

Annual Progress Report

Submitted By

**Esther BenjaminsTrust-Nepal (EBT-N)
Lalitpur, Nepal**

To

**Social Welfare Council
Lainchour, Kathmandu**

(July 2014 to June 2015)

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the various projects activities that the Esther Benjamin Trust Nepal (EBT-N) supported to implement through its partner organisation the Esther Benjamin Memorial Foundation (EBMF) from July 2014 to June 2015. The report covers several major components of the project activities such as 'Child Care Home- Child Protection and Development', 'De-institutionalisation', 'Rescue and Reunification', 'Youth Support Project', 'Humli Girls' and 'Scholarship and Bursary', 'Anti-Trafficking' and 'School Support Project' in Makwanpur district.

The EBMF had a large child care home until April, 2015. The Social Welfare Council (SWC) in its final evaluation report suggested dividing the care home into small homes. Therefore, we have divided the large care home into three small homes during the period.

Different activities were carried out for the overall development of 32 children residing in the EBMF's Child Care Homes such as physical development, participation in extracurricular and recreational activities, participation in orientation and awareness programmes, family visits and celebration, volunteer service during festivals, attending workshops, excursions etc.

Children were also involved in planning and decision making processes related to them. Effective counselling was provided to support children emotionally and psychosocially. Individual Child Care Plan (ICP) was prepared and implemented for children to develop their potentials.

A Youth Support Project (YSP) has been run to reduce the dependency of youths who leave the Care Homes. They are supported for education or vocational support. We provided them support for survival in a semi-independent mode.

Organisation also got opportunity to welcome EBT-UK staffs and some of generous supporters and volunteers from United Kingdom and Canada.

The EBMF organized the DPAC meeting in Makwanpur, on 26th February 2015. Similarly, the EBT-N organized the CPAC meeting at Lalitpur on 3rd April, 2015.

Introduction

The Esther Benjamins Trust-Nepal (EBT-N) is Nepal chapter of the United Kingdom (UK) based children's charity which has been working in Nepal since 1999. Primarily, it works for circus rescued and street children. It works through a local partner NGO the Esther Benjamin Memorial Foundation (EBMF). We provide support to the EBMF for running care homes. We provide youths for continuing their education or vocational training. As we realize that the care home is the last resort, we encourage children to live with their family or relatives. Therefore, we encourage the EBMF to follow rigorous process to reintegrate the children.

The EBMF has also been implementing other different projects in Makwanpur District with our support in coordination with District Education Office and has maintained good rapport with the local communities. Till date more than 20,000 children and their families have been benefitted by various project activities supported by EBT-N including teacher's training promoting child friendly classroom setup and interactions, school support project, providing mid-day meal, scholastic bursary support, basic infrastructure improvement and raising anti-trafficking awareness and intervention. EBT-N has also expanded its focus over youth support project and has been working with adolescent youths by providing financial support for survival, job oriented vocational training, life skill training and career counselling.

Objectives

The primary **objective** of the project was to ensure the protection and holistic development of the at risk children in order to build their capacity to sustain their adult life independently.

Provide educational, developmental, recreational and other basic needs to resident children at childcare homes, and conduct rescue operation,
Reunify children with their parents and/or kinsmen if it is possible to do so,
Promote independency of youths through education, vocational trainings and other possible supports.

Child Care Home

The EBT's partner NGO, EBMF had a large child care home with 46 children. Out of them, some children were reintegrated with their families and relatives. Six of them appeared in School Leaving Certificate examination. Remaining 32 children are divided in three small homes. Two homes are located at Lalitpur while one care home is run at Hetauda, Makwanpur.



Individual Child Development/Care Plan

For better care and development of each child an “Individual Care Plan (ICP)” for 32 children has been prepared in the beginning of each month and implemented as a part of day to day activities by the house parents throughout the month. In so doing, they were supported by the Child Protection and Development Officer and counsellor. The process is being reviewed at the end of every month. As a result, the profile of each child is being updated. Number of orientations on ICP has been given to the house parents that have also completed the monthly review of the care plan.

Basic Health Facilities and Quality Food at Care Homes

Fresh, balanced and nutritious food was served to all the children of care homes. In order to meet the nutritional requirements of children, a weekly food chart has been prepared in consultation with a doctor. For those children with special needs supplementary diets were provided. House parents inspected the quality of food being provided. Similarly, the food was prepared in hygienic manner and the sanitation of kitchen and dining hall was properly maintained and organised. During the period, no child was sick due to food.

A registered medical practitioner conducted regular health check-up at Care Homes. All the children had access to basic health care. As per his recommendations the children were considered for further check-up and treatment.

During this period, Santosh Rai and Prabesh Tamang received treatment for their fractured hand. Similarly, Suryamaya Thing, Arjun Adhikari, Monika Budhathoki and Bishnu Rai were taken to Tilganga Eye Hospital for follow up check-up. Rohit Adhikari was taken to Bir Hospital in relation to his ear infection.

As a part of health awareness, a session was conducted by a medical doctor targeting Dashain festival. The children were informed about the diseases transmitted from unhealthy food and water.



Educational Development

All the 46 children had passed their final examinations and upgraded to next class. Out of 46 children, eight were reunified with their family, six appeared in SLC examination and two joined youth support programme. Remaining 32 children are admitted in four different schools after the division of Child Care Home into small family type units.

Five students passed SLC examination this year. Out of them, two students passed in first division while three passed in second division. One student was failed in two subjects and appeared in chance examination. Rest of the students are studying in the following schools:



Name of the Schools	Number of Children	Location	From
Mahendra Adarsha Higher Secondary School	8	Satdobato Lalitpur	Home – 1
Shree Krishna Higher Secondary School	9	Dhapakhel Lalitpur	Home – 2
Kitini Higher Secondary School	4	Taukhel, Lalitpur	Home – 2
Bhutan Devi Higher Secondary School	11	Hetauda, Makwanpur	Home – 3



Recreation and Extra Curricular Activities

With the aim to develop compassion, co-operation and empathy among their peer groups, extra-curricular and recreational events are regularly organised at Care Home. From grade ten Mohan B.K, Prajit Titung, Ajan Rai and Lokendra Shahi participated in a football tournament organised by grade ten of Kitini Higher Secondary School. Similarly, Susmita Lama, Saraswati Gole, Lila B. K.,



Deepika Titung and Monika Budhathoki performed dance on the cultural programme organised at Kitini School on the occasion of Children's Day. Uday Gole participated and won first prize in art competition and got consolation prize in quiz competition. Similarly, Kushal Lohar Kami, Mohan B. K and Prajit Titung sang a patriotic song.

Three children Lokendra Shahi, Sanjeev Syangtang and Bijay Pariyar participated in 1st National Chess Running Shield Tournament between Children Residing at Child-Care Home organised by CCWB in which Bijay Pariyar received consolation prize.



As Dashain was beginning at the end of September, children were taken to visit different temples by house parents. Similarly, Janai Purnima, Holi, Father's Day, Children's Day, Mothers' Day, Saraswoti Puja, Teej and Tihar festival were celebrated and the Birthday of the children was also celebrated collectively at the end of every month.

Children had their winter vacation in the school and EBMF organised a number of extracurricular activities such as: Open drawing competition, Essay and poem writing competition, Debate competition, Quiz competition, handwriting and dictation competition and the winners were awarded prize for their motivation. Games such as cricket, football and other indoor games were also arranged for the children where all the children participated to the best of their ability. Similarly, they were also taken out for outing and picnic during the vacation.



Visit and Celebration

For maintaining good relation between children and their families, during the festivals and long school vacation children usually visit their families. All the children have telephone contact with their family and relatives on weekly basis. Twenty six parents visited care home and took their children with them to celebrate Dashain. Similarly, twelve children were taken to their home by the EBMF staff. Lokendra Raj Shahi who was separated with his family members for the last seven years visited his home village in Jumla to celebrate Dashain with his family members. After annual examination, 12 children had gone home to stay with their family and relatives.

Life Skills

Children are encouraged to take responsibility such as assisting kitchen staffs in buying vegetables, cleaning up their surroundings, cooking meals on Saturdays in group-wise rotation basis and other normal household tasks. To teach them skills related to money management, communication, buying goods and be familiar with the market and transportation route they are taken to market by their house parents. Similarly, to help children learn working on team work, they involved in planting corn, garlic, coriander and seasonal flowers which are done in a small area of EBMF's Small Family Home to demonstrate gardening.

Rescue

On 29th October, three girls were rescued from Gurung Carpet Factory of Bhaktapur with the help of government line agencies. Out of these three girls one is reintegrated with family and other two are at the EBMF Care Home Hetauda and are enrolled in formal school.



Family Tracing

The family members of two children (Monica and Sagar Budhathoki) were traced successfully on the month of April 2015. Their relatives visited EBMF child care home on the month of May 2015.

Both the children as well as their parents were very happy to see each other.

Psycho-social Counselling

To address some behavioural and emotional issues group counselling and individual counselling were conducted on weekly basis. During this period, seven referral cases were forwarded to the counsellor. They were counselled by employing different methods. After counselling, they became normal. Now the children who did not like to continue education, are motivated to study. On 9th September an orientation programme on 'Child Abuse' was conducted for the staff of Care Home with the objective to make them aware with different forms of child abuses. They were also updated about the Child Protection Policy of EBMF. Thirteen girls from the age group fourteen to eighteen participated in an orientation programme regarding self-esteem provided by EBMF Counsellor on 2nd August, 2014.

One day "EARLY MARRIAGE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES" orientation was organised in EBMF on the month of November 2014. The objective of the orientation session was to increase awareness level among young children about the consequences of early marriage. On 29th November, an orientation on

“Bullying” was conducted for all the children in two groups with the objective to make them aware with different forms of bullying. They were also updated about the Child Protection Policy of EBMF.

On the month of December a motivational class was conducted at EBMF child care home. The class was mainly focused for the grade ten children with the objective to motivate them to do well in their examination.

Visits

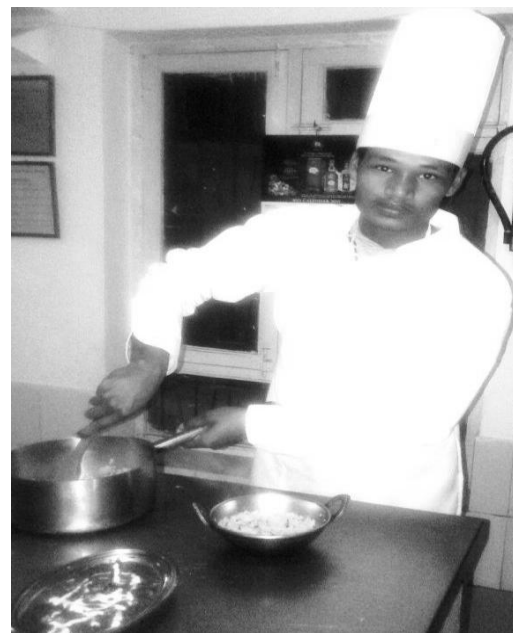
During this period, various national and international guests and visitors visited the EBMF Care Home. The visit includes the Chief Executive (EBT-UK) Mr. Ian Kerr, EBMF Chairman Mr. Karna Sher Tamang, Bernadette Kaiser from Hatemalo, Yam Bahadur Gurung, Bhesh Nepali and Ms. Bryon Robinson visited child care home and were happy to see the children. In the process of organisation’s renewal two representatives from Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) visited the Care Home and were happy with the organisation’s arrangement and facilities provided to the children. Similarly, for the final evaluation of the project, member from Social Welfare Council (SWC) also visited the child carehome and had a separate meeting with the children and staff.



Youth Support Project (YSP)

EBT Nepal supports for a programme component of Esther Benjamin Memorial Foundation which aims to promote the independency of the youths under the care of the organisation. Primarily, EBT-N provides need-based support for their survival and education or vocational training.

One can join in YSP when s/he become 18 or complete School Level Certificate examination. The children who are in care home and do not like to continue education are also supported under the project. Currently, 19 youths are getting financial supports along with proper guidance and



psychosocial counselling from YSP of EBMF. They are scattered in Kathmandu (10), Makwanpur (5) and Butwal (4). After two years, they are encouraged to lead an independent life. The beneficiaries of YSP have started

to lead independent life. Some of them are employed. Others are married.

Recently two orientations for the SLC appeared youths were conducted by YSP. They got proper guidance and other essential supports for making their citizenship. Four youths out of six successfully made their citizenship certificates.

Support for Humli Girls (TN Returnee)



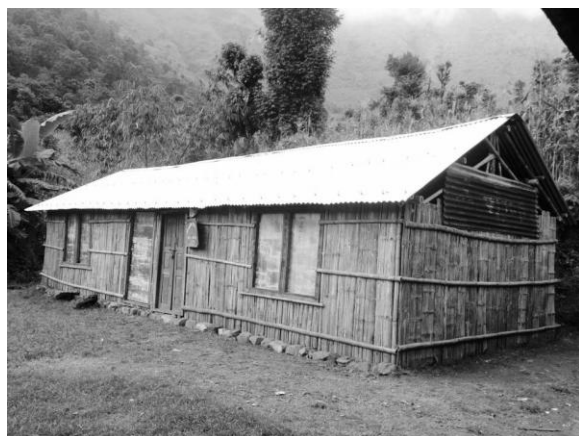
As per the agreement signed with the government of Nepal, the EBMF is providing support to 23 girls returned from Michael Job Centre, Tamil Nadu, India. They were rescued in December 2010 after being found illegally brought and were in the process of religious conversion. Five out of twenty three were quickly reintegrated with their own family; one was kept at EBMF's Care Home and seventeen girls were enrolled in

Swapna Batika Academy, Kathmandu.

These seventeen girls were also handed over to their parents but could not go back due to the remoteness of village, lack of schools and other educational facilities in their original locality. The EBT-N is supporting them financially to meet their educational and other needs and bound to support for their education till grade 12.

Temporary Learning Centers Constructed

The EBT-N supported the EBMF to build Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) after the earthquake of 25 April 2015 destroyed the schools in large number. District Education Office Makwanpur requested the EBMF to support the destroyed school temporarily. A total of nine TLCs were constructed in Khairang, Dadakharka and Raksirang VDC in a joint coordination with District Education Office, Makwanpur.



Implementing Arrangements and Coordination

Central Project Advisory Committee Meeting (CPAC)

The Central Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting was organised by Esther Benjamins Trust- Nepal on 3rd April 2015 where participants from the various line ministries and organisation were present.

The meeting was chaired by Director of Social Welfare Council and started by Country Director of Esther Benjamins Trust Nepal (EBT-N) by welcoming all the participants and informing about the programme and agenda of the meeting. He also presented six monthly progress reports on different activities undertaken by the support of EBT-N. He also highlighted key achievements of the project and expressed gratitude to Nepal Government and line agencies for their cooperation and coordination.

The Finance Officer presented income expenditure details to all the participants under different headings such as Child Care Home, school support project at Makwanpur, Girls rescued from Tamil Nadu, scholarships and bursaries, rescue and reunification and anti-trafficking awareness. Then, several questions and concerns were raised by the participants. The feedbacks from the participants were received and noted for future incorporation.

DPAC Meeting

The PNGO's Branch Office Hetauda organised District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting on 20th February, 2015. In the absence of Local Development Officer, Bhojraj Khatiwada, the meeting was chaired by Local Development Planning Officer, Kumar Prasad Koirala. Other participants were Country Director from Esther Benjamin Trust- Nepal, Trustee from Esther Benjamin Trust UK, board members from Esther Benjamin Memorial Foundation, Operations Program Manager (EBMF), Development Programme Officer (EBMF), Chief of Women and Children Office, Social Development Officer, Assistance District Education Officer, representatives from non-government organisations and EBMF Hetauda team.

The participants suggested the EBMF to work in close coordination with Women and Children Development Office. Some of the participants suggested sharing the planned activities with stakeholders, local government bodies and existing groups at VDC level to implement the programme effectively.

Relief Distributed

Nepal experienced a devastating earthquake on 25 April and numerous aftershocks. In response to national calamity, the EBT collected relief from different donors and distributed to the victims. In first lot, a total of 317 households were recorded to have been affected



by the earthquake in Makwanpur which were further categorized as 157 as highly affected and 160 as moderately affected. The highly affected were kept in top priority and aid materials like tarps, sleeping mats, blankets and rice were focused for such people while the moderately affected received fewer support compared to the higher ones. The distribution was actively supported by Nepal army and local villagers. 167 tarpaulins and 167 sleeping mats were provided by the EBMF in Khairang VDC.

In the second phase, a total of 15,540 kg rice, 2,590 kg lentils, 2,590 litres cooking oil, 3,108 bars of bathing soap, 2,590 bars of washing soap, 1,036 kgs of Salt and 1,036 pieces of blankets were distributed in Kakada and Bharta VDC as a part of earthquake relief operation in May/June, 2015. The list of the needy households was got from DDC and VDCs. Similarly, anti-trafficking messages were disseminated via pamphlets in both VDCs.
