

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Building healthy and educated communities in Nepal

NOVEMBER, 2018 - JANUARY 2019

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Photo: Students of Yubha Barsha during writing session of 90 minutes literacy framework

MEASURING THE LITERACY OUTCOMES

LITERACY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME IN SOLUKHUMBU (LIPS)

As the Literacy Improvement Programme in Solukhumbu nears its completion of third year, our literacy team have prioritized on the learning outcomes of the students in 11 schools of the Khumbu region under the project. With the technical and funding support from the Himalayan Trust New Zealand, our literacy team has implemented a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure reading, writing and comprehension skills of the students. The teachers were oriented on performing Quarterly Reading Assessment based on the 6 Error Approach of grade text and the teachers also find it as an effective yardstick to measure the students' performance. Based on the results i.e. students' reading ability, the students are placed into three stages i.e. Emergent, Early and Fluent Reader Group.

Since teachers' involvement is also a crucial part of LIPS, the teachers' performance was monitored by the Teacher Coaches under three performance areas. In the past two observation visit to the 11 schools this year, the results suggest remarkable improvement. Under the first performance area i.e. class organization and resources, 95% of the classrooms have a reading corner, devoting a small section in

IN THIS ISSUE

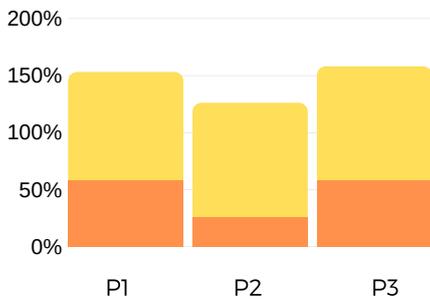
CHILD SAFETY WORKSHOP

ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR HEALTH FACILITY OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

the classroom where students can have access to their favorite books. Likewise, under the second performance area i.e. Lesson Content and Organization, the teachers in 100% of the classrooms involve the students in different group activities to improve the students' reading ability. Furthermore, under the third performance area i.e. Encouraging Learning at School and Home, the teachers in 100% of the classrooms participate in Teacher's Learning Circle, in which they share their achievements and challenges.

By the end of LIPS Year 3, we expect the EGRA (Early Grade Reading Assessment) score of the grade 3 students to be increased by 20%. Our literacy team expects in an average, the students' words read per minute to be 85 (in English) and 50 (in Nepali). The targets are set based on the result of an assessment conducted at the beginning of the academic session of LIPS Year 3.



*Performance Area 1 (P1) : Percentage of classrooms having reading corners
 Performance Area 2 (P2) : Percentage of classes involving students in group activities
 Performance Area 3 (P3): Percentage of teachers participating in Teacher's Learning Circle

■ Year 3, Quarter 1
 ■ Year 3, Quarter 2



Photo: Arati Raj, grade 2 students from Yubha Yarsha Basic School crowned for writing the best article among her fellow classmates. The writing activity comes under 'First 90 minutes Literacy Period Framework' of LIPS.

For the Staff Capacity Development, an orientation on National Early Grade Reading Program (NEGRP) was organized on October 26 - 28, 2018. NEGRP is the national reading program adopted by the government to develop reading skills among students. The NEGRP is one of the program that is planned to be implemented to all public schools based on the availability of national resources and support from other development partners. LIPS team have identified this orientation crucial to understand national program's aspects on early grade reading. The orientation emphasized that the major areas of intervention are teachers' capacity development (development of training package and implementation plan), teaching learning materials development (based on the students' level) and parents' participation activities. Similarly, the orientation included concepts on the six components of reading i.e. Phonological Awareness, Graph Phonemic Awareness, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension and Writing.

CHILD SAFETY WORKSHOP



Photo: Mr Mark Morrissey, Child Safety Consultant & Advocate for Child Rights from AHF with Action For Nepal and REED Nepal staff.

On February 3 and 4, Action For Nepal along with REED Nepal participated in Child Safety Workshop funded by Australian Himalayan Foundation and facilitated by Mr. Mark Morrissey (Child Safety Consultant & Advocate for Child Rights). The workshop provided guidelines for forming a child safe organisation and for the staff to create a safe environment for children. It included agency-specific child protection protocols, guidelines for reporting incidents, steps for preventing abuse, the rules to be followed while publishing information in print and web materials and safety measures for sponsor- beneficiary interactions. With our participation in this workshop, Action For Nepal reiterates its commitment to protection of rights of children.

MUSEY WATER PROJECT



2 Reservoir
 30,000 Ltr, 15,000 Ltr Capacity

2 Sand Filter

4 Fire Hydrant

Photo: New Water System for Musey Community

With the end of the month of January, Action For Nepal's Musey Water Project - funded by Himalayan Trust New Zealand is also completed. With the completion of the 2 Water Reserve Tank capacity of 30,000 litres and 15,000 litres with sand filtration system, now almost 70 households in Musey have access to clean drinking water. Likewise, the construction of 4 fire hydrant system points is also completed, which will ensure prevention of major damages in case of fire accidents in Musey.

ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR HEALTH FACILITY OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING



Photo: Dr. Jangmoo Sherpa, Programme Director of Action For Nepal in the Orientation Session of Nurse For Nepal Project in Chheskam.

NURSES FOR NEPAL PROJECT

Action For Nepal conducted two- days program of Nurses for Nepal Project: Health Facility Operation and Management Committee (HFOMC) Orientation Program in Chheskam, Mapya Dudkoshi Rural Municipality on 5th and 6th January 2019 and Waku, Mahakulung Rural Municipality on 9th and 10th January 2019 with the funding support of Australian Himalayan Foundation. The aim of the orientation program was to foster good governance in local health facilities of Waku and Chheskam by empowering and building the capacity of the HFOMCs.



Photo: Ms. Megha Malla, Community Health Project Officer conducting School Health Awareness Programme in Waku

Meanwhile, our two Community Health Project Officer stationed at Waku and Chheskam have been conducting Health Awareness Programmes in the school. The topic covered in all the school health awareness programme are oral hygiene; diarrhoea (definition, causes, mode of transmission, sign and symptoms, preventive measures, preparation of oral rehydration solution); demonstration of proper hand washing techniques; and family planning (definition, importance, types, side effects, contraindications, advantages) to the students of class ten.

TAPLEJUNG HEALTH PROJECT



Photo: Newly constructed Taplejung Health Post with funding support from Himalayan Trust UK



Photo: Medical and non-medical equipments coordinated by Action For Nepal and funded by Himalayan Trust UK

Yamphudin Health Post building is almost at its completion stage of construction. The building construction has been done with the funding support of Himalayan Trust UK and technical support of REED Nepal. Likewise, the materials and medical equipment for the health post has been transported to the Yamphudin health post by Action For Nepal. Once the construction work is completed all the equipment and material will be set up in the respected rooms. The opening of the health post has been scheduled for 14th March 2019.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Poush 18, 2075 (January 3, 2019), Action For Nepal conducted its 3rd Annual General Meeting at the Kathmandu office.

The newly elected board members are Mrs. Simone Joshi as the Chairman, Mr. Pemba Nuru Sherpa as the Vice Chairman, Mr. Sanjay Gautam as the Secretary, Dr. Jangmoo Sherpa as the Treasurer and Dr. Sujata Dangol as a General Member.

BUNG HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (BHIP) - PHASE II



Photo: Community meeting conducted by Ms. Laxmi Rai, facilitator of BHIP.

The two facilitators under Bung Health Improvement Project - funded by Himalayan Trust New Zealand have till date completed 9 out of 13 round of meetings in 9 wards of Bung, lower Solukhumbu. For this quarter, our facilitators have completed the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th meeting through story telling and open discussion methodology and as we gradually conduct all these meetings, we observe the communities are now much more receptive to the idea of placing maternal and neonates problems as an important issue of the entire community as well as the local government.

The sixth meeting has been conducted at all the nine wards of Bung in October and November month of 2018. Since ward 1 and 9 is geographically large in area, two meetings were conducted instead of one. The main objective of the meeting was to find out the three most important maternal and neonatal health problems to be addressed in the community.

The seventh meeting has been conducted at all the nine wards of Bung in November and December, 2018. During this round of the meeting, the health personnel presence was mandatory so one health personnel accompanied the facilitators to the meetings. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss the role and responsibility of health workers (FCHVs or nursing staff) for healthy community.

Likewise, the eighth meeting has been conducted at all the nine wards

of Bung in December, 2018. The main objective was to discuss solutions for the first problem out of the three problems noted in the previous meetings with the local mother's group through picture card presentation. The solutions to the problems were ensuring a timely ANC check-ups; conducting delivery only with assistance of Skilled Birth Attendant; and the use of ORS solution to prevent dehydration among new born baby.

The ninth meeting has been conducted in January, 2018. The objective was to discuss solutions for the second out of three prioritized problems, discussed in the previous meetings. With this, the whole concept of the project i.e. to empower the communities and to build a mechanism through which communities can sustain an enabling environment for social change is now slowly coming in fruition.

SOLABAN EARTHQUAKE REBUILDING PROJECT



Photo: A family in Solaban in their new house funded by Burwen Education Foundation.

With the onset of cold winter in the Himalayas of Nepal, the Solaban community, inhabiting in the lower Solukhumbu are rejoiced to live in their new home - funded by the Burwen Education Foundation. Some of the families had been living in a tent even during the bone-biting cold winters after the massive earthquake in 2015. With no proper house, the families were vulnerable and suffered from cold-related diseases.

The earthquake in 2015 had damaged 37 out of 80 houses in the Solaban community. In October 2018, David and Susan visited Solaban. In the welcome event organized by the villagers, David and Susan, having personally witnessed the hardships of the villagers during the trip, they reaffirmed their commitment to continue to help the Solaban community to the villagers.

Up to this quarter, Action For Nepal with the funding support from Burwen Education Foundation has built 14 out of 37 houses.

Namgyal Sherpa shares, 'Even four years after the big earthquake we have not received any support from the Government of Nepal. Having our houses destroyed by the earthquake, we slept in tent for many years. But even the tents were



Photo: Namgyal Sherpa, Solaban resident

not safe due to threat of snake bites. However, after hearing that David and Susan are funding to build houses for the Solaban community, I was really happy.'

Like Namgyal, the other local carpenter have also been receiving masonry training to build the relief houses. This has enabled the locals to lead the project themselves and has also ultimately empowered them.