

## FORWARD



I am very pleased that Nepal Public Health Foundation is starting to publish e-newsletter to mark its second anniversary. The foundation has made a great stride towards achieving its goal of ensuring Civil Society's pro-active intervention in public health through numerous activities like hosting Regional Civil Society's meeting and National workshop on Non-communicable diseases with support from the Ministry of Health & Population and WHO South East Asia Regional Office to assist in national policy formulation on NCD and also national workshop on diarrheal diseases. It is carrying out implementation research on Skilled Birth Attendant utilization in improving Maternal, Newborn and Child health in Nepal under grant from WHO as well as study on District Investment case with grant from UNICEF. It also successfully organized the 6th Annual SEAPHEIN Meeting last November. Further activities have also been implemented and are included inside. I appreciate the hard work put by the concerned staff in this endeavor and hope that the readers will have information on our activities. Feedback from the readers will be highly appreciated for improving this maiden venture.

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### **BADRI RAJ PANDE**

Acting Chair (Honorary)  
Nepal Public Health Foundation



नेपाल जनस्वास्थ्य प्रतिष्ठान  
NEPAL PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION

## About Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF)

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) was established with a mission to have concerted public health action, research, and policy dialogue for health development, particularly of the socio-economically marginalized population and with a goal to ensure Civil Society's pro-active intervention in public health. The vision of the organization is to ensure health as the right and responsibility of the Nepali people with its focus on major public health issues such as Health policy and Systems Research, Human Resource Development, Communicable Disease Control, Non-communicable disease control, Nutritional Research, Maternal and Child Health, Epidemiology, Biostatistics and demography.

### The Executive Chair Appointed as an Ambassador to China

The Executive Chair of Nepal Public Health Foundation Dr Mahesh Kumar Maskey has been assigned for new responsibility by the Government of Nepal. Before he left for the new assignment NPHF team organized a Farewell Program where all the partners, well wishers of Nepal Public health Foundation gathered to celebrate the occasion.



### Dr. Badri Raj Pande, Vice President joins office as Acting Chair

Dr. Badri Raj Pande joined the Nepal Public Health Foundation from 10th January 2012 as Acting Chair, since Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey, Executive Chair at Nepal Public Health Foundation left for his new assignments.

### Dr Badri Raj Pande, Dr Tirtha Rana and Dr Gajananda Bhandari Nominated as Scientific Committee Members

Dr Pande along with Dr Rana and Bhandari have been nominated as Scientific Committee Members to review the papers submitted for presentation in terms of quality and interest on Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research: Inclusion and Innovation towards Universal Health Coverage, Beijing, China it will be held on 31 October – 3 November 2012.

## ACTIVITIES at NPHF

### 1. SEAPHEIN

The 6th Annual South East Asian Public Health Educational Institutional Network (SEAPHEIN) Meeting held on 26-28 November 2011, Kathmandu with the theme "The Role of SEAPHEIN members in strengthening primary health care to improve public health of people in the respected countries" was completed successfully.



Member institution and country presented paper on Challenges of primary health care on the new communication era, new challenges and innovations in primary health care program in urbanized community. Similarly, the role of SEAPHEIN members in teaching, research and strengthening primary health care was discussed.

Another major event was the inauguration of the president elect Prof. Dr. Phitaya Charupoonphol, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University for the year 2011-13 He was elected during 5th Annual SEAPHEIN meeting. Also, Prof. Rajitha Wickremasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Srilanka was unanimously elected as President nominee for the year 2013-15.

The official establishment of NePHEIN in Nepal and signing MOU between NePHEIN and IndoPHEIN were another important milestone in the history of SEAPHEIN.

### 2. SBA Project

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) has been conducting study on "Overcoming Barriers to Scaling Skilled Birth Attendants Utilization in Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child health in Nepal" which is a three year implementation research supported by World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva. This study aims to identify the barriers related to health systems and the barriers related to service users and providers regarding the scaling up of skilled birth attendants. The study attempts to develop an appropriate intervention package and pilot it in low coverage districts to test its effectiveness as well as evaluate its scalability.

The team of NPHF which comprised of Dr. Gajananda Bhandari (Program Director) and Swadesh Gurung (Program Officer) went to Dailekh, likewise, Dr Suresh Mehata (Program Manager) and Nirmala Sharma (Program Officer) went to Kanchanpur and Mr. Narayan Subedi (Program Manager) and Janak Thapa (Program Manager) visited Bajhang district for dissemination workshop of baseline survey conducted in May, 2011. The district level workshop was conducted with the aim to sensitize the major stakeholders of the district about the major findings obtained from the baseline survey. The workshop was also the platform to discuss about the bottlenecks that prevent the utilization and availability of SBA in the district.

With the Completion of District Level Dissemination, The National Level Dissemination Workshop was in place where Dr Gajananda Bhandari made presentation on behalf of NPHF. It highlighted on findings of SBA baseline survey in Bajhang, Dailekh and Kanchanpur; findings of the district level dissemination workshop; and strategies that have been developed by the Foundation to overcome the identified barriers. The central level workshop concluded with development of draft strategies for the intervention package.

### 3. Training on Data Management

NPHF organized a Training Workshop on Quantitative Data Analysis from 12 – 23 September 2011 (26 Bhadra - 6 Ashwin 2068). The First Training Workshop was designed for Public Health graduates, the beginners who are currently involved in research or have just started their research career. The overall aim of this Training Workshop was to equip new and existing researcher with the basic and advance skills of data analysis using statistical software. Similarly the 2nd Training was designed for faculties from medical and public health colleges to enhance the knowledge on statistical data analysis which will further develop their skill to teach/guide students on (7th -18th November 2011).

### 4. District Investment Case

The investment case (IC) for scaling –up Equitable Progress towards MDGs 4& 5 in Nepal aims to have an understanding of the IC to commence work and prepare for the bottleneck workshops. The Investment Case is a method for evidence-based strategic planning and budgeting for Maternal Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) by Prioritising

interventions that are known to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality.

#### 4.1 DIC- Training for NPHF staff

The orientation training on the Investment Case for Scaling-Up Equitable Progress towards MDGs 4 & 5 in Nepal was held on December 13- 19th at New Era Office at Kalopul, Kathmandu. The trainers came mainly from the University of Queensland. Eight participants from NPHF and six participants from New Era were trained. The main aim of the training was to have an understanding of the Investment Case (IC) and to identify data required and its sources, understand bottlenecks analysis, practice facilitating bottleneck discussions and developing strategies and scenarios to reduce mortality.

#### 4.2 DIC-Field visit for data collection

Two teams comprising Dr Suresh Mehata, Ms Namita Bohara, and Mr Janak Thapa , Narayan Subedi and Ms Reshma Timsina from Nepal Public Health Foundation went to Dadeldhura and Udayapur respectively. The epidemiological and data related to costing were collected from the district Health Office. Interactions were held with District Health Officer, Statistician and the program focal person.

#### 4.3 DIC- Bottleneck analysis Workshop at Pokhara

District Investment Case (DIC) Workshop was held in Pokhara from February 16th-18th, 2012 to identify constraints and also to design strategies to improve MNCH. This was done in coordination and support from the District Health





Officers and Statistical Assistants from all five DIC districts- Dadeldhura, Jajarkot, Kapilvastu, Dhading and Udayapur. The workshop was jointly organized by NPHF and New Era and technically supported by University of Queensland, AusAID and UNICEF. Dr. Yashovardhan Pradhan, Director General of Department of Health Services of Nepal along with Dr Badri Raj Pande, Acting Chair, Nepal Public Health Foundation were among those who attended the workshop to motivate and support the individual District Health leaders for a tool which could foretell with a given strategy what outcomes could be achieved in MDG4 and MDG5 with their District specific health indicators. The participants from Nepal Public Health foundations were Dr. Suresh Mehata, Mr. Janak Thapa, Ms Namita Bohara, Ms. Sweekriti Sharma and Ms. Ami Maharjan.



## 5. Consultative meeting on Climate Change Project

After successful completion of Pilot and Vulnerability Assessment of Public Health and Health Care Systems to Climate Change in Kathmandu Nepal, Nepal Public Health Foundation is now involved in a related project Climate Change and Health which specifically focuses on Climate Change, ARI and Diarrhea. On 19 Jan 2012 a consultative meeting was held to update and brief about the project. Dr. Nihal Singh from WHO Country office Nepal along with various other resource personnel spent considerable time to discuss on the ways forward.

## 6. Participation in International Course in Nutrition Research Methods

Dr. Suresh Mehata (Research Director) and Mr. Narayan Subedi (Program Manager) of NPHF participated in International Course in Nutrition Research Methods training organized by Bangalore/Boston Nutrition Collaborative (BBNC) in St. John's Research Institute on 9-20th Jan 2012 in Bangalore, India.



The training was comprehensive and included the contents on nutrition ranging from policy to research activities. It also had the contents on research methodology and exposure to the latest technologies used in the field of nutrition research in India.

There were about 40 participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Uganda and different parts of India. The trainers were from

Harvard University, Tufts University and Cornell University of US and from St. John's Research Institute, Bangalore, India.

## 7. Participation in 6<sup>th</sup> Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) Bi - Regional Scientific Conference in Bali, Indonesia



Mr. Narayan Subedi, Program Manager of NPHF participated in 6th TEPHINET Bi - Regional Scientific Conference at the Nusa Dua Convention Center in Bali, Indonesia held on November 8 – 11, 2011. Mr. Subedi presented a paper on Nutrition Epidemiology.

Altogether there were more than thousand participants from countries from WHO South East Asia and WHO Western Pacific Region. The conference was jointly organized



by WHO, Ministry of Health of Indonesia, European Commission and Safetynet (South Asia Field Epidemiology and Technology Network, Inc.).

In addition Dr Gajananda Bhandari, Program Director at NPHF and Dr Suresh Mehata were nominated as abstract reviewer for TEPHINET conference

## 8. Participation in Stepwise Surveillance Training in Depok, Indonesia

Dr.Gajananda Prakash Bhandari (Program Director) of Nepal Public Health Foundation participated in Stepwise Surveillance Training:Strengthening Non-Communicable Disease Program at National and Sub National Levels in Depok,Indonesia from 14-17, February 2012. The WHO STEPwise approach to Surveillance (STEPS) is a simple, standardized method for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data which has high comparable among members. It is designed for implementation in low- and middle income countries.



Policy maker,field supervisor,Primary health care provider,researcher and public health workers participated in the training. It was conducted by SEAPHEIN (South-East Asia Public health Education Institute Network) with the aim to strengthen the capacity of human resources in public health institutions and health care organizations in surveillance area.

## 9. MEDIA WATCH

Nepal Public Health Foundation conducts regular watch on public health issues published in National Dailies, Magazines and Journals and other publications to make its human resources updated in recent development in public health issues at national and international level. Media watch is followed by regular discussion session after lunch in NPHF discussion room, where they discuss on the topics and the likely actions to address it. Birdflu outbreaks, filaria mass drug administration, newborn care package starting in new districts in Nepal, free health clinics starting in municipalities, women deaths due to Chhapadi, cases of gender based violence with 11 women killed between mid January till February 8 2012 were the news frequently covered in national daily newspapers.

**Fight Against Malnutrition to begin early on:** The health ministry is focusing on first 1000 days- 280 days in mother's womb and the succeeding 730 days following the birth of a child to improve the status of malnutrition. 16th April The Himalayan Times

**The New Health Policy to address non-communicable diseases:** MoHP is said to be formulating a new national health policy with concerns on non-communicable diseases, rising steeply which the 1991 policy does not address. 21 March The Kathmandu Post

**Climate change impact across globe:** Intergovernmental plan on climate change IPPCC projects stated that earth will see a warming on 6.3 degrees by 2100, the analysis estimated that 600 to 900 species of land birds out of 8500 total species would become extinct. The Kathmandu Post March 2

**Increasing abortion daunting challenge:** the legalization of abortion in 2002 could not do wonders as the practice of aborting female foetus is increasing in government and private hospitals throughout the country. The Kathmandu Post 2nd Feb 2012

**Birdflu:** Fear of birdflu shuts 22 schools in Bhaktapur. People panicked due to fear of infection. 2nd December 2011 Himalayan Times



**Elephantiasis:** Anti-filarial compaign flops miserably in Banke district as anti-filarial durgs reported to kill five persons and took other 800 ill. Himalayan Times 7th Feb

**MNCH:** New born care package to be started in 10 more districts of Nepal to slash neonatal mortality, the program was runned in 25 districts earlier. 25th December 2011 Himalayan Times

**Chhapadi:** Laxmikumari Buda, 16 years killed in fire in Chhapadi Shed in Achham District. 6th Feb Kantipur Daily



**Leprosy:** Bhagidal BK discriminated and ostracized from the community. Leprosy stays even after ERADICATION- Leprosy a chronic infectious disease still remains a threat in 14 districts even two years after government declared that the diseases is eliminated in the country. The government declared the elimination of Leprosy on 19th Jan 2010. Kantipur news 7th feb

**Gender Based Violence:** Women's Rehabilitation Nepal WOREC showed serious concern about the killing of 11 women between mid January till February 8 2012. Himalayan times 9 feb



14th Feb 2012 Annapurna Post



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