Newsletter July-September 2020

Sunrise Home and Reintegration Program

Dear Sponsors,

We hope you are all staying safe and well and adapting to the new normal of life with Covid-19 – with some positives in that!

Amidst the many disruptions to regular life caused by the Covid-19 virus in Nepal, our team have remained dedicated to carrying out our work and continue to be an inspiration to us.

Whilst we have not been able to run some activities such as youth club or large group team building/awareness programs, and schooling has been delayed, we have **not had to cancel any of our key program activities** as yet. Instead we have just been adapting the way we do some things. The virtual medium has become a bigger part of everyone's lives, and has brought about some more positive developments for the staff teams and some of the youth in the more urban areas, such as webinars, which have boosted learnings from having greater access to various experts to join online. Our team has adapted very well to using various new technology platforms.

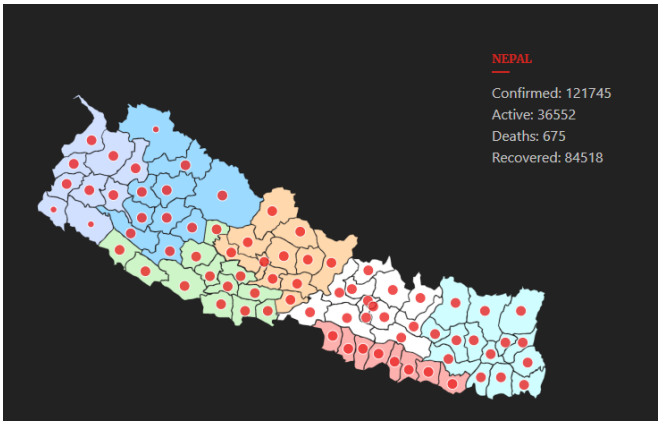
COVID19 status in Nepal

Nepal has been impacted heavily by this global pandemic. Nepal's national Covid-19 tally climbed to **121,745** with 3,749 new infections reported on Thursday, 15th October 2020. All 77 districts of the country have COVID19 positive cases; the Kathmandu valley being the hotspot for COVID19.

36,533 Active cases

84,518 People recovered

694 Death toll



Above: COVID19 status of Nepal (Source: https://tkpo.st/354E2nf)

The new normal in Nepal

Lockdown was imposed from 24th March till 22nd July in Nepal. Again, as the COVID19 cases increased, the government-imposed lockdown in Kathmandu valley and areas where there was high infection rate from the 19th August to the 16th of September. Since then, everybody has been adapting to what has become the new normal.

As public health experts suggested that ongoing lockdown is not a permanent solution to fight this pandemic, several schools and universities started conducting physical and virtual classes and exams, businesses reopened, people went back to work and held some of the meetings

and events that had been postponed from earlier months. Without adequate planning and controls in place, this again led to a rapid increase in positive cases, so the Government is encouraging people to work from home and connect digitally as far as possible on an ongoing basis.

As in many communities around the world, it has been very encouraging to see **so many helping hands from social clubs and local groups extending services such as feeding the hungry people** in the streets and street animals.

The use of masks is mandatory, but as anywhere some people are not strictly adhering to this as they should. Soap, sanitizers and clean water are valued more highly than ever before. Physical distancing of at least 2 meters and use of Namaste rather than handshake are prioritized.

Key highlights of this quarter:

- Outstanding Secondary School graduation Results!
- National Children's Day
- Youth undertake trainings and new jobs
- Home visit and monitoring of reintegrated students
- Webinar with youth participation
- Family progress

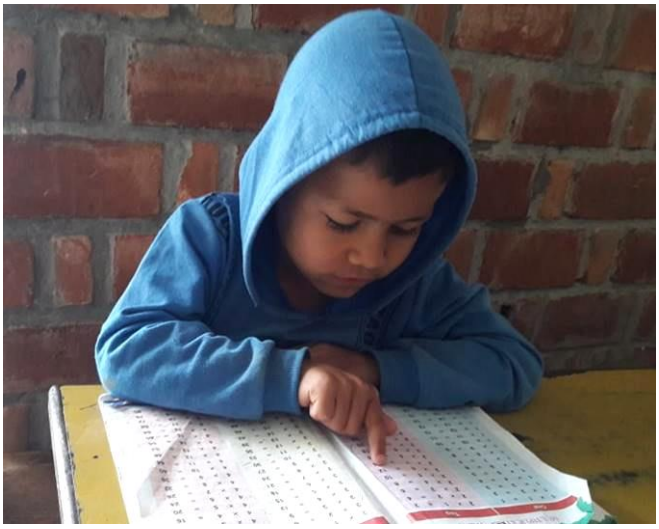
Sunrise Home

Home schooling

The children have continued to be very positive and throughout this last quarter have continued studying at home, with fixed sessions dedicated to specific classwork, so they can continue to advance their learning.

Above: Live in staff Krishna guiding the Sunrise children through their schoolwork

Above: Laxman studying computer science



Above: Little Sushil learning mathematics tables

Children growing organic vegetables

To nourish the children's bodies as well as minds, the children and staff at Sunrise home continue to grow delicious fresh vegetables in the Sunrise garden.

Above: Dewal Devi helping in the vege garden

Above and below: Vegetables grown at Sunrise garden

National Children's Day

The Sunrise Children did some beautiful creative drawings and artwork on the auspicious occasion of National Children's Day. Our NGO program manager and NGO president visited on that day and briefed the children further about child rights and duties.

Above: Sunrise children with their drawings

Reintegration Program

Many of the children reintegrated from Sunrise Home back into immediate or extended family are living in rural settings. With limited internet to connect digitally, they are doing their best to continue their studies at home with the help of siblings and the guidance of our staff via phone and home visits. The youth in more urban areas are able to utilise the internet to connect to their schools and colleges and other activities when they are run.

Due to frequent lockdown, our team has been able to physically visit less often, but we hope this will increase again in coming months. This quarter our team conducted **13 children's home visits.**

Some of the children like Abhishek below have spent several months now with extended family where it is likely he will be permanently reintegrated to soon.

Above: Abishek with his cousins he now lives with during his home visit

Above: Puja and Pushpa with their mother and grandmother during home visit

Above: Raju, Supriya and Sishir during their home visit, where they live with their uncle and their uncles family

Above: Home visit of Som Tamang, where he lives with his uncle and his uncles family

Above & below: Som with his aunt during home visit and some of his artwork

Above: Rajaram, with his new hobby, stone painting

Above and below: Rajaram's stone painting which he gifts to friends

Child Progress

Outstanding Secondary School Results 2020!

We are thrilled to share that all 4 youth passed year 10, the final year of secondary school with great results. This year, as the exam period was due to be held just after lockdown started, the schools based their results on internal assessment.

Congratulations to all!

Name	GPA	Grade
Nabin Karki	3.70	A+
Supriya Magar	3.60	A
Bipin Thapa	3.05	B+
Binam Thapa	3.00	B+

Above: Nabin A+ (3.70 GPA)

Above: Supriya A (3.60 GPA)

Above: Bipin B+ (3.05 GPA)

Above: Binam B+ (3.00 GPA)

Youth undertake trainings and jobs

Isak Tamang selected in Nepal Police

Isac Tamang, one of our Sunrise graduate youth was selected to join the Nepal Police. **Congratulations Isac!**

Above: Isac now in Nepal Police

Mangaldas is now working in accounts

Mangaldas, one of our Sunrise graduates, now married and with a beautiful baby, is now working in the accounts section of a poultry business.

Above: Mangaldas now working in accounts

Young **Abishek Kunwar undertook computer software installation training** to develop his skills whilst undertaking his schooling.

Family progress

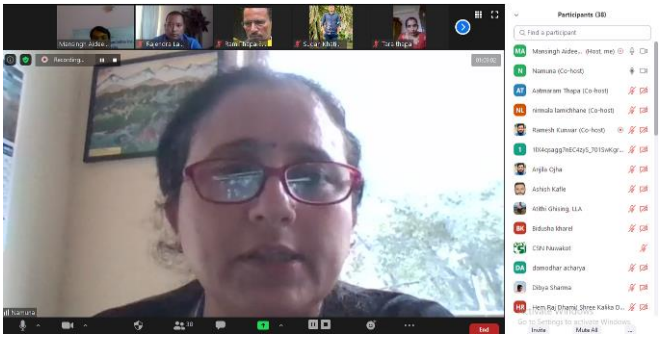
Some of the key family progress from this quarter are:

- The brother-in-law of Kajol and Bikash started working in the cafeteria at the Nepal Police Hospital
  He, along with their older sister, both in their mid-20's are full time guardians of Kajol and Bikash, in absence of their parents.
- The cousin of Som Tamang has started working as a technician (ceiling) in their village.
- Parbati Rai's uncle has scaled up the furniture products in their furniture company.
- The sister-in-law of Amber Bhauju started growing vegetables and poultry farming.

Webinar "Consultation on ALTERNATIVE CARE options and Child Care Homes as the last resort"

In times of crisis, **the risk of children being separated from their families increases**. To help build awareness and curb this trend, our team conducted this important webinar, with **40 participants from schools, local governments, staff from our partner NGOs and Sunrise youth present**.

The program was moderated by our SCAI Nepal Program Officer, **Mansingh Aidee** and the formal vote of thanks was given by our SCAI Nepal Country Manager, **Raj Kumar Lama Tamang.** The session was facilitated by key speakers Mr. Aatmaram Thapa and Mrs. Namuna Bhushal from the **National Child Rights' Council (NCRC)**.



Above and below: Photos from the webinar

Last but not least – Teej Festival

A quarter barely goes by without some sort of festival celebrations in Nepal. **Teej Festival** in **Nepal** is a holy **festival** of Nepali Hindu women and girls celebrated with joy and hope. They fast, dress up, mainly in red, and gather to dance, whilst praying for the long and prosperous life for their husbands – and to marry a good husband in the future for the unmarried girls. Its always a day very much enjoyed by millions of women and girls across the country.

Above: Puja dressed up for her Teej Festival dance

We would like to thank you all again sincerely for your ongoing support through this challenging time and beyond. Please stay safe and well.

Emma, Raj and Mansingh
SCAI Australia/Nepal