



Recruitment for Reconstruction: Engaging Engineers for Household Disaster Assessment Survey



Household Registration for Housing Reconstruction Programme (Survey) began from December 2015. The survey is envisaged to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all households in the districts highly affected by the earthquake in order to identify the extent of damage to the households using uniform engineering criteria. The outcome of this assessment would be a robust database to inform reconstruction programme of the Government of Nepal ultimately enhancing the capacity of the government to quickly respond to future disasters through risk reduction efforts and support long-term social protection efforts. In simple terms, this programme is a follow-up validation survey to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) study conducted by National Planning Commission (NPC).

Partners and Working Modality

HERD is collaborating with National Planning Commission (NPC), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), The World Bank, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Kathmandu Living Labs (KLL) to implement this project. The contractual agreement and liabilities of HERD remains with UNOPS.

HERD's role

HERD is responsible for three major scope of work:

- ◆ human resource recruitment,
- ◆ training and logistics management
- ◆ transport management

Managing for Mass Mobilization

Managing mass mobilization for field investigators is a daunting task. Our automated and digitized recruitment system helped us a great deal to recruit the required human resources and communicate with them for the contract agreement. Managing the logistics for such a large number was also challenging as we had to ensure that all the receiving, storing, packaging and delivering survey kits to the field investigators went through a systematic and rigorous process with the support of UNOPS. Training such a large number of field investigators is another challenge. As we couldn't train 100 people in a single hall as it would compromise a standard practice we identified training venues where there would be 10 halls to accommodate these training participants. Training had to be conducted in parallel sessions so that all 450 participants could be trained at the same time. It has been a challenging task to manage 10 parallel sessions smoothly with ensuring that all sessions are conducted on time, lunch and refreshments are served properly, post training test using tablets are conducted and advanced payment and survey kits before field mobilization are provided to participants – all at the same time.





Writing Rigorously: Paper Writing Workshop in Amsterdam

COMDIS-HSD with the support of International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IULTD), Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Luxembourg Operational Research (LuxOR) organized a Paper Writing Workshop for researchers from November 9 to 14, 2015. HERD Researchers Sudeep Uprety and Deepak Joshi attended the workshop.

This event was organized to orient researchers about various principles and tips of writing for publication. The sessions included: Writing in clear, scientific English; Choosing a journal and identifying guidelines for choosing a journal; Principles and examples of writing Introduction; Principles and examples of writing Methods; Literature search and



using PUBMED; References and styles; Principles and examples of writing Results and Discussion; Principles and examples of writing Abstract, Title, Authors, Acknowledgements, Conflict of Interest and Principles and examples of Final Submission and Peer Review.

This was based on a 'mentorship model' where the mentors guided the researchers through the paper development process.

Uprety and Joshi are following up upon this workshop finalising their paper with respective mentors as well as conducting a similar workshop sharing their learning to colleagues at HERD.

270 days and 1K Likes - The Journey Continues

It all began on the evening of March the 27th of 2015, a normal Friday evening when a small team including Executive Chairperson Dr Sushil Baral, a member of Board of Directors - Rajesh Ghimire and Senior Research Uptake and Communications Officer -Sudeep Uprety were having a formal-cum-informal discussion about finding ways of increasing our organization's visibility. HERD had just started Twitter and the team thought of starting a Facebook page to reach out to young, budding enthusiasts who would be interested in our work. As Facebook is a most common social media, at least in Nepal, Uprety started a page with our organization's logo and a panorama shot of our office setting clicked by Santosh Giri- Data Management Officer as cover page of our Facebook page.



As the Research Uptake and Communications unit was just established which was dedicated to highlighting various activities of our research/programme projects through various communications channels and Facebook page certainly opened doors. The team gradually started posting various news and stories related to our projects. Various ongoing activities of HERD started getting space in our social media ac-

counts. Today HERD's facebook page has more than 1000 followers.

Uprety added, "Every post had a purpose. It was not just a matter of having an additional like to the page or the post but the message it would carry. We are thankful to each and every one who have supported us in this journey. We are glad that in the space of 270 days, we were able to reach the 1000 Likes Landmark. We believe that

we can achieve much more with our continuous effort and your overwhelming support. While I was developing posts for Facebook, I was getting continuous guidance and suggestions from my mentor and my boss Dr Sushil Baral. I would also like to thank COMDIS-HSD Research Uptake Unit, especially my communications manager Dr Nilam Ashra McGrath for her constant support and encouragement".

#ChangeTB: Changing the Course in Tackling Tuberculosis



With the motive of ending Tuberculosis, one of the world's leading causes of death, #ChangeTB campaign was launched on November 20, 2015 by Stop TB Partnership. The campaign was launched to spread awareness about tuberculosis or TB in a global scale.

Stop TB Partnership has also launched its next 5 year strategy, 'Global Plan to End TB 2016-2020: The Paradigm Shift'. Supporting the cause, HERD family sent messages via Twitter to the global community to change our approaches of tackling TB.

HERD, has been actively involved in tackling TB. It has been involved in active TB case finding in Nepal using innovative GeneXpert technology and mobile vans through 'TB REACH' project, which was initiated in 2013. Two mobile vans have been deployed to various places of 22 districts of Nepal targeting unreached population – slum dwellers, people living with HIV (PLHIV), household contacts of TB patients, factory workers, refugees and monasteries, diabetic patients and prisoners. Post-earthquake, the mobile vans have been deployed at some places of Kathmandu targeting displaced people living in various camps.



Participating in the ASRH 5 step review



The adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) 5-step review was organized to identify what populations are missed by the national ASRH programme. The process is expected strengthen the ability of the ASRH programme to increasingly contribute in reduction of avoidable and unjust differences in exposure to risk factors, access to health services and improvement in health status of adolescents.

HERD researchers Dr Nipun Shrestha and Uden Maharjan attended the program. "We understood how the National ASRH program should be analysed with the approach to address equity issues, social determinants of health, gender and human rights in order to strengthen the program. It's been a good experience to HERD team to work with lading agencies working in adolescent, sexual and reproductive health. This assignment is another example of HERD's involvement in the technical facilitation in Nepal's health policy and programme development".

The findings will be able to make recommendations on how ASRH programme can reach sub populations currently being missed; to review if the current recording and reporting mechanisms for adolescent friendly health services (AFHS) can improve to reflect health inequities in access and utilization and to guide the national adolescent health strategy development.

Session on Qualitative Research Techniques

A one day session on qualitative research techniques was organized at HERD on 5th October. The event was facilitated by Cicely Marston from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The interactive session was on qualitative research techniques, focusing mostly on interview and analysis techniques as well as types of analysis. "The objective of the training is to start developing critical analysis technique, learn advanced interview techniques, understand the fundamental underpinnings of high quality qualitative research using practical examples and to address practical points as they arise", informed Marston. The session started with an introductory exercise following discussions in various aspects of qualitative work. Marston further talked about interview design and practice and gave her opinion on how the questionnaire has to be designed, methods and practice of data collection, report writing and use of tools among others.

Facilitator's Feedback



Cicely Marston

The researchers seemed to be enthusiastic and they have willingness to learn. This is just the beginning there is so much they can work. I am hoping that the session has planned some seeds in their mind.

Participants' views



Macchindra Basnet, Qualitative Research Officer

Till now all the workshops I have attended talked about the methods, here we got an opportunity to learn and share about practical problems we face. I felt homely interacting with such an experienced person, she answered all the queries easily in a convincing way. She talked about the field in international arena. We look forward for same kind of workshops in the coming days.



Asmita Panta, Project Officer

The session gave me an insight about qualitative studies and provided me a platform to put on my queries which shall be immensely helpful in my future work. Cicely made the session quite interactive and interesting by adding her personal experience.

International Conference on Lung Health 2015

An international conference on lung health titled, 46th Union World Conference on Lung Health 2015 was organized in December 2015 at Cape Town with the theme "A New Agenda: Lung Health Beyond 2015". The theme reflects the changing landscape of global public health, and the new era of action that will embark on together in the coming years. The conference is the largest annual meeting focusing on TB related issues as they relate to low- and middle-income countries and populations. Each year delegates from more than 125 countries gather for this five-day scientific conference, which presents research from every region of the world.



The five-day event addressed how these new agendas influence the inter-related fights against tuberculosis, HIV, lung disease and non-communicable diseases, as well as the global campaign for tobacco control. Experts from around the world had gathered to identify solutions for achieving success in the post-2015 era of global health and development. HERD team represented by Executive Chairperson Dr Sushil Baral and Rekha Khatri, Qualitative Research Manager attended the event. Dr Baral presented a paper on 'Effectiveness of TB case finding strategies to reach unreached slum population in the urban areas in Nepal' while Rekha Khatri presented a poster about highlighting ethnographic study conducted in TB labs in Nepal.