



Project Ujyalo Bhabisya—April 2010 Update

Development
NEPAL

2010 is shaping up to be an exciting year for Development Nepal and Project Ujyalo Bhabisya (UB). Project UB staff at UCHEP, our local NGO partner, have been working with the trustees on plans for the next five years of the Project, aiming to build on its past successes by expanding it to more communities in Sunsari. In order to ensure the continued and enhanced effectiveness of Project UB we are embarking on a programme of institutional capacity building, looking at ways to improve personnel, finance and project management systems, monitoring and evaluation processes, and UCHEP's organisational governance. Our thanks to Tamsin McCarthy, Harihar Marjan and Ravindra Shakya who have been supporting UCHEP through the planning process. Having robust processes in place will ensure the future sustainability of Project Ujyalo Bhabisya.

While these discussions have been taking place, Project UB facilitators have continued to run the core activities in the current communities, such as supplementary classes for children of school age.

The benefits of Child Supplementary Classes

Radhika Pal is 10 years old and she is in Year 3 in Bhagawati lower secondary school. Class sizes in the school are so large that students rarely receive any individual attention from the teachers; this is sadly the case in most remote government schools in Nepal. Students are able to read and write in Years 3, 4 and 5 but they cannot read and write effectively.



Radhika Pal

Radhika joined a Project UB supplementary class in 2007. She could not read and write well before joining the class, but she is now able to read and write with confidence. The supplementary class has also helped her to learn English and arithmetic.

"Madam (Project UB Community Facilitator) teaches us around 2 hours a day," said Radhika. "She doesn't beat us like in school and she explains to us what was not clear in school. I didn't know arithmetic like addition, subtraction, multiplication and division last year, but I learned to add and subtract and am learning to multiply and divide in the supplementary class."

Radhika told us that she enjoys the welcoming environment of the Child Supplementary class. Where previously the classes were held in the open air at risk of cancellation due to bad weather, particularly in the rainy season, they are now held in the Project UB community house and are consequently run more regularly. Radhika has made many friends from Classes 1, 2, 3 and 4, and she and her friends say they have more fun in the Supplementary Class than at school!



Digging the hole for irrigation in Bhokraha-3, Khoriya tole

Irrigation Support Programme and Exposure Visit

In the last six months Project UB has undertaken several new activities in addition to the core activities. Two significant successes have been an irrigation support programme and a day-long 'exposure visit' for community participants involved in vegetable farming.



Observing nursery management techniques

Project UB has managed an irrigation support programme in four out of the current ten communities - Nayabasti, Chandrabanshi tole, Uranw tole and Khoriya tole - involving more than a third of local participants. Nearly 350 people from 72 households have benefited from the programme. It has created many opportunities for carrying out small income generating activities such as kitchen gardening and vegetable farming.

In order to enrich the knowledge and experience of community members engaged in vegetable farming, in addition to the initial training provided, Project UB organised a one day exposure visit for them and for the community facilitators. This was done in consultation with the Facilitation Centre for

Business Development (FACEBUD), an organization based in Sunsari specialising in enterprise programmes.

The group visited a vegetable farming plot and nursery, where the participants were exposed to new ideas for vegetable farming, using appropriate equipment for the kind of land available for them to work on. The group also visited the Koshi river dam and Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR), where they met a KTWR warden. As a result of this visit the participants were made aware of the area's ecosystem and bio-diversity, about its effects on their lives and the importance of preserving it.

New laptop

The DN trustees contacted Computer Aid International, a UK-based charity that aims to support poverty reduction through ICT, to purchase a professionally refurbished laptop for use by Project UB staff at UCHEP. This will go some way to counteracting the disruptive effects of regular power cuts or 'load shedding' in Sunsari. Development Nepal's trustees would like to thank Pip Letchworth for carrying the laptop to Nepal on our behalf.

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.



Project UB Co-ordinator Ram Niraula and a community facilitator talk to community members

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