

PSD Connect
Quarterly Newsletter

The PSD connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, previous volunteers, and long-term supporters about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is non-profit social development organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of children and youth of rural Nepal. For more information please visit www.psdnepal.org [photo credit: Jeremy Cohen ©]



MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste friends!

Once again, with great pleasure, we present you our updated quarterly newsletter. Please read this, Issue 2 of our 14th year of writing, designed to keep you updated with PSD Nepal and our activities, projects and future plans!

Any questions and/or comments regarding the newsletter or about PSD – Nepal are more than welcome. Please also forward this newsletter to any friends who may be interested. We heartily welcome your views, comments, and queries regarding the work of PSD - Nepal! You can send us an email to psdnepal@gmail.com or call us at (+977)-1-4411648

Bishnu H. Bhatta

Latest PSD– Nepal News

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health amidst the global corona virus pandemic. Our physical office has been closed since 23rd March in Nepal, though we have been working hard behind the scenes – particularly in Rasuwa, Ilam, Baglung and some orphanages in Kathmandu – and bring you an update today of these projects.

There has been a spike in confirmed cases throughout the country in the past few weeks. The Ministry of Health and Population has confirmed 8274 COVID-19 cases with 22 deaths and 1402 recoveries. Out of the 77 districts, 74 of them have been affected by the virus. Most of these districts do not have the necessities for the prevention or control of the virus. Out of 8274 infected patients more than 85% are the people who returned from India. Province No. 2 situated in southern Nepal bordering India has the highest number of cases. Thousands of people are kept in quarantine facilities near Indo-Nepal border areas.

We also have exciting news that this summer our global PSD Nepal ‘A Plastic Story’ documentary will be released. If you have not yet seen the trailer, please enjoy it here: <https://vimeo.com/401025597>

As we are sure has been the case with you, we have had plenty of time in the recent months of lockdown to slow down and reflect on the state of our world in 2020. In particular, we have been struck by forced nature of the lockdown that for many of us has come as a shock! Time to pause, time to ponder, time to slow down, time for conversation, and ample time for reflection.

The PSD Nepal team in particular has been struck by the fragility of our ecosystems and the spotlight that COVID-19 has shone on this specific global issue. In particular, global ecosystem services are often translated into a simple financial figure – with limited appreciation for their complex and deep interdependencies. In a country like Nepal – with many endemic species from the red panda to the snow leopard and one-horned rhino – endangered species and the risks of poaching and illegal wildlife traffic in particular, have once again hit global news headlines. This article published in the UK has been a brilliant reminder for our global economy to rethink this problem – we heartily recommend you to read this: <https://ecosphere.plus/2020/04/22/COVID-19-natures-10-trillion-dollar-wake-up-call-to-the-finance-sector/>

Rasuwa – update on COVID-19 emergency crisis response

In the rural and mountainous district of Rasuwa, PSD Nepal have been working to provide crisis relief efforts to the most vulnerable population groups in the most remote villages. In particular, work was focused near the valleys of Langtang and Gosainkunda where PSD Nepal has been working since 2017 with our PSD Plastics recycling and upcycling project.

The crisis efforts have focused on helping the rural elderly – with widows and widowers, as well as orphans, helped through emergency provisions. The following articles were distributed to the rural villages of Ling Ling, Wangle, Sherpagaon, and Surkha, all above the valley town of Syabru Besi, in the Langtang Valley of Rasuwa: Lentils, sugar, salt, cooking oil, set of bananas, set of apples, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary pads, hand soap, laundry soap, dish soap and etc. Please enjoy watching video of our relief work: <https://youtu.be/aXMwqtp3v00>

Baglung – Update on COVID-19 emergency crisis response.

COVID-19 has been a serious concern for people all over the world, and Nepali communities have suffered demonstrable effects already. PSD Nepal is working hard across several regions to educate and assist communities at the greatest risk. One community of focus is the Baglung region, where PSD has implemented a program with multiple aims: to inform the people of Kathekhola 2 on how to manage the quarantine in Janakalyan; to provide necessary materials in affected areas; as well educating communities on how to control COVID-19 and reduce transmission. This program was implemented from 7 to June to 21 June 2020 for two weeks in Kathekhola Rural Municipality mainly: Dahare, Sima, Nayaldhanga, Multhana, Salam, Nakedhara, Gairathok, Dapasa village.

The objectives of this program were: to provide essential material for the proper management of ward quarantine, to create awareness in the village and to conduct different programs to control, prevent and minimize the effect of COVID-19 with the help of local government, political parties, health personals, teachers as well as local CBOs. PSD Nepal primarily focused its attention on those people who are in quarantine, local community people, political parties, local representatives, teachers, CBOs, health personnel, women health volunteers, and security personals, as they are either most at risk, have most influence or have large contact with other people.

A largely important aspect of the program was the distribution of 500 hygiene and sanitation packs, and the implementation of COVID-19 awareness programs. The hygiene and sanitation packs had a direct impact on the 500 individuals who received the packs, while the awareness programs directly engaged with more than 1000 people. The secondary impacts of these programs through the further dissemination of information from attendees at the awareness programs to their families and friends, and the reduced transmission from the packs is likely to be significant. The distribution kits were quite comprehensive, and contained: mask, soap, hand sanitizer, Nail cutter, sanitary pad, Ibuprofen, paracetamol, De Cold, ORS, Tooth brushes, Tooth Paste, Mattresses, Gloves, Buckets, Mugs, Brooms, Hand mike and etc.)

During the awareness campaigns, we covered the following topics: What is COVID-19; how is it transmitted; what are its symptoms; what preventive measures can be taken to spread the chance of corona virus; how can we save oneself and others from COVID-19; how to wash hand with soap (6 ways to wash hand); awareness about the responsibilities to the people in quarantine; aware people about social distance and its necessity; taught why to follow lock down; motive people to develop self confidence in themselves; tell people how to provide security to senior citizen, pregnant women and other ill people.

Impact of programs: All the people who are quarantined are very happy and praised PSD Nepal for its support to manage their staying in there and Chairman of Rural Municipality Mr. Amar Thapa also gave huge thanks to PSD and its donor for generous support in this difficult time. Vulnerable people in quarantine had essential equipment for their daily uses as well as underprivileged people in the community mainly, orphans, widows, landless and poor people who got essential equipment.

We are very much thankful towards BVDA (Bristol Volunteer Development Abroad) who funded this awareness project. They have worked in this village for several years and they had planned to work on this year as well but due to COVID-19 they could not come but able to provide some funding to help the community. Thank all volunteers and students from Bristol University who have provided this fund to run this program. We are hoping to have continuous support in the future as well.

Thank you for your continued support to PSD Nepal in helping the rural and most vulnerable members of society in Nepal!

Mud Day Appeal, June 29th 2020: International Mud Day 2020 - this year on 29th June 2020! (15th Assad Nepali 2077). In this uncertain situation we need to follow government's rules and regulation while celebrating 2020 Mud Day. There are restrictions that we cannot gather more than 25 people in one place due to the present situation so we need to give first priority to the children in the homes. This time kids are leading the events and other people from different schools and communities will not be invited. We cannot say join us for celebrations of International Mud Day and play, fun, for the PSD Nepal Mud Days of 2020 but can request to celebrate where ever you are.



Some Glimpse of Photos:



Vote of Thanks

PSD Nepal would like to express its thanks to all those who have contributed in one way or the other to make our projects & programmes successful. We have accommodated 1,175+ volunteers in 15 years!

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