



Development

NEPAL Project Ujyalo Bhabisya—May 2009 Update

Independent Evaluation of Project Ujyalo Bhabisya 2008

Development Nepal commissioned an independent external evaluator, Ravindra Shakya, to conduct a review of Project UB's activities in 2008 and to assess its impact and sustainability. Ravindra carried out a full literature review and field visit to Sunsari in January 2009 to gather data, and to meet UCHEP staff and the project's beneficiaries.

The report revealed that Project UB is a household name in the villages of Sunsari, and is recognised as a successful project even by those who are not directly involved. The report confirmed that there remains a real need and demand for Project UB. The fact that Development Nepal's work has continued in spite of the continuing political uncertainty in this part of Nepal has cemented its reputation as a reliable and committed organisation. The Trustees were particularly proud to read the assessment that 'Working with the most deprived and un-reached section of the communities in the village has become the 'trademark' of Project UB'. This assessment provides Development Nepal with further assurance that the resources invested in Project UB directly benefit the poorest members of the community, and ensure they have access to the opportunities Project UB provides. Key successes noted by Ravindra included Adult Literacy Classes and the savings groups.



Above: Participants at a workshop on personal hygiene and Sanitation

The evaluation highlighted the fact that the project facilitators are Project UB's key assets in its effectiveness and, locally, a unique feature. Development Nepal fully recognises and appreciates their hard work and commitment, and plans to consolidate and increase their skills, for their benefit and the benefit of the programme.

The report demonstrated that the services offered by Project UB are highly sought after by communities involved in the programme. As such, Development Nepal will seek to expand the coverage of our work over the next 5 years to ensure that the services are provided to all communities which request them.

Current Activities

An irrigation support programme which was launched in Hidaluwa, Prakashpur-3 has been completed, to the benefit of 26 households. Each resident is now able to grow vegetables on the land surrounding their house throughout the year, rather than being limited to the rainy season



Above: Women from Prakashpur 3 benefit from kitchen garden training. The irrigation scheme here will enable them to reap the benefits of this training throughout the year.

The construction of a 'Community House' was recently completed, after there was some doubt about the community being able to afford enough construction materials. The community's residents took the matter into their own hands, and with UCHEP's help, convinced the Community Forestry organisation to provide some of the missing materials. They also raised the interest of the Prakashpur Village Development Committee and convinced them to contribute to the maintenance of the community house.

Governance

In February the Trustees held their annual strategy planning weekend for Development Nepal. Some of the weekend's key areas of work were a consideration of the Independent Evaluation Report and how the findings will have an impact upon the future of Project Ujyalo Bhabisyas as we look towards a 2010-2015 cycle. The Trustees also considered the role of UCHEP and SPW Nepal in delivering Project UB, and are resolved to invest further in the UCHEP, the local NGO, to deliver Project UB. Development Nepal will be funding a number of ex-community facilitators to become interns within UCHEP to build their local delivery and management capacity, and will be investing further in community facilitator-led knowledge sharing.

UCHEP has demonstrated its capability to deliver Project Ujyalo Bhabisyas. The trustees now feel ready to phase out the involvement of SPW Nepal in supporting the project. Development Nepal thanks SPW Nepal for all its support over the last 8 years.

The Trustees look forward to October 2009 when a number of them will be travelling to Nepal (at personal cost) to help facilitate the planning process for 2010-2015 cycle with UCHEP.

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.



Above: Children in Prakashpur use games to learn in Supplementary Classes