



Nirdhan Newsletter

A Newsletter of Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited — February/March 2020 Edition

**Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta
Bittiya Sanstha Limited**
(formerly Nirdhan Utthan
Bank Limited)

An MFI Providing Services to the
Poor

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Message from the CEO

Dear Reader,
Greetings!

We are delighted to present you Feb-Mar 2020 Newsletter and to inform you about the ongoing socio-economic activities and progress at the bottom of the economic pyramid. You are updated about Nirdhan Utthan progress report as of Mar 13, 2020.



CORONAVIRUS SAFETY! KEEP YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE.



Nirdhan wishes all our readers good health. Stay Safe, Stay Home during this Global Pandemic.

Nirdhan Progress Report as of Mar 13, 2020

| Non- Financial Indicators | Figure |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Districts Covered | 77 of 77 |
| Branch Offices | 181 |
| Local Bodies Reached | 531 of 753 |
| Financial Literacy Beneficiaries | 18,420 (CFY) |
| Skill Development Beneficiaries | 1,777 (CFY) |
| No. of Maternity Allowances | 1,715 (CFY) |
| No. of Insurance Claims | 973 (CFY) |
| No. of Disaster Reliefs | 1,604 (CFY) |
| No. of Critical Illness Relief | 6 (CFY) |
| No. of Staff | 1,231 |
| No. of Centers/SRGs | 19,864 |
| No. of Active Clients | 375,236 |
| No. of Loan Clients | 225,837 |
| Financial Indicators | Amount |
| Loan Disbursed (NPR) | 131.67 Billion |
| Loan Outstanding (NPR) | 20.79 Billion |
| Savings & Deposits (NPR) | 12.53 Billion |
| Insurance Claims Paid (NPR) | 71.2 Million (CFY) |
| Credit Interest Rates | 10% - 17.25% p.a. |

Note: Nepali Rupees (NPR), Current Fiscal Year (CFY)

cause their family's life and livelihood depend on their job.

To ensure sustainable growth and development, we will increase the intervention programs like credit plus programs to encourage entrepreneurship among members through our Training and Entrepreneurship Development Department to overcome skill gaps especially in agriculture (horticulture, livestock and agronomy) by employing local technical resource persons. We also aim to increase horticultural crops (fruits, vegetables, flowers, medical plants, etc.) and livestock in the Terai, Hills and Mountains to meet domestic and export demand. We will help to motivate overseas returnees, relatives of our members to develop their skills and business. We expect such types of low cost pattern of interventions and actions will improve our ability to fight poverty in Nepal.

-Janardan Dev Pant

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Covid-19 is taking not only lives but also livelihood of our economically vulnerable members. Jobs of our members' close relatives in the Gulf, India and Malaysia are also at high risk. The possibility of losing jobs are almost certain. It is estimated that majority of the workers are unskilled. In the year 2018 USD 8.1 Billion (28 percent of GDP) was remitted to Nepal. This will be very difficult in the beginning once these expats are home be-

12 Skill Development Trainings Conducted for Members of Nirdhan

Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited organized **12 training events** with the aim to provide business skills and entrepreneurial skills in opportunities such as Goat Farming, Poultry Farming and Vegetable Farming. Nirdhan organized 5 Commercial Goat Farming Training in Kolhabi, Dulegauda, Galkot, Kharwang and Burtibang Branches with a total of 150 members' participation. Goat Raising Training offers insights on all the important matters to be considered by farmers for healthy goat production.

Nirdhan Utthan also organized 2 Poultry Farming Training in Ranjha and Sukhupur branches for the members looking to start poultry farming business. A total of 70 members facilitated from these trainings. Further, there were 5 Trainings on Vegetable Farming in Udaypur, Pokhara, Belauri, Jhalari and Sishaniya branches facilitating 150 members. The trainers had a wide range of information and great training skills through which the members of Nirdhan were highly motivated and learned new skills.

The trainings organized by Nirdhan are never short of ideas and information and to achieve these objectives and to make the training program a successful one, Nirdhan hires professionals as trainers rather than providing the training through the staffs. The intensive three days trainings also include farm visits for gaining realistic information and to make our members able to visualise the ideas.

The branch offices play a very important role in facilitating these training programs. They collect the client need identification and request for the training specific to the clients need in their operating area. This process has increased the efficiency of these trainings as well as the overall impact that has been achieved through the programs organized. The clients who obtain these trainings have shown great difference from the traditional and less productive way they did their agriculture and businesses in the past.

With a strong view towards Client Protection, Nirdhan has been organizing these kind of training programs through out the year on the basis of client needs identified by the branches in order to bring maximum effectiveness on the usage of loan by the clients to establish themselves a good business which they can fully depend upon for their expenses as well as savings for the future. The COVID-19 crisis means we are not able to organize these trainings at the moment but will continue after the crisis ends.



Participants of Commercial Vegetable Farming Training organized by Udaypur Branch, Banke District alongside the CEO of Nirdhan Mr. Janardan Dev Pant.



Participants of Commercial Vegetable Farming Training organized by Pokhara Branch, Kaski District during field observation.



Training being conducted by resource person during the Poultry Farming Training organized by Ranjha Branch, Banke District

| Client Trainings Feb/March 2020 | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| S.N. | Event | No. of Events | Beneficiaries |
| 1 | Commercial Goat Farming | 5 | 150 |
| 2 | Commercial Poultry Farming | 2 | 70 |
| 3 | Commercial Vegetable Farming | 5 | 150 |
| Total | | 12 | 370 |

Maternity Allowance

Nirdhan distributes maternity allowance to its maternity clients in a regular basis. Maternity period is a very sensitive period for mothers and they need nutritious food to keep themselves and their child healthy. To help the same cause Nirdhan has been providing Rs. 1,600 to its maternity clients for up to 2 times.

Nirdhan distributed 562 maternity allowances during Feb-Mar 2020 amounting to a total of Rs. 734.7 thousand to maternity clients through different branches.



Maternity Allowance being presented to Anita Tharu of Butwal Branch, Rupandehi District

Distribution of Compensation

Nirdhan also distributes compensations in the event of death or accidents of its member clients to their family who were insured through the micro-insurance service facilitated by Nirdhan Utthan LBSL. Nirdhan distributed 256 compensations during Feb-Mar 2020 amounting to a total of Rs. 17.08 million to the family of deceased clients through its different branches across the country. Nirdhan Utthan provides the insurance facilities to its clients through co-operation with the best value major insurance company in the market. The insurance premiums charged to the clients are negotiated by Nirdhan to offer value without compromising on the benefits offered by the insurance to its clients.



Insurance Compensation amount being presented to the member's spouse of Dhakdhai Branch, Rupandehi District

Disaster Relief

Nirdhan distributes Relief to the members who are affected by natural calamities such as flood, landslide, earthquake, tornado, fire etc. During Feb-Mar 2020, Nirdhan distributed 5 reliefs amounting to Rs. 6 thousand. These reliefs were provided to the victims of natural calamities damage. The amount of relief distributed to the members depend on the damage caused to them and their household.

Critical Illness Relief

Nirdhan has recently started providing Critical Illness Relief to the members and the household. The value of relief is Rs. 5,000 per case. The critical illness include cancers, major organ damage, major heart diseases, and other major illnesses as recognized by the Critical Illness Relief Manual of the organization. Nirdhan provided 4 Critical Illness Relief during Feb-Mar 2020 amounting to a total of Rs. 20,000.

COVID-19 Relief Support

Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited has made a contribution of Rs. 400 Thousand on each of the seven provincial Corona Virus Funds operated by the government of each provinces. The total of Rs. 2.8 million has been donated to the Corona Virus Prevention and Treatment funds established by the province governments. We hope the contribution to be helpful in prevention of Corona Virus from spreading.

The persistent drumbeat of positive tests and reported deaths in other countries have created widespread concerns in Nepal. After the World Health Organization raised its global risk for the deadly coronavirus to "very high" from "high," the government has imposed lockdown through out the nation since March 24, 2020 to contain the outbreak of the virus in Nepal.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal, it is working hard to ensure that corona virus doesn't spread like in Europe and America in Nepal as it will be very hard for Nepal if it does spread. The government has made claims that the lockdown has proved to be helpful in containing the disease which sounds like a trustable statement as the number of confirmed corona virus cases stands at a mere 57 cases and 16 out of those have already recovered. Further, there has been no corona virus related death as of current date.

The government has promised that the funds deposited in Corona Virus Fund will be used to provide basic needs for poor and helpless during lockdown as well as used for treatment of infected patients, preventive measures and all other corona virus related requirements.

Learn to Face Difficulties

35 years old Bhuma Budhathoki lives in Bangad Kupinde Municipality-1, Sallibazar is a well-known cosmetic businesswoman. She has a small one storey house on a 5 anna land and on the front room of her house she has her cosmetic business from which she earns profit of Rs. 60 thousand per month. Sometime her husband also helps her in the cosmetic business.

Bhuma Budhathoki was born as second child of Durga Khatri and Jiga Khatri in Tharmare-4, Bagchaur of Salyan District on 26th January 1983 in a simple agricultural family. She was a hygienic but mischievous child. She got married at the age of 17 with her lover Top Bahadur Budhathoki of Suikot in 2000. Her husband had a big family with 3 sisters and 3 brothers and she entered the house as the oldest daughter in law. While she was at her parents' home she didn't have a lot of work but at her new house she had a lot of work which was difficult for her. The couple thought that there was no opportunity for them in the village as they wished to achieve big and hence moved to Sallibazar where they built a small house in a 3 anna land. She started running a small shop at her house. She even passed her SLC after

marriage in 2003. After that she could not continue her studies because of family matters. Now she is a mother of 5 daughters and a son.

In 2012 with her husband's support she became a member of Sallikusum Self Reliant Women's Group operated by Nirdhan Utthan's Sallibazar Branch and took her first loan of Rs. 30 thousand to start a small cosmetic shop.

Before starting the shop, they had their own vehicle which was operated by her husband on Nepalgunj to Rukum route.



Bhuma Budhathoki at her shop.

But only her husband's income was not enough to school their children and cover for household expenses. After that they sold the vehicle and she started the cosmetic shop while her husband started a manpower business in Kathmandu. It was easier to school their children after that. She later took loans of Rs. 60 thousand, Rs. 75 thousand, Rs. 150 thousand and Rs. 150 thousand as her 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th loan and also took Solar Loan and Seasonal Business Loans from Nirdhan to regularly upgrade her business. Currently, she has a loan of Rs. 200 thousand which she has invested in her cosmetic business.

She said that hard work can make anything possible. From her business income she is able to give good education to her 5 children and pay the loan installments without any problems. She is now the leader of 19-member Sallikusum Self Reliant Women's Group of which she joined as a member. She added, "Unless you have any problem in your life you will not seek for the solution. That's why I suggest all women out there to face the problem and make themselves strong enough to stand on their own feet."

Writer:

Mr. Nim Bahadur Gharti Magar, Branch Manager, Sallibazar Branch, Salyan

Pre-Service Training of Junior Assistant and Assistant Manager held at Central Office, Naxal

Nirdhan organized Pre-Service Training of Junior Assistant and Assistant Manager who were selected from the recruitment examination, field analysis report and interview at the Central Office on March 5, 2020. There were 20 participants who qualified from the examination process and were nominated to serve Nirdhan.

The training program is conducted for each and every new staff to give an overall idea of work to be conducted while at the organization. Further, the CEO Nirdhan, Mr. Janardan Dev Pant welcomed the new staff to the organization and wished them good luck on their work to help the poor people of Nepal through the pioneer micro-finance. The HR head Mr. Narayan Karki provided the new employees with their appointment letter and placement.



Participants of Pre-Service Training of Junior Assistant and Assistant Manager organized at Central Office, Naxal, Kathmandu.

COVID-19 Message

Overview

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments.

Symptoms

Common Symptoms:

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Dry Cough

Other Less Frequent Symptoms:

- Aches & Pains
- Nasal Congestion
- Runny Nose
- Sore Throat
- Diarrhea

Note: On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should self-isolate. Seek medical attention if you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing. Call ahead.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- If you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention. Call in advance.
- Follow the directions of your local health authority.

Avoiding unneeded visits to medical facilities allows healthcare systems to operate more effectively, therefore protecting you and others.

To date, there is no specific medicine or vaccine related to COVID 19

Self care

If you feel sick you should rest, drink plenty of fluid, and eat nutritious food. Stay in a separate room from other family members, and use a dedicated bathroom if possible. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Everyone should keep a healthy lifestyle at home. Maintain a healthy diet, sleep, stay active, and make social contact with loved ones through the phone or internet. Children need extra love and attention from adults during difficult times. Keep to regular routines and schedules as much as possible.

It is normal to feel sad, stressed, or confused during a crisis. Talking to people you trust, such as friends and family, can help. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor.

Source: World Health Organization, WHO