a one-year pilot project to explore medicinal plant cultivation, carried out by marginalised communities.

### Training and Consultancy Projects

The Non-Government Organisation Support Project (NGOSP) worked with 18 grassroot NGOs and 4 co-operatives in 11 districts during the past year. The staff have increased their expertise in micro-finance and savings and credit co-operative management in order to meet the training demand from partner organisations.

The Rural Development Centre (RDC) in Pokhara managed to increase its trainings significantly, while still maintaining the focus on poor rural families and women. The Animal Health Training and Consultancy Service (AHTCS), formerly a section within RDC, was registered as a separate NGO in January 2000. From the new financial year, AHTCS will work independently, but in partnership with RDC and RDD's Nepali Organisation Unit.

The Agriculture Forestry Consultancy Unit (AFCU) continued to implement the Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Nepal (PSAN) project, in partnership with the Nepal Permaculture Group, with various trainings, workshops and publication of materials in the areas of agriculture and forestry.

### Nepali Organisation Unit (NOUnit)

RDD increasingly works through partnerships with Nepali organisations. The NOUnit last year partnered with nine organisations, offering support with training and consultancy as the organisations carried out their own development activities. Special coaching was given to the Okhaldhunga Rural Development through Local Efforts (ORDLE) project, implemented by an NGO founded by former UMN staff. The RISE programme channelled funds from donors to four local NGOs who work with poor and marginalised community groups, and assisted with monitoring, follow-up and organisational strengthening.

- ACHHAM**  
Community-Based Organisation Development for Empowerment
- DHADING**  
Dhading Resource Management Project
- KATHMANDU**  
Agriculture Forestry Consultancy Unit  
NGO Support Project  
Nepali Organisations Unit
- OKHALDHUNGA**  
Okhaldhunga Rural Development Through Local Efforts
- RAMECHHAP**  
Ramechhap Community Development Project
- KASKI (POKHARA)**  
Rural Development Centre



Support to women's groups has a high priority in several RDD projects.



Medicinal plants have become a new source of income for villagers in Dhading.