

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHIEF'S DESK



It gives me great pleasure to share a few words on the occasion of the publication of the Biennial Report of the Nepal Public Health Foundation (2021–23). The report presents major highlights of all the activities of the Foundation carried out in the two consecutive fiscal years. NPHF has continued its journey in this period as a developing institution, learning how to cope with adverse situations, and building new connections to explore collaborative opportunities with the government and academic institutions. In this period it also has taken a leap in consolidating networking and collaboration with regional and international research organizations and universities.

In this period, amidst challenges of Covid Pandemic, we started the third phase of the “**Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN)**” project, which studied the health effects of pesticide use and encouraged farmers to apply Integrated Pest Management and move towards organic farming.. **The Global Health Network Country Centre, Nepal (TGHN,Nepal)** was launched at a **Seminar: Building Health Research Capacity through Networks** with the objective to facilitate dialogue and collaboration and the exchange of insights and experiences among and between experts and professionals from various sectors, nationally and internationally. The aim was to enhance research capabilities within their respective fields.

Similarly, the “**Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP)**” Nepal project (February 2023-Jan 2024) was also restarted. GARP’s current focus is generating cross-disciplinary evidence describing the impact of vaccines on AMR in country-specific contexts.

NPHF has recently signed an MOU with Oxford University for cooperation in joint research activities. It has submitted several research proposals in collaboration with this University in its bid for international research fund. It is also on the advisory board of the Global Health Institute at Xian University, China. NPHF works closely with the government in every project. NPHF as an institution and its individual members worked closely with the government, providing expert opinion in dealing with the challenges in Nepal.

With these words, I would like to thank Samana Sharma, Deepesha Silpakar, Dikshya Kafle, Rijana Maharjan, Sulochana Prajapati, Praneta Acharya, Awash Regmi and Pratistha Bhusal for their effort in preparing this report and all those who have contributed in various ways to the activities of the NPHF. Also in this period, the executive power of the Chair of the Board has been shifted constitutionally to the Executive Chief. It is a pleasure and an honor to work alongside an exceptionally proficient NPHF board and dedicated staff in their determined efforts to take NPHF to a new high.

**Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey**  
Founding Chair and Executive Chief  
Nepal Public Health Foundation

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## List of abbreviations

NPHF	:	Nepal Public Health Foundation
CPHE	:	Continuing public health education
FHEN	:	Farming Health and Environment Nepal
IPM	:	Integrated Pest Management
DASAM	:	Danish Society for Occupational and Environmental Health
KAP	:	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
FCHV	:	Female Community Health Volunteers
IPM-FFS	:	Integrated Pest Management-Farmer Field School
PQPMC	:	Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre
NHRC	:	Nepal Health Research Council
DFTQC	:	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control
PRI	:	Policy Research Institute
FFS	:	Farmer field schools
DCC	:	District Coordination Committee
GARP	:	Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership Nepal
AMR	:	Antimicrobial Resistance
TWG	:	Technical Working Group
MOHP	:	Ministry of Health and Population
SAPPROS	:	Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal
TGHN	:	The Global Health Network Nepal
WHO	:	World Health Organization
MOU	:	memorandum of understanding
AGM	:	Annual General Meeting
MIRA	:	Mother and Infant Research Activities
CHDMD	:	Child Health Division and Management Division.
BPKHIS	:	B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences
UNICEF	:	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
NGO	:	Non-government organization

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## About Nepal Public Health Foundation

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) was established in April 2010 by a group of public health specialists and activists as an independent, autonomous, non-political, and non-profit organization. It was founded with the mission of ensuring civil society's proactive participation in public health via coordinated public health action, research, and policy dialogue for health development, particularly of the socioeconomically marginalized population.

### Thematic areas of NPHF Activities

- Health Policy and Systems Research
- Human Resource Development
- Communicable Disease Control
- Non-Communicable Disease Control
- Nutrition Research
- Maternal and Child Health
- Disaster Prevention and Management
- Coordination, Advocacy, and Communication
- Social Determinants for health
- Health Economics
- Health Technology Research
- Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Demography
- Health Promotion and Social Mobilization
- Environmental Health and Hygiene research

NPHF aims to prioritize public health action and research areas and facilitate interventions in collaboration with national and international partnerships, with special emphasis on building community capacity

for healthcare. Through high-quality research, NPHF is committed to strengthening the health system by generating quality evidence for the policy formulation process. Health policy and system research, social determinants of health, nutrition, maternal, child, and sexual and reproductive health are its major focus areas. Since its inception, NPHF has taken initiatives to advocate for the relevant public health issues at the national and regional levels. Besides, it has established good linkages with academic institutions, civil society, and different non-governmental organizations.

### Objectives of NPHF

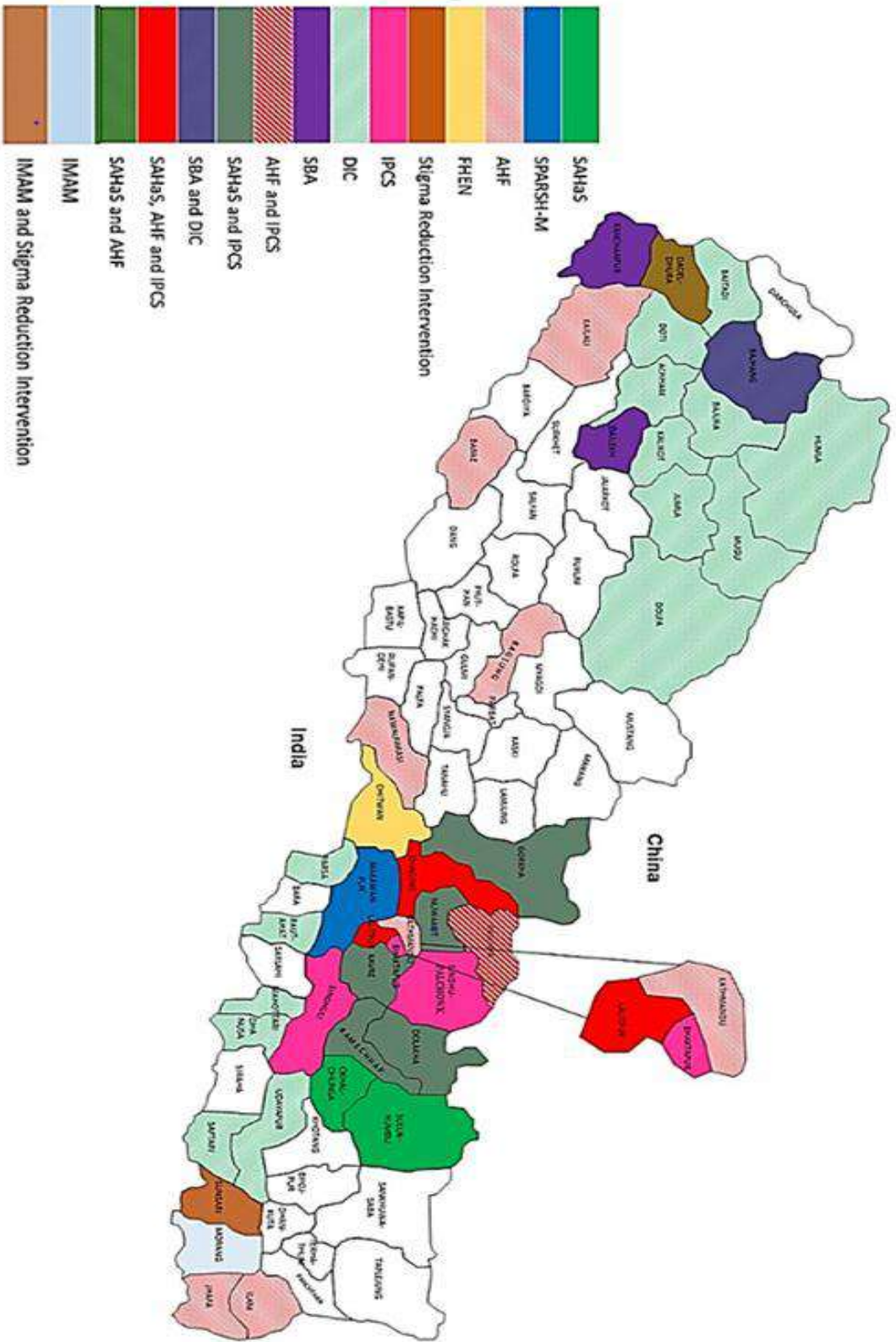
- Engage public health stakeholders for systematic review and analysis of existing and emerging health scenarios to generate policy recommendations for public health action, especially in the context of the changing physical and social environment, the increasing health gap between the rich and the poor, and the impact of other sectors on health.
- Prioritize public health action and research areas and facilitate pilot interventions in collaboration with national and international partnerships, with special emphasis on building communities' capacity.

- Strengthen the health system through systems thinking to effectively respond to the problems of public health.
- Support and establish existing or new community-based public health training institutions.
- Ensure continuing public health education (CPHE) by disseminating the latest advancements in public health knowledge and research. We publish books, monographs, educational materials, and self-learning manuals.
- We provide research funds for deserving researchers and public health institutions, with priority given to community-based institutions.

### **Project list:**

1. “A New Ecosystem for Health Research and Data Science (NEHRD)”
2. Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN)
3. Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP) Nepal
4. The Basudhara Namobuddha Integrated Agriculture, Health and Education project

# Project areas of Nepal Public Health Foundation (2011-2023)





## Key highlights:

### The Global Health Network (TGHN) Nepal Launch in a Seminar entitled on “Building Research Capacity through Networks”



*Figure 1: Official Inauguration of TGHN Nepal Centre*

Nepal Public Health Foundation was officially launched as the Global Health Network Nepal Center in a Seminar titled “**Building Health Research Capacity through Networks.**” On Wednesday 14th June 2023, The Global Health Network Nepal country center was launched during a one-day seminar on “Building Health Research Capacity through Networks.

The country centre was inaugurated by Honourable Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha, Vice Chairman, and National Planning Commission with Prof Trudie Lang, University of Oxford, Director, The Global Health Network (TGHN). The event was

graced by the presence of distinguished speakers including Prof. Trudie Lang (Head, The Global Health Network Oxford University) Dr. Sangita Kaushal Mishra (Additional Health Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population), Prof. ArunKumar Govindakarnavar (Technical Officer (Public Health Laboratories) Dr. Aliya Naheed (Lead, TGHN Asia) and Mr. Manoj Bhatta (Member Secretary, Social Welfare Council). Additionally, the seminar had the privilege of hosting Dr. Vasee Moorthy, Senior Advisor of Research and Development, WHO Headquarter Geneva, as the keynote speaker.



**Figure 2: Group photo during Inauguration of TGHN Nepal Centre**

The Global Health Network (TGHN), situated at Oxford University, is a knowledge-sharing community and a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating center. It is widely utilized by the global health research community, striving to enhance research capabilities and leadership in regions and environments where health evidence is lacking. With regional centers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the TGHN Nepal Centre aims to serve as a platform that nurtures and facilitates collaboration among research institutions, academia, and individuals involved in health research.

Through the hosting of the Nepal Centre, the Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) demonstrates its unwavering dedication to advancing the field of global health and

research within the country. The center's primary objective is to promote and strengthen health research collaboration by fostering opportunities for knowledge exchange, Capacity building, and joint research initiatives and strengthening data science.



**Figure 3: Group Photo taken During Inaugural Session**

## Nepal Public Health Foundation and The Chancellor masters and scholars of the University of Oxford Signed a MOU to Strengthen Global Health Research Collaboration:



In a significant step towards advancing global health research, Nepal Public Health Foundation and The Chancellor masters and scholars of the University of Oxford have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 27, 2023, to collaborate within the Global Health Network. The MOU aims to enhance capacity building, facilitate knowledge exchange, and foster excellence in health research by leveraging the expertise and resources of both institutions.

The Global Health Network (TGHN), hosted by The University of Oxford, is a knowledge exchange community and a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating center. This platform serves as a hub for the global health research community, providing valuable resources and support to researchers working in areas with limited access to health evidence. The network's mission is to strengthen research capabilities

and leadership in underprivileged communities and settings worldwide.

Recognizing the complementary strengths of The Oxford University and the Nepal Public Health Foundation in the field of health research, both entities are enthusiastic about the potential benefits of their collaboration. By pooling their resources and knowledge, they aim to enhance the quality and impact of health research initiatives, particularly in regions facing health disparities.

The MOU will facilitate cooperation between the two institutions, promoting joint research projects, faculty and student exchanges, and sharing of best practices. Through this partnership, students and researchers from both Oxford and Nepal Public Health Foundation will gain access to a wider array of resources, expertise, and opportunities, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of global health challenges and potential solutions.

**THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK  
ASIA**



**THE  
GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
NETWORK**  
Enabling research by sharing knowledge

**The  
Global  
Health  
Network  
Nepal**



## Current Projects:

### 1. “A New Ecosystem for Health Research and Data Science (NEHRD)”

The NEHRD project supports the operation of The Global Health Network (TGHN) Nepal Centre, which finds its home within the Nepal Public Health Foundation signifies a momentous milestone in the realm of health research and collaboration within Nepal. This project is facilitated by TGHN, Asia situated in ICDDR, Bangladesh.

#### Project Objectives:

- Facilitate the meeting of experts and professionals from various sectors

for exchange of insights and experiences. The aim is to enhance research capabilities within their respective fields.

- Foster collaboration and promote knowledge-sharing among participants. The ultimate goal is to develop effective strategies for building research capacity.
- Establish a dynamic platform that encourages the exploration of innovative ideas and the sharing of best practices in research.

## Activities:

### i. Seminar on “Building Health Research Capacity through Networks” (14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023)

The seminar was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 by the Nepal Public Health Foundation in collaboration with Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) and The Global Health Network and supported by WHO Nepal where Nepal Public Health Foundation was also launched as The Global Health Network Nepal Centre. The seminar was attended by distinguished researchers, scientists, government officials, and policy makers, alongside esteemed academic institutions, UN organizations, NGOs, and students studying in the fields of medicine, public health, and nursing.

The event received support from TGHN Asia and WHO, Nepal. The event was graced by distinguished speakers from notable organizations, including the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO), TGHN Asia, and the Social Welfare Council. The seminar consisted of five sessions, each featuring distinguished speakers from both national and international backgrounds. The primary objectives of these sessions were to promote collaboration, facilitate knowledge-sharing, and devise effective strategies for building research capacity.



**Figure 4: Dr. Mahesh k. Maskey delivering remarks during TGHN Nepal Centre Launch**

The objectives of the seminar were as follows:

- Facilitate the gathering of experts and professionals from various sectors to facilitate the exchange of insights and experiences. The aim was to enhance research capabilities within their respective fields.
- Foster collaboration and promote knowledge-sharing among participants. The ultimate goal was to develop effective strategies for building research capacity.
- Establish a dynamic platform that encourages the exploration of innovative ideas and the sharing of best practices in research.

**ii. Luncheon Meetings with dignitaries from various academic institutions of Nepal (June 15th, 2023):**

The meeting took place on June 15th, 2023 at Seoul Jib Korean Restaurant, Bishalnagar, Kathmandu. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce Prof. Trudie Lang eminent Professor of Global Health Network Research from the United Kingdom and Dr. Salvia Zeeshan, Regional Manager, The Global Health Network Asia. Professor Trudie Lang is widely recognized for their exceptional



**Figure 5: Glimpse of Luncheon Meeting with respective Dignitaries**

contributions in the field of global health research, and we believe their insights and expertise will greatly benefit the attendees. This gathering was conducted with an objective to create a conducive environment for networking, knowledge exchange, and meaningful discussions

among leaders from various institutions and organizations. The event offered a unique opportunity to foster collaboration, exchange ideas, and forge connections that can advance our collective mission of addressing global health challenges.

## 2. Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN)

The issue of pesticide use in agriculture is a serious but often ignored public health agenda. Pesticides are also linked to several acute and chronic health problems, more noticeably in developing countries, including Nepal.

The Farming, Health, and Environment Nepal Project (FHEN) is unique in that it combines agriculture and health aspects to create healthy farms and food. It has adopted **"Participatory Development and Multisectoral Approaches"** for all its work activities.

The project is built around the core spirit of the "Pesticide Minimization Movement". It aims to engage, empower, and mobilize diverse groups and sectors to create a mass movement to advocate for ensuring our right to pesticide-free foods. After the successful completion of FHEN (Farming Health and Environment Nepal) phase II, we are moving on to the third phase of the project, starting in the fiscal year 2078. The overall aim of the project, titled "Farming Health and Environment—a multi-sector approach to reducing pesticide hazards in Nepal," is to create an environment in Nepal that enables sustainable use of chemical pesticides with minimized harm to the

public and the environment. As it was in the previous phase, the project is built around the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and will rely heavily on participatory development and a multisector approach to fulfill its objectives.

An important aspect of the project will be the inclusion of consumers' groups and the agro-market sector, two extremely important components that FHEN phase II was not able to address in the past. Keeping citizens' rights to safe farming and food at its center, the project will work with farmers, pesticide spray workers, retailers, school teachers, health workers, marketplaces, farmers' organizations, and the local government. Our advocacy will also be scaled up to provincial and federal levels with this project. We hope that by the end of this project, the responsibilities of maintaining the spirit of the "pesticide minimization movement" will be taken up and sustained by the local government and farmers' cooperatives themselves, and that we will be able to push for the adoption of an operational strategy for a multisector approach to pesticide poisoning prevention at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels.

## Project objectives:

- Enable local government and farmers' cooperatives to enhance IPM compliance among farmers, spray workers, and retail workers in Chitwan District, Nepal.
- Establish consumer forums that advocate for pesticide-free food through lobbying among politicians and fellow citizens.
- Define an operational strategy to prevent pesticide poisoning that has a multisector approach and can be adopted at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels.

## Supporting partner:

Danish Society for Occupational and Environmental Health (DASAM) and Dialogues

## Project area:

70 wards across 7 municipalities of Chitwan District



Figure 7: Map of Nepal showing Chitwan District



Figure 6: Map of Chitwan indicating municipalities

## Activities

We worked broadly in 3 major areas namely research, community-based interventions, and advocacy.

1. Research
2. Community-Based Interventions
3. Advocacy

### 1. Research:

The FHEN project has research as one of the major work components since it believes in evidence-based program interventions and advocacy.

In phase 3, two researches are ongoing i.e.

- Research titled “Pesticide Exposure during Pregnancy and Low Birth Weight in Young Women; a Hospital Based Study in Chitwan District.”
- Baseline survey on KAP of the pesticide and its effect among the farmers and stakeholders in the chitwan district.

## **BASELINE SURVEY**

Baseline Survey included Qualitative and Quantitative data collection among the farmers and agriculture stakeholders in all the seven municipalities of the Chitwan District. The cross-sectional study design was used and the study was conducted to describe the existing status of knowledge, attitude and practice of key stakeholders about pesticides use and their effect on human health. Similarly, the quantitative methods were used to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of farmers. The total number of 751 farmers within Chitwan district was obtained from inquiring all the available agriculture/farmers cooperatives within all 7 municipalities which included commercial and non-commercial farmers. Similarly, A total of 114 in-depth interviews were conducted among the professional sprayers, pesticide retailers, health workers, school teachers, pesticide retailers, consumers and a total of 15 FGDs were conducted among FCHVs, they were included as stakeholders for qualitative study based on saturation theory.

The data collection was done by using the structured questionnaire. The baseline survey was conducted with the objective to assess knowledge, attitude and practice among farmers and agriculture stakeholders on the use of pesticide in Chitwan district. The data collection for baseline survey was completed in 17 Days. Data entry was done using EXCEL and analysis was done using STATA and NVIVO software for quantitative and qualitative sections respectively. Thus, the final term report is in progress.



*Figure 8: Interviewing the Farmers in Baseline Survey*

## **Research on “Pesticide Exposure during Pregnancy and Low Birth Weight in Young Women; a Hospital Based Study in Chitwan District.”**

It is a retrospective cohort study conducted by Nepal Public Health Foundation under the project Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN) in Chitwan District to identify To quantify the risk of delivering low birth weight babies in young women exposed to pesticide during pregnancy.

This study is an extension of the pilot study in Nepal in the same location (Chitwan district) and hospital (Bharatpur Hospital). The data collection was conducted for 4 months among 1363 respondents. NPHF is currently working towards its data analysis using STATA software.





**Figure 9: Interviewing with Pregnant Women in Bharatpur Hospital**

## 2. Community-based interventions

Activities	Frequency	Participants
<b>IPM FFS</b>	2 groups	60
<b>Training to pesticide spray workers</b>	1 times	30
<b>Pesticide retailers</b>	1 time	30
<b>Health workers</b>	2 times	60
<b>FCHVs</b>	3 groups	78
<b>School teachers</b>	1 time	30
<b>Commercial farmers</b>	3 times	85
<b>Follow up/community sensitization</b>	30	1200
<b>Street drama</b>	14 places	7000

Based on the previous research and other literature reviews, community-based interventions were designed to address the issue in different settings and for different groups over a period of FY 2020/23.

Our interventions are broadly categorized as sensitization programs and training programs.

### Sensitization programs

These are mainly targeted to create awareness among the general public and consumers about the harmful effects of chemical pesticides on foods and ways to reduce their harm.

#### a. Street drama:

Street dramas were conducted with focus on larger groups of people and consumers; they were mostly conducted in public places like vegetable markets. Nepal Public Health Foundation in collaboration with Better Chitwan and Chautho Aayam Theatre Group conducted a street drama “Aafnai Samadhan” on the issue of pesticide minimization. The drama was shown in seven different municipalities of Chitwan. Two shows were performed in each municipality.



*Figure 10: Glimpse of Street Drama*

**b. School health programs:**

School Health programs were conducted through the mobilization of school teachers to help students learn about the harmful effects of pesticides on foods and how they can contribute to their reduction. Students took part in speech competitions, practical demonstrations, and street dramas for participatory learning. The objective was also that they communicate the message to their parents and neighbors for safer production and consumption.

It is an integrated set of planned, sequential, school-affiliated strategies, activities, and services designed to promote the optimal physical, emotional, social, and educational development of students. Farming, Health and Environment Nepal Project under Nepal Public Health Foundation has

successfully completed 6 School Health programs by organizing art competition, panel discussion, poem competition, debate competition and informative speaking program in respective schools of all municipalities in Chitwan district.



*Figure 11: School Health Program, Balkumari English school Bharatpur Metropolitan City, Chitwan*

### c. Training Programs:

The Training programs were targeted to different groups namely farmers, pesticide retailers, pesticide sprayers, health workers, FCHVs, and school teachers.

#### **Pesticide Spray Workers:**

Pesticide sprayers are daily wage workers on farms who spray pesticides on a daily basis in their communities. They are the most vulnerable groups because of their high and prolonged exposure to pesticides, poor education, and socioeconomic status.



*Figure 12: Demonstrating the use of PPE while Spraying*

2-day training to pesticide spray workers was held with the aim of enhancing their knowledge, understanding and practice on selection of the right pesticide and to encourage them to follow safe practices while using those pesticides.



*Figure 13: Facilitating the session of pesticide sprayers training*

Pre and post training evaluation were done which reflected improvement in participant's knowledge. The pre-test mean score was 13.60 whereas the post-test mean was 16.18 which showed that there was an increment of 18.93%.

#### **School Teacher:**

School teachers could be one of the major information sources to reach students, their parents, and wider communities to inform them of the adverse effects of pesticides and their safe handling.

Therefore, the training was provided to motivate the school teachers to practice pesticide-free farming and convey the message to students and parents.



*Figure 14: Training to School Teachers on "Effects of Pesticide and Safe Handling Methods"*

Two-day training to school teachers from 7 municipalities of Chitwan district was organized. The analysis of pre and post training scores reflected that the training provided was quite successful.

### **Commercial Farmer's:**

FHEN considers Integrated Pest Management-Farmer Field School (IPM-FFS) training as a powerful tool to empower farmers to learn about alternative approaches to chemical pesticides through theoretical sessions, practical demonstrations, and field exercises. 2 out of 3 trainings to commercial farmers have been completed where there were 23 participants in Q6 and Q7 as well.

The pre-test mean score was 12.08 whereas the post-test mean was 14.22 which showed there was an increment of 17.71% KAP of farmers.

### **Pesticide Retailer Training:**

The 2-day training program utilized participatory discussion on special issues, special class, video demonstration, pre and post- test Questionnaire, flip charts and the game sessions to pesticide retailer's teachers about the issues of pesticides as well as to encourage them to actively participate in pesticide minimization campaigns. Taking advantage of the fact that the majority of farmers seek advice on pests and pesticide-related matters from pesticide retailers, the project provided training to them about the safe handling of pesticides.

The pre-test mean score was 13.5 whereas the post-test mean score was 16.33 which show there was an increment of 20.98%.



*Figure 15: Mr. Prabin Lama Facilitating the commercial farmers training session*

Similarly results from Q7's training had pre-test mean score of 13.65 whereas the post-test mean score of 16.26 which too showed an increment of 19.10% resulting in changed knowledge, attitude and practices at the end of the training.



*Figure 16: Glimpse of Pesticide retailer Training*

## **FCHVs Training:**

All FCHVs from each local health facility of project working areas participated on the Training given on the topic of “Prevention and management of health problems due to pesticide exposure”.

FCHV plays a crucial role in the health system. Therefore, a two-day training program was given with a objective to enhance knowledge of FCHV’s on pesticide issues and about its safe handling as well as to upgrade skills of FCHV’s for effective counseling and health education at the communities.



*Figure 17: FCHVs preparing Action Plan during Training*

The training is also expected to help them to influence mother groups and wider communities to learn about this important issue.

## **Training to Front-line Health Workers:**

Health workers, especially those working in the periphery, can play a crucial role in discouraging the irrational use of pesticides and reducing the harm associated with them. They are the ones whom farmers visit for various pesticide-related complaints. Furthermore, they have the capacity to mobilize health teams to identify such vulnerable groups in larger communities and provide counseling for the safer practice of pesticide use.

FHEN provided a three-day training to health workers with the motive to enhance knowledge and skill of health workers on the issue of pesticide and to upgrade skills of health workers with regards to history taking, comprehensive treatment and management of pesticide poisoning cases, counseling to the patients, recording and appropriate referral.

The training sensitized the health workers and informed them about their crucial role, which could be a milestone in improving the health of the farmers.



*Figure 18: Training to front-line Health Workers on “Prevention and management of Health Problems due to Pesticide Exposure”*

From the overall three days training, a positive impact was seen among the participants. We had done the pretest and Post-test whereas as a result increase on the knowledge was seen.

And throughout the review session all the participants seem to be interactive and grateful to participate in this training.

### **TOT Training to Agricultural Cooperatives:**

An agricultural cooperative is a formal association of farmers for marketing and processing of products. Therefore, A two-day training program for pesticide retailers was organized where a total of 13

members from 6 different cooperatives were the participants. The pre-test mean score was 12.00 whereas the post-test mean was 16.62 which showed an increment of 38.5%.



*Figure 19: TOT training to agricultural cooperatives*

### **Exhibition at Chitwan Mahotsav As a part of No Pesticide Week Celebration**

As part of the 'No pesticide use week' celebration, NPHF collaborated with 'Jilla Prangarik Sangh Chitwan', (District Organic Association Chitwan- A Chitwan-based organization working to promote organic farming) and District fresh vegetable and fruit production cooperative to participate in 'Chitwan Mahotsav', (fair).

The event attracted tens of thousands of visitors which resulted it to be a good place to get in touch with consumers. Nepal Public Health Foundation took this opportunity to connect with these consumers and promote safe pesticide use. We visited Chitwan Mahotsav for 4 days i.e. from 13<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January.



Figure 20: Pamphlets Distributed during Mahotsav

During the event we were able to directly interact with the visitors and provide them information about safe methods of handling pesticide. We also printed out informative pamphlets to be distributed at the event. The pamphlets were about: risk of pesticide; preparation of botanical pesticide; harmful and beneficial insects; important information for farmers and pesticide dealers. Another pamphlet with information about banned pesticides in Nepal and information on pesticide labels were distributed. Posters with information about pesticides and their waiting period were placed within the range of direct eye contact of the visitors.



Figure 21: Distributing Pamphlets by FHEN staffs during Mahotsav in No Pesticide week Celebration

### Webinars and Panel Discussion:

Webinars and panel discussion were conducted on various issues regarding the pesticide use, its effect and ways to transit from chemical to organic farming. The topics of different webinar and panel discussion are as follows:

- Panel Discussion: “For Pesticide Reduction and Transition to Organic Farming”- Dec 24, 2021
- International Webinar on “Exploring the Issues of Pesticides in Nepal: Practices, Policies and the Need for Multi-Sectoral Action” - March 15, 2022
- Webinar and Panel Discussion On “Innovative Ideas for Pest Management and Policy Implementation at Federal, Provincial, and Local Levels.” - 27th September, 2022
- Panel Discussion on “Linkage between Agricultural Research, Education and Extension for Pesticide Minimization” - 6th December, 2022

- Webinar and Panel Discussion On: “Market Situation, Issues and Way Forward For Organic Products in Nepal” - 20th March, 2023
- International Webinar on “Best Practices and Innovative Ideas for Pesticide Minimization” - 28th April, 2023

### 3. Advocacy

FHEN uses advocacy as one of the key public health tools to influence policy-making processes. We work with the government at different tiers to create an enabling environment to minimize the use of chemical pesticides in food.

#### **Bharatpur Municipality Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting for approval of project Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN) III**

The committee had a favorable view about our project. The fact that Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN) has been working on the issue of pesticide and health in Chitwan district for the past 6 years which was taken as a strong point of the project. The committee was also impressed with the previous initiatives and the achievements gained in the past. The fact that research is also a part of FHEN was taken as a plus point. The overall approach of the project including stakeholders from different sectors was praised as a good strategy and the committee was impressed with the detailed planning of the project and its activities.



*Figure 22: Bharatpur Municipality Project Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting*

#### **Planning meetings at three Levels of government:**

A formal orientation, planning meeting and its follow-up with stakeholders from federal, provincial and municipal level was organized with the objective to bring together these stakeholders to coordinate and address the issue of chemical pesticide use. The orientation and planning meeting with stakeholders of respective municipal, provincial and federal level was held with

the objective to introduce “Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN)” project and its objectives to stakeholders, to orient them about the planned activities and process for conduction of those activities and collect the feedback from participants for effective implementation of program, to exchange knowledge/studies/experiences on the issue of pesticide, to create a platform



where politicians and policymakers can voice their role and work to address the issue of chemical pesticide pave the way for discussion and foster multi-sectoral engagement in the planning and implementation of policies on pesticides in Nepal and to identify and strengthen the relationship with key stakeholders at the provincial level who are willing to help push the agendas on pesticide policies forward.



Figure 24: Municipal Level Planning



Figure 26: Province Level Planning



Figure 25: Federal level Planning Meeting

## Policy Workshop on “Multisectoral Inputs for Improvising Pesticide minimization policies and Guidelines in Nepal”

As a part of advocacy FHEN has prepared a draft Pesticide Minimization Guideline intending to reduce the negative effects of chemical pesticides on humans, animals, and the environment through its safe and judicious use and the use of alternative methods. Hence, through this workshop, FHEN aims to bring the concerned policymakers from three levels under the same roof to get reviews and feedback on the guideline prepared by FHEN.

The program was inaugurated by the gracious presence of the Secretary of the Nepal Planning Commission Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari and the Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Dr Govinda Prasad Sharma.



Figure 27: Mr. Achyut Prasad Dhakal Presenting the pesticide minimization Guideline

Mr. Achyut Prasad Dhakal, a member of the Central Steering Committee (CSC) from Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) gave detailed information about the guidelines and policy prepared with the objective to minimize pesticide use.



*Figure 28: Glimpse of Policy Workshop*

## **Follow-up and Review Meetings:**

### **a. Follow-up meeting at federal, provincial and municipal level**

Follow-up and review meetings at municipal level was conducted where department heads of agriculture, health, and environment were present including Mayors, Agriculture section officers, health section officers and other representatives from the overall seven municipalities of Chitwan district where we shared about our activities as well as asked for their coordination in further planned activities and also provided valuable suggestions that need to be integrated in national policy such as Compulsion for hospital, hotels, school kitchen to consume at least 10% organic or IPM product out of their total purchase.

The Follow-up meeting at Federal Level was carried out with the participation from the different stakeholders were from Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre (PQPMC), Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC),

Ministry of Health and Agriculture (MOHA) and the Policy Research Institute (PRI).



*Figure 29: Glimpse of Federal Follow-up Meeting*

A follow-up meeting at the provincial level was held on the 28th of April 2023 at Hotel Yellow Pagoda, Jamal. The meeting was quite interactive and all the participants expressed their view and ideas in order to minimize the pesticide use and to overcome its effects on health. Multi sector participants from health, agriculture, organic associations, and coordination committee

representatives were present in the meeting and everyone seems enthusiastic to overcome pesticide issue. The major discussions that were held in the meeting were focused on motivating the role models of organic farmers and assuring the market for organic farmers with coordinating with municipalities, AKC, DCC and organic associations.



*Figure 30: Glimpse of Provincial Follow-up meeting*

### **b. Follow up with Pesticide Sprayers:**

With the aim of enhancing the understanding of Pesticide Sprayers, two days professional sprayer training was organized selecting five participants from each Municipality of Chitwan District. We conducted this training as a follow up to the previous training given to the pesticide sprayers with the aim to understand their practical implementation of knowledge gained in the previous training and their current practice of spraying pesticides focusing on the safe handling and label of pesticides.

We visited individual pesticide sprayers and they shared their practical experiences and provided some technical advices.

### **Impact of Trainings on Pesticide sprayer:**

Improvements in spraying practices, use of PPE, safe handling of pesticides, use of safest label of pesticides, time of pesticide spraying and knowledge on negative health impacts associated with pesticides were observed in the follow-up meetings of the sprayers.



*Figure 31: Glimpse of Pesticide sprayers follow-up*

### c. Follow up with Pesticide Retailer

Similarly improvements in sharing and suggestions to farmers Regarding use of PPE, safe handling of pesticides, use of safest label of pesticides, time of pesticide spraying, negative health impacts associated with pesticides and suitable concentrations is to be sprayed were observed during the follow-up meeting with the pesticide sprayers. But figuring out whether farmers are practicing according to their suggestions or not was considered as a difficulty because it is not possible for them to go for farmer's inspection.



*Figure 32: Glimpse of Pesticide Retailer Follow-up*

Most of the retailers didn't kept PPE set and IPM tools in their respective shops because of their shortage and less demand from farmers.

They suggested further training requirement to farmers regarding IPM and regular inspection.

### d. Follow up to trained IPM/ FFS farmers

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the effectiveness and sustainability of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Farmer Field Schools (FFS) as a key approach to agricultural practices. This comprehensive approach allows IPM FFS farmers to develop a deep understanding of pest dynamics and implement sustainable solutions that reduce reliance on chemical inputs. By adopting these practices, farmers can mitigate the adverse environmental impact associated with conventional pest management methods.

Follow up was carried out at Ratnanagar municipality-11 to evaluate the impact of IPM FFS training on farmers' practices, production outcomes, and livelihoods. Participants' emphasized the benefits of resilient crop varieties and market-driven decision-making. Challenges in implementing IPM on commercial farms are apparent. Knowledge exchange, peer learning, and ongoing research are vital for innovation in pest management. Integrating these insights into IPM FFS programs enhances farmers' pest management abilities, reduces environmental impact, meets market demands, and promotes sustainable and profitable agriculture.



*Figure 33: Glimpse of IPM FFS Farmers*

**e. Review program on the issues of monitoring and registration of pesticide retailers and pesticide sprayers**

Pesticide retailers are responsible for selling pesticides to end-users, while pesticide sprayers are individuals involved in the application of pesticides. The review program on the monitoring and registration of pesticide retailers and sprayers highlighted the need for robust monitoring procedures, effective registration systems, policy implementation, and support for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The discussions emphasized the importance of regular policy reviews, training programs, criteria for registration, and licensing of pesticide retailers and sprayers. The involvement of cooperatives and local-level recommendations was also recognized. The program provided valuable insights and recommendations for improved collaborations and sustainable pesticide management practices.

**f. Annual Review Program**

On June 30, 2023, the Farming, Health, and Environment Nepal (FHEN) project completed its two-year term. To evaluate the project's progress, a review was conducted with the participation of the FHEN district office team and central office team after a Central Steering Committee meeting. During the review, a comprehensive assessment of the project's activities, outcomes, and updates took place. The discussions held during the program emphasized exploring possibilities for a program that can engage all stakeholders and policy makers together which would

facilitate effective coordination and the sharing of experiences among participants.

**g. Art Competition and Exhibition on “Pesticides and Human Health”**

This event was carried out with a theme “Pesticides and Human Health”, for two days and 19 participants were involved in this event. The participants were from Lalit Kala campus, College of Fine Arts, and Sirjana College of Fine Arts.



*Figure 34: Mr. Kiran Manandhar providing the prize for winner of Art competition*

**Mr. Kiran Manandhar** was honored as a chief guest for the event and he congratulated all the participants and appreciated everyone as the winner. He further appreciated the NPHF efforts in supporting the artists as giving the platforms for artists in these kinds of events and also further suggested conducting these kinds of art competitions as well as exhibitions in future as well.



*Figure 35: Arts by students during Exhibition*

## **h. Workshop on “Facilitation of Organic Products Certification and Market Management”**

Two day’s workshops on facilitation of organic products certification and market management were organized in coordination with Agriculture Knowledge Centre with the objectives of facilitation of organic and IPM products certification and market space management.

The major participants of the workshop were: Agriculture Officers, organic farmer activist, PQPMC chief, DCC chief, Agriculture Development Directorate officer of Bagmati province, cooperative representatives, and Organic Agriculture practitioners.



*Figure 36: Glimpse of workshop on “Facilitation of Organic Products Certification and Market Management”*

The main objectives of this event were to coordinate with different stakeholders for facilitation of organic product certification and to enable market space management for organic products.

## **3. Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP) Nepal**

**Funding agency:** The One Health Trust

**Project period:** February 2023-Jan 2024

### **Project Objective:**

GARP’s current focus is generating cross-disciplinary evidence describing the impact of vaccines on AMR in country-specific contexts.

The specific objectives are to:

- Initiate a conversation with experts in the AMR and Immunization fields to obtain national perspectives as to where the conversation is on the connection between AMR mitigation and Immunization strategies.
- Create a working group to facilitate activities related to this evidence-generating and policy engagement project.
- Generate country-level estimates on the impact of vaccines in reducing infectious disease burden and AMR.
- Develop national-level publications bringing forth evidence on the value of vaccines to mitigate AMR and the benefit of including its reduction of AMR burden when making the economic case for vaccine introduction.
- Convene experts and policymakers from the AMR and Immunization departments, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, and representatives from international organizations working in the AMR and Immunization space in a roundtable and workshop to present national-level evidence on the value of vaccines as a mitigation tool for AMR.

## Activities:

### Formation of Technical working group

GARP Nepal Technical Working Group (TWG) is formed with 11 members representing government and non-government stakeholders. The TWG has representatives from Quality Standard and Regulation Division, Child Health and Immunization Section, National Public Health Laboratory, Curative Service Division and other academic and research organizations including veterinary sector. TWG members will support GARP's mission to forward the national and international research and policy agenda regarding AMR.

They will provide high-level oversight and guidance for GARP activities in the

country, including the “Value of Vaccine” project, which aims to develop country-level estimates describing the impact of specific vaccines in reducing the national infectious disease and AMR burden and to disseminate those estimates through in-country workshops, webinar, media campaigns, and policy briefs.

### Meeting at MOHP

A meeting was conducted with National AMR Technical Working Group at Ministry of Health and Population on 12th July 2023. The aim of the meeting was to inform the national TWG about the project.

## 4. The Basudhara Namobuddha Integrated Agriculture, Health and Education project

Rural areas are emptying out across Nepal due to both inappropriate and ineffectively implemented agricultural and trade policies and due to the poverty of the social services available people who reside in these areas, especially in healthcare and education. It is therefore urgent to study the needs of people residing in rural areas and to find what can be done to support agricultural livelihoods and stronger public services, so that these localities can be better served and their economies and communities strengthened.

In Namobuddha's Ward No. 1, Dalits, Tamangs, and women are further left out of many societal decision-making processes. While children from Tamang

and Dalit villages make up the majority of students in the local government school, parents from these villages are often not informed of elections to the school management committee. Members of these marginalized groups often appear unaware of existing policies of the government formulated to address the problems of their marginalization.

The project specifically targets Dalits, Tamangs, and women, who are left behind due to discrimination and socio-economic status. Their marginalization also implicates governance, as these populations in general do not tend to be consulted in the creation of the policies and programs of local government. Also

the project concerns the sectors of health, education, and agriculture. It is necessary to address all three of these sectors in an integrated way in order to support the thriving of a rural community.

### **Project Objectives:**

- To find out if Dalits, Tamangs, and women resident in Namobuddha-1 are aware of Namobuddha Municipality's policy and programming commitments and if they are being included in and served by such programs.
- To engage these communities so as to learn about their needs and recommendations for government policies and activities for the next four years.
- To be a bridge between the municipality and these underserved populations as we support them in their empowerment to communicate with government over the course of the project period, and to create pathways for closer such communication in the long term.

### **Activities:**

- **Discussion with women's cooperative in Mane Gaun, Namobuddha Municipality about Organic Farming.**

**Details:** The project i.e. The Namobuddha Integrated Agriculture, Health and Education project is mainly focused on the transition from chemical

to the organic or ecologically sustainable methods in order to secure the farmers livelihood. Throughout the discussion, the knowledge, practices and the perception regarding transiting towards organic farming was shared. The overall agricultural scenario of the mane gaun, the need and challenges while transit to the organic was also briefed by the participants.

- **Meeting with the local leaders:**

**Details:** This meeting was conducted among the representatives from the agriculture, education and health leaders of the Namobuddha municipality. In this meeting Ms. Himali Dixit delivered the presentation about the project for the further coordination and collaboration. The respective representatives also explained about the implementations regarding organic transition in the respective municipality.

- **Meetings with the SAPPROS**

**Details:** SAPPROS (Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal) Nepal is a national level legally registered nonprofit making non-government organization (NGO). It works to improve lives of small farmers and other disadvantaged communities by providing them opportunities for their socio-economic empowerment. For the Namobudhha project, several meetings with the Mr. Shri Krishna Upadhya, Head of the SAPPROS was done for the further planning of the activities.



## **NPHF Core Activities**

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

Since the establishment of Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF), it has taken initiatives to raise voices and advocate the relevant public health issues at national and regional level. Continuing the tradition as apart of AGM, Nepal Public Health Foundation has been facilitating life time achievement awards to eminent personality for their continuous contribution in the field of public health.

#### **a. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM):**

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of NPHF was held on August 29, 2021 via Zoom due to COVID 19 pandemic and its restrictions. The event was conducted in the presence of Dr. Rita Thapa, president of NPHF, Dr. Dharma Sharna Manandhar, Chief Executive, Mother and Infant Research Activities (MIRA) and Dr. Chhatra Amatya, Former Director of Child Health Division and Management Division.

Similarly, Dr. Chhatra Amatya and Dr. Dharma Sharna Manandhar were felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement award this year for contributions made in the field of public health as well as the years of service dedicated by them. The Program was initiated with the welcome remarks delivered by Dr. Mahesh Maskey. Similarly, Dr. Sharad Onta delivered vote of thanks and finally Dr. Aruna Upreti delivered closing remarks, bringing the inaugural session to end.

During the closed session of the program, Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit, general secretary of NPHF, presented the secretary report for the year 2078/79.

Other agendas such as amendment of bylaws, approval of programs and budget, etc. were also discussed among the board members. The program was concluded with some final remarks from Dr. Aruna Upreti.



*Figure 37: Dr. Chhatra Amatya giving remarks*



*Figure 38: Dr. Dharma Sharna Manandhar delivering his remarks*

## b. 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM):



*Figure 39: Glimpse of 13th AGM*

On September 2, 2022, NPHF completed its 13th Annual General Meeting in the presence of founding members, life members and other members and stakeholders. Since the establishment of Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF), it has taken initiatives to raise voices and advocate the relevant public health issues at national and regional level.

Continuing the tradition, this year we had a privilege to honor Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel and Dr. Saraswati Padhye with NPHF Life Time Achievement Award 2022 for contributions made in the field of public health as well as the years of service dedicated by them.



*Figure 40: Life Time Achievement Awardees*



*Figure 41: Group photo in 13th Annual General Meeting*

## Nepal Public Health Foundation Lecture:

Nepal Public Health Foundation has been organizing public health lectures as its core activity every year, inviting eminent people on June 30<sup>th</sup> to foster collective action of people around common agendas of public health.

The inaugural lecture of the year 2010 was delivered by Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, a former deputy executive director of UNICEF and assistant secretary-general of the United

Nations, who highlighted the "10+2 agenda for public health". Then, lectures by other eminent personalities working in public health were delivered.

Similarly recent lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Nilamber Jha on the topic "Community Based Medical Education and Research in Public Health: "Journey from Medical Officer" in 2023.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Nepal Public Health Foundation Lecture

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) successfully organized its 13<sup>th</sup> annual lecture on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Aranya Boutique Hotel continuing its tradition since its establishment in 2010. This lecture was delivered on **"Controlling Tuberculosis in Nepal: My Journey to Public Health"** by **Dirgha Singh Bam**, Former Secretary of Ministry of Health & Population. Dr. Dirgha Singh Bam shared his influencing factors that motivated him in the journey to public health sectors. This lecture series serves as a significant platform for professionals in the field of Public Health to come together and address common agendas. Renowned individuals who have made substantial contributions to the field have been invited to share their life experiences, thoughts, and aspirations.



*Figure 42: Certification*

He also presented the highlights in the journey of involving in the TB controls and the national and international awards he received till date. At the end of the lecture, he summarized by explaining the key lesson learned from his overall journey.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Nepal Public Health Foundation Lecture:

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) successfully organized its 14<sup>th</sup> annual lecture on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 delivered by Prof. Dr. Nilamber Jha on the topic **Community Based Medical Education and Research in Public Health: "Journey**

**from Medical Officer to Professor"** As an eminent figure in the field of Public Health, Dr. Jha currently serves as a Professor at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine under the B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences.

Additionally, he holds positions as a senate member in BPKHIS, governing council, and is a founding member of the Nepal Public Health Foundation.



*Figure 43: Dr. Nilamber Jha receiving certificate of appreciation*

During his lecture, Prof. Dr. Jha shared his personal journey, starting from his educational background to his career growth, ultimately becoming a highly respected figure in the field of Public Health. He also emphasized the challenges he faced and the strategies he employed to overcome them.

Through his experiences, Dr. Jha provided motivation and inspiration to those embarking on their careers in Public Health. The event was attended by the founding members, members of the Central Steering Committee, and the Board Members of the NPHF.

## Meetings

### ➤ **Board Meeting:**

Every two months, the Nepal Public Health Foundation holds a board meeting to update on implemented plans, assist with planning, brief on current activities, plan future activities, and more. In the fiscal year 2021/23, a total of 8 board meetings were held. The board committee consists of nine

executive board members; Dr. Rita Thapa, the president; Dr. Aruna Uprety, the vice president; Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey, the executive chief; Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit, the general secretary; Dr. Rajani Shah, the treasurer; and the board members; Dr. Karuna Onta, Dr. Rajendra BC, and Dr. Abhinav Vaidhya.

### ➤ **Introductory Meeting/ Visit to Ministry of Health and Population, WHO, Nepal and Nepal Health Research Council.**

The introductory meeting of Prof. Trudie Lang Head, The Global Health Network Nepal was conducted with Dr. Roshan Pokhrel (Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population), Dr. Rajesh sambhajirao Pandav (WHO Representative Nepal) and Dr. Gehanath Baral (Chairman, NHRC). The primary aim of this meeting was to introduce Prof. Trudie Lang, Head of

The Global Health Network at Oxford University, to dignitaries in Nepal's health sector. Prof. Lang provided an overview of The Global Health Network and its agenda, while the ensuing discussion revolved around the identification of key healthcare focus areas and the exploration of potential collaboration opportunities between Nepal's prominent health institution and The Global Health Network.

## Proposals Applied

Nepal Public Health Foundation has consistently been engaged in the collaborative submission of proposals with various organizations.

### Applied Global Health Research (UK-MRC)

**i. Project title: Reducing MMR and NMR in an Eco-Ethnographically diverse district of Nepal through Community Engaged Digitalized Comprehensive Continuum of Care.**

The aim of this project is the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality to meet intermediary SDG3 MNH targets in the Gorkha district in Western Nepal. This aim is achieved by establishing an innovative "hub and spoke" model in Gorkha district for digitalization of health post records and FCHV register, GIS mapping of pregnant women, tele counseling for improving antepartum,

intrapartum, and postnatal care and coverage, strengthening the capacity of health care providers for MNH counseling and care, and appropriate referral care including the availability of transportation.

A four-year research project will be embedded, and work in sync, with the MNH program of the government health system.

**ii. Establishing African-Asian partnerships to enhance medication allocation for mind-brain health using artificial intelligence**

This research proposal brings together a pioneering, transparent, equitable partnership that is keen to share bidirectional learning to improve medicines allocation in mind-brain health diseases. By employing machine learning techniques, this study will improve decision-making processes and optimize resource allocation.

The outcomes of this research will offer sustained support to healthcare professionals, particularly pharmacists and policymakers to make equitable and efficient distribution of medication resources, offering clear benefit to individuals suffering from neurological and psychiatric disorders in LMICs.

### iii. Accelerating Novel Approaches to Seizures in Women and Girls of South East Asia.

This project aims to train a diverse group of individuals, equipping them with essential research and project management skills. This training will empower researchers in Nepal and Bangladesh to seek independent funding, ensuring the longevity of this endeavor. It is of paramount importance that our research directly benefits the community it serves. We are committed to engaging all relevant stakeholders at local, regional, and national levels to enhance

the lives of women and girls affected by seizures. By aligning our work with the current WHO action plan on brain disorders, we aim to instill positive change within Nepal and Bangladesh. Furthermore, by leveraging our existing research efforts in Africa to share insights and collaboratively address challenges, we aim to foster a transparent and collaborative platform to effect global improvements in seizure management.

## Staff Career Development

### i. The People's Health Movement South Asia Regional Assembly

The People's Health Movement South Asia Regional Assembly was held in Kathmandu on June 7-8, 2023, as part of the career development program. The assembly, organized in collaboration with People's Health Movement Nepal and RECPHEC, consisted of various programs aimed at addressing regional health issues and fostering collaboration among participants from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the PHM Global Secretariat. Project Manager, Samana Sharma and Project Officer, Seema B.K., along with other delegates, actively participated in the assembly, both in person and virtually, contributing to discussions on country health issues and identifying common agendas for South Asia.

Attending the People's Health Movement South Asia Regional Assembly was highly beneficial for FHEN staff in terms of career development as it provided opportunities for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration with health professionals and

experts from various countries, fostering professional growth and expanding their understanding of global health issues. The assembly provided valuable insights and networking opportunities, supporting their professional growth and development.



**Figure 44: Glimpse of the People's Health Movement South Asia Regional Assembly**

## **ii. 9th National Summit of Health and Population On “Research for Health Translating Evidence and Innovation into Action”**

The Ninth National Summit of Health and Population was held in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at Karki Banquet, Babarmahal, and Kathmandu Nepal. It addressed the importance and ways of evidence based research and policies to improve the health outcomes for a resilient health system in Nepal. The summit attended by the staff members of Nepal Public Health Foundation was a crucial requirement for generating a way to acquiring a new skills for the current

job in terms of research capacity enhancement, organized by Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) which is known as an apex body of the Government of Nepal (GoN) entrusted with regulating, coordinating, and promoting high quality health and population research in Nepal. In this context, the following program was such a boon as we too are individual researchers and of course “Research is a gradual process and it should never stop”.

### **Past Projects:**

#### **1. Farming Health and Environmental Nepal (FHEN II) (2017-2020)**

**Project area:**

70 wards across 7 municipalities of Chitwan District

**Supporting partner:**

Danish Society for Occupational and Environmental Health (DASAM) and DIálogos

**Activities**

We worked broadly in 3 major areas they are:

- Research
- Community-Based Interventions
- Advocacy

#### **2. Policy Dialogue for inclusion of tranexamic acid in the management of PPH in Nepal as per WHO guidelines (2017)**

**Project Objectives:**

- To reduce PPH-related deaths in Nepal through facilitating dialogue between experts and policy makers with the aim of updating the Nepalese guidelines and protocols on the treatment of PPH
- Training of health care professionals on the treatment of PPH at the pilot districts and assessment of the impact of policy changes and policy changes with the training.

**Project Area:** Kathmandu

**Supporting parting:** Welcome Trust

### **3. Highly Hazardous Pesticide Poisoning - Gathering Requisite Information for Decision Making (HOPE-GRID, Nepal) (2018)**

**Project Areas:**

Kathmandu, Dharan, Janakpur, Chitwan, Butwal, Pokhara, Nepalgunj, Dhulikhel

**Supporting Partner:**

Centre for Pesticide Suicide

**Outcome of the project so far:**

With the data obtained from the HOPE GRID project, CPSP has already been able to assist the Government of Nepal (GoN) in banning some HHPs in Nepal. Along with aluminium phosphide, five other HHPs have been banned. As aluminium phosphide was responsible for most deaths in this research study as well, this move by the GoN is bound to reduce suicide rates to some degree in Nepal.

### **4. Association of pesticide exposure and pregnancy outcome from a tertiary care hospital in Chitwan District, Nepal (2019)**

**Project Objective:**

- To identify the association of pesticide exposure and pregnancy outcome visiting in Tertiary Care Government Hospital in Chitwan District, Nepal.

**Project Area:** Chitwan District

**Supporting partner:** Nepal Public Health Foundation



## **ANNUAL PLAN AND STRATEGY for FY 2023/2024**

### **Nepal Public Health Foundation Lecture Series**

Nepal Public Health Foundation has been organizing public health lectures as its core activity every year, inviting eminent people on June 30<sup>th</sup> to foster collective action of people around common agendas of public health. The inaugural lecture of the year 2010 was delivered by Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, a former deputy executive director of UNICEF and assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, who highlighted the "10+2 agenda for public health". Similarly recent lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Nilamber Jha on the topic "Community Based Medical Education and Research in Public Health: "Journey from Medical Officer" in 2023. For the Upcoming Lecture, economic details are as Follows.

Total budget: Rs 100,000

It covers the cost of a token of love, etc.

Source of fund: NPHF main account

### **Public Health Foundation Website and Social networking**

Nepal Public Health Foundation has its own official website: [www.nphfoundation.org](http://www.nphfoundation.org), which provides updates on all the ongoing activities, updates, and completed projects of NPHF. In 2017, the old website was redesigned and published. Recently the website was slightly modified and the updates of the programs and activities of the NPHF and its project are done on the regular basis. Similarly, regarding the social networking NPHF is updating the activities on Facebook and twitters by sharing the details as well as through the live.

### **Modular Lecture**

A modular lecture program will be conducted once every three month, which will last for one week, mainly targeting bachelor and masters level students as well as fresh graduates in medical and allied health disciplines. On average, NPR 5000 will be charged per participant for a week-long course. Assuming an average of 15 participants per course, the expenses and income are as follows:

Expenses per program: Rs. 40,000 (making a total of Rs. 1, 60,000 in a year)

Income per program: Rs. 75,000 (making a total of Rs. 3, 00,000 in a year)

### **Interaction with Health Journalists**

An interaction program will be conducted four times a year where current health issues will be discussed.

**Total Budget:** Rs. 10,000 per program, making a total of Rs. 40,000 for a year.

This cost covers the refreshments, the hall rental, and transportation and communication costs.

## Institutional social responsibility

### NPHF field office

The Nepal Public Health Foundation has initiated a field program in Namobuddha VDC of Kavre District with the aim of improving the socio-economic status of the community along with the nutritional status of children. Basically, the whole program is based on the concept of community empowerment. The vision is to establish an exemplary farm that will uplift the status of the community people.

**Total budget:** Rs. 10,000 per visit (Total in a year: Rs. 500,000)

This budget covers the transportation costs and refreshments for the staff visiting the field site. The field visit will be done twice a month. There is a separate budget for the implementation of the project.

### Working Partners

The working partners for all the activities of this fiscal year:

#### International/Multinational



#### Local Partners:



Government of Nepal  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



## National Academic Partners:



## Flexible office hours proposed for FY 2019/20

- During summers: 09.00-17.00 or 09.30 - 17.30 or 10.00 - 18.00
- During winters: 09.00-16.00 or 09.30-16.30 or 10.00-17.00

## **ANNEXURE**

### ***Advisors***

*Dr. Rita Thapa*

*Dr. Badri Raj Pande*

*Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam*

*Dr. Suniti Acharya*

*Prof. Dr. Kenneth J. Rothman*

### ***Executive Board Members***

*Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey (Executive Chief)*

*Dr. Aruna Uprety (President)*

*Dr. Lochana Shrestha (Vice President)*

*Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit (General Secretary)*

*Dr. Rajani Shah (Treasurer)*

*Prof. Dr. Abhinav Vaidhya (Member)*

*Dr. Karuna Onta (Member)*

*Dr. Rajendra BC (Member)*

### ***Life Members***

*Dr. Archana Amatya*

*Dr. Bishnu Chaoulagai*

### ***Ordinary Members***

*Dr. Chhatra Amatya*

*Dr. Pushpa Sharma*

*Dr. Hemav raj Bhandari*

*Ms. Himali dixit*

*Dr. Swaraj RajBhandari*

*Dr. Rajaram Dhungana*

*Dr. Jitendra Pariyar*

*Ms. Mana Rai*

*Dr. Bhagwati Kalikote*

*Ms. Ajanta Singh*

*Dr. Dirgha Singh Bam*

### ***Founding Members***

*Prof. Dr. Aarati Shah*

*Prof. Dr. Abhinav Vaidhya*

*Prof. Dr. Achala Baidhya*

*Ms. Alina Maharjan*

*Prof. Dr. Arjun Karki*

*Dr. Aruna Upreti*

*Dr. Ashok Bhurtyal*

*Dr. B.D. Chataut*

*Dr. Badri Raj Pande*

*Prof. Dr. Bhagwan Koirala*

*Dr. Bharat Pradhan*

*Dr. Binjwala Shrestha*

*Dr. Buddha Basnyat*

*Prof. Dr. Dharma Sharna Manandhar*

*Ms. Daya Laxmi Joshi*

*Dr. Gajananda Prasad Bhandari*

*Mr. I.M Shrestha*

*Prof. Dr. Kedar P Baral*

*Dr. Lochana Shrestha*

*Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit*

*Dr. Mahesh K. Maskey*

*Dr. Nabin Shrestha*

*Mr. Narayan Subedi*

*Dr. Narendra Kumar Shrestha*

*Prof. Dr. Nilamber Jha*

*Dr. Rajani Shah*

*Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari*

*Dr. Renu Rajbhandari*

*Dr. Sameer Mani Dixit*

*Mr. Shanta Lal Mulmi*

*Prof. Dr. Sharad Onta*

*Prof. Dr. Shiba K Rai*

*Prof. Dr. Shrikrishna Giri*

*Dr. Shyam Thapa*

*Dr. Suresh Mehata*

*Dr. Tirtha Rana*

## **Staff Members**

*Ms. Neshan Rai, Former Deputy Director of Programs*

*Ms. Satya Kripashree Pradhan, Program Officer*

*Ms. Sabrina Guruacharya, Project Officer*

*Ms. Pranjali Dahal, Project Officer*

*Ms. Sulochana prajapati, Program Co-ordinator (Part-time)*

*Ms. Praneta Acharya, Media and Social Science Research Co-ordinator (Part-time)*

*Ms. Santoshi Giri, (GARP co-ordinator)*

*Ms. Deepesha Silpakar, project officer*

*Ms. Dikshya Kafle, Project Officer*

*Ms. Rijana Maharjan, Project Officer*

*Ms. Aawash Regmi, Project Officer*

*Ms. Pratistha Bhusal, Project Officer*

*Ms. Kaushar Khanam, Admin and Finance officer*

*Ms. Rabin Nepal, Assistant Admin and Finance officer*

*Ms. Maya Lama, Office Assistant*

*Mr. Devraj Moktan, Driver*

### **FHEN (Chitwan field Office)**

*Ms. Samana Sharma, project Manager*

*Ms. Neshan Rai, Former Project Manager*

*Ms. Usha Neupane, Project Officer*

*Ms. Srijana Bhattarai, Agriculture Officer*

*Ms. Seema B.k, Project officer*

*Ms. Sunira Marahatta, Field officer*

*Ms. Kamala Gurung, Office Assistant*