

International Nepal Fellowship

Project/Section's Name:

Ear Medical Charity Support

Document Title:

Quarterly report: Mid-March 2020 to Mid-June 2020

Date when the document was written:

July 2020

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Start date of the project:

Mid-June 2017

Period covered by the report:

Mid-March 2020 to Mid-June 2020

Situation Update

INF Nepal Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara has been supporting the government's effort in combating the COVID-19 epidemic on multiple fronts. This includes starting a fever clinic at the gates of the hospital and readying the Ear Centre in case it needs to be used as an isolation centre. Moreover, INF handed over 25 full sets of Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] to the Health Directorate [HD] of Gandaki Province. INF has been working to ensure that people with disabilities can access appropriate information and have their particular needs met. INF is working with the World Health Organization [WHO] to develop a series of videos providing essential health and hygiene information for people with disabilities and their carers.

The Ear Centre of Green Pastures Hospital (GPH) has established itself as the only specialised ear hospital in the Western Region of the country. A very dedicated team of 6 Nepali doctors and one expatriate doctor continues to provide treatment to hearing impairment and ear-related disease through quality yet affordable services. The team are able to touch the lives of many people by restoring their hearing capacity. Amid Covid-19, the ear centre is providing its regular services to the people.

During the reporting period, 1149 OPD visits were done, and 25 patients had surgery. Nineteen patients underwent Speech and Language Therapy. 16 Hearing Aid devices were distributed. 318 Hearing Tests were conducted. 46 Hearing Aid mould was repaired. Likewise, 25 patients received very good nursing care and support during their admission period in the centre.

Quarterly Achievements

Ear Aid Nepal has been contributing to provide surgery and other necessary treatment for very poor and marginalised people. They are now able to go to school, participate in social events and contribute to their family earning.

During the reporting period, 32 (24M, 8F) persons benefitted with Medical Charity Support from Ear Aid Nepal (EAN). In total, NPR 162,720 was supported through EAN. Moreover, as unusual, the Pokhara Metropolitan City Office requested Green Pastures Hospital for the medical support for COVID-19 response. So Green Pastures Hospital sent an ambulance to children's home (15 children and 3 adults), and all of them were brought to the hospital. The free health check-up for ear, dermatology and orthopaedic was conducted, and medicine was provided through the ear medical charity support. A total of NPR 7713 was spent on them. Among these street children, only two of them had an ear-related problem and remaining had a dermatological and orthopaedic related problem. All of the street children went through the ear, dermatological and orthopaedic screening in the hospital. Out of total expenses of NPR 7713 for these street children, only NPR 671 was related to ear medicine, and NPR 7042 was related to dermatological and orthopaedic. It was the golden opportunity for the government to support the poor people in the time of crisis due to COVID-19.

The tables below give more detail of these patients.

Patient Report: Mid-March 2020 to Mid-June 2020

Table 1: Patients receiving support for Hearing Aids

S.N	Name	Home District	Age	Hearing Aid	Reason for Support	EAN contribution (Rs.)	Total treatment cost (Rs.)	% of treatment provided
1	Indra Raj Giri (M)	Nuwakot	70	Basic Body Aid	Poor	3,000.00	3,000.00	100%
2	Bhul Bdr Ranabhat (M)	Kaski	75	Low Power Analogue	Poor	1,500.00	3,000.00	50%
3	Bishal Pradhan (M)	Kaski	28	Digital*2	Poor	10,000.00	16,800.00	60%
4	Tek Bdr Gurung (M)	Kaski	56	Digital	Poor	3,400.00	8,400.00	40%
5	Chitra Kumari Shrestha (F)	Kaski	61	Boxed Digital	Poor	5,000.00	15,000.00	33%
	Total (Rs.)					22,900.00	46,200.00	50%

Table 2: Patient receiving Surgery support

S. N	Name	District	Gender	Age	Employment	Surgery	Diagnosis	Reason for Support	EAN contribution (Rs.)	Total treatment cost (Rs.)	% of treatment provided
1	Anjana Ku Malla Shahi	Kaski	F	31	Housewife	R MRM T'Plasty O'Plasty	R CSOM (AA)	poor	20,500.00	40,500.00	51%
2	Sanjeep Thapa	Kaski	M	40	Pastor	L T'Plasty	L COM TT Mucosal	poor	6,000.00	24,000.00	25%
3	Narayan Bdr Karki	Kaski	M	54	Self-employed	L T'Plasty LA	L CSOM TT	poor	17,000.00	22,000.00	77%
4	Champawati Adhikari	Kaski	F	38		R T'Plasty LA	R CSOM TT	poor	7,000.00	22,000.00	32%
5	Ashok BK	Kaski	M	15	Student	L T'Plasty GA	B/L CSOM (TT)	poor	28,529.00	29,029.00	98%
6	Samjhana Pun	Baglung	F	10	Student	L T'Plasty GA	L CSOM TT	poor	11,220.00	26,220.00	43%
7	Amrit Gurung	Kaski	M	43		Rt MRM+T'Plasty+O'Plasty	R CSOM (AA)	poor	31,500.00	46,000.00	68%
Total (Rs.)									121,749.00	209,749.00	58%

Table 3: Patient receiving other support

S.N	Name	Home District	Age	Services Provided	EAN contribution (Rs.)	Total treatment cost (Rs.)	% of treatment provided
1	Juna Rokaya (F)	Kaski	53	Medicine & Bed charge	9,958.00	10,958.00	91%
2	Ambika Thapa (F)	Myagdi	58	Battery	400.00	400.00	100%
3	Rohit Nepali (M)	Kaski- Street child	19	Medicine	139.00	139.00	100%
4	Prakash Bohora (M)	Kaski	32	Medicine	139.00	139.00	100%
5	Abhishek Nepali (M)	Lamjung- Street child	14	Medicine	294.00	294.00	100%
6	Pujan Majhi (M)	Kaski- Street child	14	Medicine	983.00	983.00	100%
7	Amrit Nepali (M)	Kaski- Street child	17	Medicine	1,044.00	1,044.00	100%
8	Kopila Tamang (F)	Kaski- Street child	17	Medicine	294.00	294.00	100%
9	Aashish B.K (M)	Kaski- Street child	19	Medicine	139.00	139.00	100%
10	Ranu Budha Magar (F)	Kaski- Street child	18	Medicine	235.00	235.00	100%
11	Binod Ranabhat (M)	Kaski- Street child	13	Medicine	436.00	436.00	100%
12	Santosh Nepali (M)	Baglung- Street child	14	Medicine	433.00	433.00	100%
13	Kiran B.K (M)	Kaski- Street child	17	Medicine	433.00	433.00	100%
14	Buddhi Ram Pariyar (M)	Kathmandu - Street child	14	Medicine	433.00	433.00	100%

15	Sujan Pariyar (M)	Kaski- Street child	15	Medicine	433.00	433.00	100%
16	Bale B.K (M)	Kaski- Street child	12	Medicine	433.00	433.00	100%
17	Arjun Khadka Chhetri (M)	Myadi, Takum- Street child	19	Medicine	433.00	433.00	100%
18	Ram Chandra Paudel (M)	Kaski	45	Medicine	1,029.00	1,029.00	100%
19	Bal Bahadur Karki (M)	Kaski	48	Medicine	244.00	244.00	100%
20	Sanjaya Pariyar (M)	Kaski- Street child	17	Medicine	139.00	139.00	100%
	Total (Rs.)				18,071.00	19,071.00	95%

Annex 1: Case Story: Ashok B K

What do you feel if someone calls you 'BAHIRO' (DEAF) amongst friends when you find difficulties in hearing. It is a real story of Ashok who has been facing the tag of 'Deaf' since childhood.

Ashok BK (15 years) is a poor teenager from Pokhara. It takes about forty-five minutes by walking to reach his home from Green Pastures Hospital (GPH). He lives with his mother, grandmother and grandfather as slum-dwellers (People settling on land without legal right). He studies at sixth grade (which is abnormal for a 15-year-old to be studying at sixth grade) in a government school. His hearing problem has affected his schooling-he has been held back. He should be at ninth or tenth grade as per his age. His other friends are all younger and still doing better. But this is also embarrassing for him because he can't hear properly. The mother and grandmother work as a labourer in sand mining in the river near the home for their livelihood.

He cannot hear clearly since when he was two years old. So his friend calls him "DEAF." He feels very hurt inside after knowing that his friends make fun of him. He feels hard to face his friends and even attending school. His family is anxious about his future.

Besides, he has been having itching problem and pus flowing from his ears. To add on the misery, his father left him and his mother for other women five years ago. Afterwards, his family shifted to his grandmother's home. His grandmother, who cares for her grandson very much, took him to various hospitals for his treatment. However, his hearing ability did not improve. Recently, he was referred to Green Pastures Hospital by one of the government-run clinics of Pokhara.

The doctor diagnosed him with Bilateral Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media (A perforated tympanic membrane with persistent drainage from the middle ear for more than 2-6 weeks) in GPH. However, it was hard for him to treat his disease as he couldn't afford the treatment cost, especially the surgery. Therefore he was referred to the Social Service Department of the hospital for the socio-economic assessment. INF supported him worth NRS 28,529 (approximately GBP 180) for his treatment which covered his surgery, medicine, food and accommodation cost for four days in the hospital through Ear Aid Nepal Charity Fund. Otherwise, it would not be possible for him to receive the treatment. Eventually, he went through major ear surgery (General Anesthesia Left Tympanoplasty Surgery).

Ashok and his grandmother are very hopeful that he will regain the hearing ability after the surgery, and eventually, the tag of "DEAF" will remove. At the same time, they are very grateful towards INF.



Ashok after the surgery at Ear Centre



Ashok after the surgery at Ear Centre

Annex 2: Photos



Ear examination of patient



Ear check-up of patient



Hearing test



Hearing test



Hearing test



Ear syringing



Ear mould repair