

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

POLICY AND PROGRAMMES FOR OLDER PERSONS IN NEPAL

Report of the Fact-Finding Mission
6 – 10 December 2010

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)

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BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

The Government of Nepal, in a letter dated 7 July 2010 from the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, requested the provision of technical assistance for its ongoing efforts to improve the well-being, health and livelihood of its older population. Specifically, the Government requested the United Nations to assist it in undertaking (a) an analysis of the socio-economic and demographic situation of older persons in Nepal, (b) an assessment and a potential revision of the existing National Plan Policy, Operational Strategy towards Senior Citizens as well as the Three Year Interim Plan, and (c) an assessment of progress made and potential for acceleration of work already undertaken to support the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and other international commitments.

In view of the request, the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development approved an advisory mission to Nepal, aimed at providing advisory services and developing a technical assistance framework on ageing in Nepal.

The mission consisted of two UNDESA/DSPD staff members: Mr. Oleg Serezhin, Technical Cooperation Unit and Mr. Robert Venne, UN Programme on Ageing. The mission visited Nepal from 6 to 10 December 2010.

General Objectives of the Mission were formulated by DESA/DSPD along the lines of the request from the Government as follows:

- A. To assess current socio-economic policies to identify areas for potential technical assistance and further advisory services as well as concrete interventions and actions required for addressing the issue of ageing in Nepal.
- B. To provide advice to the Government in building national capacity to develop, coordinate and implement policy measures to address ageing issues at national and sub-national levels and to mainstream ageing issues across public and private sectors.
- C. To brief representatives of the Ministry, other relevant Government agencies and major stakeholders on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).
- D. To identify further steps in conjunction with the UN Country Team in Nepal and the donor community for developing a framework for assistance to the Government of Nepal.

BACKGROUND

Demographic situation

Over the time period of one hundred years (1950-2050), the population of Nepal has experienced and will continue to see remarkable changes. While the overall population in 1950 was 8.6

million, it is forecasted to increase to 51.2 million by 2050. The speed of ageing varied: in 1950, older persons amounted to 6.6 % of the population, a figure which decreased to 5.5 and 5.9 % in 1975 and 2007 respectively. However, in 2025 the proportion of persons 60 years and older will reach 7.8 % and by 2050 it will encompass 14.1 % of society. While the overall population growth rate is 1.9 % for 2005-2010, 1.4 % for 2025-2030, and 0.9 % for 2045-2050, the growth rate of the segment of older persons will outpace that by far: 3 % (2005-2010), 3.4 % (2025-2030), and 3.5 % (2045-2050). In addition, the percentage of persons 80 years and older – the oldest old – is forecast to increase from 0.4 % in 1950 to 1.4 % in 2050. The speed of this transition is even more remarkable. The growth rate for this age group is 3.6 % (2005-2010), 4 % (2025-2030), and 4.7 % in 2045-2050 according to the UN Population Division.¹

Life expectancy is forecast to increase from 67.5 years currently to 75 (77 years for females and 73 for males) by 2045-2050. At this time a 60-year old will have a life expectancy of more than 19 years. Currently, 63 % of the 60-years-plus group is married (50 % of females and 80 % of males) and only 4.5 % of this group lived alone in 2001. Labour force participation in 2007 was 23 % of those 65 years and older and the statutory pensionable age was 55 years for both sexes in 2006. 84 % of older persons were illiterate in 2001 (96 % of females and 73 % of males). The mean size of households in 2006 was 4.9 persons, 4.4 in urban residences and 5 persons in rural settings.²

Socio-economic situation

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 138 out of 169 countries on the human development index.³ GDP per capita in 2008 was US \$1201 (in PPP). The national standard of living survey 2003/2004 reported that the poverty rate decreased from 42% in 1995/1996 to 31% in 2003/2004; however, rural-urban disparities exist, with poverty rates in rural areas standing at 35% while rates in urban areas are just 10%. A significant increase in remittances, increase in wages, access to markets, urbanization, and falling birth rates were the reasons for this decline. Households receiving remittances increased to 32% in 2004 from 23% in 1996.

80% of the economically active population lives in the countryside and 39% of GDP comes from agriculture. The richest 20% of the population controls almost 55% of all resources while the poorest 20% receive only 6% of national income. Investment and progress so far show that the MDGs will not be achieved, at least in part because of a resource gap of 7.6 billion dollars.⁴

Mass migration of young people seeking employment in neighbouring countries and the outflow of those who left during the recent unrest have affected the traditional family structure and created an effect of “artificial ageing” in the country. This has also resulted in an increase in older persons living alone, and a growing number without family support.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

¹ *World Population Ageing 2007*, United Nations, New York, 2007, p. 370-371

² *Nepal – Demographic and Health Survey 2006*, Kathmandu, 2007, p.15

³ *Human Development Report 2010*, UNDP, New York, 2010, p.145

⁴ see *Country Report Nepal*, UN ESCAP, 2007

The mission started its activities by meeting with UNDP staff who provided an overview of overall living conditions in the country. Discussions also focused on social policy initiatives geared towards older persons in Nepal and the development activities funded by UNDP under national and direct execution. UNDP staff pointed out that there was a significant lack of socio-economic data concerning older persons, and suggested that a possible focus of future research, including surveys, could be on delivery of services to older persons at the local level. In addition, major capacity problems exist with respect to human and financial resources, and the ability to implement policies and programmes.

Discussions at a meeting with UNFPA centered on the political situation in Nepal and experience with international aid to the country. The Head of the UNFPA country office briefed the team about the UNFPA work programme, which was chiefly focused on youth and reproductive health. He stressed that policies and programmes that target older persons should adopt a human-rights-based approach. UNFPA suggested that it could organize meetings to plan and possibly assist in the second national review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan in 2011-2012. In addition, data analysis after the national census in 2011 could be organized in cooperation between UNFPA and DESA.

A meeting with the Minister and various desk officers of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare offered insights of current challenges with regard to policies and programming that benefit older persons. Various areas of concern were highlighted, including social pensions, health, housing, senior citizen homes, migration, rights, cooperation with the private sector, and advocacy. The lack of data on older persons was mentioned as a major impediment to planning.

The mission visited the Pasupati Old Age Home and the Geriatric Center in Kathmandu as well as a rural older persons' centre. Lack of funds and capacity make it difficult for the ministry to create an age-adequate environment in these institutions, and this remains a major challenge in Nepal. It was suggested that a workshop consisting of various government ministries and UN agencies could review what has been done so far, what would be feasible in the near future, and who would be responsible for implementation regarding programmes for older persons.

A meeting was held with the National Senior Citizen Organization Network Nepal (NSCONN), an umbrella organization comprised of various NGOs that focus on the well-being of older persons in Nepal. The discussion highlighted that the rights of older persons should be reflected in the new constitution of Nepal, which is currently being drafted. More awareness and training regarding the care of older persons is also needed. NGO representatives stressed that there is a need for a geriatric hospital in Nepal and that identification cards for older persons should be issued to all older persons to allow them access to public benefits and services. However, some older persons are deprived of benefits and services because for a number of reasons they do not have identification cards. Advocacy for issues that pertain to older persons should be enhanced through awareness raising by both Government and civil society.

The mission conducted a stakeholder meeting with representatives from the Government and civil society organizations. The meeting found that, despite the interest expressed by the Government for issues of ageing, initiatives for implementation of existing policies are lacking. To rectify this, human resources need to be developed and capacities enhanced within various

ministries; coordination of efforts would enhance the range and impact of activities undertaken. Knowledge and awareness about ageing-related issues is scarce: the lack of data on older persons was highlighted. Among the other findings were: that the skills and experience of older persons are not used effectively; health care costs are staggering; and existing pensions cover only public servants, but not employees in the private sector. Day care centres are non-existent in many parts of the country. Provision of micro-credit, reduced transportation fees and a helpline for older persons were deemed crucial to improving their condition. It was agreed that the rights of older persons should be included in the new constitution and there should be a focus on a revised policy for older persons.

The mission met members of the National Human Rights Commission responsible for older persons and persons with disabilities. They stressed that abuse, poverty, gender-related issues, property rights, and social security are major concerns for these groups and therefore of great importance to the work of the Commission. The Commission promotes the rights of older persons with the Government and would like to anchor them in the new constitution.

The mission met with the director of the Nepal School of Social Work and his faculty and students, who informed about their work and how it pertains to older persons and the Social Protection Floor Initiative.

At a meeting with the Secretary of the National Planning Commission, the planning process and mainstreaming ageing issues into the National Plan were discussed. The Secretary indicated that the current Three Year Interim Plan gives particular emphasis to older persons, with a focus on day care, health and rehabilitation centres. Mainstreaming the concerns of older persons into policies and programmes has been initiated, e.g. in the fields of education and labour.

REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION

Government policies for older persons

The Local Self Governance Act of 1998 includes provisions for protection of – among other social groups – older people. The guidelines of the Ministry of Local Development include: (a) men and women above the age of 75 are eligible for a monthly allowance of Rs.200; and (b) persons above 60 years of age who have no source of income, no family support, no personal assets or widows who do not get their husband's pension are eligible for monthly allowance of Rs.150. However, 26% of eligible older people are deprived of these social security schemes due to complicated procedures. Pensions are provided by the government for civil servants, military personnel, police officers and teachers and the retirement age is currently 58 years for civil servants. In universities, the age of retirement for teachers and administrators is 63 and for the lower ranks of military and police officers, it is 46–48.

Addressing the institutional infrastructure, the **Senior Citizen Policy of 2002** declared all 75 women's development offices also as focal points on ageing issues. In addition to government agencies, there are about 50 day care centres, 20 old age homes and more than 100 elderly clubs run by 50 different organizations (NGOs) who are directly involved in issues pertaining to older persons.

Following the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, government formulated a **National Plan of Action for Senior Citizens in 2005**. The Plan addresses issues such as social security, health and nutrition, participation, education and entertainment, as well as legal questions. The effective execution of the plan is to be carried out by ministries and authorities in cooperation with NGOs. In connection with the national action plan, identification cards for older person are being issued. To carry out policy and advisory work, a high level Senior Citizen Coordination Committee was established. The Committee initiates and oversees activities aimed at improving living conditions for older persons in all five development regions.

In addition, parliament adopted the **Applied Senior Citizen Act in 2006** and the **Applied Senior Rule in 2008**. The Applied Senior Citizen Act stipulates that “each organization providing health services shall provide health services by giving priority to senior citizens.” In addition, a central and various district senior citizen welfare committees were formed and a senior citizen fund was established by the Act.

The Three Year Plan Approach paper (2010/11-2012/13) has adopted the following strategy for older persons: (a) make policy and institutional provisions to utilize knowledge, skills and experience of senior citizens; (b) expand access of older persons to economic and social security programmes; (c) promote and expand economic and social security programmes by enhancing coordination among government, non-government, private cooperative and community sectors as well as local government bodies; (d) launch special programmes targeting senior citizens who are abandoned, victims of violence, and those with some degree of disability and vulnerability.

Research and projects on ageing related issues⁵

In 2000, the first participatory action research on ageing in Nepal which captures the situation of older persons in 15 districts was carried out by UN agencies in cooperation with international and national NGOs. The findings were disseminated in four development regions in 2001. Following the national preparation workshop for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, a publication entitled “Towards secure ageing: proceedings of the national preparation” was issued. A needs assessment of 42 NGOs in collaboration with the ageing resource centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh was carried out in 2002. In 2006 and 2007, national workshops on ageing issues were organized with seven political parties in cooperation with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and the Senior Citizen Network to create an age-friendly society in Nepal and for raising the voices of older persons. Also in 2007, a pilot health and income generation project was organized with older persons in partnership with HelpAge International and the Japan Foundation.

The national workshop on ageing in 2007 concluded that the Government services for older persons are still guided by the welfare approach and that there was a need to:

- Incorporate ageing-related issues in research and studies (data collection and analysis);
- Increase access of older people to information about their rights at home and in society including their rights to government service provisions;
- Increase enjoyment of older persons to basic rights and access to facilities (food, shelter, clothes, education and health) at home and in society;

⁵ all information from *Country Report Nepal*, UN ESCAP, 2007

- Improve quality of services with simplified procedures for older persons, make implementation of government plans and policies more effective, and encourage monitoring by older persons' associations;
- Develop mechanism for collaboration, linkages/referral services among agencies to be coordinated by women's development offices in all 75 districts and by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare at the national level;
- Pilot ageing education in schools to minimize generation gaps and mainstream ageing-related issues; children and youth could play instrumental roles to respect older people as grandparents and the think-tank of society;
- Ensure inclusion and representation of older people in the policy dialogue and in resource allocation from local to national levels and in institutions;
- Advocate with government for resource allocation with a priority for older persons and educate donors on ageing issues.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government is seeking to address the needs of older persons through a welfare approach focused on provision of services. Broader issues of population ageing are not among the major priorities for policy action by the Government at this time, despite projections of a significant increase in the percentage of older persons in the population within the next forty years. The mission, however, would suggest that, given the projected acceleration of demographic ageing and high level of migration in the forthcoming decades, it is not too soon for the Government to undertake measures to encourage all major stakeholders to act in advance to meet the challenges of population ageing.

The major current need is for *advocacy and sensitization* at local and national levels about the importance of addressing issues of ageing, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Shanghai Regional Implementation Strategy. Raising awareness can be done by a) sensitizing national policymakers (Government officials and parliamentarians) involved in the design and implementation of socio-economic policies and programmes and, b) launching a national public information campaign to draw the attention of the wider society to the issues of ageing, to encourage healthy and active ageing and to promote a positive yet realistic image of older persons.

Sensitization of policymakers and lawmakers can be done through meetings (round table discussions, seminars, workshops) organized for Government employees and parliamentarians. Specifically, a series of meetings on the following themes could be conducted: (1) MIPAA and the Shanghai Implementation Strategy: goals and recommendations as related to the demographic situation in Nepal; (2) taking action on national priorities on ageing; (3) undertaking the second cycle of the review and appraisal of MIPAA and identification of future actions on ageing.

The national infrastructure on ageing is underdeveloped. Responsibility for ageing policy and programmes within government offices is fragmented. The mission noted a lack of coordination among government offices dealing with ageing and related socio-economic and demographic issues. There is no Governmental coordinating mechanism on ageing, although it is generally

assumed that the national focal point on ageing is located within the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. Lack of coordination means that the concerns of older persons are not sufficiently integrated into the policies and programmes of various government entities. For instance, the research done by the Geriatric Center Nepal indicated that the Ministry of Health does not have any designated programmes for older persons and assumes that the interests of the older population are dealt with in the existing sectoral health care programmes, such as prevention and treatment of cardio-vascular disorders, oncology, etc.

Nepal has developed some national research and analytical capacity on population ageing and development, including national and private colleges and research centres. Yet the financial, technical (electronic data processing equipment and software) and human resources of these entities are not sufficient to provide high quality analytical information to support evidence-based policy development. The restricted potential of fundamental and applied science in Nepal prevents national researchers from addressing the main challenges of population and individual ageing in the country, while international cooperation in the area of population and development studies, including population ageing, remains limited.

In formulating its recommendations, the mission focused on measures aimed at strengthening the national capacity of Nepal to address the challenges of its ageing society. The proposed recommendations are organized into four clusters representing essential elements of national capacity: (1) institutional infrastructure; (2) policy process and policy measures (3) research, data collection and analysis; and (4) human resources. UNDESA, along with the UN Country Team in Nepal, can provide technical assistance for implementing some of the recommendations.

(1) Institutional infrastructure

It is recommended that the Government take a leading role in establishing a national coordinating body that cooperates with academia and non-governmental organizations in designing policies and strategies on ageing in the framework of the National 3-year Plan with the wider support of the general public. Specifically it is recommended that the Government should:

- Improve coordination between various government offices and agencies and cohesion of policies and activities that have relevance to ageing issues.
- Ensure that a national coordinating body has the authority and functional ability to mainstream ageing issues into various government offices, including those that until now have not had any specific policies and programmes on ageing.
- Decide whether coordinating functions could be assigned to the already-established Central Senior Citizen Welfare Committee.
- Ensure that all major stakeholders (government, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector) are involved in the work of a coordinating body on ageing. Make sure that organizations of older persons are included in the work of a coordinating body.
- Consider establishing a full-time national focal point on ageing within the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, who will address exclusively the concerns of older persons in Nepal.

(2) Policy process and policy measures

Given the close inter-linkages between several parallel demographic and socio-economic processes, policy responses to challenges of population and individual ageing in Nepal have to be addressed in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Issues of ageing should be addressed together with other demographic challenges, primarily changes of family structures and internal and international migration. They should also be addressed within the context of a national development strategy and related policy and programmes. *The mission thus advocates the integrative (mainstreaming) approach to policy responses to ageing.* At the same time, the mission recognizes the importance of *ageing-specific policy actions* aimed at improving the quality of life of older persons.

A. Measures to integrate issues of ageing into national policy process:

- Address challenges of population ageing within the content of already existing policies and ensure full implementation.
- Include an evidence-based approach in the national policy process.
- Ensure the exchange of information and coordination among government entities responsible for economic, social and demographic policy and programmes.
- Include participatory components into all phases of the policy process. Involve older persons in consultations regarding policy and programmes aimed at addressing their needs.
- Organize awareness campaigns aimed at promoting positive yet realistic images of older persons in society.
- Mainstream (integrate) the concerns of older persons and inter-generational relations into national strategic planning.
- Integrate the human rights perspective into all laws, policies and programmes that pertain to older persons.
- Make sure that all major stakeholders within and outside the government are aware of the existence and content of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (Shanghai Implementation Strategy).
- Conduct a desk study of all available legislation and administrative acts and norms in order to make recommendations for harmonization of legislation.

B. Measures to promote ageing-specific policy actions:

- Ensure that social pensions reach all eligible older persons in Nepal.
- Issue identification cards to all persons above the age of 60.
- Address age discrimination of older workers in the labour market and in the work place.
- Consider measures to promote the employability of older workers as a resource of knowledge and expertise and also to promote their self-employment and flexible work schedule.
- Consider policies and programmes aimed at supporting “ageing in place” instead of promoting the institutionalization of older persons.
- Establish a system of day care centres in all parts of the country that are capable to providing care services for older persons.
- Train sufficient staff to provide adequate services in day care centres.
- Train selected personnel in the health care sector in geriatric matters.

- Consider opening a geriatric hospital in Kathmandu.
- Ensure that national policy and programmes for social development and social integration regard the family as a central concern.
- In designing measures to support the functioning of families, ensure that due consideration is given to actual family structures and situations.
- Include into information campaigns issues concerning the role and contribution of older generations in the family, celebrating grandparents as indispensable family members.
- Establish school curricula to educate children on life-long development, including active and healthy life-styles, and inter-generational relations.
- Ensure age-adequate environments that are accessible and allow older persons to fully participate in society.
- Build capacity within government offices and within civil society organizations to better reflect the situation of older persons, their growing numbers and their vulnerabilities.

(3) Research, data collection and analysis

Further developing national analytical capacity on ageing that will support evidence-based policy formulation processes. In this connection the mission recommends to:

- Conduct a national survey on ageing for collecting and analyzing demographic and socio-economic data on older persons in Nepal as a basis for policy development and improved policy implementation. The purpose of such survey would be to provide a sufficient body of evidence for formulating recommendations for action
- Consider establishing a national analytical and monitoring centre on demographic ageing and development with the major task of informing and supporting evidence-based policies and programmes. The Centre could be responsible, among other tasks, for introducing a national system of demographic, social and economic forecasts that will serve government bodies in charge of national socio-economic policy formulation; the forecasts, among other things will show how population ageing will impact the national economy and the pension system.
- Support the development of essential analytical capacity within government offices dealing with ageing issues.
- Use data emanating from the national census in 2011 to serve as baseline data for future, more detailed assessment of the life quality of older persons.
- Collect information about older persons in view of the upcoming second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2011-2012, focusing on a participatory, bottom-up manner.

(4) Human resources

Lack of funding, training, coordination and rotation of staff are responsible for the insufficient attention to the concerns of older persons in the policy and programmes of various government entities. For instance, the Ministry of Health does not have any designated programmes for older persons or gerontological training programme. Attempts to establish such a programme were made by the Geriatric Center Nepal. It is recommended that the Government should establish a programme to:

- Train professionals within government, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector on the consequences of demographic ageing and the situation of older persons in Nepal.
- Assess needs and formulate specific requests for international assistance in training on ageing.

DESA'S ASSISTANCE AND NEXT STEPS

These recommendations contain proposals to strengthen national capacity in Nepal to respond to the challenges of population ageing. DESA's Division for Social Policy and Development could assist the Government of Nepal in several areas, working in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and other agencies as appropriate. Such partnership will target existing gaps in information and skills, identifying and engaging stakeholders, both internal and external to the government, who would be willing to collaborate on ageing activities.

UNDESA could facilitate cooperation with UN entities, such as UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, ILO and the World Bank. In this connection, DESA could approach the organizations of the UN system to assist in conducting **a nation-wide survey on ageing** that will also study overall life quality of older persons in Nepal. In addition, **a workshop focusing on better policy implementation** and determining respective roles of major actors, such as government, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector could be organized. Also, a workshop on enhanced data collection regarding older persons in view of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan could be envisioned. Upon request, UNDESA could seek to identify resources for sponsoring such workshops in Nepal. UNDESA could also assist in **promoting participatory methodologies in the work of relevant Ministries**, especially providing training on social assessment methodology. UNDESA could assist in establishing links and partnerships with foreign research centres for demographic and population research.

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare must weigh the benefits of these proposals and prioritize next steps. Following the Government's consideration of this report, further discussion on the modalities of DESA's assistance can take place at the request of the relevant Ministry or other government agency.

LIST OF ANNEXES

- A: List of contacts
- B: Terms of Reference
- C: Mission Agenda

List of contacts

From the Government of Nepal

- Mr. Atma Ram Pandey, Joint-Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat
- Mr. Rudra P. Neupane, Chief Officer, Office of the Prime Minister
- Prakash Fhimire, Chief Officer, Ministry of Health

From the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

- H.E. Ram Bachan Ahir Yadhav, the Honourable Minister
- Mr. Surya Prasad Shrestha, Under Secretary and Chief of the Social Security and Reform Section

From the National Human Rights Commission

- Mr. Ram Nagina Singh, Member
- Mr. Gauri Pradhan, Member (Commissioner)

From the UN Country Team

- Dr. Neil Webster, Decentralisation and Local Governance Adviser, UNDP
- Mr. Ian McFarlane, UNFPA Representative
- Mr. Dip Magar, Human Rights Officer, Discrimination and ESCR Thematic Team, OHCHR
- Mr. Taijiro Kimura, Director, Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

From Civil Society

- Mr. Krishna Murari Gautam, Geriatric Center Nepal, Founder and Chairman
- Mr. Gokul P. Pokhrel, Senior Journalist, NSCONN, Adviser
- Mr. Gopal Man Shrestha, Chairman, Council of former Public Servants
- Mr. Pawan Kumar Ojha, Former Supreme Court Judge, NSCONN, Adviser
- Mr. Krishna Bhakta Shrestha, Chairman, Ashapureshower Senior Citizen Club
- Mr. Laxmi Ghemere, Member, Asmi
- Mr. Harsa Man Maharjan, Adviser, Asmi
- Ms. Narbada Pokharel, Chairperson, Mata Pita Sewa Sadan
- Mr. Shridhar Lamichhane, Executive Member, NSCONN
- Dr. Hommath Chalise, Gerontology Coordinator, Asian College for Advance Studies
- Dr. Radha K. Joshi, Chairman, Senior Citizen Welfare Association
- Mr. Shyam S. Dhaubhdadel, Executive Chairman, Siddhi Memorial Foundation
- Mr. Ishuari Resal Gothatar, Chairman, Senior Citizen Club

- Dr. Bala Raju Nikku, Director, Nepal School of Social Work
- Ms. Sangita Pant, Nepal National TV, Elder Program Maker
- Mr. Manohar Upreti, Country Representative, INPEA
- Prof. Leela Devi K.C, President, NSCONN and President, Senior Citizen Welfare Association
- Dr. Laya Prasad Upreti, Consultant Anthropologist

ANNEX B



United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policies and Development
Technical Cooperation Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE FACT-FINDING MISSION TO NEPAL 06.12 2010 and 10.12 2010

Background

The Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare of Nepal in its letter to the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development, dated 7 July 2010 has requested technical assistance on the issue of population ageing that may impact economic and social development in Nepal. In view of the request, the Division for Social Policy and Development proposed to field a two-person needs assessment mission to Nepal.

The mission, which is scheduled to visit Nepal for one week between 06 December and 10 December 2010, will consist of two UNDESA staff members: Mr. Oleg Serezhin, Social Affairs Officer from Technical Cooperation Unit and Mr. Robert Venne, Social Affairs Officer from Social Integration Branch.

The mission would hold in-depth discussions with relevant officials on ways to develop a programme of assistance that might appropriately respond to the needs of older persons in Nepal.

General Objectives

- E. To assess current socio-economic policies with the view to identify areas for potential technical assistance and advisory services as well as concrete interventions and actions required for addressing the issue of ageing in Nepal.
- F. To provide advice on how to assist the Government in building national capacity to develop, coordinate and implement policy measures to address ageing issues at national and sub-national levels and to mainstream ageing issues across public and private sectors.
- G. To brief representatives of the Ministry, other relevant Government agencies and major stakeholders on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).
- H. To identify further steps in conjunction with the UN Country Team in Nepal, and the donor community and for developing a framework for assistance to the Government of Nepal.

Specific Objectives

1. To establish working contacts with the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare and relevant agencies in the Government of Nepal on the issues of ageing and older persons;
2. To undertake a rapid needs assessment with the Ministry officials and other stakeholders on the issues of ageing and older persons;
3. To outline existing and required measures to address the issue of ageing within the broader framework of the national socio-economic development programmes;
4. To discuss with the Government its capacity to address issues of ageing and older persons and consider means for developing further capacity;
5. To assess links between ageing and other, urgent socio-economic issues;
6. To establish a framework for follow-up technical cooperation activities between the Government of Nepal and Division for Social Policy and Development, with the assistance of other stakeholders, as relevant;

Planned Mission Activities

The mission will travel to Nepal to hold discussions with Government officials, at both policy and technical levels, with representatives of the UN Country Team as well as other relevant stakeholders (including local government authorities, where appropriate, representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations and academic institutions).

The mission staff will undertake a rapid needs assessment. Past experience has shown that an initial mission programme can be established as a basis for information gathering and analysis, but that as discussions unfold and more information is gleaned, additional meetings can be added to the programme as required. The needs assessment also allows the staff members to gather technical documents and data that are unavailable or unknown about in New York.

The mission will work in close contact with the members of the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare, other relevant government departments and agencies, UNFPA, UNDP and UN Country Team offices in Kathmandu.

Expected Outcomes

The mission will provide advisory services to the Government and a needs assessment, with validation. It will produce a mission report upon its return to UNHQ which will contain main findings and recommendations for further steps to respond to the needs identified.

MISSION AGENDA**Mr. Oleg Serezhi**

Social Affairs Officer,
Technical Cooperation Unit,
Division for Social Policy and Development,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Robert Venne

Social Affairs Officer,
UN Programme on Ageing,
Division for Social Policy and Development,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mission Dates: 6 – 10 December, 2010

	Sunday, December 5
	<i>Arrival – Accommodation in Hotel Summit</i>
	Monday, December 6
9:00 – 10:00	Security briefing at UN House
10:30 – 12:30	Meeting with Dr. Neil Webster, Adviser at UNDP
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Meeting with Mr. Ian McFarlane, UNFPA Representative
15:30 – 16:30	Meeting with Minister and desk officers of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
17:00 – 18:00	Visiting Pasupati Old Age Home
	Tuesday, December 7
9:00 – 11:30	Meeting with Mr. Krishna Gautam at the Geriatric Center Nepal
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30 – 16:30	Meeting with members of NSCONN
	Wednesday, December 8
10:00 – 11:00	Meeting with Mr. Manohar Upreti of INPEA
12:00 – 14:00	Stakeholders meeting at Hotel Summit with NGO and Government representatives
14:30 – 15:30	Meeting with members of the National Human Rights Commission
16:00 – 17:00	Meeting with Mr. Dip Magar, UN Human Rights Officer
	Thursday, December 9

9:00 – 12:00	Visiting a Rural Older Persons Center
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Meeting with Dr. Bala Raju Nikku, Director, Nepal School of Social Work and a few students
18:00	Dinner with Mr. Manohar Upreti of INPEA
	Friday, December 10
10:00 – 11:30	Meeting with Mr. Atma Pandey, Joint-Secretary of the National Planning Commission
12:00	<i>Departure from hotel and flights back to New York</i>