

This report is issued by the UN RCHCO with inputs from its UN Field Coordination Offices and other partners and sources. The report covers April 2012. The next report will be issued the first week of June 2012.

CONTEXT

Political update

The second categorization process of former Maoist army combatants was completed during April. Agreement was also reached on the selection process for those choosing integration into the Nepal Army, which deployed on 10 April to take over security of the Maoist army cantonments. The 3,129 combatants choosing integration was dramatically lower than expected, largely due to a lack of clarity about the selection process and rank determination and delays in the process.

With the integration of former Maoist army combatants moving forward, the attention of the political parties shifted to constitution making process during April. Intensive discussions on contentious constitutional issues underway were seen to be encouraged by the Supreme Court verdict disallowing any further extension and the media "countdown" campaign on the deadline to promulgate a new constitution before 28 May. The mood of the negotiations has been one of compromise and the sincerity and urgency of the current negotiations is clear. Tentative agreements have been reached on some contentious issues (citizenship, judiciary and electoral system) but debate continues on the form of government and state restructuring, on which agreement was yet to be reached at the end of the month. New alliances are emerging and strengthening inside and outside the CA to pressure the political leadership, particularly on state restructuring. Leadership of the pre and post 28 May national unity governments was under debate, with decisions on this becoming tied to final decisions on constitutional issues. Both Nepali Congress and UCPN-M are well aware that Maoist support for a future Nepali Congress-led national unity government is tied to Nepali Congress supporting the continued leadership of Prime Minister Bhattarai until 28 May.

Serious backtracking on transitional justice occurred during April when party leaders agreed to increase the future commission's power to grant amnesties for all types of crimes even without the consent of victims. Reportedly, political party leaders ordered the arduous task of withdrawing the existing two transitional justice bills from the Legislative Committee and then to introduce a new bill drafted by the Law Ministry.

While the Baidya-faction of the UCPN-M has continued to voice its dissenting views and attempted to mobilize, a UCPN-M split appears to have been contained, for now, with both sides recognizing it is in their interests to remain unified at least until 28 May.

Operational space

In the lead up to the 28 May deadline for promulgating the new constitution, April saw an increasing number and intensity of protest programmes and bandhs in all regions with increasing impacts on the operational space of Basic Operating Guidelines (BOGs) signatories.

The nationwide general strike carried out by the Rastriya Janamukti Party on 15 April and the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) national bandh on 14 April affected the movement of BOGs signatories in all regions; UN vehicles were limited to essential movements only, but I/NGOs were not permitted to move or imposed self-restrictions. The national Tarai bandh carried out by the 'Joint Struggle Committee of Indigenous Nationalities' (including NEFIN) on 24 April had mixed impact; BOGs signatory movements were most restricted in the Tarai districts of the Far West, Western and Eastern regions while few restrictions were felt in the Tarai districts of the Mid West and Central regions.

Towards the end of April, significant bandhs and protest activities intensified and had dramatic operational impact on BOGs signatories in the Far West and Central regions. The sister wings of various political parties and a number of Far Western activist groups commenced an indefinite bandh from 27 April onwards to

demand an 'undivided Far Western' (UFW) province in the constitution, with increasing impacts from 29 April onwards. UFW supporters padlocked the main entrance of Dhangadhi Airport and the airport has been forced closed with all flights cancelled since 30 April. Most seriously, I/NGO offices have been forced to close in Doti since 29 April and Kailali since 7 May. The planned activities of development partners have been severely postponed, curtailed or cancelled and all development partners have imposed self-restrictions on movements given the unpredictable and tense situation (though, the movement of UN vehicle has not been significantly affected). Overall, most BOGs signatories have self-imposed 'lock-downs' in Kailali and significantly restricted activities in the rest of the region. BOGs signatories also face the practical problem of a lack of cash for project payments given that banks have been closed and the local partners of I/NGOs are reported to have almost stopped working for this reason. BOGs signatory organisations are advised to operate with extreme caution in the region and take all necessary security measures to safeguard staff safety. Following a bombing in Janakpur that killed four and injured dozens, an indefinite bandh and protest activities have been carried out in Dhanusha District by the Mithila State Struggle Committee demanding a 'Mithila province'. Transportation, industries, educational institutions and markets have been completely closed and bandha enforcers have reportedly closed government offices. BOGs signatories have imposed self-restrictions on movements, including the UN.

The number and intensity of protest programmes is likely to increase in May. Groups with different and often conflicting demands are coming forward in all regions to exerting pressure on the political negotiations in Kathmandu, particularly regarding the future federal restructuring of the country (see below).

Beyond protest activities, BOGs signatories encountered other specific operational space incidents. While conducting research, the staff member of a BOGs signatory was verbally threatened in Dang District by a local political activist. During the incident, the activist accused international development partners of empowering indigenous groups by supporting them to "fuel agitation" and of "bringing divisions" to Nepal. It was reported that cadres of a political party made a donation demand to the local partner of a BOGs signatory in Sarlahi District on 20 April. Cadres of Madheshi Jana Adhikar Forum were also reported to have vandalised the vehicle of local partner of a BOGs signatory in Biratnagar on 20 April.

EMERGING ISSUES AFFECTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Escalating local identity politics and activism on federalism in the Far West Region raise concerns of potential violence

As the 28 May deadline for the promulgation of a new constitution approaches, there has been a surge of activist groups across the country using protest programmes to highlight their demands about the federal restructuring of Nepal. The most critical current situation in the country emerged in the Far West Region (FWR), which has experienced 12 consecutive days of bandhs, strikes and protest demonstrations since 27 April. Fueled by the contradictory federal claims of various Tharu groups and those groups supporting an 'Undivided Far West' (UFW)¹, the situation has become acutely tense in Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. Political activism on federalism in the region has polarized largely along identity-based lines, with Tharus supporting a Tharuhat province and Pahadis generally seen to be supporting a UFW. Therefore, concerns have been raised locally that the political conflict created by the overlapping claims of both sides to Kanchanpur and Kailali districts is now creating prospects for outbreaks of communal violence.

Twelve days of bandhs has paralyzed normal life in the region and vehicle movements across the region have been mostly brought to standstill. In Kanchanpur and Kailali, shops and markets have been closed and households are having difficulties re-supplying themselves. There have also been reports of shortages of oxygen, saline drip and other essential medical supplies in Kanchanpur and Kailali hospitals and clinics.² In Dhangadhi, the supply of cash is short, with banks and ATMs closed. Promisingly, in Kailali, it has been

¹ A new group campaigning for a 'Khaptad province' has emerged and carried out a public demonstration in Dhangadhi on 1 May. Little is known about the group except that it is campaigning for a province comprised of the seven hill districts of the FWR and that Ganesh Raj Bhatta (a Nepali Congress Central Committee Member) is a prominent figure.

² For example, Kailali NGOs involved in treating HIV patients have said that the *bandha* has prevented their patients from attending required daily treatments, which will have an impact on their health in the short term.

reported that civil society organisations, human rights organisations, and bandh organizers have met with the CDO multiple times; informal agreements have been reached to let ambulances, human rights activists and essential movements go through Kailali and there is further discussion to seek some relaxation of the bandh and to ensure that essential supplies reach hill and mountain districts. Hill districts have been particularly affected as their supply routes run through bandh and protest affected Tarai districts. Many local communities are facing shortages of essential commodities, including food items, petrol, medical supplies, mobile phone recharge cards, vegetables and cooking gas.

'Undivided Far West' activists

The sister wings of various political parties and other groups have carried out an indefinite FWR bandh since 27 April. They are demanding that the entire FWR is kept together as a unified province in the expected future federal state re-structuring that will be determined in the new constitution. The protests were apparently triggered specifically in reaction to the UCPN-M '10 province' state restructuring proposal announced during the last week of April, which included the districts of Kanchanpur and Kailali as part of a Tarai-based province rather than remaining in a unified province with FWR hill districts, although there have been small scale movements advocating on this issue since 2009. Most significantly, UFW supporters padlocked the Dhangadhi Airport and have forced it closed since 30 April. UFW bandh enforcement has been most effective in Kailali and Kanchanpur (though also having effects in Doti, Dadeldhura and Achham districts) and UFW activists are conducting multiple daily demonstrations across the region. On 2 May, there were reports of UFW activists on the streets of Dhangadhi, allegedly armed with sticks, iron bars and some kukris. Elsewhere, UFW bandh supporters have allegedly vandalised vehicles and demonstrators have burned effigies of CA and political leaders for comments they have made "against" the UFM movement. On 5 May, public buses and an INGO vehicle travelling in convey with police escort from Dhangadhi to Mahendranagar were stoned. The leadership of the UFW activists remains unclear, making it very difficult for local administration, police and political actors to engage with the protest. A 'Far Western Unity Mobilization Committee' (FWUMC) has reportedly been established, led by the Kailali Chairman of the Nepali Congress associated Tarun Dal and including reps from UCPN-M and UML. However, the identifiable leaders of the UFW protests who have emerged so far appear to be local coordinators with limited control only over small geographical areas rather than providing overall leadership of the movement.

Joint Tharu Struggle Committee

The Joint Tharu Struggle Committee (JTSC), comprised of 27 Tharu organizations, is demanding the establishment of a Tharuhat province that would include the Tarai districts of Kanchanpur and Kailali. The JTSC and affiliated Tharu groups initially organized a transportation strike on 2 May in Tarai districts along the East-West Highway from Kanchanpur to Chitwan demanding the establishment of a Tharuhat province. A large Tharu demonstration of nearly 1,000 people that took place in the late afternoon of 2 May in the centre of Dhangadhi encountered no interference from UFW activists or security forces. However, various protest activities and demonstrations have continued since that time, with daily rallies in Dhangadhi and occasional events in Mahendranagar and other VDCs in Kanchanpur and Kailali districts. On 5 May, Tharu activists were reported to have burned effigies of Sher Bahadur Deuba (Nepali Congress), Lekh Raj Bhatta (UCPN-M) and Bhim Rawal (CPN-UML) at protests in Dhangadhi. Outside of Dhangadhi, Tharu protest activities have been strongest in eastern parts of Kailali, particularly in Tikapur. The current Tharu protests are believed to be the largest since early 2009, predominantly due to the ability of JTSC to bring together Tharu leaders from all major political parties and civil society organizations. The alliance also includes many traditional Tharu Barghar leaders, increasing the capacity of the JTSC to mobilize community activists.

Impact and escalating local tensions

Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts remain tense since last week as the two sides organize near simultaneous demonstrations and rallies every day and the first inter-group clashes were reported on 8 May in Kanchanpur (see below). Importantly throughout the protests, both sides have consistently pledged themselves to keep protests peaceful and have downplayed outright public inter-communal rhetoric.

Kailali has been the centre of the most severe tensions between UFW and Tharu activists, centred on Dhangadhi, Atariya, Lamki, Masuriya and Chumala. On 1 May, there were several reports that Tharu activists carrying out a torch rally in Dhangadhi bazaar during the evening were harassed by groups of

Pahadi UFW youths. On 2 May, there were reports that in Pahalmanpur (a bazaar on the Highway east of Dhangadhi) a group of Tharu youths openly challenged the bandh programme of UFW activists, though there was no violence reported. While police have increased their numbers since the start of protests and have been able to maintain order, communal tensions have been raised and several sources have expressed concern that communal violence between Pahadis and Tharus remains a real possibility in Dhangadhi. Some actors report that protesters in Kailali are demographically younger, male-dominated and involve more student unions activists than in other parts of the region. As of the morning of 9 May, the UFW bandh is reported as continuing in Kailali.

While there has been active demonstrations and bandh enforcement in Kanchanpur, there is relatively less tension than in Kailali. Protests are reported to be more “orderly” and involve more “mixed” participants, including women and people of a wide age range and cadres of the main political parties have been involved in organizing them; therefore, there is less concern of protests getting out of control. Additionally, the protest activity of both sides appears to have less overlap. Despite rumours that the bandh would be lifted in Kanchanpur on 8 May, the bandh remained in effect, everything was closed by the afternoon and UFW activists along the East-West Highway continued to enforce the bandh. Tharu groups organized a mass meeting in Mahendranagar, with hundreds of Tharus allegedly converging towards the location with sticks. In the afternoon, a clash reportedly occurred in Bhasi (3km east of Mahendranagar in Kanchanpur) after Pahadi UFW youth allegedly attempted to prevent Tharu activists from reaching the demonstration; at least a dozen of the Pahadi UFW youth were reported injured. Later that evening in Jhalari (on the Highway in Kanchanpur), Tharu participants returning to their homes from the Mahendranagar rally under police escort were pelted with stones by UFW activists from the roof of a hotel. Reportedly around two dozen people were injured and three have been hospitalized; police arrested the owner of the hotel, but no others. As of the morning of 9 May, Mahendranagar market is reported to be open and there are some vehicles reported to be moving, although no long distance buses.

In Dadeldhura, there have been reports that local hotels and restaurants closed due to the shortages of food and that there is a severe shortage of vegetables in the market. Since 6 May, markets, shops and academic institutions have been closed due to the UFW bandh in Dadeldhura and no vehicle movements have been observed. A UFW bandh organizers partially forced government offices to close on 8 May (which is expected to partially continue on 9 May), though NGO offices have remained open. The UFW bandh has been in effect in Doti since 29 April, with markets, shops and academic institutions closed and no vehicle movements being observed. Most government and I/NGO offices have remained remain closed since 29 April, with reports that the NGO Federation in Doti has been calling upon its members to close their offices to demonstrate support for the UFW movement. As of the morning of 9 May, markets and shops were reported closed in Achham, Bajura and Bajhang while they are reportedly open in Baitadi and Darchula – vehicle movements and roads are reportedly closed in all these districts due to the bandh.

Dialogue and mitigation efforts

Public statements from political party leaders in Kathmandu have not improved the situation and has fueling further anger and frustration of UFW protesters. On 7 May, the government formed a three member committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister Krishan Prashad Sitaula and comprised of Minister Barshaman Pun and Minister Mahendra Yadav to hold talks with the UFW groups. Prime Minister Bhattarai also appealed to activists in the region to call off their strikes and join talks with the government. UFW activists are demanding that the government ‘Talk Committee’ should come to the region in order to hold talks, while some argue that they will continue protest until the dialogue succeeds. There have been no indications that the ‘Talk Committee’ intends to engage with Tharu actors.

At this time, there does not appear to have been widespread, public inter-communal rhetoric despite the fact that there is a sense of political division along communal lines (both sides command significant cross-political party support with Tharu members from Nepali Congress, UML, and UCPN-M joining the JTSC protests and many Pahadi members from Nepali Congress, UML, UCPN-M and RPP joining the UFW protests). Importantly, there have been statements by actors on both sides that there has been some informal dialogue between them, that protests should remain peaceful and that there is joint understanding that both movements are directed against the constitutional process, not each other. There are also

unofficial reports from Dhangadhi that there has been a general agreement between the two groups not to attack each other and to ensure that their programmes do not overlap. All sides have expressed in different ways the need for dialogue on the local level to reduce communal tension, while accepting that their dispute over federal issues needs to be settled centrally in Kathmandu.

However, the extent of structured dialogue between the two sides remains very unclear. The capacity for local mediation between the groups has also been undermined by reports that some prominent civil society members have been involved in the protests according to their ethnic identities and are no longer perceived to be in a position to mediate. Likewise, local efforts at initiating dialogue between the UWF and various Tharu groups attempted by local human rights activists and other civil society figures previous to the bandh were unsuccessful, leading many local actors to state that they are concerned that there is no-one locally with the capacity or influence to facilitate dialogue.

Looking Forward

While there have been only two reported clashes between activists from the two sides, there remains significant potential for communal violence to occur given the diversity of actors, the fluidity of the situation the clear underlying communal nature of the political dispute and the mostly unsuccessful dialogue and mediation efforts of local actors. While there is potential for clashes in coming days, many see this as most likely occurring once the final federal structure is agreed. There is an immediate need for activist leaders to enhanced dialogue efforts between their two sides and between themselves and local authorities. It is also clear that central-level political leaders from the main parties need to engage more actively and sensitively with both UFW and Tharu leaders to help diffuse tensions on the ground.

In coming days, both sides are planning additional activities that may escalate tensions and are reportedly asking each household from their communities to send at least one person to their respective programmes. The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (supported by Tharu groups) plans to hold mass rallies in Kanchanpur and Kailali on the 11 May; following the incidents in Bhasi and Jhalari, a number of sources have expressed concern that there could be further clashes then as Tharu activists seek retribution. It also cannot be ruled out that parallel protests by both sides could result in encounters between activists, which could precipitate clashes and the outbreak of violence.

Increasing identity and federalism activism in the rest of Nepal

As the constitution deadline nears, identity and federalism activism is also increasing across all of Nepal. The Rastriya Janamukti Party, the Joint Struggle Committee of Indigenous Nationalities and NEFIN enforced bandhs and plan upcoming protests demanding identity-based federalism across the country. Muslim communities have become more organized, forming a Rastriya Muslim Sangharsha Gathabandhan³ (National Muslim Struggle Alliance), and demanding the specific constitutional identity of Muslims. Brahmin Samaj and Thakauri-Chhetri Samaj have been organizing activities opposing identity-based federalism and arguing that geography, natural resources, economic viability and financial capability should be the primary consideration for federal state re-structuring (particularly provinces arranged in a north-south configuration). Rastriya Jana Morcha-Nepal continued protests against federalism of any sort.

Campaigns in favour of a 'unified Chitwan' included in a 'Narayani province' continued, organized by the district chapters of the UCPN-M, CPN-UML, Nepali Congress, National Democratic Party of Nepal and National Democratic Party with district level programmes and advocacy with central level leaders for a 'unified Chitwan'. From 21-22 April, 12 Tharu organizations⁴ organized a 'round table' conference in Ratnanagar (Chitwan) and agreed to advance their demands for three Tharu autonomous provinces.⁵ The JTSC and other groups have also significantly escalated protest programmes across the Tarai at the end of April (as noted above) and into May. Tharus in Chitwan are also strongly opposed to Chitwan's potential inclusion in a 'Narayani province' or any proposition of a 'unified Chitwan'. At the end of April and the

³ It is an association of Muslim sister organizations of the main political parties, Muslim civil society organizations, Muslim CA members, Muslim intellectuals, religious leaders, Muslim rights activists, and Muslim women, youths and students.

⁴ These included the main Tharu leaders Laxman Tharu, Raj Kumar Lekhi, Dilly Chaudhary and Bijaya Kumar Gachhadhar.

⁵ The 'Tharuwan Autonomous Province' would range from Kanchanpur to Chitwan, the 'Madhya Tharuhat Province' would range from Parsa to Dhanusa and the 'Kochila Tharuhat Autonomous Province' would range from Siraha to Jhapa.

beginning of May, a number of 'sub-Madheshi' activist groups emerged. The Mithila State Struggle Committee launched demonstrations in Janakpur demanding that the area of Dhanusa District and its peripheries should be constitutionally declared a 'Mithila autonomous province'. In Birgunj (Parsa district), a Struggle Committee of 35 members has been formed of various organizations demanding a separate "Bhojpur Province" with Birgunj its capital and has carried out rallies at the beginning of May (with district leaders of Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, UCPN-M and their sister organizations reportedly participating). Similarly, district leaders of Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, UCPN-M and NWPP demonstrated in Biratnagar in early May demanding a province including all districts east of Koshi river with Biratnagar as the capital. A 'Kochila Autonomous State Council' (KASC) has also emerged demanding a 'Kochila province' encompassing Jhapa, Sunsari and Morang districts. These recent demands and proposals by the Mithila, Bhojpur, Kochila, Tharu and Muslim groups have come as a surprise to many local Madheshi political groups as their demands come in direct opposition to the mainline Madheshi political claim for "One Madhesh, One State" (or for at least two Tarai provinces).

In the Eastern Region, the Sanghiya Loktantrik Rastriya Manch ('Federal Democratic National Forum', affiliated with the Federal Limbuwan State Council-Lingden) organized 'march pass' programmes in all the nine districts of their proclaimed 'Limbuwan province' from 19-23 April and a torch rally in Dharan (Sunsari District) in which several policemen and FDNF cadres were injured when police tried to stop FDNF cadres from carrying a mashal (a torch).⁶ A Federalism Implementation Limbuwan Struggle Committee has been formed (comprising central level leaders and CA members of major political parties from the Limbu community) and has been carrying out various protests demanding an autonomous 'Limbuwan province' in the new constitution. Meanwhile, the Samyukta Limbuwan Morcha (SLM), comprising nine Limbuwan groups, has drafted an 'Interim constitution of Limbuwan'. The SLM has warned that it will implement the Limbuwan constitution and establish the provincial apparatus if the new Nepal constitution is not promulgated by the 28 May deadline or is promulgated without an autonomous Limbuwan province.

Disputes have emerged regarding perceived overlapping geographic claims between Limbu and Kirant groups. The Limbuwan Mukti Morcha (LMM), led by Bir Nembang, organized a press conference in Dharan on 21 April and warned the main three political parties not to backtrack from the promise of a 'Limbuwan province' comprising nine districts east of the Arun River. He also objected to the creation of a 'Kirat province' in the region and alleged that some Kirat and Khambu groups are trying to "abolish" Limbuwan identity. The Kirant Rai Yayokha (KRY), a social organization of the Rai community, organized a big rally and public meeting in Itahari of Sunsari District in which central leaders belonging to the Rai community from Nepali Congress, UML and UCPN-M participated and demanded the creation of a 'Kirat province' comprising 17 districts of Eastern and Central Regions. A local journalist explained this as the "beginning of the end of national political parties in the eastern hills". He believed that there are indications that Limbu and Rai leaders of the main political parties are quite dissatisfied with their central leaders.

The southern part of the Eastern Region is relatively calm and Madheshi political parties are concentrating on negotiations in Kathmandu. A political analyst based in Saptari District was of the view that Madheshi political parties are hopeful of persuading the main political parties about the creation of either one or two provinces in the Tarai and, until 28 May, they will not conduct any aggressive protests at the local level.

Overall, local analysts have cautioned that some demonstrations and protest programmes in coming weeks have the potential to end in confrontation if groups with contradicting or overlapping claims escalate their activities. Adding to this, many identity-based groups and organizations are sceptical about the constitutional negotiations going on in Kathmandu. Many believe that, in the name of reducing the number of provinces, the main three political parties and their leaders are trying to "dilute" identity-based federalism.

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Given the dry and windy season, cases of fire incidents have been reported throughout April, particularly Tarai districts. There were large fire disasters in Banke, Bardiya, Kapilvastu, Mahottari, Dhanusa, Siraha and

⁶ Police locally claimed that they have been ordered by Ministry of Home Affairs not to allow torch rallies.

Saptari districts during April. Local authorities, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and other humanitarian organizations supported fire-affected populations and the situation is under local control so far.

After Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) instructions to all District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs), disaster preparedness and response plans have gained momentum throughout the country. A total of 68 districts out of 75 have already reviewed their plan following the DPR Guidelines developed by MoHA (55 districts have already shared the soft copies to upload in the MoHA website).

Cluster updates

The Logistics Cluster met on 27 April 2012 and endorsed its work plan for 2012. The meeting also agreed to review the cluster contingency plan, for which a working group has been formed. Based on the cluster's planned activities, the US Embassy has initiated support for the rehabilitation and maintenance of warehouses in strategic locations across Nepal. In the meantime, the US Embassy has initiated the drafting of the Tribhuvan International Airport Disaster Management Plan in close coordination with the cluster.

The Protection Cluster organized a three-day training workshop in Dadeldhura District during April 2012 in which representatives from local government, NGOs and protection cluster members participated.

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster participated in a Regional Seminar on Disaster Response and Humanitarian Assistance Operations from 3-5 April organized by the Nepal Army in Kathmandu. The CCCM Cluster provided a set of questions on Displaced Population and CCCM for the MIRA template considering a multi hazard scenario. In the meantime, the CCCM Cluster continues to follow-up with MoHA on the gazetting of the 83 identified open spaces of the Kathmandu Valley.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and the NRCS have been coordinating with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) to organize a meeting with the Director General in order to identify a new focal person for the Shelter Cluster and agree the date of the next cluster meeting. Likewise, to assist the reconstruction process in earthquake affected area, DUDBC has completed two mason training-of-trainers (ToTs) in Taplejung, Panchthar, Ilam, Sankuwasabha, Dhankuta, Terhathum and Udayapur districts.

The Education Cluster finalized its annual work plan for 2012 and updated its contingency plan. The NRCS and the National Society for Earthquake Technology, organized a four-day 'Light Search and Rescue' training to 55 school teachers from Nuwakot and Bhaktapur districts. The trained teachers will facilitate the preparation of DRR Contingency Plan in eight schools from both districts. Likewise, Vulnerability Capacity Assessment and Disaster Preparedness plan training was organized for 25 teachers in Rasuwa.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

- 04 May – Basic Operating Guidelines (BOGs) Meeting, SDC Swiss Embassy, Ekantakuna (15:00-16:30)
- 18 May – HCT Operational Meeting, UNDP Conference Room, Kathmandu (11:00 -12:30)

For more details, please visit Meeting schedules at UN Nepal Information Platform:
<http://www.un.org.np/calendar/2012-03>.

RECENT MAPS AVAILABLE

The RCHCO IMU produced a number of mapping products, some of which are listed below and also available on the Nepal Information Platform: <http://www.un.org.np/resources/maps>.

Nepal: Report of Bandhs/Strike, 1-30 April 2012
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/nepal-reports-bandhs-strike-1-30-april-2012>

Nepal: Report of Security Incident, 1-30 April 2012
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/nepal-report-security-incident-1-30-april-2012>

Nepal: Incidents Affecting Operational Space, 01 April- 03 May 2012
<http://www.un.org.np/maps/nepal-operational-space-01-april-3-may-2012>

RECENT REPORTS AVAILABLE

Some of the recent reports available on the UN Nepal Information Platform are listed below:

Nepal: Update on the Flooding in Seti River #3

<http://www.un.org.np/headlines/nepal-updates-flooding-seti-river-3>

Nepal: Update on the Flooding in Seti River #2

<http://www.un.org.np/headlines/nepal-updates-flooding-seti-river-2>

Nepal: Update on the Flooding in Seti River #1

<http://www.un.org.np/headlines/nepal-updates-flooding-seti-river-1>

RCHCO Field Bulletin: Reconstruction of Conflict-damaged Infrastructure in Achham District, Issue #40

<http://www.un.org.np/headlines/field-bulletin-issue-40>

RCHCO Field Bulletin: Violence against Madheshi Dalit Women in Dhanusa & Mahottari districts, Issue #39

<http://www.un.org.np/headlines/field-bulletin-issue-39>

Youth and the United Nations in Nepal

<http://www.un.org.np/reports/youth-and-united-nations-nepal>

CONTACT

United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator's Office

UN House, Pulchowk, Kathmandu, Nepal (GPO Box 107)

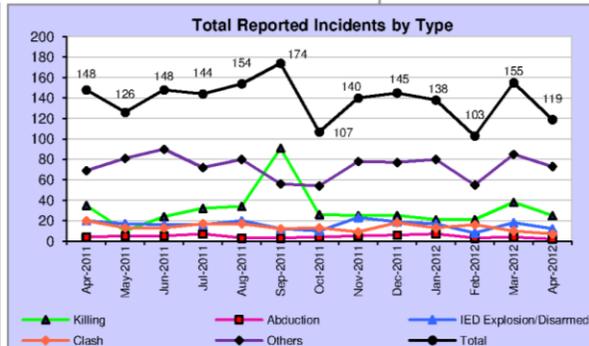
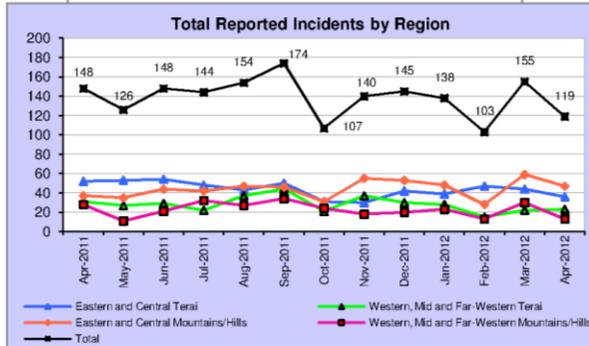
Phone: +977 1 5523200 Ext. 1518 | Fax: +977 1 5523991 | Email: rchco.nepal@one.un.org

Visit the UN Nepal Information Platform at www.un.org.np

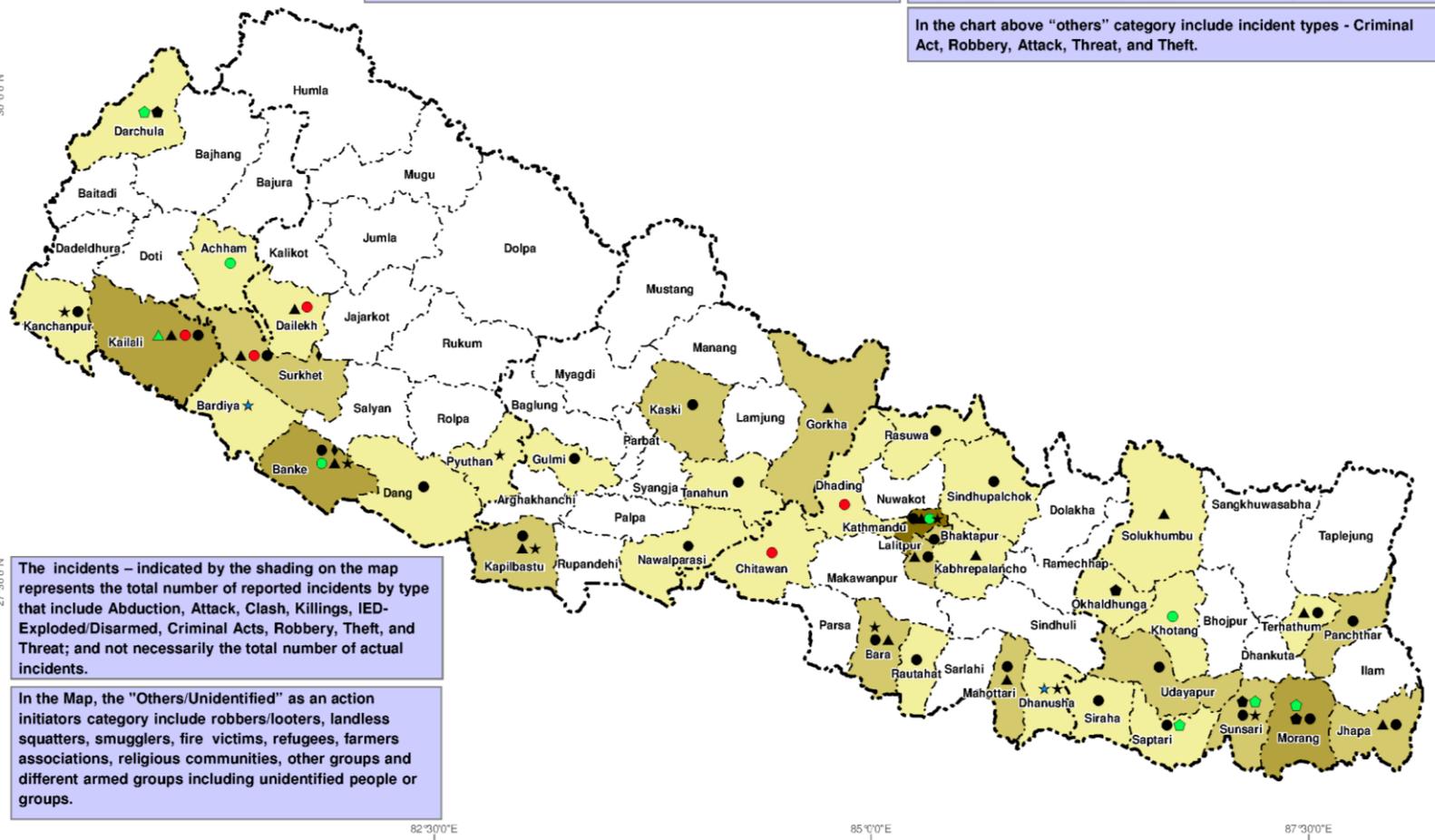
Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from media, UN, NGO and other development and humanitarian partners, subject to availability of data. Although the RCHCO aims to confirm reports independently, occasional factual inaccuracies can occur.

NEPAL - Reports of Security Incidents

1- 30 April 2012



In the chart above "others" category include incident types - Criminal Act, Robbery, Attack, Threat, and Theft.



Legend

Administrative Boundaries

- International
- Development Region
- District

Types of Incidents

- Reports of Abductions
- Reports of Killings
- Reports of Clash
- Reports of Criminal Acts
- Reports of IED-Disarmed/Explosions

Number of Reported Incidents

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 8
- 21
- No incidents reported

Action Initiators (Symbol Colour)

- UCPN-M/YCL
- Terai Groups
- Political Parties/Locals/Students/Teacher Union/Transport Union
- Kirant/Limbuwan
- Tharuhat/ Bramhan Samaj/ Chhetri Samaj
- Other/Unidentified

Map Produced by RCHCO with information consolidated by UNDSS.



Map Doc Name: Security_Incidents_April_2012_A4_4May2012_v1
GLIDE Number: N/A
Creation Date: 4 May 2012
Projection/Datum: UTM 44N/WGS84
Web Resources: http://www.un.org.np

Map data source(s): International and domestic media and field reports from UN Agencies, Donors and I/NGOs. Geodata: GIST, ESRI

Disclaimers: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

A service of the United Nations Country Team in Nepal.
 RCHC Office, Nepal

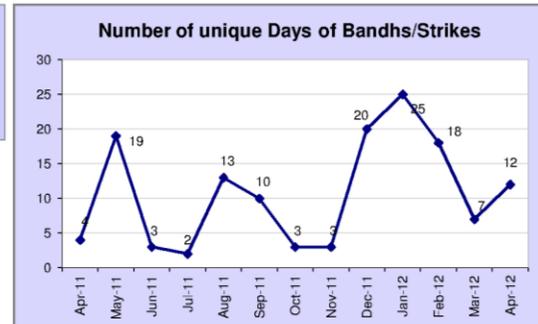
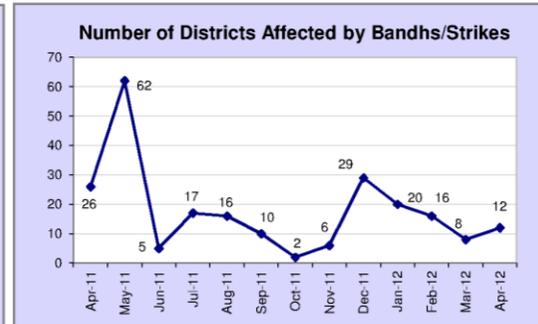
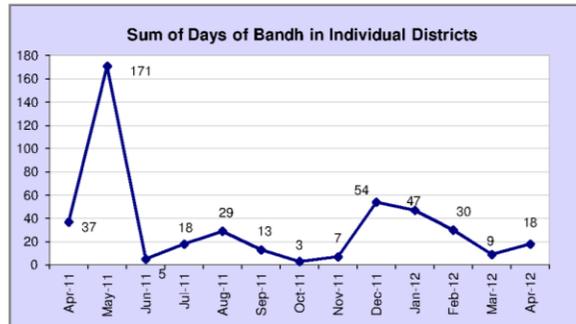


The incidents – indicated by the shading on the map represents the total number of reported incidents by type that include Abduction, Attack, Clash, Killings, IED-Exploded/Disarmed, Criminal Acts, Robbery, Theft, and Threat; and not necessarily the total number of actual incidents.

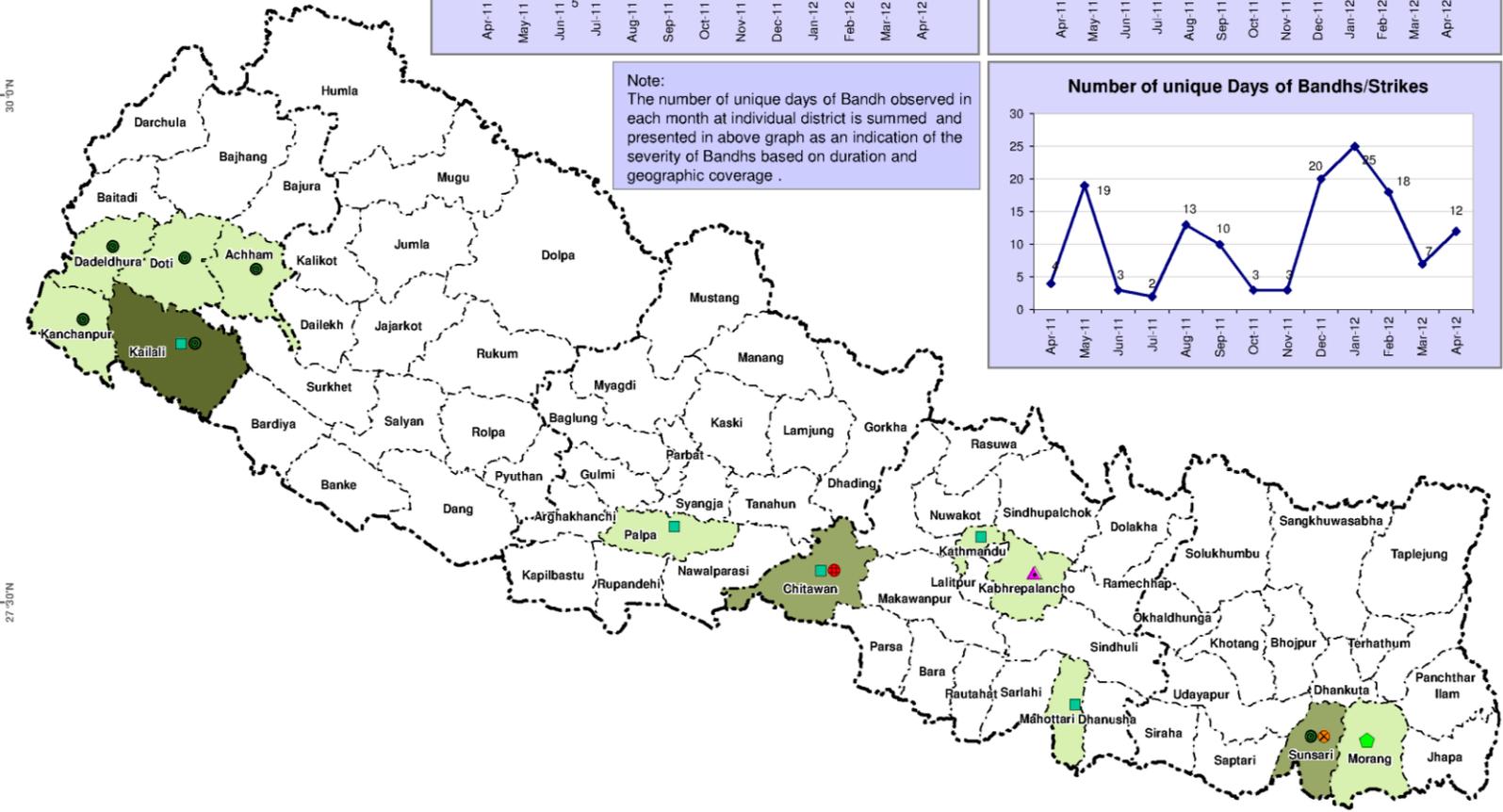
In the Map, the "Others/Unidentified" as an action initiators category include robbers/looters, landless squatters, smugglers, fire victims, refugees, farmers associations, religious communities, other groups and different armed groups including unidentified people or groups.

NEPAL - Reports of Bandhs/Strikes

1 - 30 April 2012



Note:
The number of unique days of Bandh observed in each month at individual district is summed and presented in above graph as an indication of the severity of Bandhs based on duration and geographic coverage.



The density of events – indicated by shading on the map – represents the total number of Bandhs/Strikes that have been observed, as reported to UNRCHCO and the UN Department of Safety and Security. These include transportation strikes, and closures of customs offices, markets and businesses.

Legend

Administrative Boundaries

- International
- Development Region
- District

Number of Reported Bandh

- 1
- 2
- 5
- No incidents reported

Groups Calling for Bandhs/Strikes

- Other/Unidentified
- Political Parties
- NEFIN (National Fed. Indigenous Nationalities)
- Government / Employees
- MPRF
- Local Communities

Map Produced by RCHCO with information consolidated by UNDSS.

Department of Safety and Security

Map Doc Name: BandhStrike_April_2012_A4_4May2012_v01
 GLIDE Number: N/A
 Creation Date: 4 May 2012
 Projection/Datum: UTM 44N/WGS84
 Web Resources: <http://www.un.org.np>

Map data source(s): International and domestic media and field reports from UN Agencies, Donors and I/NGOs. Geodata: GIST, ESRI

Disclaimers: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Transition Support Strategy
 RCHC Office, Nepal
 A service of the United Nations Country Team in Nepal.

