

NEPAL NEWSLETTER

Restless Development Nepal, Quarterly Newsletter August-October 2011

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Students participating in a life skill class

WORKING WITH MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SPORTS

After four months of lobbying, discussions and follow-ups, we have signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. It is a three-year agreement, and it is the first time that the Ministry has signed with an NGO.

Through the agreement we will be able to work better with the Ministry to further include young people in their work. Our focus areas include building the Ministry's capacity in terms of implementation and strategic planning, supporting implementation of the National Youth Policy,

initiating research and training in youths' livelihood and employment opportunities, building the capacity of our partners and NGOs, and setting up 5 model 'Youth Information Centres'.

As our first project under the agreement, we recently trained 16 dynamic youths on programme assessment. They looked at small scale youth initiatives previously funded by the Ministry in 17 districts all over Nepal. The results of this research will be shared with the Ministry and other youth-led organisations.

NEW STAFF

We are expanding our activities and therefore we need some helping hands!

We are excited to welcome the following talented individuals to our team: Rajendra as Programme Assistant Coordinator, Krishna, Sangita, and Lila as Programme Officers, and Tap as Finance Officer.

We are happy to announce that two of our current staff members were successful in their applications. Very big congratulations to Sudhir and Padam, as Programme Assistant Coordinators.

We are looking forward to work with them. Join us in welcoming our new members!

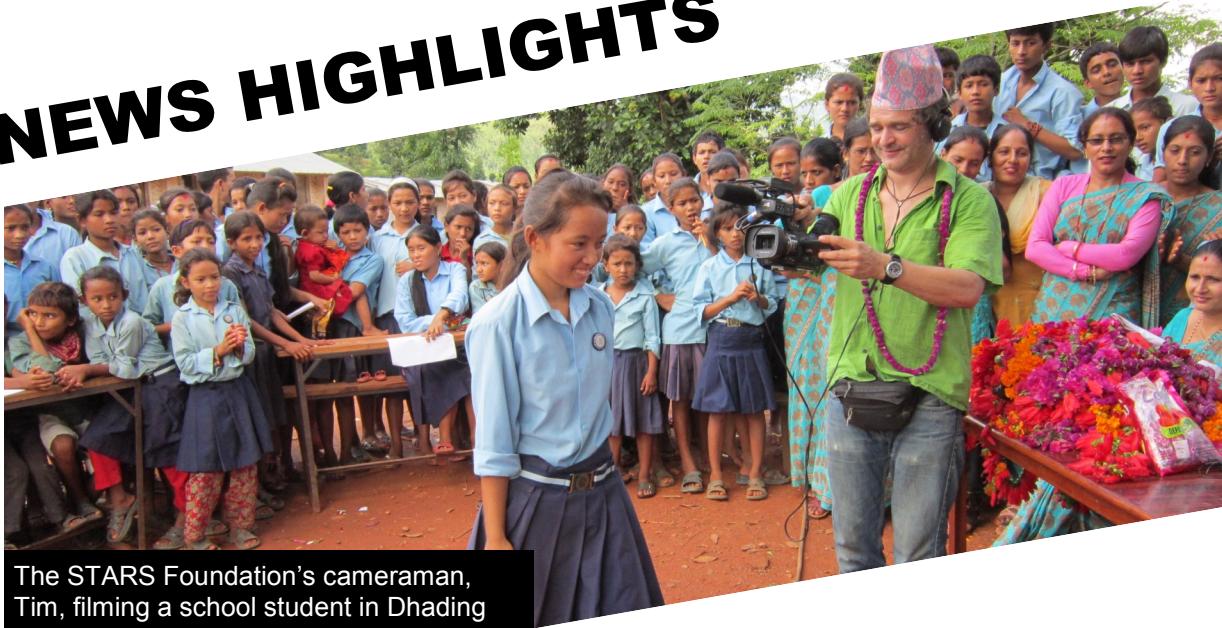


Our Country Director, Ravindra (right), with the joint-secretary and under-secretary

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



The STARS Foundation's cameraman, Tim, filming a school student in Dhading

SIMAVI VISITS DOTI

The Dutch organisation Simavi supports our Community Youth Empowerment Programme in the Far West of Nepal. In this programme, we aim for positive change in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of young people towards health, hygiene and nutrition issues; improved life skills of young people; and community level support for young people adopting positive health and sexual and reproductive health behaviours.

Simavi's representatives visited the communities we work with in Doti district together with a reporter from a Dutch magazine. She interviewed local volunteers and community members about our work.

ORIENTATION MEETING

Out of 250 applications, we selected about 150 young Nepalese to attend the orientation meeting for our Community Youth Empowerment Programme (CYEP).

We are very pleased with the youths' enthusiastic and proactive attitudes. Shortly we will select our new 32 young peer educators!

STARS IMPACT AWARD

We are the selected recipient of the STARS impact award in health 2011!

The STARS foundation identifies and supports organisations that excel in providing services to disadvantaged children and demonstrate excellent management practices.

Cécile Hyafil, Programme Officer Asia-Pacific of the STARS Foundation says:

“Both the STARS assessment team and the independent Panel were impressed by the innovative way in which Restless Development in Nepal has used international, national and local volunteers to deliver projects and provide peer to peer education.”



Youth Club students performing an awareness drama

Restless Development puts young people at the forefront of change and development

YOUNG PEOPLE CAN.



ICS volunteer conducting a class on HIV/AIDS

INTERNATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

In July we received the first 11 of the 50 international volunteers scheduled to come to Nepal as part of the DFID-funded International Citizen Service programme. Our volunteers have re-visited schools in Nawalparasi and Rupandehi in the Western region of Nepal, our previous working districts.

The international volunteers observed structures and activities that may have been maintained after our previous volunteers left. This included infrastructure projects, youth clubs, and youth-friendly education, among others. Over the coming months a report will be compiled. We will use these results to improve our current intervention in Doti, but also to improve our follow-up support.

“From working with an organisation that places the emphasis on young people, I feel more confident than ever in the capabilities and future of young people, and hope to continue working with them. “

Anne, ICS International Volunteer

RECENT ACTIVITIES

40 Youth Club members, teachers and students participated in workshops by our ICS volunteers in Sunwal, Nawalparasi

180 participants from 75 NGOs attended our CSO capacity building workshop

35 organisations, that received Ministry of Youth and Sports' grants, were assessed by our trained volunteers

COMING UP

Award ceremony: We will receive our STARS Impact Award in November in London. This gives us recognition for our work and youth-led methodology.

Nepal Challenge: Some of our visiting staff, former volunteers and sponsors will embark on a trek in Dhading district to raise money for our work.

..and more!

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