



## In This Issue

### Sit-in protest in Nepal enters Day 12



#### ANGOC

Founded in 1979, ANGO is a regional association of 20 national and regional networks of non-government organizations (NGO) in Asia actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance and rural development.

ANGOC member networks and partners work in 14 Asian countries with an effective reach of some 3,000 NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs). ANGO actively engages in joint field programs and policy debates with national governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and international financial institutions (IFIs).

ANGOC is a founding member of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and the Land Watch Asia (LWA) campaign.

## Project Partners



INTERNATIONAL  
LAND  
COALITION

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue, and capacity-building.

ILC works for secure and equitable access to and control over land that reduces poverty and contributes to identity, dignity, and inclusion.

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MISEREOR was founded in 1958 as an

## Greetings!

### *Welcome to the Land Watch Asia E-bulletin!*

*Through this space, we wish to share with you the stories, struggles, triumphs and lessons of the landless rural poor in Asia.*

*Land Watch Asia (LWA) is a regional campaign to ensure that access to land, agrarian reform and sustainable development for the rural poor are addressed in national and regional development agenda. The campaign involves civil society organizations (CSOs) in six (6) countries--Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines. LWA aims to take stock of significant changes in the policy and legal environments; undertake strategic national and regional advocacy activities on access to land; jointly develop approaches and tools; and encourage the sharing of experiences on coalition-building and action on land rights issues.*

*Land Watch Asia members believe that the rural poor deserve better access to land and other natural resources since 40% of Asian populations still depend on land for their survival. The landless poor should be given the opportunity to own, control, and manage the land that they are tilling and nurturing.*

*Please distribute this newsletter freely to your contacts from all walks of life. If you wish to share stories, articles, weblinks or commentaries you may have on the advocacy for access to land, please send them to Land Watch Asia [angoc@angoc.ngo.ph](mailto:angoc@angoc.ngo.ph).*

## Land rights sit in protest in Nepal intensifies

A sit-in protest in Nepal by people claiming to have been deprived of their right to land entered its 12th day today, the 28th of November. The protesters are digging their heels as the government continues to turn a deaf ear to their complaints.

A team from National Land Rights Forum (NLR), headed by NLR president Baldev Ram, submitted a letter to the chairman of the Constituent Assembly, Subas Nembang, on 25 November to draw the attention of the government towards the issues and demands presented by NLR on behalf of land rights-deprived Nepalis. In response, In Mr. Subas Nembang said that he will do everything to raise the issues of land rights on a national level. Other CA members from different political parties have also signified their support for the protest action.

Meanwhile, a team composed of 150 people from WHRD staged a rally on 25 November to show their support and solidarity with the protesters. WHRD president Dr. Renu Raj Bhandari remarked that violence against women would not come to an end until and unless women have equal access and ownership in land. She also added

agency "against hunger and disease in the world". It is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Germany.

MISEREOR promotes development projects and processes by providing the needed funds. Key activity areas in Asia include social assistance and social security for poor population groups, networking of partners, legal aid and democratization, promotion of endangered cultures, inter-religious cooperation and peaceful conflict transformation.

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**act:onaid**

ActionAid is an international anti-poverty agency whose aim is to fight poverty worldwide. Formed in 1972, for over 30 years ActionAid has been growing and expanding to where it is today - helping over 13 million of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged people in 42 countries worldwide. ActionAid works with local partners, ranging from small community support groups to national alliances and international networks seeking education for all, trade justice and action against HIV/AIDS.

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that women should be given equal representation with the men in the formation of a high level land reform commission.

Similarly, land rights deprived persons and land rights activists organized a two-hour chakka jam in Banke. The Land Revenue Office in Siraha, Saptari and Udaypur were padlocked due to the failure of the government to address their demands.

The protest is expected to intensify, especially following the chakka jam, participated in by all the districts represented in the District Land Rights Forum (DLRF). The Land Revenue Offices may also be padlocked indefinitely.

*Source:* Jagat Basnet, "Sit-in Protest of Land Rights Deprived Intensifies," 25 November 2008.

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*The articles featured in this newsletter are contributions of the Land Watch Asia partners. Feel free to send in your comments and we will forward these to our partners. Write us at:*

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*Or email your comments to: [angoc@angoc.ngo.ph](mailto:angoc@angoc.ngo.ph).*

*Indicate in the subject line: Attention: TERESA DEBUQUE (Editor)*

*Till next issue.*

*Sincerely,*

*Nathaniel Don E. Marquez, ANGOC Executive Director*