

Warm greetings and welcome to the fifth issue of ICO Updates. Last month, we observe a great many activities and events. We celebrated Christmas at the Central Office, Green Pastures Hospital, Pokhara Study Centre, IIFS and other INF hospitals, clusters and district offices across Nepal; DRR team successfully run three workshops at two districts, INF Nepal also supported and actively participated in the 16-day Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence in Pokhara and Banke.

There were many other activities which are explained in short:

Minister's visit to Surkhet Hospital

- Minister **Bimala KC** [Minister of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives of Karnali Province] visited Shining Hospital INF Nepal Surkhet on 1st December. Minister KC visited our hospital, interacted with patients, got information about the services being provided to patients, technical areas of service and the hospital facilities.



Minister Bimala KC with INF staff

Thanks to Alison

- ICO organised a small felicitation of **Alison Craven** for the successful completion of the first phase of the Change Process on 5 December at the ICO. Vice Chairperson of INF Nepal **Rajendra Adhikari**, **Krishna Adhikari** and **Dhaka Ram BM** thanked Alison for contributing in the process.



Alison with INF staff and board members

Internship farewell programme

- Internship farewell programme was organised on 6 December at the ICO for the four interns. The four interns worked in communities where INF delivers its Community Health Development, Community Based Rehabilitation, Mother and Child Health and Finance programmes. Each placement related to their educational background and was supervised by INF staff in Banke, Kapilvastu and Gorkha. Interns shared their experiences and reflected on how the programme had affected their lives. The four interns and their supervisors were given a small token of thanks for being part of the programme.



Intern with INF staff members

Disaster preparedness

- INF's Disaster Response and Resilience team set out for a 10-day long trip to Kapilvastu and Rolpa districts to conduct three two-day workshops on the Preparation of Disaster and Climate Change Management Policy at the local government level. Workshops were actively participated by government representatives, police officers and other interested residents from the local community. The workshop also saw the handing over of basic first aid kits to the local government. Workshops were led by **Karna Bahadur Gurung** and other facilitators included **Jyoti Chhetri**, **Chullu Chaudhary**, **Hari Sharan Adhikari**. Field reporting was done by **Sahara Mishra**.



Participants at Sunchhahari RM, Rolpa

IIFS at Farmers' Market

- INF's IIFS has started to participate in a popular weekly farmer's market in Lakeside, Pokhara with its organic produce and handicrafts. Occasions like this provide an opportunity to increase awareness of INF's work, broaden existing networks and widen the market for selling products that help with INF's sustainable income generation. Orders have already started coming in! The farmer's market, behind Dorje's Restaurant, runs every Saturday from 10 AM to 1 PM.



IIFS outlet at the Farmers's market

16-Day Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence

- The 16-day campaign began on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ran until 10th December, World Human Rights Day. INF supported and actively participated in the Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence.
- In Pokhara, the Federal Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens of Gandaki Province organised a interaction programme which was supported by INF Nepal.
- The guest of honour was National Assembly Chairman, **Ganesh Prasad Timilsina**. Women, Children and Senior Citizen Minister **Tham Maya Thapa**; Deputy Speaker of Gandaki Province, **Srijana Sharma**; and provincial parliament members participated in the programme. Local government and other organisations were also represented, joining more than 350 people involved in the programme.
- Similarly, INF's Banke team also celebrated this campaign by organising signature collection campaign, candle lighting at the main city centre of Nepalgunj. The team also organised a small orientation programme for the staff and coordination meeting with the local government representative of Raptisonari RM.



Interaction programme, Pokhara



Signature collection, Banke

Three days of Fistula surgery

- INF Surkhet team finished three days of surgery [8-10 December] with visiting internationally renowned fistula surgeon **Dr Andrew Browning** from Australia and anaesthetist, **Dr Rohit Man Singh**, from the United Mission Hospital in Tansen.
- Each of the women had advanced surgery to repair their vesicovaginal fistula or correct persistent incontinence after successful closure of the fistula. All have had extremely complex and difficult injuries, and some had already undergone several unsuccessful surgeries. INF is thankful to Dr Andrew Browning for sharing his skills and experience to give these ten women hope for the future.



Dr Andrew Browning [right] with Dr Shirley, patient Sakina Jaja and Dr Binod Aryal from Karnali Academy of Health Sciences.

Farewell of Pastor Ved [David] Tamang

- INF Nepal Board bid a farewell to its Board Member **Ps. David Tamang** who served for two terms. Ps. David expressed his gratitude towards INF for letting him serve and promised to remember and pray for the work of INF. Chairperson of INF Nepal **RC Timothy**; Advisor, **Deependra Gautam** and Executive Director, **Krishna Adhikari** presented token of love and appreciated Ps. David for his dedication and contribution all these years for the service of INF to the most vulnerable people of Nepal.



Appreciation by Board



Ps. David

50th anniversary of Tearfund

- INF's partner organisation Tearfund celebrated its 50th anniversary by organising a special programme in Kathmandu which was attended by Krishna Adhikari and Thomas Meier. Krishna congratulated and thanked Tearfund for partnering with INF over the years and Thomas handed over a small token of appreciation on behalf of INF to Tearfund.



Thomas presenting token of appreciation to Pranaya Pandey [Country Representative of Tearfund]



Krishna Adhikari

Christmas celebrations

- INF celebrated Christmas at the Central Office, Green Pastures Hospital, Pokhara Study Centre, IIFS and other INF hospitals, clusters and district offices across Nepal. ICO organised a special programme to mark the birth of Jesus Christ and share wishes and joys among the staff members and friends at the INF Nepal Central Office in Simpani, Pokhara. The programme was very fun and engaging and saw active participation from the attendees.
- The theme for this year was "For to us a Child is born..." and the message speaker was Raju Adhikari, Vice-Chair of INF Nepal Board. The Programme also saw felicitation of Tearfund for its 50 years of service and partnership with INF by Krishna Adhikari.



Attendees of Christmas celebration programme at ICO