

## Partnership for Sustainable Development–Nepal

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### PSD Connect

Quarterly Newsletter

Year 20, No. 3, September 2025

PSD Connect, a quarterly e-newsletter by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal, keeps our partners, former volunteers, and long-term supporters updated on our activities and news. As a non-profit focused on alleviating poverty among Nepal's rural youth and children, we're driven by a mission of sustainable development. For more details, please visit our website: [www.psdnepal.org](http://www.psdnepal.org)



### MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

Namaste, friends!

We are delighted to present the third issue of our 20th year, our latest quarterly newsletter to you. This newsletter brings you closer to PSD Nepal's world, showcasing our initiatives, projects, and future plans. We eagerly anticipate your questions, comments, and insights. Feel free to share this newsletter and spread the word about our efforts. Your feedback is invaluable to us! Reach out at [psdnepal@gmail.com](mailto:psdnepal@gmail.com) or call (+977)-9841285379

Warm regards,  
Bishnu H. Bhatta

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## Latest PSD Nepal News

PSD Nepal continues to make important progress this quarter across environmental, educational, and child-focused initiatives. In Langtang, the Himalayan Plastic Removal Project is thriving, with three operational sites and the “1 Bottle = 1 NPR” scheme recycling around 40,000 bottles monthly. Our carbon offsetting target was met through the plantation of 5,000 trees across Khimti, Jungu, and community spaces, with 900 more to be planted in Baglung with World Challenge. Volunteers from Bond University are assisting schools and health posts in Gorkha, and PSD also showcased its work at RU Fest 2025 in Pokhara, promoting recycling, upcycling, and green jobs. Looking ahead, we are preparing for the Zero Waste Marketplace in Kathmandu. At the same time, our partnership with the Unforgotten Fund continues to support 42 vulnerable children in Kathmandu and Lalitpur with education, health, and sanitation, celebrating strong academic results. Adding to this momentum, two student interns from Göttingen-University Germany called Lara and Elisa have recently joined PSD Nepal for three months to work on sustainable development, community engagement, and research.

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### **Making Strides in Himalayan Plastic Removal**

PSD Nepal is proud to report continued progress in the Himalayan Plastic Removal Project in Langtang, Rasuwa. Our three key sites - the Community Recycling Centre in Syafru Besi and the segregation sites in Mundu and Kyanjin Gompa are now fully operational, serving as important hubs for responsible waste management in this delicate Himalayan ecosystem. A major highlight of the project is the innovative “1 Bottle = 1 NPR” scheme, which motivates local communities to collect plastic. Each month, approximately 40,000 bottles are recycled through this initiative, significantly reducing pollution while strengthening community-led environmental action.

In August, Mr. Bishnu Bhatta and our intern Leo Parker visited the Syafru Besi Recycling Centre, where they met with staff and the Chairman of Gosainkunda Rural Municipality at Dhunche. During this visit, they discussed plans to install a baling machine in Dhunche, initiate upcycling processes in Syafru Besi, and establish an Environmental House in Kyanjin Gompa. These steps will not only expand the project’s capacity but also set the foundation for long-term, sustainable management of plastic and solid waste in the region. They also decided to collaborate on sustainably managing plastic and solid waste. At the same time, our other intern, Juliette Gros, played an important role by preparing fundraising efforts to support the project, helping ensure that its impact continues to grow and remains sustainable into the future.

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### **Carbon Offsetting Through Tree Plantation**

This year, PSD Nepal proudly planted 5,000 fruit-bearing and native trees across different districts, successfully achieving our annual carbon offsetting goal. We cannot wait to see the long-term impact these efforts will have on both the community and the environment.



#### **Plantation in Khimti**

With the support of CRED and LINK, PSD Nepal carried out tree plantation initiatives in Khimti, Ramechhap. A total of 1,000 trees were planted - 700 Timur (Sichuan pepper) and 300 lemon trees - providing both environmental and economic value to the community. These trees not only enrich biodiversity but also contribute to sustainable local livelihoods.



#### **Plantation in Jungu**

In Jungu, Dolakha, PSD Nepal led a large-scale plantation effort with the support of local residents and fundraising by interns Daniel, Lara, Elisa and Leo. Together, we successfully planted over 2,100 trees.

Previously, 750 trees - including avocado, coffee, and Sichuan pepper - were planted in school premises and community spaces. This initiative engaged students, teachers, and families directly in environmental action, while promoting youth participation, hands-on learning, and sustainable practices at the grassroots level.

#### **Plantation by World Challenge in Baglung**

Looking ahead, PSD Nepal is partnering with students from World Challenge to plant 900 additional trees in Baglung. This collaboration will not only expand our carbon offsetting efforts but also create an opportunity for global youth to connect with local communities in building greener, more resilient landscapes in Nepal.

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### **Supporting Education and Health in Gorkha**

Currently, students from Bond University, Australia, are in Gorkha, supporting PSD Nepal's community initiatives. At Bigyan Primary School, they are assisting with fencing, while at Shree Mahendra Leela Secondary School, they are furnishing the Early Childhood Development (ECD) room to create a better learning environment for young children.

In addition to education support, the students will be supplying medicines and medical equipment to the Harmi Health Post, helping strengthen local healthcare services.

Their hands-on involvement reflects the spirit of international volunteer collaboration, directly benefiting children and communities while fostering cross-cultural exchange and sustainable development in rural Nepal.

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### RU Fest: Pokhara 2025 – Recycling, Upcycling, and Green Jobs

The Recycling and Upcycling Festival (RU Fest) 2025 brought together innovation, youth, and environmental action in Pokhara, attracting nearly 7,000 visitors over two days. Organized by Pokhara Metropolitan City with UNDP and KOICA, the festival highlighted recycling and upcycling as both environmental solutions and economic opportunities.

#### PSD Nepal's Participation

Director Bishnu Bhatta and interns Leo Parker and Juliette Gros visited Himalayan Life Plastics, Nepal's main PET processing site, and represented PSD at the festival, selling over 100 upcycled products. The event fostered collaboration with other organizations and showcased PSD's role in connecting rural waste collection from Langtang to larger recycling efforts.

The Mayor of Pokhara and Minister Bhagwati Neupane visited the festival, praising the role of recycling in generating green jobs and calling it a model for other cities.



...ly about sustainable development but

also about myself and indeed about the world. I come from a small town in the north of England so despite my familial connection to Nepal, my prior visit and research of the place, landing into Kathmandu, hopping on a Pathao motorbike and speeding round the ring road was once again a near overwhelming feeling.

As I was flying into Nepal, I was naturally captivated by the breath-taking scenery below, I was also intently observing each village and town we were passing over on our descent into Kathmandu. Those thousands of families, all of those thousands of places in-between the urban nodes of global travel. It is exactly these ‘places in-between’ that PSD Nepal seeks to empower; rural communities bursting with practical knowledge and wisdom yet lacking opportunities to fulfil their collective potential. This is the mission that inspired me to make the journey and work with the Partnership for Sustainable Development.

My time working from PSD’s office in Kathmandu was interspersed with three trips out of the city. Firstly, we travelled by bus to Pokhara where myself, PSD Director Bishnu Bhatta, and another intern Juliette took a fascinating tour of Himalayan Life Plastic’s recycling and upcycling factory. It was inspiring and insightful morning; I learnt a great deal about the process of recycling PET plastic bottles but also about the opportunities of forging circular green economies on the back of plastic waste. Following this tour, we spent two days at the Recycling & Upcycling Festival and Conference hosted at the Pokhara Event Centre where PSD Nepal had a stall showcasing its work. This was a brilliant opportunity for networking with other organisations in the sustainable development space, with a particular focus on waste management, recycling and upcycling.

The second of my trips away was to the village of Jugu in Dolahka about 180km to the east of Kathmandu. When I arrived in Nepal, I began by setting up a personal fundraiser to help with one of PSD’s central projects: the Dolahka Tree Planation. It was incredibly rewarding therefore to take this trip to see first-hand where these funds were being used to help the local community generate sustainable incomes. Throughout the day, the team and I (pictured below) set about planting the trees. The afternoon monsoon rains did little to damage the spirits of our group and we powered on through and by the end of the day over 2000 trees had been planted. Funds are still being raised for this project and a similar effort in Baglung as it required significant outlay costs.



spent the night in  
early morning hike  
the Himalayas atop  
highest points in  
is a 180 degrees



view of the Himalayas to the north and 180 degrees view to the south of the Terai stretching out to India. We were incredibly lucky to avoid the typical monsoon season clouds and the views (as pictured beside) were absolutely astonishing. It was more than worth the 04:00 am alarm!

My final trip away from the city was north, up to the village of Syabrubesi where PSD has invested in a plastic collection site as part of its Plastics Project in the Langtang Valley. We first stopped off in Dhunche, where Director Bishnu Bhatta had a productive meeting regarding the plastics project with the chairman of the local council. We then completed the journey to Syabrubesi and observed the collection site working as intended! At this time of year there tends to be less waste generated due to monsoon season resulting in fewer people venturing to the remote trekking regions but it was still remarkable to see the sheer quantity of plastics being collected. It was also useful for me to see the ‘upstream’ of the factory I had visited in Pokhara and marked a cyclical end to my time in Nepal.



Across my visits and throughout my whole time working with PSD, everything was focused on their practical mission: connecting resources to communities for the benefit of the key priorities, environment, education and health. On my penultimate day in Kathmandu before flying home I visited the learning center where I saw the future of Nepal. These children were diligently and enthusiastically working after school hours in a safe, clean environment where the focus was allowed to be resolutely on personal and collective growth. As my closing impression on Nepal, it reinforced my understanding of sustainable development as built from small, consistent actions driven by the needs and wants of individuals and communities.

## PSD Nepal at Zero Waste Marketplace

On September 3rd, Mr. Bishnu Bhatta and representatives from various organizations attended the BFFP meeting at Yatri Hotel, Thamel, to prepare for the Zero Waste Marketplace, held on September 5-6.

During the Zero Waste Marketplace event, PSD Nepal set up a stall to showcase and sell upcycled products while raising awareness about sustainable waste management. The organization was actively represented by Mr. Bishnu Bhatta, Ms. Sandevi Tamang, Mr. Ram Sharan Neupane, along with Elisa and Lara.

The stall received distinguished visitors, including the Honorable Aain Bahadur Shahi Thakuri, Minister of Forest and Environment, and the Honorable Prakash Man Singh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Urban Development, who both appreciated PSD Nepal's initiative.

Through this participation, PSD Nepal successfully marketed and sold several eco-friendly products while reaffirming its commitment to environmental education, circular economy practices, and community engagement.



## **The Unforgotten Fund: Supporting Vulnerable Children**

PSD Nepal remains deeply committed to uplifting vulnerable children through our partnership with the Unforgotten Fund. This year, our support reached 21 orphaned children and 21 children from waste picker families in Kathmandu and Lalitpur. We provided access to formal education, scholarships, and daily extra classes, helping them build brighter futures.

A highlight of the year was the School Leaving Certificate results: Siddhartha (Babylon National School) secured an A+ with a GPA of 3.95, Saloni (Babylon National School) achieved an A with 3.57, Shristi (Namuna English School) received a B with 2.68, and Sitashma (Namuna English School) earned a C+ with 2.50. These achievements reflect both progress and the need for continued support.

Beyond education, we improved clean water and sanitation facilities and ran awareness sessions on health, hygiene, and child rights, creating safer and healthier environments for children and their families. While much has been accomplished, our journey continues, and with the generosity of our donors, we look forward to expanding our impact in the years ahead.



## Upcoming Initiatives

**Late September:** Students from World Challenge will visit Baglung to participate in tree plantation activities, supporting local reforestation and climate resilience efforts.

**October:** Dr. Helen Harrison will train 50 teachers in Baglung through the 360Life program, focused on trauma-informed teaching. The three-day workshop will help educators recognize and respond to trauma's impact on students and staff, promote well-being and resilience, and adapt teaching methods to support learning. With over 20 years of international experience in post-traumatic well-being, Dr. Harrison brings expertise that will help schools create safer, more supportive environments for both children and teachers.

You can be part of this change. Your contribution - big or small - can help us continue providing education, healthcare, and empowerment to children who need it most.

Please consider donating today to help transform lives.

[Donate now](#)

## Vote of Thanks

PSD Nepal extends heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, supporters, and partners who have contributed to our projects and programs over the years. Your dedication and support have been instrumental in our journey towards sustainable development. We are elated to share that the PSD team has accommodated 1,675+ volunteers in 21 years.

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