



## Newsletter July-September 2020

### Nuwakot (Betini) Education Scholarship Program

#### Dear Kathmandu Kids,

We hope you are all staying safe and well and adapting to the new normal of life with Covid-19 – with some positives in that!

Amidst the many disruptions to regular life caused by the Covid-19 virus in Nepal, our team have remained dedicated to carrying out our work and continue to be an inspiration to us. We have continued to educate children, families and their communities about the prevention and control of this global crisis through **home visits, monitoring, savings group meetings and phone communication** on a monthly basis to help them stay safe and adapt their lives harmoniously.



Whilst we have not been able to run some activities such as youth club or large group team building/awareness programs, and schooling has been delayed, we have **not had to cancel any of our key program activities** as yet. Instead we have just been adapting the

way we do some things. The virtual medium has become a bigger part of everyone's lives, and has brought about some more positive developments for the staff teams and some of the youth in the more urban areas, such as webinars, which have boosted learnings from having greater access to various experts to join online. Our team has adapted very well to using various new technology platforms.

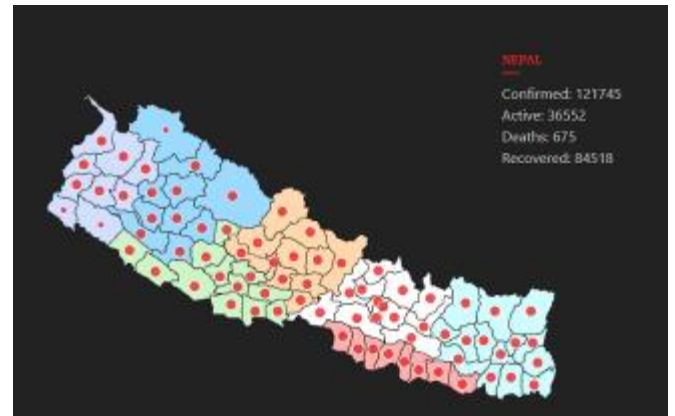
#### COVID19 status in Nepal

Nepal has been impacted heavily by this global pandemic. Nepal's national Covid-19 tally climbed to **121,745** with 3,749 new infections reported on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. All 77 districts of the country have COVID19 positive cases; the Kathmandu valley being the hotspot for COVID19.

**36,533 Active cases**

**84,518 People recovered**

**694 Death toll**



Above: COVID19 status of Nepal  
(Source: <https://tkpo.st/354E2nf>)

#### The new normal in Nepal

Lockdown was imposed from 24<sup>th</sup> March till 22<sup>nd</sup> July in Nepal. Again, as the COVID19 cases increased, the government-imposed lockdown in Kathmandu valley and areas where there was high infection rate from the 19<sup>th</sup> August to the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. Since then, everybody has been adapting to what has become the new normal.

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As public health experts suggested that ongoing lockdown is not a permanent solution to fight this pandemic, several schools and universities started conducting physical and virtual classes and exams, businesses reopened, people went back to work and held some of the meetings and events that had been postponed from earlier months. Without adequate planning and controls in place, this again led to a rapid increase in positive cases, so the Government is encouraging people to work from home and connect digitally as far as possible on an ongoing basis.

**The Government has increased the number of PCR tests, provided relief materials** to the needy and marginalized and is continually advocating the public to adopt public health protocols to slow the spread of the virus.

As in many communities around the world, it has been very encouraging to see **so many helping hands from social clubs and local groups extending services such as feeding the hungry people** in the streets and street animals.

**The use of masks is mandatory**, but as anywhere some people are not strictly adhering to this as they should. Soap, sanitizers and clean water are valued more highly than ever before. Physical distancing of at least 2 meters and use of Namaste rather than handshake are prioritized.



**Above: One of our sponsor children Rajan and his sister during home visit**

**Key highlights of this quarter:**

- Home visits of 207 students
- School resume on small scale
- Secondary School graduates results 2020
- Saving group meetings
- COVID19 response support program
- Highlights of family progress

**More home visits and close monitoring**

This quarter our team conducted **207 children's home visits** and undertook **26 school visits**.

Since vulnerable populations are more likely to suffer from pandemics and emergencies, our **team has been vigilant in monitoring the children we support and their families**, to ensure they are fulfilling their basic needs and taking prevention measures. For those families, who ran out of food or other basic goods, we have **coordinated with local governments to be accountable** and support these families, and **we provided some relief materials if the local government has failed to respond on time**.

The ongoing contact and support from our team has helped keep the families positive and safe - until now, we are pleased to share that our team are following strict protocols and that **none of our children and their families or our team in Nepal have been infected**.



**Above: Aashika with her mother**

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**Above: Dawa Dolma and Dawa Gyalmu with their father**



**Above: Aaising with his grandmother**



**Above: Dolma with her grandmother**



**Above: Dipisha with her father**



**Above: Dawa Dolma with her grandmother**



**Above: Ram with his mother**

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**Above: Tshiring with his grandmother**



**Above: Lalita with her grandmother studying at home**



**Above: Nema with his mother**



**Above: Rajan studying at home**



**Above: Manmaya with her father**

**School resumes in limited capacity**

Virtual platforms have been capitalized on in the cities and urban areas but unfortunately due to the geographical challenges, lack of internet and communication networks, our rural project areas where most of the children we support reside, have not had the opportunity of digital learning.

**Several of the schools in our project areas have resumed with classes being run for 2 hours per day.** The wearing of masks is mandatory in the classroom.

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**Above and below: School resumed part time in many areas**



**Child Progress**

**Secondary School Results 2020!**

**We are happy to share that all 6 youth** passed year 10, the final year of school in Nepal. This year, as lockdown commenced the day prior to the beginning of the exams, the schools based their results on internal assessment.

**This is the 4<sup>th</sup> group of students to complete secondary school under the support of SCAI and Kathmandu Kids!**

**Congratulations to all!**

<b>Name</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Anju Tamang	2.35	C+
Sunil Tamang	2.25	C+
Man Maya Tamang	2.10	C+
Dipesh Gurung	2.05	C+
Binod Gurung	1.95	C
Pasang Diki Sherpa	1.90	C



**Above: Anju C+ (2.35 GPA)**



**Above: Sunil C+ (2.25 GPA)**



**Above: Manmaya C+(2.10 GPA)**



**Above: Pasang Diki C (1.90 GPA)**



**Above: Dipesh C+ (2.05 GPA)**



**Above: Binod C (1.95 GPA)**

### **Livelihood program**

#### **Monthly Saving Group meetings**

This quarter our **9 saving groups** with **131 members** conducted two meetings, in July and September. No meeting was held in August due to it being during lockdown.

Our team joined all 18 meetings to **record their savings, details of loans and monitor the progress of the families who have taken loans.**



**Above: Monthly meeting of Kaukeshwori Savings Group**

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**Above: Monthly meeting of Nigale Savings Group**



**Above: NGO Program Manager Ramesh teaching saving group members about physical distancing**



**Above: Monthly meeting of Golphubhanjyang Savings Group**



**Above: Monthly meeting of Kalyan Savings Group**

**Progress through loans from savings groups**

Several families have had the opportunity of taking loans to purchase animals or further grow their small business over the past 18 months since the groups were formed.

Some of the highlights from this quarter's loan mobilization:

- ❖ Pritimaya's family have started fish farming
- ❖ Ashmita Nepali's family have bought a pair of oxen
- ❖ Sangita Tamang's father bought a buffalo
- ❖ Sudikshya Tamang's maternal uncle bought a van through saving group loan in partnership.
- ❖ Roshani Tamang's brother bought a tractor.
- ❖ Rojina's uncle started pig farming.
- ❖ Reshma Tamang's family bought 2 goats and 5 local chickens.
- ❖ Sangita Tamang's father has bought a buffalo.
- ❖ Sapana Tamang's mother bought 11 local chickens.
- ❖ Ramesh Thapa's family bought a buffalo.
- ❖ And many other families bought local chickens, buffalo, and goats through the saving group loan mobilization.



**Above and below: Raju's family started Banana farming and chickens farming through saving group loan**



**Above: Mother of Sudip Ghale bought a buffalo from saving group loan**



**Above: Ashmi and her family started poultry through saving group loan**

**We are continually inspired by the resilience of the families in our program and the large and small improvements they make to their livelihoods with a little helping hand.** The full rollout of the livelihood development program, which has been delayed due to Covid, will enable all families in the program to be able take a healthy loan over the next few years.

### **COVID-19 Response program**

Following an outbreak of the virus in our 2 main working areas of Shivapuri and Dupcheswor, **SCAI, in partnership with the local rural municipality offices, opened 2 Isolation centers** to accommodate people with symptoms and tested positive. After SCAI donors responded very generously with the \$15,000 required, the centres were **inaugurated on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, marking 41<sup>st</sup> Social Service Day 2020.**

With cases increasing day by day and Covid-19 now rife in these areas where thousands of highly vulnerable families reside, the initiative is vitally important in helping contain the spread in our local areas.



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These centres were funded by various one-off donations but will also service the people of Betini.

In Dupcheshwor we distributed:

Materials	Quantity
VTM testing kits	250 pcs
Semi fold beds (3x6 hospital bed), mattress, bedding	8 sets
Infrared Thermometer (USFDA approved Swiss)	1 pcs
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)- Face shield, Eye glass, disposable cap, boot cover, mask NS standard	12 sets
Oxygen machine NS standard USA brand	1 pc
Water poly tank with tap for hand wash (500l)	1 pc
Washable mask	1028 pcs
Chlorine water with spray	5 liter



**Above: Use of SCAI's PPE and swab collection in newly formed isolation center**



**Above and below: Donated goods at new isolation centres**



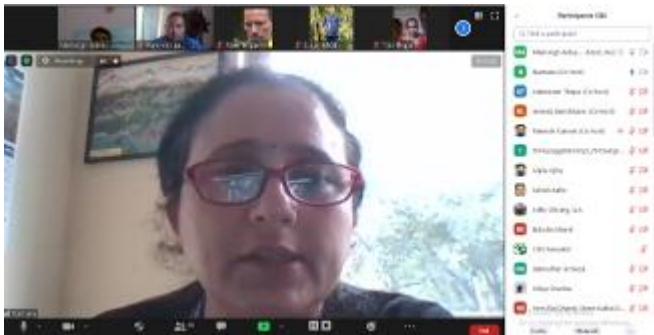
**Above: A local health care worker with one of the new PPE sets from SCAI**



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**Webinar "Consultation on ALTERNATIVE CARE options and Child Care Homes as the last resort"**

In times of crisis, **the risk of children being separated from their families increases**. To help build awareness and curb this trend, our team conducted this important webinar, with **40 participants from schools, local governments, staff from our partner NGOs and Sunrise youth present**. The program was moderated by our SCAI Nepal Program Officer, **Mansingh Aidee** and the formal vote of thanks was given by our SCAI Nepal Country Manager, **Raj Kumar Lama Tamang**. The session was facilitated by key speakers Mr. Aatmaram Thapa and Mrs. Namuna Bhushal from the **National Child Rights' Council (NCRC)**.



**Above and below: Photos from the webinar**



**District level speech competition marking International Literacy Day**

In collaboration with other social organizations, SCAI and our NGO partners hosted a district level speech competition. The theme of the speech was **"Role of local government in continuing alternative education"**. 137 students participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase and 12 students were selected to participate in the finals. The chief guest of the event was **Honorable Education, Science and Technology Minister Girirajmani Pokhrel** and Education Expert Sashi Panthi, Ramesh Prashain and Journalist Sabina Karki formed the judging panel.



**Above and below: Some of the team and students during the district level speech competition**



We would like to thank you all again sincerely for your ongoing support through this challenging time and beyond. Please stay safe and well.

**Emma, Raj and Mansingh**  
**SCAI Australia/Nepal**