

PSD Connect

SPECIAL EDITION 1ST AND 2ND QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, ex-volunteers and supporters about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is a 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.

MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

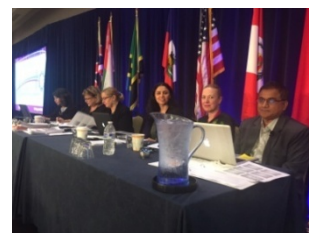
Namaste Friends!

It is with great pleasure we present Issues 1 and 2 of our quarterly newsletter, which is in its 12th year of publication. The newsletter will keep you updated on PSD and its activities, successes and future plans. Any questions and/or comments regarding the newsletter or about PSD-Nepal are more than welcome. Please forward this newsletter to all those who have worked with us to help raise our profile. We also publish relevant articles, views and comments sent by our partners and supporters. If you have anything worth sharing, please email it to psdnepal@mail.com.np or call us at (9771)-4411648.

Bishnu Bhatta

LATEST PSD NEWS

- Bishnu Hari Bhatta, Director of PSD Nepal, had the opportunity to attend the 2017 Institute of the Center for Education Diplomacy at Washington D.C. this April. He presented two papers about our work and Nepal. He is one of the recipients of the Emerging Leader Award in Early Childhood Education. He also attended the meeting for the International Outreach Committee and Country Liaison.
- PSD-Nepal's Director, Bishnu Hari Bhatta, had the opportunity to visit New Zealand from 7 May to 13 May 2017. He is extremely grateful to the World Forum Foundation, who gave him the opportunity to attend the conference. Many thanks to all the others who supported him to make this trip possible. It was undoubtedly a productive and worthwhile trip. Mr. Bhatta first attended a day meeting of the Nature Action Collaborative for Children followed by the World Forum on Early Care and Education Conference. This conference had over 700 participants from 70 countries which provided a great opportunity for him to network and make contacts on behalf of PSD-Nepal.
- Mercer on a Mission (MOM) Project: There will be 10 students from Mercer University, Georgia, USA working with us this June for three weeks. Two Mercer professors are leading the team, Dr. Michelle Vaughn and Dr. Sybil Keesbury, two journalism students, who will provide project documentation, and eight early childhood Teacher Candidates will be observing and practice teaching for 12 days. The students will first spend three days in country orientation training, which includes Nepali language and cultural sessions. This will help them to adjust to the local communities. We also have a session regarding the education system, early childhood status, development, personal safety and health system of Nepal. The eight Mercer Teacher Candidates will be working alongside local teachers at the Tri-Ratna Co-operative School (TRCS) in Bungamati, Lalitpur. Dr. Loren Weybright, an International Education Development consultant, will be coordinating this unique project, along with the MOM professors and the TRCS management.
- There will be four students arriving from Strathclyde University of Glasgow, U.K. to work with an NGO, helping them with report writing and research work for 6 weeks.



- International Mud Day Celebration 29th June 2017:** PSD Nepal is going to celebrate International Mud Day with orphan children in Panchkhal and students from 10 different schools in Chitwan. The elephants will also help us celebrate Mud Day on 29 June. This is the 8th year of our International Mud Day Celebration in different countries. Every year it has been a great success. Many children get involved with their natural surroundings. We invite you to participate and organize an "International Mud Day" celebration, all around the world.



- Youth Media Education Project:** In February, 15 students and two teachers, Jeffrey Romanow, and Natalie Vantuyn, from the Institute for Collaborative Education (ICE) high school, NY, USA, conducted a photo storytelling project at the Tri Ratna Cooperative School (TRCS), Bungamati, Lalitpur, now for the third year in row. This year there were 39 TRCS students, grades 6, 7 and 9, and seven teachers who participated in the project. The TRCS students were divided in seven groups, with at least two ICE students leading each group. A TRCS teacher was also assigned to each group to ensure the sustainability of the project. In the morning, the ICE student/teachers led workshops in photo storytelling. In the afternoon, the TRCS students led the ICE students on a tour of their homes and village. It was a true student-to-student cultural exchange and collaboration. Dr. Loren Weybright coordinated the teacher training, along with the ICE faculty. We launched a photographic exhibition at the close of the program, with photographs from the TRCS students and teachers depicted the local culture, lifestyle, historical places, flora and fauna. The students and teachers displayed their photos on heavy cord, creating an attractive and colourful venue. The students, teachers, parents and the local community enthusiastically participated in the exhibition. Students from ICE also donated 21 digital cameras to TRCS.



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- Last month, 21 volunteers from Ox-Adventure in Kuwait worked with PSD Nepal to support the Gram Sudhar Secondary School located in Gokarna. They built toilets and organized extracurricular activities at the school. The school was happy to have Ox-Adventure volunteers. PSD-Nepal volunteers have been working in this school for several years and have provided solar panels, a LCD projector, laptop, library, outdoor learning spaces and building construction. These volunteers were instrumental in upgrading the education standard of the school.

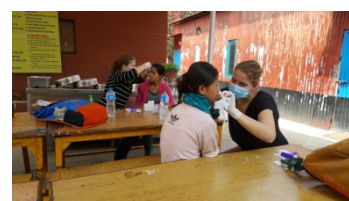


- Fourteen students from Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia, will be coming to PSD Nepal in August 2017. They will first be given three days in-country orientation, and then will work in two schools, and the primary health care center in Gorkha for about three weeks.
- Thirteen students from Heidelberg Sustainable Development Abroad (HeiSDA) in Germany will be coming in June 2017. They will be helping to build infrastructure at schools in Kathmandu and with a women's group in Ilam. They will undergo a week-long training and spend five weeks in schools with a Nepali counterpart. They will also be teaching, organizing many extra-curricular activities, and training teachers at the two schools

- We received two volunteers from Simon Fraser University, Canada in January 2017, who conducted a Practicum for four months in Nepal, supported by one Nepali counterpart. Both volunteers were trained for a week, in-country, with an orientation course, covering Nepali language, culture and other issues. The training helped make them comfortable with their host family and work place, with the Friends of Shanta Bhawan. They observed, carried out research, provided training and worked in the awareness campaign. They also raised funds to run two health camps, which were successful. More than 400 people benefited from those health camps. In FSF they learned different sectors like family planning/maternal child health clinic, DOTS clinic, triage, laboratory X-ray/USG/pharmacy, store/administration, doctors' rooms and how they diagnose the patients. They also visited different hospitals.

NAFA Nourishes Program update

In early 2017, NAFA has enrolled 4 different children's homes and treated more than 60 new cases of malnourishment in children by providing Plumpy Sup Supplementation and multivitamin. Our program nurses found several problems during their field visit such as skin problems, sanitation, personal hygiene and dehydration. NAFA provided the training for hand washing, brushing technique and importance of safe drinking water. We also provided tooth brushes, water bottles, lice comb and the medication to eliminate worms. We brought awareness to female children regarding puberty, menstruation and its hygiene.



NAFA also conducted skin therapy sessions in children's homes with the support of skin therapists from the Netherlands. They did skin evaluations, provided skin aids and advised to maintain the integrity of skin.



Not only does NAFA look after the nutrition, they also look to sustain children's homes. NAFA has provided funds for chicken farming in one children's home. We are waiting to see the outcome, and if it is successful, it will be replicated in other homes too. This farming program's motto is to get food without pesticide and find a way to generate income as a whole to get sufficient nutrition from the food.

Pipaltar Integrated Reconstruction Project:

Following the earthquake in April 2015, PSD-Nepal began implementing the Integrated Village Model Development Project (IVMDP) to rebuild the earthquake-ravaged community of Pipaltar, Kavre district with funding from Habitat for Humanity International Nepal (HFHI). The earthquake caused 87 of the total 89 homes in the community to collapse, forcing members of the marginalized Danuwar Community into temporary shelters. The Danuwar, and other ethnic families of the community, are entirely dependent on farming. Lack of sufficient land for farming, illiteracy and poor access to medical services are tell-tale signs of their state of deprivation. This one-year re-settlement project was successfully completed within the time specified by the agreement signed between HFHI and PSD Nepal on 4th March, 2016. The total funds provided for the period of 15 March, 2016 to 14 March, 2017 was NRs. 89,202,837.92, 5% of which was allocated for the administrative costs (Rs. 43,92,000) and 95% (Rs. 84,410,837) for home construction. The project was implemented in a participatory manner, mobilizing and involving the community members in every aspects of the project. Every able family contributed around 500 hours of sweat equity and the whole community contributed around 50,000 hours towards the construction of their houses.

The project provided safe shelter and masonry trainings to community members in a gender inclusive environment. A total of 55 locals, including women, were trained as masons. When the construction of the model house was started in 2016, there were only two skilled masons. After the training, the community members can even use the knowledge and skill regarding earthquake-resistant technology in building houses outside their own village to earn better income. Training to build knowledge and capacity of project staffs were also organized.

While implementing the project, PSD found several issues in the community regarding education, health and sanitation. To help improve community health, PSD provided WASH training and carried out activities aimed at raising awareness on social and environmental values. The community members were also provided with filter buckets for safe, clean drinking water. PSD also organized a health camp for the community, referred the patients to related hospitals, provided medication and oral hygiene kits that

included items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes. Dustbins were installed and trees were planted at certain points to make the village litter-free and preserve the good environment.

Case study

An empowered Sharada coming back home from work:

Sharada Danuwar, 24, of Pipaltar became the first certified female mason both in her community and the entire Panchkhal Municipality, after she completed training organized, by Habitat International Nepal. Although she sat for the 10th grade School Leaving Certificate exams, she was unable to pass because she used to work as a farmhand, as did other girls in her village.

Her father always encouraged her to become an independent woman. As Habitat Nepal was planning to conduct mason training, she approached with the desire to enroll. Despite several discouraging responses from the community members, she took part in the selection exam and scored 18 out of the total 20 marks. But even during the training sessions, she felt discriminated by the instructor. However, the instructor mended his ways after Habitat Nepal intervened. Since completing the training, she has managed to find work continuously. She earns Rs. 1000/day, which is a much higher income than the Rs. 475/day earned by unskilled laborers. She gives 50 percent of her earnings to her father for household expenses and saves the rest for herself.



Sharada feels more valued and empowered than ever before. She hopes to become an instructor, after completing a second-grade masonry training. She is also thinking to become a building contractor, in the future.

On 18 April 2017, a formal key-handover function was held in the presence of the community members, local government officials, media, PSD Nepal, Habitat Nepal and other stakeholders.

On the completion of the Integrated Model Village Development Project (IMVDP), we express our heartfelt thanks to all the stakeholders who contributed their time and effort to making this project a success. PSD Nepal is also grateful to all the volunteers who supported the construction work to make decent homes available to the displaced people. The 87 families who worked tirelessly for more than a year and cooperated with PSD Nepal to complete the construction works also deserve our deepest respects. PSD Nepal is grateful to Habitat for Humanity Nepal for providing the opportunity to work as a partner, and we are thankful for the cooperation and guidance we received throughout the project period.

Glimpse of house:



Pre-Phase I: Figure 1. Recent trench excavations.



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Phase II – Figure 3. Construction of initial brick layer to sill level and then second brick layer to lintel level



Phase III – Figure 4. Construction bamboo roof structure and villagers fixing bamboo in place



Figure 7. New homeowner painting their new house ahead of Dashain festival.



Figure 6. Workers receiving their one meal of the day and working on various aspects of the construction process.

Global Giving Fund Raising

For the purpose of school reconstruction, PSD Nepal is raising funds through Global Giving. We, the PSD family, would like to request all our best friends to contribute to our cause. You can find more details here:

For U.S. and Canada Donors please click this link:

<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/rebuild-school-for-479-nepalese-children>

For U.K. based donors please click this link. We will be able to get gift aid as well.

<http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/donate/24756/partnership-for-sustainable-development/>

We are counting on your engagement and hope for your support. Your donation will be recognized in the supporting community through the quarterly e-newsletter.

Vote of Thanks

PSD Nepal would like to express its thanks to all those who have contributed in one way or another to make our relief programs successful. So far we have successfully raised the funds to build 8 school buildings out of 10 we have planned. We are still looking for funding to build the other 2 school buildings. PSD Nepal is looking forward to working with all our well-wishers and donors in future.

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