

INF NEPAL UPDATES

April 2021



Greetings to you all.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Through this update, we would like to share you with some of the news across INF Nepal's working areas. Major highlights from the past month were the Reflection and Learning Workshop followed by Value Workshop and Structure Review Workshop.

Kindly read through the updates including the featured story and featured staff.

Semi-Annual Reflection and Learning Workshop

Every year International Nepal Fellowship [Nepal] organises a reflection and learning workshop. This year it was organised as a Semi-Annual Review and Reflection Workshop. The workshop was organised under the theme "We Share, We Learn, We Serve, and We Grow". The workshop was organised by the Quality Assurance Department and lasted for three days. The workshop provided information on each other's work and creative efforts.

In the next three days after the workshop, there was a group discussion on INF Nepal's Values, Institutional Structure and Disaster Management. INF Nepal will gradually incorporate the outcome of these discussions in its future.



KALIKOT

Creating Livelihoods and Changing Lives

INF Nepal Kalikot conducted two-day business creation training for the SHG members of Narharinath Rural Municipality. A total of 75 SHGs members from each SHGs participated in the training. The training was conducted to improve the financial capabilities of SHG members, especially women, for them to become financially self-reliant by helping them commence suitable income-generating activities that contribute to the economic well-being of their family and communities.



SHG facilitation training



Students have started the sanitation movement in their school



Business activities demonstration

JUMLA

Engaging Youth for Change

Young people are considered a catalyst for change, as they can be the driving force for diverse social and cultural settings. INF Nepal Jumla mobilised Laganshil Youth Club in Ward No. 2 Bota of Kanakasundari RM. There are 35 members [20 male and 15 female] in the club and is actively working in the community. The Youth Club sits for its monthly meeting and discusses social issues. Through youth mobilisation, these young people learn about contemporary social and health problems like COVID-19, Chhaupadi, child marriage, polygamy and sanitation. They have been contributing significantly in raising awareness to stop social malpractices through street drama and individual counselling. This youth club also follows up and monitors the government's work and other organisations in their village. This month, the club also carried out road cleansing and sanitation activities to clean the village's environment.



Youth club members cleaning the streets and drainage

Observation of 111th International Women Day

INF Nepal Jumla observed the 111th International Women Day jointly with Rural Municipality [RM] on 8 March 2021. A total of 1501 women and men, including locally elected representatives, attended the rally. Chairperson of Kanakasundari RM addressed a short formal programme organised after the culmination of the rally. Chairperson and other local leaders showed their commitment towards reducing gender-based violence and mainstreaming women through empowerment. RM provided 40,000 to each ward to observe 111th International Women Day. Ward offices also organised the Deuda dance competition. Winners were awarded cash prizes.



DANG

SHGs Taking Initiation

Last year Janakalyan SHG of Ward No. 3 of Shantinagar RM received 85 sq. meters land through lobby and advocacy. They planned to construct the meeting hall for their group, but the construction work could not complete due to the lack of sufficient funds.

This year, SHG developed an action plan to complete the meeting hall in collaboration with INF Nepal and the ward office. INF Nepal supported them with cement and roof materials. They got the funds of NPR 100,000 from the Ward Office. The construction work of the meeting hall has been completed.



Mid-term Evaluation

The mid-term evaluation was conducted to assess the mid-term progress of the overall project's impact, outcome and results. It also aimed to draw the learnings and best practices to recommend improving project performance in the project's remaining period. The evaluation was carried out in various wards of Shantinagar, and Babai Rural Municipalities of Dang District dated from 21-26 March 2021. The evaluation was done in a participatory way involving Disabled Peoples' Organisations and Project staff using various tools and techniques, including an in-depth case study and a semi-structured questionnaire method.



BANKE

POWER Project

POWER Project is a joint project with the Consortium of the partners ADRA Nepal, LWF, Caritas Nepal and INF Nepal. In INF Nepal, the project is inbuilt into five existing projects in five districts. A review and reflection workshop of POWER Consortium partners followed by training to Gender Focal Person from POWER implementing districts was conducted from 21-25 February. The workshop's objective was to build a common learning and sharing platform among the Consortium partners. Also, to learn from the project's challenges and gaps and work for further recommendation and planning. Two staff and two gender focal person from each district participated in the programme. DFAT focal person from Australian Embassy also participated in the workshop. The POWER project phase 2 has been designed, and the gender focal person has been trained on the legal provision for Gender-Based Violence through this programme.



MUGU

Collective Cultivation

Twenty-one SHGs in mugu have set up the farming land themselves, to which INF Nepal Mugu supported these SHGs with 3600 apple saplings. One thousand saplings were provided to five farms in Dauna, 500 saplings in Jima, and 2100 to the eleven farms in Rara, Mugu.



ROLPA

Womens' Day Celebration

INF Nepal Rolpa celebrated 111th International Women's Day in collaboration with the gender network groups on 8 March. This year, the theme is "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in COVID-19 World". The local representatives, government officials, police, SHG members and local community members joined the programme.



Did you know?

Ten of Nepal's lakes and ponds are in the Ramsar List. Ramsar treaty is an intergovernmental treaty formed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, that seeks its member countries' commitments to maintain the Wetlands' ecological character and plan for sustainable use.

These are the wetlands from Nepal in the Ramsar List:

1. **Koshi Tappu**, Sunsari, Province 1
2. **Jagadisphur Reservoir**, Kapilvastu, Lumbini
3. **Ghodaghodi Lake**, Kailali, Sudurpashchim
4. **Beeshazari Lake**, Chitwan, Bagmati
5. **Rara Lake**, Mugu, Karnali
6. **Phoksundo Lake**, Dolpa, Karnali
7. **Gosaikunda**, Rasuwa, Bagmati
8. **Gokyo Lake**, Solukhumbu, Province 1
9. **Mai Pokhari**, Ilam, Province 1
10. **Lake cluster of Pokhara valley**, Kaski, Gandaki

Integrated Pest Management [IPM]

IPM training was provided to the Agriculture Group under the Environmental and Economic Sustainability [EES] Project in Budinanda Municipality. New strains of pests are emerging. This has hampered the marginalised farmers most because of their vulnerability to climate change and their inability to mitigate and adapt to effects. Integrated pest management is one of the steps towards sustainable agriculture because it helps manage. There is the use of different tools like bio-pesticides, pheromone, tarpaulins, etc. IPM help to promote biodiversity in agricultural fields.



This activity was aimed to help farmers of Budinanda municipality better manage the pests of vegetables and fruits. A total of 23 farmers groups participated in the training; along with the training, the participants were provided with material support [bio-pesticides, pheromone, plastic bucket, local materials/botanical].

Supporting Shopping Bags to Reduce Plastics at Household Level

INF Nepal Bajura has provided cotton bags to Tole Sudhar Samiti members for shopping purposes to reduce the plastic in the kitchen under the EES project in the Martadi Bazar area. The project supported 600 bags to the members of Tole Sudhar Samiti.



Off-Seasonal Vegetable Farming Support

INF Nepal Bajura supported 30 sets of vegetable farming materials to agriculture groups in Badimalika and Budinanda Municipality Bajura. The support includes plastic tunnels with drip irrigation set for off-seasonal vegetable farming. The Community people have already started to grow vegetables through this support.



Local Chicken Support

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many current migrants experienced job losses, leaving thousands of families back home without a source of income. Especially in rural and remote areas, like Bajura, many low-income families rely on the salary of a family member who works as a migrant worker in India or the Gulf Countries.

INF Nepal Bajura has supported some migrant returnees who had to return due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifty-five households were supported with twenty chicken and chicken-shed under COVID-19 and EES project.

KAPILVASTU

Monitoring Visit

Joint monitoring visits have been conducted in close coordination with government line agencies in the working area. The monitoring visit included the unit head of agriculture, chief administrative officer, Deputy Mayor, Ward chairpersons and a journalist. After the visit, the authorities have agreed to support SHGs in their need for irrigation and women leadership training.



Awareness-Raising on Disability

The SHGs members have discussed disability issues, healthcare, rehabilitation, and government provision for people with disabilities. As an outcome of this, one of the SHG members has received government treatment support. Similarly, two of the SHG members received disability identity cards from the municipality. Through the involvement in groups, members develop their awareness, organise and take action to change.



SURKHET

Leprosy Orientation to Students

A Leprosy awareness session was conducted for students in a local school of Panchala Junichande, Jajarkot. A total of 140 students studying in grade 8, 9, 10 and 11 participated in the session.

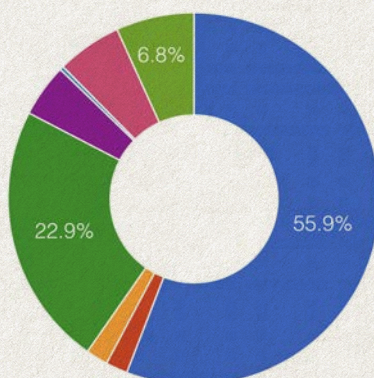


Total fundraising target - NPR 20,000,000 [USD 170,000]

Total funds received as of 7 April 2021 - NPR 2,593,465*

*13% of a total target

- Overseas Grants
- INF Nepal Board
- Churches
- Corporate Sector
- Employee Contribution
- Special Events
- Individual Supporters
- INF Day Celebration



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GREEN PASTURES HOSPITAL

Disaster Preparedness Drill at the Green Pastures Hospital [GPH]

INF Nepal's Disaster Response and Resilience [DRR] team conducted a disaster response mock drill among GPH staff.

There was a plane crash at the nearby hillside; the hospital management quickly activated its emergency response plan and briefed about the situation to all its staff, including their roles. An ambulance was dispatched to bring the injured persons.

At the triage booth, patients were tagged depending upon the severity of their injury: Red [most critical cases], Yellow, Green, and Black [deceased], then segregated accordingly to the respective coloured zone.

Doctors and Nurses stationed in their assigned zone treated the injured patients. One of the patients in the red zone required immediate surgery, thus sent to the operation ward. Another patient with a severe head injury who had physiological disorder symptoms was taken to another hospital for further diagnosis.

Hospital's main entrance was closed for other regular visitors, and people were not allowed to gather at the triage and emergency zones. The management staff handled some of the outraged visitors and media people at the gate.

A total of 40 GPH staff including volunteers took part in the drill. The drill session ended with an instant review [hot review] among the drill participants. Many flaws and gaps were identified, which need to be corrected.

Of course it will be chaotic situation during the real disaster. The mock drill like this one provided the opportunity to test the hospital plans and response in an actual disaster. Such mock disaster drills are crucial for the hospital. They will help the hospital management review its emergency response and preparedness plans, evaluate the operating procedure, and orient the concerned people towards their duties during the sudden flow of patients due to natural disaster or accidents.

For more photos: <https://bit.ly/3mQ2cdD>



FEATURED STORY

Stitching the Future

Simirata Pasi is a 32-year-old single mother living in Kajarhawa village in Maharajgunj Municipality of Kapilvastu district. When her husband died, she faced mistreats and hardship. The burden of raising two sons and one daughter was on her shoulder. Her family refused to offer any help to her; instead, she was blamed for her husband's death. She faced violence at her home and lived in a quarrelsome environment, helpless and without any voice.

Through the INF Nepal project-initiated SHG, she had a place to put her sorrows and reach out for help. The SHG came out for her rescue; they supported her in getting her citizenship card. Through the mass gathering and lobbying to resolve her issue with her family members, they agreed to transfer some property in her name. As a result, Simirata received seven

Kathas [2370 sq. metre] of farming land. The INF's gender focal person also advocated for her rights, and she now gets the NRs. 2000 per month as a Social Security allowance from Nepal Government.

Through the project, she received three months of tailoring training. INF even provided her with the sewing machine. She now uses her stitching skills to earn some money. She has been able to make humble earnings of NRs 2000 per month, sewing and stitching clothes at her home. She cheerfully exclaimed with pride of being able to earn her living and taking care of her children. She plans to grow and taking her stitching skills more professionally. This distinction has not come to her easy. Despite all her trials and tribulations, this brave lady is surviving and thriving with a smile on her face.



Simirata with her new sewing machine

SHG members in the sewing training

FEATURED STAFF

DEEP BAHADUR SINGH

Executive Secretary

INF Nepal Central Office

Deep Singh has been serving in INF Nepal since February 2016 [2072 Magh] as Office Secretary and later as Executive Secretary. Deep is from Jajarkot, one of the backward districts in the Karnali province of Nepal. Deep shares, "I believe that God has given me an opportunity to serve here though I don't deal directly with people who INF has served on a day-to-day basis, I support people involved in it." Asked about the motivation for his work, "The love of God, contribution of missionary and legacy of the organisation motivates me to work hard and serve the people as much as I can from my end."



Deep is passionate about trekking. He loves taking the trails and spending time in nature. He just recently trekked to the Everest Base Camp, a journey that gets you nearer to the world's tallest mountain, Mt. Everest [Sagarmatha].

Please pray for Deep as he has his indispensable role in providing secretarial, administrative and professional assistance to the Executive Director and the organisation. May he rely upon God's grace under pressure and for his never-failing commitment. Pray that God builds him up as a faithful steward of the blessed service within INF Nepal.



Deep's INF water bottle at the lap of Mt. Everest [8848.86 m].

Deep sitting on the top of Kalapaththar [5643 m] and Mt. Pumori [7161 m] in the backdrop.

For more information and updates:

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