

# NEWS LETTER

*March 2020 Issue 5*



*ACN's 17<sup>th</sup> years of service in Nepal*



**The Social Initiative of Pokhara Christian Community**

*Dear All,*

From the beginning, ACN has been committed to serve the most needy families and communities by focusing on empowerment and capacity building of the beneficiaries throughout the process of all interventions. Our work starts with a low profile considering simple things and later helps people to see the bigger picture of the issues they are facing. Beneficiaries beginning their journey with very little hope for future, later become entrepreneurs, aware of social issues, and making a difference not only in their own lives but also in the lives of others and communities. That makes us feel very proud of them. We thank God for them as they are the heart of the ACN's work. ACN is just a channel that is like a pipe through which water from different springs is coming through to meet the needs of people. This is an unmatched privilege for us and joy that keeps us going. Serving people created in God's image is an opportunity we have only on this earth, not in heaven. Jesus shared His life so that we could have fullness of life. This sets a principle, without sharing our life, we can't serve others.



Our heartfelt appreciation goes to all praying and supporting individuals, families and organisations for continuously journeying with us. In the midst of many uncertainties, we are trying to plan for next year. Some of our projects are finishing in this 2019/20 fiscal year and some are ongoing until next year.

As usual, I thank, all team members for passionately serving the communities in need without any complaints ever. Thanks to the board and leadership of PCC for fervent prayers, support and involvement where needed. I hope this newsletter will give a snapshot picture of the work of ACN for the first quarter 2020.

***Raju Adhikari***  
***Executive Director***





### *Completion of Disability Friendly Rehabilitation and Training Centre (DFRTC) Building, Gorkha*

Due to the world pandemic of COVID-19, Nepal government prohibited to organize any events to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection. Therefore despite the completion of construction work and preparation for the handover program, we were not able to organize a handover program for the DFRTC building. But, ACN decided to provide already purchased materials for the DFRTC, like necessary furniture, hardware items, and assistive devices. For this, ACN planned a small program with the local concern stakeholder. ACN has organized a program with the participation of Mr. Pawan Kumar Basnet, chairman and Mr. Parsuram Bhatta (Secretary) of the Gorkha Blind Association, and Mr. Krishna K.C (ward chairman) and ACN executive committee members, director and staffs. In which ACN provided basic require furniture, one set of desktop computer and printer and assistive devices (wheel chair, walker and crutches). Lastly, ACN has given the key of the DFRTC building to the Gorkha Blind Association with the responsibility of the building, until its formal handover program organized.



## *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, districts in southern belt of Nepal.

After the immediate disaster relief support, Rajdevi Municipality of Rautahat district requested ACN to contribute to the health sector. Particularly requests were for the construction of water hand pumps, health and hygiene awareness programs for pregnant and new mothers, and improvement of the health posts of the village. Based on the received requests and need assessment of the communities, ACN implemented a short-term program with the funding support from Global Care Korea to help in the health sector and for the installation of water hand pumps in Rajdevi Municipality, Rautahat district. Rajdevi municipality and communities appreciated the program. Rautahat Flood Recovery Support Program has been completed its activities in January 2020 with the following achievements.

### *Achievement*

**37** hand pumps (tube wells) were installed for 210 Households including two hand pumps for two health posts

**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

**17** health posts staff participated in one day workshop on control infection and waste management

**4** Health posts received necessary equipment, furniture (Dressing table, delivery bed, stretcher, ENT set, Dressing tray, weigh machine for baby and adult, Auto clave, BP set, Refrigerator, Niddle Disposal and office table and chair) and most needed medicine





## *Informative poster distribution on Anti-Human Trafficking*

ACN organized the awareness program on anti-human trafficking through mobilizing child clubs under Combat Human Trafficking (CHT) program in seven various places of Kaski district. In the program, children distributed posters, provided information to the community on human trafficking and posted informative posters of human trafficking on their home and public places after taking approval from them. Each child's club members participated in this community awareness program on anti-human trafficking. They shared their knowledge of human trafficking they had learned in the ACN's child clubs and enjoy a lot. 231 children from seven child clubs had participated in this program.



## *Inter-Child club quiz contest*

ACN organized an inter-child club quiz contest among ACN's seven child club of Kaski. The objective of the program was to create awareness among children on child rights and the risks of children. All questions were based on child rights and child abuse and child trafficking. Mr. Ram Kumar Shrestha chair the program and (ACN executive committee member) and Mrs, Sharada Kumari Parajuli (Chairperson of ward no.1 of Pokhara Metropolitan) was the chief guest of the program. The program started with the sharing from the volunteer of each child clubs on their child club activities. The program was facilitated by Mr. Prakash Pariyar and Ms. Sara Gurung (ACN staff). Shanti tole, child Club of Nayabasti, kaskikot -15, Pokhara won the quiz contest and received the medal from Roshni Gurung (ACN Program Coordinator). This quiz contest program encouraged them to reflect their learning on child rights and anti-human trafficking, and look beyond their textual knowledge. In addition, this program also provided the opportunity to know other Child club members and make new friends. All the participated children enjoyed the program and requested to do more programs like this.



## *Orientation program on Child Protection Committee*

ACN organized an orientation program on the 'Child Protection Committee' in Nayabasti-14 Pokhara for two communities. Mrs. Roshni Gurung from ACN explained the objectives of the formation of the Child Protection Committee and how the committee could support children. Toile development committee members, women's group, self-help group members, parents, including other community people were involved in the orientation program. 35 people participated in the program.



People shared that the issue of children is increasing day by day in their community so they felt the need for the 'Child Protection Committee' to protect their children and for child rights advocacy, networking, and reporting on children's issues.

Combat Human Trafficking (CHT) Program organize different awareness activities and programs against human trafficking including Child rights awareness to spread awareness among the children as well as in the community.

## *Adult literacy class*

ACN started twelve adult literacy classes in 5 and 6 ward of Sarawal, Nawalparasi district after providing training to facilitators for adult literacy classes. Each class consists of 20 participants.



Similarly, two adult literacy classes are also running in kaski district. Each class consist of 20 participants.

### *Birth preparedness and institutional delivery awareness class for Facilitators of Self-help groups*



Every month self-help groups facilitators meet and share their group activities. In January monthly facilitator meeting of self-help groups (SHGs), Ms. Milan Adhikari (ACN health program staff) took a session to provide information on birth preparedness and benefits of institutional delivery. The session was based on taking care of baby and mother and elderly people which was much appreciated by the participants. The information on nutrition required for baby and mother on pregnancy had also been given to the participants. Actually, this session was for group facilitators as they can share their learning in their regular group meetings. 14 facilitators of 14 self-help groups participated in the program.

### *Health teaching in Elderly citizen care centres*



ACN conducted health teaching program in two elderly citizen care centers in Pokhara (Nava Adarsha Community Development Society, Lamachaur, and Junkiri Samaritan Elderly Citizen Care Home Lamachaur). Health teaching program was based on nutrition and exercise for sound health. The program also provided information on care for high blood pressure people.

Similarly, ACN also conducted a health teaching program on personal hygiene and care to elderly people at Ramghat Church, Pokhara.



*During measuring blood pressure in elderly care home.*



## *Two Day Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Training*

To raise awareness among communities on basic disaster risk reduction, two days Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training was conducted in newly formed self-help groups in Nawalparasi district. There were 94 participants in the training from two self-help groups (SHGs) including other community people.

The training focused on disaster and emergency situation, vulnerability, steps of disaster management, first aid education on electric shock, burn, accidents and snake bites, and how to identify injured. In addition, the facilitator also provided practical knowledge on making stretchers with local materials and ways of properly carrying injured. The trainer facilitated the training in their local language so the training went well.



*Participants learned to carry injured with the help of stretcher*

## *Search and Rescue Training*

Two days Search and Rescue training conducted in three various places in Kaski district for self-help groups and community people. The training facilitated by the Nepal Armed force. Training was based on disaster management cycle and ways of disaster risk reduction (fire, storm, flood & earthquake). The training focused on the procedure of search and rescue of people during the disaster. In training, Trainer discussed how to sort-out harmful things from own surrounding to prevent future disaster. 40 people in Natabasti, 43 people in Samintra and 41 people in Shanti tole participated in the program.





## *Tailoring Training*

For women empowerment and their economic independence, ACN provides skill training to them. ACN has started three months tailoring training in co-ordination with Madhya-bindu Technical Institute in Nawalparasi district. 15 women of various self-help groups of Kawasoti and 15 women of various self-help groups of Sarawal participating in the training which is going very well. In total, they will learn to sew 19 items.



## *Basic Agriculture Training*

Three days agriculture training conducted from 18 Feb 2020 to 20 Feb 2020 in Badsar, Sarawal, Nawalparasi. The training was facilitated by the chief of Agriculture of Sarawal Rural Municipality. The training was based on vegetable farming and irrigation, nutrition of vegetables, and diseases caused due to lack of nutrition. There were 18 women and 10 male participants participated from six self-help groups (SHGs) in Sarawal, Nawalparasi district.

Most of the members of SHGs are farmers so this training organized with the objective to deliver knowledge on vegetable farming and to improve vegetable farming and to encourage grow vegetables so they can get enough nutrition from vegetables that they can grow. Facilitator facilitated the training with the local language. Therefore the training went well. They conducted some practical session also. Lastly eight types of vegetable seeds also given to the participants of the training.



## *Leadership Development Training*

ACN organized two days of training on leadership development for executive committee members of 12 self-help groups (SHGs) in Kawasoti, Nawalparasi in coordination with Women and Children and Social Welfare Council department of Kawasoti Municipality. 57 executive committee members of self-help groups participated in the training. This training was organized because some executive committee members were not able to perform their role and some of them did not understand their role and responsibilities and some of them are new in this role. Training went really well.



The objective of the training was the capacity building of executive committee members so that they can understand their role and responsibility and they could lead their group in more effective ways in the coming days.

## *Self-Help Group involvement in community*

To take part in community development, ACN's Jyoti Self-Help Group (SHG) placed 20 dustbins in different places in Dharapani, Pokhara in coordination with the local church and local government. It was great to see SHG's initiation for their community betterment.

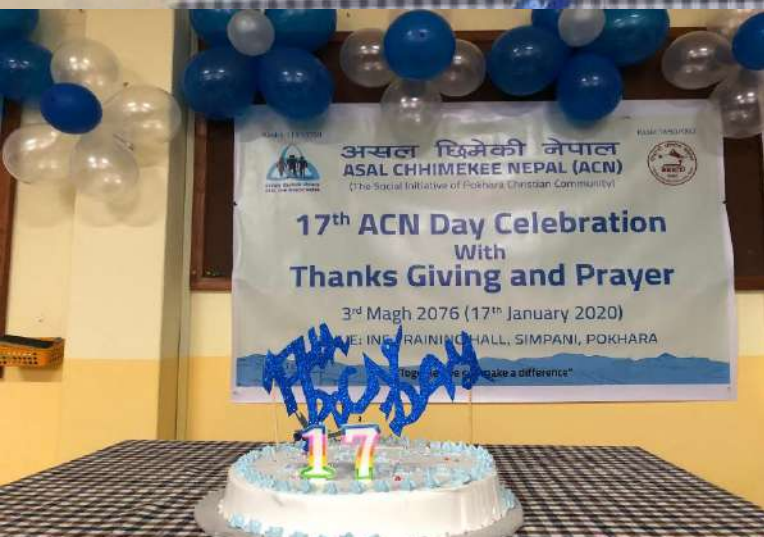






### ACN's Day Celebration

On 17th Jan 2020, ACN celebrated its 17th year of service in Nepal by organizing thanksgiving program with the founder members, executive committee members, general members, and Pokhara Christian Community (PCC) and staff members.



Celebration in Nawalparasi district.







### *ACN received Global NGO Leadership & Excellence Award*

**It is always great to receive recognition, especially at the Global level due to the recognition of our work.**

On 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020, Asal Chhimekee Nepal (ACN), the social initiative of Pokhara Christian Community (PCC) was awarded as a Global NGO Leadership & Excellence by the World Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Congress and Awards. The program was held at Taj Lands Ends, Mumbai, India. The Award was handed over by Sheena Chohan, a film actress who also received the award for the impact of her work on social change. Mr. Hari Ram Ghimire (ACN Advisor and Chairman of PCC), Mr. Bharat Bhadur Gurung (ACN Chairman), Mr. Rajendra Kumar Adhikari (ACN Director) and Mr. Dinesh K.C. (ACN PME & Comms. Executive Officer) participated in the program and received the award.

We would like to share this award to our beneficiaries who graciously accepted us, and our supporters, PCC, government agencies for their coordination and cooperation, funding partners, staffs who work tirelessly and always willing to go extra miles, prayer partners and many others who have been supporting us continuously directly and indirectly.

All glory to Our Mighty God who enables us.







### *ACN's Annual Picnic with Pokhara Christian Community (PCC)*

On 26th February 2020, ACN enjoyed a picnic in Hemja Pokhara with ACN's staff, board members, general board members, and Pokhara Christian Community's (PCC) church leaders. Together, we celebrated the joy of receiving the 'Global NGO Excellence & Leadership' Award from World CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and all thanked our Mighty God for this honor. This was a great time with fun, relaxation, and refreshment after much hard work.



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*"Together we can make a difference"*