

Annual Report

Phase II , First year
(July 2000 to August 2001)



***Rural Community Infrastructure Works
Programme (RCIW)***



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Foreword

During the first year of RCIW Phase II, 2000/01, there were several innovations to the strategies of implementing projects, targeting beneficiaries, working with partners, and transporting food.

Throughout Phase I, considerable effort went into developing the RCIW concept and strategy, and supporting the process of social mobilization. RCIW also improved the planning, implementation, and monitoring capacity of private and public partner institutions.

In Phase II, RCIW is changing into an integrated food security programme. This change means that participants in FfW projects will have more complementary support to improve their income, skills, and food production. For example, improvements in physical access are complemented by efforts to ensure that where roads are constructed, the poorest people are able to benefit from them. Activities supported by RCIW are integrated into district and village development plans to make more sustainable improvements to the local people's livelihoods. The results from this first year of the new RCIW strategy are very encouraging and confirm that it is on track.

When planning Phase II, one main concern was to ensure the targeting of the interventions to the most food-deficit districts. This has meant a move to the mid- and far-western hills and mountains. Last year, 23 % of WFP resources for RCIW were used in mountain districts, compared with 10 % in 1998-99.

Transporting food aid to remote areas presents major challenges; these districts are food insecure partly because they are so difficult to access. Working in eight remote districts with User Groups, RCIW organized transportation by paying group members to carry food to the projects in their communities. *Food-for-Portering* made it possible to work this year in the remote districts of Bajura, Humla, Jumla, Kalikot, Jajarkot, Achham, Bajhang, and Mugu .

The People's Republic of China granted permission in July 2000 to transport food supplies on the highways through the Tibet Autonomous Region from Kathmandu to Hilsa, Humla district. Four separate convoys transported a total of 570MT of rice for RCIW interventions in Humla from October 2000 to June 2001. In Humla, RCIW is helping to construct a road linking Hilsa and Simikot. Hundreds of workers constructed more than 15 km of the road during this working season.

Partnerships have also been developed. GTZ has been supporting RCIW since 1996. During the first five years, GTZ directed its support towards ensuring the technical quality of assets created through Food-for-Work, and on developing measures to promote community ownership and transparency. GTZ remains a major partner as RCIW transforms into an integrated food security programme, providing the complementary support needed to increase income, skills and agricultural production. New partners that have joined RCIW in Phase II include the British Department for International Development (DfID), Dutch SNV Swiss SDC, and Danida. As well, DDCs have shown their excellent implementation capacity and remain key partners in RCIW

The Ministry of Local Development considers that RCIW has contributed to relieving food shortages in remote, vulnerable communities. Also following the government policy of decentralisation, RCIW has built self-help capacity in the communities. The new RCIW philosophy of sustainable food security is also a feature of the Freed Kamaiya sub-project. MLD firmly believes that the concerted efforts of all project partners will lead to even more achievements in the years to come.

This achievement was only possible with our highly motivated and dedicated staff members. Thank you very much to all of you, who have made RCIW one of the most successful poverty alleviation programmes in Nepal.

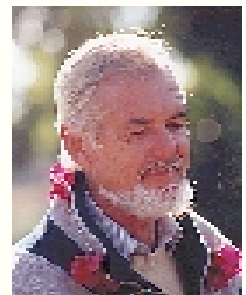
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Mr. Coutts



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Rural Community Infrastructure Works Programme (RCIW)

**Phase II, First year
(July 2000 to August 2001)**

Summary:

- RCIW partner organisations:**
- His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N)
 - World Food Programme (WFP)
 - Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through Ministry for Economic Development (BMZ)
 - Danish International Development Assistance (Danida)
 - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
 - Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV)
 - Department of International Development (DFID)
- Executing organizations:**
- Ministry of Local Development (MLD)
 - Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC)
 - District Development Committees (DDCs)
 - Village Development Committees (VDCs)
 - Community-based user or self-help groups (CBOs)
- Technical Assistance Partners:**
- Integrated Food Security Programme -- German Agency for Technical Assistance (GTZ)
 - SAPPROS
 - District Road Support Programme (DRSP)
 - District Partners Programme (DPP)
- Programme location:** RCIW worked in 35 districts
- Programme beneficiaries:**
- About 50,000 households or 300,000 people per year
 - Socially and economically marginalised households
 - Mainly landless, illiterate and jobless men and women
- Estimated Programme Costs:** US\$ 8 million per year.

RCIW:

In Nepal, the ten million people who live below the poverty line cope with frequent food shortages. From May to June and November to January in particular, the poorest sections of the society - mainly landless and illiterate people - may not have enough food because either they have consumed all of their own harvest or they are jobless. In remote hill and mountain districts, this situation is frequently compounded by a scarcity of food in the markets due to inadequate transportation networks and ineffectual food supply systems.

In response to these problems, HMG/N initiated the RCIW Programme in 1995 with the assistance of WFP and the German Government. Shaped by its accomplishments during the first five years, a second phase of RCIW commenced in July 2000.

There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.

– Mahatma Gandhi

*Responding
to food
shortages
and
inadequate
infrastructure*



Workers engaged in FfW construction activities receive about 3 kg of rice and NRs 3 per day.

Section 2:

Introduction and Overview: RCIW

2.1 RCIW's Objectives:

*Generating
long-term
food security*

The overall development objective is to improve the livelihoods of people most vulnerable to food insecurity, living in targeted, food-deficit districts.

RCIW's immediate objectives are to enable poor people to obtain and maintain assets that increase the availability of food and income both in their community and the individual households.

Its activities aim to improve the:

- Development, self-help, potential of the RCIW target group population,
- Food and income available to households,
- Road and trail networks in RCIW intervention areas,
- Natural resource base and
- Planning, implementation and operational capacities of RCIW partner organisations.

To achieve this, RCIW partners provide temporary food assistance in exchange for labour, construction materials, farm inputs, tools, technical and managerial expertise, and training, to enhance the capacity of the communities.

2.2 RCIW's Concept:

RCIW's **integrated food security concept** has evolved to focus on directly addressing constraints on food availability and people's access to food. The types of projects that RCIW supports depend on the situation in a given district. RCIW is a short-term intervention that aims to achieve long-term results.

The World Food Summit Plan of Action defined food security as a state when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active, healthy life.

In the short-term, RCIW aims to alleviate the temporary food shortages of disadvantaged people through *Food-for-Work* (FfW) so that they are able to invest time for their own longer-term development. It mobilises individuals, groups, and communities to create the productive and social framework required for long-term food security. First, the types of projects supported create assets that benefit poor people and directly address constraints on long-term food security. Since many of the beneficiaries are landless, RCIW negotiates leases on land where they can create assets that improve their livelihoods. Second, through social mobilisation and awareness creation, RCIW aims to establish a situation where disadvantaged, impoverished people begin to have enough food and self-confidence to become involved in the development process.

Enabling communities to build the collective capability for future food security

RCIW uses *Food-for-Work* in combination with various other interventions and instruments, such as savings-and-credit, the introduction of cash crops, adult literacy and advocacy, and skill development activities. It uses social mobilisation as a means to launch these activities. For each User Group, RCIW customises the blend of development interventions and instruments that it uses depending on the:

- Actual problems facing the target groups,
- Development potential available, and
- Prevalent socio-political circumstances in the given community or district.

Social mobilisation is the process of building the capacity of women and men to realize their potential for improving their quality of life. This dynamic and ongoing process aims at the institution building, resource mobilisation, empowerment, and transformation of societies.

Through ongoing **social mobilisation**, RCIW aims to enable a group to assert its right to have the services and inputs that make it possible for the members to participate effectively in the development process. These self-help groups strive to create a situation where the poor become empowered socially and economically.

RCIW sees the development process of groups in three stages:

1. The formation of primary self-help groups such as FfW User Groups, saving-and-credit groups, *Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)* groups,
2. The graduation of primary self-help groups into Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) that are formally recognised by the DDCs, and
3. The alliance of cooperating CBOs into NGOs or cooperatives.

It uses the services of locally operating NGOs hired by GTZ or other technical assistance providers to offer guidance and support to poor rural communities in four areas:

- Creation of self-help groups,
- Mobilisation of internal and external resources,
- Human development, and
- Linking groups among themselves and with external service providers.

2.3 The Evolution of Phase II:

The **Integrated Food Security** concept evolved from the strengths and successes of RCIW Phase I: its understandable concept, adequate resources, measures to promote transparency, direct delivery of resources to needy people, and mode of operation that generates community ownership. The new concept also evolved through careful consideration of the lessons learnt during Phase I, and constant striving to seek solutions and improve the methodology. As well, RCIW considered the revision of the government's poverty reduction policy to be more comprehensive in several sectors.

Transparency

The success of Phase I was partly due to measures that promoted transparency in the FfW activities:

- Project books to record all transactions.
- Public audits to present records to the User Group.

Accordingly, the successful model of Phase I is being complemented by strengthening the following new elements in Phase II. These modifications aim to bring about more sustainable food security and to ensure that the poorest people are more capable of benefiting from the assets created.

A more comprehensive approach for longer-term results

Building Integrated Food Security:

In Phase II, RCIW implements large-scale district infrastructure projects, such roads and river/flood control by providing *Food-for-Work*. Among the beneficiaries, RCIW also works with smaller community groups on micro-level FfW projects to start agricultural activities that generate food production or income, such as fishponds, small scale irrigation, horticulture, and agro-forestry. To foster the self-help capacity of the beneficiaries, RCIW complements FfW projects with social and economic empowerment activities that raise their awareness, advocacy abilities, and literacy.

Working longer-term with beneficiary households:

RCIW works with beneficiary households and communities for three to five years, rather than one or two years as in the past. The time allows for micro-initiatives to become established, for participants to put training into practice, and for beneficiaries to use the development opportunities that improved physical access and community infrastructure can offer. Working with the same beneficiaries for a longer time assists the RCIW activities that aim to bring about social and attitudinal change, such as in gender.

Targeting the most vulnerable districts, villages, and communities:

Towards the end of Phase I, WFP started conducting vulnerability analysis and mapping work. The results and the government's geographical priorities led to a shifting of Phase II activities to more vulnerable districts in the mid- and far-western hill and mountain regions. Within each district, RCIW concentrates its resources in 5 to 15 VDCs in order to have a more comprehensive and sustainable effect on the food security of the poorest people, especially the women.

RCIW has increased its support for income-generating agricultural production



2.4 RCIW Districts:

This year, RCIW worked in 35 districts; twenty-three of which are “core” districts where RCIW will concentrate its resources and technical support for the duration of Phase II. Within each district, 5 to 15 VDCs have been selected for RCIW support. The districts are grouped into clusters based on their geographic proximity, physical access, and the technical assistance provider. More detailed information is presented in the Cluster Summary Reports at the end of this document.

In the **Terai**, there are two core clusters:

Cluster IV: Dhanusha, Siraha, Saptari, and Udayapur

Cluster VII: Makawanpur.

In the **hills and mountains**, there are four core clusters:

Districts accessible by road:

Cluster I: Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Darchula, Doti, Achham, and Dailekh.

Cluster V: Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Kavre, and Ramechhap.

Districts inaccessible by road:

Cluster III: Bajura, Bajhang, Jajarkot, and Kalikot.

Cluster VI: Humla, Mugu, Jumla, and Dolpa. (Work in Dolpa will start in 2001/02.)

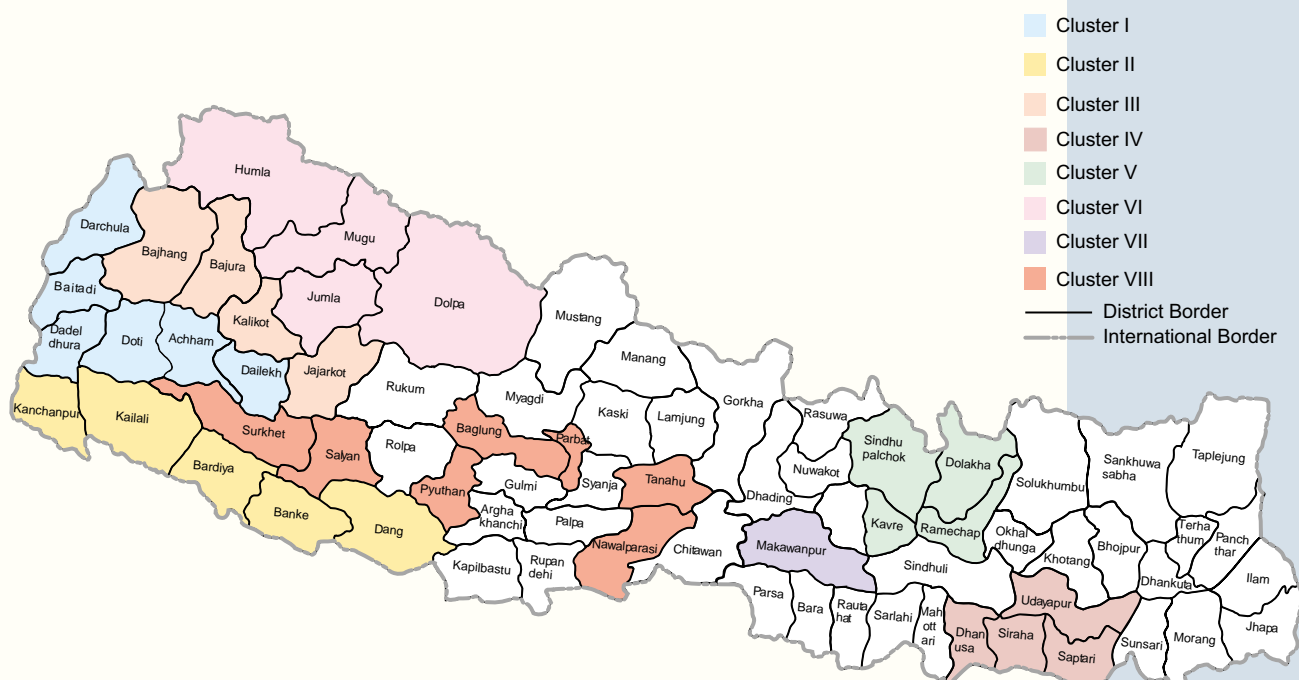
Seven districts are not “core” districts, because RCIW will not operate there for the full duration of Phase II:

Cluster VIII: Salyan, Pyuthan, Baglung, Parbat, Tanahu, Surkhet, and Nawalparasi.

RCIW also implements a project for former bonded labourers (Kamaiyas) in five districts of the **western Terai**:

Cluster II: Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, and Dang.

Shifting its work to the most vulnerable areas





Women, who are hungry, cannot invest time and energy to become empowered.

Striving to assist the most food deficit households

The poor deserve a chance for development; the first step is to relieve them of their hunger

2.5 RCIW's Beneficiary Communities:

Within the selected districts, about 250,000 extremely food insecure families with an estimated one million people will benefit directly from RCIW activities during Phase II.

RCIW strives to assist the most vulnerable and food deficit households, which are usually socially and economically marginalised. Generally, these families possess little or no arable land, are illiterate, and are without employment. As people in this situation are only able to cope with getting enough food to survive, it is necessary to provide some external sustenance as food or cash that enables them to give attention to social and economic development activities to build their self-help capacity and assets.

Women are an important RCIW target group, because they fulfil key functions in food production and preparation, and in family care. Often, as the heads of households, they are responsible for the social and economic development of all household members. Poverty particularly affects women because they often:

- Are more at risk of food insecurity because their food consumption is insufficient for their hard labour, pregnancy, or nursing babies;
- Work 3-4 hours a day longer than men, but lack any control of the income to which they contribute;
- Have limited access to political participation, education, resources, and mobility

Nepal is now coping with a growing problem of food insecurity due to declining agricultural production and increasing population. For generations, population growth has resulted in the division of family landholdings until now, they are too small

Targets for increased women's participation in RCIW are:

- At least 30 % of RCIW User Group members should be women.
- Equal rights and pay for equal work done by women and men involved in FfW activities.
- At least three women-only FfW micro-projects in each district annually.
- At least 50 % of the members of each User Committee should be women.
- At the national and district levels, 10% of RCIW professionals should be women.
- At least one gender professional should be working in each district.

and fragmented to support a household. The use of improved agricultural inputs is limited due to the lack of rural roads. Irrigation is inadequate despite Nepal's abundant water resources. In the Terai districts that produce an overall food surplus, it is easier to sell the grains to the Indian market than to the severely food-deficit hill districts. Three main factors contribute to the food insecurity problem in Nepal:

- Declining per capita food production overall,
- Low food availability in some regions due to the limited potential for production and unequal distribution as a result of a lack of transportation to and in those areas;
- Low levels of income.

Of the beneficiaries targeted by RCIW, about 50% live in the Terai lowlands where the population is extremely high, 40% are in the hills, and 10% in the highlands of the western Karnali Zone. Many of these people are regarded as "low" caste (*dalits*). Each main region of Nepal has distinctive circumstances to be addressed in order to promote food security:

The lowland Terai ecological region of Nepal is very densely populated and continues to attract new migrants from hill districts where economic prospects are worse. The growing population puts pressure on scarce Terai forests and on marginal land.

In the Terai, many people do not have enough food because they are landless and have limited purchasing power due to the lack of employment opportunities other than seasonal wage labour on landlord's farms. RCIW works primarily with near-landless, tribal and caste minorities in the Terai. Often, these people have settled on marginal land that no one else wants, on flood plains close to rivers, or they have encroached upon protected forests.

In the **Western Terai**, several thousand families (Kamaiyas) were only released from bonded labour in 2000. They were born into families where every aspect of their lives was constrained by their status as bonded labourers. Consequently, they face severe chronic food and income deficits.

In the **Eastern Terai**, most beneficiary families are affected to some extent by floods and disasters. Many of the beneficiary households are landless and suffer from the immense population pressure. Consequently, employment opportunities are scarce and the pressure on natural resources is increasing at an alarming rate.

The hills do not have rural transportation, resulting in isolation, poor access to markets, high food prices, sporadic government services, and few economic opportunities.

Declining agricultural production and the growing population are causing food deficits

Each region of Nepal has distinctive circumstances that cause food insecurity

Raising livestock is an important livelihood for people in the hills and mountains. Sheep and goats are used for the transportation of food.



*Most of the poor
have little, if any,
land*

On the steep hillsides, the average beneficiary family lives in a one-room house surrounded by less than a hectare of farmland suitable for maize or barley. The crops are sufficient to feed the family for only two or three months a year. The average family has six members, including children and elderly grandparents. To earn wages for food, the father or older son often migrates to India to work for eight months of the year. The remittances barely repay the interest accrued on the loans that sustain the family during these months.

The mountain and highland regions, of the western Karnali zone in particular, are vast and sparsely populated. Almost everyone is food insecure. Many people may live as far as 15 days walk from the nearest road head and major food market. Adapting to the harsh climate, steep slopes and degraded land, many of these mountain families traditionally engaged in trade with Tibet to complement their meagre subsistence agriculture. This livelihood diminished when cross-border trade was officially suspended a generation ago. Now many families supplement their agricultural production by migrating to work in India or other parts of Nepal.

RCIW customises the programme that it implements in each district depending on the circumstances, constraints and opportunities.



Households in Achham have very small plots of land on which to grow food.

Achham is a “core” hill district in one of Nepal’s most deprived regions

Many of the 200,000 people living in Achham cope with severe food shortages due to the district’s isolation, high population density, limited natural resources, and extreme caste and gender discrimination.

Each household has an average of only 0.25 ha of arable land on the steep hillsides and sharecropping is widely practiced. The most commonly grown crops are wheat, barley, rice and millet. However, the yields are low due to degraded soils and a lack of irrigation and fertilizers.

Therefore, many families are highly food deficit and are forced to look for jobs and income opportunities outside the district.

Most people are very traditional Hindus with a very strong caste system. *Dalits*, who are about 30% of the population, are still subject to many restrictions that limit their social and economic activities.

The social status of women is particularly low in Achham. Their access to public services is extremely constrained and as a result, the women’s literacy rate is only about 6%.

2.6 RCIW's Sectors of Intervention:

RCIW uses social mobilisation as the means by which to effectively implement three short- and long-term sectors of intervention.

1. Food-for-Work (FfW) is the main activity through which RCIW enables beneficiaries to participate in more long-term development endeavours.

a. The programme supports district level FfW schemes, referred to as backbone projects, such as rural roads in the hills and flood control measures in the Terai. These large-scale projects provide jobs and income opportunities that meet the immediate food requirements of many food insecure families for several months annually, during three to four consecutive years. In the long-term, roads improve access to markets and food availability, which directly contributes to sustainable food security.

b. RCIW also supports FfW micro-projects that directly increase food production, such as fishponds, small-scale irrigation schemes, and fruit tree plantations. Small groups of about 25 to 50 households, which are involved in a large backbone project, are mobilised to participate in FfW micro-projects. These have a construction or investment period of less than 12 months and are planned to accompany the backbone project in a given area, such as creating fruit orchards alongside new rural roads.

2. Complementary activities help beneficiary families to develop the skills and income sources that enable them to have better livelihoods.

a. Activities to improve food production and income generation focus on the promotion of high value cash crops, such as herbs, apples and pears in the hills, and mangos and babio grass in the Terai. These crops are grown mostly on degraded community and forestland that has been allocated to target groups of landless people. RCIW supports them by arranging for the land to be leased to the group and by providing skill training and follow-up. It helps groups to plan appropriate crops, obtain seeds and seedlings, transport them, and plant them properly. In addition, RCIW assists the groups to establish their own micro-finance systems that fund investments in the technology promoted, the marketing of products, and other income-generating micro-enterprises.

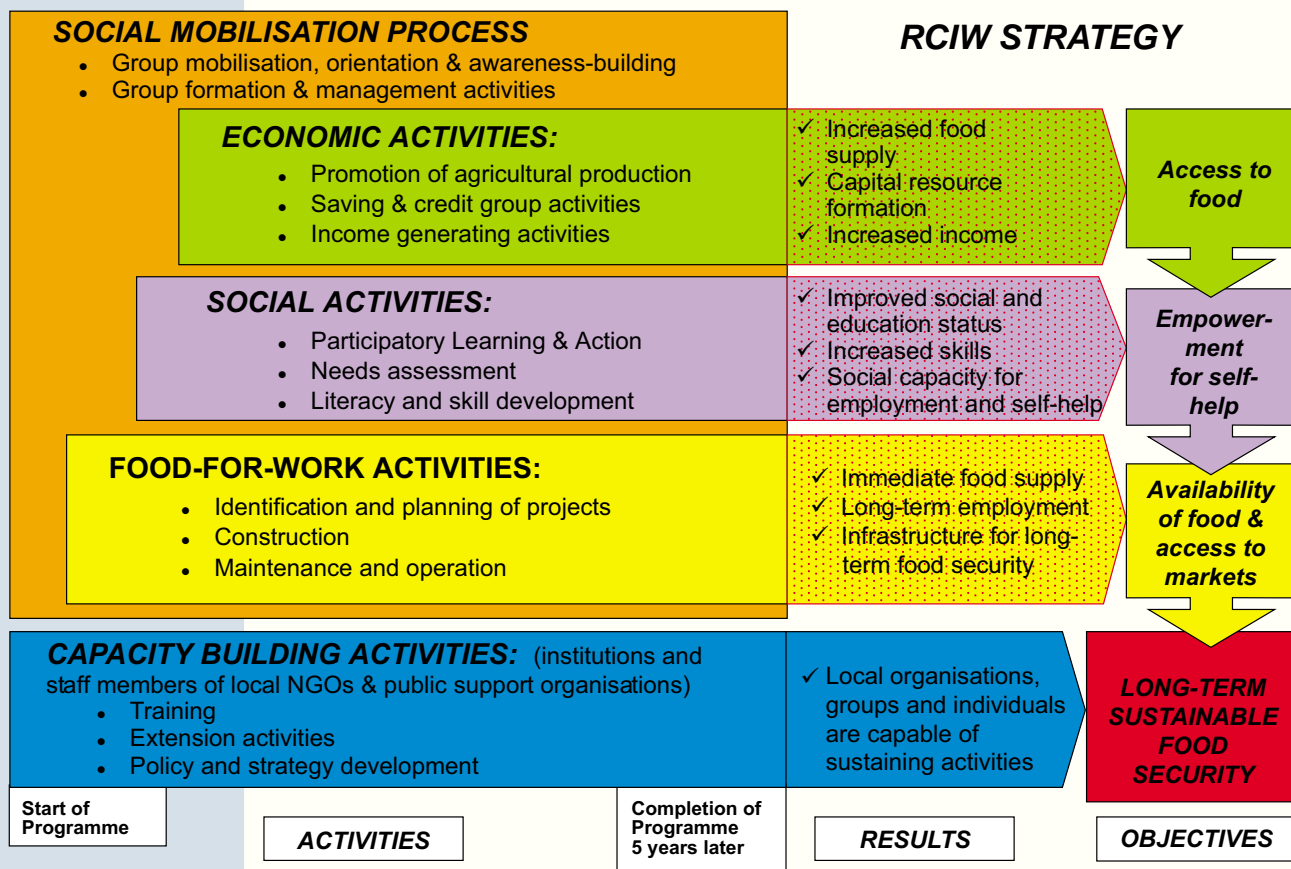
b. Support for social and education activities aims to improve the capability and confidence of the most disadvantaged RCIW target group members to be able to participate fully in development endeavours. To achieve this, RCIW supports **Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) groups** to address the issues that the group members identify as being of a high priority, whether rights, health, sanitation, family planning, and firewood/water/fodder collection. The groups also participate in literacy courses to help the members acquire some basic reading and writing skills. After reaching a general level of awareness and understanding, these group members usually establish interest groups based on their own needs.

3. Institutional capacity building provides the training measures needed to advance the capabilities of all levels of the programme implementers. With the help of technical assistance organisations, RCIW builds the skills and capacity of individuals and institutions in target groups, communities, NGOs, DDCs, and national offices or agencies. This activity includes the development and provision of extension materials and staff training in both technical and social fields.

Fostering social and economic activities to increase food security and the capacity of institutions to carry out development works

RCIW promotes the cultivation of babio grass for rope-making as a sustainable income-generating activity





2.7 RCIW Partners:

Building more partnerships for funding and technical assistance

RCIW initiated joint operations with additional private and public partners because the resources of HMG/N and its main partners (WFP, GTZ) were insufficient for the ambitious programme of Phase II. Partnerships have been set up with the Swiss (SDC), Netherlands (SNV), Danish (DANIDA), and British (DFID) development agencies, or projects they fund, and with HMG/N Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.

At the local/community level:

Self-help **User Groups** from the target population are the main partners and beneficiaries of most RCIW interventions. With the exception of roads made through district-level FfW projects, the User Groups own the infrastructures constructed through FfW activities and are responsible for their maintenance and operation.

Target group members provide labour and local material. Village Development Committees (VDCs) provide matching funds to remunerate the unskilled labour force (NRs 1 per kg of rice) that engages in construction of VDC/DDC-owned roads and trail construction projects. Often, VDCs also provide land for settlement and cash crop farming.

At the district level:

District Development Committees (DDCs) co-ordinate and direct RCIW activities through the District Programme Support Units (DPSU) that facilitate the efforts of User Groups to plan, implement, and maintain FfW projects and other initiatives. The DPSUs are staffed and financed by the Ministry of Local Development. GTZ or any other TA providers support the DPSU professionals that provide technical expertise, guidance, and construction materials to the User Groups and also certify and monitor their performance.

Social mobilisation to facilitate the work of the DPSU is carried out by locally operating NGOs and / or consultants hired by GTZ or the other technical assistance providers.

At the national level:

The facilitators of RCIW at the national level are:

- **Ministry of Local Development (MLD)** provides resources, and guides, coordinates, and monitors activities.
- **World Food Programme (WFP)** provides rice, training, tools, and strategic and operational support.
- The **German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ)** assists and advises MLD and WFP in policy formulation, planning, coordination, and monitoring of RCIW affairs.

TABLE 1:
RCIW district clusters and respective technical assistance providers

Operational Clusters	Districts covered	TA Provider (Donor)
Cluster I	Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Doti, Darchula, Achham, Dailekh	GTZ (BMZ)
Cluster II (Kamaiya)	Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Dang	GTZ (DFID)
Cluster III	Kalikot, Jajarkot, Bajura, Bajhang	GTZ (BMZ)
Cluster IV	Dhanusha, Siraha, Saptari, Udayapur	GTZ (BMZ)
Cluster V	Sindhupalchok, Dolakha Kavre, Ramechhap	DRSP (SDC) MLD technical staff
Cluster VI	Makawanpur	SAPPROS (DANIDA)
Cluster VII	Humla, Jumla, Mugu (Dolpa will start in 2001/02)	DPP (SNV) and MLD technical staff
Cluster VIII	Salyan, Pyuthan, Nawalparasi, Baglung, Parbat, Tanahu, and Surkhet. (These districts will be phased out of RCIW.)	MLD technical staff



RCIW's main community-level partners are the User Groups of the beneficiary households.

Roles and responsibilities of RCIW Partners

Ministry of Local Development (MLD):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCIW steering, coordination and management services • Personnel (technicians, administrators and support staff) • Funds for construction materials and for rice transportation, storage, and handling
World Food Programme (WFP):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice as remuneration for workers in FfW projects • Tools, equipment and rice storage facilities • Advisory services for food management, targeting and monitoring • Funds for rice transportation, storage and handling
Technical Assistance (TA):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme policy and coordination guidance • Skill development and institutional capacity building • Provision of training and extension aids
Districts (DDC):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise for planning, coordination and monitoring • Funds for maintenance of large FfW projects (roads, river embankments)
Communities and Village Development Committees (VDC):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds as partial remuneration for workers in FfW projects • Funds for maintenance of large FfW projects (roads, river embankments) • Land for FfW projects such as roads, fruit-tree plantations
NGOs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise to mobilize the poor • Matching funds and materials for local initiatives
Self-help groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People to plan, implement and operate FfW projects

2.8 RCIW Expenditures and Financial Contributions

Programme expenses to implement the planned activities in the first year of RCIW Phase II have been about NRs 92 million. This includes the NRs 600 million (US\$ 8 million) of voluntary contributions from RCIW beneficiaries. Programme costs and the financial contributions of the RCIW partners are shown in the following tables and charts.

TABLE 2:
Programme expenditures by items
(in million NRs)

Item	NRs	%
Labour (rice plus cash)	245	47
Construction Material	80	15
Farm inputs (seed capital)	5	1
Capacity building	130	25
RCIW management costs	61	12
Total	521	100

TABLE 3:
Financial contributions by partners
(in million NRs)

Partner	NRs	%
MLD*	160	30
WFP	248	48
TA (GTZ & others)	83	16
DDC	10	2
VDC	20	4
Total	521	100

Remarks: * Includes a KFW grant of NRs 27.2 million and contributions from other line ministries, especially DSCWM.



Social mobilisation activities help beneficiaries to identify their own needs

Section 3:

RCIW Activities

The activities implemented by RCIW and the problems encountered during the first year of Phase II are described below and summarized in Table 6 at the end of this section.

3.1 RCIW Social Mobilisation Support

One major RCIW endeavour was support for the social mobilisation that facilitated the activities of about 610 new and 260 old primary self-help groups. These groups were established for various purposes shown in Table 4. RCIW oriented and trained the participants to manage the group and in the skills required to achieve its goal. It also assisted the groups to mobilise both internal and external resources such as cash, construction materials, rice, teaching materials, farm inputs, and expertise.

On average, 45 % of all participants are women. Most participants in micro-projects, saving & credit, and other small groups were recruited from FfW User Groups. Occasionally, more than one person from a given household will participate in the small groups.

Social mobilisation helps the beneficiaries to organise to achieve their goals

TABLE 4:
Groups assisted by RCIW during the year 2000/01

Type of group	Numbers		Average participants/group	Total participants in groups
	New	Old		
FfW backbone project groups	120	80	220	44,000
FfW micro-project groups	50	40	45	4,050
Saving & credit groups	380	120	25	12,500
Participatory learning and action groups	60	20	22	1,760
Total	610	260		62,310

Remarks: On average, 45 % of all participants are women. Most participants in micro-projects, saving-&-credit, and other small groups were recruited from FfW User Groups.

3.2 RCIW Planning Support

RCIW provides planning support at the national, district and community levels

RCIW provided extensive services for planning at the national, district and target group levels. At the national level, RCIW staff members assisted MLD, WFP, and GTZ to elaborate Programme Planning Documents. At the district level, RCIW Action and Work Plans were prepared with all the stakeholders involved. As well, RCIW staff screened over 200 detailed project proposals, and completed detailed surveys and cost estimates for more than 200 FfW projects. A variety of participatory planning exercises were carried out at the target group level to produce Group Action Plans.

RCIW District Gender Action Plans

have been prepared in a participatory manner with all stakeholders involved. These plans have been instrumental in applying the RCIW gender principles to increase equity.

While planning the new RCIW integrated food security strategy, the German Government funded an initiative through WFP to assess the natural potential and economic feasibility of fruit tree farming in the target areas of the Far Western hill districts. This assessment involved one international and one local consultant for a two-month period in early 2001. It helped RCIW to plan its productive interventions in these districts.

3.3 Training and Personnel Development Activities

During the year under review, RCIW conducted many training sessions for target group members and for professional staff as shown in Table 5. The training sessions covered a wide range of topics.

RCIW provides extensive training for local groups in all aspects of project implementation



TABLE 5:
Capacity-building activities implemented during the first year of Phase II

Category of Participants	Persons Trained			Total Person Days of Training	Major Topics of Training
	Female	Male	Total		
RCIW Technical and Non-technical staff	6	150	156	700	Engineering, project management, Training of Trainers, communication and facilitation, gender, monitoring and evaluation, accounting, and storekeeping.
User Groups and Committees at Village Level	6,456	11,167	17,623	20,500	RCIW concept, project management, record keeping, monitoring, and supervision.
VDC and DDC representatives	377	1,074	1,451	2,600	Project planning, monitoring, and self-evaluation techniques

3.4 Provision of Rice by WFP

During the first year of Phase II, WFP delivered 15,572 MT of coarse rice to the programme districts. The cost to procure and deliver the rice up to the district warehouses was US\$2,880,133 (equivalent to NRs 218.5 million). The average price of the rice was US\$184.95 per ton, or NRs14 per kilogram. All rice was procured through local suppliers.

3.5 Rice Transportation Innovations

RCIW's work in some of the remote mountain districts of Nepal would not be possible without innovative new ways of transporting food to project sites.

Food-for-Portering (FfP) was an innovation to make the implementation of RCIW possible in remote communities far from road heads. Out of the 15,572MT provided by WFP during the year, 563 MT (3.6%) were used to pay User Group members as porters to transport food supplies from district warehouses at road heads to remote villages where *Food-for-Work* projects were being carried out. WFP hired field monitors to report on all aspects of the FfP experience in Achham, Bajura, Humla and Mugu during the year. They concluded that with minor adjustments, FfP was a viable and appropriate programme component, which most communities and districts strongly supported.



Innovative ways of transporting rice allow RCIW to work in very remote areas

Through Food for Portering activities, 270 MT of food was used as wages to carry rice to these remote areas.

This year, the Government of the People's Republic of China cooperated with WFP and RCIW to bring development opportunities to one of Nepal's remotest regions by granting permission to transport food for RCIW on highways in the Tibet Autonomous Region. From October 2000 and June 2001, WFP transported a total of 570 MT of coarse rice 1300 km from Kathmandu to Hilsa, Humla district for use in the RCIW road project that will eventually link Hilsa to Simikot along a traditional trading route.

3.6 Monitoring Activities

RCIW continues to develop and refine its systems for data collection, information analysis, and transparency.

The RCIW Monitoring System has six main components:

1. Information routinely produced from the analysis of Project Books,
2. Findings from self-evaluation exercises done by UGs and partner organisations,
3. Audits carried out by independent organisations,
4. Findings revealed by special studies such as Impact Assessment Studies,
5. Observations of RCIW staff members during field and project visits (Travel Reports).
6. Periodic reports from MLD to WFP

This year, RCIW further consolidated the **system for data collection and information analysis** regarding individual FfW projects. For most FfW projects implemented in both Phases I and II, there is a project data base, which contains all relevant information such as the physical achievements and the material and monetary resources used. The system is now operational and a summary is available for each district where GTZ has operated.

As in the previous year, many **self-assessment activities** were carried out. **Participatory Experience Sharing Exercises** (PESE) helped to improve the User Groups' sense of ownership and motivation, and understanding of RCIW management.

Each User Group carried out an average of two **public audits**. WFP commissioned three **district audits** by a reputable independent audit firm. MLD also carried out some audits through their internal auditors.



To promote transparency, all payments are made in group meetings and public audits are carried out by the User Groups.

TABLE 6:
Activities planned, implemented and problems encountered in 2000/2001

	Activities planned	Activities implemented	Problems encountered
1	Orienting and training relevant professionals and decision makers about the concept and guidelines of the RCIW Programme.	1.1 Activities were implemented as planned. Generally, a good level of understanding was achieved.	1.1 There are sometimes problems applying the concepts, often due to social constraints.
2	Assisting target households, communities and DDCs to identify and select larger FfW projects, and to prepare feasibility studies, detailed designs, and cost estimates for these schemes.	2.1 More than 300 feasible FfW projects were identified. RCIW prepared about 200 detailed project designs and cost estimates, including for five large road projects.	2.2 DDC and VDC representatives only request road projects and see little need for micro-project support.
3	Facilitating target households to form functional FfW User Groups (UGs).	3.1 About 250 new User Groups and committees were formed and trained.	3.2 Not all committee members are active or represent their members.
4	Advising User Groups in the implementation of about 200 FfW community infrastructure and 80 micro- projects.	4.1 Technical and management guidance was provided as scheduled in the Work Plans.	4.2 In districts without TA support, UGs did not receive sufficient advice.
5	Providing rice, construction material, and other inputs to target groups.	5.1 About 15,000 tons of rice and construction material worth about NRs 85 million was distributed.	5.2 Due to procurement and logistical problems, considerable delays occurred.
6	Facilitating members of FfW UGs to form and manage interest groups to undertake <i>Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)</i> , saving-and-credit, and income generating activities.	6.1 New groups were established, including 60 for <i>PLA</i> , 380 for saving, and 50 for income generation.	6.2 The interest of most target group members focuses on FfW and very little on self-help initiatives.
7	Linking interest groups with service providers.	7.1 Contacts to the respective line ministries were established.	7.2 Services provided are inadequate due to a lack of personnel and motivation.
8	Training of locally operating service providers.	8.1 More than 150 professionals participated in various training courses.	8.2 Underperformance still exists due to the low education level of many local NGO staff.
9	Fostering partnerships with organisations that have the potential to provide complementary services.	9.1 Partnerships were consolidated and new ones negotiated and agreed upon.	9.2 These partners have different approaches, time limits, and implementation modalities.
10	Monitoring and reporting of activities and RCIW impacts.	10.1 Most activities were implemented as planned.	10.2 Some field trips could not be carried out due to security problems.



RCIW activities include preparing detailed designs.

Section 4:

RCIW Achievements: Phase II, First Year

This section assesses the extent to which RCIW has contributed to improving the:

- 1) Food availability at the household level,
- 2) Road and trail networks in RCIW intervention areas,
- 3) Natural resource base,
- 4) Social and economic capacity of the RCIW target population, and
- 5) Planning, implementation and operational capacities of RCIW partner organisations.

4.1 Food Availability at the Household Level

Short-term food supply situation

During the year 2000/01, WFP supplied 15,572 MT of rice to about 56,300 food deficit households that participated in FfW projects. Overall, these households earned an average of 280 kg of rice and NRs 1/ kg of rice as remuneration for unskilled labour provided during project construction periods averaging three months.

In the 23 RCIW core districts, the beneficiary households received an average of 334 kg during this FfW working season. In the core districts, beneficiary households receive more

Having something to eat is the first step on the way out of poverty



Road building activities through FfW in Kavre.

rice because the district projects are bigger so the working seasons are longer. As well, a facilitated worker selection process limits the numbers of workers to bring more employment opportunities to the most food deficit households for a longer period.

RCIW provides food assistance during the agricultural lean season, when it is most required by the recipients and it is least disruptive to local rice markets. In most RCIW core districts, the amount of rice received by an ordinary beneficiary household is sufficient to meet their basic food requirements for 2-3 months. However, it is often still not enough rice for the entire annual period of scarcity. It was noted that usually all family members shared the food received and there were only a few instances of gender discrimination in the distribution of the food within households.

Long-term food supply situation

This year, RCIW supported the implementation of about 60 food production micro-projects and initiatives including 10 small-scale FfW irrigation schemes, 6 FfW fishponds and 13 FfW fruit tree plantations. Some groups also started improved kitchen gardening, horticulture, and chicken and goat farming activities. The impact of these initiatives on the long-term food supply situation will only fully materialise in the coming years but in a few cases, such as kitchen gardening, tangible benefits have already come about in the first year.

4.2 Improvement of the Rural Road and Trail Network

During the year under review, 200 User Groups engaged in constructing roads and 29 in rehabilitating trails.

Through RCIW this year, 246 km of rural roads in the Terai and about 200 km of “Green Roads” in the hills were completed and handed over to the respective DDCs. As well, 145 km of trails were rehabilitated with RCIW assistance. These roads and trails are improving the availability of food, services, and other essential commodities for the respective rural communities and, in many cases, lowering their prices. Roads and trails provide links for farmers to reach marketplaces, enabling them to intensify their agricultural production and find better markets for their cash crops.

Beneficiary households earn rice that enables them to participate in activities to initiate long-term food production

RCIW promotes the construction of roads and trails to increase the access to markets and food



Poor communities and groups can construct rural roads of a high standard

if they receive the necessary support through materials, training and guidance. However, the process of empowerment takes time and good relations, but in the long run the benefits often outweigh the costs.

Local authorities, politicians, and poor communities support the construction of roads for several reasons. The price of fertilizer has been observed to decrease by more than 50% following the opening of a road. In some cases, local farmers have more than doubled their earnings from dairy and vegetable sales. Along FfW roads, new businesses have emerged because retailers and craftspeople have additional opportunities. In places, land values have tripled. Target group members have also pointed out that better roads and trails are also beneficial as disaster mitigation investments, by making it easier to import food into a region when drought or pests cause temporary food shortages.

From the very onset of FfW road projects, the User Groups are encouraged to begin making provisions for the future maintenance of the road. RCIW supports them to start savings-&-credit activities to establish funds with which they will be able to maintain the asset. Many groups also charge tolls on vehicles using the road for the replenishment of the fund. VDCs and DDCs are required to set aside maintenance funds at the onset of projects.

4.3 Improvement of the Natural Resource Base and Disaster Prevention

Flood control projects reduce losses and can increase food production

The aim of RCIW's collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation (MFSC) is to make a substantial contribution towards improving the condition and management of natural resources.

This year, two large-scale FfW flood control projects on the Kamala River have been implemented. In addition, about thirty small-scale FfW projects were completed, such as river/flood control, agro-forestry and water retention ponds. There are indications that these FfW initiatives helped reduce the target population's exposure to disasters such as flash floods, droughts, fire, landslides, and earthquakes.

The various river control measures implemented may have a very beneficial impact because they reduce the risk of floods, especially for the poor, the most vulnerable people. Though floods affect rich and poor alike, in order to repair or rebuild after a disaster, the poor must get loans from moneylenders. Embankments sometimes offer poor families the opportunity to rehabilitate old riverbeds and turn them into paddy land.

These projects make a substantial contribution towards improving the management of natural resources, especially in fragile ecological regions such as the Churia Hills.

Flood control projects often protect productive fields.



TABLE 7:
FfW projects implemented during the working season 2000/01

Project type	No. of Projects Implemented	Achievements
Roads (completed, in progress, newly constructed, or rehabilitated)	200	733 km
Trails (rehabilitated or newly constructed)	29	136 km
Small scale irrigation channels	10	8 km
Fish ponds	6	7 ha
Fruit tree plantations	15	15 ha
River/flood control measures (embankments, spurs)	12	15 km
Agro - and community forestry projects	11	82 ha

Remarks: This includes earthen roads in the Terai: the rehabilitation of 100 km and new construction of 146 km. It also includes "Green Roads" in the hills: the completion of about 200 km and the ongoing construction of 287 km.

4.4 Improvement of the Social and Economic Capacity of RCIW Beneficiaries

There are sufficient indications that RCIW activities to form, strengthen, and support groups are contributing towards a noticeable improvement of the social and economic capacity of the RCIW target population. Food income earned through FfW enabled the poorest strata of the RCIW target population to participate in *PLA* activities that improved their awareness and literacy.

The **social capacity** of many target group members, especially women, has improved. The results achieved by the more than 3,000 target group members who participated in *Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)* and FfW activities are especially noteworthy. There are indications that the *PLA* activities enabled these people to fully and knowingly participate in community development activities, which they identified as their priorities, such as saving-&-credit and food production. RCIW skill development efforts helped to improve the group dynamics and management such that most members are highly motivated and committed to advancing their chosen group endeavours speedily and effectively.

The **economic capacity** of the RCIW target population has also improved. For instance, the financial capacity of many women has been increased by their group saving and lending activities. In the first year alone, 300 groups saved more than NRs 1.5 million and provided the potential for more than 3,000 women to invest in economic and social activities. Through RCIW, more than 5,000 target group households were enabled to embark on income generating activities, such as farming vegetables, ginger, fruit trees, babio grass, and fish.

Gender equity was improved at all levels. At the target group and community level, women within the RCIW target population have become more visible, vocal, and organized. The representation of women involved in FfW project activities has further increased in the work force and on the various committees. Most of the more than 1,000 micro-initiatives and projects are women managed.

PLA and saving-and-credit groups, in particular, were instrumental in bringing women into the development process. RCIW also successfully raised further concerns about gender

Social and economic activities enable beneficiaries to improve their long-term food security

Participatory Learning and Action serves as a means to enable beneficiaries to participate in development activities.



at the community and district level. Partner institutions such as DDCs, VDCs, and local partner NGOs are now, in most cases, fully aware of gender issues and of RCIW's gender principles. Though their intellectual understanding has greatly improved, gender principles are far from being fully incorporated into every person's attitudes and daily life. Renewed and even more concerted efforts must be made to further advance gender principles in the future.

4.5 Improvement of the Institutional Capacity

Capacity building activities enable local organisations, groups and individuals to sustain the development activities

RCIW concentrated its activities at the district and community levels on several priorities. One priority was the establishment of implementation structures in the districts of Mugu, Humla, Jumla, Jajarkot, Dang, and Bardiya, where it is working for the first time. In other RCIW districts, comprehensive orientation and training activities were carried out to further strengthen the implementation capacity of the District Programme Support Units (DPSU) and other coordination and planning institutions such as the DDCs and the District Programme Management Committees.

At the community level, RCIW worked through its technical assistance providers to offer managerial and technical training activities to strengthen the planning, management and implementation capacity and performance of local partner NGOs. Good progress is being made to start to bring their performance up to RCIW's expectations.

At the national level, RCIW focused its activities on consolidating old and finding new partnerships, especially in the new districts. The main objectives of these partnerships are to:

- Build on the strengths of the people and institutions involved,
- Make better use of available resources,
- Utilise the comparative advantages and best practices of the various partner organizations,
- Improve the access of the poor to social and economic services, and
- Harmonise development approaches and field activities.

This year, RCIW was able to consolidate existing partnerships, which were new last year. Partnerships are contributing to a social mobilization process that is encouraging initiative and leadership among individuals and communities. They make it possible to address the various components of food security in an integrated and effective way. Through these formal partnerships, RCIW can blend food/ capital aid with technical assistance. The partnerships have positive effects on the efficiency and effectiveness of resource use to produce and sustain better results at the community, district and national levels.

New partnerships were negotiated and agreed during this fiscal year with the DfID-funded Rural Access Programme (RAP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the UNDP-funded Participatory District Development (PDDP) and Local Governance (LGP) Programmes.

Capacity building enables locals to sustain their activities.





Section 5:

General Performance of RCIW

During the year 2000/01, RCIW directly assisted approximately 56,000 poor, food deficit families (336,000 people) to create productive assets and improve their self-help capacity. RCIW enabled the poor to invest time in creating assets, acquiring skills, and making better use of their development potential.

However, RCIW encountered various constraints and had several shortcomings. These are related to the inadequate implementation capacity of local public and private partners, the limited economic development options for the poor in the target districts, and, in some cases, the lack of consistent application of good governance principles.

There are strong indications that RCIW activities helped improve food production and rural access, and mitigate natural disasters (floods, droughts and landslides). In addition, RCIW enhanced the planning, implementation, and operational capacity of many local partner institutions, resulting in markedly improved services.

RCIW also made a significant contribution to advancing gender, decentralisation, and good governance issues. It has been successful at integrating programme activities into overall district and community development endeavours. Most RCIW activities are based on the needs and priorities expressed by communities. This time consuming and fairly costly approach is warranted because it improves the sustainability of the development activities by generating ownership in the local communities targeted by RCIW

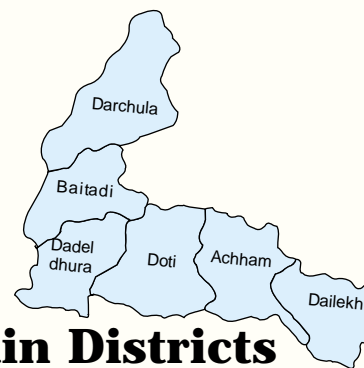
FfW road construction activities in the hills are technically demanding and need to be carefully supervised.

RCIW assists poor, food deficit people to create productive assets

Summary Report

July 2000 to June 2001

Cluster I: Far West Hill and Mountain Districts with road access



RCIW has operated in the six districts of Dadeldhura, Darchula, Doti, Achham, Baitadi, and Dailekh since 1996. During Phase I, RCIW implemented FfW projects scattered across the districts depending on the requests of the communities and the prevailing food security situation. With the commencement of Phase II in July 2000, RCIW aims to implement a more comprehensive approach in specific areas to increase food security.

Beneficiaries and Situation

In these six districts, RCIW's target population is about 60,000 people in over 10,000 very food deficit households.

Most of these people, especially the women, are socially and economically marginalised, illiterate, and possess very little or no land and assets. Due to the isolation and customs of the district, the social situation of women creates a difficult environment for gender-balanced development activities. Women do not participate in household or community decision-making. They cannot work or speak in a group with men. About 90% of the women are illiterate.

Many are "low" caste people who earn a living as sharecroppers and temporary agricultural labourers. Their local earnings do not cover even basic household necessities; so most people in the district depend upon male family members migrating to the Terai or India for employment.

Most beneficiaries farm very small plots of land on steep hillsides, growing millet in the monsoon and wheat in the winter. This region is dry relative to the rest of Nepal because the monsoon lasts only 2-3 months. Less land is cultivated and most agriculture is on less productive dry land. These fields have been divided among family members for generations so that most people are now the owners of very small parcels of land. Due to the small field size and low yields, about half of the population has only enough food for less than six months. Better off households might own one or two cattle or buffalo, and some goats and chickens.

Far West Nepal was very isolated until the early 1990s, which resulted in a lack of services, markets and local employment opportunities. Consequently, the local people have not had the opportunities to build the skills to implement development activities.

Adaptations and Innovations

In these districts, the lack of a rural road network limits the availability of food and services. Using Food-for-Work as a means, RCIW strives to enable the poor to help themselves and to develop district road networks to link food deficit communities with markets and service centres. According to RCIW's *Integrated Food Security Concept* in these districts, each DDC selects one road from the *District Transport Master Plan*. It is usually 30 - 40 km long, connecting six to ten VDCs. By constructing the road according to labour-intensive *Green Road* principles, a project provides three to four years of FfW employment opportunities for 2-3,000 workers from the poorest households.



Most beneficiaries, especially women, are socially and economically marginalised.

These workers or their family members are encouraged to form groups for activities of their own choice, such as saving-&-credit. Many women participate in *Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)* groups that, by analysing their circumstances, empower them to participate in social and economic development activities. They are then mobilised to do FfW micro projects that generate income. In these districts, the income generating activities with the most potential are high value crops such as fruit trees, vegetables, and herbs.



Participants attending a learning and action group.

Activities

Major project activities implemented by RCIW Phase II during 2000/01 were:

- Selecting, designing, and estimating costs of eight large FfW “backbone” rural road projects and 24 FfW micro projects.
- Supporting implementation of these projects involving workers from 13,742 households.
- Initiating social mobilisation that established and facilitated 32 FfW Projects and User Committees, and 260 micro finance and 93 income generation groups.
- Providing 3,099 tons of coarse rice.
- Procuring and distributing construction material worth over NRs 12 million.
- Orienting and training 2,360 target group and RCIW staff members.
- Supporting target group members to establish fruit tree plantations by providing rice for labour, seedlings, and technical support. If necessary, RCIW also arranges for the leasing or allocation of land to the group for its activities.

Achievements

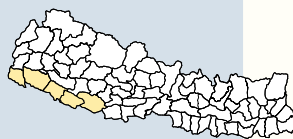
In these six districts, target group members who participated in FfW activities received an average of 252 kg of rice and 179 NRs. This improved their short-term food supply enough to enable them to participate in social and economic activities. More than 5,000 members participated in PLA classes and over 250 micro-finance groups saved almost NRs 1,400,000. Institutional capacity building contributed to an enhanced performance by local partner institutions. Although the trail and road network is not yet fully developed, the access to markets and service centres may already have helped their long-term food supply situation. Most stakeholders believe that RCIW is making a visible and significant impact on poverty alleviation.

Resources provided, activities implemented, and physical structures achieved by districts

	Item Districts	Dadeldhura	Darchula	Doti	Achham	Dailekh	Baitadi	Total
Resource Provision	DPSU professionals	3	3	6	3	3	3	21
	GTZ professionals	1	-	3	1	3		8
	NGO professionals	5	6	5	5	-		21
	WFP rice distributed (tons)	614	800	405	712	410	158	3,099
	Internal rice transportation, storage and handling costs (NRs)	1,400,000	1,499,170	1,789,537	3,493,397	1,600,000		9,782,104
	Material and skill labour costs (NRs)	2,544,317	3,968,876	1,504,421	2,486,245	1,815,817		12,319,676
	VDC cash for unskilled labour (NRs)	706,688	798,417	284,621	409,360	138,663		2,337,749
	DDC contribution for engineering services (NRs)	540,000	1,200,000	640,000	603,950	750,000		3,733,950
Activities Implemented	FfW large (backbone) projects	2	1	1	2	1	1	8
	FfW micro projects	6	1	3	5	9		24
	Public Audits in FfW-projects	16	9	13	14	8		60
	Participatory Learning and Action groups	17	19	15	27	0		61
	Micro finance groups formed	25	69	40	107	43		259
	Fruit trees planted	3,838	840	1,794	3,125	0		5,759
	Income generation groups formed	10	15	26	27	15		93
	People trained and oriented	217	476	658	851	375		2,360
Physical Achievements	Total households benefited by FfW	3,233	2,318	3,455	2,290	1,906	540	13,742
	Rice received per households (kg)	233	337	117	390	144	292	252
	Cash received per households (NRs)	219	344	82	179	72	na	178
	Roads under construction (km)	33	30	39	32	20	9.1	163.1
	Trails/tracks rehabilitated (km)	6	0	0	0	18		24
	Total savings by groups (NRs)	293,674	430,763	90,393	379,817	195,994		1,390,641

Summary Report

July 2000 to June 2001



Cluster II: Freed Kamaiya Food Security Project

In July 2000, the Nepal Government finally abolished the Kamaiya system of bonded agricultural labour. The response of many landlords to this initiative left more than 15,000 freed Kamaiya families, who had been bonded labourers, suddenly without homes, jobs, or land. Consequently, they did not even have food to eat.

To alleviate their dire social and economic situation, HMG/N appealed for donor assistance, and as a response, the **Freed Kamaiya Food Security Project (FKFSP)** started operating in January 2001 as a component of RCIW.

The main project partners at the national level are the Ministry of Local Development (MLD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), which is supported financially by the British Department for International Development (DFID). Self-help groups from ex-Kamaiya families implement the project activities locally with the assistance of the District Project Support Units and local NGOs. RCIW continues to support the families as they establish new homes on land allocated to them by HMG/N.

Beneficiaries and Situation

The project's target population consists of about 90,000 highly food insecure people in 15,000 landless ex-Kamaiya households. The majority of these people live in the three districts of Kanchanpur, Kailali, and Bardiya. The rest are scattered in the two districts of Banke and Dang. The project beneficiaries include a few other landless and highly food deficit households living in or near the newly created ex-Kamaiya settlements.

The Kamaiya or bonded agriculture labour system traditionally prevailed in the western Terai in the districts of Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur. The landlords engaged agricultural labourers on a yearly contract with remuneration in the form of food grains and a small amount of cash. These were insufficient to cover the labourers' minimum needs.

Consequently, the Kamaiyas were compelled to take loans from their landlords, which they were often unable to repay. As a result, the Kamaiya families were obligated to work for the landlord throughout their lifetimes and the next generations inherited the debt.

Adaptations and Innovations

FKFSP strives to improve the livelihood and access to food of the freed Kamaiyas by promoting sustainable self-help activities to develop land, shelter, and community infrastructure. When FKFSP began operating in January 2000, it had to immediately deal with the basic needs of these people who had lost everything, including their debt. While providing immediate food security of the ex-Kamaiyas through conventional FfW projects, the main aim of the project is to improve the long-term food security through complementary activities and inputs such as awareness, saving-&-credit, income generating activities, agricultural packages, and training.

Through social mobilisation, the formation of self-help and interest groups facilitates the social and economic empowerment of the ex-Kamaiyas. District Project Support Units



A proud Kamaiya holds a land certificate - a pre-condition to start the settlement process.

(DPSU) support the activities of the target groups by providing technical expertise, construction material, and other inputs. Locally operating NGOs are hired to facilitate the social mobilisation process. WFP provides rice for the workers engaged in FfW activities. GTZ provides advisory, technical, managerial, and financial services to local partners.

Activities

Major project activities implemented during 2000/01 were:

- Establishing a project implementation structure.
- Orienting and training of about 4,800 people involved in the rehabilitation process of ex-Kamaiyas.
- Initiating social mobilization resulting in the formation of about 70 groups with members from about 4,500 households.
- Providing 1,336 MT of coarse rice.
- Implementing 39 FfW roads and 25 FfW micro-projects with about 5,500 people (43% women), from 4,800 households, which received an average of 265 kg of rice.
- Providing seeds and hand tools to 1,389 households to facilitate land cultivation and food production.

Achievements

The government has completed the land allocation process and thus far, about 2,000 ex-Kamaiya families (20% of the target group) are in physical possession of land. They have started to cultivate fields and construct their houses. The food supply situation of households has improved, mainly from people engaging in FfW activities and making use of some employment opportunities.

Supplies of seeds and tools enabled many ex-Kamaiya families to start producing their own food. The overall progress towards achieving the project's objectives has been satisfactory but still falls short of the planned targets. The main factors hindering rapid progress are land disputes and the extremely low self-help capacity of ex-Kamaiyas.

Resources provided, activities implemented, and physical structures achieved by districts

Items/Districts		Dang	Banke	Kailali	Kanchanpur	Bardiya	Total
Resource Provision	MLD	Engineer	1	1	1	1	5
		Overseer	1	3	2	2	9
		Support staff	1	7	5	3	17
	GTZ	Professionals	1	1	1	1	5
		NGO staff	4	3	4	4	19
	WFP Rice (MT)	22	157	610	267	280	1,336
	ITSH (50 % WFP, 50 % MLD)	150,000	652,162	787,039	433,721	272,971	2,295,893
	Skilled Labour Cost (NRs)	0	96,424	199,282	0	0	295,706
Administration (MLD) (NRs)	89,534	458,922	621,851	526,580	0	1,696,887	
Material (NRs cash from MLD)	495,000	525,633	1,872,038	210,125	1,414,365	4,517,161	
VDC contribution (NRs)	0	0	547,142	82,221	28,926	658,289	
DDC contribution (NRs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Activities Implemented	FfW road projects	3	10	11	15	3	39
	FfW micro-projects	1	17	0	8	0	25
	Public Audits in FfW groups	1	0	16	27	2	45
	Saving-&-credit groups formed	4	12	11	35	8	66
	Agro-packages distributed	85	136	172	712	184	1,389
	No. of people trained and oriented	0	579	524	3,624	103	4,830
Physical Achievements	Total households benefited by FfW	147	679	1,589	1,271	798	4,484
	Rice received per households (kg)	150	232	384	210	351	265
	Cash received per households (NRs)	150	232	384	210	351	265
	Roads constructed (km)	5	14	66	10	23	119
	Trails/tracks constructed (km)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	River control dams (km)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total savings made by groups (NRs)	600	3,462	24,380	38,000	8,000	74,442



FfW road construction activities in the Terai are technically less demanding, but the labour management is very demanding.



Setting up reliable drinking water facilities is another activity supported by the project.

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July 2000 to June 2001



Cluster III: Far West Hill and Mountain Districts without road access

RCIW began operating in the three districts of Bajura, Bajhang, and Kalikot in 1999 on a small scale trial basis to test various means of operating in very remote mountainous districts that are inaccessible by road. In 2000/01, this area was also politically insecure.

With the start of RCIW Phase II in July 2000, these districts and Jajarkot were officially included in the programme because the operational problems could be overcome by logistical innovations. However, food transportation and handling costs and other RCIW operational expenses are relatively high, so it was decided to limit the rice allocation to a maximum of 400 MT per district each year.

Beneficiaries and Situation

In these four districts, RCIW's target population is about 24,000 people from 4,000 food deficit households. Most of these families, especially the women, are socially and economically marginalised, illiterate, and landless or in possession of very little land and assets.

At this high altitude in the Western Himalaya, the climate is very cold and dry; hence, the potential for agricultural production is relatively low. The area is very sparsely populated and communities are scattered at long distances from each other. The households at which RCIW aims its interventions possess very little arable land, and for a livelihood, usually herd sheep and goats on the steep slopes, and gather herbs.

Most households frequently cope with severe food and cash shortages. Their local earnings are insufficient to cover even basic household needs. As a consequence, at least one male family member goes seasonally to work outside the district, mainly in India.

The districts are located in the remote mountains of Far Western Nepal. Many of the beneficiaries must walk for an average of six days to reach the nearest road head to their community. As a result, they have little or no access to health care services or markets.

Adaptations and Innovations

In these four districts, the total lack of road access severely limits food availability. RCIW concentrates on FfW projects to construct rural roads to link the district headquarters to the national road network. FfW road alignments are selected according to their importance and priority as perceived by the majority of the DDC members. Most proposed roads are 20-30 km long and connect two to four VDCs. RCIW strives to plan, construct, and maintain these roads according to *Green Road* principles.

The VDC members in each district select workers from about 1,000 of the most food insecure households living within the corridors of the roads being constructed. In each VDC, the workers form a User Group that operates on a self-help basis to construct the road. Women especially are encouraged to start savings-&-credit schemes and income generation activities, such as collecting, cultivating, and processing non-timber forest products.

RCIW devised a *Food-for-Portering* scheme in which individuals from the poorest households receive rice as payment for carrying 40 kg loads of rice into these remote areas. (See section 3.5)



Sheep are also used as a means of transport in the Far West Hills.

Activities

The major activities implemented during 2000/01 were:

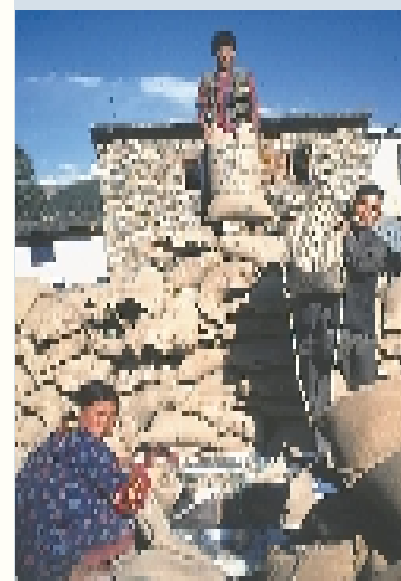
- Selecting, designing, and estimating expenditures for four large FfW *backbone* rural road projects and one small FfW trail project.
- Establishing the DPSUs and starting the social mobilization process.
- Providing 815 MT of coarse rice, and procuring and distributing construction materials worth NRs 2.5 million.
- Supporting the implementation of the four road and one trail projects that involve workers from 3,837 households.
- Orienting 2,184 target group and RCIW staff members.

Achievements

In all four districts, RCIW established the necessary administrative structures and carried out detailed road surveys and cost estimates. User Groups were formed and User Committee members were trained. Though FfW construction activities started over a total length of 23 km, they did not achieve their targets due to delayed deliveries of rice and logistical problems.

The short-term food supply situation of about 3,800 households, who participated in FfW activities, may have been improved by the food and cash received in exchange for labour or portering. About 45% of the rice was used as remuneration to UG and community members for portering rice.

In Bajang, the food aid met the participants' basic needs, enabling them to start to participate in savings-&-credit activities. The institutional capacity of local partner organizations appears to have improved. Under the conditions in these districts, these achievements are remarkable and encourage a continuation and intensification of the RCIW activities.



Rice has been a scarce commodity in these remote, arid districts.

Resources provided, activities implemented, and physical achievements by district

	Item	Bajura	Bajhang	Kallkot	Jajarkot	Total
Resource Provision	DPSU professionals	3	3	2	3	11
	GTZ professionals	1	2	2	2	7
	WFP rice distributed (M tons)	130	348	195	142	815
	Rice as payment for Food-for-Portering (MT)	39	90	120	74	323
	Internal rice transportation, storage and handling expenses (NRs)	362,259	303,033	77,884	117,582	860,758
	Material and skill labour costs (NRs)	591,517	698,014	748,676	498,747	2,536,954
	VDC cash contribution for unskilled labour (NRs)	54,152	409,360	0	67,000	530,512
	DDC contribution for engineering services (NRs)	0	129,500	0	33,500	163,000
Activities Implemented	FfW large (backbone) projects	1	1	1	1	4
	FfW micro-projects	0	1	0	0	1
	Public Audits in FfW projects	2	5	1	1	9
	Micro-finance groups formed	0	11	0	0	11
	Income generation groups formed	0	0	0	0	0
	People trained and oriented	262	887	500	535	2,184
Physical Achievements	Total no. of households benefiting from FfW	600	1,404	864	960	3,837
	Rice received per household (kg)	150	178	87	147	141
	Cash received per household (NRs)	90	93	0	70	63
	Roads under construction (km)	1	16	2	4	23
	Trails/tracks rehabilitated (km)	0	7	1	0	8
	Total savings by groups (NRs)	0	61,542	0	0	61,542

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Cluster IV: Eastern Terai Districts

RCIW has been operating in the four districts of Dhanusha, Siraha, Saptari, and Udayapur since 1997. However, it revised the implementation concept and strategy at the start of Phase II in July 2000.

Beneficiaries and Situation

In these four extremely densely populated districts, RCIW's target population is about 60,000 people in over 10,000 very food deficit households. Most families are socially and economically marginalised, and have very little or no land and assets.

About 30% of the population are "low" caste people, who earn a meagre living by sharecropping, labouring in others' fields, selling firewood, and working in India. Their traditional livelihoods as village craftsmen are diminishing due the import of manufactured goods. At least 100 – 200 of these households live in each VDC, usually in their own isolated settlements.

Large numbers of the poor who benefit from RCIW activities live at the foot of the Churia Hills and along riverbanks where floods and soil erosion often endanger their tenuous resource base. In the Churia

Hills, the forests have been degraded to the extent that there is an acute shortage of fuel wood, fodder and timber.

Deforestation results in flooding across agricultural land and silt deposits filling riverbeds. The erosion problems are intensified when cutting firewood from the Churia forest to sell is the only option left for the poorest people. Other problems include migration from the hills, gender and caste discrimination, and the lack of irrigation.

The declining productivity of the land and growing population have changed the situation in these districts from producing a food-surplus in the 1980s to having a food-deficit. In VDCs without irrigation, the food production has fallen below the needs of the population. Due to the diminishing food production and agricultural employment opportunities, the capacity of marginal farmers and landless people to purchase food is dwindling.

Adaptations and Innovations

To address the hazard of flooding in these districts, the main types of larger FfW projects implemented are flood control embankments/structures. In Udayapur, district roads are also being constructed. With support from the District Soil and Watershed Management Office (DSCO), small groups implement micro FfW self-help initiatives such as plantations for fruit trees or babio grass, and ponds for fish or irrigation.



A typical Terai target group engaged in construction of a fish pond.

Activities

Major activities implemented during 2000/01 were:

- Selecting, designing, and estimating costs for more than 74 FfW projects.
- Initiating social mobilization activities that resulted in the formation and management support of 88 FfW User Groups, 83 micro-finance and 102 income generation groups,
- Providing 2,818 tons of coarse rice,
- Procuring and distributing construction material worth NRs 40 million.
- Supporting the implementation of four FfW backbone and 84 FfW micro projects involving 11,075 households.
- Orienting and training about 9,800 target group and RCIW staff members.



Fish ponds help to increase long-term food production and income.

Achievements

The target group members who participated in FfW projects were enabled to participate in small group social and economic activities because they had received food and cash that considerably improved their short-term food supply.

Their long-term food supply situation may also improve through these activities to create investments in fish and irrigation ponds, plantations of non-timber products such as babio grass, and fields from reclaimed river land. Most groups also participated in saving-&-credit activities. The vulnerability of the target group may decrease as their natural resource base and economic situation improve.

Resources provided, activities implemented and structures achieved by districts

	Item Districts	Udayapur	Siraha	Dhanusha	Saptari	Total
Resource Provision	MLD professionals	4	3	4	3	14
	DSCO professionals	4	4	4	4	16
	GTZ professionals	2	2	2	2	8
	NGO professionals	6	6	5	5	22
	WFP rice distributed (tons)	795	830	693	500	2,818
	Internal rice transportation, storage and handling costs (NRs)	1,899,655	710,011	725,906	90,000	3,425,572
	Material and skill labour costs (NRs)	7,836,709	14,390,333	15,592,187	2,202,690	40,021,919
	VDC cash contributions for unskilled labour (NRs)	786,227	533,178	1,049,194	247,560	2,616,159
	DDC contribution for gravelling roads (NRs)	0	1,586,181	1,728,417	100,000	3,414,598
Activities Implemented	FfW large (backbone) projects	2	1	1	-	4
	FfW micro projects	12	30	9	33	84
	Public Audits in FfW projects	33	40	61	28	152
	Saving-and-credit groups formed	34	9	25	12	83
	Income generation groups	25	28	22	27	102
	People trained and oriented	2,732	2,370	1,453	3,234	9,789
Physical Achievements	Total households benefiting from FfW	3,284	4,097	2,067	1,627	11,075
	Rice received per household (kg)	238	237	323	156	238
	Cash received per household (NRs)	238	237	323	156	238
	Roads constructed (km)	63	13	35	10	119
	Agro-forestry plantations (ha)	0	29	9	-	38
	River control dams (km)	8	5	1	0	13
	Ponds (ha)	1	19	7	10	37
	Irrigation channels (km)	3	2	0	33	38
	Total savings made by groups (NRs)	600	3,462	24,380	38,000	74,442

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Cluster V: Eastern Hill and Mountain Districts

The four districts of Kavre, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, and Ramechhap have been involved in RCIW since 1997. However in Phase II, the technical services provided in the first four years by GTZ are now done through the *District Road Support Project (DRSP)* in Sindhupalchok and Dolakha and through district staff in Ramechhap and Kavre.

Through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), DRSP aims to construct low cost roads from local resources. It is collaborating with RCIW in Kavre, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, and Ramechhap to enhance the capability in the districts. RCIW and DRSP are working together to construct selected rural roads in Sindhupalchok and Dolakha districts, and to prepare for future collaboration.

The objectives of the partnership are to:

- Establish an alliance between DRSP and RCIW to strengthen the institutions that manage transportation in the DRSP partner districts,
- Share experiences regarding different methods and aspects of managing road construction using labour from local communities,
- Implement, in a sustainable way, two rural road projects of RCIW for which DRSP is providing technical assistance and support:

Beneficiaries and Situation

Most of the FfW beneficiaries are socially and economically marginalised families, which possess little or no land and assets. In these districts of the Eastern Hills, many of the disadvantaged people are of the Tamang ethnic group, who earn a living by sharecropping, labouring seasonally in others fields, selling firewood, and migrating seasonally to Tibet.

Adaptations and Innovations

RCIW follows two implementation strategies in these four districts. In each district, the District Programme Support Unit (DPSU) facilitates the implementation of one or two larger FfW road projects. DRSP provides overall assistance to the DDCs of Sindhupalchok and Dolakha in access planning, and advisory, technical, managerial services to local partner organizations. It also supports the social mobilization process, which aims to establish self-help and interest groups as a forum to facilitate the social and economic empowerment of the target population.

Activities

Major project activities implemented during 2000/01 were:

- Selecting, designing, and estimating costs of 13 FfW projects.
- Initiating a social mobilization process resulting in the formation and management of FfW User Groups.

Survey of Nawalpur -
Melamchi road



- Providing 2,356 MT of coarse rice, procuring and distributing construction material worth about NRs 8.5 million.
- Supporting implementation of six FfW large and two small road projects, and five FfW trail rehabilitation projects involving 8,355 households.
- Orienting and training about 149 target group and RCIW staff members.

Achievements

The short-term food supply of the target group members who participated in FfW activities, improved considerably due to the food and cash received. Each household received an average of 326 kg of rice and comparable cash. As well, the district road network was improved, which made it easier for the target group to get to markets and service centres.

Social mobilisation and awareness have resulted in increased participation by women in construction, and the start of micro-finance and income generating activities on the Nawalpur- Melamchi road project in Sindhupalchok.

Following the DRSP guidelines, the formation of a Local Road Coordination Committee has lead to better participation and coordination among all the VDCs along the road corridor.

DRSP facilitated an experience sharing seminar between the RCIW and the DRSP partner districts (Kavre, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha and Ramechhap). It also organised a workshop with all the district implementers including DDC chairpersons, Secretaries of the DDCs, District RCIW engineers, and all central level partners including WFP, GTZ, SDC, and MLD.



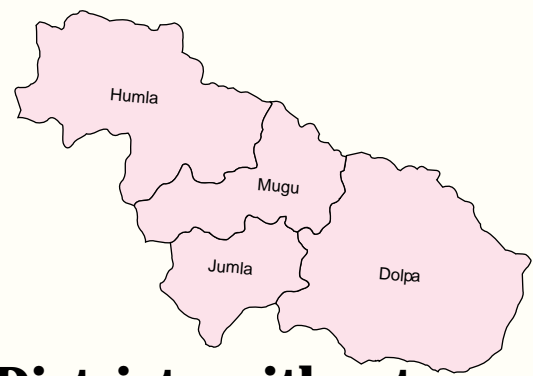
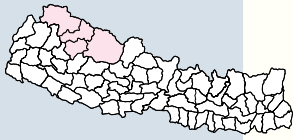
Construction work in progress

Resources provided, activities implemented, and physical achievements by district

	Item Districts	Kavre	Sindhupalchok	Dolakha	Ramechhap	Total
Resources Provided	MLD Professionals	3 (consultant)	4	4	5	16
	DRSP Professionals	1	1	1		2
	NGO Professionals	689				1
	WFP rice distributed (tons)	2,063,723	452	615	600	2,356
	Internal rice transportation, storage and handling costs (NRs)	2,413,270	1,699,967	936,145	798,602	5,498,437
	Material and skilled labour costs (NRs)	723,201	2,489,354	3,164,186	2,750,000	8,341,810
	VDC cash contribution for unskilled labour (NRs)	1	455,654	896,895	626,100	2,701,850
Activities Implemented	FfW large (backbone) projects	2	1	2	2	6
	FfW other rural road projects					2
	FfW mule trails	18	4	1		5
	Public Audits in FfW projects	31	16	8	4	48
	No. of people trained and oriented	2,547	45	55	18	149
Activities Implemented	Total households benefiting from FfW	270	1,964	2,823	1,021	8,355
	Rice received per household (kg)	283	230	218	587	326
	VDC Cash received per household (NRs)	51	232	318	613	323
	Roads constructed (km)		27	23	25	126
	Mule trail constructed (km)		3	4		7

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Cluster VI: Western Mountain Districts without road access

The first year that RCIW worked in Humla, Mugu and Jumla districts was 2000/1 in close cooperation with the District Partners Programme (DPP) funded by SNV. Operations will commence in Dolpa in 2001/02.

Project sites were selected in the districts based on the feasibility of transporting rice to the areas, and on the priorities for the projects set by the DDCs. District Programme Support Units (DPSUs) and DPP support RCIW implementation. DPP provides social mobilisation support through local organizations, and advisory and technical services to the DDCs.



Typical village houses of beneficiaries in the western mountains.

The RCIW activities in Humla and Mugu complement the ongoing DPP programme, which assists in the formation of CBOs and promotes local enterprise. The objectives of the DPP partnership are to:

- Bring together DPP-supported social mobilisation activities, WFP- and MLD-supported development inputs, and SNV's capacity to develop the long-term economic potential of target areas, for sustainable improvements in the food security situation.
- Share learning regarding how common programme goals of assisting districts to target the poor can mutually reinforcing.
- Establish a basis for future collaboration with CBOs and other UGs assisted and facilitated by DPP

Beneficiaries and Situation

The RCIW's target population in the three districts totals about 2,100 food deficit households.

In these vast, sparsely populated mountain and highland regions, almost everyone is food insecure. Typically, a person in the target population may live as far as 15 days walk from the nearest road head and major food market in Nepal. Few roads go through the hills of neighbouring districts, and the road heads are closer in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

Only one crop can be grown each year in this cold, dry climate and on the steep slopes and degraded land the productivity of the fields is extremely low. To complement their meagre subsistence agriculture, most mountain families traditionally engaged in trade with Tibet. This livelihood diminished when cross-border trade was officially suspended a generation ago. Now, many families supplement their agricultural production by migrating to work in India or other parts of Nepal.

Adaptations and Innovations

In these remote mountain districts, RCIW needed to find innovative ways of transporting food to project sites and of improving physical access including trails.

RCIW works with SNV to ensure that activities to improve access and to promote community-managed tourism are complementary.

Food-for-Portering (FfP) facilitates the implementation of RCIW in remote communities far from roads. Rice is used to pay members of the UG and community to carry food supplies from district warehouses at road heads to the remote villages where Food-for-Work projects are being implemented.

This year, the Government of China gave permission to transport food for RCIW from Kathmandu to Humla on highways in the Tibet Autonomous Region. From October 2000 and June 2001, WFP transported 570 MT of coarse rice for 1300 km from Kathmandu to Humla in order to pay workers on the RCIW road project that will eventually link Hilsa to Simikot along a traditional trading route.



Yaks were also used to transport rice in the extremely remote high altitude district of Humla.

Activities

Major project activities implemented during 2000/01 were:

- Selecting, designing and estimating costs of four FfW projects.
- Initiating a social mobilization process resulting in the formation and management support of User Groups.
- Providing 1,022 MT of coarse rice, procuring and distributing construction material worth NRs 1.9 million.
- Supporting the implementation of two road and two trail projects involving 1,870 households.
- Orientation and training of target group and counterpart members.

Achievements

The food and cash received by the target group members who participated in FfW activities improved their short-term food supply considerably. Each household earned about 439 kg of rice and a small cash component.

Resources provided, activities implemented and physical achievements by district

	Item Districts	Humla	Mugu	Jumla	Total
Resources Provided	MLD Professionals	3 (consultant)	3 (consultant)	1	7
	DPP Professionals				
	NGO Professionals	2	1		3
	WFP rice distributed (tons)	652	300	70	1,022
	Internal rice transportation, storage and handling costs (NRs)	3,798,657	3,952,680	919,500	8,748,642881
	Material and skill labour costs (NRs)	0	1,215,283	0	1,891,345
	VDC cash contribution for unskilled labour (NRs)	0	204,660	18,189	222,849
Activities Implemented	FfW backbone projects	1		1	2
	FfW mule trail projects	1	1		2
	Public Audits in FfW projects	3	2	1	6
	People trained and oriented	76	65	89	230
Physical Achievements	Total households benefiting from FfW	550	700	620	1,870
	Rice received per household (kg)	778	429	110	439
	VDC Cash received per household (NRs)	-	292	29	119
	Roads constructed (km)	15	6	3	24
	Mule trail constructed (km)	13	-	-	13

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Cluster VII: Makawanpur

The RCIW Programme has operated in Makawanpur since 1997. When RCIW Phase II started in July 2000, it introduced a more comprehensive food security concept, in which Food for Work (FfW) projects are complemented by social and economic development activities. This is the first time that GTZ district support activities have been fully replaced by technical services provided by an NGO, in this case, SAPPROS.

Beneficiaries and Situation

RCIW's target population in this district is about 10,000 people from 1,700 food deficit households. Most of these families are socially and economically marginalized, and landless or in possession of very little land and assets.

Many of them are of the disadvantaged Chhepang ethnic group that lives in remote Churia and Mahabharat hill settlements. They earn a living by sharecropping, doing seasonal agricultural labour, selling firewood, and migrating for temporary work in Kathmandu or India.

The district lies along the steep escarpment as the Churia Hills rise out of the plains. It is confronted by both problems of flooding and a lack of access in the hill regions.

Adaptations and Innovations

In Makawanpur, the District Development Committee (DDC) implements a few larger FfW *backbone* rural road projects, which are technically facilitated by the *District Programme Support Unit (DPSU)* and strengthened by technical personnel financed by the *Employment Promotion Commission (EPC)*, Danida, and MLD.

Within these large FfW road projects, several FfW micro-projects and other development activities are implemented with SAPPROS providing advisory, technical, managerial and financial services to local partner organizations. SAPPROS also supports the social mobilization process, which aims to establish self-help and interest groups as a forum to facilitate the social and economic empowerment of the target population.

Activities

Major project activities implemented during 2000/01 were:

- Selecting, designing, and estimating costs of ten FfW projects.
- Initiating a social mobilization process that resulted in the formation and management support of FfW User Groups.
- Providing 700 tons of coarse rice, procuring and distributing construction material worth about NRs 3 million.
- Supporting the implementation of one large FfW backbone project, two other rural road projects, and seven FfW micro-projects, involving 1,146 households.
- Orienting and training 256 target group members and RCIW staff members.

Achievements

In Makawanpur, the short-term food supply of the target group members who participated in FfW activities improved considerably because each household received an average of 610 kg of rice and comparable cash. This enabled them to participate in activities to improve their long-term food supply situation, such as constructing fish and irrigation ponds, promoting non-timber products (babio grass), and reclaiming river land. In addition, the vulnerability of the target group might have also decreased because their natural resource base and economic situation improved.



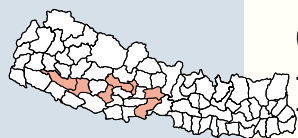
Boards displaying the rates paid for work help to promote transparency at project sites.

Resources provided, activities implemented, and physical achievements

	Item	Makawanpur
Resource Provision	MLD Professionals (EPC)	4
	SAPPROS Professionals	8
	WFP rice distributed (tons)	700
	Internal rice transportation, storage and handling costs (NRs)	1,300,000
	Material and skill labour costs (NRs)	2,997,455
	VDC cash contribution for unskilled labour (NRs)	695,500
Activities Implemented	FfW large (backbone) projects	1
	FfW micro projects	9
	Public Audits in FfW projects	16
	Saving and credit groups formed	60
	Income generation groups	75
	No. of people trained and oriented	256
Physical Achievements	Total no. of households benefiting from FfW	1,146
	Rice received per household (kg)	610
	Cash received per household (NRs)	607
	Roads constructed (km)	26
	Mule trails constructed (km)	35

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Cluster VIII: Non-core Phase-out Districts

RCIW has operated in the seven districts of Salyan, Pyuthan, Nawalparasi, Baglung, Surkhet, Parbat, and Tanahu for five or six years. During Phase I, RCIW implemented FfW projects scattered across the districts depending on the requests of the communities.

WFP, on behalf of RCIW, conducted vulnerability mapping during the past couple of years. The conclusions of this mapping indicated that the most food insecure districts are in the far western hills and mountains of Nepal. With the commencement of Phase II in July 2000, RCIW is shifting its focus to implement a more comprehensive approach to increase food security in the most vulnerable regions.

Consequently, RCIW will phase-out of these districts as ongoing projects are completed. The programme operates in these districts through the District Programme Support Unit without a Technical Assistance provider.

In these districts, food insecurity is less due to the greater productivity from moister conditions in central Nepal. Though most of the districts lack adequate road networks, they are not as isolated as in the far west, where until the early 1990s, one had to travel through India from Kathmandu. Access to food markets and services is still difficult in central Nepal, but not almost impossible as in the far west.

Resources provided, activities implemented, and physical structures achieved

	Item Districts	Salyan	Baglung	Surkhet	Parbat	Tanahu	Pyuthan	Nawalparasi	Total
Resource Provision	DPSU professionals	4	3	4	3	3	2	2	21
	WFP rice distributed (tons)	244	351	500	512	670	395	278	2950
	Internal rice transportation, storage and handling costs (NRs)	Not available							
	Material and skill labour costs (millions of NRs)	1.5	1.4	4.12	2.32	3.93	1.5	1.51	8.42
	VDC cash for unskilled labour (NRs)	244,000	351,000	500,000	232,000	393,000	395,000	278,000	16,500,000
Activities Implemented	FfW projects implemented	6	9	7	7	19	3	2	43
	People trained and oriented	-	25	-	30	-	56	-	111
Physical Achievements	Total households benefiting from FfW	820	1,603	2,153	715	2,500	1,032	1,116	9,939
	Rice received per households (kg)	298	219	232	717	268	382	239	2,355
	Cash received per households (NRs)	298	219	232	717	268	382	239	2,355
	Roads under construction or completed (km)	13.9	2.22	13.38	23.69	45.0	8.48	10.25	116.9
	Trails/tracks rehabilitated (km)		24.88			0.44			25.32
	River training (km)	9.4					0.125	0.62	10.14

Abbreviations

BMZ	:	Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ministry for Economic Development
CBOs	:	Community-based Organisations
DFID	:	Department of International Development (UK)
DSCO	:	Department of Soil Conservation
DDC	:	District Development Committee
DRSP	:	District Road Support Programme
DPP	:	District Partners Programme
DPA	:	District Programme Advisor
DPSU	:	District Programme Support Unit
EPC	:	Employment Promotion Commission
FfW	:	Food-for-Work
FFP	:	Food-for-Portering
FKFSP	:	Freed Kamaiya Food Security Project
GTZ	:	Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for Technical Assistance)
ha	:	hectare
HMG/N	:	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
ITSH	:	Internal Transport, Storage and Handling
KfW	:	Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau
kg	:	kilogram
km	:	kilometre
LDO	:	Local Development Officer
M+ E	:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFSC	:	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
MLD	:	Ministry of Local Development
MT	:	metric tonne
NGO	:	Non-governmental Organisation
NPSU	:	National Programme Support Unit
NRs	:	Nepali Rupees
PLA	:	Participatory Learning and Action
PD	:	Person Days
PM	:	Person Months
RCIW	:	Rural Community Infrastructure Works
SDC	:	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SNV	:	Netherlands Development Organisation
TA	:	Technical Assistance
UC	:	User Committee
UG	:	User Group
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
WFP	:	World Food Programme

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