

DRSP / RHDP Stretcher Report



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Introduction

Stretchers are an alternative means of transportation and have been used by community people to carry sick people to health facilities in rural areas of Nepal where there is no road. This project has provided 50 stretchers in 3 districts of Nepal, namely Dolakha, Ramechhap and Baglung. The Stretchers were provided by a grant from the '**Women in Transportation Society**' and resulted from a proposal submitted following the Mobility & Health research carried out by the District Roads Support Programme (DRSP) and the Rural Health Development Project (RHDP).

The DRSP / RHDP research identified that disadvantaged groups, including mainly women and discriminated castes, tend to live farther from the road and from health facilities, and have more restricted access to these facilities due to their situation and poverty. Stretchers located strategically would benefit these groups as the most appropriate medical transport. Consequently, the RHDP project identified disadvantaged groups to receive the stretchers in each district, to ensure that the neediest communities would benefit from this donation.

As well as providing the stretchers, the RHDP signed an agreement with the community to ensure that the stretchers were used properly and will be maintained. In addition the communities are keeping a record of how the stretchers are being used. This report is an interim report and a more detailed report is expected in January 2010.

Annexes 1 to 3 show how the stretchers have been distributed and used in the three districts, whilst Annexes 4 to 6 detail the guidelines, agreements and monitoring for the use of the stretchers.

Dolakha District

The stretchers have helped disadvantaged groups especially because they are practical for poor people who do not have access to ambulances. Specifically, the stretchers have helped pregnant and lactating mothers in emergencies to reach health facilities and conduct safe delivery. They are also often used for old, ill and injured people in an emergency.

Most local people appreciated the provision of stretchers free of cost for disadvantaged communities. The local health workers reported that the stretchers are mostly used in delivery cases. With the help of a stretcher it is easy to carry pregnant women to the nearest road and send them by public bus to various hospitals based in the district headquarters.



Stretchers being given to local groups, Dolakha

All together 20 stretchers were received with support of DRSP and provided to the disadvantaged communities of Bhirkot, Lapilang, Suspa, Bulung , Khare, Laduk, Lamidanda and Ghyangsukathkar villages of Dolakha district. The stretchers were kept by the disadvantaged groups and handled by Female Community Health Volunteers and Mothers Group members. Norms and a basic guidelines for the use of stretchers and how they should be handled in an emergency were developed and provided (See Annex 4).

Ramechhap District

Out of 20 stretchers, 16 were distributed to the DAG communities of Ramechhap district. The remaining 4 stretchers will also be distributed in DAG communities during this month (October 2009). The CHF's of respective VDCs have already been told to that purpose.

RHDP did a follow-up visit in Sunarpani and Manthali and monitored stretcher use at three places. From the follow up visit, we found that the stretcher is used in emergency cases i.e. accidental cases, maternity cases, to carry the patient to higher service centers.

The management of stretchers was also found to be good. The community stored the stretcher in a safe place and maintained it properly. The groups have established rules and regulations. In Mathali ward # 1, Shree Durgeswar Mother's Group charge Rs 5 from the users to maintain the stretcher. Likewise, Koiralbot Mother's Group charge Rs 50 from the users for the purchase of new stretchers. The information is provided to each household of the group. The orientation on the handling of stretchers is provided before the use of stretcher. They also kept a record of stretcher use.

Mr Krishna Shresth age 65 expressed that " It was comfortable during the transport and saved time to reach the hospital following my leg fracture".

The users expressed the following benefits from the use of stretchers.

- Easy to carry
- Time saved versus the alternative of making dokos and dolis.
- It is a safe mode of transportation, as perceived by the patients.
- It is easy to access stretchers as they belong to small groups.



Stretchers being used by local groups, Ramechhap

Baglung District

Ten stretchers were donated to Baglung district and these were distributed between two different road corridors where the Decentralised Rural Infrastructure and Livelihoods Project is working (DRILP is also managed by the DRSP Project Support Unit). The stretchers for the Baglung – Bhurtibhang groups were handed over some months ago and are being regularly used. The work has not yet started in the Kushmisera road so the team has delayed distributing stretchers to those groups for now as it would be difficult to monitor until the project has a regular presence on site. It is expected that these stretchers will be handed over in the next few weeks.

There is more information to come on use of the stretchers in the remaining four groups in Bhurtibhang road, but the area is remote and reporting takes time. This additional information will be forwarded in due course.

The reporting forms for use of stretchers in Baglung can be seen in Annex 3.

Annex 1

Details of Stretchers distributed to disadvantaged groups in Dolakha.

S.no	VDC	Ward no	No of Stretcher	Responsible person and Received by
1	Sundrawati	6	1	Shanti Laxmi Thami
2	Sundrawati	9	1	Dhanalaxmi Thami
3	Suspa	6	1	Laxmi Thami
4	Suspa	4	1	Maya Thami
5	Suspa	5	1	Sushila Thami
6	Bulung	3	1	Shanti Nepali
7	Khare	2	1	Rukamaya Thami
8	Khare	3	1	Bishnu Tamang
9	Lapilang	8	1	Bishnumaya Thami
10	Lapilang	6	1	Sita Thami
11	Lapilang	5	1	Chhatramaya B.K
12	Lapilang	3	1	Debi maya Thami
13	Laduk	7	1	Kanchan Bisunkhe
14	Lamidanda	2	1	Amritmaya BK
15	Lamidanda	8	1	Tulashi BK
16	Lamidanda	5	1	Budhamaya Thami
17	Bhirkot	1	1	Putali Majhi
18	Bhirkot	1	1	Goma Majhi
19	Ghyangsukathokar	10	2	Stretcher distributed to the disadvantaged groups by Staff of ECARDS Dolakha, Radhika Pariyar.

Annex 2

One month example of stretcher use in Ramechhap

SN	Date	Users name/ethnicity	Reason for using stretchers	Place		Remarks
				From	To	
1	066.05.02	Ms Maiya Ramtel	Fever	Sunarpani-7	Health Facility-Sunarpani	15 yrs
2	066.05.14	Ms Rega Thapa	Delivery	Sunarpani-2	PHC-Manthali	21 yrs
3	066.05.15	Ms Maiya Roka	Delivery	Sunarpani-7	Health Facility-Sunarpani	18 yrs
4	066.05.23	Mr Ramesh Bhujel	Fever with rigor	Sunarpani-2	PHC-Manthali	26 yrs
5	066.05.25	Mr Krishna Shrestha	Leg fracture	Manthali-1	Manthali road access-Bus park	65 yrs
6	066.05.26	Mr Tej Bahadur Sarki	Typhoid	Manthali-1	Tamakoshi community Hospital-Manthali	
7	066.06.13	Mr Purna Roka	Unconscious	Sunarpani-7	Health Facility-Sunarpani	80 yrs

Annex 3

Details of Stretchers distributed to disadvantaged groups in Baglung

S.N.	Name of Group	Address	HH #	Ethnicity			Total HH	Population	Road Access	Rmks.
				Dalit	Janjati	BCT				
Baglung – Burtibang Sub Project										
1.	Chapakhapaita Women's group	Palakot	50	40	5	5	50	244	2 hr. walking	
2.	Mother's group	Bhimpokhara	80	40	15	25	80	372	3 hr.	
3.	Bhuskat Women's group	Amarbhumi	65	40	25	-	65	325	3 hr.	
4.	Sital Women's Group	Righa	85	5	71	9	85	394	2 hr.	
5.	Janachetna Yuba Club	Dagatundanda	53	7	46	-	53	257	1.3 hr	
6.	Rapbetini Mother's group	Gualichaur	33	3	8	22	33	150	2 hr.	
7.	Pipaldanda Community Forestry User's group	Burtibang	51	34	-	17	51	255	2 hr.	
Baglung – Kushmishera Sub Project										
1	Busechur	Amlachaur	58	58	-	-	58	330	3 hr.	
2	Biraune Khor	Jaidi	57	57	-	-	57	250	6 hr.	
3	Majhi Rumta	Binamare	47	-	-	47	47	213	4 hr.	

Monthly Reporting form of Stretcher Utilisation

DRILP Project, BAGLUNG

Name of Group :Bhuskat Female Group

VDC: Amarbhumi

Ward no:6,7,8

District : Baglung

S.N	Date	Name and Caste of End-users	Reason for using stretcher (Health Problem)	Place of stretcher Used		Remarks
				From	To	
1	066/1/22	Ram Kumari B.K	Delivery Problem	Bhuskat	Dhamja Health post	3Hours
2	066/1/29	Deukali Gharti	Typhoid Problem	Bhuskat	Dhamja Health post	3Hours
3	066/1/30	Khadak Bdr.Kami	Typhoid Problem	Bhuskat	Rijal Chowk	Use of Vehicle from Rijal chowk to Baglung.

Name of Group : Chapakhapaita Community Organisation

VDC: Palakot

Ward no:3

District : Baglung

S.N	Date	Name and Caste of End-users	Reason for using stretcher (Health Problem)	Place of stretcher Used		Remarks
				From	To	
1	066/3/25	Bhabikala Thapa	Delivery Problem	Pala-Chhapa	Baglung Hospital	2 Hours
2	066/6/15	Puspa Kunwar	Delivery	Pala-Kaura	Baglung Hospital	2 Hours
3	066/1/30	Jasbira Kisan	Leg Injured	Pala-Chhapa	Akshete	30 Minutes.

Note : Monthly Reporting form of Stretcher Utilisation of other remaining 4 organisations / groups will be submitted within next two weeks period with picture.

Name of Group : Janchetena Youth Club VDC: Dagatundanda

Ward no:9

District : Baglung

S.N	Date	Name and Caste of End-Users	Reason for using stretcher	Place of stretcher Used		Remarks
				From	To	
1	066/4/20	Sabita Pun	Typhoid	Saknyar	Kharbang Bazar	
2	066/4/27	Dil Bdr.Balami	Typhoid	Saknyar	Kharbang Bazar	
3	066/5/10	Gopal Salami	Gastric	Saknyar	Oमितaskar(Gulmi)	
4	066/5/16	Kausila B.K	Leg Injure	Saknyar	Kharbang Bazar	
5	066/5/28	Rita Gharti	Fever	Saknyar	Kharbang Bazar	
6	066/6/17	Hari Lal Chipla	Leg Fracture	Saknyar	Oमितaskar (Gulmi)	
7	066/6/25	Dal Bdr.Pun	Typhoid	Saknyar	Oमितaskar(Gulmi)	
8	066/7/12	Kulananada Bhusal	Leg Fracture	Saknyar	Oमितaskar (Gulmi)	

Name of Group : Rapbeteni Community Org. VDC: Guwalichour

Ward no:7

District : Baglung

S.N	Date	Name and Caste of End-users	Reason for using stretcher	Place of stretcher Used		Remarks
				From	To	
1	066/6/16	Sita Ghimare	Delivery Problem	Guwalichour	Tari Bazar	
2	066/6/22	Khim Bdr.G.C	Handicapped	Khara Bazar	Oमितaskar (Gulmi)	
3	066/7/13	HariKala Ghimare	Fever	Khara Bazar	Oमितaskar(Gulmi)	

Name of Group : Janajyoti Community Forest User Group VDC: Burtibang

Ward no:4

District : Baglung

S.N	Date	Name and Caste of End-users	Reason for using stretcher	Place of stretcher Used		Remarks
				From	To	
1	066/3/5	Jagdish Kumal	Typhoid	Khaltiboat	Burtibang (PHC)	
2	066/3/20	Bishow Kumal	Faint	Simal Chour	Burtibang (PHC)	
3	066/4/25	Top Kumari Kumal	Injured in Struggle	Burtibang	Burtibang(PHC)	
4	066/5/29	Kesh Kumari Kumal	Pressure Low, Fever	Simalchour	Burtibang (PHC)	
5	066/6/14	Kesh Kumari Kumal	„	Simalchour	Burtibang (PHC)	
6	066/6/21	Man Bdr.Sarki	Pressure High	Malkatibang	Burtibang (PHC)	
7	066/7/1	Dal Bdr.Kumal	Faint in Struggle	Simal Chour	Burtibang (PHC)	

Name of Group :Mirmira Female Group. VDC: Bhimpokhara

Ward no:3

District : Baglung

S.N	Date	Name and Caste of End-users	Reason for using stretcher	Place of stretcher Used		Remarks
				From	To	
1	066/4/28	Chandra Bdr.Thapa	Fever	Bhimpokhara	Akshete Bazar	
2	066/5/7	Man Kumari Malla	Heart Problem	Bhimpokhara	„	

Submitted By:

Rakesh Kumar Jha

DISC TL,Baglung

DRILP

Annex 4

Special request to Disadvantaged Groups for proper utilisation and management of stretchers

Stretchers help those end-users who are unable to reach health facilities by themselves. It is even more difficult for pregnant women to reach the health facilities without the support of a stretcher. Disadvantaged groups have been given the responsibility for the proper utilisation, maintenance and management of the donated stretchers. However, this stretcher is provided as a joint venture of the Rural Health Development Project and the particular VDC, with the disadvantaged group being the sole owner of the stretcher. Stretchers can be utilised for a long period of time if they are used and maintained properly. It is important to note that RHDP cannot contribute a stretcher twice to the same group or same ward of the VDC.

Terms and conditions for the best utilisation and management of the stretchers are set out below;

- ✓ The entire DAG member group has the right to know about the stretcher. It is the responsibility of individual groups to ensure that all its members have full information on the provision and use of the stretcher.
- ✓ DAG members have to decide and develop the policies and provisions for the proper utilisation and management of the stretcher by conducting a meeting.
- ✓ Persons who learned about stretcher use through the project have to teach and coach other DAG members about the methods for managing the stretchers, i.e. folding, lifting, shifting etc.
- ✓ All the community members and the respective health facility have to be informed about the place where stretcher is to be kept, and the person for stretcher who has been assigned to manage the stretcher.
- ✓ The stretcher has to be handled safely.
- ✓ The stretcher can only be used for end-users in reaching a health facility and taking them back to home.
- ✓ After the use of a stretcher, it is the duty of the responsible group to complete and send the '*stretcher utilisation report form*' monthly to the Project, describing for whom, when, and for what purpose the stretcher was used.
- ✓ Stretcher maintenance cost has to be managed by the responsible DAG group. RHDP will not support any maintenance.

Persons who come to receive a stretcher must have a clear understanding of the above-listed conditions. They can take support from community health facilitators of the respective VDCs to develop policies and provisions for proper utilisation and management of the stretcher.

Prepared by;
Rural Health Development Project.

Annex 5

Agreement Paper for Stretchers

We, the following listed disadvantaged group, received the stretcher for the betterment of disadvantaged people supported by the District Road Support Programme under the Mobility and Health Unit. For this we agree to follow the terms and conditions regarding the 'Proper Utilisation and Management of Stretchers' as produced by the Rural Health Development Project.

From the Disadvantaged Group

Name:

Position:

Name of DAG:

Ward No:

VDC:

Date:

From the District Road Support Programme

Name:

Position:

Date:

From the Rural Health Development Project

Name:

Position:

Date:

Enclosure: Terms and Conditions for the proper utilisation and management of stretchers, sheet-1.

Annex 6

Monthly Reporting form for Stretcher Utilisation

Name of group:

VDC:

Ward No:

District:

S. N.	Date	Name and caste of End-users	Reasons for using stretcher (Health Problem)	Place of stretcher used		Remarks
				<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	

Note: This form should be filled up and send in to the RHDP office every month.