



THE CHANGING LENS ON GENDER





THE BEGINNING...

In October and November 2012, a group of refugee men from Bhutan in the Beldangi and Sanischare camps in eastern Nepal participated in a photography project, where, following discussions on gender roles and masculinities, and after a basic photo workshop, they were encouraged to take photos describing their views on their roles as men, fathers and husbands. The images they captured were subsequently exhibited in the refugee camps and the UNHCR office in Kathmandu as part of the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence'. This spurred further reflection and discussion with men and the community at large on gender roles, masculinities, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

By the end of the workshop, participants were able to critique each other's photographs and also discuss how the image illustrated gender roles in the camps. Participants collectively decided the best photos for exhibition in relation to the theme, as well as the titles and captions.

Rajendra Mulmi led the discussion on gender roles and masculinities, and Kashish Das Shrestha worked with the participants to help them understand the basics of photography and how to use captions to articulate the theme. For many participants this was the first time they had used a camera.

This project was funded under the High Commissioner's Special Project on SGBV. Presented here are the photographs that were exhibited in the camps during the campaign.





TABALA'S MAGIC

Ambika Bhattarai from Beldangi camp learns to play the Tabala along with her husband, who is also a Tabala player.

BIRKHA GURUNG



KNITTING MELODIES

On a Saturday afternoon, children and youth enjoy some down time in the refugee camp, the boys play guitar while the girls knit.

BHAKTA TIWARI

WHIZZING BY!



A female participant cycles down to Damak from Beldangi camp to mark the birth anniversary of a renowned *guru*.

BHAKTA TIWARI



A photograph showing two men in a traditional wooden structure with a thatched roof. They are working with a large, vibrant pink fabric strip that is part of a loom. The man in the foreground is focused on adjusting the fabric, while the man in the background looks on. The structure is made of wood and has a thatched roof. The pink fabric is a wide, flat strip, likely used for weaving sanitary napkins. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting.

PINK THREADS

Men preparing looms for women
to weave sanitary napkins.

NARADHOJ BUDHATHOKI



HARD WORK ON A HOT DAY

A refugee couple work together to make aluminium bowls.

YAMON RAI

SKILLS



This couple runs a bicycle repair shop in Beldangi camp. Nowadays it is more common to see women doing this type of work.

SUBASH SANYASI



KAARI!

Though they may have left Bhutan, these refugees have kept their culture alive. Here, a group of men in Beldangi camp play a game of Khuru. Women generally do not play this sport.

BHAKTA BAHADUR GURUNG

TIHAR PREPARATIONS

Maniram Gurung from Beldangi camp sifts flour with his wife and neighbours to make *Sel Roti* - Nepali rice doughnut.

BHAKTA BAHADUR GURUNG





LIFE UNDER A BAMBOO MAT

Three neighbours from Sanischare camp take pride in maintaining the bamboo mats that shelter their families.

LOKNATH DHAMALA





A woman from Sanischare camp fences her house. She does not hesitate to work even though this task is traditionally done by men.

PRAYAS NEPAL



**A BAMBOO FENCE,
WHEN WILL I ESCAPE IT?**

An elderly man from Sanischare camp repairs the toilet to maintain safe and hygienic conditions.

DHAN BAHADUR PRADHAN



TOGETHER

An elderly couple share the task of making their home peaceful and comfortable.

BIRKHA GURUNG



FOR WARMTH

Harkha Bahadur Rai from Sanischare camp helps his sister weave a wool scarf to keep her warm in the winter.

SAHA BAHADUR GHIMIRE





HEALING HANDS

Balbahadur Gurung, a medical assistant demonstrates his qualifications on patients of any gender.

PRAKASH BUDHATHOKI



PLAY IT SAFE

To mark World AIDS Day, health workers reach out to refugees of all ages and genders to encourage condom use.

PURNA SINGH GURUNG

GOLDEN GARLANDS FOR TIHAR



Kul Bahadur Rai from Beldangi camp helps string marigolds for his wife. She will use the marigold garlands to wish her brothers long lives during the Tihar festival.

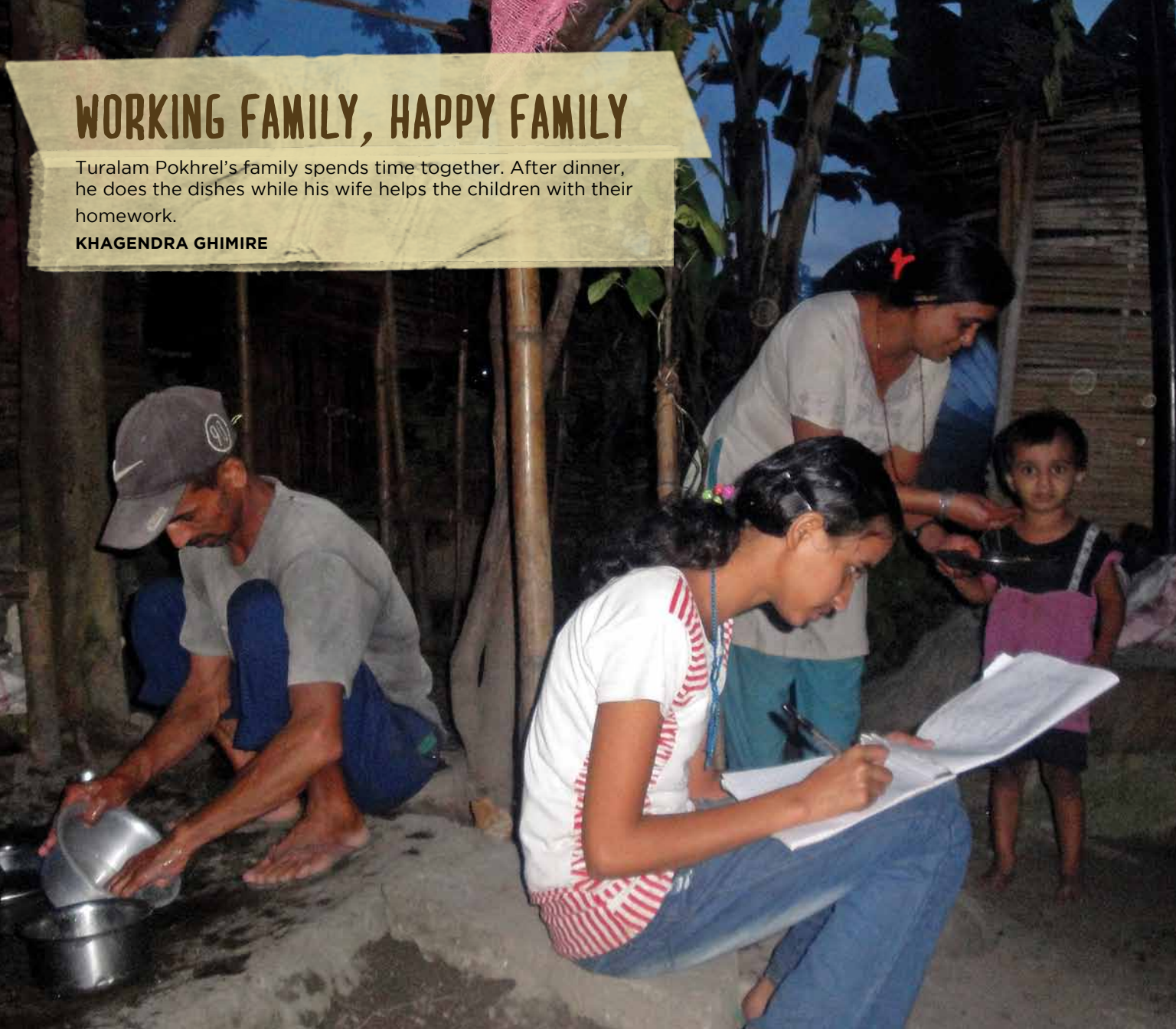
SUBASH SANYASI



WORKING FAMILY, HAPPY FAMILY

Turalam Pokhrel's family spends time together. After dinner, he does the dishes while his wife helps the children with their homework.

KHAGENDRA GHIMIRE



FATHER'S AFFECTION, MOTHER'S STRENGTH

A photograph of a rural scene. In the foreground, a woman in a grey t-shirt and light-colored pants is bent over, using a large wooden axe to chop a log on a wooden stump. To her right, another woman in a white tank top and pink shorts stands holding a young child in her arms. The background shows several simple huts with thatched roofs and lush green banana trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

This family from Beldangi camp shows all kinds of strength.

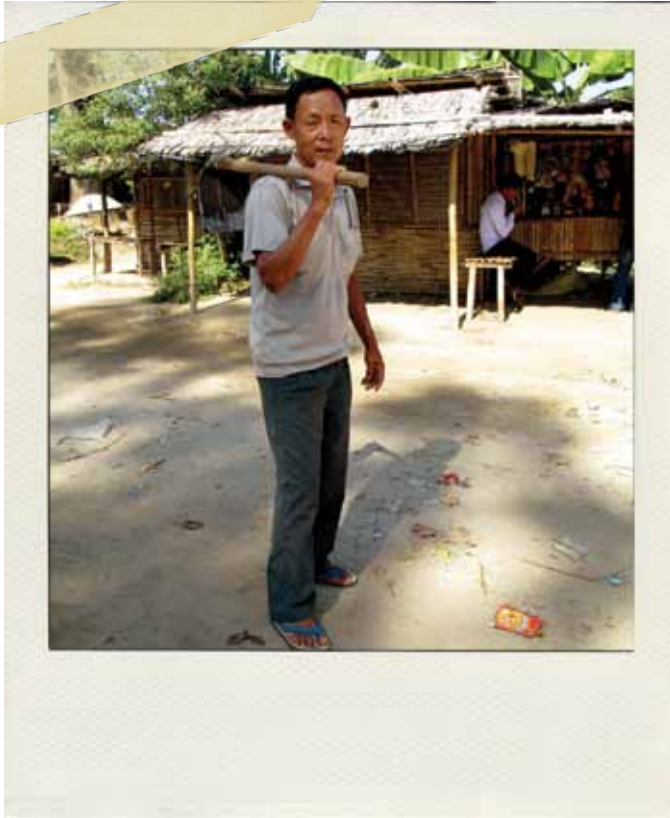
BEDRAJ BASNET

LET'S KEEP OUR SURROUNDINGS CLEAN



Bal Bahadur Chhetri from Beldangi camp
enjoys cleaning his family home.

BIRKHA GURUNG



A member of the Camp Management Committee spends a morning tending to his kitchen garden.

MANGAL DHOJ SUBBA

**GETTING MUDDY
TO GET GREEN**

On a scorching day, Tuladhan Rai prepares the land to plant vegetables.

RANSORE RAI







A message pinned on the wall of the Camp Management Committee office encourages the empowerment of women and putting an end to all kinds of violence against women.

PURNA SINGH GURUNG

VROOM VROOM



A young woman from Beldangi camp goes to the market with her neighbour. Women are rarely seen driving motorbikes in the refugee camps.

K.B. GURUNG

PITCH IN



Young men from Sanischare camp get their hands dirty to build a water tap for their community. This will reduce commute time for women, who usually are the ones to collect water.

BEDRAJ BASNET

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



Rajendra Mulmi is currently the Acting Country Director for Nepal at Search for Common Ground, an international conflict transformation and peacebuilding organization. His work focuses on working with the youth, women, media and leaders in Nepal to build sustainable peace. He has worked as a trainer and facilitator for a number of organizations in a range of issues: including conflict transformation and peacebuilding, youth development, leadership and teambuilding, gender, organizational development. Rajendra began his career as a youth activist; founded Youth Initiative, a youth-led and youth-run organization and Association of Youth Organisations Nepal (AYON), a network of youth-led organisations in Nepal. He has also served in the leadership of regional and international youth networks including: Young Liberals and Democrats of Asia and International Young Professionals Foundation. A Chevening scholar, Rajendra holds a Masters degree in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK.



Kashish Das Shrestha is a writer and photographer based in Nepal and New York. He uses his works as a photographer to fund his research on contemporary social and environmental issues in Nepal, about which he writes frequently for national and international press. He is also a Renewable Energy Policy Fellow at the Niti Foundation. Kashish's photographs and writings have been published in many major international media outlets, including New York Times Dot Earth and Vogue online. In New York he was also a Contributor to BBC Nepali Radio service. Between 2010-2011, he also produced 10 photo stories on the lives of resettled refugees from Bhutan in the United States of America and Canada. He also produced six multimedia slideshows and a 32-minute documentary based on the project for UNHCR Nepal. www.dasimages.org

“Hundreds of thousands of women are subjected to brutal acts of violence every year, and to help prevent this from happening must remain one of our highest priorities,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees **António Guterres** on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism in 2011. This was followed by the launch of the High Commissioner’s fund for special projects on SGBV in a number of countries, including Nepal.





UNHCR Representation in Nepal

Maharajgunj, Kathmandu

Phone: +977 1 4412521, 4414724

Fax: +977 1 4412853

Email: nepka@unhcr.org

Web: www.unhcr.org