

Greetings and welcome to the sixth issue of INF Nepal Updates. We are really excited to share with you some of the latest updates and news of INF Nepal.

Beginning of the year 2019 marked with great zeal and commitment while equally reflecting through 2018. We are hopeful that 2019 will be a significant year for the change, growth and blessings.

More details:

1-14 JANUARY

New Year celebration

- The beginning of this New Year 2019, was celebrated among the staffs at ICO on 1st January. A short program was scheduled and the program was hosted by **Ming Gurung**. A musical choir was performed with everyone singing and sharing their wishes.
- **Dhaka Ram BM** [Operations Director] presented and shared a brief reflection through the bible about the importance of being faithful and committed towards our workplace. Similarly, the role of an organization in valuing its employees and providing learning, sharing and growing environment.
- **Krishna Adhikari** [Executive Director] shared the New year greetings along with the word of encouragement. He also updated about the new changes coming into effect and how everyone can contribute to the mission, vision and goal of INF. The programme was concluded with a prayer and cake cutting ceremony.

INF staff ID card

- With the commencement of this New year 2019, Partnership and Communications Department has started issuing the INF staffs ID card and has been printing it in-house. Printing and distribution of INF staffs ID card at the Central Office have been completed. While for the staff at other centres and Hospitals the ID card distribution is expected to be completed within March.



INF staff members during the New Year Celebration programme at ICO



INF staff ID card

M&E workshop

- Three-day long workshop on **Monitoring and Evaluation [M&E]** concluded on 8 January 2019 at ICO with eight participants [Four Donor Liaison and Monitoring Officers, two District Project Coordinators from Banke and Bajura and two staffs from the technical team]. The objectives of the workshop were to prepare project wise M&E plan and to develop a performance indicator tracking questionnaire in KOBO toolbox. *KoBoToolbox, developed by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, is an open source suite of tools for data collection and analysis in humanitarian emergencies and other challenging environments.*

IT Updates

- **Keshab Dhungana** [ICT Coordinator] presented about the new IT plans and changes taking place in INF to the Directors and senior managers at ICO on 10th January. The new changes and updates that were shared are HR software [both web-based and application] which is supposed to replace paper-based activities [leave, advance, TASA], Online VISA application to track the status of our Expats visas, GPS installation in the INF Vehicles and centralised attendance system.

Delay project on leprosy

- Research presentation programme was held on 11th January at ICO on the outcome and findings of a research project called “**Delay Project**”. This research project was carried out by **Dr Ulla Britt** and her team on Leprosy. The main objective of carrying out the research as shared by Dr Ulla Britt was to fulfil the research gap as there was no research done on the first symptom to the diagnosis of leprosy. She explained that in order to reduce the impact of leprosy how important it is to reduce the delays between the first symptoms to diagnosis. Hence, longer the delays higher the number of multibacillary patients and greater the damaging impact. The findings of her research outlined that the prevalence rate of leprosy has not gone down since the last ten years though the government of Nepal has declared that leprosy has been eliminated back in 2010. Many new cases are being identified at alarmingly high rate, with many new patients of general leprosy from terai while patients with multibacillary infections [extreme leprosy condition] identified from high hills and mountainous regions in the Western half of the country. Dr Ulla pointed out INF being the pioneer in treating people with Leprosy, there is an urgent need to address this issue in coordination with government and other stakeholders.



Participants during the workshop



Keshab Dhungana presenting the IT plans



Participants during the presentation



Uday Nath Yogi and Dr Ulla during the presentation

Farewell to Anjali Shahi

- A Farewell programme was organised for **Anjali Shahi** who has been involved in INF Nepal as an Internship Programme Coordinator for the last seven months and prior to this role, she was also one of the interns of the internship project in 2017. She expressed her joy and thanked INF for all the opportunities INF provided during her tenure at INF. We are also thankful for her service and wish best for her future endeavours.

15-31 JANUARY

Recruitment

- Somesh Pratap Singh** has been appointed as a Change Facilitator effective from 15 January. He has experience of working at Emmanuel Hospital Association[EHA] in India. Somesh will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and working closely with the senior management team to implement the change process recommended by reviews of community development work and hospitals of Karnali Province and Province 5.
- Sharon Joshua Tiwari** and **Shubha Sagar Malla** have joined the Communications team from 15 January Sharon as a Communications Coordinator and Sagar as a Communications Assistant. Prior to these appointments, Sharon worked as a Funding Officer in funding team based in ICO and Sagar as a Graphic Designer based in GPHRC.

School handover in Gorkha

- On 23rd January 2019 INF Nepal handed over a resource school to the local government of the Gorkha Municipality and School Management Committee of the Shree Vindhyavaasini High School. This newly built facility was one of the construction works under the **Gorkha Rehabilitation and Community Empowerment project [GRACE]** of Kaski Community Cluster [KCC]. The disability friendly school project will help in bringing hope for the children needing immediate assistance. The school building consists of five rooms and two washrooms equipped to accommodate up to ten students having different kinds of disabilities including Cerebral Palsy. **Buddhi Thapa** [Community Director] inaugurated the newly built facility by symbolically handing over a key to the Chairperson of the school management committee. During the handover program, Mayor of Gorkha Municipality **Rajan Raj Panta** appreciated and thanked INF for its support and contribution. He also expressed his concern amongst the school management committee and community to run the school dutifully



Anjali with the INF team at ICO



Somesh with INF Banke team



Sharon



Sagar



Government officials and INF staff after formally inaugurating and handing over of a school posing for a group photo



School girls eagerly reading the marble inscription placed on the wall

to ensure a good education and good care to those students who were given shelter.

- The programme was attended by other government officials, local community people, school staff, INF Nepal KCC staff and students. Government officials who were the guests of the programme thanked INF for its contribution to rebuilt the houses and community that was destroyed during the 2015 Earthquake and appreciated INF's work towards the neediest people especially people living with disability [PWD] and children with special needs.
- We would like to thank our partner organisations INF Australia, Provide eV Germany and TAI for the financial support in the construction of this school.

Visit of TAI

- Two Accountants of one of our partner organisation **Transform Aid International [TAI]** visited three INF centres [ICO, Kapilvastu and Banke office] for conducting a financial review of INF Nepal from 20-26 January.
- In INF Central Office, they met with Strategic Finance Analyst, Senior Finance Manager, Acting Funding Manager, Finance Advisor, Finance Officer and INF Kaski Cluster Team for the financial reviews. Similarly, in the Cluster offices in Kapilvastu and Banke, they met with Cluster Finance Officer and cluster team.

Leprosy Day Celebration

- INF's Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre [GPHRC] celebrated 66th World Leprosy Day on 27th January 2019 [Magh 13, 2075] with the theme of '**Ending discrimination, stigma and prejudice**'. The celebration was conducted in close coordination with government line agencies and other stakeholders working in the field of leprosy. Approximately 350 participants attended the event. Participants included INF GPHRC staff members, nursing students from six local nursing colleges, government officials, local church members and members of other organisations working to end leprosy.
- To mark the event, a rally was organised from Prithvi Chowk to Green Pastures Complex displaying messages in placards followed by a small formal programme organised in the hospital's premise. The formal programme included wheelchair and warm clothes distribution to patients, quiz competition among nursing students of various colleges, poster



School children eagerly waiting for the programme to commence



TAI team with INF team at ICO



Participants holding placards during the rally



Leprosy patients on wheelchairs listening carefully

exhibition by nursing students and stall-wise exhibiting various services available at GPHRC.

- INF Banke team also organised an interaction programme on leprosy on 26 January amongst government officials, media person, former leprosy patients and INF staff members at the Shining Hospital Banke. The guest of Honour was Uma Thapa Magar, Deputy Chief of Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City; and other guests included Chairperson of Janaki Rural Municipality, Matron of Bheri Zonal Hospital, Chief of District Police Office Banke, Vice Chairperson of Janaki and Khajura Rural Municipality, Administrative officer of DAO, Ward Chairperson, Health Coordinators, press representatives and all admitted patient and INF Banke team. The event also saw the distribution of fruits to inpatients and SHG members with leprosy in the Shining Hospital; informative leaflet about Leprosy was also distributed at the provincial hospital.

Outreach ear camp at Dhital, Kaski

- Two days free **Ear Outreach Camp** from 23–24 January 2019 was conducted in Machhapuchhre Rural Municipality ward No-6, Dhital at ward office's yard. A Team of Medical Doctors with ear care providers and workers including public health professionals and other supporting staff were involved in delivering the services at Outreach Camp. 167 people were benefited directly from this Outreach Camp.
- In two days camp, 30 patients were provided with the Syringing Services and 35 patients to the audio test, of which 42 were referred to GPHRC for further investigation and Treatment.



Interaction programme on Leprosy in Banke



INF Doctor treating an ear patient



Conducting an audio test with the patient

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