

NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 2020, Issue 7



TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD.

LUKE 2:11

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

Dear Friends,

This November was tough for me and my team members, but I am very happy that I and my team members are gradually getting back to the work with our families after winning the COVID-19 infection. Thank you for your prayers and support and encouragement. And thanks to God.

Along with the regular projects/programmes we were focused on providing relief support to the families affected by COVID-19 lockdown and also by the landslides and floods and difficulties it has brought into the lives of people particularly the vulnerable people. COVID-19 has been a great threat for the ACN team as they move place to place and had to be in direct contact with the communities. However, precaution has been taken to minimise the risk of getting infected from this virus. Thanks to the team for being willing to serve the needy people in such difficult condition too. Please continue with prayers. We are always thankful for all your support and encouragement.

I hope this newsletter helps you to know what's going on in ACN from Aug 2020 to NOV 2020 and where the Lord is leading us together with you.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year 2021. May this Christmas bring joy to all of us and strength to deal with this pandemic and heart to continue loving our neighbours.

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COVID-19 RELIEF SUPPORT

ACN had started COVID-19 relief support program with hoping to support 250 families in the beginning of COVID-19 lockdown. The continuous nationwide COVID-19 lockdown remained for almost three months. To the date, ACN has been able to serve 2,325 poorest and disadvantaged families (daily wage earners, female-headed families, elderly and people with disabilities and other needy) with essential food supplies packages during the COVID-19 lockdown in 5 various districts.

Distribution of essential food supplies during the COVID-19 lockdown was one of the major works of ACN in this pandemic to sustain them in this crisis. In addition, ACN had distributed surgical masks, disposable gloves, virus transport medium (VTM) kits, awareness posters, and pamphlets, etc.

After the lockdown, ACN has provided educational materials to children of the poorest COVID-19 affected families to help retain them in school and engaged at home. Our educational materials consist of a school bag, uniform, shoes, socks, and other stationery items. In total 814 students (408 male and 406 female) from 24 government schools have received educational materials support.



DISTRICT	ACTIVITY
Kaski	704 poor and daily wage workers families received food relief packages including 271 people with disabilities. NPR.25, 000/- cash support given to Pokhara Metropolitan COVID-19 Relief fund. Distribution of COVID-19 awareness poster and pamphlets. 814 children of low-income background families received educational materials.
Nawalparasi	1340 poor and daily wage workers families received food items relief packages. 100 Virus Transport Medium (VTM) kits given to Kawasoti municipality. Distribution of COVID-19 awareness poster and pamphlets.
Gorkha	6 people with disability received food relief packages in Gorkha Municipality. 2000 surgical mask and disposable gloves provided to Siranchowk Municipality. 30 poor and daily wage worker families received food items relief packages in Paungtar Rural Municipality (affected by landslides also). Distribution of COVID-19 awareness poster and pamphlets.
Tanahun	29 poor and daily wage workers families received food supplies packages in Byas Municipality Distribution of COVID-19 awareness poster and pamphlet.
Rautahat	222 poor and daily wage workers families received food relief packages in Rajdevi Rural Municipality.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL SUPPORT EASES THE BURDEN OF PARENTS

Karuna Pahadi (7) and Karishma Pahadi (9) are two sisters who are studying in grades 3 and 5 respectively. They live with their parents in ward no 7, Pokhara, Kaski. Their father works on a daily wage basis and earns NPR 700 per day. Their mother Lalita Pahadi can perform limited household activities after she got fractured on her arm. She was not able to afford an operation she needed. Due to a delay in treatment, her operation was not successful. Since then she has difficulties moving her arm and lifting heavy materials.

Her mother Lalita Pahadi told to us, "Due to COVID-19 lockdown, my husband had no work and we were struggling hard to manage our daily expenses. However now lockdown is over but my husband hasn't been able to go and find a work regularly. A few years ago, we used to send our daughter to a private boarding school but due to our poor income, we could not manage to meet the expenses of a private boarding school. Then we admitted our daughters to a nearby government school. Both girls were anxious when they had to leave the boarding school and they thought that their new (government) school would not be as good as the previous one. Currently, their school is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, their school remains closed and they are studying by streaming a channel program from a Radio. They want to go to school soon. However now lockdown is over so some schools are opening and some are planning to open with safety precaution. Lalita Said, "When my daughter's school called them to receive stationeries, my girls were very happy."

Both Karuna and Karishma were glad to get a new school uniform, shoes, and school bag with other stationery as they knew that in this situation their parents could not afford to buy for them. They said, "This support will help our parents free from the burden to buy these stuffs for us. Thank you!"



COVID-19 RESPONSE SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE

ACN continues to stand with the poorest and disadvantaged people since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal. ACN had started relief work 'distribution of essential food supplies' for daily wage labor families and poorest families from the 2nd week of COVID-19 lockdown. Due to almost three months of COVID-19 lockdown, poor and marginalized groups of people are most severely affected.

Therefore after completion of COVID-19 Immediate Relief support program ACN supported the most vulnerable groups of people who are at risk of extreme poverty. ACN has identified four vulnerable groups for support. They are children, new mothers and pregnant women, female-headed families (single women), and people living with disabilities. In October, ACN has provided relief support packages to children, new mothers and pregnant, and people with disabilities.



ACN's COVID-19 Response Support to Vulnerable People



400

Nutrition and hygiene kits packages distributed to children.



600

Self-learning materials distributed to children.



200

Nutrition and hygiene kits packages for new mother.

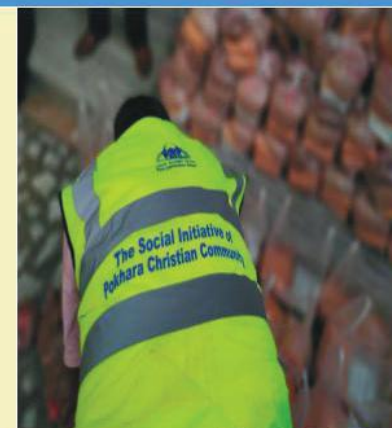


150

Food packages including rice, pulses, salt oil, etc. distributed to people living with disabilities.



The Social Initiative of Pokhara Christian Community



Children

ACN has been working with children of slum areas and marginalized communities in Kaski and Nawalparasi districts by forming and mobilizing child clubs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our clubs are not functioning like before they used to do (weekend meetings and fun and learning activities). All the schools are closed and very few schools are running online classes. Good health and nutrition empower children, families, and communities so ACN has provided nutrition and hygiene materials to 400 students. ACN has also provided self-learning material to 600 children in Kaski and Nawalparasi districts to help them to engage at home.



New mother

Due to COVID-19 pandemic poor and marginalized families are struggling to meet their daily basic needs. In this situation there is no chance to new mother to fulfil her nutritional needs which directly affect her and her baby health. Maintaining hygiene is also a major challenges for new mother. With giving consideration to this we provided nutrition and hygiene kits packages to 200 new mother in poor and marginalized communities in Kaski district in coordination with the local government authorities.



People living with disabilities

From our previous COVID-19 Relief support distribution program, we had selected 150 most needy families living with disabilities as these people are at risk of extreme poverty due to the pandemic and lockdown. ACN delivered essential food relief packages to the doorsteps of 150 people with disabilities in coordination with the local government authorities.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE CRISIS!



Dhansari Nepali has a physical disability. She has two children. Her husband work as daily wage labor. When we reached her home with food relief packages she was very thankful to ACN for the first phase food relief packages given to her during the COVID-19 lockdown.

She said that our previous relief packages helped her family to sustain as they were in need of food supplies during the COVID-19 lockdown.

When we said we have brought some food packages, she is very grateful for the support and said to us, "After a long continuous lockdown, my husband has just started going to work and food support in this midst of the pandemic is very helpful because still situation is not good. Thank you for bringing support for us in this pandemic".

FOOD SUPPORT FOR FLOOD AFFECTED FAMILIES

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, monsoon season has brought devastating floods and landslides in many districts in Nepal. 278 people have been killed, 101 have gone missing and 202 are injured following landslides and floods events all over the country according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Authority (NDRRMA, 6 Sept 2020).

In July monsoon caused floods in Sarawal Rural Municipality, Nawalparasi district where affected families lost their home, livestock and all their cropland washed away. In this situation, ACN supported 400 affected families by providing food relief packages in Sarawal Rural Municipality in coordination with the local government authorities.



1. Situation of flood affected community.
2. Food relief distribution.
3. A woman carrying relief packages.
4. An elderly couple carrying relief packages.
5. A poor family carrying relief packages.

FOOD SUPPORT FOR LANDSLIDE AFFECTED FAMILIES

In early November, ACN reached one of the worst landslides affected districts, Dhaulagiri Rural Municipality of Myagdi district. Due to the landslide, many family's houses damaged and many lost their homes, livestock, and crops. ACN has provided essential food relief packages to 85 poor and marginalized and people with disabilities families in coordination with the local government authorities. However, this food distribution program was delayed due to COVID-19 and road blockages caused by the landslides. The distribution of the packages was done by following the safety measures of COVID-19.

Each family received 25 kg of rice, 3 kg of lentil, 1 kg of salt, 1 liter of oil, 2 kg of peas and 2 hand washing and 2 laundry soap and 4 toothbrush and a tooth paste. All the beneficiaries were thankful for the support in this pandemic situation. The Ward Chairman (local government authority) Mr. Kalanidhi Sharma thanked ACN for providing food relief packages to the landslide affected families in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.



1. Giving sanitizer at the gate of distribution place.
2. Raju Sir giving relief packages to a lady.
3. A man carrying relief packages.
4. At the distribution place.

KARABARI RURAL CLINIC BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

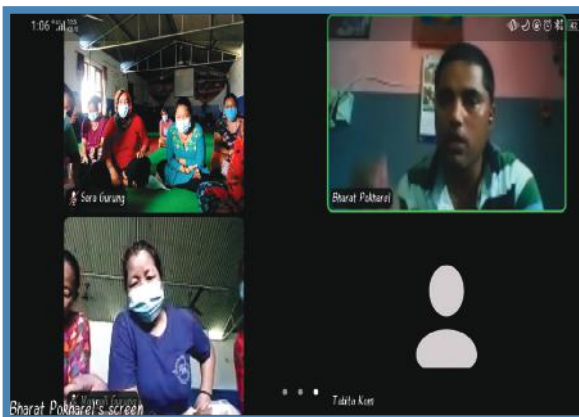


After the earthquake 2015, ACN is working in the Gorkha district on reconstruction and rehabilitation so local stakeholders and community people requested ACN to support the construction of the building for the Kerabari Rural Clinic for the effectiveness and convenience of the health service. This November ACN started the construction of the building for Kerabari Rural Clinic in Siranchowk Rural Municipality-1, Bhirsing, Gorkha district after completing all the approval works. Stone masonry foundation work of the building and for toilet septic tank is ongoing. 170 households from Kerabari will be benefited from this construction.

REGULAR PROGRAM

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, on 24 March 2020 Nepal government enforced a nationwide lockdown when the country reported 2nd positive case of COVID-19 and Nepal government ended the nationwide lockdown on 21 July 2020 after almost three months of continuous lockdown.

ACN has been working among poor and marginalized communities aiming to end poverty in all its form. Due to the COVID-19 and lockdown, poor and marginalized communities are at risk of extreme poverty. Besides the COVID-19 relief and disaster relief work, ACN's regular community transformation program activities were postponed during the lockdown. However COVID-19 lockdown was ended but still, we are not able to work like before due to the pandemic. But after the lockdown, we had able to complete adult literacy classes and tailoring training by following the safety measures of COVID-19. Currently, ACN has been conducting some programs in small groups within the communities and online programs wherever possible to do.



1. Tailoring training in Nawalparasi completed after the lockdown.
2. Adult literacy classes in Nawalparasi which was completed after the lockdown.
3. Online Poultry farming training in Kaski.
4. COVID- 19 awareness program among children in Nawalparasi.
5. Chicken farming after receiving baby chicken with the completion of training in Kaski.
6. Online health awareness program from home in Kaski.
7. Child club's children learning in a small group in Kaski.

18TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ACN's had conducted its 18th Annual General Assembly on 10 Oct 2020 in Pokhara, Kaski. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was organized in two shifts with following the safety measures of COVID-19. The event went well with the participation from government authorities, ACN's general members and executive board members.

The program was facilitated by ACN's secretary Mr. Prakash Bhujel and ACN's executive director, Mr. Rajendra Kumar Adhikari gave presentations on annual achievements with challenges, learning, and future projects.

During the program, new general members were welcome by giving a membership certificate of ACN's general member.

Lastly, the program concluded with words from Chief Guest, Mr. Shova Mohan Poudel (19 ward chairman), chairman of Pokhara Chrisitan Community, Mr. Hariram Ghirimire, and ACN chairman Mr. Bharat Bahadur Gurung.



1. ACN's 18th annual general assembly.
2. Executive director, Rajendra Kumar Adhikari presenting on ACN annual achievements in front of members.
3. General members.
4. Chief Guest, Mr. Shova Mohan Poudel providing ACN general membership certificate to a new member.

SOCIAL SERVICE WEEK CELEBRATION

ACN had celebrated 41st Social Service week by organizing various events on the call of the Social Welfare of Council (SWC). ACN's family had participated in the Virtual Inaugural event of Social Service Day (inaugurated by Honorable Prime Minister) which was organized by Social Welfare of Council (SWC) and provided 850 pieces of surgical mask and 10 liters of sanitizer to Nepal Red Cross Kaski on the occasion of 41st Social Service Day. ACN had distributed educational materials to the children from economically marginalized families in order to encourage them to continue their studies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, ACN had organized a discussion program tilted on 'Role of the Christian community in community transformation and open blood donation program with Pokhara Christian Community.



1. Virtual Inaugural Program.
2. Surgical mask and disposable gloves given to Nepal Red Cross, Kaski.
3. Educational materials distribution.
4. Discussion program on 'Role of Christian Community in community transformation.
5. Open blood donation program.



PRAYER REQUEST

Kerabari Rural Clinic:

Kerabari Rural Clinic was set up to provide various basic health services so that villagers don't need to spend a day to reach the nearest health post which was at a distance of 10 kilometers from the village. Kerabari rural clinic is currently providing service from public places and villager's homes due to the unavailability of building. So villagers and local stakeholders requested ACN for support in the construction of a rural clinic building for the effectiveness of health services in the village.

Kerabari rural clinic building construction project (page no 10) is under construction project which has started this November in Gorkha but as we have been constructed two rural clinics and one urban clinic and one community health unit buildings, now we have a funding gap for the completion of construction of Kerabari rural clinic building.

We would like to thank for your continuous generous support and also, request to support us so that we can complete this construction. So that villagers feel comfortable and safe taking service from own rural clinic building.



**Latest picture of under
construciton project in Gorkha**

Other:

Please pray with us for our field-based staff safety who have to go to communities to support them in this crisis of pandemic, however they are going with safety precautions. Also, pray for all ACN team including executive board members for God's wisdom in decision making.

Please pray for the planning of upcoming programs for God's guidance and wisdom.



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Together we can make a difference.