

NPHF E-Newsletter

June, 2014

7th issue

FOREWORD

It gives me pleasure to write foreword on the publication of the Seventh e- newsletter of NPHF. This quarter has been full of activities particularly in the latter part. The long awaited retreat to revisit the vision, mission and goal of NPHF along with the strategic planning of the organization for way forward, as suggested during the last Annual General Meeting has materialized. There was active participation by the NPHF members including advisors and staff during discussion. The product is keenly awaited now. Another important event has been the deliverance of Annual Public Health Lecture -fifth in the series by Dr. Rita Thapa, an internationally acclaimed public health specialist with illustrious contribution in the field of Family Planning and Maternal & Child Health monograph of her lecture will be published in due course. Another historical event during the quarter has been the declaration of Polio free South East Asia. As Chairperson of the Nepal National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication, I jointly with the Chairperson of the SEA Regional CCPE had the pleasure and privilege of handing over the certificate of Polio free Nepal to the Honourable Minister of Health & Population, Mr. Khaga Raj Adhikari in presence of the Regional Director, Dr. Poonam Kshetrapal Singh amidst a special function at SEAR WHO office at New Delhi, India on 27 March 2014.

Dr. Badri Raj Pande
Vice President



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About NPHF

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) was established in April 2010 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 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.

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Nominations

Dr. Rita Thapa, Advisor, NPHF has been renominated by the Ministry of Health and Population as Health Policy advisor starting from October 2013.

The 63 rd meeting of the Kathmandu University Senate chaired by the Chairman of Council of Minister cum Chancellor of the KU on 3 May '13 nominated Dr. Rita Thapa as a member of the Kathmandu University Senate in her capacity as an accomplished intellectual.

Dr. Tirtha Rana, Treasurer, NPHF has been nominated by the Ministry of Health and Population as a member of Development Committee of reforming Vector Borne Disease Research and Training Center (VBDRTC) located in Hetauda, Makwanpur, chaired by the Director General of DoHS.

The Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal has nominated Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit, PI GARP/ NPHF as a member of communicable diseases team and Evidence Support Group and Technical Working Group (2014) for Nepal Health Sector Plan (NHSP) - III:



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Dr. Abhinav Vaidhya, Life member, NPHF has been nominated as a member of thematic group of Non Communicable Disease and NHSP-IP III by the Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal.



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ACTIVITIES at NPHF

Ongoing Research / Project Update

A. Overcoming barriers to scaling skilled birth attendants' utilization in improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Nepal –Phase II

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) has been conducting a research project titled “Understanding and overcoming barriers to scaling skilled birth attendant utilization in improving maternal newborn and child health in Nepal” which is supported by the WHO/Geneva for the period of three years.

The intervention phase of SBA project has been completed from April 2014 in all three districts; Bajhang, Dailekh and Kanchanpur and the evaluation phase has been kicked off.

The Fifth Steering Committee Meeting of SBA was held on April 7, 2014 at NPHF office under the chairmanship of Dr. Badri Raj Pande to update the members about the completion of intervention phase and to share the tools and planned activities for conducting end line survey. Dr. Kiran Regmi, Director, Family Health Division, DoHS, also participated in the meeting as an invitee.

NPHF recruited 4 cluster supervisor and 39 enumerators for a month to conduct the survey. The SBA team has developed the tools and guideline for the evaluation phase.



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The cluster supervisors and enumerators were provided 4 days orientation from 25 to 28 April 2014. The supervisors and enumerators were given orientation on the objective, methodology of the survey, research ethics and they were also made familiar about the both qualitative and quantitative tools and techniques to be used in endline survey. Simulation session for each tool was also conducted.

The facilitators were; Dr. Sharad Onta, Principal Investigator, Ms. Binjwala Shrestha, Board Member and Qualitative Expert, Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari, Founding Member , Epidemiologist, Mr. Bishnu Choulagai, Assistant Professor, IOM, Mr. Narayan Subedi and Mr. Janak Thapa, Program Managers, Ms. Asmita Bhattarai, Senior Program Officer.

Field Visit

Soon after the orientation the cluster supervisor and enumerators moved to the study district on 2 May 2014 to collect end line data. 2 cluster supervisors and 20 enumerators were sent to Bajhang while 2 cluster supervisors and 19 enumerators were sent to Dailekh and then to Kanchanpur for data collection for a month.

The central level team was also mobilized to monitor and supervise the day to day activities of cluster supervisors and enumerators.

After the collection of data from three districts the data entry process is now ongoing at NPHF central office.



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Published manuscript:

[A cluster randomized implementation trial to measure the effectiveness of an intervention package aiming to increase the utilization of skilled birth attendants by women for childbirth: study protocol](#) has been published in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth on 19 March 2014.

A. District Investment Case

The District Investment Case (DIC) is an economic analysis of the programs of Ministry of Health at district level which encompasses a robust methodology to perform evidence based strategic planning and budgeting for Maternal Neonatal Child Health (MNCH). NPHF had implemented the first phase of this project in Dadeldhura, Udaypur, Dhading, and Kapilvastu. Similarly, the second phase was successfully implemented in four districts; Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura and Achham. This led to the development of cost effective strategy and action plan to improve the maternal and child health in these district. The report incorporating the entire strategic action plan and the required cost for implementing the action plan has been prepared and submitted to UNICEF.

DIC team visited the three monitoring districts; Dhading, Dadeldhura and Jajarkot to monitor the status of action plan developed under DIC project on 2012 in these districts during April and May, 2014. The team visited DHO, peripheral health facility and interacted with the health workers about the status of developed strategies and challenges in implementation of those strategies.



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B. Farming Health and Environment Project (FHEP)

NPHF has been implementing Farming Health and Environment Project with a support of Danish NGO DIALOGOS, Denmark from April, 2013. The project will focus on the prevention of pesticide intoxications among vegetable farmers in the Chitwan District of Nepal by means of training, research and awareness raising activities.

Following activities have been performed by FHEP:

1. Health related activities:

Village level Conferences

Two village level conferences were carried out in Bhandara and Sukranagar VDC to create the awareness about negative side effect of chemical pesticide to human beings and environment, alternate use of chemical pesticide and assessing the role of each stakeholder for pesticide reduction etc. A total of 140 people from five different VDCs were benefited from the conference.



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2. Farming related activities

Training was organised for farmers on IPM and other pesticide issues at Chainpur - one day per week for seven weeks on Farmer's Field School (FFS) Model. The major contents of the training are: Different IPM tools, Application safety measures during handling pesticides, Alternatives to chemical pesticides, Pesticide and its impact on human health and environment

3. IEC activities

A video documentary visualizing the existing practices of pesticide use among farmers and pesticide retailers, farmers' views on pesticide use, government's policy and initiation to regulate and control the misuse of pesticide and NPHF's and other stakeholder's initiatives to mitigate the harmful effects of chemical pesticides in human health and environment has been produced. The materials of the documentary are expected to increase awareness among general public, farmers and consumers; and also it can be an important tool for advocacy at policy level.

Development of poster "Safe use of chemical pesticide "and colour code of pesticide and other materials has been designed.



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4. Meetings

To share and evaluate the project activities carried out in fourth quarter (January-March 2014), a meeting of Central Steering Committee (CSC) was held on 28 April 2014. Also, to share the updates of project activities and discuss on contextual issues, routine quarterly meetings were held at each of the project VDCs on March 2014.



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C. Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership-Nepal (GARP-Nepal)

The Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP) works to create greater awareness among policy makers in low- and middle-income countries about the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and to develop country relevant solutions.

Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership Nepal (GARP Nepal) organized an interaction program on Veterinarian Use of Antibiotics on 24th June, 2014 at Yala Maya Kendra and Dhokaima Café, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur with the aim of sharing knowledge and for identifying research ideas on antibiotic use in veterinary sector. All together 21 individuals participated in the program. There was representation from Department of Drug Administration, Nepal Poultry Federation, Association of Pharmaceuticals Producers of Nepal, and Nepal Poultry Federation Forum for Protection of Consumer Rights, Department of Animal Health including working group members of GARP- Nepal. Dr. Badri Raj Pande, Acting Executive Chair of Nepal Public Health Foundation delivered welcome speech. Dr. Buddha Basnyat, Chair of GARP-Nepal introduced GARP-Nepal among the participants. Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit, PI of GARP Nepal briefly described the objectives of the program. Dr. Sarada Thapaliya, Member of GARP Nepal working group shared her experience as a veterinarian. Dr. Nira Ramdam, student of Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur gave a presentation on “Baseline survey of antimicrobial use pattern in livestock production systems and fisheries in Nepal”. All participants actively participated in discussion session.

Other activities included

The development of Drug Resistance Index (DRI) Program supported by GARP Nepal is in place in Patan Hospital with continuous data entry.



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Published articles of Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit on AMR (Anti Microbial Resistance) can be retrieved from:

<http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2014/06/30/oped/bitter-pill-to-swallow/264496.html>

<http://nepalihimal.com/article/3014>

Nepal Public Health Foundation Retreat

NPHF organized a two day residential retreat on 27-28 June, 2014 at Norling Resort, Gokarna. The event was attended by NPHF advisors, board members, founding and life members. The objective of the retreat was to develop the short and long term strategic planning of NPHF and to seek the commitment of the members to be involved in different initiatives taken by NPHF. The meeting started with the description of health services at grass root level by a community worker.

During the event Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit, Joint Secretary presented the activities conducted by NPHF during the last four years and also the gaps. Dr. Tirtha Rana, Treasurer, presented the short review of financial plan and policy. Similarly, Dr. Rajendra BC and Ms. Binjwala Shrestha presented on the strategic planning.

The members actively participated in the discussion and group work where they also presented the SWOC analysis of the organization.



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During the event Dr. Badri Raj Pande asked the members to work and contribute towards attaining the goal of NPHF.



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Honoring event for community level health worker

NPHF honored Ms. Januka Shrestha, a health worker from Gokarna Health Post for the contribution she had given to the health sector for more than 30 years. Ms. Shrestha had started her journey as health aid and retired as auxiliary health worker.

Fifth Nepal Public Health Foundation Lecture Series

Nepal Public Health Foundation has been organizing public health lecture as its core activity every year inviting eminent persons on 30th June to foster collective action of people around common agendas of public health. This year Dr. Rita Thapa, advisor of NPHF and a renowned public health physician and also the first Nepali woman Program Director at the WHO Regional Office of South-East Asia, delivered lecture on "Changing Public Health Paradigm: Improving MCH-FP - Nepal"

Different public health experts including advisors, members of NPHF, representatives from the Ministry and department of health, WHO, academia and students were present in the programme. Dr. Badri Raj Pande, Acting Chairperson, NPHF welcomed the audience, followed by a brief introduction of the Key note speaker, Dr. Rita Thapa.

The entire lecture focused on fascinating journey through the challenging time in the history of public health development in Nepal. Dr. Thapa tried to show how changes in public health paradigm occurred in Nepal and how these key changes have led to establishing a nation-wide PHC network that reaches the unreached in every ward with basic FP-MCH care services, among others.

She described FCHVs as the saviors of the women and children and also mentioned that the effectiveness of FCHVs depends upon the regular supervision and technical support from



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VHWs linking with the health facilities. Hence, Dr. Thapa wondered if the VHWs are upgraded or retired then there will be lack of health worker going for home visiting and supporting FCHV.

She concluded the lecture with commandment to thousands of community based health workers like VHWs, Female Community Health Volunteers, TBAs and others. For without their relentless delivery of basic MCH/FP services to communities where most mothers and children live, Nepal could not have been nearing the attainment of MDGs today.

Dr. Rita Thapa was then honored for her commendable lecture and contribution she has provided to the Nepal health sector with token of love by executive chair, Dr. Badri Raj Pande .which was followed by the vote of thanks extended by Dr. Tirtha Rana. She extended her gratitude to the NPHF members, staffs and all the invitees of the lecture series.

Presentation on: Against all Odds: Equity in the Coverage of Vitamin A Supplementation in Nepal

On 30 June 2014 NPHF also organized a presentation session on **Against all Odds: Equity in the Coverage of Vitamin A Supplementation in Nepal** by Dr. Shyam Thapa, Member, NPHF and also the Principal Investigator of the study.

He stated that Nepal's vitamin A program, despite the hindering situation like armed conflicts had successfully achieved equity across population sub-groups and geographic areas offering



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valuable lessons for other health and non-health program areas in Nepal and elsewhere. This was followed by a lively discussion on the issue of equity.

Blood Donation Programme

Blood Donation Programme was organized by NPHF on 5th April, 2015 in collaboration with Prayas Nepal, Tusal Yuva Pariwar, Kanti Smriti Kendra and Maskey Smriti Guthi 2066, at Kanti Sanskritik Kendra premises, Maharajgunj. Altogether, 46 people donated blood in the programme.

Bagmati Cleaning Campaign

NPHF staffs were involved in Bagmati Cleaning campaign in the month of March 2014.



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Participation in National and International Activities

NPHF Members' Participation

Dr. Badri Raj Pande in the capacity of Chairperson, Nepal National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication (NCCPE) participated in the seventh meeting of the WHO South East Asia Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication (SEARCCPE), New Delhi, 26 – 27 March 2014 to review national updates of Polio eradication activities SEA countries. He made presentation on annual updates of activities in Nepal. On 27 March, amidst an impressive gathering of Health Ministers and senior government officials from member countries and dignitaries representing Global Polio Eradication Initiative (WHO, UNICEF, CDC- Atlanta, Rotary International), UN agencies, JICA, World Bank, ADB , Bill Gates & Melinda Foundation and other stakeholders, the SEARCCPE chairperson jointly with chairpersons of NCCPE from individual countries handed over Regional Polio Free certificates to the Ministers of Health or their representatives

Dr. Tirtha Rana participated in the following programmes:

1. Paper presentation on Situation of Senior citizens in Nepal to the members of Rotary Club of Tripureswor, Kathmandu on 17 March 2014.
2. Netcap consultation meeting on Analysis of stakeholders in Nepal working for Nutrition organized by South Asia, Infant Feeding Research Network (SAIFRIN), Nepal chapter on 24 March 2014.
3. Research findings presentation from Cambodia and Nepal on the Assessment and Research on Child Feeding organized by HKI, Nepal during 29 -30 April 2014 under a



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capacity of member of the Advisory Panel for this Study (undertaken by HKI, under Bill and Gates Foundation's funding support. She also chaired the session of findings of cost of food items collected during the labeling study in Cambodia and Nepal.

Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit, Principal Investigator, GARP-Nepal, Founding Member participated in the following programme:

1. International Meeting on Artemisinin Resistance hosted by Public Health Foundation Indian from 24-25 March 2014. Dr. Dixit represented GARP Nepal, NPHF during the meeting.

Participation of NPHF members and staffs:

Dr. Badri Raj Pande, Acting Executive Chair, Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit, Principal Investigator, GARP-Nepal, Founding Member and Ms. Santoshi Giri, Programme Coordinator participated in an interaction program **Use of antibiotic in poultry farming** organized by Resource Centre for Primary Health Care on 9 June 2014 at Hotel Himalaya. During the event Dr. Pande offered remark and Dr. Dixit talked about the current situation of antibiotic use and AMR in poultry.



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Staff participation in capacity building training/workshop

Mr. Narayan Subedi (Programme Manager) Participated in the following programmes:

- 1) Training of Trainers on Research Report Writing and Publication in Journal organised by Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) from 1st April 2014 in Kathmandu. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the participants understanding of publication of research based articles in scientific journals.
- 2) Self-assessment workshop of Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement organized by National Planning Commission on 27 May 2014 at Kathmandu.
- 3) Advocacy and Communication Strategy Development Workshop organized by CSANN on 28-29 May 2014 at Godavari, Laliptur.
- 4) Report Launching Program 'Mapping of AIN Members Contributing to the Health Sector in Nepal, 2014' organized by Association of INGOs in Kathmandu in 30 May 2014.
- 5) Mr. Narayan Subedi , participated in Brainstorming Program on Generation Nutrition Campaign organized by Action Contre Faim (ACF) Nepal at Kathmandu on 20 June 2014.

Mr. Janak Thapa (Programme Manager) participated in the following programmes:

- 1) Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI) workshop on 1-2 April 2014 at Kathmandu. The workshop was organized to disseminate the qualitative findings of nutrition



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survey in Nepal. During the workshop Mr. Thapa participated in the group discussion on Critical analysis of Qualitative findings of Nutrition survey in Nepal.

2) Training workshop on scientific writing organized by Nepal Health Research Council from 15-17 June, 2014 in Kathmandu.

Mr. Navaraj Bhattarai, Senior Program Officer participated in:

1) Workshop on Incorporating WASH in Nepal health Sector Programme-III on 8 June 2014 organized by Water AID Nepal in Kathmandu. He has also been nominated as one of the five task force members that will finalise the way forward to incorporate WASH in NHSP III developed by the workshop to submit to MoHP.

Mr. Deepak Gyenwali, Assistant Project Coordinator participated in the following programmes:

1) National Symposium on vector borne disease on 2-3 April 2014 at Bharatpur, Chitwan

2) 5th Asia Pacific Conference on Public Health (APCPH) held in Olympic Parktel, Seoul, South Korea on 10-11. April 2014 and made oral presentation on "Estimates of delays in diagnosis of cervical cancer in Nepal".

Mr. Sundar Tiwari, Agronomist, FHEP Nepal participated in:

1) Training Workshop on Better Spraying organized by Dialogos and HARDI International of Denmark from 25 May -2 June 2014. Training was organized to develop the capacity of Agronomist of Dialogos co-ordinated Project countries towards better spraying and reduce the pesticide risk for farmers and consumers



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Reader's comment from last edition

Thank you, Great work

Dr. Tirtha Rana, Treasurer

Thanks for newsletter. It keeps me update about NPHF activities.

-Dr. Nilambar Jha, Founding Member

Thanks for sharing a copy of the Newsletter. It's always good to know of the progress and achievements. Congratulations!

For future issues, may I suggest that you include a section in which published articles and unpublished reports prepared by NPHF members be listed as well. That would be a good way to let each other know what has been published or completed where on what topic and by whom. This would be part of the contribution towards "knowledge management" which I feel is a critical function of the Foundation.



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Media Watch

Typhoid hits Bajura, hundreds fall ill

Himalayan News Service

Bajura, May 15

With the onset of the hot season, Bajura has been grappling with the outbreak of typhoid, and other seasonal diseases.

According to Senior Assistant Health Worker Janak Rawal, the outbreak appeared about a week ago, and with each passing day, the number of patients continue to swell.

"Every day, more than 50 patients visit the district hospital seeking treatment for typhoid," Rawal said.

Elsewhere, huge turnout of typhoid patients, along with cases of diarrhoea and dysentery has been reported at Kolti Primary Health Post that serves people of 11 VDCs in the northern belt of the district.

"Typhoid is spreading

rapidly. Almost 80 per cent of the total number of patients visiting the health centre come for treatment of typhoid," informed Auxiliary nursing mid-wife Deuma Dhami.

Besides, typhoid outbreak has also been reported in Tate, Barhabesa, Sappata and Toli VDCs. Other seasonal diseases like dysentery and diarrhoea have also gone up in the villages.

Health workers are apprehensive that seasonal diseases may take the form of an epidemic. They have urged locals to be careful about personal and food hygiene.

"Lack of pure drinking water, change in season and ignorance about personal hygiene are among the factors that have contributed to the spread of the disease," argued Dr Basant Regmi.

Fever, diarrhoea patients up

DAMAULI: Patients of fever and diarrhoea have gone up at Damauli Hospital of late. According to the hospital, more than 140 patients visit the health facility each day. Earlier, only 50 to 60 patients used to come to the hospital. Dr Bibek Kumar of the health facility said the number of the patients was growing with the soaring temperature. Byash municipality, Kahushivapur, Ghansikuwa, Jamune, Kyamin, Keshavtar, Pokharibhanjyang VDCs had been hit hard with seasonal diseases. —HNS

Cholera virus detected

RAUTAHAT: Cholera virus has been detected in the stool samples of seven diarrhoea patients of Chandranigahapur of Rautahat. Their stool was sent to Kathmandu for test, said district hospital chief Dr Subash Chaudhary. Rabi Devkota, a local said two diarrhoea patients were admitted at Chandranigahapur Hospital on Thursday. More than 400 persons were admitted in various health facilities of the district. Though the disease has spread due to contaminated water, nobody has bothered to manage edible water. —HNS



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70 people developing jaundice in Morang a day

REPUBLICA
KATHMANDU, May 12

Every day more than 70 people get infected with jaundice which has severely gripped Morang district for more than three weeks, the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) of the Department of Health Services (DoHS) has said.

Officials claim that the infection rate of hepatitis 'E' virus has been declining gradually, as they said that about 200 suspicious infected people used to visit hospitals of the district until last week.

The EDCD said that 10 people have died and 1,259 infected with the virus until Sunday. "Compared to last week, the infection rate has declined by more than a half," Dr Baburam Marasini, director at the EDCD, said. He claims that the disease is under control and the office has been doing its best to curb new infections.

According to Dr Marasini, massive awareness campaign has been launched through the mass media,

Keep water, sewage pipes apart to stop jaundice: Minister

BINOD SUBEDI
BIRATNAGAR, May 12

Concerned over the growing number of jaundice deaths in Morang district, Minister for Health and Population Khagaraj Adhikari on Monday directed Biratnagar Sub-Metropolitan City Office and the Nepal Drinking Water Corporation local office to install pipes at different locations to prevent the mixing of sewage and drinking water.

A recent survey in

various parts of Biratnagar had clearly indicated the spread of infection due to drinking water mixing with human feces. A lab report showed the presence in drinking water of harmful bacteria usually found inside the large intestines of warm-blooded beings.

Directing officials of the corporation during a recent visit to Biratnagar, Adhikari said, "The possibility of drinking water getting contaminated increases when the pipes

See page 4: Keep...

necessary drugs have been dispatched and health workers deployed from regional hospitals and medical colleges. He said that doctors in the district have been coordinating with liver experts in the capital. The Koshi Zonal Hospital has arranged a separate ward for jaundice

patients after the number of patients visiting the hospital rose markedly over the past few days.

The District Public Health Office (DPHO) Morang also said that the disease is in declining phase. "Most of the patients have returned home after

treatment," Nawaraj Subba, the chief of Morang DPHO, said, adding that the newly infected people have been receiving treatment at various hospitals, private clinics and nursing homes in the district. Subba informed that 23 serious patients have been referred to Kathmandu for intensive care treatment.

The DPHO Morang has been urging the people to drink boiled water, wash hands before eating and maintain personal hygiene. "We have also cautioned people to be aware of infection as the disease gets more infectious with the rise in temperature," he said. He said that the virus spread as people consumed contaminated water.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed concerns over the spread of the virus in the district. Issuing a press statement on Monday the NHRC has urged the government to provide free treatment to the infected people, ensure safe drinking water and initiate necessary measures to control the disease.

Vector-borne diseases become rampant in Pokhara, vicinity

Himalayan News Service
Pokhara, April 18

Pokhara has been facing the challenge of controlling vector-borne diseases and stopping deaths caused by mosquito-related communicable diseases.

Different communicable diseases resulting from mosquito bites have caused panic in Kaski. Malaria, elephantiasis, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, kala-azar, among other diseases

have been causing deaths.

Vector control Inspector Yam Baral of district public health office said instances of these diseases have increased and are posing a major challenge because of soaring temperature, migration, lack of research, public awareness and proper diagnosis.

Baral said, "Fifty people were diagnosed with malaria in Kaski last year." Of them, 42 were from Pokhara sub-metropolitan city,

six from Lekhnath, one from Yangjakot and one from Lamachaur.

Thirty-four people had tested positive for vector-borne diseases in 2012.

Health workers attributed the increasing cases of dengue and malaria to migration and soaring temperature.

The government has forwarded a special programme to tackle malaria in the country. It aims to eradicate the disease by 2015 and declare it malaria-free by 2026. For this, everyone in the field of health and community will have to work hard, Baral said.

Around 985,000 people from 54 VDCs of different districts are at risk of malaria. Health workers said malaria cases have increased with rise in temperature. Around 10.73 million people in 65 districts are at high risk of malaria, 24 districts are at risk of Japanese encephalitis, 13 districts face the threat of kala-azar and 60 districts are in danger of elephantiasis.

Spreading across nation

Malaria
65 Districts

Kala azar
13 Districts

Japanese encephalitis
24 Districts

Encephalitis
60 Districts



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Nepal to be certified polio free on March 27

REPUBLICA

KATHMANDU, March 11

Nepal is set to be certified as a polio free country on March 27, as the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional office in Delhi is organizing a special function to make the announcement on the very day.

Officials at the Child Health Division (CHD), under the Department of Health Services (DoHS), said that the South-East Asia Regional Office of WHO will also certify other 10 countries of the region at once during the event.

A high-level team, led by Minister for Health and Population Khagaraj Adhikari, will attend the function to receive the cer-

tificate, officials said.

Six imported cases were detected in Nepal in August 2010. The country was eligible to be declared 'polio free' earlier, but the WHO makes such declaration for an entire region at the same time. In India, the last case was detected on February 12, 2011.

According to Dr Senandra Upreti, chief of CHD, the WHO declares a region free of the virus if no case is detected for three consecutive years.

"The success has been possible because of relentless effort by the government to get rid of the disease," Dr Upreti said.

He said that the CHD has scaled up surveillance, assigned female community

health volunteers (FCHVs) to trace out children left out from immunization and create awareness to make success lasting.

"We have also been studying loopholes and the areas we can improve to ensure 100 percent immunization," he added.

The government has been administering polio vaccine three times a year to all children under one, under a regular immunization program.

Apart from that, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has also been organizing mass polio campaigns across the country for the last 17 years.

13 PERCENT POPULATION VULNERABLE

The CHD said that total coverage of immunization program is only 87 percent and remaining 13 percent are at high risk of the virus.

Out of 13 percent population three percent children do not receive any kind of vaccine and others do not get complete vaccines provided by the government.

"Remaining 13 percent are still a huge challenge to us. We have been making strategy to include that population," added Dr Upreti. He said that urban poor, migrant population and people living in far flung areas are the main challenge. Dr Upreti said that the office has also been making strategy targeting those populations.



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Gallery

NPHF Retreat



NPHF members with retired Community Health Workers



Participants in the retreat program



Executive Chair honoring retired community health worker



नेपाल जनस्वास्थ्य प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Public Health Foundation

NPHF 5th Lecture Series



Group photo



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Handing over Polio-free Nepal Certificate



Handing over the certificate for Polio-free Nepal to Hon. Minister of Health & Population Khaga Raj Adhikari jointly by chairpersons, SEARNCCPE and NCCPE Dr. Supamit Chunsittiwat and Dr Badri Raj Pande respectively in presence of Dr. Poonam K.Singh, Regional Director, WHO.



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Overcoming Barriers to scaling-up Skill Birth Attendants' Utilization in Improving Maternal and Child Health in Nepal



Orientation to Enumerators and Cluster Supervisors on field research



Field supervision of enumerators and cluster supervisors by NPHF staffs



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Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP)



Interaction programme on Veterinarian use of antibiotics at Yala Maya Kendra and Dhokaima Café



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Family Health and Environment Project (FHEP)



Demonstration of Personnel protective equipments



Participant demonstrating proper spraying technique



Warning symbol placed in pesticide sprayed field



IPM training participants during practical session



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Blood Donation Programme



People donating Blood during the programme



NPHF staffs participating in Bagmati Cleaning Campaign



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