



CBRS Update  
October  
2020

Wilkins Memorial Trust (WMT) continues to support Community Based Rehabilitation Service (CBRS) via our on-going project helping people living with disability. All the planned activities were completed for 2019-2020 except for some school enrolments which were impossible to do due to Covid-19. Residual funds from school enrolment were diverted to support very poor families. Any extra unspent money for 2020-2021 will be used for feeding families in extreme hardship due to the pandemic. These are people who have 'fallen through the net'. Maybe they are illiterate or blind etc and can't easily access help.



WMT also supports an outreach project with the aim of working in a new region and of moving on after 3 years. CBRS employ two workers, Bindu and Parvati. One has 70 clients and the other 120 and they have resumed visits with Covid-19 precautions. The outreach project is about 40 km from Pokhara about one hour by public bus. They are in the field from Sunday to Thursday and then meet together and work at the local government health office on Fridays. The government has provided the space for free. Medical officers often refer clients to CBRS via this local health office. For families living nearby they can manage 3 visits per day and for those further away (maximum 15km) only 1 visit is possible. The main focus of their work is befriending and supporting the families to ensure that they receive as much help as possible.





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None of the staff at CBRS have had the Coronavirus infection and the situation is generally better after a very difficult initial period of lockdown. People relying on daily wages were supported by the government and NGOs and their situation has now improved. Schools, temples etc are still closed but CBRS self-help groups and child clubs can meet with no more than 10 people. Schools may reopen soon, however there has been a recent increase in cases from 10,000 to 30,000 over 3 weeks. Nepal has about 4,500 ventilators and although there is plenty of capacity now (about 200 people on ventilators) the government is warning that the health service may not cope in the face of rising numbers.

As in other countries, the pandemic has affected the cultural life of Nepal, for example the annual Women's' Festival week was due to start on 21st August but was cancelled with a precautionary week of lockdown. The worst affected areas are the border regions and although there are official crossing points to India many people cross unofficially at other sites.



One member of staff, Yau Maya has had to leave to care for three aged relatives. CBRS hopes that she will be able to re-join in the future and Govinda has finished her roll.

Overall WMT pay for 5 key workers -Govinda and Hum for general projects and Parvati and Bindu for outreach plus a line manager (Bidur). We also fund the wages of a technician (Nhuchhe,) a cleaner (Sita) and part of the cost of the accountant and Krishna's (CBRS overall manager) salary.