

Nepal Dental Project. RAWCS Project Number 158/2005-06

Report on the Dental Team Visit 26 April - 3 May 2014

Dental Volunteers

Brenda O'Leary (New Zealand), dental assistant

Sandra Meihubers (Sydney), dentist

Due to uncertainty regarding the registration or otherwise within Nepal of volunteers as advised by the Community Health Development Society (CHDS), a very small team travelled to Nepal this time.

The actual visit extended to 8 May. The second week was devoted to working on the Village Development Program - Sanitation in Arubot and Dandagaun, and planning for the future direction of the various programs.



Dental camp at Dandagaun

Dental Camps

Dental camps, using the portable dental equipment belonging to CHDS, were delivered at the following locations:

Kalanti Bhumidanda

Dandagaun- one of the Teeth and Toilets project sites*

Panchkhal Primary Health Care Centre - Dulalthok - Panchkhal

Rayale - Shree Shanti Niketan Higher secondary School

Nala - Shera - Women Cooperative.

* At Dandagaun there are ongoing school based dental programs including school based daily toothbrushing. Schools were just resuming after their annual break so we were not able to see the toothbrushing in action.

We brought purchased and donated supplies from Australia, and we are truly thankful for the generosity of the donors: GC Australia and Henry Schein Halas.

The Australian team worked with the CHDS team and we extend our thanks to Bishnu Shrestha, Gita Shrestha, Jaya Mangal Baidya, Renu Thapa, Punam Kayastha and Sabita Shrestha of CHDS, and to Dr Anu Malla, from Banepa, who also joined us for the camps.



Gita and SM working on the dental screening/triage desk

Training for Local Staff

Informal training occurred during the camps: Brenda was able to advise on appropriate use and care for the dental equipment, appropriate techniques for materials usage, and we discussed preventive clinical and community based techniques with Dr Anu and Bishnu.



Dr Anu and Brenda

Services Provided

The table below summarises the numbers and types of dental services provided:

Attendances		Totals
Females	Males	
174	195	369
Services provided		
Scaling		17
Fillings		275
Extractions		110
Medicine		11
Oral hygiene advice, and referrals		83
Total services provided		786

Accommodation and Transport

CHDS once again was brilliant in organising local transport and ensuring all was fine with accommodation. Dhulikhel Lodge Resort provided the usual high standards of comfort and hospitality.



The bus leaving Rayale School didn't quite make it over the water crossing

Future Planning

Over the past 10 years dental services in the upper Kathmandu valley have increased considerably. Nepal now has more than 10 dental colleges producing dentists (none in existence 10 years ago), plus overall living and economic conditions have improved. While there will always be poor and marginalised people in this region, they at least have some access to emergency care. Our future plan, under consideration over the next six months, is to move the Dental and Sanitation projects to other regions where access to services is difficult.

Acknowledgments

Once again this project was made more productive due to the support of individuals and companies and great thanks and gratitude are extended to the Rotary Club of Bay of Islands New Zealand, GC Australia, and Henry Schein Regional. Acknowledgment is also given to the International College of Dentists for the ongoing support to the village dental care programs.

Sandra Meihubers
26 May 2014

Namaste and Laso from the generations!!

