

United Mission to Nepal



यूनाइटेड मिसन टु नेपाल



United Mission to Nepal

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ANNUAL REPORT 2000 - 2001

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The first few months as Executive Director gave me the opportunity to get to know the United Mission to Nepal from within - by visiting projects, spending time listening to staff at all levels, talking to UMN partners and meeting people in communities where UMN is working. I was impressed by the breadth of the work, the commitment among staff and the fruit of UMN activities in the lives of communities and individuals. UMN to me grew from a nodding acquaintance to a much beloved friend, much more than merely a working place. I feel honoured and also humbled by the responsibility of leading United Mission to Nepal into the future.

When you come to know a friend, you learn to appreciate his or her strengths but also to discover weaknesses and sides that need to develop. External as well as internal issues have made it clear that UMN needs to change. We have therefore embarked on a journey of transformation, with the hope of determining what God wants us to focus on in the years ahead. The first steps are to reassess who we are and what our mission is, and to analyse how the context in which we live and work is changing. In this process we appreciate and encourage the participation of all UMN stakeholders.

We rejoiced greatly over the new five-year agreement with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N), signed in September 2000, renewing the framework for UMN's activities. Sectoral agreements that followed further underlined the positive relationship and co-operation between HMG/N and UMN.

Much time and energy was spent last year on security issues. Several of UMN's programmes were affected in various ways by the Maoist insurgency, with some having to be temporarily suspended or discontinued. We are concerned by the continued unrest, and its consequences for poor and marginalised individuals and communities throughout Nepal. We pray together with the Nepali people and with friends of Nepal throughout the world for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Problems and disturbances, however stressful and demanding when they occur, must be put into a right perspective. Significant results have been achieved over the past year in the interaction between UMN projects, staff, partners at various levels, local communities and individuals. This Annual Report gives a glimpse of these achievements and of activities that took place in UMN programmes and projects in the year 2000/2001. Yet written reports and statistics cannot capture the radical changes experienced in many communities' and individuals' lives throughout Nepal. Chola Devi Dahal, a participant in a non-formal resource conservation and literacy class in Dhading, speaks for many when she describes her and her friends' transformation: **"Before, we used to give our fingerprint because we couldn't even sign our name. Now we have a long-term vision"**.

Jennie Collins

Jennie Collins
Executive Director

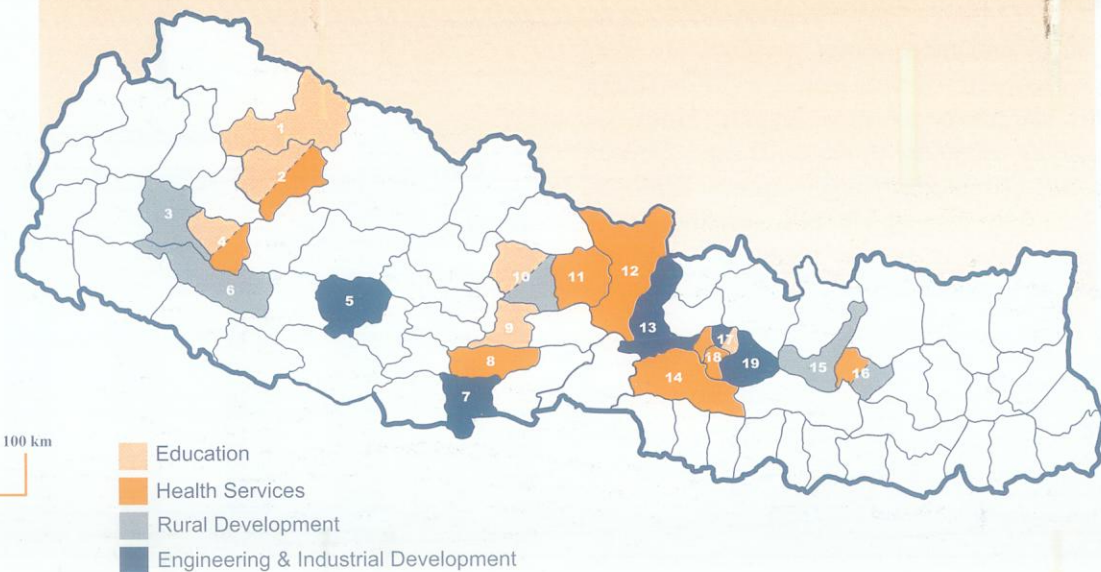
United Mission to Nepal is a joint effort by 30 Member Bodies and 23 Affiliated Member Bodies from 16 countries "to minister to the needs of the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ", in close co-operation with Nepali individuals, organisations and

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

- Australia**
Church Missionary Society of Australia
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
- Netherlands**
Tear Fund
Uniting Churches in the Netherlands
- Norway**
Norwegian Himal-Asia Mission
Baptist Union of Norway
- Normisjon**
Norwegian Pentecostal Mission
- Singapore**
Singapore Baptist Convention
- South Africa**
SAAWE
- 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
Tearfund
- United States of America**
Assemblies of God
Common Global Ministries Board
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
International Technical Assistance Group
Mennonite Board of Missions
Mennonite Central Committee
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
United Methodist Church
World Mission Prayer League
American Baptist Church
Maryknoll Sisters
Navigators
Southern Baptist Convention
Wesleyan World Mission
- Multi-national Bodies**
Interserve
World Concern
South Asia Group

United Mission to Nepal works through programmes, projects and partners in 19 of Nepal's 75 districts. In addition to the partners listed below (in *italic*), UMN provides support to a large number of other Nepali organisations involved in development work across Nepal.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
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Kathmandu International Study Centre
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Oral Health Programme
Sakriya Unit
tb.net Support Project
Agriculture Forestry Consultancy Unit
NGO Support Project
Nepali Organisation Unit
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The General Agreement between United Mission to Nepal (UMN) and His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) was renewed on 11 September 2000, sealing the positive working relationship between UMN and the government for a new five-year period. In the financial year 2000/2001, UMN continued to work in co-operation with government and local organisations throughout Nepal in the areas of Education, Engineering and Industrial Development, Health Services and Rural Development. A brief summary of last year's achievements is provided in the following pages.

Jennie Collins assumed the leadership of UMN in December 2000. Following her appointment, and building on previous programme reviews undertaken in the organisation, a Change Process was initiated aimed at determining the future direction of UMN. Considerable time was spent at the Board of Directors meeting, the Annual Conference and other forums to define and discuss issues that need to be addressed and considered in this process. These include changes in the context in which UMN works, both within Nepal and internationally. A "Change Team" was appointed to prepare for the Change Process in consultation with the Executive Director.

The security situation in Nepal became the most urgent of external issues that UMN had to deal with over the year. The Maoists intensified their "People's War" after the fifth Anniversary of the insurgency in February 2001, and several UMN projects were directly affected. A contingency planning and preparedness officer was appointed to co-ordinate security measures and preparation for potential emergency situations.

Organisation-wide, cross-departmental activities included the Disaster Response Programme and the Advisory Group on Nepali Women. The Disaster Response Programme organised workshops for staff on earthquake preparedness, and strengthened links with government offices and other organisations active in the field of disaster response and mitigation. Disaster preparedness, including food security, also continued to be the focus of the Tri-Agency Partnership, involving UMN,

the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh, Churches Auxiliary for Social Action, India, and NCC Sri Lanka.

The Advisory Group on Nepali Women continued their advocacy activities promoting the status of women and girls in the Nepali society, largely through workshops and training sessions in UMN projects and UMN partner organisations.

Support Activities

The Communications Office, the Headquarters/ Missionwide Support Project, and the various sections of the Personnel and Finance Departments continued to strengthen and support UMN as a whole, its staff and its various programme units. Priority was given to the professional development of the Nepali staff through the Training and Development Section. The Language and Orientation Programme helped new expatriate appointees adjust to living and working in Nepal. Expatriate children's education was provided through the Kathmandu International Study Centre and tutorial groups in project locations. The Nepalgunj Liaison Office provided logistic support to the projects in west Nepal.

A major achievement by the UMN Archives in Edinburgh, Scotland, was the publication of a set of five CD Roms with documents from the history of UMN. A separate CD Rom with historical photos was also published.



Staff meeting at UMN Headquarters.



Non-formal education for out-of-school children in Mugu.

Education is a key element in development work, and the need for strengthening education in Nepal is still huge, at all levels. United Mission to Nepal last year continued its efforts in this field in co-operation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N), both through non-formal education activities and through involvement in formal education at primary, secondary and vocational levels.

Directly implemented projects

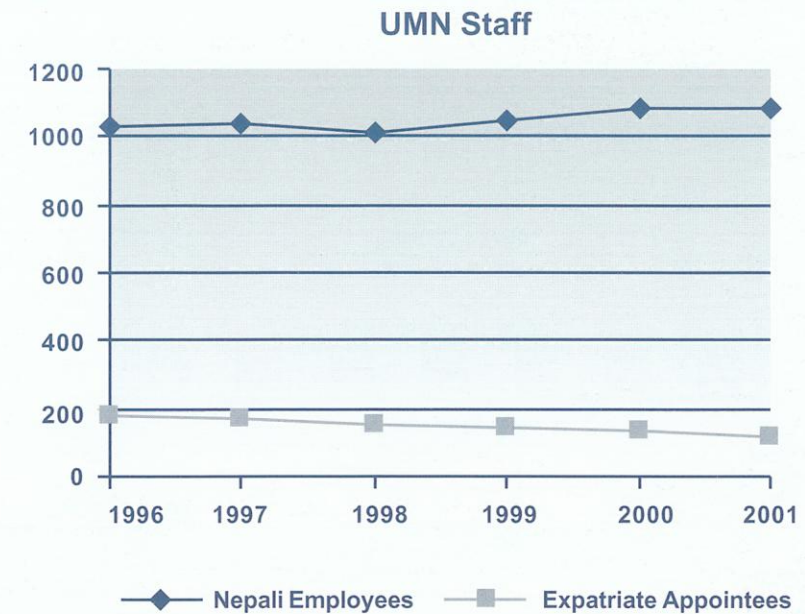
UMN's education projects in Nepal's mid-western region were seriously affected by the increased Maoist activities and political unrest towards the end of the financial year 2000/2001. The head office of the Dailekh Non-Formal Education Project was burnt to the ground by insurgents on 27 May, and the project was suspended. The Mugu Education Project continued work throughout the year, but activities were reduced as a result of political tensions in the district.

Despite these problems, many positive results were achieved. In Dailekh, 35 new Development Co-operative Groups (DCGs) were formed, bringing the total up to 74 groups in the seven Village Development Committees (VDCs) covered by the project. The groups

consist entirely of women, and many of them continued to function independently after the project was suspended.

The project assisted the DCGs with literacy training, training in leadership and management, and supported various development initiatives, including income generation activities and drinking water projects. Poor children, mainly from occupational castes, received scholarships in the form of school uniforms and stationary, and were helped to enrol in local primary schools. Many of the DCGs engaged in the management of schools, resulting in better learning environments.

In the Mugu Education Project there was an emphasis on community development training, with more than 100 people receiving training related to their daily needs. This included agriculture, animal health, forestry and drinking water. The project continued work on sanitation, nutrition and general health awareness, largely through community groups formed in the project area. A total of 31 groups were involved in leadership training, learning how to make their own plans and take responsibility to carry them out. Research continued on the local language of Mugum, to determine the most appropriate dialect for



The work of UMN is made possible through personnel and financial resources provided from within Nepal and by Member Bodies and donors in more than 15 countries around the world.

Personnel

Nepali staff numbers increased slightly in 2000/2001, to 1,085 employees by the end of the financial year. This does not include staff of UMN partners such as Patan Hospital, Gandaki Boarding School, Butwal Technical Institute and Development and Consulting Services. Meanwhile, the number of expatriate visa holders on assignments of more than one year decreased to 117, a halving since 1990.

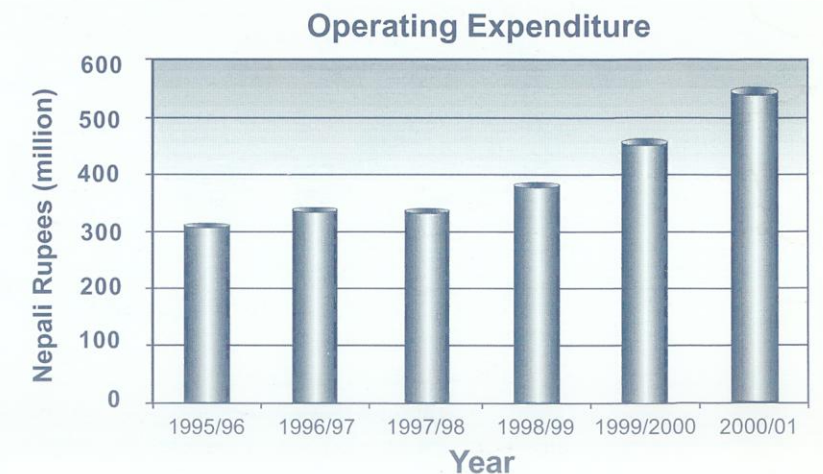
More and more senior positions are filled by Nepali staff – a clear majority of Programme Unit Directors are now Nepali. However, providing expatriate professional expertise with the aim of building Nepali capacity continues to be a key part of UMN's contribution to Nepal. A total of 16 new expatriate appointees were recruited in the last financial year. Problems in finding suitable personnel left a number of other positions vacant, causing difficulties for several UMN programmes and institutions. Some urgent vacancies were filled temporarily by shorter-term volunteers.

Finances

UMN's Operating Expenditure increased to 547 million rupees in 2000/2001. This is the

result of continued programme expansion, combined with a higher than usual pay award following a salary review. The largest part (75%) is spent on Health Services work, which also accounts for the majority of UMN's employees (66%). These resources are spent entirely on development work in Nepal. They do not cover salaries and costs for expatriate workers, who are supported directly by sending organisations in their home countries.

Gifts and grants were received from a number of Member Bodies, charities, government agencies and individuals in Asia, Europe, North America and the Pacific. SAAWE, South Africa, was the first African organisation to join UMN as an affiliated member in April 2001.





TB DOTS treatment in Okhaldhunga.

Nurse Training

Once again students at both Lalitpur Nursing Campus and Tansen Nursing School achieved excellent examination results. A total of 34 students from poor financial backgrounds in Lalitpur, and 16 students in Tansen, received scholarships for their studies.

Lalitpur Nursing Campus increased its admission of new Bachelor of Nursing students from 10 to 20 per year. A process has begun of preparing to run the campus under a different institutional arrangement in the future, independent from UMN.

Tansen Nursing School has welcomed its third batch of students. The school operates through a partnership agreement between UMN and the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). UMN seconded one Nepali employee to the post of principal and two expatriate teachers in 2000/2001.

Specialised Projects

UMN's specialised health projects continued to focus on specific areas of health need in Nepal. The following are a few highlights:

The Mental Health Programme provided training for health workers in basic mental health and conducted a basic counselling course at St Xavier's campus.

The Nutrition Programme worked with awareness raising, training and growth monitoring of children in Jumla and Dailekh districts. Supplemental feed "Paustik Sanjiwani" was developed for malnourished adult hospital patients.

The Oral Health Programme influenced the national oral health strategic planning, and successfully lobbied Nepal Lever Ltd and Colgate to fluoridate toothpaste. Oral health education was given to more than 16,000 children through "Health Promotion Schools" with daily tooth brushing programmes. Oral health training was provided to schoolteachers and health workers. Research continued on appropriate technology for decayed teeth.

The Medical Supplies Department continued to provide medical supplies for UMN- and INF-related hospitals and health programmes.

The Rehabilitation Facilitator developed a curriculum for a four-year Bachelor of Physical Therapy course. A Non-Formal Education Disability Awareness project was launched in partnership with Handicap International.

The Sakriya Unit's work of awareness raising in all UMN projects entered its final phase as the last projects entered the process. The Unit facilitated a Technical Working Group for UNAIDS which successfully produced a set of quality criteria for the care and support of people living with HIV and AIDS. The Sakriya Unit is now shifting its focus towards counselling training, with a Counselling Training Manual being published in Nepali.

Material development in the specialised projects included production of videos on Child Nutrition, Alcoholism and HIV/AIDS, and printing of readers for newly literates on disability awareness and HIV/AIDS.

Support to the tb.net continued. The "tb.net forum" was successfully started, with discussion introduced by invited papers on given themes.

material development. An initial phonological analysis was conducted and an initial orthography established. The Programme Unit Director received an award from the District Development Committee for leading the most effective programme in the district.

Partnerships

In Jumla also the insurgency led to a reduction of work in 2000/2001. Karnali Community Skill Training (KCST) is a partnership programme, closely linked to the Karnali Technical School (KTS). Its three offices were attacked and looted in March. Threats against staff led to the decision to discontinue all field work.

Community development activities prior to this included training and assistance to farmers in compost making, fruit and vegetable processing and kitchen garden, installation of smokeless stoves and a village drinking water system, micro-savings credit programmes for seven women's groups and animal husbandry programmes. A total of 157 participants benefited from non-formal education classes. Health activities included Mother Child Health Care clinics and training of Traditional Birth Attendants. Eleven scholarships were provided to KTS students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and expatriate advisors continued their efforts to enhance teaching quality and methodology at the school.

Gandaki Higher Secondary Boarding School in Pokhara yet again produced excellent results, with a 100% distinction pass rate in the 10+2 exams. The School Leaving Certificate exams resulted in a 100% pass rate, with 90% achieving First Division. The Gandaki College of Sciences started its third academic year in co-operation with Pokhara University.

UMN continued to supply teachers to the school and channelled scholarships to 26% of the GBS students and 20% of the college students, thus giving disadvantaged boys and girls the opportunity of a high quality education.

The School Partnership Projects in Dullu and Syangja, implemented in partnership with the HMG/N Higher Secondary Education Board, continued to work with School Management Committees and other groups, encouraging them to be active in managing and

improving the local schools. Training courses were organised for teachers, parents and management committee members. Teaching materials were provided to enhance teaching quality. Enrolment of low caste children and girls has increased significantly in both Dullu and Syangja as a result of project activities.

UMN's partnership with Mahendra Bhawan Girls' Higher Secondary Boarding School continued with involvement on the Board and two UMN teachers seconded to the school.

Support Activities

The Non-Formal Education (NFE) Support Office provided material to UMN projects and other organisations involved in NFE work. Five new titles were added to the "Pipal Pustak" series. These readers are used in NFE classes and as easy reading for newly literate. Three of the new books were produced in co-operation with Handicap International, focusing on overcoming disability.

The Scholarship Programme provided School Level Scholarships to 56 students from vulnerable groups in society. General Scholarships for academic and skill/vocational training were provided to 61 students through UMN projects.

The Education Department's involvement in teacher training and materials development continued, with the complete revision of the HMG/N Grade 6 English Book, along with its Teachers Guide, as a major achievement.



Students at Gandaki Boarding School.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

- Dailekh NFE Project
- Karnali Community Skills Training Project
- Mugu Education Project
- NFE Support Office
- Scholarship Fund
- School Partnership Project, Dullu
- School Partnership Project, Syangja

PARTNERS WITH UMN SECONDMENTS

- Gandaki Boarding School
- Gandaki College of Sciences
- Karnali Technical School
- Mahendra Bhawan Girls High School

UMN's Executive Committee approved a new Strategic Plan for the Engineering and Industrial Development Department (EIDD) in April 2001. Through the new plan, the department seeks to fulfil its mission "to meet the basic needs of the people of Nepal by promoting the development and activities of appropriate Nepali organisations, especially enterprises, that will contribute to the UMN Vision and Mission".

Personnel and financial resources are channelled to carry out the four implementing strategies, through the department's projects and partner organisations.

1) Promoting Enterprise Development

The new strategic plan has a particular emphasis on support and development of small-scale enterprise. The "Enterprise Support Programme (ESP)", was launched by the department in 2001 to take this strategy forward. It was included in the Institute of Technology and Industrial Development (ITID) agreement between UMN and the Department of Cottage and Small Industries (DCSI).

The Enterprise Support Programme builds on experiences from Development and Consulting Services. It seeks to assist Nepali entrepreneurs in their efforts to create small enterprises and make them sustainable.

UMN's involvement in Pyuthan District continued through Jhimruk Industrial Development Centre Pvt Ltd (JIDCO), with support of agricultural initiatives, skills development and community development in the area affected by the Jhimruk Hydropower plant. The company manager received mentoring from UMN.

2) Developing Skills and Knowledge

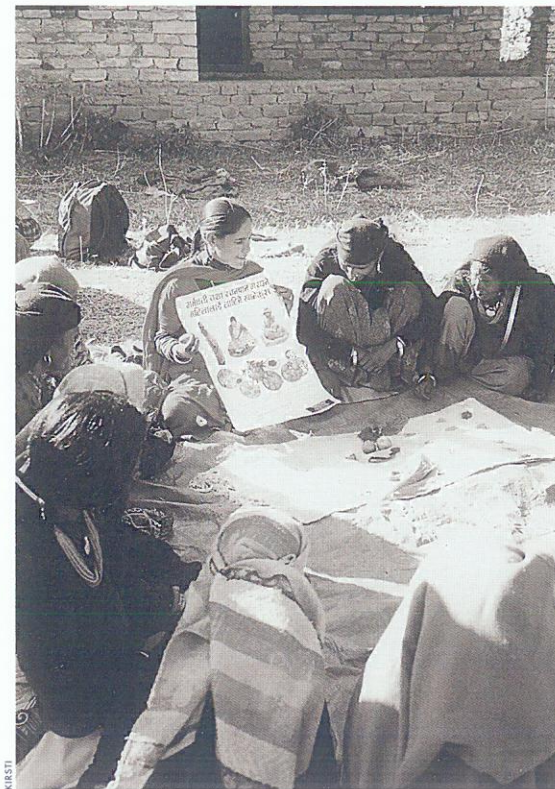
Butwal Technical Institute (BTI) continued to provide two years basic plus two years advanced apprenticeship training courses in mechanical, welding and electrical trades to young Nepali students, including girls. A number of workshops and training courses were also organised for BTI graduates and other industrial workers.

Four UMN professors and lecturers were seconded to the Kathmandu University (KU), Dhulikhel, in 2000/2001. In addition to the teaching of students, they coached Nepali staff at the University in implementing teaching methodologies. Links between KU and industry were strengthened and work continued on the development of a Research and Development department at KU. Scholarships were provided to deserving students from poor financial backgrounds.

3) Developing Appropriate Technology

Development and Consulting Services (DCS) was restructured in 2001. It now operates in a more effective and project-focused way. UMN supported the following DCS projects in 2000/2001:

- ❑ Designing and building earthquake resistant, low-cost housing for poor families on the Terai. The project has four goals: design the houses, train builders, set up entrepreneurs, and build for beneficiaries.
- ❑ A baseline survey of enterprise and appropriate technology development possibilities in Dhading district. The survey was completed in co-operation with the Dhading Resource Management Project. It resulted in recommendations for a number of technology development opportunities as well as enterprise development opportunities in the district.
- ❑ A low head ram pump for irrigating land close to water sources, increasing the



Awareness-raising on nutrition.

in Tansen, a new paediatrics ward was opened at Patan Hospital, which included a play area and a nutrition training area.

- ❑ Public Health contribution – successful TB DOTS (Directly Observed Therapy Short-course) programmes at Amppipal and Okhaldhunga Hospitals
- ❑ Improved co-ordination between hospitals combined with successful partnerships – with JHPIEGO for midwifery refresher training and with the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) for anaesthetic nurse training.
- ❑ More training – 26 post-graduate doctors at Patan Hospital, four interns for the first time at Tansen Hospital, Medical Doctor/General Practice (MD/GP) placements started in Okhaldhunga, and the Birthing Centre used as training unit in Patan.

It was with much agony that the decision was made to close Amppipal Hospital from 5 September 2001. The acute shortage of doctors and the hospital director's position becoming vacant made it impossible to continue to operate the hospital. UMN has been assisting the local community in seeking ways of continuing health work in Amppipal.

United Mission to Nepal last year initiated a Hospitals Development Project to work on corporate issues related to UMN hospitals and to explore organisational options for the hospitals evolving into sustainable, Nepali-owned and managed institutions. A Hospitals Steering Committee was formed in April 2001.

The UMN Health Services Department furthermore completed management audits of Bir Hospital and Koshi Zonal Hospital, at the request of HMG/N. Project operational manuals for district, zonal and central hospitals were developed.

Community Health

UMN's Community Health Projects are gradually changing their approach from being output-oriented to process-oriented, from providing services to facilitating communities. Significant steps were taken in this direction over the past year. The projects were active in Lalitpur, Makwanpur, Gorkha, Lamjung, Palpa and Okhaldhunga districts.

The Yala Urban Health Programme developed a new strategic plan, and signed a new agreement with the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City aiming at strengthening public health in the city. There is close co-operation between the project and the municipality's Community Development Section. The management of Maternity and Child Health Care Clinics is being handed over to Ward Implementation Committees.

The rural Community Health Projects continued to work with community groups, assisting them in their development efforts, with a focus on promoting good health. In Lalitpur the process of handing over the Asrang Health Post to the local health committee has started. Gorkha CHP phased out of from its working areas in Gorkha District to focus entirely on marginalised communities in Lamjung District.

Another significant development has been the move to involve hospitals more in community health work. The integration of hospital and community health work in the Okhaldhunga Health Project has been a success and steps are being taken in the same direction in Palpa.

HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Amppipal Hospital, Gorkha
Community Development
and Health Project,
Lalitpur & Makwanpur
Community Health and
Development Project,
Palpa
Lalitpur Nursing Campus
Lamjung/Gorkha Community
Health Programme
Medical Supplies
Department
Mental Health Programme
Okhaldhunga Health Project
Oral Health Programme
Rehabilitation Facilitator
Sakriya Unit
tb. net Support Project
United Mission Hospital,
Tansen
Yala Urban Health
Programme

PARTNERS WITH UMN SECONDMENTS

Institute of Medicine,
Tribhuvan University
Palpa District Health Office
Patan City Council
Patan Hospital
Nepal Nursing Council
Tansen Nursing School



Holistic care at Tansen Hospital.

United Mission to Nepal continues to be the largest non-governmental health services provider in Nepal. The contribution to development and implementation of national health policies and strategies is significant, with project work increasingly carried out in partnership with others. Experiences gained over many years across the spectrum of health care issues are shared with government agencies and non-governmental organisations involved in health-related work. At the national level, UMN made vital contributions to the Ministry of Health in the following areas:

- Health Sector 10th Medium Term Operational Plan
- Quality Assurance
- Hospitals Management
- Community Drug Schemes
- National Strategy for Oral Health
- National Strategy for HIV/AIDS
- Guidelines for care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS
- Reproductive Health
- Disaster Preparedness

The partnership with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) was reconfirmed through the renewal of the Health Services agreement between the Ministry of Health and UMN in July 2001, including a sub-agreement for Patan Hospital.

Long-term UMN appointee Dr Dick Harding received particular recognition when honoured by Minister of Health Ramkrishna Tamrakar in March 2001 for his "lifetime contribution to public health in Nepal".

Hospital Services

The hospitals in Patan, Tansen, Okhaldhunga and Amppipal continued to develop its services and training over the year 2000/2001. Medical Assistance Funds provided for thousands of patients who could not afford to pay for their treatment.

The following examples highlight some of the past year's achievements:

- ❑ Strengthening clinical care: - use of partogram led to lower rate of caesarean sections for mothers at Okhaldhunga Hospital.
- ❑ More holistic care – burns unit at Tansen Hospital treated 99 patients, nutritional support was provided for paediatric patients



Apprenticeship students at Butwal Technical Institute.

number and yield of crops. The project is in progress with three pumps in operation in Palpa, Pyuthan and Dhading districts. Social evaluations have recently been completed by DCS.

- ❑ A home load controller to allow people to use all the electricity they are paying for. It maximises a home's use of the purchased electricity by directing any excess power used by lights, radios etc to secondary devices, such as water heaters and cookers.

Work also started on the following DCS projects, for which UMN funding was approved in 2001:

- Safe and light soil blocking press
- Low cost bamboo truss joining system
- Jatamasi processing unit for rural enterprise

A UMN secondee continued to work at Nepal Hydro and Electric Pvt Ltd (NHE) on the development of Pico Hydro testing and demonstration.

4) Developing Infrastructure

UMN's involvement in infrastructure development continued through shareholding, input at Board level, and/or secondment of expatriate professionals to the following partners: DCS, NHE, Butwal Power Company Ltd (BPC), Hydroconsult Pvt Ltd (HCPL), and Himal Hydro and General Construction Ltd (HH).

UMN secondees contributed to the capacity building of these organisations by sharing their skills and experience with Nepali colleagues in the areas of Quality Assurance, Project Management, Product Development and Engineering.

The EIDD office was strengthened in 2001 through the recruitment of a Programme Officer for the Appropriate Technology strategy. Steps were taken towards the closure of Butwal Plywood Factory, through the sale of the company's assets. Butwal Guesthouse was closed, but continued to operate under private management.

EIDD PROGRAMMES
Enterprise Support Programme

EIDD PARTNERS
Butwal Power Company Ltd
Butwal Technical Institute
Development and Consulting Services
Himal Hydro and General Construction Ltd
Hydro Consult Pvt Ltd
Jhimruk Industrial Development Centre Pvt Ltd
Kathmandu University
Nepal Hydro and Electric Pvt Ltd

Review and evaluation characterised the year 2000-2001 for UMN's Rural Development Department (RDD). Six of seven RDD programmes were involved in mid-term reviews or evaluations, and an impact evaluation of the former Surkhet Project was carried out. This work is of great value in the planning of future rural development initiatives. Work is carried out in close co-operation with government, at local, district and ministry levels, and increasingly with and through partner NGOs. A new five-year agreement with the Ministry of Local Development was signed on 25 January 2001, and the agreement with the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation was renewed on 7 July 2001.

Unstable security situations caused by political unrest increasingly affected RDD's work towards the end of the year. Efforts were made to adapt activities to the changing situation. Unfortunately, all fieldwork in Ramechhap District had to be suspended from 29 June 2001, while limited activities continued in the district centre. Tension was also experienced in Dhading and Achham, but work continued there throughout the year.

Community Development Projects

Evaluations clearly demonstrated that strategies used in RDD's community development projects have been effective and fruitful. Work

has resulted in sustainable community groups, able to function independently and to carry out their own development activities. In both Dhading and Ramechhap, the evaluations confirmed that the community selection process used by the projects did select focus groups from the poorest and most marginalised communities. Positive results can be seen not only in the projects' focus communities, but also in neighbouring communities where villagers have formed groups on their own initiative, after being impressed and motivated by achievements in the focus communities. The projects in Achham and Ramechhap received encouraging letters of appreciation from local government offices.

In the Dhading Resource Management Project (DRMP), non-formal literacy and resource conservation classes have proved to be successful tools for raising awareness, developing unity and developing the ability to discuss and make decisions in public meetings, especially for women. A total of 47 Forest User Groups (FUGs) have been formed with community forest handover completed. A further 34 FUGs are in the process of preparing to receive their community forests from the government.

A local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), called Resource Identification and Management Society - Nepal (RIMS) was formed and registered by staff members. This

NGO is gradually taking over implementation of activities from the UMN project. It is hoped that RIMS will take a lead in the continued development of communities in Dhading as DRMP phases out its activities in 2002.

Ramechhap Community Development Programme completed the third phase of the Community Awareness Programme in three Village Development Committees (VDCs), with community groups successfully established and empowered. The fourth and last phase includes networking support, with the aim of assisting the groups to continue to function on their own. Several groups were able to access VDC funds for development activities in their own villages. There was a high demand from community groups for technical training, and an 80 percent success rate in reaching the individual goals set by the trainees.

The Community Organisational Development for Empowerment Project in Achham facilitated the formation of 47 community groups in three VDCs, and 17 of them received Group Strengthening Skills training. Another three VDCs invited the project to start work. A community basic development training was organised, resulting in 10 of the participants being hired by the project as staff.

Training and Consultancy

The NGO Support Project worked with 20 Nepali partner organisations and 14 associated organisations throughout Nepal. The project provided training and consultancy with the aim of strengthening the partners as organisations, and enhancing their capacity to carry out development work and mobilise local resources. NGOs were encouraged and facilitated to build rapport with local government agencies.

RDD's Agriculture Forestry Consultancy Unit completed the Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Nepal project in 2001, in partnership with the Nepal Permaculture Group. Sustainable agriculture was promoted through training courses for farmers, advocacy through the media, a national scientists workshop and a Permaculture Convergence for farmers, government officials and NGO representatives.

At the Rural Development Centre (RDC) in Pokhara, an evaluation of the work found a

high degree of client satisfaction. A number of new training courses were designed and delivered, including ginger and cardamon cultivation, agroforestry marketing and co-operatives, water system maintenance foreman training, and bee keeping. Five thousand technical books on goat raising, pig raising and poultry farming were published in Nepali for literate and semi-literate readers. They were recognised by the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training as reference books for several formal courses. A total of 72 courses were conducted, with 1,381 trainees including 515 women. Courses were followed up in the communities, and 92 percent of the visited trainees received RDC certificates for successful application of skills following training.

Nepali Organisation Unit

The Nepali Organisation (NO) Unit worked with nine long-term partners and three occasional partners, assisting them in their development work in poor and marginalised communities. It provided training to all its partners on designing programmes and building relationships with government offices. After the training, four partners demonstrated their capacity to access resources from local government offices. Other training courses included strategic planning, organisational development, bookkeeping and accounting practices.

Four partner NGOs, in Surkhet, Okhaldhunga and Morang districts, benefited from the Resources Interdependently Shared for Empowerment (RISE) programme. NO Unit staff members were seconded to Interdependent Society Surkhet (ISS), and to Gramin Mahila Jagaran Samuha (GMJS) in Okhaldhunga, helping them to develop strong relationships between village groups and management committees. The management committees are now able to lobby on behalf of ISS and GMJS with district government offices.

RDD PROGRAMMES

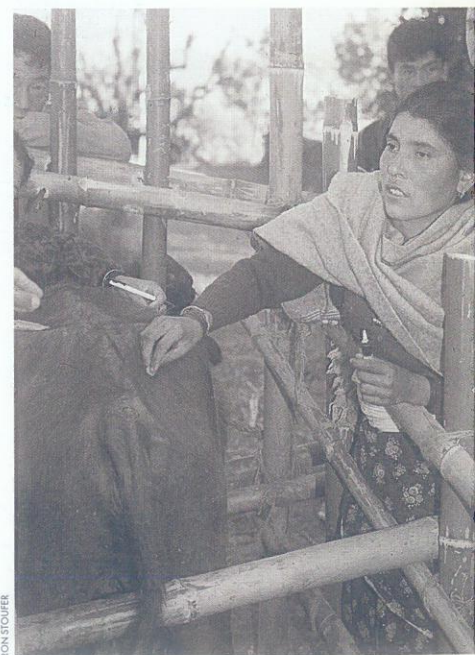
Agro-Forestry
Consultancy Unit
Community-Based
Organisation
Development for
Empowerment, Achham
Dhading Resource
Management Project
Nepali Organisation Unit
NGO Support Project
Ramechhap Community
Development Project
Rural Development Centre

PARTNERS WITH UMN SECONDMENTS

Gramin Mahila Jagaran
Samuha, Okhaldhunga
Interdependent Society
Surkhet



Women engaged in a community meeting in Dhading.



Animal Health training in Okhaldhunga.