



असल छिमेकी नेपाल
Asal Chhimekee Nepal

The social initiative of Pokhara Christian Community

NEWS LETTER

September 2019 Issue 3



Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

This newsletter comes to you with my heartfelt gratitude and much appreciation for your continue prayers, support and encouragement as usual. It is our great privilege to be a bridge connecting resources and the needs of the poor and marginalized communities as well as various disaster survivors. The change we can see today in the lives of people and communities would not be possible without collaboration from government, beneficiaries, funding supporters, trust and leadership of Pokhara Christian Community and hard work of the ACN team.

The windstorm in Bara and Parsa in the last April and heavy flood devastated the same districts and also the Rautahat during this monsoon. We feel humble to be able to respond to some extent to those calamities working with the government, local Christian and non-Christian communities. We have further recovery project in Rautahat to complete by December. Thanks to you all who provided funds for this work.

Regular Community Empowering and Health Promotion work is being developed at Sarawal and we want to extend to Pahlinanandan Rural Municipality, therefore, we are really seeking funds for this work. There are the areas badly affected by the flood during the monsoon of 2017 where very poor and marginalized people live and almost no one was there to help as many were focused in the east or west of Nepal in responding to the needs of those disaster affected people. Nawajeewan Treatment and Rehabilitation Programmes needs to move from the current location (old INF Compound) and we are seeing possibility to move to INFN's property on the central office compound. This requires additional funds to mend those hold houses and add some more infrastructure.

This year we are able to hold General Assembly earlier and get all financial closings and get the annual renewal of ACN, which often is not easy.

PCC's mission work is developing in the areas of training development and already have conducted several mission awareness and orientation training sessions for the leaders. Plan for the building construction is under progress.

We are closing most of the remaining earthquake projects gradually. Consequently, staff have to leave and find other jobs for themselves.

I believe this newsletter gives some insight about the context of our work, fuels to praise and pray to our God. Nevertheless, should there be any queries, please feel free to contact at any time.

*In His Vineyard,
Raju Adhikari
Executive Director*

Flood Response 2019



Achievement

1,155 flood-affected families received emergency food and non-food items.

27 Local volunteers (from church) received two-day training on disaster risk reduction.

24 Local volunteers and local government representative of Birgunj received two-day disaster risk reduction training.

31 Local volunteers and local government representative of Parsa and Rauthat received two-day search and rescue training.

5 hand pumps (tube well) were installed

Heavy monsoon rains caused flooding and landslides in 33 districts of Eastern and Central regions of Nepal. 13,000 households were displaced with 90 deaths, 41 people injured and 29 people missing. Almost 10,000 houses were damaged, and 36,728 households have been affected.

ACN reached out to 1,155 flood-affected households with essential food items for 15 days and non-food items (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, sanitary pads, gas lighter, blankets, mosquito net, torchlight and tarpaulin) in Bara, Parsa and Rautahat, the three most affected districts of Province number 2.

While responding to the flood in Bara, Parsa and Rautahat districts, ACN found that there was a lack of basic knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction among the volunteers and local representatives. So ACN planned Disaster Risk Reduction and Search and Rescue training for them. Twenty four local volunteers and local representatives of Birgunj participated in the two-day Disaster Risk Reduction training and thirty-one local volunteers and local representatives from Parsa and Rautahat participated in the two day Search and Rescue training. Training was facilitated by Nepal Red Cross and Nepal Armed forces. The training went well. Training also helped to build relationships between local church volunteers and local government representatives.

While distributing relief supplies to flood survivors, ACN reached a community in Rajdevi Municipality – 9 Rautahat where 85 households were all using one tube well. ACN installed 5 tube wells and handed them over to the community. This activity was highly appreciated by the local community, local government and central government. Rajdevi Municipality was so thankful, they organized an appreciation program for ACN.



Inauguration and Handover of House Reconstruction support project, Parbat Landslide Affected

Heavy monsoon rains and landslides in July 2018 displaced 22 families in Jaljala Rural Municipality, Parbat. ACN reached the area with immediate relief supplies and later distributed school uniforms to school going students as they had lost their school uniforms in the landslide. After relief distribution, ACN came to know that the affected families came from very poor economic backgrounds and most of them belonged to low caste group. Being low caste, they faced difficulties to rent rooms as landlords did not want to rent to low caste people.

In order to support the affected families, ACN initiated a project called 'Private House Reconstruction Support project-Parbat' to provide construction materials and technical support in reconstruction of their houses.

On 30 July 2019, ACN conducted an inauguration and handover program of Private House Reconstruction Support Project for landslide affected families in Lasti-8 Parbat district. ACN formally handed over 22 reconstructed houses in the presence of the Minister of Physical Infrastructure Development, Gandaki Province and other government representatives and community people.

Affected families expressed their gratitude to ACN as they were able to build their houses again and the government representatives and Minister also appreciated ACN work. It was a great joy for ACN to support those affected families in reconstruction of their houses.



Orientation on Anti-Human Trafficking

'Combat Human Trafficking' CHT program aims to protect children from various abuses and exploitation, increasing their knowledge on child protection and human trafficking.

We conducted orientation programmes on Combating Human Trafficking in 3 different communities of Kaski district. In the program we provided orientation on human trafficking and CHT program including its vision and objectives. Community and local stakeholders appreciated the program. 112 people including Tole development committee, mothers' group, community leaders, parents as well as children participated in the orientation program.



Children Club Formation

We formed 3 childrens clubs in three different needy communities in Kaski district. First, we provided orientation on Child Club including its objectives and activities of child club among children. Children chose their club name. To run childrens club, an executive committee was formed and necessary materials were provided to each childrens club. Currently we have 7 children clubs in Kaski and 2 children clubs in Nawalparasi.

CHT program is working on raising awareness on human trafficking and child protection through mobilization of children clubs.



Interaction Program on Anti – Human Trafficking

ACN conducted an interaction program on Anti- Human Trafficking among stakeholders in Pokhara. The program was facilitated by an Advocate Mr Bhim Paudel. The Head of Social Development Ministry participated as the chief guest of the program. The interaction program focused on the current situation of human trafficking and the role of stakeholders to prevent this. The discussion was on human trafficking and transportation, current situation of human trafficking and causes and push factors of human trafficking. In addition, Nepal laws against human trafficking were also discussed. The interaction program went well. Altogether 61 stakeholders participated. All the stakeholders discussed about possible causes of human trafficking in their areas and their efforts and future plans to prevent human trafficking.



Teenagers Drug Awareness Program

On 10th Sept 2019, ACN conducted a drug awareness program in Shree Dharmasthali Ma. Vi School -5 Kaski, Pokhara as requested by the Principal of the school. The program focused on the impact of drug and alcohol abuse and its consequences. 82 students from grades 7 and 8 participated in the program. During the question and answer session, students asked questions related to drug and alcohol abuse, so the program was very interactive. School Principal and teachers appreciated the program and thanked ACN's Nawajeewan team for conducting it.



ACN's Nawajeewan Treatment and Rehabilitation Programme for female drug and alcohol users has two sub-programmes, Residential and Outreach programme. Creating awareness among teenagers, mothers' groups and communities is one of the activities of the outreach programme.

Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) Camp

ACN conducted children WASH camp among students in Shree Sukdev Ma.Vi School in Pahalinandan-6, Nawalparasi on 29 August 2019. The main objective of WASH camp is to create awareness on personal sanitation and hygiene among students. 420 students (202 boys and 218 girls) participated in the camp.



Electrician Training

ACN provided three months building electrician training to youth in Kawasoti in coordination with the Madhyabindu Technical institute, Pvt. Ltd, Kawasoti Nawalparasi. 15 youths completed the training well. All the participants passed the 'A' level certificate in building electrician from the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT). The participants shared their learning experiences and confidence level to work independently and support their family financially during the graduation ceremony which was held on 30 Aug 2019. Participants also received eleven tools so that they can start working right after the training. All the participants are very hopeful for employment opportunity in the future.



Self-Help Group Involvement in community

ACN self-help group members of Kaski placed 10 dustbin buckets in 10 different locations in Pokhara. A tree plantation program was also conducted where 300 plants were planted. These actions were the joint efforts of self-help groups and local church to contribute to the betterment of their community.



Motivational and Child Psychology Training

To equip and encourage primary and secondary level teachers from eight Government schools of Gorkha, ACN conducted three day 'Motivational and Child Psychology' training at Shree Jana Kalyan Secondary School in Siranchowk, Gorkha from 22th – 24th Sept 2019. The training was facilitated by Early Childhood Education Centre (ECEC). 28 teachers participated in the training. The training focused on understanding of child learning, teaching, curriculum, child development and classroom management. Practical activities like physical games, songs, team building games, discussion and presentation were used which were appreciated by the participants. Participants learned positive guidance and classroom management and practical teaching methods. Lastly, they did SWOT analysis of their own and of the school. After the training, a teacher shared, "we got new ideas to use locally available resources in our teaching. This training gives us knowledge with practical demonstration". Teachers were very excited to apply what they had learnt in their teaching in their classrooms.



In addition to learning and motivating, interschool coordination and relationships were also developed. Participants expressed their gratitude to Asal Chhimekee Nepal and Early Childhood Education Centre for organizing and facilitating the training.

Library Material support to School in Gorkha

ACN provided reading materials and furniture for library setup in 7 schools of Shreenathkot of Gorkha district. Students were very happy to receive new books and other reading material and furniture in their libraries.



Trauma and counselling training

Two-day Trauma and counselling training was conducted in Kaski district with the participation of women from Pokhara Christian Community (PCC) and ACN's Self-Help Groups from 16th - 17th Sept 2019. The training was facilitated by Early Child Education Centre (ECEC). The objective of the training was to deliver knowledge and skill on trauma and counseling so that in future disasters they can provide counselling support to their children, neighbors and community and be able to participate in the 'Task Force Team' which will be formed soon.



Under construction project in Gorkha

Disability Friendly Resource Training Centre



Latest view of the Disability Friendly Resource Training Centre building (cemented roof construction work completed).

Beni Community Health Unit



As we planned for construction of Community Health Unit in Beni, Gorkha. We got approval from the local government. We received land and selected contractor and started the construction work. Till now, wall construction work is completed.

ACN's 17th General Assembly

On 24 August 2019, Asal Chhimekee Nepal conducted its 17th General Assembly in Shalom Church Phulbari, Pokhara with the participation of general members and other likeminded organizations. Dr. Eliamma Jhon, Respected personality of Pokhara academic sector participated as the Chief Guest of the program. Hariram Ghimire and Atan Lama were also special guests of the program. The program was facilitated by ACN secretary Mr. Prakash Bhujel. In the program ACN's annual report and annual plan were presented by the Executive Director and department heads. Lastly, 11 new general members were selected and provided with certificate of ACN general member.



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'Together we can make a difference'