



NEWSLETTER

2019/2020

2019 was a very fruitful year for Ear Care Nepal. We continued our scheduled School and Monastic Ear Health Programs. We established Ripa Referral Centre at Star Hospital where 151 surgeries were done successfully to the needy children.

We started 2020 with a grand plan. Upto March 2020, we were conducting our regular activities and schedules to go to schools and monasteries for our school based ear health programs. The world came to halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was very unexpected and sudden sad development. All the schools are closed for indefinite period therefore we couldn't continue our normal activities. Here are our achievements and accomplishments from 2019 to 2020.



A MOMENT TO CHERISH

ECN completes its 7th year on August 2020 with 79,786 children screened and treated, 509 school visited and 748 ear surgeries conducted to the school students of different parts of Nepal. On the occasion of 7th anniversary, ECN has launched its new official website. Here's the link for the website : www.earcarenepal.org

ECN- Ripa Referral Center



One of the major achievements of 2019 was establishing Ear Care Nepal-Ripa Referral Center. Our operation started on this venue from July 2019. ECN-Ripa Referral Center is located at the Star Hospital, Sanepa, Lalitpur. The referral center is situated in a separate designated space on the 4th floor of the Star hospital; four spacious rooms and a waiting area. 94 surgeries were done to the children from various schools and monasteries from its establishment till date. Swiss Ripa Foundation through Ripa Siddhi Sangathan is the contributor and sponsor of this center.

Establishment of referral center has been extremely beneficial, functioning as a tertiary level care center for the neediest hence enhancing ECN's outreach services. Referral center has been useful in fulfilling all of our objectives

Community School Based Ear Health Program



This year ECN successfully visited 103 community schools from different part of the country. Our visit includes 54 schools from Kavrepalanchowk, 5 from Bhaktapur, 14 from Kathmandu (includes Kirtipur), 8 from Lalitpur, 2 from Dhading, 18 from Dolpa and 1 each from Ramechhap and Makwanpur. Likewise, we conducted 3 days Ear Health Program which was organized jointly with Lions Club Thaha Peace and Rotary Club of Makwanpur at Shree Janakalyan Secondary School, Palung, Makwanpur district. Total 19,527 children screened and treated for ear and hearing problems throughout the year.

Monastic School Based Ear Health Program



This is one of our other important programs. This year we visited 4 monastic schools from Pharping. They are Manjushri Monastery, VorgenDorjeeChoeling Monastic School and RigonTashi. 513 young monks and nuns studying in these monasteries benefitted from the program.

Surgeries



This year 151 major middle ear surgeries were conducted for restoration of hearing to the children of different schools and monasteries. Surgeries includes; Myringoplasty, Tympanoplasty and Modified Radical Mastoidectomy and grommet insertions.

Heal and Hearing Trek



Under Heal and Hearing Trek program, this year we, the team of ECN, went to Dolpa district, a remote village of Far West Nepal. Here we conducted ear health program to students of 18 different schools. All the children were examined and treated by ENT surgeons for ear and hearing problems. Audiological evaluation was done by Community Ear Assistant. All the children and their teachers were delivered a short lecture on primary ear care using education materials like posters, animated booklets and power points. The total number of 2,601 students were checked up. Among them, we found 7.84 % cases had ear problems and 61 children needed ear surgery. ECN has already reached out to remote parts of Nepal like Solukhumbhu, Mustang, Humla, Jumla.

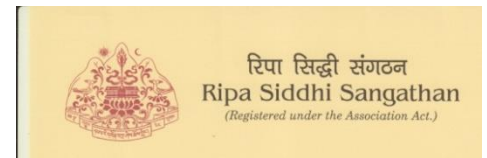
Support

Samsara Nepal continued their support this year too by sponsoring for “Heal and Hearing Trek” at a remote and isolated Dolpa district. ECN and Samsara Nepal have jointly started ear screening program in remotely located schools of Lalitpur district from March 2020. Samsara Nepal has been supporting ECN since its initial days. Samsara Nepal has been sponsoring 6 disable children and a teacher at Disable Service Association, Bungamati, a school for disable children.



Direct Relief (DR) has been sponsoring programs since 2015. This year DR continued to support our school based ear screening programs held at various schools of Kavrepalanchowk district. 8,799 students from 54 different schools from Kavrepalanchowk district benefitted from the program.

Swiss Ripa Foundation through Ripa Siddhi Sangathan has been supporting in School Ear Health Program at the schools of Kirtipur Municipality from 2019. Ripa Siddhi Foundation is also supporting for ECN-Ripa Referral center.



World Hearing Day Celebration



The program, with the theme, “Hearing for life, don’t let hearing loss limit you” was held at Patan Durbar Square, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lalitpur District on 3rd March 2020. People from different schools, organizations, age group and communities marked their presence on the program. More than 3000 spectators enjoyed the musical program performed by the friends of ECN. An Ear Health awareness song written by Ear Care Nepal team and composed by a Nepali band released on the day. The song conveys the message on prevention of ear and hearing problems of children in Nepal.

Youtube link of the song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZo43WtgN5Q> The song conveys the message on how to prevent deafness and ear problems of children in Nepal.

Participation

The energetic team of ECN actively participated on the rally organized by The Ministry of Health and Population to mark the World Hearing Day on 3 March 2020. ECN team with other participants from various organizations took part on the rally with holding placards conveying the messages on Hearing Loss and its prevention and cure.

Publication

- This year two articles on different Nepali national newspapers were published on the occasion of World Hearing Day. The 1st article entitled “Hearing Loss in Nepal can be Prevented” by Dr. Milan Maharjan was published on Republica Daily. Link https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/hearing-loss-in-nepal-can-be-prevented/?fbclid=IwAR09hzgbvStexEYI6qRKY4rHCD83Y1AQhLQ-ooto4E-Y04KET5U_1Z0Z_Yg
- Another article in Nepalese language was written by Mr. Puru Risal, Vice Chairperson of ECN was published on Nagarik Dainik. Link https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/opinion/204458-1583207820.html?click_from=category&fbclid=IwAR09hzgbvStexEYI6qRKY4rHCD83Y1AQhLQ-ooto4E-Y04KET5U_1Z0Z_Yg
- An interview of Dr. Milan Maharjan on Hearing Problem in Nepal was also published on RatoPati, an online media on the same day. Link https://ratopati.com/story/120332/2020/3/3/world-hearing-day-milan-maharjan?fbclid=IwAR3gV3HjuYC0Ijw_isDuJzBeUDu5nOCBR-HxyM-kb7h_uZhnAb2LOxt4BTc
- Rotary Club of Yala published about ECN in their Weekly News Bulletin on 26th July 2019.
- A renowned Nepali National Daily NagarikDainik published news about ECN program on 18th November 2019

Certificates and Recognitions

During the year 2019/20, ECN has been recognized with international certificates and appreciations from various National and International organizations.

- ECN received an appreciation letter and a certificate of participation from World Health Organization under World Hearing Forum for its active participation on World Hearing Day 2020. ECN had organized a musical awareness program at the Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur with the spectators more than 3000 to mark World Hearing Day.
- ECN has been recognized with Certificate of Appreciation by Kalyanmani Acharya Dixit Memorial Trust on 21 October 2019. The certificate was awarded to Dr. Milan Maharjan, Chairperson of ECN for its commendable effort to prevent deafness and conserve hearing in Nepal.



Ear Care Nepal Team