



# HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

Since its inception in 1952, INF has focussed on supporting people who are disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable. Our Hospital Support Service [HSS] is one of the ways in which we see this happening.

Through HSS:

- we provide expert technical assistance to government hospitals and work alongside them to build capacity e.g. an expert at Surkhet's regional hospital provides treatment for gynaecological problems such as fistulas, and also trains staff
- financial assistance is provided to people who can not afford medical treatment e.g. in 2013-14 almost 14,000 destitute clients received funds to help pay for hospital services
- patients are given guidance and counselling, and advocated for as they navigate the hospital process

- INF is committed to strengthening Nepal's health services.
- Health Support Services work began in 1976.



## NISHA'S STORY

25 year-old Nisha was brought unconscious to Bheri Zonal Hospital along with her six-year-old daughter.

Hers is a sad story not uncommon in Nepal. Her husband had contracted HIV whilst working overseas and passed it onto her. Once her family and community found out, she and her daughter were cast out of their home and had to take shelter in the local public school. Begging near local temples became their only means of survival.

A few days after admission to the hospital, Nisha regained consciousness. She then met INF's patient advocates Bisnu and Mina who helped by feeding her, changing her clothes and providing medicine from INF's poor fund. They ensured she was taking her medicine regularly and also made sure her daughter was looked after.

Unfortunately despite medical treatment and nursing care, her condition deteriorated rapidly and she died a short time later. After her death, Bisnu and Mina tried to find a suitable orphanage for her daughter but were unable to find one. Eventually one of the nurses took her home with the hope of adopting her as her own daughter.

Districts in which HSS runs:

- Kaski
- Surkhet
- Nepalgunj

Follow this link for photos:

[www.inf.org/infs-work/health-support-services/](http://www.inf.org/infs-work/health-support-services/)

- only 1.9% of Nepal's GDP is allocated to health services [compared to 6.2% in Australia and 8.1% in Canada and Sweden]
- 30% of women do not have a skilled attendant assisting them with childbirth