



Development

## NEPAL Project Ujyalo Bhabisyā—December 2009 Update

The last quarter of 2009 was a very significant one for Development Nepal and Project Ujyalo Bhabisyā (UB), as it saw a visit by some of the trustees to Sunsari to discuss the future of the Project, and the official opening of the new Project UB community house in Prakashpur 7.

Half the cost of the construction of the community house was funded by DN, and Project UB participants secured the remainder of the funds. The communities convinced local government to pay a quarter of the costs and negotiated with the local community forest for cheap wood, whilst providing labour and a small financial contribution themselves. The community house will be used for Project UB classes, workshops and meetings, as well as other community business. One of the first major activities to take place in the house was training in off-season vegetable farming.



New community house at Prakashpur 7.

### Off-season vegetable farming programme

In October and November, members of the ten Project UB communities were trained in growing vegetables out of season. This will allow them to supplement their income, as well as providing food. An additional vocational component was added to the training course after discussions with community participants.

Training was run over five days, and was rounded off with a day of practical demonstrations. It covered methods of farming including setting up a nursery, soil treatment and use of fertilisers, and crop diseases. After training, each of the ten groups was provided with vegetable seeds and a spraying machine.

The training was delivered in collaboration with representatives from the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO). The communities are keen to build up their relationship with DADO as they have their savings groups registered there, but there is also the possibility of the communities receiving irrigation support and seed subsidies.

### Trustee Visit to Sunsari

In October, Chris Kelly and Brian Wong visited Sunsari to see Project Ujyalo Bhabisyā in action, and to discuss the future of the Project. The two trustees visited Project UB communities, and ran workshops in the new community house alongside Ram Niraula, Project UB's manager at our local NGO partner, UCHEP. Chris and Ram shared their thoughts on the visit.

*What did you hope to achieve during the trustees' visit?*

*Ram Niraula:* We wanted to really work out our best practical communication set up with DN, looking at reporting and the budget approval system. I also hoped to discuss the possibility of programme expansion. I wanted to talk to the trustees about ways of networking the UB project to other Kathmandu-based I/NGOs. I also expected project staff to benefit from meeting the trustees and having the opportunity to talk to them face to face.



Community facilitators participate in a workshop in the new community house.

*Chris Kelly:* I was looking forward to having a chance to spend time with the key members of the project as well as meeting some of them for first time. Brian and I hoped to sit down with Project UB staff to work out where we go in the future, specifically 2010-2015, so that we would have clear ideas to take back to the other trustees for discussion. We need to understand what appetite there is in Sunsari for expanding Project UB.

*Did you achieve everything you wanted?*

CK: Yes, although there was not enough time for relaxation - we even converted the day set aside for socialising into much needed additional planning and delivery workshops!

RN: We discussed issues in detail, including proposals from UCHEP for ways to make delivery of Project UB more effective, and they committed to respond us after taking our proposal to the rest of the trustees.

*What was the highlight of the Trustee visit for you?*

RN: Taking the trustees to visit the UB community house, and also to observe the irrigation support programme and vegetable farming. I also found the discussion on programme expansion, funding, target activities and sustainability very rewarding.

CK: For me, the highlight was getting a real sense of the appetite and engagement of Ram and the Community Facilitators for the future. I also enjoyed the workshop with the Community Facilitators and the opening of the Community House.

*How do you feel now about the next few years of Project UB?*

RN: We are very optimistic to get support from the trustees from UK to shape the project best. We hope that the UB project will be better in the days to come.

CK: To put it simply, I feel excited, energized, and above all, optimistic.

As a result of the visit, discussions, and the project successes witnessed first-hand by the trustees, both DN and UCHEP are preparing an ambitious strategy for project expansion and institutional capacity-building to take place from 2010.

## Support Us

In order to work with our communities to improve their access to education, health services and income-generating activities, Development Nepal relies on the generous support of individuals and organisations from across the globe. We are grateful to all of our donors and we thank them for their continued support.

To give you an indication of how valuable your gift is to our work on the ground:

- **£30 a month** will provide a monthly salary for one of our community facilitators. Our facilitators are the key implementers of our education programmes for adults and children.
- **£12 a month** will provide a community with a range of training in personal hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, rights, gender and sexual reproductive health.
- **£5 a month** will provide training for kitchen gardening for one community. This is a key factor in improving nutrition levels of families in Project UB communities, as well as providing income-generating opportunities.

If you would like to support our work, or to find out more about what we do, please visit:

**[www.developmentnepal.org/support](http://www.developmentnepal.org/support)**.



Electric irrigation pump for kitchen gardening, Prakashpur, Chandrabansi Tole



Sunsari