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NEPAL FACT SHEET

STRENGTHENING REHABILITATION IN DISTRICT ENVIRONS (STRIDE)

To improve the quality, accessibility and sustainability of rehabilitation services in Nepal, USAID introduced the STRIDE project in 2010. The project provides direct technical and financial support to five physical rehabilitation centers operated by local partner organizations in order to strengthen their institutional capability and client services.

The fundamental needs of people living with disabilities do not differ from those of other people; however, people living with disabilities have more specific practical requirements to live as dignified and equal citizens. To improve the mobility and functional independence, such as every-day activities like eating or going to school or work without personal assistance, of persons with disability can require physical rehabilitation services and physiotherapy. These services enable fuller participation in education, livelihood, community activities, and everyday family life. Further, Nepal's public sector is recognizing disability as a public health concern, for which private sector service can complement primary health care from the public sector. During Nepal's decade-long conflict the number of disabled people increased due to injuries sustained during the conflict period. Today, traffic accidents, burns, strokes and cerebral palsy are some of the major causes of disabilities in Nepal.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Through activities at five rehabilitation facilities (Nepal National Social Welfare Association, Kanchanpur District; Nepalganj Medical College, Banke District; Nepal Disabled Fund, Kathmandu District; Prerana, Sarlahi District; and Community-Based Rehabilitation – Biratnagar, Morang District) and mobile service outreach sites, the \$4.86 million, nine-year STRIDE project improves the functional independence of people living with disabilities in Nepal. The project ensures sustainable, accessible and quality physical rehabilitation services, and community-based follow-up consultations for people living with physical disabilities and facilitates their participation in livelihood. The physical rehabilitation centers fit custom-made orthotic and prosthetic devices, and provide physiotherapy and community-based rehabilitation services to people living with disabilities in four regions of Nepal. The project was recently extended through January 2019.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Improve quality of services through formal training and on-the-job coaching for prosthetic, orthotic and physiotherapy professionals, and community disability workers
- Extend access to rehabilitation services through engagement in annual district and village development planning and budgetary processes that supports mobile camps in remote areas
- Integrate persons living with disability into their communities by linking to existing vocational and livelihood training, and facilitating entrepreneurial mentorship
- Enhance sustainability by strengthening partner management systems, fund-raising skills and networking activities

KEY OUTCOMES

By the end of January 2019, STRIDE plans to have the following outcomes:

- 42,000 persons living with disability will have received quality physical rehabilitation services including reconstructive surgery
- 10,000 assistive devices will have been produced and fitted
- All five centers will have contributed at least 72% of the funds required for their operating costs
- 5,000 persons living with disability will have benefited from personalized social support for livelihood, for income opportunities and improved integration in their communities
- 22 District Development Committees will have developed Local District Action Plans for supporting rehabilitation and social inclusion opportunities for persons living with disability