

On All Fronts at Once

2021 Donor
Q2 Report

Dear Friends,

It is always an honor to greet you and update you on the activities of HRDC during this challenging year.

Thanks to your unwavering support, our teams are working tirelessly, innovating on a daily basis to ensure the 30,566 children in our care are kept safe while their treatment and rehabilitation continues during the pandemic. The tenacity, compassion, and creativity of our staff is nothing short of miraculous.

The COVID-19 wave that swept across the border in April has plunged the country into a new emergency, and HRDC swung into action to help save lives. Working closely with our partner hospital, B&B Hospital, a 64-bed COVID Ward was created and filled within one day. While the infection rate ebbed during lockdown, our teams are prepared for an inevitable third wave.

Despite enormous hardships, our Hospital and Satellite Centers remain open without any infections and telemedicine provides vital information to doctors, CBR workers, and families. During the recent lockdown, field teams set out on motorcycles to reach children who need new casts for clubfoot treatment. Each new barrier is being overcome with ingenuity, and heart.

Thank you for standing with us during this crisis.
We are deeply grateful.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ashok Kumar Banskota
Chairperson



Critically ill patients undergo lifesaving treatment in new COVID ward at B&B Hospital. Photo: Arjun Adhikari

IN THIS ISSUE

*Nepal In Crisis:
HRDC rises above
COVID with
innovation & heart*

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Enabling Disabled Children

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Pioneering to Deliver HRDC Core Services

Over 35 years, HRDC has navigated natural disasters, civil unrest, and appallingly inadequate healthcare systems in its mission to serve the poorest children with disabilities in Nepal. No platform of care existed for these children, so Dr. Ashok Banskota created HRDC. More than 99,000 children have now received life-changing surgery and care, and that number is growing under the leadership of Dr. Bibek Banskota.

With 30,566 children currently receiving care, the COVID pandemic has created new and daunting challenges. Innovating on a daily basis, the teams have created strict safety protocols and incorporated telemedicine to ensure children receive critical treatment. The Hospital remains open and operating and the four Satellite Centers in the far-east and far-west are hubs of activity. Using full protective equipment, our 76 Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers connect the dots—visiting homes to check on children’s progress and delivering and fitting prosthetic and orthotic devices.

The pandemic is far from over in Nepal. With less than 3% of the population vaccinated and a healthcare system more fragile than India, the coming months are critical. More than 657,000 people have been infected and 9,400 have died to date. The race to vaccinate people is being hampered by a lack of supply and the current political crisis embroiling the government. As the country emerges from a two-month lockdown, vigilance and protective equipment are essential.

“It’s prudent to be prepared, as we’ve learnt that there’s very little time for preparation when the situation starts to deteriorate.”

Dr. Bibek Banskota

Against all odds, children are receiving time-sensitive operations and rehabilitation and clubfoot treatment continues during the pandemic. The indomitable HRDC staff are true heroes to thousands of children.

*Above: The Mobile Ponseti team applies a new cast every 7 days for approximately 6 weeks.
Photo: Madhu Adhikari*

MOBILE PONSETI

Every year HRDC treats 400-500 children for clubfoot using the non-surgical Ponseti Method, which uses a series of casts over time to gently manipulate the feet. The method provides full mobility in 95% of cases. During lockdown, families were stuck at home, unable to bring children in for new casts. Undaunted, the HRDC staff mobilized to bring the casts to the children—on motorcycles! In addition to new casts, the “Mobile Ponseti” teams bring compassionate care and hope during bleak days of the pandemic.

*Below: Access to oxygen saves lives during the pandemic.
Photo: Arjun Adhikari*

*Right: Going mobile to reach children in remote villages with cast making kits in tow.
Photo: Madhu Adhikari*



COVID Rapid Response

HRDC has a long history of rising up to meet emergencies head on. When COVID-19 reached Nepal in 2020 we immediately mobilized to help the most vulnerable. Using our vast networks in remote areas, we’re delivering face masks, sanitizing soap and education—reaching 5,575 families to date.

The second COVID wave struck this April, throwing the country into further turmoil. With infection rates spiraling out of control, we partnered with our sister hospital, B&B Hospital, to convert 64 beds into



a COVID ward, including 13 desperately needed ICU beds. With generous support from donors, we’ve procured oxygen supplies, saving many lives.

COVID-19 is straining Nepal’s tenuous healthcare system to the breaking point. Utilizing every resource available, HRDC stands at the ready to care for the most vulnerable.



A LEGACY OF INNOVATION

- After the 2015 earthquake, HRDC set up an exterior operating theater to treat those injured. In months that followed, 92 mobile medical camps in the hardest-hit areas treated more than 44,000 people.
- Created an in-house Prosthetic & Orthotic Lab to keep costs low.
- Established an HRDC School allowing children’s education to continue, or start, during treatment.
- Initiated Mobile Medical Camps to reach children in all 77 Districts in Nepal.
- An organic garden at the HRDC Hospital brings food security and sustainability to patients and staff. 500 people are fed every month.



Achieving Global Sustainable Development Goals

HRDC's commitment to reaching important 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal has created a platform for care-delivery that didn't exist before. Using a culturally sensitive approach, HRDC provides treatment and rehabilitation to the poorest children with disabilities.



PPE keeps staff and patient families COVID-safe while Ponseti treatments continue at villagers' homes.
Photo: Madhu Adhikari

It takes a Global Village

In a low resource country like Nepal, poor children with disabilities often suffer. Rising above challenges on a daily basis, HRDC transforms their lives with world-class treatment, rehabilitation, and tender loving care.

In times of crisis, our supporters have responded with compassion and big-heartedness, and this moment is no exception. We are so grateful for immediate contributions and equipment from MiracleFeet, Direct Relief, and individual donors.

More than \$73,000 has been raised to date. Your support is:

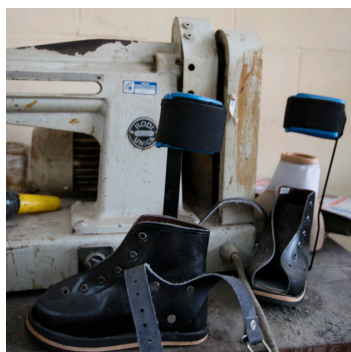
- Keeping children safe in the hospital during their treatment
- Protecting staff and patients throughout the country.
- Providing critical supplies of oxygen, oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, ventilators, and protective equipment.

On behalf of the children, families, and people suffering from the pandemic, thank you.



3 | GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

1,008,887 physiotherapy sessions completed.



9 | INDUSTRY INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

82,151 prosthetic & orthotic devices manufactured in-house



10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES

99,006 children with disabilities have received life-changing treatment.