



असल छिमेकी नेपाल
Asal Chhimekee Nepal

The Social Initiative of Pokhara Christian Community

NEWS LETTER

December 2019 Issue 4



From Executive Director

The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.” — Martin Luther

ACN is a learning organization and of course we all learn every day. Pursuing excellence in what we do is a strong witness of your faith in Christ. God cheers when he sees smiles on the faces of the poor and helpless people. We too are delighted when we see transformation in the lives of people we serve. By serving others, we also learn much ourselves and go through a process of self-transformation. Bringing people to the experience of God's kingdom is our desire and of course is our supreme call. For this, our Attitudes need to be right. Without sharing what we have, either needs or resources it is not possible to achieve our vision. It is said that vision without Action is just a dream and to be proactive to tackle hindrances is important. Service without Love and compassion is an empty vessel. We do our best to live these values while rendering services to people in need and that makes us ASAL (Good). Hope this December update will provide a snapshot of ACN's work that happened during the 4th quarter of 2019. Thank you for receiving it, reading it and holding us in prayers.



Wishing you all a very prosperous new year 2020!

Raju Adhikari

Executive Director



Inauguration and Handover of Beni Community Health Unit in Gorkha

Due to geographical inaccessibility, villagers of Beni had to walk 2 hours to reach the nearest health post for very basic health facilities. Elderly people, pregnant women, children and people with disability suffered the most. Because of this situation, Beni Community health unit was established to provide basic health facilities in Beni Gorkha. The health unit did not own their own building, so they operated services by renting one room in the community. After the Nepal earthquake of 2015, with funding support from an individual in coordination with local health post, building construction work started for Beni Community Health Unit. Unfortunately, due to insufficient funds, they could not complete the building and construction work stopped at the foundation level.



Construction of Beni Community Health unit was incomplete due to budget insufficiency

Gandaki Rural Municipality, Gorkha requested Asal Chhimekee Nepal for assistance in completing the construction of Beni Community Health Unit and committed to contribute 25 % financially. This was observed as a genuine need by ACN also, so ACN agreed to help with construction.

We were very pleased to complete and hand over the newly constructed building of Beni Community Health unit in Ghyalchowk, Gandaki, Gorkha. On 18 Dec 2019, a newly constructed four-room Beni Community Health Unit building was inaugurated by the chairman Hom Bahadur Rana of Gandaki Rural Municipality, Gorkha in the presence of local stakeholders, government and community people.

In addition to construction of an earthquake resistant and disability friendly building, necessary furniture and equipment were also provided to the Beni Community Health Unit.



Constructed Beni Community Health Unit by ACN

Community members and local government are very encouraged by the newly constructed building. Pregnant women were also suffering as there was no local facility for child delivery and they needed to walk 2 hours in hilly territory to reach the nearest health post. So, they are planning to operate a birthing center in the new Beni Community Health Unit. This was great news for us and encouraged us too.

Rautahat Flood Recovery Support Program

ACN reached out to 1,155 flood-affected households with essential food items for 15 days and non-food items in Bara, Parsa and Rautahat, the three most affected districts of Province number 2. ACN also organized Basic Disaster Risk Reduction and Search and Rescue training for local volunteers. In addition, ACN installed 5 water hand pumps in Rajdevi Municipality - 9 Rautahat District where 85 households were all using only one hand pump.

After the immediate disaster relief support, Rajdevi Municipality of Rautahat district requested ACN to contribute in health sector. Particular requests were for construction of water hand pumps, health and hygiene awareness programmes for pregnant women and new mothers and improvement of the health posts of the village. ACN team visited the area for basic assessment and discovered that women (pregnant and new mothers) of Rajdevi municipality were experiencing poor health, poor nutrition, there was lack of awareness on pregnancy health, insufficient water hand pumps and health posts were below the basic facilities. In this context ACN initiated the flood recovery support program in Rajdevi municipality of Rautahat district.

Achievement

35 hand pumps (tube wells) were installed

700 pregnant women and new mothers received nutrition supplement packs and hygiene kits

30 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) from 4 health posts received Basic Health Refresher training



Volunteer Development and Mobilization Project

Mobilization of volunteers was one of the greatest strengths of ACN's Earthquake 2015 response. More than 2000 volunteers were mobilized during the Earthquake 2015 response work. Volunteers continued to play an important role in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery phases of ACN's Earthquake 2015 response. ACN felt the need to prepare volunteers to respond to any future disaster, and for this reason ACN provided various trainings in Gorkha and Kaski districts under Volunteer Development and Mobilization project in coordination with various church leaders and volunteers, Nepal Red Cross, Nepal Army etc.



ACN provided basic disaster risk reduction training and disaster risk reduction-TOT training, constructional training, search and rescue training, trauma healing and counselling training, advanced emergency health management and first aid training and advanced task force training. After completing the above mentioned trainings, ACN formed a



Task force team (a group with expertise who will respond in any future disaster) in Gorkha and Kaski.

ACN formed a taskforce team with 36 members in Gorkha and 50 members in Kaski. ACN provided further advanced training to task force team of Kaski. ACN also provided basic necessary equipment to the Kaski task force team so that they can respond immediately in disaster situations without needing to wait to procure equipment, human and financial resources.



ACN and Pokhara Christian Community have been highly appreciated for the strength of volunteer development and mobilization by the Government, Nepal Red Cross and local communities that we served.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Training (DRR-DM)

ACN conducted Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management training to provide knowledge to vulnerable communities of Kaski and Nawalparasi under ACN's "Support in formation of safe and sustainable communities program". In Nawalparasi ACN organized Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management training in 5 Self-help groups and 2 government schools in coordination with Nepal Red Cross. 250 participants participated in the training. All participants from the self- help groups and schools appreciated the program.

Similarly, In Kaski, ACN organized Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management training among three self-help groups and communities. 132 participants participated in the training.



In both places trainings were well conducted. All participants appreciated the training as they are suffering every year from disasters like flooding.

Personal Health and Hygiene Awareness Class for Children's Clubs Facilitators

ACN conducted personal health and hygiene awareness program for facilitators of Children Clubs in ACN office. The awareness class was facilitated by Ms. Sara Gurung from Asal Chhimekee Nepal. There were 7 facilitators from seven children clubs of Kaski district in the program. This program was conducted to provide knowledge on personal health and hygiene as they are working with children under Combat Human Trafficking programme. The awareness program provided knowledge on cleanliness, healthy habits, and hand washing. Lastly a first aid box was provided to each facilitator of Children club and orientation on using the first aid box was provided by Mrs. Milan Adhikari from Asal Chhimekee Nepal.



Adult Literacy Teacher Training

Four-day training for Adult Literacy Teachers was conducted from 3 to 6 Dec 2019 in the ACN office. The training was facilitated by Mrs Tabita Pariyar from ACN. Six people participated in the training from communities of Kaski district. The objective of the training was to build capacity of teachers for the Adult Literacy Programme. The participants were very enthusiastic to learn during the training. At the end of the training, participants shared that the training was very helpful to build their confidence level and they were looking forward to applying their learning in Adult Literacy classes.



Participants with the training facilitator

Building Electrician Training

ACN organized one month building electrician training in Kaski in coordination with the Pokhara Polytechnic institute, Pvt. Ltd, Lamachaur Rd, Pokhara. 5 participants successfully completed the training. Participants shared their learning experiences and confidence level to work independently during the graduation ceremony which was held on 10 Dec 2019. One participant said, "this training was a great opportunity of adding skill in our life". Participants also received twelve tools with a tool bag so that they can start working right after completing the training. All the participants are very hopeful for employment opportunities in the future.



Awareness on PAN Card (Permanent Account Number) In Self Help Groups

From this year the Nepal government implemented compulsory PAN card for any small or large business. Many women from our self-help groups are involved in some kind of business so they must now have a PAN card. ACN conducted orientation on PAN card and provided knowledge on provision and benefits of having PAN card. ACN also helped 18 self-help group facilitators of Nawalparasi to be processed for their own PAN cards so they could help other members in their group.



Awareness on Child Abuse and Human Trafficking

Awareness programmes on child abuse and human trafficking were conducted in newly formed Children Clubs in Kaski. 150 children from 5 children clubs participated. Children were very attentive during the program.



Nawajeewan Outreach and Community Awareness Program

To discover the situation of drug and alcohol use in Sarawal -6, Nawalparasi, Nawajeewan team went to Sarawal for outreach and community awareness program under Nawajeewan Treatment and Rehabilitation Program (for Female Drug and alcohol users). It was found that there is need of awareness raising on drug and alcohol abuse and that men are more involved in abuse of alcohol and drugs compared to women. Alcohol and cannabis are commonly used in Sarawal.



Nawajeewan conducted awareness programmes on drug and alcohol abuse among self-help groups. Nawajeewan also conducted home visits to meet individual family members to provide knowledge and counselling to them. They faced some difficulties in communicating with the community as the community use their own mother tongue language and most are not able to speak Nepali language. Nawajeewan staff requested help from the self-help group facilitator for translation.

88 members of 3 Self-help groups participated in the drug and alcohol awareness program. 34 (men and women) alcohol users and 19 family members were met during the home visits and encouraged to overcome their addiction by providing knowledge on the impact of drugs and alcohol in their lives, families and communities. 30 alcohol users and 4 drug users were met during outreach and counselling was provided for them.



Community people appreciated Nawajeewan activities in their community and shared that they need more of such kind of awareness and counselling in their families and communities. Some families came to the Sarawal ACN office and requested ACN to provide counselling to their family members about alcohol use. So Nawajeewan went for a 2nd outreach and community awareness program in Sarawal.



95 women, men and teenagers from two self-help groups participated in the drug and alcohol awareness programme. 18 new alcohol users, 11 old alcohol users, one recovery client and 9 family members were met during the home visits and encouraged to overcome their addiction.

Self-Help Group Formation and Group Management Training

ACN works by forming self-help groups, building capacity within the groups and facilitates them to identify and solve the needs of their community in a sustainable way. ACN implements community empowerment and livelihood program with the self-help groups. During this quarter ACN formed seven more Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Sarawal -6, Nawalparasi. Now, there are 12 self-help groups in Nawalparasi. Three more self-help groups will be formed. To run the self- help group properly, one day group management training was conducted in the newly formed Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Sarawal-6, Nawalparasi.



Disability Friendly Resource Training Centre Construction Programme, Gorkha (Under construction)

Construction of disability friendly resource training center is ongoing in Gorkha. Construction of the wall and structure of the building has been completed. Plaster of the building and other works are ongoing. 75 percent of building construction work has been completed.



Latest view of the Disability Friendly Resource training center building

ACN's 6th Social Audit Program

On 22 Nov 2019 Asal Chhimekee Nepal (ACN) organized 6th Social Audit programme with Mrs. Bina (chief guest) Silwal, Chairman of NGO Federation, Gandaki Province in Hotel Task International, Pokhara. There was significant participation of stakeholders including district and local level government officials as well as beneficiaries from Kaski, Nawalparasi, Gorkha, Parbat, and Rautahat districts.

The social audit program was facilitated by Dr. Kamal Phuyal. He is a Professor of University, Researcher and he has long working experience of social development.

Dr. Kamal Phuyal presented ACN's achievements, challenges and learnings from the fiscal year 2075-76 (2018-2019), as well as organizational governance and finance in the program. To make the program more effective in future, feedback from stakeholders was collected during the program. In addition, three women from Self-Help Groups (ACN's beneficiaries) of Kaski and Nawalparasi districts were appreciated for being elected as members in local government and three beneficiaries shared their experience of ACN's work in their life and communities during the program.



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"Together we can make a difference"