Sandip Baral studies at grade 10 now. He is preparing for Secondary Education Examination (SEE) that requires hard studies as it paves way to new journey to the higher studies to school students. Sandip is regaining his hope to pass out SEE exam with good marks as the school sees pretty changes in recent years. Shree Kiranchok Karki Danda School situated in Galchi Rural Municipality of Dhading district in Nepal, where Sandip studies, is one among nine thousand schools that were severely damaged by 2015 earthquake. “The earthquake that occurred on 25 April, caused collapse of classrooms of our school building. Since, the school was closed on that day because of the weekend, our lives were saved,” Sandip recalls, “After one month of the closure, we continued the classes in Temporary Learning Centers and partially damaged classroom.” He used to lose attention towards studies thinking of possibility of yet another jolt as aftershocks were very common by then. When he was at class 8, one of his teachers told students that a donor has promised to construct a new building for them. Within a few weeks...
Shree Gorakhnath Basic School is situated in Panauti Municipality of Kavre district, some 35 kilometers away from the capital city Kathmandu. Despite a tendency of sending children to better private school in the area, this school retains constant number of students for the past few years as many of the children studying in the school are from the poor family background.

“Most of the parents even can not afford for uniforms and stationary in sufficient numbers,” said Ishwor Bahadur Bhandari, “support from ADRA will certainly reduce the financial burden of our student’s parents.”

A massive earthquake of 7.8 magnitude shook Nepal on April 25, 2015 and destroyed or damaged around 9000 schools and 30,000 classrooms. Almost one million children were out of school in the immediate aftermath and the quake was followed by a major aftershock on May 12. ADRA supported several schools to help students continue their school. ADRA Nepal, through its partner RIMS Nepal, constructed a building with four classrooms for Kiranchok Karkidanda School under Safe School (DRESS) Project funded by a generous donor through ADRA Canada.

A total of 369 students have been directly benefited by this initiative.

ADRA Provided school kit to all 85 students of the schools that includes uniform, bag, notebook set, shoe polish and brush, socks, handkerchief, ribbon for girls, water bottle, and geometry box among other.

As part of lending support to strengthen public school, ADRA Nepal has also set up libraries in three schools recently in Kavre including Shree Gorakhnath School following construction of school rooms in 2017.

Many of the schools had turned into rubble because of devastating earthquake in 2015. 
Rajendra Kumar Paudel, Member Secretary, Social Welfare Council

ADRA Nepal completed implementation of the two projects - Good Governance and Livelihood (GOAL) and Building Resilience to Disaster Affected Communities (BURDAN) reaching out a total of 17,213 populations being directly benefited from the projects.

Funded by Australian Aid and ADRA Australia and implemented in partnership with RUPANTARAN, FIRDO Nepal, RUDAS Nepal and RIMS Nepal, GOAL project was implemented in Dhading, Pyuthan and Rolpa districts from 2014 to 2019. The project supported to increase income of vulnerable user groups through micro-enterprise and entrepreneurship development initiatives, to strengthen the capacity and competency of civil societies through leadership and management skills and to enhance resiliency through environmental planning and management systems through different activities. A total of 11,583 people have been benefited by running their own business, accessing challenge project funds and investing in climate change adaptation interventions.

Similarly, funded by ADRA Network, BURDAN Project was implemented in partnership with Nangshal Association, National Disaster Risk Reduction Center and Rural Mutual Development from 2016 to 2018 in Dhading and Kavrepalanchok districts. A total of 5,700 people have been directly benefited by the project through awareness-raising activities, capacity building training, emergency tool kit, local disaster and climate resilient plan formation, vulnerability and capacity assessment among other.

People in the communities are poor due to lack of knowledge about doing the business though they have plenty of opportunities. Through training and technical support from GOAL project, I have started pickle production on my own, it has eased livelihood of my family.

Rajendra Kumar Paudel, Member Secretary, Social Welfare Council

I am happy to know the impact ADRA Nepal’s project has created as it has contributed in the livelihood of people through micro-enterprise and entrepreneurship development initiatives. I request development partners to focus on the activities that help government of Nepal for long term solutions of development problems through cooperation with local level.

Shanti Budhathoki, Pyuthan

(For the excerpts were taken from their speeches during a learning sharing event of both projects organized in Kathmandu on 8 July 2019)
Supporting government of Nepal to reach the unreached population with Family Planning Service, ADRA Nepal has delivered Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives to 21296 individuals in 10 districts. ADRA Nepal mobilizes Visiting Service Providers (VSP), registered nurses, in the government health facilities in 10 districts based on the needs.

Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) prevalence Rate in the country is 17 percent, according to Department of Health service. ADRA, through UNFPA Nepal Family Planning Project (UNFPP) and Family Planning Service Strengthening Program (FPSSP), provides family planning services in remote health facilities of Nepal with special focus on Implant and IUCD service. VSPs provide LARC service in the local health facilities and also visit communities, and women’s group to counsel them to pave their ways to the health facilities.

“While visiting communities, we found that large number of people living with disability and married adolescent girls are out of access to family planning service, we counsel them and bring to health facilities,” said Pragya Bhandari, VSP working in Sarlahi district, “Some of the clients shared that they never knew about family planning methods earlier and were forced to have unwanted pregnancy,”

ADRA Nepal has been implementing family planning initiatives in Rautahat, Sarlahi, Sunsari, Udaypur, Achham, Bajura, Arghakhanchi, Kapilvastu, Pyuthan and Rupandehi districts. UNFPP is funded by DFID/UNFPA and FPSSP is funded by UNFPA Nepal.

Ignorance Is Not Their Fault

By Sumitra Khanal

It feels proud for me to work with the people living in the rural parts of Sunsari district. I have been working as a Visiting Service Provider for 20 months in Sunsari. Many of the communities in Sunsari district are backward in terms of education and health status. I have been providing LARC service to the needy women by visiting government health facilities and also have been bringing women to the health facilities by visiting door-to-door of the community and counseling them about the need of family planning.

It might be so strange for many of us to know that several women even don’t know what family planning is and what its methods are. I found many women completely ignorant about it as their lives revolve around delivering babies, bringing them up and taking care of household activities. When I approached with some women from Muslim and Musahar community, initially they looked so hesitant to talk and listen about family planning. A woman shared with me that she used to think that such service is only meant for the women from reach family background. Women from Muslim community were more hesitant to talk about family planning because of religious reason. Some young women around the age between 25-36 had 2-6 children but they are not thinking of taking family planning service. From series of interaction with them, I found the reasons that stop them from taking family planning service. The common reasons are lack of awareness among women about family planning, pressure from husband not to take such services, religious belief and fear from side effect of the service. Through informal interaction and frequent counselling, we can bring them to the health facilities what I have been doing.

Ignorance of people is not their fault, its our fault to expect them to visit health facilities themselves. They need love, care and counselling to make them realize how family planning is important in their lives.

(Sumitra works as Visiting Service Provider in Sunsari district under Health Program of ADRA)
Vice-Prez Renders Certificate of Honor

Rt. Honorable Vice President Nanda Kishor Pun handed over Certificate of Honor to ADRA Nepal, on behalf of Nepal Leprosy Relief Association (NELRA), in recognition of ADRA’s philanthropic and valuable assistance for the helpless and homeless leprosy affected families rehabilitation in different communities in Nepal. ADRA Nepal Acting Country Director Ms Bidya Mahat received the certificate amidst a function in Kathmandu organized on the occasion of Golden jubilee of NELRA on 17 May 2019.

GESI Assessment Training

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Assessment training was organized to capacitate ADRA Staff members, and representatives of its partner organizations on 24-26 July 2019 under Women’s Health and System Strengthening (WhaSS) funded by Australian Aid and Open Heart International. “Gender equality is neither woman’s issue nor of men alone. It’s about creating co-existence,” said Gajendra Shah who works at Bagmati Welfare Society after participating in the training, “I knew from the training that first we need to change our values to change the society.”

Review and Planning Meeting

A total of 61 participants including 40 Visiting Service Providers gathered in the city of Hetauda on 26-27 June to participate in Review and Planning Meeting under family planning projects where they shared experience and learning to better the services. The participant discussed on achievements made so far and planned for next steps. The family planning project namely UNFPP is funded by DFID/UNFPA and FPSSP is funded by UNFPA Nepal.

Basic Training for Health Worker

A Basic Training to Health Workers on Community Based Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness was conducted in Banke district on 17-24 July 2019. A total of 22 health workers from different health facilities of Banke district participated in the training. The training was organized under Improvement of Newborn and Child Health (IMNCH) project being implemented by ADRA Nepal and ADRA Japan through in local partnership with Environment and Rural Development Center (ENRUDEC). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) is financially supporting the project that aims at improving environment of newborn and child health care by enhancing health system.

Lending Helping Hands

ADRA Nepal handed over relief materials to 300 households in flood hit Mahottari and Sarlahi districts. The relief materials were handed over to flood affected families in Balara Municipality ward number-7 Gadahiya of Sarlahi district and Baluwa Municipality-10 Leuri of Mahottari districts. The relief materials includes tarpaulin, kitchen set, shelter kit and food items. Incessant rainfall from 11 July 2019 caused massive flooding and inundation that affected 34 districts of Nepal – of which 11 districts are most severely affected in Terai. The disaster has devastated property and land, and numerous deaths are reported.
Jibkala B.K (16), a girl from a small village of Khilji in Arghakhanchi district was nominated as a peer educator (group leader) of one of the Rupantaran girl’s group. As a part of the program and being a group leader, she had to participate in 12 day Rupantaran TOT in January 2019 that was organized by ADRA Nepal and financially supported by UKAID and UNFPA.

First day and first session of the training was to introduce self to others in a minute. Even a minute was not enough for Jibkala, a shy-timid girl as she couldn’t even open her mouth to speak for the first few seconds. As she wasn’t performing well in a first few days, the trainers were re ally skeptic about her being a leader. Everyone discussed about replacing her but decided not to and instead be patient with her.

On the 4th day of training, all the participants had to conduct sessions on their own, which was their first mock test. Everyone was performing well, and the trainers were feeling great about the training. But when Jibkala stood in the front to start the session, not a single person in the room had a good feeling about her. But just when she opened her mouth and started the session, it was like a wake-up call for each one of the participants to “not to judge a book by its cover”. She stunned each one of participants and trainers.

Jibkala knew the content, she knew the purpose of the program and most of all she knew exactly why she was there. From throwing jokes to appreciating girl’s and empowering them in between the sessions she had every single skill required to be a trainer. Slowly but steadily she started scoring more marks in the subsequent mock tests and scored the highest in the last test.

Jibkala became an amazing role model amongst the girls in her community and the best example showing the impact of Rupantaran program and how it can positively influence girl’s and empower them.

ADRA Nepal, with support from UNFPA provides Social and Financial Skills Package known as Rupantaran (transformation) to the adolescent girls in Five districts of Nepal.