

## RECLAIM SYMPOSIUM - 25-26 August 2014

### SUMMARY REPORT



**First Day: Monday, August 25/2014**

**Programme Chairperson:** Mr. Bir Bahadur Khawas (Chairman of Nepal Leprosy Trust)

**Chief Guest:** Dr. Ramesh Bikram Singh (Director of Central Regional Health Directorates)

**Programme Anchor:** Mr. Krishna Prasad Subedi (Outpatient Manager Of LLSC)

**Session One:**

#### **A. Opening Session**

**Welcome speech:** Programme Director of Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre (LLSC), Mr. Dambar Bahadur Aley welcomed national and international dignitaries, Self Help Group (SHG) members and staff to the symposium. He also explained that RECLAIM symposium is a celebration for SHG members and NLT-LLSC staff. He said that. It is an international event, with delegates from the American Leprosy Mission (ALM), Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation (SMHF), Medic Mobile, Effect:Hope, Neitherland Leprosy Relief Association. The Leprosy Mission Neitherland (TLMN).

He thanked to the representative of Eastern Regional Health Directorates and Central and Eastern Regional Tuberculosis Leprosy Officers (RTLOs) and Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Sindhuli, Siraha, Saptari, Sunsari and Jhapa district's Health Post In Charges and District Tuberculosis Leprosy Officers (DTLOs), Leprosy Mission Nepal (LMN), Nepal Leprosy Fellowship (NLF), READ Nepal and SHG members of Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Sindhuli (LLSC' catchment districts) and Siraha, Saptari, Sunsari, Jhapa districts of Nepal (Nepal Leprosy Fellowship catchment districts) for giving their valuable time to the symposium. He also said that RECLAIM symposium is a platform for the planning and discussion about leprosy.

**Natinal Anthem:** After welcome speech, the national anthem of Nepal was played to pay respect towards the nation.

**Unveiling of Title RECLAIM symposium:** The RECLAIM symposium was formally opened by Dr. Ramesh Bikram Singh, Director of Central Region Health Directorate and Mr. Bir Bahadur Khawas, NLT Chariman jointly.

## B. Technical Session:

Dr. Hugh Cross, ALM Program Director - Asia, chaired technical session and co- chaired by Mr. Hem Kumar Pradhan, Manager of Community Development Department, Lalghadh Leprosy Services Centre (LLSC).

### Experience sharing by Self Help Group Members



Mrs. Laxmi Pokhrel shares her pain and experiences.  
Kiran Jha (left) translating in to English.

In technical session, the SHG facilitators of the LLSC and NLF catchment areas shared their pains, challenges and how their lives transformed through RECLAIM project. The participants were Mrs. Laxmi Pokhrel, Mr. Mainuddin Daffali, Mr. Kishori Yadav, Mr. Pramod Kumar Jha and Mr. Raj Kumar Paswan. The participants of the symposium were connected with the pains of SHG facilitators and, at the same time they felt happier to know that they lives are transformed through Self Help Groups .

### Power Point Presentation by staff

The staff of the LLSC, NLF and LMN were presented the Powerpoint presentation of various project's activities and their impacts . The presentation titles were Lives transformed into change agents, Multi-sector approach for social development with contribution of self help group/DPO,SHGs becoming DPOs to receive government disability funds at VDCs, Leprosy Affected people:Change agents of the community, Community Based Development through the means of cooperatives, Medical back-up

for community initiatives and inclusive society: Initiatives with sports. The winners were -



Mr. Min Karki presenting case study of  
Laxmi Pokhrel



1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Ramesh Chaudhary, NLT-LLSC



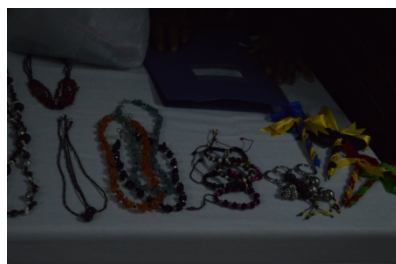
2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs. Kiran Jha, NLT-LLSC



3<sup>rd</sup> Mr. Deepak Ghimire, NLF

## Demonstration

The self help group members of LLSC and NLF project areas were demonstrated their handmade arts and crafts such as beads necklaces, teddy bear, pots made by mud and knitted small baskets



Winners of the handmade art and craft were as shown below in the photographs:-



1<sup>st</sup> Siyabati Chaoudhary, NLF



2<sup>nd</sup> Lila Khatri, NLF



3<sup>rd</sup> Sahida Khatoon, LLSC

## Remarks from Chief Guest

The Chief Guest of RECLAIM Symposium, Dr. Ramesh Bikram Singh thanked LLSC and contributors for giving him an opportunity to participate as a chief guest in RECLAIM Symposium. He expressed his commitment to support programmes related to leprosy.

## Closing Remarks

The Chairperson of RECLAIM Symposium Programme, Mr. Bir Bahadur Khawas appreciated the works done by SHG members, and wished for further progress of their works in the future for the welfare of the persons affected by leprosy and their community people.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day: Tuesday, 26 August/2014



Day 2<sup>nd</sup> of RECLAIM Symposium was hosted by Mr. Dambar Bahadur Aley and chaired by Dr. Ramesh Bikram Singh. Dr. Hugh Cross-opened the technical session by allowing Mr. Ramesh Chaudhari and Mr. Arbind Sah to present about RECLAIM and Village Alive Project in depth followed by group discussions to be lead by Mr. Aren to get ideas of future direction beyond RECLAIM project.

### **RECLAIM presentation**

Mr. Ramesh Kumar Choudhary, Community Based Empowerment Rehabilitation (CBER) Officer of LLSC, presented the goals, objectives, progresses and achievements of RECLAIM project. He explained that there are a total of 91 Self Help Groups established in Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Sindhuli districts so far.

After RECLAIM presentation, Chairperson of RECLAIM Symposium, Dr. Ramesh Bikram Singh addressed the delegates, participants, contributors, and quoted that leprosy remained as public health challenge in some of the Terai district of Nepal. He appreciated the works done by the LLSC in the leprosy control programme. He further said that leprosy is linked with social and economic backwardness, poverty and poor nutrition; therefore these issues also need to be seriously addressed. At last, he departed from the programme by saying that RECLAIM Symposium has brought national and international delegates, Self Help Groups and partner organizations who work for leprosy control programme in a platform and given opportunity to discuss together on leprosy. He also expressed his belief that every participant has benefitted either directly or indirectly from RECLAIM Symposium.

### **Village Alive (VAP) Presentation**

Mr. Arbind Kumar Shah, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Training coordinator, presented the goals, objectives, progresses and achievement of VAP. He enlightened how VAP has had its greatest impact in the communities. He explicated that there are 679 females and 220 males in 33 Women's Groups and 11 Farmer's Groups, which are established in Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Sindhuli districts respectively.



After VAP presentation, all participants were invited to participate in a brainstorming session, to generate ideas, which would result in formulating a proposal of community work from LLSC. The participants were divided into 7 groups. The participants have recognized the success of the RECLAIM project and causes of those successes.

Outcomes of the brainstorming were as shown in the table below:

No.	Success of RECLAIM project	Causes of Successes
1.	Positive impact in society	Commitment to work in a group
2.	Blood donation by persons affected by leprosy	Confident to speak
3.	Increased independence	External support
4.	The Increase in self care practice	Respect
5.	Community people take advice of self help group	Focused on needs of community
6.	Initiation of community development	Work commitment and Network
7.	Respect and Equality	Importance of self help group

Mr. Aaron divided the participants in to 7 groups and assigned them to write on Newsprint paper about what the mind say? What activities to be done?, and what to be thrown into the thresh from the RECLAIM project. He encouraged participants to think and write on their contents. These points would be helpful in the near future while developing new proposal.

Finally, Dr. Hugh Cross thanked all the participants for their active participation in the brainstorming session and RECLAIM Symposium, and he declared the RECLAIM Symposium, 2014 'closed'.

#### Some photographs:



Welcome Poster



NLT Chairman, Mr. Bir Bahadur Khawas giving his closing remarks about the RECLAIM Symposium.



Flex displayed about the Village Alive Project



Mr. Darren Schaupp, Programme Operational Director American Leprosy Mission chatting with Mr. Sachitananda Dev. District Public Health Administrator, Sarlahi district.



Group discussion



Group discussion



RECLAIM presentation by Mr. Ramesh Chaoudhary



Dr. Hugh Cross explaining about the process how to think about the future plan beyond RECI AIM



Case study presentation by Mr. Dundhi Raj Pokhrel



One group representative explaining their ideas to other group members.



Organizers Group Photo