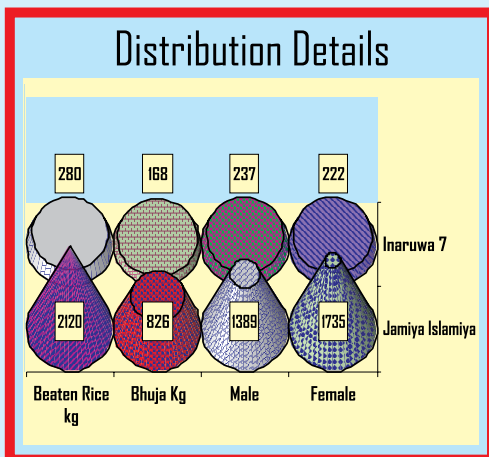


## Rapid response: Koshi flood survivors

By Basanta Karki

**DAMAK, JHAPA, Sept 09:** ACT International and LWF Nepal have launched a rapid response project for Koshi flood survivors in east Nepal. In its capacity as the only implementing partner of ACT in Nepal, LWF Nepal is carrying out various relief activities.



Altogether 3,583 people from 552 households received ready-to-eat food such as beaten rice, Bhuja (puffed rice) and noodles. Now 1,200 kg of WSB and

200 cartoons of noodles are in stock that can be distributed upon recommendation. These materials were distributed in Jamiya Islamiya Madarasa, which is the biggest relief camp, and in Inaruwa-7 Madarasa, upon the recommendation of the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC). In these camps, Muslims are observing Ramadan. They prefer to eat ready-to-eat food.

LWF Nepal is also working on shelter. There is a plan to make 625 shelters at Jhumka, Sunsari. The location is the government's prison that will soon be turned into a regional prison. A site planning team has recommended that 391 shelters be constructed at the very location where LWF Nepal is doing the same work. The remaining resources allocated for shelter will be used as per DDRC's recommendation.

It is coordinating regularly with different line agencies such as DDRC, Association of

INGOs in Nepal (AIN) and UN agencies. All the decisions on the ACT/LWF Nepal project were made after sharing information with line agencies.

LWF Nepal is responsible for monitoring two Village Development Committees (Bhokraha and Madhuwan) for water and sanitation. On the basis of LWF Nepal's recommendation, a WATSAN team provides materials and technical support in relief camps.

LWF Nepal has planned to give assistance for construction of 30 toilets and 30 tube wells on the premises of the newly constructed shelter in relief camps.

As per the proposed plan, the organization will provide 1,200 kg of Wheat Soybean Blend (WSB). Under non-food item support, plans are afoot to give blankets, mosquito nets and soaps to 625 families after their relocation.

LWF Nepal is also assessing the special needs of the physically challenged people.

## Freedom for Haliyas

By Beena Kharel

**KATHMANDU, October 02:** In a landmark declaration, the newly-formed government of Nepal has abolished the Haliya system (a form of bonded labor) as a result of a six-year campaign by LWF Nepal.

The declaration to abolish this form of bonded labor was made on September 6, 2008, causing great celebration among the



Haliya activists in far-west Nepal

country's liberated Haliya laborers who are mostly Dalits ('untouchables'). Around 18,000 families will be affected by this declaration.

The Haliya population of Nepal is concentrated in the country's remote western regions, where the Haliya Movement was formally waged in 2002 to provide the group with development support and help in combating exploitation and oppression. The project has been receiving support from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and LWF Nepal since 2003.

(Continues...)

## Rights-based assistance

Freedom for the Haliyas is the hard-earned result of a comprehensive rights-based advocacy approach adopted by LWF Nepal and Norwegian Church Aid with activities stretching from needs assessment, formation of Haliya organizations, public discourse, solidarity movements, political

lobby activities, media mobilization and legal recourse. This rights-based approach demonstrates a marked departure from the traditional development approach of service delivery.

However, liberation is just the first of many battles that this vulnerable group must win

in Nepal. Social and human rights activists and noted political leaders have said that the true liberation of the Haliyas can only be realized when they have access to education, employment opportunities, land, housing and other essentials for a life of dignity.

## First Partners' Roundtable



Participants of the Partners' Roundtable

HATTIBAN, KATHMANDU, September 17: Country Representative of LWF Nepal Marceline P. Rozario opened the first Partners' Roundtable on September 15 in Kathmandu.

At the outset of the two-day Roundtable, Rozario shed light on the purpose of the meeting. "It is not an evaluation. Nor a pledging session but a strategic review, update and interaction meeting aimed at strengthening mutual understanding, and building working relations," he said.

Around 30 participants, including representatives from donors and Related Agencies, and LWF Nepal staff, attended the Roundtable. The Australian Lutheran World Service, DanChurchAid, Finn Church Aid, LWF/DWS (Geneva), Norwegian Church Aid, UNHCR and WFP had sent their delegates to the Roundtable.

Kunda Dixit, a leading Nepalese commentator and journalist, presented an overview on recent developments in a fast-changing Nepal. He appreciated LWF Nepal's contribution to the humanitarian and development sectors in Nepal, and its "low profile" working style.

Other sessions of the Roundtable covered presentations on projects, strategic themes

and evaluations LWF Nepal has undergone over the past 15 months. The participants had opportunities to initiate clarifications and discussions on relevant issues. In a separate session, each of the international partners provided a brief overview of policies and developments relating to their agencies.

The next Partners' Roundtable was provisionally agreed to be held in May 2010.

## Life-saving assistance in Kailali

By Basant Bhattarai

DHANGADHI, October 14: The Western Region Coordination Unit of LWF Nepal has provided the survivors of the flash flood that occurred from September 20 to 21, 2008 with food items.

Priority has been given to pregnant and lactating women, children and physically challenged persons. The relief items, distributed with support from ACT International, will fulfill their need for seven days.

When this scribe asked one of the beneficiaries: "What will you eat after seven days?" He

replied: "By the end of a week, we can work and earn to feed ourselves."

The flood had submerged 38 Village Development Committees (VDCs) and two municipalities of Kailali district, far-west Nepal.

Succor was given to 6,909 survivors of 1,023 households in three VDCs of Kailali.

In the wake of the flash flood, people could save nothing. All the food grains, kitchen utensils and clothes were swept away. Saving life was the only concern of the people. A task force and community people saved the lives of the people from rooftops by using emergency rescue materials.

As soon as the news of the disaster reached the staff of LWF Nepal, they mobilized a rapid assessment team in the affected area, including Kailali.



In the first phase of the relief operation launched for the Kailali flood survivors by LWF Nepal, relevant data were collected, beneficiaries and their details were finalized, among others. Rice, lentil, salt, sugar, oil, Lito (fortified food) comprise the relief food package.



## LWF DESK

### Refugee Project

In early 2007, the US government announced that it would resettle 60,000 Bhutanese refugees in the US. Australia, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, and the Netherlands also showed a similar interest. This formally opened up an option of third country resettlement for the refugees who have been staying in camps in east Nepal for nearly 18 years.

LWF Nepal has been neutral on this issue because it considers repatriation and/or third country resettlement as individual choices for a durable solution.

The refugee resettlement process began officially in December 2007. More than 8,000 refugees will leave for third country resettlement by the end of 2008. UNHCR distributed identity cards to the refugees, following a comprehensive census. The International Organization for Migration is taking the lead role in the resettlement process.

Regarding vacant huts and their management, a Shelter Management Policy has been charted. A Shelter Management Panel, consisting of representatives of LWF Nepal, the Government of Nepal and UNHCR in each camp, will decide as per the policy. Final technical management will be done through LWF Nepal.

Considering the changing scenario of the refugee operation, LWF Nepal will continue to provide infrastructure assistance; it also does its best to mitigate the effects of tensions amongst the refugees, and with host communities.

The Bhutanese Refugee Project is the biggest one of LWF Nepal. It covers seven refugee camps and 22 Village Development Committees for the Host Community Support Program.

As a major implementing partner of UNHCR and WFP, LWF Nepal has been assisting the Bhutanese Refugees since their arrival in Nepal in 1991. It provides assistance for the distribution of food and non-food items, warehouse management, shelter, water and sanitation, site clearance, internal road and other infrastructure construction as well as community development services for the Bhutanese refugee women and children.

This project plans to continue peace and reconciliation training for the refugees and to engage a large number of refugees in vocational skills training for self reliance. It will continue to provide some assistance to this community through disaster mitigation activities and plantation; these activities will produce long-term benefits.



## Planning and Monitoring System

By Anoj Chhetri

With the dawn of 2008, LWF Nepal emerged itself with an outstanding 24 years field experiences of both development and humanitarian support in Nepal. Now it is implementing six-year country strategy (2008-2013). Preparing fertile ground for the country strategy (CS) implementation comprises, inter alia, three projects development streamlining management structure, partnership policy and program management strategy.

Following the spirit of CS, it has shifted partnership policy and development paradigm, taking onboard juvenile community-based organizations (CBO) being federated under LWF Nepal program as principal implementing partners in the far- and mid-western development regions. However, it did not uproot the partnership modality with local and national NGOs in other working areas where CBOs are still sprouting up with LWF Nepal resources.

LWF Nepal strives to emerge itself as "center of excellence" by 2013 improving its program management framework and strengthening capacity of implementing partners. In this pursuit, it is now considering to upgrade its organizational capacity. It considers "information" as a powerful resource at various levels. Hence, it is developing in-house management information system. The ongoing intranet development shall link field offices electronically enhancing the performance manifolds. It feeds up staff with required policy and program-related information at the field level. It can be envisaged that this development benefits implementing partners with operational information.

Similarly, monitoring performance and building a results framework are other priority agenda at LWF Nepal. It accords Results Based Program Planning (RBPP) as a key strategy to achieve strategic objectives underlined in the CS. The results framework and Program Monitoring Plan (PMP) are key tools inbuilt with RBPP. Activity log-books have been developed to plan and manage the collection of performance data. The PMP comprise a detailed definition of each performance indicator.

The PMP process should also indicate how the performance data will be analyzed and how it will be reported, reviewed and used to make informed decisions. The PMP contributes in planning, managing and documenting data collection. It promotes collection of comparable data by sufficiently documenting indicator definitions, sources and methods of data collection. The use of participatory approach benefits LWF Nepal partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries to monitor performance.

The basic elements of PMP are: Plans for data collection. It comprises of performance indicators and its definition, data source, method of data

collection, frequency and schedule of data collection and responsibility for acquiring data. The second element is Plans for Data Analysis Plans, Plans for Complementary Evaluation; Plan for Communicating and Using Performance Information and Budget.

In the same manner, LWF Nepal considers Results Framework/ matrix as a crucial tool for program management. A RF presents strategy for achieving specific objectives. It includes objectives, results, indicators with their definitions and baseline data. It presents "cause and effect" linkage between results and objectives. It includes any critical assumptions and risks that must hold for program objectives. Hence it is both a planning and a management tool. All implementing partners are expected to adopt PMP and RF to gauge progress towards the achievement of results and objectives and adjust relevant program and activities accordingly.

LWF Nepal has developed plan review mechanisms. It reviews progress in implementing LWF Nepal country strategy after three years through a Mid-Term Evaluation. Progress in implementing this Country Strategy will be assessed annually in connection with assessment of the country operation program plan. This process involves LWF senior management with inputs from program and project staff (and also local partners) through their respective review mechanism. However, given the changing situation in Nepal adjustments and review need to be continued, involving key stakeholders. However, LWF Nepal conducts separate PME for other bilateral projects, including BRP, EC-funded projects and others.

LWF Nepal's PME system will be revised to provide regular, updated and accurate information on progress towards achievement of objectives with special attention to quality monitoring and analysis. It has already its PME this year in March; thus a monitoring manual is being prepared. LWF Nepal will continue other review mechanisms which provide feedback and analysis including:

- Independent program audit as well as mandatory external financial audits
- NDP Steering Committees at the district and national levels, National Advisory Board
- Regular field visits, review meetings conducted by program staff, donor partners and others
- Regular National Review Meeting involving all key LWF Nepal staff
- Regular local partner meetings
- A Roundtable meeting with resource partners to be held every two years
- At the local level, the practice of public and social audit of project actions and CBOs will continue.

*(The writer is program coordinator of LWF Nepal)*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Capacity building training

With the purpose of building the capacity of its staff and those of its implementing partners, LWF Nepal organized a series of training programs in August and September. Supported by Finn Church Aid (FCA), the training covered three strategic themes pursued by LWF Nepal.

On sustainable livelihood—a major strategic theme—participants familiarized themselves with the core concept. They are now able to incorporate the findings of participatory tools and techniques while formulating action plan, and develop specific capital assets in a particular area, says Dr Surendra Bahadur Thapa, sustainable livelihood development coordinator.

Under the thematic training in peace, reconciliation and human rights, the trained participants are expected to conduct assessment of peace, reconciliation and violation of rights, design rights-based programs, and enlist national and international human rights instruments, according to Yadu Lal Shrestha, human rights advocacy coordinator.

The staff, who received training in emergency response and disaster risk management, are now in a position to explain about disaster risk and community-based disaster management, damage assessment and need analysis, application of SPHERE standards, humanitarian accountability, and ACT procedures and policies, says Gopal Dahal, emergency response and disaster risk management manager.

Intensive training was given to the staff on a particular theme for around four days. Kathmandu, Birtamod and Nepalgunj were selected as training venues. Around 155 people underwent this training program at different times.

### NCA partners' meeting

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) partners' meeting was held in Godavari, Kathmandu from September 18 to 20. Altogether 25 South

Asian representatives from partner agencies, including five from LWF Nepal, attended the meeting to familiarize themselves with global development trends and NCA's future direction.

Rights-based approach, climate change, food security, code of conduct, communication HIV&AIDS, water and sanitation, gender-based violence, conflict transformation and peace building are the focus areas of NCA. The meeting emphasized the need for promotion and adoption of rights-based approach, discussed lessons learnt, challenges and problems faced while dealing with this approach.



Bangladesh and Nepal will remain NCA's focus countries in South Asia. For Nepal, its policy priorities include peace and reconciliation, safe migration/anti-trafficking, sustainable livelihoods (focus on food security), disaster preparedness and civil society for accountable governance.

With support from NCA, LWF Nepal has run various development projects. To name a few, anti-trafficking project in Ramechhap and Haliya liberation and rehabilitation programs in far-west Nepal are delivering results, thanks to NCA assistance.

### Project Status

Two new development projects, with support from Finn Church Aid, are to be launched by November this year. One project deals with empowerment of freed Haliyas and Kamaiyas (bonded laborers). Another one focuses on women's entrepreneurship. LWF Nepal will implement these projects through local NGOs and community-based organizations in mid- and far-west Nepal.

Nepal Development Program, which was implemented by LWF Nepal's partner

Uppekshit Samudaya Sashaktikaran Tatha Bikas Manch in Doti district, has been closed down. LWF Nepal/ACT International's Post-Flood Disaster Rehabilitation Project implementation tenure has ended in these regions.

### Two sides of a coin

Program Coordinator Anoj Chhetri and Finance & Administrative Coordinator Ramesh Jung Rayamajhi of LWF Nepal attended a meeting organized by LWF/Department for World Service in Johannesburg.

The meeting brought together finance and program coordinators of the Department for World Service (DWS) country programs and representatives of its resource partners from September 21 to 26 in South Africa.

"Such a combined meeting of finance and program personnel was held for the first time in LWF/DWS history to bring home the importance of working relationship between program and finance in the field of development and humanitarian aid," said Rayamajhi, the longest serving senior staff of LWF Nepal.

LWF/DWS was trying to make the system uniform in all country programs in order to make it result-oriented and serve the people across the world in an effective manner, he informed during a staff meeting in Kathmandu.



Separate program and finance meetings were also held in Johannesburg. On the program front, the meeting covered discussions on community empowerment, impact monitoring, humanitarian reform and World Service operations manual, among others. On the finance front, working budget, finance manual, internal control system, fraud and corruption policy and so on were put forward for discussion.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Combating human trafficking

A five-day regional training-workshop “Regional Approach to Combating Human Trafficking from Rights-Based Approach” was organized by LWF Nepal from July 21 to 25 in Kavre.

The objectives of the training-workshop were to provide participants with conceptual clarity on human trafficking and migration from the human rights perspective, and to develop regional guidelines and action plan for their country programs and networks for combating human trafficking.

Given the gravity of human trafficking in South Asia and Cambodia, the Asian Zone Environment & Emergency Co-ordination Network’s (AZEECON) member organizations decided in December 2007 take up the issues and conduct a workshop on human trafficking in 2008.



Altogether 22 people from Bangladesh (4), Cambodia (2), India (4) and Nepal (12) participated in the workshop. Seven of them were female. A well-stuffed reader file was prepared by LWF Nepal and distributed to all the participants as reference and reading materials.

### Staff contribution

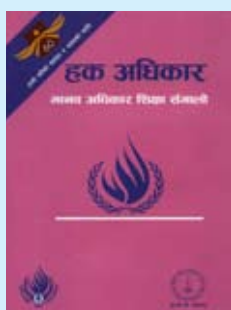
LWF Nepal staff contributed one day’s salary to a relief operation launched for the people affected by the Koshi disaster in Sunsari district. The organization’s National Staff Council took the initiative and facilitated the handover of cash to the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund through an authorized commercial bank in September. The total donated amount stood at NRs 62,705 (US\$895).

## New publications

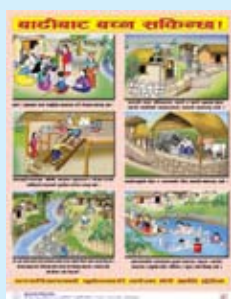
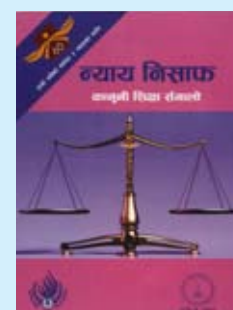


**Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation: Resource Book**, a product of a bilateral project team of LWF Nepal, presents a draft of the procedures and means to be adopted by non-governmental and local organizations while conducting monitoring and evaluation. This book makes an attempt at developing participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME) skills, emphasizes the process involved and encourages project stakeholder to draft a plan and implement them accordingly.

Dhruva Gautam (consultant), Tej Sunar (manager), Pradip Paudel (monitoring officer) and Pabitra Sharma (training officer) of the Dalit Empowerment Programme, Western and Central Nepal, a bilateral project of LWF Nepal, have penned their valuable contributions for this resource book. Published in September, the 105-page book is in Nepali.



LWF Nepal’s human rights and advocacy team, in collaboration with Inhured International, has brought out two publications in Nepali. **Nyaya Nisaf**—a collection of the basics of law education—and **Hak Adhikar**—a human rights education material—were published in August. The purpose of these two books is to reach out to laypersons and “neo-literates” so that they (the rights holders and duty bearers) can understand the basics of law and seek legal recourse when needed. Both the publications have presented the subject matter in a simple yet comprehensive manner.



The Disaster Risk Management team has produced a pictorial education material on household preparedness measures against flood. The color posters will be distributed in the working areas of the Terai region of LWF Nepal.

## Environment in art

On the eve of World Environment Day, an art competition was held in Lalitpur. Suchita Gimire, a 13-year-old girl, of Shri Shringeri Lower Secondary School stood first and Asmita B.K., a Dalit girl, of Shri Sisneri Secondary School was ranked second in the competition.

The art competition, which was organized by CEAPRED and LWF Nepal in June, embraced the global theme “Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy.”



Suchita Gimire



Asmita B.K.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### Respect people's cultural and religious rights

INARUWA, SUNSARI, September 08: As soon as a motor vehicle of LWF Nepal reached Inaruwa, the district headquarters of Sunsari in southeast Nepal, people rushed towards it with expectant eyes. The road, where the car had stopped, was packed with dwellers. Most of them had been displaced by floods, and were living in temporary relief camps nearby.

In this district, the embankment of the Koshi River had broken down on August 18, triggering devastating floods and untold human suffering.

LWF Nepal staff members alighted from the car and waited for others to join them. They were on their way to a flood relief center for food distribution. The staff members were wearing a name tag, consisting of ACT International and LWF Nepal logos.



Mothers in a relief camp

Some flood-affected persons looked into the name tags. Recognizing the logos, one of them asked: "Aren't you among those who distributed food items to us yesterday?" When the staff said: "Yes! We are", he expressed his gratitude to LWF Nepal for providing the displaced people with food and thus saving their lives.

"If LWF Nepal had not given ready-to-eat food, more than 5,000 people residing in that temporary shelter would have to endure severe hunger. This is because neither the government nor other organizations showed an interest in distributing such food," he said in a matter-of-fact tone. He informed that they had enough food to eat for at least a week.

He also thanked LWF Nepal for distributing the food items directly to each family of a temporary relief camp. In his opinion, if it had been handed over to a management committee, which was formed in every relief camp, the flood affected people would have barely received half of or less than that what they had received directly

through LWF Nepal. He happily showered thanks over LWF Nepal for helping them to observe Ramadan by providing them with ready-to-eat food in good quantity.

The person contributing to this conversation was from Jamiya Islamiya Madrasa—the biggest relief center—that houses more than 5,000 Muslims displaced by the Koshi flood. Since the beginning of this month, the Muslims have been observing Ramadan by fasting for the whole day. Throughout Ramadan, the flood survivors say they would not eat the food cooked by others and prefer to eat instant food such as beaten rice and Bhuja (puffed rice). In normal times, they eat cooked food.

In an inter-agency meeting held a few days ago, the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC), a government body responsible for providing emergency relief, requested various organizations who are responding to the disaster relief operation that they provide ready-to-eat food to serve the displaced Islamic community on the eve of their holy occasion.

DDRC appealed to them to provide instant food items worth NRs 500,000 (around US\$ 7,600) that would fulfill their demand of a week. None of the organizations present in the meeting were interested in giving such support. However, LWF Nepal decided to step in for a humanitarian cause. (LWF Nepal Feature Service)

### Eastern development programs

New partnership and alliance was explored in order to implement issue-based advocacy activities with the help of community-based organizations in the eastern region. Sensitization of duty bearers regarding their accountability towards rights holders had been initiated by LWF Nepal, east office. Many groups explored other resources in order to accomplish their plan.

In this quarter, LWF Nepal was involved intensively in monitoring, facilitation, giving technical backstopping and coordination services. LWF Nepal staff visited project areas regularly and provided technical backup for strengthening CB-NGO and group structure, implementing planned activities and solving emerging problems.

### HIV & AIDS

Four days' basic training for SoVAA, SARATHI (a group of young volunteers) and truckers, and two days' refresher training

were organized to increase their knowledge on health and HIV & AIDS. Another four days' basic training for female sex workers was organized to make them aware of HIV & AIDS issues.

Peer sharing and interaction with SoVVA, SARATHI, female sex workers, truckers and religious leaders were also organized. Awareness generating activities such as essay writing, oratory, sports, street drama, and video shows were organized to raise awareness on health, HIV & AIDS.

### Disaster

Training in volunteerism and community-based disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, hazard, vulnerability and capacity analysis exercise; training in environmental protection and bio-engineering works were organized for community people.

Partial support was provided for structural and non-structural mitigation for water-induced disasters and for emergency rescue kits in order to strengthen community capacity for disaster preparedness and mitigation of disaster-related risks and vulnerability

### Livelihood

Advocacy skill training was organized and support provided to three advocacy centers. A radio program is on air in cooperation with SAHARA Nepal, an implementing partner of LWF Nepal. The weekly radio program entitled "Step of Changes" is broadcast through two local FM stations in order to deliver messages and information about livelihood issues, HIV & AIDS and other relevant issues of the community.

Farmers were given input support in order to increase their access to means of farm production. Semi-commercial vegetable farming, farmers' field schools and fruit promotion schemes ran well during the third quarter.

Animal insurance support program was also started during this period. Community members have started work on soil, water, forest conservation and management from this quarter in order to preserve their environment for sustainable development.

Activities such as drinking water system installation and Sulabh-latrines promotion were carried out in this quarter in order to increase awareness, access to and control over safe drinking water and sanitation by the community people.