District Profile: JUMLA

Jumla is located in the north-west of Nepal and is considered the administrative and commercial hub of the Karnali Zone. The Sinja valley in the western part of the district is also known as the place where the Khas Nepali language evolved\(^1\) and contains sites of historical interest awaiting classification by UNESCO. It is considered to be the original home of the Khas ethnic group.

The area of the district is 2,531 km\(^2\) and there are 30 Village Development Committees (VDCs). The district headquarters (DHQ) is located in Chandannath VDC.\(^2\) A significant portion of its territory is grassland and highland meadow, often used for grazing Himalayan goats, sheep, and yaks, and abundant in medicinal herbs with great potential for sustainable economic development.\(^3\) Jumla is one of nine districts that the government of Nepal has categorized as backward areas due to their remoteness.\(^4\)

Jumla’s population totalled 108,921 in 2011, males slightly outnumbering females. Jumla’s population includes **14,691 children under five**, **13,208 adolescent girls** (aged 10-19), **25,757 women of reproductive age** (aged 15-49), and **6,018 seniors** (aged 60 years and above). A majority (98%) of people in Jumla are Hindu, 1% are Buddhist and 1% Christian, and smaller share are of other religions.\(^5\) In 2001, the population was made up of over two thirds (69%) Chhetris, 16% Dalits, 11% Brahmins, 2% Janajatis (Bhotae, Lama, Gurung, Tamang and Gharti), and 2% Madhesis.\(^6\)

Geographic isolation and poverty are the main factors that contribute to the underdevelopment of Jumla. Linked with a tarmac airport and seasonal road (Karnali Highway), Jumla Bazaar is an important trading centre for the entire region. However, air travel operators do not inform of flight schedules ahead of time, which drives airfare up to three times the expected price and most people thus cannot afford air service.\(^7\) In 2010, the United Karnali Struggle Committee

\(^1\) Dr. Suryamani Adhikary, History of the Khas Emperor 2004  
\(^2\) District Development Committee (DDC), District Profile of Jumla 2009; The Karnali Zone consists of five districts; Humla, Dolpa, Mugu and Kalikot.  
\(^4\) Pichhadiyeko chhetra; Article 10.A.1, Scholarships Rule 2003  
\(^6\) Central Bureau of Statistics, National Population and Housing Census 2011  
\(^7\) Central Bureau of Statistics, National Population and Housing Census 2001; 2011 Census data on district caste/ethnic composition data are not available at district level as of May 2013.  
\(^8\) Passenger at Jumla airport, interviewed on 26 September 2012; Direct observation on 26 September 2012.
protested this situation, resulting in the closure of Jumla airport for nearly a month.

The Karnali Highway connects Jumla DHQ to Kalikot, Surkhet, Nepalgunj and to the rest of the country. Since it opened in 2007, the inflow of goods including food has increased. Still, transportation is very risky and costly, as the Karnali Highway is in poor condition.\(^9\) Freight transportation by road from Surkhet to Jumla (243km) costs 12 NRs/kg whereas it costs only 0.85 NRs/kg from Nepalgunj to Butwal (266km) and NRs 2.60 NRs/kg from Dang to Rolpa (86km).\(^10\) There are 14 suspension bridges and 293 wooden bridges in the district. Within the district, mules, sheep and humans provide transportation. Bumramadichaur, Ghodemahadev, Badki and Tamti are considered the most inaccessible VDCs for delivery of goods and services.

### Locally celebrated festivals\(^11\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Festivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magh</td>
<td>Baisakh, Chaitee dashain, Saunae Sakrati, Krishna Janmastami Jatra, Teej, Pushae Bhaiyo, DHQ especially: Gaijatra, Ropai Jatra, Sipahai Jatra, Mame and Bodsaha jatra and Baag jatra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October-November</td>
<td>Dashain, Deepawali, Kartik Purnima (at full moon, people worship local deity Masto)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A typical household in Jumla is made up of five or six people and owns its home, though 3% of households rent. Almost all (99%) households use firewood for cooking, and 44% use solar energy (and 29% electricity) for lighting. Only 42% of households have radios and 11% televisions, but 46% have mobile phones. Only 78 households in Jumla are connected to the internet.\(^12\) In Jumla DHQ, load-shedding lasts on average upwards of four hours a day during winter and monsoon seasons and power supply fluctuations greatly. Around 526Kw of electricity are produced by micro-hydro power plants established in Badki, Bumramadichaur, Chandannath, Depalgaun, Dhapa, Dillichaur, Garjangkot, Ghodaemahadev, Haku, Kanakasundari, Malikabota, Malikathata, Narakot, Patarashi, Patmara, Talium, Tamti and Tatopani VDCs.

Every VDC is connected to telecommunication services by Nepal Telecom, Hello Nepal and Ncell, although Nepal Telecom landlines (185 total) reach only Mahat and Chandanath VDCs. V-Sat telephone stations are in Birat, Guthichaur, Karnali technical School, Nepal Army camp and Ghodaemahadav VDC. NTC mobile BTS towers are located in six VDCs (Guthichaur, Birat, Ghodaemahadav, Kodari, Ghodaemahadav and Malikabota). In addition, Ncell and Hello Nepal have a Base Transceiver Station (BTS) in the district. During load-shedding telephone connectivity is disrupted as well.\(^13\) Nepal Telecom also plans to link all BTS towers by radio to Danfae and Mauri lekh.

Postal service is the major mode to exchange information, especially government circulars and directives. Jumla is served by a District Post Office, seven Ilaka Post Offices\(^14\), and the remaining VDCs are covered by

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\(^9\) During the rainy season, it is difficult to drive on the Karnali Highway. Since 2007, at least 193 people were killed and more than 200 people injured in 147 accidents reported along the Surkhet-Jumla stretch. [http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2012/09/11/top-story/road-death-toll-193/239504.html](http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2012/09/11/top-story/road-death-toll-193/239504.html)

\(^10\) Local transporters interviewed in September 2012.

\(^11\) Local historian interviewed in September 2012; DDC Tourism Development Committee, Jumla District Introduction

\(^12\) Central Bureau of Statistics, National Population and Housing Census 2011

\(^13\) Nepal Telecom Jumla Manager interviewed in September 2012.

\(^14\) An Ilaka is an administrative unit between VDC and District level, the boundaries of which take terrain into account. Ilaka Post Offices are located in Narakot, Hatsinja, Chautha, Dillichaur, Malikathata, Tatopani and Kalikakhetu in Narakot, Kankasundari, Bhrumadichaur, Dillichaur Malikathata, Tatopani and Kalikakhetu VDCs.
Additional Post Offices.\textsuperscript{15} In addition, TNT, National and Sajha Worldwide provide private courier services in the district, allowing documents to transit between Jumla and Nepalgunj within two days.\textsuperscript{16}

Only people living in DHQ and surrounding VDCs (Kartikswami, Chandanath and Mahat VDCs) have Cable Network Television, though Dish Home cable network is installed in some VDCs such as Badki and Raralihi.\textsuperscript{17} There are two frequency modulation (FM) radio stations, Karnali and Nari Awaz, in the district. The Karnali station has coverage in 26 VDCs outside Sinja valley (Badki, Kalikakhetu, Narakot and Dhapa VDCs) and is expanding, but due fluctuations in power supply it only broadcasts for 10 hours a day (5-10am and 5-10pm). Nari Awaz station has smaller coverage, mainly in 11 VDCs around the DHQ. Radio Nepal (medium wave) has coverage over the entire district.\textsuperscript{18}

**Governance**

Jumla was heavily affected by the decade-long conflict between then Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) and the Nepal government. Reportedly 249 people were killed, an estimated 44 people were disabled and five people are still missing.\textsuperscript{19} Roughly more than a thousand applications to be recognized as an orphan have been submitted to the District Administration Office.\textsuperscript{20} Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006, security has improved, captured land is being returned by United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists (UCPN-M)\textsuperscript{21} and VDC offices were re-established. Nonetheless, the VDC Secretaries still spend at least a week every month in DHQ, supposedly for meetings and planning purposes (and sometimes citing security concerns, for instance in Lamra and Kartikswami VDCs).\textsuperscript{22} The overall security situation is fairly good, with no reports of extortion and threats by any groups. However, alcoholism and gambling are on the rise and contribute to tensions and local disputes mainly in rural areas.\textsuperscript{23} There were around 350 internally displaced persons due to armed conflict between 1996 and 2006 from Jumla,\textsuperscript{24} who have mostly returned to their respective villages with or without support from NGOs.

Historically, the Nepal Peasants and Workers Party (NPWP) has had a stronghold in the district. However, since the beginning of the ten year conflict, UCPN-M have had more influence. Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML), UNCP-M, Nepali Congress (NC), People’s Front Nepal (PFN) and NPWP are typically active in the district and are represented in the District Development Committee (DDC) board.

In the 2008 Constituent Assembly Elections, Naresh Bhandari, a male candidate representing UCPN-M and Chairman of the United Karnali Struggle Committee, which advocates on development issues related to the Karnali zone, won the first-past-the-post (FPTP) run with 27% of all valid votes. Under proportional representation (PR), Devi Lal Thapa, a male member of CPN-UML was selected. Over 70% of voters turned out for the elections (71% in FPTP and 74% in PR runs), and only 3% of cast votes were deemed invalid.\textsuperscript{25}

In mid-May 2013, the total number of people registered to vote in Jumla reached 45,846. In August 2012, 44,741 people (49% of whom men, none third gender) had been registered by the Election

\textsuperscript{15}District Development Committee, Periodic District Development Plan 2006
\textsuperscript{16}Field Assessment of Jumla district, September 2012
\textsuperscript{17}Dish Home webpage: \url{http://www.dishhome.com.np/}
\textsuperscript{18}Radio Karnali FM staff interviewed in Jumla Bazaar in September 2012
\textsuperscript{19}Informal Sector Service Centre, \url{www.inseconline.org}
\textsuperscript{20}District Administration Office staff interviewed in September 2012.
\textsuperscript{22}Please refer to the RCHCO Field Bulletin #3, “Empirical case-study of VDC Secretary Absenteeism and related service delivery in 45 VDCs in Rural Nepal” \url{http://un.org.np/sites/default/files/headlines/field_bulletin_-_issue-3_vdc_absenteeism_may_2011_2.pdf}
\textsuperscript{23}Local journalist interviewed in September 2012
\textsuperscript{24}OCHA/OHCHR Internally displaced persons mission to Jumla and Mugu Districts in August 2006
\textsuperscript{25}Election Commission of Nepal records
Commission of Nepal with photograph and biometrics. Jumla has one electoral constituency and 64 polling posts, at least one in each VDC. The District Election Office is located in Jumla Khalanga.

No vital registration records are available for Jumla are for 2009, 2010, or more recent years. In fiscal year 2011/12, the district nearly complied with the government prescription for allocating funding to targeted groups (10% for women, 10% for children, 15% for disadvantaged groups); out of the total capital expenditure of NRs 18,994,920, 8.7% was allocated to women and children each, and 13% for disadvantaged groups. In the previous year, Jumla met minimum conditions for local governance and as a result received 20% additional grant incentive and staff incentives. It was a middle performer (neither among the highest-scoring, nor the lowest), on management performance measures, transparency, resource mobilization, and monitoring an evaluation, and among the highest scoring DDCs on financial management performance measures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed three year budget for Jumla (NRs thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2010/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Currently Jumla is preparing a five-year District Periodic Plan. The DDC plans to improve accessibility by upgrading a Jumla-Mugu road and constructing the Gididaha Chakhure Lekh road (linking Jumla to Jajarkot). In addition, the DDC tentatively plans the Guthichaur Multipurpose Project for the next five years, which involves a hydropower project, damming a lake, construction of 16km of road including one bridge, and infrastructure for tourism promotion such as a resort with parks, rock climbing, a stadium, and ice skating facilities. The DDC is seeking support from the central government to implement the Guthichaur Multipurpose project. In addition, a Karnali Institute of Health Sciences was established and reconstruction of conflict damaged government buildings is planned.

In the prolonged absence of local elected representatives, various social mobilization structures are bringing community voices to the local planning and budgeting process endorsed by VDCs and the District Council. There are 30 Social Mobilisers from Local Governance Community Development Programme (LGCDP) in Jumla’s VDCs and settlements. Integrated Planning Committees are in place in all the VDCs, 270 Ward Citizen Forums are formed in all the wards of 30 VDCs in Jumla and Citizen Awareness Forums are formed in each VDC in disadvantaged settlements.

Child friendly local governance (CFLG) was adopted in September 2009 in Jumla, as it was a pilot district prior to the national endorsement of a child friendly local governance national strategy by the Government of Nepal in 2011 and subsequent guideline to roll it out in all VDCs. In Jumla, a District Children Status Report was prepared and a child friendly local governance fund has been established in all the VDCs and district. Jumla DDC has prepared a three-year strategic plan that mainstreamed child friendly local governance indicators. Sectoral long term plans, such as the District Education Plan, Health Plan, Water and Sanitation Plan have also incorporate these indicators. In addition, there are 123 child clubs in Jumla with 1,408 member children which participate in various governance structures.

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26Intensive Study and Research Centre, District and VDC Profile of Nepal 2013; Data from Ministry of Local Development
27Local Governance and Community Development Programme District Facilitator interviewed in September 2012
28Local Bodies Fiscal Commission Secretariat, Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures Assessment of Local Bodies of Nepal (December 2011). According to the provisions of Local Self-Governance Regulation (1999) the Ministry of Local Development developed the Minimum Conditions and Performance Measures for local bodies and linked the size of the capital development grant to performance.
29District Development Committee (DDC) Secretariat, District Development Committee Annual Report 2010/11; District Development Committee Planning Officer interviewed in September 2012
30District Development Committee Planning Officer interviewed in September 2012
31Information provided by UNICEF in February 2013
In 2009, UNICEF supported the mapping of disadvantaged groups and service delivery at VDC level in 23 districts as part of the Ministry of Local Development’s implementation of the Decentralized Action for Children and Women (DACAWE) programme. The categorization index used for mapping takes into consideration the proportions of the population who are marginalized, who vulnerable, and who have food sufficiency for less than three months in a year; the proportion of participants in decision-making who are women, Dalit or Janajati; the availability and quality of primary schools and the availability and quality of health posts; and the prevalence of gender-based discrimination. The VDCs categorized poorly on most of these aspects in Jumla are Ghodemahadeva, Kalikakheteu, Kanakasundari, Kundari, Mahabopaterkholu, Malikathanta and Raralihi, and the remaining VDCs are categorized poorly on many aspects (see also annexed map).32

Rule of Law and Protection

Data are provided wherever possible in disaggregated form, as made available by local institutions. Although it is commonly understood that informal justice mechanisms sometimes interfere with due process by pressuring claimants to mediate criminal cases (including gender and caste based violence cases) locally, information on the incidence of this practice is not available from local or national institutions, because these offices never hear from such claimants.

The 30 VDCs of Jumla are covered by seven police posts, in addition to a District Police Office (combined strength 225 male and eight female personnel mainly based in DHQ), a Zonal Police Office (200 personnel), and a Riot Police Battalion. The District Police Office has one vehicle, does not have a human rights desk, but there is a Women and Children Service Centre.33 This Centre faces challenges in assisting its users, who sometimes need immediate food assistance and shelter, and only one female police officer is available to serve in it.34 A One Stop Crisis Management Centre at the Women and Children Office can provide comprehensive services (medical and psychological treatment, shelter, legal aid and support) to victims of gender-based violence.35 In 2011, District Police registered 42 crimes in Jumla, 11 of these homicides, eight suicides, ten public offences and only four related to women and children.36

Jumla has both a District Court and an Appellate Court. In the course of one year, between 100 and 150 cases are registered on average at the District Court, of which 85% will be settled and 5-10% will be settled the following year. Almost all the cases are then brought to the Appellate Court.37 Only four lawyers practice in the district, and none of them are women, Dalit or Janajati. The Appellate Court receives civil and criminal cases, and generally settles these in one or two years.38 In addition, in 2011/12, three cases of public offence and ten cases related to alcohol were registered and settled directly by the District Administration Office.39

The District Court has a paid lawyer for public use, however very few people know about this provision.40 The district has a judge and psychologist trained in juvenile justice procedures, but no such lawyer or social worker.41 The Legal Aid Act 1997, which sets out specific provisions for institutional capacities to make available free legal aid to “persons who are unable to protect their legal rights due to

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32Information provided by UNICEF, February 2013; DagInfo database: http://daginfo.deprosc.org.np/
33District Police Office visited in September 2012
34International Alert, Integrated or isolated? How state and non-state justice systems work for justice in Nepal May 2012
35As of February 2012; Information provided by UNICEF, February 2013
36Intensive Study and Research Center, District and VDC Profile of Nepal 2013; Data from Police Headquarters
37District Court Record Officer interviewed in September 2012
38International Alert, Integrated or isolated? How state and non-state justice systems work for justice in Nepal May 2012; information provided by Jumla Appellate Court (June 2011)
39International Alert, Integrated or isolated? How state and non-state justice systems work for justice in Nepal May 2012
40Jumla District Court Record Officer interviewed in September 2012
41As of September 2012; Information provided by UNICEF, February 2013
financial and social reasons” has not fully come into effect in Jumla yet. The Jumla District Bar Association carried out Legal Mobile Camps in Tatopani VDC and DHQ, as well as a Legal Literacy Program and Legal Service Trainings.

A traditional justice practice of community decision-making (kachahari), hailing from the time of the Khas state, is still in use today in Jumla. With support from UNICEF, the District Women and Children Office has also set up community Paralegal Committees in fifteen VDCs which support local mediation and dispute resolution. Paralegal Committees are being incorporated into WCO’s regular Women Development Programme at ward level as Gender Based Violence Watch Groups. Both entities are not supposed to conduct community mediation and dispute resolution any longer, but only to raise awareness on children’s and women’s protection issues, and to detect and report cases to the competent authorities, facilitating access to justice including with a small fund for emergency assistance to victims.

A majority of those who may need formal justice system services in Jumla report not being able to receive these. For cases of gender based violence in particular, local formal justice mechanisms are perceived to lack the necessary sensitivity and respect for confidentiality of the victim, and judicial mechanisms are male-dominated. More women in the police and judiciary mechanisms, training to these and to informal institutions on handling gender-based violence cases, and enhanced linkages between the two systems could improve the rate at which these are reported and addressed.

Per the Children’s Act 1992, the District Child Welfare Board (DCWB) is responsible for child rights promotion and protection in the district. The Board is chaired by the Chief Development Officer in most districts with members from government line agencies and NGOs and the Child Welfare Officer (Head of WCO) as secretariat. DCWB receives reports of children in need of care and protection (orphans, abandoned, child labor, child abuse, etc.) and disposes of a District Child Emergency Fund to provide immediate response and refer cases to NGO service providers or reunify them with families. Village Child Protection Committees are the local extension of DCWB and are present in 28 VDCs in Jumla.

On August 4th, 2012, the National Human Rights Commission branch office in Jumla received a case of caste-based discrimination from Garjangkot VDC; investigation is ongoing. In addition to monitoring the right to life, civilian and political rights, the National Human Rights Commission branch is also involved in monitoring the quality of food items in the district, as food items brought from outside the district are often found substandard.

**Equity and Social Inclusion**

Data are provided wherever possible in disaggregated form, as made available by local institutions. However, many sectors either do not recognize disaggregation as a need in record keeping practices or do not have the capacity to maintain and make accessible such information.

This dearth of data for particular groups, castes or even gender makes it difficult to judge which populations are particularly affected by diverse problems such as landlessness, food insecurity, higher HIV risks, and exclusion from political and development planning processes.

Although gender and caste based discrimination is said to be common by local institutions, it is not possible to judge their prevalence because most cases are not reported due to lack of awareness by victims and sometimes due to pressure by the community not to approach formal institutions.

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43 District Bar Association Chairman interviewed in September 2012
44 In Kachahari senior and respected people, almost always elderly men, of the community are invited to discuss and pronounce on disputes.
45 Information provided by UNICEF, February 2013
46 International Alert, Integrated or isolate? How state and non-state justice systems work for justice in Nepal May 2012
47 International Alert, Security and Justice in Nepal: District Assessment 2010 and 2012
48 As of December 2012; Information provided by UNICEF, February 2013
49 National Human Rights Commission Sub-office Jumla visited in September 2012
The Indigenous and Janjati District Coordination Committee and Dalit Upliftment District Coordination Committee of the DDC, chaired by representatives of those groups are involved in local government planning processes to mainstream sensitivity to the groups they represent, along with the Women Rights Forum, and Ward Citizen Forum. Major political parties (UCPN-M, NC, CPN-UML, RPP, NPWP) have at least one Dalit and one female member in their district committees. Nonetheless, in 2009, out of 1,054 civil servants (including teachers) in the district, only five were Dalits and there are no Dalits, Janjatis or women who practice law.

Among those aged 10 and older, 5% of men and 17% of women first married before they were 15, and 50% of men and 66% of women first married between 15 and 19. In other words, 83% of girls and women in Jumla married as adolescents. In 94% of households, women own neither the house, nor any land, though 14% of all households in Jumla are headed by women. In Sinja valley and surrounding area, people still practice Chaupadi following delivery and during menstrual periods. Over half (58%) of women aged 15-49 in the Mid-Western mountains report having to stay in an animal shed during menstruation, the highest proportion of all sub-regions.

About 37% of children aged 10-14 in Jumla were working in 2008, contributing to agriculture and the harvesting of high-value forest products for export. It is quite common for girls to leave school and enter marriages arranged by their parents, though dowry is not typically practiced. Many girls marry at or before age 15, and by age 20 have several children. Overall in the Karnali, 19% of women aged 15-49 entered their first marriage before they were 15 years old, and 3.6% are in a polygynous marriage (one husband with multiple wives). Of all female-headed households, 6% have women younger than 19 as their household head. In an area where 94% of households do not have access to drinking water on site (for 41% it is retrieved from more than 30 minutes away), the burden of collecting water also falls disproportionally on women and girls (95% of all cases).

Education

While over two thirds (68%) of males aged five and above are literate in Jumla, only a 41% of females can read and write. Among those aged 20 and above, 26% of men and 13% of women have completed basic education, and 12% of men and 5% of women attained School Leaving Certificate. The Jumla District Education Office has a District Education Plan (2010/11-2014/15) which allocated NRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minority representation in schools</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share of teachers of grades 1-5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalits</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janajati</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of children enrolled in grades 1-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalits</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janajati</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>1.53%</td>
<td>1.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of children enrolled in grades 9-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalits</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janajati</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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50 Political party leaders (NC, UML and UCPN-M) and District Election Office staff interviewed in September 2012
51 District Development Committee, Dalit Profile 2009
52 Central Bureau of Statistics, National Population and Housing Census 2011
53 Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2010; Figures are estimates for Karnali (Mugu, Humla, Jumla, Dolpa, and Kalikot together)
55 Women and Children Development Office, interviewed on 26 September 2012
56 Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2010
57 Central Bureau of Statistics, National Population and Housing Census 2011
59 Ministry of Education, Flash I Report 2011/2012 unless otherwise noted; NER (net enrollment rate) is the share of children in the relevant age category who are enrolled in school. Official figures reflect only human resources funded by the central government and are reported figures are sometimes questioned by civil society organizations working in the education sector, with the motivation that central government funding which is linked to enrolments is an incentive to over-report.
60 Central Bureau of Statistics, National Population and Housing Census 2011
19,569,000 for Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities in 2011/12. Still, less than a third (21%) of boys and of girls in Jumla have ECD experience when they enter grade one.

There are three Supervisory Areas in the education sector, each with an officer, and ten Resource Centres where resource persons provide technical assistance and monitor teaching in their respective areas. The majority of schools are supported by the government (199 of 124 in basic education, and 30 of 31 in secondary), the rest being private. Official figures on teachers employed, their sex and training status are only available for those teachers funded by the central government. Of 803 teachers teaching grades 1-5 in Jumla, only 26% are female. Of those teaching grades 6-8, 12% are female and none of these women are untrained, compared to 2% of the male teachers. On average, there is one teacher per 40 students in basic education, and one teacher per 21 students in grades nine to twelve. Grade-wise dropout figures show that girls leave school at increasingly higher rates than boys after age 10 or so. Every year, more than one in ten children from a given class drop out.

Education statistics in Jumla

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Enrolment (NER) in basic education (grade 1-8)</th>
<th>Enrolment (NER) in secondary education (grade 9-10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>77% of girls</td>
<td>80% of boys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jumla dropout rates

- **Boys**:
  - Grade 1-5 (Age 5-9): 13.7%
  - Grade 6-8 (Age 10-12): 15.8%
  - Grade 9-10 (Age 13-14): 11.2%

- **Girls**:
  - Grade 1-5 (Age 5-9): 11.9%
  - Grade 6-8 (Age 10-12): 17.6%
  - Grade 9-10 (Age 13-14): 17.5%

There is one publicly funded college in Jumla, Jumla Campus, which offers Bachelor and Master level courses of study in education and Bachelor level courses in management. In 2012, 794 men and 108 women pursued education degrees, and 28 men and three women management degrees, at this institution. In addition, a privately operated campus in Dhapa affiliated with Tribhuvan University offers Bachelor level studies in management.

Various development programmes support the education sector in Jumla, including Child Friendly School Initiatives, non-formal education, school building, water supply and hardware support by Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre and World Vision, and Community Support Programme by CARE-Nepal and DFID.

Employment, Migration and Social protection

Data are provided wherever possible in disaggregated form, as made available by local institutions. However, many sectors either do not recognize disaggregation as a need in record keeping practices or do not have the capacity to maintain and make accessible such information. This dearth of data for particular groups, castes or even gender makes it difficult to judge which populations are particularly affected by unemployment, lack of skill training opportunities, and risks associated with unsafe migration. Remittance flow and utilization data are virtually non-existent, because most migrants transmit their earnings through informal channels.

The poorest 10% of the population earn less than 1% or all income in Karnali, while the wealthiest 10% earn 48% of all income. In 2003/4, the poverty incidence at Illaka level in Jumla varied from a quarter to a third of households living below the national poverty line, with higher incidence further from DHQ and the Karnali Highway, in the eastern and western parts of the district. Subsistence agriculture is a mainstay of Jumla’s population, and agriculture-related drudgery is prevalent particularly among women. From April to June people plant rice, millet and vegetables, and harvest between the end of September and early November. During the winter season people migrate to the hill and Tarai areas to escape the cold and engage in wage labour and sell woolen garments.

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61At Chandanath, Khalanga, Lamra, Tatopani, Narakot, Kudari, JumlaKot, Jharjwala, Ladku, Dillichaur and Tallikadu.
62Intensive Study and Research Center, District and VDC Profile of Nepal 2013; Data from Tribhuvan University
64Nepal Planning Commission, Karnali Employment Programme Assessment 2012
66District Development Committee, District Periodic Plan 2002/03-2006/07
Bonded labour (known as Lagi, Haliya or Badikae) is still practiced in the district: in 2009, there were around 900 bonded labourers (Haliyas)\textsuperscript{67}, while at present the estimated number of families, mainly of Dalit origin, affected by these practices is 150\textsuperscript{68}. The decade long conflict discouraged this practice, however after the conflict subsided and due to lack of alternative livelihoods, some Dalit families returned to this way of life. So far no comprehensive study has been carried out in regard to Badikae practices.\textsuperscript{69}

Jumla’s economy is largely driven by trade in herbal products, such as yarchagumba\textsuperscript{71}. The herb trade contributes NRs 400-500 million to the local economy, while apple and bean production contribute NRs 70-80 million.\textsuperscript{72} In recent years apple production has been a major employment initiative in the district (see Food Security and Agriculture section). There are 1,298 grocery and retail shops registered at Jumla District Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the sub-market centres of the district are Talium, Tatopani, Nagma, Narakot, Hatsinja, Urthachautara, Dilichaur, Chautha and Marisanghu.

The Karnali highway has been instrumental in changing people’s lives in Jumla. The real estate business along the road is booming – prices in Mahat and Chandanath VDCs vary between 6,000-25,000 NRs/m\textsuperscript{2} – but it is not all good news. According to local NGO staff, some people are selling their land simply to subsist. Urban poverty is also increasing in and around DHQ.\textsuperscript{73}

The minimum daily wage in Jumla is NRs 300 and the highest NRs 600, and the wage differential between men and women is around NRs 100. Although there are 120 small and cottage industries registered in the district, such as handcrafting woollen garments, carpentry, and rice milling, less than 1% of the population is engaged in these. The Jumla Employment Information Centre estimates that half the population is underemployed, while a total of 3,642 people, mainly aged 18 to 40, are registered as unemployed (15% of whom women).\textsuperscript{74}

There is a high rate of seasonal migration by men to India to cope with chronic food insecurity, especially during winter. People with small land holdings and insufficient food migrate to India prior to the start of the food-lean period and return during the crop harvesting period. Push factors for seasonal migration are the traditional practice of travelling to sell off handmade garments, lack of local employment, low agricultural productivity, limited crop season, freezing temperatures and natural disasters; pull factors include high wages in non-agricultural employment and business opportunities in India, in particular in Uttarakhad and Himanchal Pradesh.\textsuperscript{75} The trend has of late shifted to temporary migration to western Asia and East Asia. However, compared to other parts of the country, migration from Jumla to Gulf countries and Malaysia is nominal.\textsuperscript{76} Between 2003 and 2009, only 117 people left Jumla to work in Gulf states, Malaysia and other growing migrant labour markets.\textsuperscript{77} In 2011, the total

\begin{table}[h]
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\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
Employment by sector\textsuperscript{70}\hspace{1cm} (2001) & Share of population \\
\hline
Agriculture/livestock & 93\% \\
Wage labour & 3\% \\
Private business/ hotel & 1\% \\
Skilled labour (masons, etc) & 1\% \\
Small and cottage industry & <1\% \\
Government and I/NGOs & <1\% \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Employment by sector}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{67}District Development Committee, Dalit Profile 2009; Haliya are those who served as agricultural bonded labourers to till the land and undertake heavy manual labour in lieu of interest on debts owed or land provided by landlords. The Government of Nepal abolished the Haliya system, following a five point agreement in September 2008. See also: http://www.un.org.np/headlines/rchco-field-bulletin-issue-7
\textsuperscript{68}Jumla Rural Development Work Group Chairman interviewed in September 2012
\textsuperscript{69}Jumla Rural Development Work Group Chairman interviewed in September 2012
\textsuperscript{70}District Development Committee, Transport Master Plan 2011
\textsuperscript{71}Cordyceps sinensis (Himalayan Viagra); In the summer of 2012, 1kg of top grade yarchagumba sold for NRs 2 million.
\textsuperscript{72}Entrepreneurs, bankers and government officials group discussion in September 2012
\textsuperscript{73}Jumla Rural Development Work Group Chairman interviewed in September 2012
\textsuperscript{74}Jumla Employment Information Center and of Small and Cottage Industry Office staff interviewed in September 2012
\textsuperscript{75}Jumla Employment Information Center and of Small and Cottage Industry Office staff interviewed in September 2012
\textsuperscript{76}Observation by Jumla DACAW Program Officer in September 2012
\textsuperscript{77}Department of Foreign Employment records
absentee population numbered 1,539 people, only 27% of whom female. On average, those who leave the Karnali to work abroad remit NRs 1,400 per month. There are no formal, comprehensive records of remittance inflow to Jumla, as people often carry the earnings home themselves. Nonetheless, at the Chandanath Money Transfer, around NRs 500,000 per month comes from India and twice that amount from Malaysia, Dubai, and Qatar. In the period January–September 2012, Western Union received around NRs 593,000 from abroad; from January to June 2012, Prithavi Money Transfer received NRs 1,231,819. Remittances from seasonal destinations in India are commonly used to smooth consumption and cover household expenses, while larger sums from Gulf countries and Malaysia may be used to purchase land or relocate in the Tarai or cities elsewhere in Nepal.

Access to banking services is limited to DHQ, where Rastriya Banjiya Bank, Agriculture Development Bank, Nepal Investment Bank, Bank of Kathmandu, and Madhyapaschim Gramin Bank have branches. There are also 180 registered cooperatives (60% of which active), but none of these have microfinance schemes.

Records on the numbers of people registered for and receiving various social protection benefits from Jumla DDC could not be accessed. The total number of people with disabilities in the district, per Census 2011 figures, 618 men and 425 women with physical, 54 men and 57 women with mental, and 88 men and 76 women with multiple disabilities.

**Health**

Jumla DHQ hosts a Zonal Hospital and six private medical facilities. In 2012, four new Health Post buildings were constructed (in Narakot, Kudari, Depalgaun and Bumramadichaur). Ayurvedic and other traditional health care practices are also prevalent in the district.

Common diseases and infestations in the district are upper and acute respiratory tract infections, scabies and bacterial skin infections (impetigo), gastritis, intestinal worms, amoebic dysentery, typhoid and diarrhoea. To combat infectious disease outbreaks, the District Health Office has formed Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) at the DHQ and Illaka level.

In Jumla, key populations at risk of HIV are not very large and voluntary testing and counselling services are available. There were 17 new cases of tuberculosis among males and 14 among females in Jumla in 2010/11, all among those aged 25 and over, and in the previous year (the latest reported) 96% of cases were treated successfully.

Overall, the Karnali is home to the highest proportion in the country (35%) of childbearing women aged 15-49 who report receiving no ante-natal care. For pregnant women in Jumla, the practice of delivering

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78 Central Bureau of Statistics, National Population and Housing Census 2011
79 Nepal Planning Commission, Karnali Employment Programme Assessment 2012
80 Chandanath Money transfer staff interviewed in September 2012
81 Western Union staff interviewed in September 2012
82 District Cooperatives Office staff interviewed in September 2012
83 Department of Health Services Annual Report 2010/11, Jumla DHO
84 National Centre for AIDS and STD Control, Mapping and Size Estimation of Most at Risk Population 2011
86 Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2010; Figures are estimates for Karnali (Mugu, Humla, Jumla, Dolpa, and Kalikot together)
at home is deeply rooted. The total number of health workers trained as Skilled Birth Attendants is 24, working in 13 Birthing Centres at existing health facilities. While women are well aware of the possibilities for institutional delivery and antenatal care, there are many factors that prevent them from using these services. It is often in-laws who are empowered to make the decision, and they may think that giving birth in a far away facility will expose the infant to evil spirits and other harms. In addition, some rural settlements are several hours away on foot from the facilities.

Sanitation

The Jumla Drinking Water and Sanitation Division Office estimates that 76% of the population use toilets and 80% have access to drinking water through taps. The Census 2011 finds that 95% of households use improved drinking water sources, but 31% of households do not have regular access to toilets. Fourteen VDCs had Open Defecation Free status in 2013, and an initiative to declare three more VDCs (Kalikakhetu, Gargaenkot and Kartikswami) Open Defecation Free is ongoing; pending success there, the initiative will turn to Jumla’s DHQ.

Nutrition

Malnutrition and undernourishment are prevalent problems in Jumla. The District Health Office estimates that 40-50% children are malnourished throughout the district. Jumla is among the districts with a high prevalence of stunting, Global Acute Malnutrition and Severe Acute Malnutrition, and anaemia in children under 5 years of age. A third of women of reproductive age are anaemic, and over a fifth of them are underweight. Just over two thirds of households use adequately iodized salt.

In October 2012, the National Planning Commission launched the Multi-Sectoral Nutritional Plan (2013-2017) in six districts including Jumla, with the support of development partners including UNICEF; the MSNP focuses on the first thousand days of life, from birth to two years of age, and therefore targets pregnant women and children under two with nutrition interventions.

Agriculture and Food Security

The vast majority of Jumla’s population depends on agriculture for its livelihood. Arable land totals 47,745ha (22% of the district’s territory) but only 25,231ha (53% of arable land) is cultivated. Around 3,255ha are irrigated through small-scale irrigation programs. Only 15,414 people own agricultural land in Jumla. District Agriculture Development Office officials and NGO staff inform that there are no landless people in the district, but the majority of Dalits in Jumla have very small landholdings insufficient to subsist on.

87 A Birthing Centre is a health facility where delivery service is available 24 hours a day. They are located at Zonal Hospital, Kalikakhetu, Narakot, Pandugufa, Hatsinja, Brumadichaur, Chumbhaur, Dillichaur, Pipalgaoun, Jumlakot, Ramalhi, Haku and Tatopani. UNICEF, NFHP/USAID and the GoN have invested in SBA trainings.
88 District Development Committee and DACAW staff interviewed in September 2012
89 Drinking Water and Sanitation Division Office staff interviewed in September, 2012
90 Dillichaur, Patarashi, Chumbhaur, Guthichaur, Patmara, Talium, Lamra, Tatopani, Ghodaemahadev, Raralee, Malikathata, Pandagufa, Dhapa and Kudari VDCs.
91 Department of Health Services, Annual Report 2010/11; National Demographic and Health Survey 2011
92 Implementing partners for the MSNP are Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and Ministry of Education. The other pilot districts are Bajura, Achham, Kapilvastu, Parsa and Nawalparasi.
93 District Development Profile of Nepal 2012: A Socio-Economic Development Database of Nepal. Mega Research
94 District Agriculture Development Office staff interviewed in September 2012; District Agriculture Development Office Annual Report 2010/11
95 Intensive Study and Research Center, District and VDC Profile of Nepal 2013; Data from Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (2010/11)
The main crops cultivated in Jumla are maize, millet, barley, rice, potatoes, beans and apples. In 2010/11, Jumla produced 22.6mt of cereal crops, 2.9mt of vegetables, 26.8mt of potatoes and 0.1mt of pulses; in addition, the district produced 11.7mt of deciduous fruits.\(^{96}\) Jumla is declared an organic district for value added agricultural products, and recently adopted a policy to allocate a certain amount of VDC budget for development of the agriculture sector. The Karnali Employment Program is implemented in all of Jumla’s 30 VDCs with a budget of NRs 71 million in 2011/12 disbursed from DDC to the VDCs and then to User Groups, and encourages the establishment of orchards, construction of rural roads and of toilets.\(^{97}\) The Karnali Employment Programme promotes “one apple orchard per house” (at least 25 apple trees). Over half the population is engaged in apple production, which reached 6,000mt in 2012; about 85mt are marketed annually with the support of SNV and 15 metric tons by the District Agriculture Development Office.\(^{98}\)

The District Agriculture Development Office provides training and technical support to farmers (for example for preparing compost fertilizer), as well as seeds and chemical fertilizer, through four Agriculture Service Centers (in Tatopani, Dillichaur, Hatsinja and Narakot). There are three Livestock Service Centres (in the same locations) and 12 Livestock Service Sub-Centres.\(^{99}\) In addition, there are seven agro-vet shops with combined annual turnover of NRs 1,253,000.\(^{100}\) The main market centres in the district are Jumla Khalanga, Talium, Tatopani, Nagma, Narakot, Hatsinja, Urthu Chautara, Dillichaur and Chautha; while there are no established Haat bazaars (weekly markets), during Dashain the sale and purchase of goats and sheep takes place in Jumla bazaar, Hatsinja and Urthuchautara.

In six of Jumla’s 30 VDCs the recurrence of acute food security crises from 2008 through 2011 was high, and in a further 15 VDCs the recurrence was moderate. VDCs with high recurrence of acute food crises are clustered in the western part of the district and further from the Karnali Highway.\(^{101}\) Although local production of edible food per capita has increased in Jumla in the last three years, it still falls short of the basic requirement.\(^{102}\) Only 8% of households are food-secure, and households spend on average 31% of income on food.\(^{103}\) The most food insecure months are March, July and August.\(^{104}\) There are three Nepal Food Corporation depots located in Jumla Khalanga, Malikathata (Jumla kot depot), and Dhapa. The Nepal Food Corporation sells rice to the population at a subsidized price in case of food shortages in the district. In September 2012, Nepal Food Corporation had stock of 100mt in Jumla Bazaar depot, out of a total capacity for 1,500mt, and the other two depots were out of stock.\(^{105}\)

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\(^{96}\) Food Security and Monitoring Unit, WFP Nepal analysis of Ministry of Agricultural Development Statistical Information on Nepalese Agriculture 2007/8 to 2011/12, provided in March 2013

\(^{97}\) Karnali Employment Program staff interviewed in September 2012. Karnali Employment Program operates in the entire Karnali zone with a total budget of NRs. 250 million

\(^{98}\) District Agriculture Development Office staff interviewed in September 2012

\(^{99}\) District Livestock Services Office staff interviewed in September 2012. Sub-Centres are located in Bhrumamadichaur, Malikabota, Narakot, Kalikakhetu, Sannigaoun, Ralarlihi, Ghodaemahadev, Talium, Tamti, Depalgaoun, Patmara and Guthichaur.

\(^{100}\) District Livestock Services Office staff interviewed in September 2012

\(^{101}\) Each VDC is classified as Generally food secure, Moderately food insecure, Highly food insecure, Severely food insecure, or Humanitarian emergency/Famine every three months as part of quarterly joint monitoring by Nepal Khadya Suraksha Anugaman Pranali (NeKSAP) supported by WFP and Nepal and Ministry of Agriculture Development. Recurrence of acute food insecurity crises is based on quarterly assessments averaged for the period 2008-2011. The severity and frequency of phases of insecurity are summarized in the annexed map.

\(^{102}\) Food Security Analysis and Monitoring Unit, WFP Nepal analysis of Ministry of Agricultural Development Statistical Information on Nepalese Agriculture 2007/8 to 2011/12, provided in March 2013

\(^{103}\) Nepal Planning Commission, Karnali Employment Programme Assessment 2012

\(^{104}\) WFP, Food Security Atlas of Nepal 2010

\(^{105}\) Nepal Food Corporation staff interviewed in September 2012
**Nutrition and Agriculture in Jumla**

**Children under 5 years of age**
- Prevalence of stunting: 60%
- Prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition: 13%
- Prevalence of Moderate Acute Malnutrition: 9%
- Prevalence of Severe Acute Malnutrition: 4.4%
- Share ever breastfed: 98%
- Share who received prelacteal feeding: 18%
- Share receiving meals with minimum adequate frequency: 75%
- Share with 3 IYCF Practices: 16%
- Share severely underweight: 9%
- Prevalence of anaemia: 53%

**Women aged 15-49**
- Prevalence of anaemia: 33%
- Share underweight (BMI below 18.5): 22%

**Households using adequately iodized salt**: 68%

**Edible food requirement and production**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Commodity</th>
<th>Paddy</th>
<th>Maize</th>
<th>Millet</th>
<th>Wheat</th>
<th>Barley</th>
<th>Potato</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>140.3</td>
<td>121.8</td>
<td>139.1</td>
<td>145.6</td>
<td>149.0</td>
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<td>2008/09</td>
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<td>2011/12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total arable land**: 47,745ha (22%)
**Total cultivated land**: 25,231ha

**Landowners**: 15,414

**Cultivated land by crop (ha)**
- Paddy: 2,750
- Maize: 4,550
- Millet: 3,950
- Wheat: 2,300
- Barley: 4,900
- Potato: 2,600

**Main types of livestock (number)**
- Cattle: 71,889
- Sheep: 48,200
- Goats: 68,123
- Fowl: 67,194

**Jumla: Recurrences of Acute Crisis of Food Security 2008-2011**

**Legend**
- **District Headquarters**
- **Recurrences of Acute Crisis**
  - Low recurrences
  - Moderate recurrences
  - High recurrences
  - No data

**Produced By**: UN ROCHC Office / IMU
**Creation Date**: 1 May 2013
**Web Resources**: http://un.org/developmentmap

**Disclaimer**: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Geographic and Humanitarian Situation

The district has a sub-alpine and alpine climate. From November to April it snows in all VDCs, particularly heavily in Dillichaur, Guthichaur, and Brumadichaur, making it difficult to access those areas. Very low temperatures from November through January also make it difficult to travel across the district. During the monsoon period (June-September) the roads are not functional and there are frequent flight cancellations. Pre- and post-monsoon winds also impact livelihoods, as the air is very dry. The main tourist season in the district is August to November.

Jumla is located at elevation 915m to 4,679m above sea level. Most human settlements are at elevation below 2,700m on the slopes of mountains along the Tila and Sinja River basins, and cultivated lands make up only about 12% of the district’s total land use. Jumla’s topography is characterized by three parts: high hill and rocky mountain, partially covered by snow; lower hill, with grazing meadows; and low lands, where most agriculture and towns are found. The major rivers in the district are Tila, Jaba and Hema, and the valleys bordered by Tila and Hema are relatively better off in terms of development.\(^\text{106}\)

The average temperature in Jumla varies between 30°C (it is hottest from May through July) and 12°C, although during winter (November-January) it can reach -11°C. The maximum snowfall on record is 46.6cm (1997/98) and minimum 2.7cm (the following year). Jumla has less rainfall than other districts, with annual minimum at 667mm and average maximum rainfall at 852mm.\(^\text{107}\)

The district is prone to natural disasters such as floods, droughts, fires, landslides, and hailstorms. In 2008, a flood washed away a hydro-power installation, houses and agricultural fields in Tamti VDC; in 2009, floods damaged and washed away agriculture land in Tatopani, Kudari and Haku VDCs; and in 2010, floods from the nearby dry springs damaged crops and washed away agricultural land in Khalikakhutu and Mahabatri VDCs. Heavy deforestation and the high intensity of soil erosion in the dry springs have heightened the risk of the flood and landslide in the district. The heavy extraction of sand and stones from riverbeds and other quarry sites has also increased vulnerability to floods and erosion.\(^\text{108}\)

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<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
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<td>Search and Rescue</td>
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<td>Food</td>
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<td>Coordination and Assessment</td>
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\(^\text{106}\)District Development Committee Jumla webpage \(\text{http://ddcjumla.gov.np/?page=pg1b&link=1}\)
\(^\text{107}\)District Development Committee, District Profile 2009
Malikathata is the most vulnerable VDC for soil erosion. Despite its concentrated vulnerability, Jumla does not have an Emergency Operations Center yet, although a District Preparedness and Response Plan has been finalized and approved by the District Disaster Relief Committee in 2011. Some VDCs have also initiated planning for disaster response, for instance Tatopani VDC has allocated 20,000 NRs to a matching fund for emergency response activities by the Nepal Red Cross Society.\textsuperscript{110} Nepal Army (Siddhi Box Battalion) and Nepal Police are also available for disaster response activities.\textsuperscript{111}

Environment

Jumla is rich in natural resources that can be harnessed for income generation. In 2009, the district generated revenue of NRs 3,390,350 from medicinal herbs and Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP). Community forestry and leasehold forestry can produce fodder, timber, and firewood on a considerable scale; the District Forest Office (DFO) predicts potential annual earnings of NRs 20,000 from excavation of stone, gravel and sand; NRs 550,000 from timber; and NRs 15,000,000 from NTFPs\textsuperscript{112}. Locally available herbs and NTFPs include black morel mushrooms (\textit{Morchella Conica}), pennell (used medicinally to treat liver diseases, \textit{Neopicrorhiza Scrophulariifolia}), rhubarb (used medicinally for a range of treatments, \textit{Rheum Australe D. Don}), atis (also used medicinally, \textit{Aconitum heterophyllum}), tranquilizing valerian (\textit{Valeriana Jatamansi} and \textit{Nardostachys Grandiflora}), felwort (\textit{Swertia Chirayita}) and pelltory (an aphrodisiac, \textit{Anacylus Pyrethrum}).

Eight Range Posts monitor forest-related activities, in particular the smuggling of forest products and wildlife poaching, which some people are driven to because of extreme poverty and low agricultural productivity.\textsuperscript{113} The rate of deforestation is not known, but post-conflict reconstruction, urbanization, and the boom in real estate around the Karnali Highway have driven up the demand for timber.

In rural areas there is a large number of claims by households over forest land, on the basis that their land was not included in the 1995 Land Survey; around 20,000 \textit{kitta} (pieces of land) were allegedly left out, and this conflict between DFO and locals continues and makes the handover of forests to the community challenging.\textsuperscript{114} Furthermore, the Environment Protection Act\textsuperscript{115} requires an Environment Impact Assessment for the establishment of Community Forestry and other development activities in forest areas larger than 500ha, and for areas 200-500ha in size an Initial Environmental Examination is required (smaller areas are exempt). Therefore, communities must hire an expert to carry out the appropriate environmental assessment if they want to be recognized as a formal governance arrangement, but in Jumla many forest user groups can not afford this initial step. Altogether 8,918 households are involved in 147 Community Forest User groups (CFUG), which dispose of forest resources for fuel, timber, and fodder and engage in conservation. The CFUGs transact around

\begin{table}[h]
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\begin{tabular}{|l|}
\hline
\textbf{Forestry in Jumla}\textsuperscript{115} & \\
Number of Range Posts: & 8 \\
Area covered by forest: & 41\% (104,470 ha) \\
Forest handed over to 147 Forest User Groups: & 18\% \\
Households involved in Forest User Groups: & 62\% \\
Leasehold forestry by 92 user groups: & 2\% \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

\textsuperscript{110} Nepal DesInventar Database, NSET 2011
\textsuperscript{111} Tatopani VDC Secretary interviewed in October 2012.
\textsuperscript{112} Other key stakeholders for disaster preparedness and response include Agriculture Research Station, District Soil Conservation Office, World Vision International, Karnali Integrated Development and Research Centre, Shangri-la Orphanage, International Nepal Fellowship, UNICEF, SNV, CARE Nepal and other local NGOs.
\textsuperscript{113} District Forest Office visited in September 2012
\textsuperscript{114} Range Posts are located in Chandanath, Daepalgaoon, Dillichaur, Tatopani, Nagma, Narakot, Hatsinja and Chautha
\textsuperscript{115} District Forest Office visited in September 2012. Community Forest User Groups (CFUG), made up of people in the general catchment area of the forest in question, collectively make decisions regarding conservation and income generation according to an agreement with the Forest Office. Leasehold Forest User Group (LFUG) are made up of exclusively of members of poor families (those who own less than half a hectare of land or have annual income below NRs 2,500), and lease forest areas from the Forest Office for 40 years at a time with similar rights and responsibilities as the CFUGs.
\textsuperscript{116} Environment Protection Act is accessible at:
NRs 20-40 million in timber and NTFPs. There are also 92 Leasehold Forestry user groups representing disadvantaged households, which cultivate and harvest NTFPs along with other forest resources.

**Main Challenges**

- Remoteness limits not only Jumla residents’ ability to reach government services and other programmes, but the amounts of goods, including essentials like food, that can reach them;
- Gender and caste based discrimination limit opportunities and impose daily hardships on some individuals and groups;
- Flourishing high value agriculture (apple, walnut, vegetable seed and herb production) is constrained by lack of appropriate technologies and facilities for storage, packaging, marketing and transportation. For example, people are not able to harness the potential of animal husbandry, as there is not a single cheese factory in the Mid-Western Region.

**Main Opportunities**

- Upgrade the Karnali Highway (especially the 210km stretch from Surkhet to Jumla) and feeder roads to reduce transportation costs and risks. Improved road accessibility will open avenues for the marketing of local products and accessibility of food;
- Target programmes and mobilize Community Based Organizations to eliminate caste based and gender discrimination, and emphasize social justice in the sharing of resources;
- Promote high value agriculture focused on the sustainability of small-scale farms and rural businesses. A high value rural sector can stimulate sustainable employment in agro-processing, services and small-scale manufacturing;
- Support for the establishment of herb or dairy processing facilities;
- Expand hydro-power generation from Tila, Jawa and other rivers or streams to meet increasing demand;
- Develop a trekking route to high range mountains, connecting to Mugu, Dolpa, Humla or other local tourist areas.

Disclaimer: This District Profile is prepared following a brief field study and also uses secondary data available at the end of 2012. The information presented in this District Profile does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Although the RCHCO aims to confirm all information independently, occasional factual inaccuracies can occur. For corrections and suggestions, please contact Juho Siltanen, RCHCO Coordination Associate at juho.siltanen@one.un.org or tel. +977 1 5523200

For other District Profiles and related information, visit the UN Nepal Information Platform at http://www.un.org.np

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116 District Forest Office visited in September 2012
### UN Staff

**WFP Cluster Coordinator (Karnali) and Field Monitor for Jumla**  
Bhanu Bhakta Limbu  
9748900800  
bhanulimbu@gmail.com

### District Contacts

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<tr>
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<th>Tel</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>District Administration Office</strong></td>
<td>087-520112</td>
<td>Jumla Bazaar, Chandannath</td>
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<td><strong>District Development Committee</strong></td>
<td>087-520215</td>
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<td><strong>Local Development Officer</strong></td>
<td>087-520114</td>
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<td><strong>District Technical Office</strong></td>
<td>087-520207</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decentralized Rural Infrastructure &amp; Livelihood Programme</strong></td>
<td>087-520206</td>
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<td><strong>District Public Health Office</strong></td>
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<td>Jumla Bazaar, Chandannath</td>
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<td><strong>District Women and Children Development Office</strong></td>
<td>087-520007</td>
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<td><strong>District Police Office</strong></td>
<td>087-520263, 520013</td>
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<td><strong>Drinking Water and Sanitation Division Office</strong></td>
<td>087-520110</td>
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<td>087-520028</td>
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<td><strong>Agriculture Research Station</strong></td>
<td>087-520023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nepal Food Corporation</strong></td>
<td>087-520016</td>
<td>Airport side, Jumla Bazaar</td>
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DACAW Disadvantaged Group Mapping of Jumla
(Categories 1-4, 4 being least developed)