Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital, Lahan Biratnagar Eye Hospital, Biratnagar

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**









# History

Under leadership of Secretary General Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel and Chairmanship of General Ravi Shamsher Ja. Ba. Ra; Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh (NNJS) was established in late 1978 for hassle free and facilitative eye treatment of patients. Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh appealed to different international unions and organizations to support them to eliminate blindness in Nepal. Christoffel Blinden Mission, CBM started collaboration with Social Welfare Council and Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh after an agreement in December 1982. Dr Albrecht Hennig from CBM started 12 bedded Eye Care Center from Ram Kumar Sarda Uma Prasad Murarka's Public District Hospital at Lahan in 1983.

As the number of eye patients were increasing day by day, Dr. Hennig realized need of having a separate building for eye hospital. For this, he began contacting and appealing through Principal of Pashupati High School Mr. Kameshwor Chaudhary to various social workers of Lahan. As the appeal was for humanitarian cause, Chaudhary family at Lahan showed interest and assigned responsibility to Mr. Padma N. Choudhary for discussion and finalization of land donation. Finally, a bilateral agreement was signed by NNJS General Secretary, Dr. Ram Prasad Pokhrel and Mr. P. N. Choudhary on behalf of donor Chaudhary family. As per the agreement, Social workers of Lahan Shree Chhabi Lal Chaudhary, Shree Sarowar Lal Chaudhary and Shree Rabindra Lal Chaudhary have donated land in Lahan and Hardiya for the noble cause. CBM extended their financial support by constructing 50 bedded Eye Hospital at this donated land. The dedication and unselfishness as motivated with social service, Dr Hennig and his team served to the neediest populations through Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital. The growing trust in services and increase demand in eye care helped establish 450 bed hospital with highly sound technologies in short span of time. This newly constructed building was inaugurated by current King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah in 1986.







In order to balance workload of Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital and to increase the scope of long term human resource sustainability, Biratnagar Eye Hospital was established on 13th September 2006 under the leadership of Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh in a rented building as a branch of SCEH, Lahan. The hospital starting from 80 beds expanded to become 300 beds by 2009 to meet the demand of increasing number of patients. The management of Hospital and supporting organization's far-sighted vision, skilled doctors, enthusiastic manpower and high-tech technology has contributed to its immense success in short duration of time.

With the help of Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital and supporting organizations like CBM, European Union, Standard Chartered bank and own internal source 500 bedded high-tech building was constructed in Biratnagar. This new building was inaugurated on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 by the first president of democratic republic of Nepal, Hon. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav.







NNJS/Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme (EREC-P) is a non-profit organization providing high quality eye care services along with comprehensive approach in eye and ear care. The services are very much accessible and affordable for people of all socioeconomic background. EREC-P is an umbrella of 2 tertiary level hospitals (Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital and Biratnagar Eye Hospital) and 27 Eye and Ear Care Centres. The program is providing services to large number of populations of province no 1, province no 2 and province no 3 of Nepal and neighbouring countries.





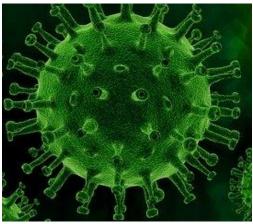


# **COVID-19 Pandemic**









The COVID-19 pandemic appeared as the biggest humanitarian crisis which has led to greater health and socioeconomic glitch all over the world. To control escalation of the virus, the government called nationwide lockdown from 24th March 2020. The patient care services were limited to emergency service from 25th March 2020 for nearly one month. For safety of staff and patients, COVID-19 protocol has been developed and implemented. All necessary safety measures and precautions such as allocation of triage area, use of thermal gun, compulsory facemask, hand rub using alcohol-based sanitizer and PPE for staffs were taken. Slit Lamp Breath Shield were made locally and placed in all Slit Lamps. After one month of lockdown, nearly all services were resumed with limited working hours and in rotation of staffs. Total 16 staffs were infected by COVID- 19 with mild symptoms who after 15-30 days of quarantine recovered without complications.

In Nepal, total 2,60,593 people got infected & 1,856 died in 2020 due to Covid-19. Despite the effect of Covid-19 Pandemic, a total of 4,74,488 patients were examined and 54,060 surgeries were performed at EREC-P hospitals, Eye Care Centers and in Out-reach activities.









# **EREC-** P at a glance

38 years of excellence in eye care

Academic trainings & researches

Over 10 million beneficiaries since inception

**EREC-P:** 

High Quality, High Volume, Affordable, Comprehensive Eye & Ear Care Services

27 Eye and Ear Care Centers inlcuding 4 surgical center

Over 1.8 million

Eye & Ear

surgeries

2 hospitals

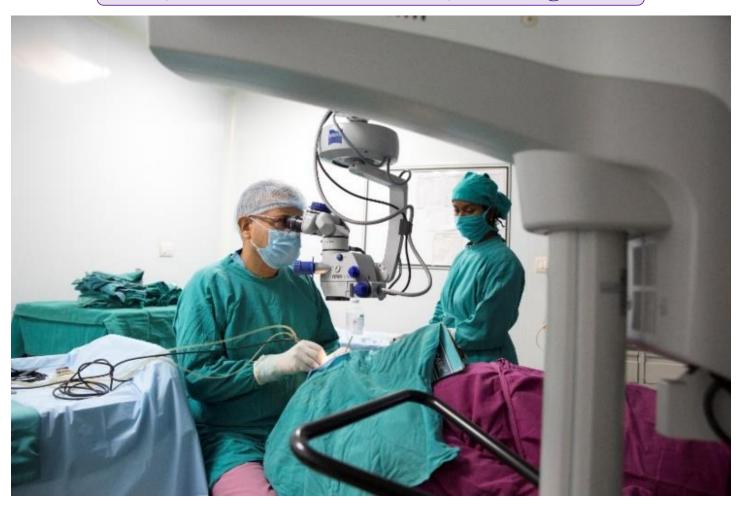






# **HIGHLIGHTS**

# 474,488 examination & 54,060 surgeries



# ISO 9001:2015

BEH is the first eye hospital in Nepal which has been awarded ISO 9001:2015 in the year for its quality services. ISO 9001 is the world's most recognized Quality Management System (QMS) standard. The QMS is the aggregate of all the processes, resources, assets, and cultural values that support the goal of customer satisfaction and organizational efficiency. Using ISO 9001:2015 helps ensure that patients get consistent, good-quality products and services, which in turn brings eye-ear service benefits.

# **ROP- Retinopathy of Prematurity**

Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a major cause of potentially avoidable blindness in children in the middle-income countries, and is becoming a public health concern in Asia. Despite an increase in neonatal services in the eastern part of Nepal in recent years, ROP screening program is the first of its kind in this region. The objective of this program is to

improve neonatal care by providing ROP screening and treatment services in neonatal intensive care units (NICU).

A complete mobile screening set-up has been arranged including mobile van equipped with a portable fundus camera, a portable laser with laser indirect ophthalmoscopy (LIO) delivery system, a laptop with data connectivity and consumables.







Certificate of Registration

A VR Surgeon and an ophthalmic assistant were trained on ROP screening, pediatric fundus imaging& treatment. BEH has signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with 11 NICUs of Biratnagar municipality and has plan to expand the services in other areas of Province No 1 and 2. ROP screening has started from November 2020.

The team visits each NICU at a fixed time on a fixed day each week from the base hospital. Screening for ROP along with follow-up was performed in all preterm neonates falling into the screening criteria. Those needing laser or Anti-VEGF treatments were delivered treatment as per need.

Total 31 (18 boys, 13 girls) premature babies were screened for ROP and were examined 70 times in total by using portable fundus camera and indirect ophthalmoscope. ROP was detected in 8 babies and 3 required treatment. Laser treatment was given to 2 patients. The treatment helped in regressing the disease in these babies, if left untreated would have led to permanent blindness.







# Low Vision, Hearing, Language & Speech Rehabilitation Unit







BEH has strengthened and upgraded its existing Low-Vision unit into Low Vision, Hearing and Speech Rehabilitation Unit.

Newly upgraded unit is the new addition to the multifarious activities of hospital that will make the service delivery comprehensive.

The patients attending the unit are empowered to develop competence to accumulate positive experiences across various environmental settings. The ergonomics of the unit allows patients with low vision to move independently and also serves as a model that could be replicated by the patients in their environment.

In the Low Vision Department of both eye hospitals, 106 patients including 24 children with Low-Vision were assessed. Special Low-Vision Devices were dispensed to 40 patients who required devices for improving vision. Similarly, 11 incurable blind patients have undergone through counselling as well as orientation and mobility training.









# SURGERIES

Cataract:	39,836
Sutureless ECCE/IOL (SICS):	26,183
Sutured ECCE/IOL:	244
On children:	663
Phaco ECCE/IOL:	12,189
Other lens removal procedures:	557
Glaucoma:	1,101
Trabeculectomy:	192
Combined (Cat&Trabeculectomy):	
Trans scleral cyclo photocoagulation	
Nd. YAG iridotomy:	596
Surgical PI& other:	43
Corneo-Scleral Surgical Procedure	
Keratoplasty:	88
Amniotic Membrane Graft (AMG)	: 35
Corneo Scleral Repair:	450
Pterygium:	1,621
Corneal Cross Linking:	45
LASIK:	21
Other Corneal Procedures:	375
Vitreo-Retinal Surgery:	3,623
Pars plana Vitrectomy:	592
Scleral Buckling:	164
Intra Vitreal Injections:	888
Inj. Avastin:	1,625
Others:	354
Oculoplasty Procedures:	1,755
Dacryocystorhinostomy:	686
Dacyrocystectomy:	214
Entropian / Ectropian:	178
Evisceration / Enucleation:	219
Ptosis:	32
Other oculoplasty procedures:	426
Laser procedures:	3,116
Retinal Laser:	1,276
Nd. YAG capsulotomy:	1,840
Squint:	73
Others:	1,092
SUB TOTAL:	53,231
Ear Surgeries:	829
C.MTplasty:	18
MRM:	8
Myringoplasty:	437
Myringoplasty/VTI:	38
Others:	<u>328</u>
TOTAL:	<u>54,060</u>

# **Surgeries:**

<u>487</u>
107
342
53,231
64
23,554
29,613



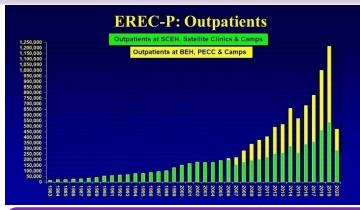
# **OUTPATIENTS**

SCEH, Lahan:	106,612
Biratnagar Eye Hospital:	96,677
ECCs:	128,033
<b>Screening Camps' Patients:</b>	27,604
COR Household:	9,515
<b>School Screening (REACH):</b>	38,973
Surg. Camps' Outpatients:	<u>64</u>
EYE SUB TOTAL	407,478
Ear Department, Base:	35,261
Ear OPD in ECCs:	12,011
<b>Ear Screening Camp Patients:</b>	6,514
COR Household:	13,224
EAR SUB TOTAL	<u>67,010</u>
GRAND TOTAL:	474,488











# **EREC-P since 1983 10,327,806 Examinations | 1,859,983 Surgeries**

## **SPECIAL SERVICES at EREC-P:**

#### **Cataract Services:**

A total of 39,836 patients underwent cataract surgery out of which 12,189 were phacoemulsification. Out of total surgeries, 75% underwent cataract surgery. Both hospitals are providing good quality phacoemulsification services with mono-focal, multi-focal, Toric IOLs. Proper cataract counselling services by trained cataract counsellors has improved the patient's satisfaction and confidence towards the cataract surgery.



#### **Cornea Department:**





A total of 18,115 patients were examined as outpatient and 2,635 Corneal surgeries were performed, including 88 Keratoplasty procedures (SALK-3, DALK-2, DSEK-6, DMEK-6, PK/TPK-71), 35 Amniotic Membrane transplantation, 1,621 Pterygium surgeries along with 334 fibrin glue application (modified PERFECT technique). Total of 69 contact lens patients (43 males, 26 females) with different eye disorders received services from

contact lens unit. Among them, 17 Spherical Soft contact lens, 13 Prosthetic Contact lens, 34 RGP (Rigid Gas Permeable) and 5 Rose K2.

#### **Paediatric Ophthalmology Department:**

In the paediatric Ophthalmology Department, 23,338 children were examined. 1,978 children underwent surgeries in both eye hospitals including 663 paediatric cataracts and 1,442 children underwent orthoptics evaluation at SCEH and BEH.













#### **Vitreo-Retinal Department:**

In the Vitreo-Retinal Department of both eye hospitals, 15,122 patients were examined, 3,623 patients underwent VR procedures out of which 756 were vitreo-retinal surgeries, 1,625 inj. Avastin, 888 Intravitreal Inj and 354 other surgeries. 1,276 received retinal laser, 12,062 received B-scan services, 419 received FFA services and 4,470 received OCT services. OMS-800 standard (operating microscope with standard accessories suitable for cataract and retina surgeries) has been added at SCEH, Lahan.







#### **Glaucoma Department:**

In the Glaucoma Department of both eye hospitals, 7,778 Glaucoma patients were examined and 1,101 Glaucoma surgeries were performed. 1,500 patients underwent computerized Visual Field Testing. Last year, 10 children underwent Glaucoma Surgery and 596 received Nd. YAG iridotomy service.





#### **Oculoplasty Department:**

In the Oculoplasty Department of both eye hospitals, 11,549 patients were examined and 1,755 surgeries were performed. These include 30 Endoscopic DCR, different types of Orbitotomies and Ptosis correction. In the **Ocular Prosthesis Unit**, 172 patients received artificial eyes and among them 12 of these eyes were custom made.













# **Quality improvement at Optical Unit through I-Terminal & establishing separate Optical Counselling Unit:**

BEH has installed I- Terminal in order to enhance its quality service at Optical Unit. It helps to get more adequate measurement of patient's eye that calculates patient individual parameters along with individual frame measurement to find out the exact lens shape and diameter needed for that individual frame which help in better adaptation of spectacle.

To improve patients' knowledge, reduce decisional conflicts and improve satisfaction from spectacles, a separate optical counselling unit has been introduced. The counsellor equipped with variety of demo lenses, light protect solution demonstration (LPSD), pictorial & video materials to

understand the patient's need & problem, advise them suitable lenses and frame as per their profession explaining its beneficial inherent property.

CR lens processing unit established in 2018 is producing about 30-40 pairs lenses daily to fulfil the demands of complex power or progressive addition lens (PAL) from base hospital and its eye care centers (ECCs) helping in quality and timely availability of lenses.

This year 39,876 patients received spectacles from SCEH and BEH optical dispensing unit



#### **Ophthalmic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine:**

At Biratnagar Eye Hospital, the Ophthalmic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine department has been able to provide laboratory services to 21,152 patients in 2020. It has facilities pertaining to Biochemistry, Haematology, Microbiology and Histopathology diagnosis catering to the needs of patient daily.

#### **Ocular Microbiology Laboratory:**

SCEH, Lahan in collaboration with London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine expanded its Laboratory facilities with establishment of a world class Ocular Microbiology Laboratory in 2019 to conduct a trial related to Fungal Keratitis where

non-inferiority of 0.2% chlorohexidine vs 5% Natamycin will be seen. The study was impacted by COVID-19 and the deadline is extended. Other phases of study are ongoing. In this year, 224 corneal samples were processed and cultured. Curvularia, Aspergillus and Fusarium are common pathogens found. Ocular microbiology laboratory is well equipped with a Fluorescent Microscope, Bacteriology (aerobic and non-aerobic) and mycology incubator -78°c ultra-low temperature Freezer, Biological Safety Cabinet II and a digital benchtop Autoclave.



#### **Ear Department:**

A total of 67,010 patients with various ear problems were examined out of which 35,261 were examined at the hospitals; and 31,749 in outreach activities (ECCs, screening camps and household visits). 6,174 Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA) examination and 829 surgeries (Cortical Mastoidectomy with Tympanoplasty: 18, MRM: 8, Myringoplasty: 437, Myringotomy/VTI: 38, and Minor: 328) were performed and 229 patients with hearing loss were provided hearing aids.





Fiber optics Naso-Pharyngolaryngo Scope (Flexible NPL) has been added in the department which is used in evaluating difficult areas like Nasopharynx, Eustachian Tube and others and support in diagnosis in surgical planning. It is easy to show the problem to patients and also help in evaluating outcome of surgery. Similarly, high speed Microdrill has been added which is used in the

bone work of middle ear and mastoid surgery. It is helping in improving the visibility and ease of doing surgery. The duration of surgery is reduced and helps in improving the quality of overall surgery. Expansion and renovation of ear outpatient department is in process and will be completed by 2021.







#### **Quality Department:**

To improve the quality of eye care services and make a systematic improvement in services, quality department was established on 4th September, 2018. Quality consultancy with SCEH, Delhi is still continued. Different quality committee such as Steering committee, Hospital Infection Control (HIC) Committee, Safety Committee & Audit Committee have been formed. Standard operating procedure (SOP) have been finalized for different department, printed and provided to concerned departments for the implementation and monitoring. The SOP orientation to staffs was done and planned to implement SOP from 2021 onwards. Different quality indicators have been defined, and implemented for continuous quality monitoring process. Audit committee has been formed and regular auditing of quality service delivery is in place. BEH is the first eye hospital in Nepal which has been awarded ISO 9001:2015 in the year for its quality services.

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:**

## **EREC-P Response on Covid-19**

COVID-19 pandemic has threatened to set back progress, particularly for the most marginalized groups, including people with disabilities. People with disabilities have faced specific challenges due to COVID-19 response measures. Lockdowns created significant disruption and additional risks to their mobility autonomy, health, and lives. Many, who rely on formal support by assistants or service providers or informal support by relatives/friends, have not received any help due to movement restrictions and physical distancing measures. Food scarcity among the people who depends on daily wages or those lost their job was reported. COVID-19 pandemic impacted badly to all in general and specific to the person with disability in the project area and were at risk in different prospective.

Considering distinctive attention to address need of peoples with disabilities, EREC-P in support from CBM has distributed food relief materials & safety kit to 1,191 (76% physical disability, 8% blind, 3% deaf and others) to people with disability of 18 municipalities & rural municipalities of Siraha, Saptary, Mahottary & Morang district. Support provided in approval of local authorities and in co-ordination with organization of the people with disabilities. The relief package included food items (Rice, Daal, Salt, Oil, Soya bean, Sugar), facemasks, soap and other safety kits.









## Community Outreach and Rehabilitation Program (COR):



Improvising eye and ear health seeking behavior of community is EREC-P commitment as long term strategy to reduction of avoidable blindness and deafness. Inclusion and accessibility targeting the peoples with disabilities and other marginalization sector of community are preconditioned. EREC-P started community outreach and rehabilitation program since 2018 in 5 municipalities of Morang and Udayapur Districts of Nepal. The adopted approach to screening of eye and ear of the whole population through door to door and school screening. This is not limited to screening, but highly prescribed outcome is to bring them back to service center therefore referral and community referral has been well introduced. Identified population needing service are getting free of cost eye and ear treatment including surgeries. Rehabilitation is integral part of the program targeting to the incurable blind and deaf people.

Due to COVID-19, the screening program was suspended till November and started again with necessary safety measures and local government approval. Awareness session on eye, ear and

Covid-19 were also conducted after performing the eye & ear screening. Total 12,447 people received eye and ear screening in their community. Among them, 1,441 people with eye problem and 531people with ear problem are referred to nearby eye and ear care centers for further treatment. 285 people received medicine and 54 people received spectacle at free of cost.

During the lock-down period, the field staffs contacted the patients via mobile phone, who were referred for further treatment at eye and ear care centers as well as person with disability in the catchment area. They were asked about their existing eye problem and other ocular problems, their wellness, their living condition, whether they have obtained any relief support, availability of sanitizing materials such as facemask, soap, gloves etc. They were also made aware on sign and symptoms,







safety and precaution measures of COVID-19 to the person with disabilities and others. On this basis, EREC-P distributed relief materials and safety kits to the person with disability in co-ordination with local government.







#### Our Eye Our World Program (Hamro Aankha Hamro Sansar (हाम्रो आँखा हाम्रो संसार कार्यक्म)



People stay at their home with their disease, especially poor marginalized and disadvantageous people in long run disease develop certain disability which is irreversible. Early identification, referrals and treatment of these people will be possible only by visiting their house by trained personnel who will motivate them, guide them, and counsel them for timely treatment. Therefore, EREC-P have initiated

Hamro Aankha Hamro Sansar programme. The program has four major components: School Screening, House to House Eye Examination, Surgical Camp, and Rehabilitation Program in 8 municipalities & rural municipalities of Bhojpur, Ilam, Terahthum and Sindhuli districts 2 from each districts. The program was halted for 8 months due to COVID-19. A total of

6,803 school going children and community people undergone through screening programme and 93 people were provided spectacles and 923 people received free medicine at nearby Eye & Ear Care Centers. Due to the program, the number of patients increased at Eye & Ear Care Centers, link in between community people, ECCs & Hospitals have been developed so that they can go themselves when they have any eye & ear related problems. This has also helped in improving financial sustainability of ECCs and able to identify and treat the hidden bilateral cataract child through household screening. This is one of the best methods to reach to the neediest people, especially the poor, the marginalized group in the rural area.



#### **Refractive Error Among Children (REACH):**

When a child goes blind or has an eye problem, the economics of childhood blindness is several times manifold as compared to an adult with eye problems. Detecting problems at a young age can support the development of language, communication, learning and socialization of children. Early detection and referral of children with eye problems is key to timely provision of highly cost effective interventions such as a provision of glasses. To reduce visual impairment caused due to uncorrected refractive error among school-going children, NNJS/EREC-P started Nepal REACH project at BEH and SCEH in Sunsari district, Biratnagar Metropolitan City of Morang district of Province No 1, and in Siraha district of Province No 2.

In 2020 under REACH program, 38,973 children were examined. A total of 1,015 children were provided spectacles who were diagnosed with refractive error. It has helped them to achieve their full academic potential and contributed to the socio economic development. Similarly, 35 children underwent surgery at base hospitals, 256 children treated with medicine and 1,100 children were referred to base hospital for detail confirmation and further management.

Moreover, during COVID-19 pandemic, school were closed and the education through online was ongoing simultaneously. During the period, children were exposed to digital technology. To reach to those children, SCEH and BEH have examined and treated those children at their door steps with proper social distancing and other necessary precaution of COVID-19 safety measures. The examination of those children were possible after training local FCHVs who were involved in informing the parents of screening area. 13,393 children received services during the period.















### **Expanding and Strengthening Eye Care Centers:**

#### **Upgrading Eye Care Center into Surgical Center:**

Since the start of ECC Jaleshwar in 2016, there were increasing demand of eye care facility at local level. Many patients coming at ECC Jaleshwar were having mature cataract to be operated as soon as possible to restore their sight. The situation has realized to establish a surgical facility that can address the need of patients coming to ECC Jaleshwar. Hence, on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, surgical center was started after renovating existing building into OT and Ward Setup with support of Local Government Jaleshwar Municipality. Cataract surgeries are now being performed twice in a month by SCEH. In the year 2020, 172 cataract surgeries were done.







#### Establishment of 4 New Eye and Ear Care Centers:

Besides continuing 23 Eye Care Centers (Malangwa, Rajbiraj, Siraha, Gaighat, Diktel, Bhojpur, Terhathum, Rangeli, Inaruwa, Mirchaiya, Katari, Haleshi, Illam, Urlabari, Fikkal, Jaleshwar, Bardibas, Haripur, Letang, Arjundhara, Kanchanpur, Duhabi and Khalte), 4 new Eye Care Centers were established at Dhanushadham of Dhanusha, Mangalbare of Illam, Biratchowk of Morang, and Lalbandi of Sarlahi districts with support from CBM. These centers are providing primary EYE and EAR care services to the rural hills and Terai population leading to early detection and prevention of blindness and deafness. People had to spent whole day to receive same services earlier which is now available at their door steps with least expenses. There are total 27 Eye & Ear Care Centers running under EREC-P which has provided eye care services to 128,033 and ear care service to 12,011 people.









## Surgical Eye Camps conducted in hilly areas of Mechi, Koshi and Sagarmatha zone:



There were many people suffering from poor eyesight due to cataract in Taksar, Bhojpur, eastern part of Nepal at the time of COVID-19 pandemic. Patients were identified with cataract during their eye examination at ECC. They were called on the surgical camp day. A special precaution has been taken to perform surgical camp where 64 sight restoration surgery was performed. Quality of surgical outcome was assured by maintaining the strict surgical protocol like in the base hospital. One-month post-operative follow-up of operated patients were done at camp site, Eye Care Center Bhojpur.















#### **Cataract Screening Camp:**

Conducting cataract screening eye camps near to patients' homes provides substantial savings to patients primarily by avoiding the costs of travel. Due to COVID-19, cataract screening camps were not conducted for 8 months. Protocol has been developed, oriented and started camps in the pandemic with necessary safety measures. 49 cataract screening camps were conducted, where total 11,622 eye examinations had been done at community level and 2,533 cataract surgeries were performed at base hospitals.

## **EYE/EAR HEALTH EDUCATION:**

#### Community awareness programs on Eye and Ear health:

Jingles on Cataract, Glaucoma, Corneal Ulcer, Retina, Childhood Blindness and ear health etc. are being regularly aired on F.M. radio program in local languages. Different Eye and Ear Health Education posters and brochures were designed, printed and distributed in co-ordination with government network Primary Health Care Centers/Health Posts.

To enhance the awareness on pediatric eye health at schools, society and community; various activities were performed like, wall paintings in 207 schools along with self-vision assessment chart and eye & ear health awareness. Health Education department provided training on Eye & Ear health to 144 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV), 73 School teachers and 34 drug retailers.









# FREE SERVICES TO PATIENTS:

Several screening and surgical camp at Koshi, Sagarmatha and Janakpur zone identified a total of 2,968 Cataract patients and those identified patients received surgeries for free of cost. Patients from eye camps and poor economic background arriving directly at SCEH and BEH received a support with the worth of NPR 16,318,541 in their examination, surgeries, spectacle, medicine, transportation & food cost. Out of all Cataract Patients, 32% surgeries were done on a subsidized package of NPR 1200 (approx. USD 10).







## **HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING:**



#### <u>Post Graduate MD Ophthalmology with National Academy of Medical</u> Science (NAMS):

Post Graduate MD Ophthalmology was started at EREC-P in affiliation with NAMS since 2015. Till 2020, 7 MD Ophthalmologists have completed their study and presently 4 are enrolled. Last year, Dr Bibek Acharya, Dr. Ipsa Bhandari and Dr. Sagun Malla completed their Post Graduate, MD Ophthalmology. Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, SCEH has been appointed as Associate Professor.

#### **Bachelor in Optometry and Vision Science:**

Bachelor in optometry and vision science was started at BEH in affiliation with NAMS in 2018. Presently 6 students are enrolled in 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 8 students are enrolled in 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

#### Diploma in Ophthalmic Science Course at SCEH, Lahan:

DOS course was started from 2015 in collaboration with CTEVT at Lahan Technical School. Currently 76 students are undergoing 2nd and 3rd year of DOS training at SCEH.

# **FELLOWSHIP:**

#### Fellowship in Affiliation with NAMS

Long term fellowship in Cornea, Glaucoma, Orbit Plastic and Lacrimal System (OPAL) and Vitreo-Retina have been started in affiliation with National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS). Currently 1 fellow at each department has been enrolled.



## **TRAINING:**

#### **Optometrist Internship and short term training:**

8 Bachelor in Optometry students are undergoing 1-year Internship training at

BEH and SCEH. 3 Optometrists from BPKLCOS received short term (4 weeks) training at SCEH and BEH.

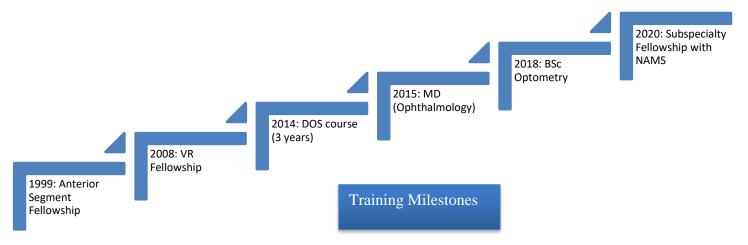


## Primary Eye Health Worker and Primary Eye Care training:

In 2020, 111 AHW & ANM received 6 months Primary Eye Health Worker training. Currently 39 AHW & ANM are undergoing 6 months Primary Eye Health Worker training.

#### **Optical Dispensing Training:**

7 students completed 1-year Optical Fitting and Dispensing Training.









#### WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCES AT EREC-P

#### **CME on Advancement on Management of Refractive Error:**

To provide best practices on management of refractive error, a "CME on Advancement on Management of Refractive Error" was conducted at BEH in the month of February, in participation of 150 Ophthalmic Assistants and Optometrists from Province No 1 and 2. The topics presented on "Refractive Error- How to meet patient's expectations?", "Challenges in pediatric refraction", "Advance contact lens practices", "Devices for visually impaired; basic to advance", "6/6 only is not the optimum goal", "Optical dispensing; ensure quality" & "Refractive surgeries" by different speakers.



# **MISCELLANEOUS:**

#### Sensitization Training on Disability Inclusive Eye & Ear Health

EREC-P is implementing Disability Inclusive Eye Care program in partnership with CBM since long embedded with Community Based Inclusive Development Approach. EREC-P has been largely contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal, principles of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and national disability rights act. Disability-inclusive eye & ear health programs respond to attitudinal, physical, communication and policy-related barriers. One-day disability inclusive eye and ear health sensitization training was provided to 66 staffs of SCEH & BEH with objective to initiate positive and accepted organic behaviors towards the people with disabilities as to feel comfortable on receiving eye and ear care service from EREC-P. The approach is brought to make the organization and its service disability inclusive as well as to materialize the importance of disability in health and development.











#### Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) Training:

When major incidents and disasters occur, people with disabilities face hardship and they can suffer additional forms of discrimination or neglect. Moral and ethical case for an inclusive approach that guarantees the right of people with disabilities to adequate care in disasters is essential for EREC-P program and its services. Adopting as cross cutting issues with objective to mitigate the magnitude of severity, several activities have been planned. One-day DiDRR training was provided to 87 members of Disaster Response team and the hospital staffs. The training supported them to understand the concepts and principle of disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction, equipping them with skills to face with emergency consequences and DRR planning process at hospital. Currently EREC-P along with its hospitals and the Eye Care Centers are getting equipped with disaster preparedness plan with trained human resource and necessary early warning and safety equipment. For disaster risk reduction, 10 Eye Care Centers were equipped with the fire extinguisher, earthquake alarm, smoke detector, and first aid box. The wall painting was done at 29 different places to raise awareness of DiDRR in the project area.











#### **Gender Sensitization Training:**



Gender inequality and discrimination in the society tend to pose barriers to accessing healthcare, impact health seeking behavior of women and girls, and to foster gender discriminatory environment at workplaces. EREC-P has progressive gender mainstreaming initiatives that have led to a gender-balanced workplace for the employee and need specific and equitable eye and ear health intervention to the male and female service users. To strengthen it and create awareness to staffs on prevalence of blindness on Gender basis and role of Gender on holistic development, one-day sensitization training has been provided to 92 staffs of both hospitals.

#### **Child Safeguarding Sensitization Training:**

EREC-P is growing its strength in child health, childhood blindness through enhancing paediatric services. EREC-P is committed to safeguarding the child in workplace through promotion of knowledge and bring positive behavior, respecting child rights & create child friendly service provisions. With objective to orient EREC-P staff on child safeguarding therefore to enhance child friendly environment, one-day sensitization program organized for its staff who are engaged with children at administrative, clinical and community level. The importance of child safeguarding was discussed through practical assessment of our endeavors & practices. UN Conventions on Rights of Children-CRC and national child rights policy were taken as major reference for the orientation programs. At the same time the child safe guarding policy of NNJS was shared and discussed. A total 91 staffs from EREC-P both hospitals and Eye Care Centers were actively engaged and acquired knowledge.







Apart from these, various types of training program were conducted at SCEH and BEH for capacity building of staffs.

# **HUMAN RESOURCE AT EREC-P:**

The750-member employees include 27 Ophthalmologists, 2 ENT Specialist, 2 Anaesthesiologist, 2 Pathologists, 2 Microbiologist, 4 MD Residents, 32 administrative staff, 1 Research Officer, 2 Health Educator, 73 Ophthalmic Assistants (OA), 2 Anaesthetic Assistants, 35 Optometrists, 13 Staff Nurses, 11 Pharmacy Assistants, 90 Eye Health Workers and other Supporting Staffs.







## **PUBLICATIONS:**

#### In the year 2020, following publications were done:

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  Retinal Vasculitis with Macular Infarction: A Dengue-related Ophthalmic Complication.
  Int Med Case Rep J. 2020;13:363-366. https://doi.org/10.2147/IMCRJ.S264324
- Diwa Hamal, Santosh Kafle, Prerna Arjyal Kafle, Prija Poudyal, Binaya Lamichhane, Ben Limbu. Orbital Myocystisercosis different presentation and management in Eastern Nepal. Nepal J Ophthalmol 2020; Vol 12(23): 125-132.
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- Rajiv Ranjan Karn1\*, Pankaj Ray Adhikari2, Afaque Anwar2, Sudhir Kumar Thakur1 and Sanjay Kumar Singh1 Barriers of Cataract surgery among camp screened patients of Sunsari and Morang district of Eastern Nepal. Al Ameen J Med Sci 2020; 13(1): 5-9 US National Library of Medicine enlisted journal ISSN 0974-1143
- Sabin Sahu1, Prerna Arjyal Kafle 2, Diwa Hamal 2, Adit Gupta 3, Dipesh Kumar Ram 1, Sanjay Kumar Singh 1 Case Report: Canalicular Curettage to the Rescue: a report of three cases Sahu S et al Canalicular Curettage Nepal J Ophthalmol 2020; Vol 12 (24): 333-338
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  J. Lumbini. Med. Coll. Vol 8, No 2, July-Dec 2020
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All these accomplishments were possible due to strong commitment and support from all clinical, administrative and support staffs of hospitals and eye care centers.

We take this opportunity to thank many unnamed people and organization for their constant support to make Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme a success.

# Eastern Regional Eye Care Programme Lahan/Biratnagar, Nepal

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The pictures without mask in the report are taken before the pandemic.









Vision for the World - intention to help









# चौधरी आँखा अस्पताल लहानको शाखा अब धनुषाधाममै



नयाँ फच्चे अब **२५**० मि. लि. को प्याकमा

आज हामि आफनै घरमा आँखा र कान उपचारको सेवा पाउने भयो सहयोगि सबै लाई आत्मा देखि धन्यवाद - उपमेयर भुजेल

🗷 न्यूज ब्यूरो, डेस्क 🛗 प्रकाशित मिति : २२ असोज, २०७७ | जनकपुरधाम| १७:०५:००



**न्युज ब्युरो, जनकपुरधाम ।** चौधरी आँखा अस्पताल लहानको शाखा धनुषाको धनुषाधाम बजारमै स्थापना गरिएको छ ।



एक कार्यक्रमबीच धनुषाधाम नगरपालिकाका मेयर बालेश्वर मण्डलले सो शाखा अस्पतालको उदघाटन गरेका छन् । विहिबार बिश्व दृष्टि दिवसको उपलक्ष्यमा आँखा तथा कान उपचार केन्द्र, नेपाल नेत्र ज्योति संघ, सागरमाथा चौधरी आँखा अस्पतालको शाखा कार्यालय प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रमा

धनुषाधाम नगरपालिका ३ धनुषाधाम बजारमै रहेको प्राथमिक स्वासथ्य केन्द्रको भवनमा आँखा अस्पतालको शाखा स्थापना गरिएको हो । सो क्रममा मेयर मण्डलले स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्रका लागी मुख्य अंग मानिने आँखा र कानको लागि विभिन्न समयमा उपयुक्त सेवा नपाएर सिरहाको लहानसम्म जानुपर्ने बाध्यता न्यून हुने बताए ।

आँखा अस्पतालको सुबिधायुक्त उपचार र सेवा सुविधाका लागी विशेष प्राथमिकता राखी सागरमाथा चौधरी आँखा अस्पताल लहान संग समन्वय गरी शाखा कार्यालय स्थापना गर्न सफल भएको भन्दै मेयर मण्डलले शाखाबाट छिमेकी स्थानीय तह (पालिका) का बासिन्दा

कार्यक्रममा सागरमाथा चौधरी आँखा अस्पताल लहान अ.व्य.समिति अध्यक्ष रविन्द्र लाल चाधरी , मेडिकल सुपरिटेन्डेन्ट डा.संजय कुमार सिहं लगायत अस्पतालका टोलिलाई नगर उपप्रमुख विध्या देवि भुजेल अबिर चादर ओढाई सम्मान गरिन ।

सम्मान गर्दे उपप्रमुख भुजेलले भनिन्– "एकदमै हर्षित र खुसि छौ, आज हामि आफनै घरमा आँखा र कान उपचारको सेवा पाउने भयो सहयोगि सबै लाई आत्मा देखि धन्यवाद दिन चाहन्छ ।" साथै नगरवासीमा लाभान्वित हन आग्रह समेत गर्दछ ।

# वराटनगर आख अस्पतालमा नयाँ सेवा

#### हाम्रोमत संवाददाता

विराटनगर १३ पुस

विराटनगर आँखा अस्पतालमा 'रेटिनोप्याथी अफ पिम्याच्युरोटी' आरओपी (च्हए) को उपचार सरू भएको छ।

समय नपुर्दै जन्मिएको बच्चाको आँखामा देखिने समस्या समाधान गर्न 'आरओपी' को उपचार विराटनगर आँखा अस्पतालमा सुरू भएको हो।

नौ महिना नपुगी जन्मेको बच्चाहरूमा आँखा सम्बन्धी समस्या आरओपी हुने गरेको छ। समय नपुगी जन्मेको बच्चाहरूको आँखामा आरओपीको समस्या देखिन थालेपछि यसको उपचार सुरू गरेको अस्पतालका सुपरिटेन्डेन्ट



# संजयकुमार तुम्वाहाङफे म्याङ्लुङ

म्याङलुङ नगरपालिका तेह्रथुमका सबै बिद्यालयका प्रत्येक बिद्यार्थीहरुलाई नि:शुल्क आँखा जाँच तथा उपचार नि:शुल्क चस्मा वितरण र १० वटै वडाका प्रत्येक घरमा नि :शुल्क आँखा जाँच तथा मोतिविन्दुको नि:शुल्क उपचार कार्यक्रमको शुभारम्भ भयो । नेपाल रेडक्रस सोसाइटीको सहजिकरणमा विराटनगर आँखा अस्पताल रानी लाई धेरै धेरै धन्यवाद ।



#### सम्पूर्ण महानुभाव हरु लाई कोटि कोटि नमन गर्न चाहन्छु ।

# ष्मगोरखापत्र अनलाइन

# रहेको आँखा तथा कान उपचार केन्द्र जलेश्नरमा लामो समयदेखिको गृहकार्यपश्चात् आँखा शुभारम्भ गरिएको हो ।

जलेश्वर, पुस ६ गते । महोत्तरी जिल्लाक

## जलेश्वरमा

शायकियाको लागि जनकपुर, लहान तथा विभिन्न ठाउँहरूमा पुगुपर्ने वाम्यता योक्पै अन्य भएको बलाउनुहुँदै यसालाई यप

मोतिकिद पेजा क्षेत्रो जनकारी दिनादे

# भएपछि आँखाका रोगीहरुलाई बाहिर जानुप







### "Tilak gets his vision back after 17 Years!"

Name: Tilak Bahadur Rai

Gender: Male Age: 78 Years

Address: RamprasadPrasaiGaupalika, Ward#2, Okhre

Treatment: Both Eye Cataract Removal

Mr. Tilak Bahadur Rai started to lose vision in both eyes from the age of 61. He is 78 now! He went for treatment once but he was only prescribed for spectacles. That didn't help him and he was left with blurry vision for such a long time. Over time, the blurriness got severe and from the age of 70, he stopped seeing completely.

Over the years, he faced many problems due to his eye condition. He was unable to walk freely, unable to go to the toilet, unable to recognize people, or to do any household chores. He is from a hilly area of Nepal and his family is into farming. Due to the poor financial status, they couldn't take him anywhere for the treatment either.



Luckily, the family heard about a surgical camp organised by Eye and Ear Care Centre situated in Taxar, Bhojpur, in collaboration and technical support from Biratnagar Eye Hospital. Tilak's daughter Sangita Rai immediately reached out to the local municipality to get him enlisted for the free treatment.

Once the camp arrived, Sangita brought Tilak for examination. He was diagnosed with bilateral mature cataract and was prescribed for surgery at the earliest. But, unlike in the past, Tilak didn't have to wait any longer. He would get the surgery immediately in the camp itself.

The surgeries were successful. Tilak could now see the world again. His face brimmed with joy after seeing his family members again after so many years. He can now do his daily chores, recognize people whom he knew previously, and is happy that he is less dependent on others after regaining his vision.

He spent many years without vision in his old age due to lack of treatment. He finally got treatment for free of cost near his home.

"It feels as if this is my rebirth. The doctor who operated my eyes is no less than the God to me. I thank the entire team for providing treatments in the rural areas and for treating people like me," Tilak said, his voice filled with gratitude.















## "A surgery in time saves his and her eyesight"



Mrs. Nusrat Khatoon, the permanent inhabitant of Kushinagar in Bihar, India, was married at an early age to Md. Saheb Ahmad. Both were not mature enough economically, physically, and mentally. Due to some family issue, they got separated with their parents and started living separately at a rented house somewhere in the same city. They were facing several challenges all at once and lived from hand to mouth.

They gave birth to a son (Sahil) & daughter (Sumaiya) within the interval of 2 years. To their dismay, both their children were diagnosed with some ocular abnormalities. Despite the financial constraints, they took their both children to many hospitals and eye

centres for treatment but were unable to get treatment due to the high cost.

One day, a village folk told them about Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital (SCEH) in Nepal. They came to know that their children can get the treatment at very low cost. This gave them a hope. They immediately arranged some money and reached the hospital. Upon arrival, a team of ophthalmologists at SCEH examined the eyes of both children thoroughly. They found that it was operable bilateral cataract and advised for surgeries.

Since they were running out of money, they requested for some help. After consulting with the hospital administration, they received surgery free of cost.

After surgery, they got very good visual outcome i.e. 6/6. They are now very happy. They are able to see this beautiful world, can play, can go to school as other children.

"Perhaps, my children would have remained blind forever if I had not come to this hospital on time. We are thankful to the doctors & staffs of this hospital. I am very grateful for those whoever paid the cost incurred for the treatment of my babies," said Ms. Nusrat with tearful eyes.



















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Mr. Sudhir Kumar Thakur (Member Secretary)

















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Advisor **Prof. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh**Consultant Ophthalmologist

BEH



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Programme Coordinator
EREC-P



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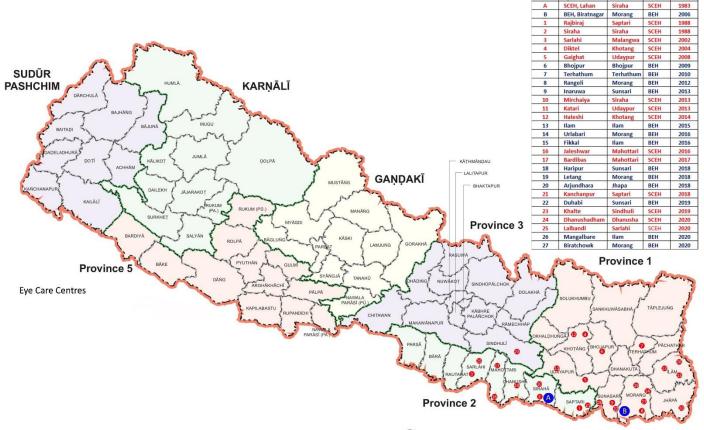
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#### **EREC-P Centers**



A Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospital, Lahan (SCEH)

B Biratnagar Eye Hospital, Biratnagar (BEH)

Eye Care Centers (ECC)





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