

Nepal: Watabaran Mobile Health Service

The Watabaran Mobile health service is designed to provide basic health service to the street children who are afflicted by simple diseases on the street and meet health hazards as well as to provide health orientation to them. The cases show that they live with wounds as well as severe and dangerous diseases instead of going to hospitals, or they die with it. They use damp places as shelter, like under the bridges of the polluted rivers in Kathmandu. Many kids on the street are dying due to their inaccessibility to first aid and basic medication. We have even found them using soil and mud to stop bleeding; and plastics and dirty cloths as bandage.

Net4kids' partner for this project is Child Watabaran Center Nepal. This project is contracted and monitored by Wilde Geese Foundation.



Project Visits 2005 and 2006

In March of 2005 the Watabaran project was visited by Veronika Uhl. You can read her report online. Other Net4kids volunteers visited Watabaran in February 06.

Project Description

The Watabaran Mobile Health service is the street-based mobile clinic for street children. A three-wheeler electric bus runs on the streets of Kathmandu carrying a team of Health Assistants and peer educators. They perform health orientation, first aid, and

basic medication to street children. This project operates in the evening from 1700 hours to 2200 hours on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in different places of Kathmandu where the population of street children is high.

Postcard from...

Motilal Rai, Team Leader of MHS.

My name is Moti Lal Rai and I am working as a Team Leader in Mobile Health Service for Street Children. One day, I got a call from Kamal Thapa Magar, a 15 years old street boy of Kami kaward (scrap Collection Center), Balaju which is one of our visit places. He asked for us to reach there and to help him. I immediately went there by taxi. When we reached there he was seriously injured on his heads. The boy needed immediate stitching. The boy was taken to the hospital in an emergency ward. A doctor in emergency unit did the dressing of the wound and put 20 stitches. After the stitches were done, we also told him not to drink alcohol while putting stitches on cut and it touched him and he was convinced. He was told to do the dressing in alternate days and to take full course of the medicine prescribed. His stitches were removed after a week. The boy was cured after 7-10 days. These are some of the scenes among street children we intervene. This is the kind of work I do and it gives me a personal touch and gives me satisfaction.

Moti Lal Rai, Team Leader

Objectives

- To provide the first Aid health care to at least 700 street children.
- To improve the hazardous health situation of the street children and to prevent them from diseases such as scabies, diarrhea, TB, HIV/AIDS etc.
- To raise awareness about health and sanitation among street children.
- To organize health and awareness camps at least once in three months in the adjoining places of streets through peer educators.

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Activities

a. On the spot Health services. In

Kathmandu, there are many major places where the street children sleep in groups. Such places are kalimati, Bagbazar, Kalopul dillibazar, old buspark, New Buspark, Gaushala, Koteshwor and many other places. Considering these places as the main points where we can find many children, the team goes there and provides health services. Thus, a team of a Health Assistant and peer educators visit children and perform the first aid and health care activities to street children. The team fixes wounds, puts bandages, and provides some basic medicines. The team goes with a three-wheeler Tempo for these activities.

b. Awareness on Health and Sanitation.

The team provides information and orientation to street children on how to take care of their own health. The peer educators in the team also teach health related basic life skills to the street children.

Where does the project stand?

The project started in January 2004. In 2005 Net4kids started to support this project. In this year the mobile health service reached over a thousand children. Tens of children were referred to hospitals for intensive care. The health camps reach about 200 children (and their families) per camp. Here, the focus lies on health education and prevention.

From January 2005, visits of the various areas where street children concentrate take place 3 times a week and two health camps have been held in the slum areas of Kathmandu. Basic medication and health orientation has been provided.

They focus especially on the scrap collection Centers to provide health orientation and first aid services to street children. The street children end up in the scrap collection Center to sell their scraps and plastics. The project has also envisioned to bring non-formal education and life skill training along

with the health service on the street as a package in the future.

How can you help?

Organization of 3 health awareness camps in slum areas: Euro 1495 for 3 camps (about 400 children benefit from 1 camp). Provision of mobile health service 3 times a week for 720 street children for 1 year: Euro 6380 for one year. Or by sponsoring a multi purpose vehicle (Euro 21.420) to be used for ambulance services (and as backup for the electric vehicle) or its running costs for one year (Euro 3951).

About the organization

Child Watabaran Center, Nepal (CWC, Nepal) is a non-governmental organization established in 2002 primarily to work with the street children of Kathmandu providing them center-based education and vocational training. However, the official registration took place only in 2003. In the beginning, Child Watabaran Center Nepal started a non-formal education center for the street boys. Later on in 2004, it started non-formal education center for street girl children also. Side by side, CWC Nepal runs a street based health service called Watabaran Mobile Health Service as mentioned above.

The Centers of CWC Nepal give home to 24 street children in a family environment. The centers have capacity to accommodate 40 children. CWC Nepal runs its own business activities to partially self support the projects. Watabaran Garden Service Center and Electric vehicles (TUK TUK) partially generate money to the project as well as are used for providing vocational training to the graduates of CWC Nepal.

CWC Nepal is affiliated to Social Welfare Council and an executive member of National Alliance of organization for street children.

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