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**READ Nepal**

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2012





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READ Nepal is a non-profit NGO based in Nepal affiliated with READ Global. It seeks to build literacy and thereby empower rural communities through Community Library and Resource Centers (CLRCs). READ Nepal was founded by Dr. Antonia Neubauer in 1991 when she helped bring books to the rural community of Junbesi. READ Nepal has since grown into 52 self-sustaining CLRCs in 38 districts of Nepal.

## Message from the Country Director

2012 has been a very positive year for us. READ supported community libraries have continued to impact the lives of communities by creating access to relevant information and knowledge, promoting literacy and livelihood, encouraging the community to work for women's empowerment, and initiating preventive health programs. Being so dedicated to the community, libraries have continued to inspire all of us.

In 2012, we inaugurated 3 Centres and supported 4 micro-enterprises that will sustain the libraries. Even though building these READ Centers and sustaining enterprises is a very tough process, the local communities' contribution towards these initiatives has been phenomenal. We admire communities that work so hard for their development despite having many hardships.

We support 2 or 3 libraries a year, so we do not have the opportunity to work with all communities eager to work with us. Although 2012 was also a year of missed some opportunities, we very thoughtfully chose the communities we work with, and we will always have full confidence in them.

We were so happy by the strides taken by Nepali communities in development that we believed Nepalis could also build a community library through their own financial and intellectual contributions. We are in the process of building a library in Panauti, the construction of which is fully supported by Nepalis only. As a result of this initiative, we feel more Nepalis have realized their own importance in developing Nepal. We hope this library will be the first of many built independently by Nepalis.

2012 has been great also because we have been recognized nationally and internationally. One of our libraries won an award recognizing its innovativeness. Through this award, the library is producing IT content to educate women of various ages and social situations about uterine prolapsed to reduce cases of uterine prolapsed.

We would like to thank all our partners, colleagues and the communities we serve for your meaningful support!

Sincerely,



Sanjana Shrestha  
Country Director





# READ Nepal in 2012

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52 Centers established

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1.77 M Rural villagers have access to READ centers

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81 Sustaining enterprises launched

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## How READ works

READ partners with rural villages to build CLRCs that offer knowledge and opportunities to villagers that lack resources for mobility. Together, the local community and READ work to build a sustaining enterprise to sustain the CLRC. READ's Centers are designed to serve adults, children, students, women and illiterate populations from the community.

READ's CLRCs contain a Library Section with 3,000-5,000 books, magazines and newspapers in English and local languages, an Information and Technology (ICT) Section with computers, internet (where available) and provision for computer training, a Women's Section with literature relevant to women's issues, such as health and gender rights, a Children's Section with educational toys and reading materials, an Audio/visual Section with TV, DVD player, telephone, fax, projector, DVDs and CDs, and a Training Hall to conduct programs on literacy, health, community development and more. READ CLRCs also have a sustaining enterprise which is seeded by READ and supported by the community. These provide employment and financial support to the CLRCs. Sustaining enterprises include turmeric farming, souvenir shop, cyber cafes, cooperatives etc.

'This is the Jhunbesi Village in Solukhumbu district of Nepal where the first READ Library was established in 1991.'



# Education

READ's programs are focused on creating a culture of reading and learning for all ages. In partnership with communities, the CLRCs provide programs on health education, adult literacy, computer proficiency and livelihood skills. CLRCs provide regular literacy classes to women and elderly populations. CLRCs also conduct educational competitions, reading campaigns and educational outreach projects.



84-year-old Subhadra Devi Timilsina attending literacy classes at Janajagaran CLRC, Nuwakot.

## 2012 BY THE NUMBERS:

# 1,711

People participated in **LITERACY** classes offered at the READ Community Libraries in partnership with NORAD and NAAL.

# 957

People received **ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION** in 2012. Jhuwani Community Library launched 6-month climate change pilot project in partnership with Practical Action which helped the local farmers by providing information on weather.



### Meet Tulsi Maya Shrestha

Like many women in rural villages of Nepal, Tulsi Maya Shrestha did not go to school and married at a young age. Now, at the age of 61, she can read and write. This has been possible due to the literacy classes offered at Dibyajyoti CLRC at Kumroj village of Chitwan district in partnership with NORAD and NAAL.

The literacy and numeracy skills helped Tulsi Maya build self confidence. She does signature instead of thumbprint in meetings and community programs. She can voice her opinions more confidently. She says, 'The world is made up of alphabets and words. After being able to read and write, I realized the power of alphabets and words.'



A woman at Jhuwani CLRC updating the weather forecast chart.



# Economic Empowerment



Participants learning off-season vegetable farming at training organized by Agyauli CLRC, Nawalparasi.

The CLRCs organize trainings on various vocational skills relevant to the local economy, which is geared towards helping locals earn an income. Savings and credit cooperatives are created where feasible and micro-finance trainings are offered.

## 2012 BY THE NUMBERS:

# 2,472

Rural villagers learned new LIVELIHOOD SKILLS through free READ CLRC training programs on agriculture and animal husbandry.

# 6

New SUSTAINING ENTERPRISES launched in READ CLRCs.

- Souvenir shop at Gyan Bikas CLRC.
- Turmeric Farming at Deurali CLRC
- Community Souvenir shop at Sauraha CLRC
- Retail Shop at Dibyajyoti CLRC
- Catering Service at Tarauli CLRC
- Endowment Fund at Rameshwor CLRC
- Guest room at Jhuwani CLRC



### Meet Parsaram Dangi

Parsaram Dangi, a 55 year old farmer from Banke district of Nepal, learned about modern agriculture techniques after becoming associated with Gyanodaya CLRC. The CLRC has been implementing Practical Answers Service program, a joint project of READ Nepal and Practical Action.

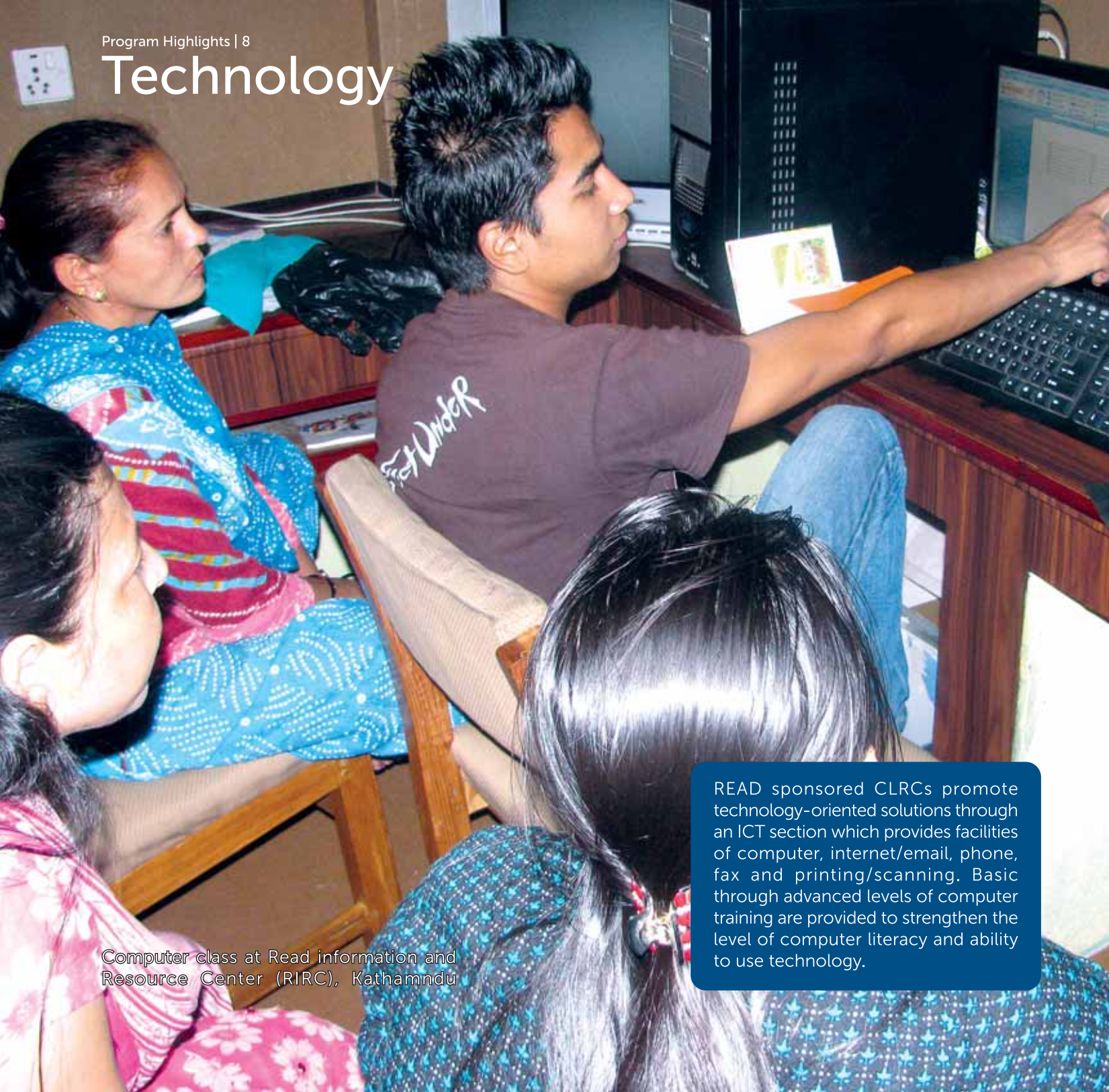
Through the program, Parsaram learned about the profitability of tomoato farming-something no one else was doing in his area. He learned how to prepare the land, select seeds, and how to make homemade pesticides to prevent disease. Using these new techniques, Parsaram became the first tomato farmer in his village. Even when other farms in his district were damaged by disease, and many other farmers lost hope, Dangi's tomatoes survived because of techniques he learned through the READ CLRC.



Souvenir shop at Gyan Bikas CLRC, Panauti



# Technology



Computer class at Read information and Resource Center (RIRC), Kathamndu

READ sponsored CLRCs promote technology-oriented solutions through an ICT section which provides facilities of computer, internet/email, phone, fax and printing/scanning. Basic through advanced levels of computer training are provided to strengthen the level of computer literacy and ability to use technology.

## 2012 BY THE NUMBERS:

# 738

People received BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING in 2012. These trainings were conducted to provide basic computer literacy skills and skills for internet usage. The participants ranged from young students to elderly people.

# 7,293

Community people have access to FREE INTERNET SERVICES through READ Libraries with internet connection. Each READ CLRC is equipped with an ICT room that has computers and internet access (where available) to provide computer skills training to the people.



### Meet Bimala Pokhreal

Bimala Pokharel, a tea shop owner at Chunadevi-Kathmandu, had hailed from Okhaldhunga, the eastern region of Nepal in search of better opportunities. While working at her shop she used to see people read and write in English which amused her and aroused in her, a desire to learn English. One day she learned about the READ Information and Resource Center (READ Model Center) in Baluwatar and immediately joined the literacy classes. She can now read and write simple sentences in English and even send SMS from her mobile. Currently, she is also taking the computer class, learning how to type and use Microsoft word. She can chat with family and friends over skype and facebook.



Children using computer at READ CLRC



# Women's Empowerment

READ CLRCs have a separate women's section which provide a safe place for women to gather and conduct discussions on issues pertaining to women's issues such as women's rights, women's sexual reproductive health and so on. These discussions are made not only within the closed doors of the CLRC but also through interaction and training programs. Furthermore, the CLRCs provide literacy classes, access to saving & credit program and skills development trainings which have helped women become economically empowered.



## SITA SHRESTHA

A resident of Udipur VDC-3, Lamjung, Sita Shrestha comes from a middle class family and despite being educated Sita remained unemployed for quite some time. Desperate to find a job, she was ready to move to a gulf country. Right then, she heard about a beautician training being provided by Laxmi Narayan CLRC. Sita had always thought of being a beautician if she ever got a chance to. So she grabbed this opportunity and enrolled for a 3-month long training. She also joined advanced beautician training in Kathmandu.

Today, she runs her own beauty parlor in her house. With more than 10 clients visiting in a day, she earns a monthly profit of NRs 15,000. She is a role model to other aspiring women and has taught more than 40 people with dreams just like hers. "The feeling of being able to help others is satisfying and uplifting", she says.

## 2012 BY THE NUMBERS:

# 2,203

Women and children received HEALTH SERVICES at the health camps organized by READ Libraries in partnership with Practical Action.

# 538

Community women received awareness training on WOMEN'S SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.

# 371

Women learned about their LEGAL RIGHTS at READ Libraries, enabling them to make decisions about property ownership, voting and others.



Women's group at Kolti CLRC-Bajura, the far western region of Nepal





# PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

## MEDICT

READ and RIRC partnered with Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) and Norwegian Association for Adult Learning (NAAL) to implement Mobilization for Education and Development through Information and Communication Technology (MEDICT) project.

### Objectives :

- to increase literacy rate,
- to increase livelihood opportunities,
- to improve access to relevant information through the use of ICT and
- to work for institutional building of the library and women's cooperative.

### Target groups

Women, farmers and other people from socially marginalized communities.

### Project Areas

Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts.

### Project Implementing period

Three years in Chitwan and two years in Nawalparasi.

### Outcomes of the project :

- 867 people became literate in three years
- Deurali Village Development Committee (VDC) Ward Number 5 was declared as a **fully literate ward** in the district.
- 6 cooperatives are operational and 1457 community people were associated with these cooperatives.
- 234 people were trained on different income generating activities such as beekeeping, mushroom farming, livestock raising, micro-enterprise opening and management, off-seasonal vegetable farming etc.
- 395 people became computer literate.
- Free internet access was provided to thousands of community people.



Local farmers of Deurali village started potato farming after receiving training sponsored by MEDICT project.



# Practical Answers Service



Social mobilizer collecting queries from local farmer.

READ partnered with Practical Action to launch the Practical Answers Service. In this program, community people demand answers from queries they have regarding health, agriculture, livestock, education and law, and CLRCs provide these answers through different mechanisms, such as radio shows, videos, telephone conversations, flex print charts, interaction programs, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and even trainings. Trainings are not designed to directly address queries, but questions are answered if they arise within the trainings.

## Target groups

Women, farmers and community members who lack access to information.

## Implementing partners

Tikapur CLRC, Gyanodaya CLRC, Agyauli CLRC, Jhuwani CLRC, Deurali CLRC and LumbiniTinai CLRC.

## Project areas

Kailali, Banke, Nawalparasi, Chitwan and Rupandehi.

## Outcomes of the project

- 15,493 enquiries received and 14,648 responded to.
- Two health camps conducted at Chitwan and Rupandehi district.
- 59 interaction programs conducted in six CLRCs, which benefitted 1295 females and 502 males.
- 6 farm based trainings given to local farmers
- Aired radio program based on queries received from the communities
- 24 radio listeners' groups formed
- 45 coordination meetings with local and district level stakeholders held
- 22 video programs conducted
- 6 Knowledge Management Committees formed
- Knowledge materials developed





# Inauguration in 2012



## Moti CLRC

Location : Phalebas, Parbat District  
Sustaining enterprise : Endowment fund and store-front rentals  
Sections of the library : Library, Children, Audio-Video, Computer, and Training Hall  
Inauguration : November 2, 2012

There were more than 400 people and representatives from thirty different organizations in the inauguration.



## Janajagaran CLRC

Location : Kumari-9, Nuwakot District  
Reached number of population : 16,384  
Sustaining enterprise : Jagaran Cooperatives and storefront rentals  
Sections : Library, Children, Audio-Video, Computer, and Training Hall  
Inauguration : November 3, 2012

More than 1500 people attended the inaugural ceremony.



## LumbiniTinau CLRC

Location : Dedharakchya-5, Rupandehi District  
Reached number of population : 25,350  
Sustaining enterprise : Storefront rentals  
Sections : Library, Children, Women, Audio-Visual, Computer, and Training Hall  
Inauguration : August 5, 2012

About 7000 people from local organizations, schools, colleges, clubs and mother's groups participated in the three day inauguration from 3-5 Aug 2012.

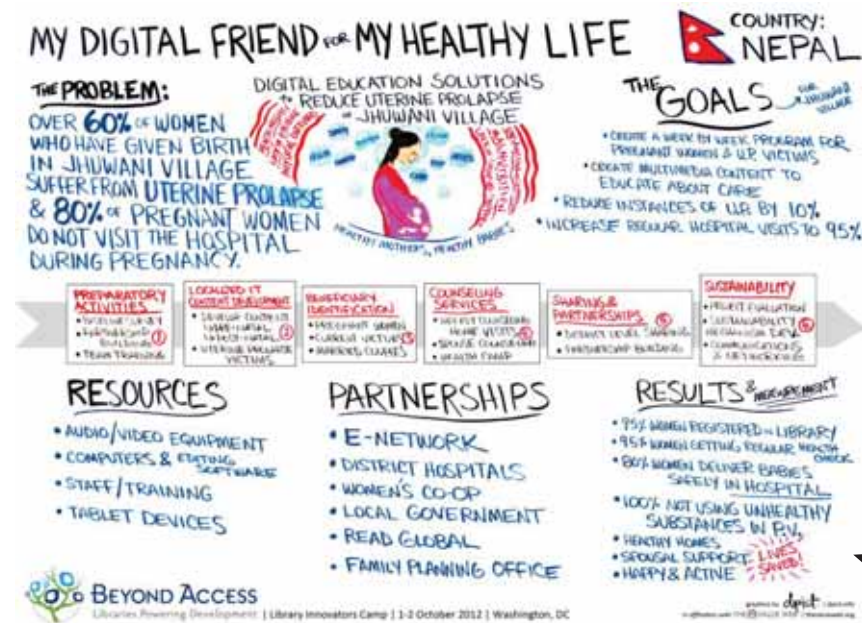


## Sustaining Enterprise of Gyan Bikas CLRC

The dilapidated building that served as the library in Panauti was renovated and it became the sustaining enterprise of the library. It is a souvenir shop and also has guest rooms. The souvenir shop was inaugurated by READ Nepal's Emeritus Board Member Dr. Mohan Man Sainju and READ Global's Executive Director Tina Sciabica amid more than 200 community members, including students from local schools and reporters for local and national newspapers.



# International Recognition & Awards



## Jhuwani's recognition at Beyond Access Conference

Jhuwani CLRC won the People's Choice Award at the 2012 Beyond Access conference at Washington DC. The project was designed to address the prevention of uterine prolapsed incidence in women, which is a health concern in the village of Jhuwani. Jhuwani CLRC became a member of Beyond Access in 2012.

Award winning concept of Jhuwani CLRC



Mr. Prem Basnet receiving an award on behalf of Agyauli CLRC from EIFL-PLIP Programme Manager, Ramune Petuchovaitė (middle).

## EIFL-PLIP award to Agyauli CLRC

For its contribution to the economic well-being of the community, Agyauli CLRC won the EIFL-PLIP award in 2012. This award included a \$1500 prize, which was given during the 2012 Beyond Access Conference.

EIFL stands for Electronic Information for Libraries. EIFL enables access to knowledge through libraries in developing and transition countries to contribute to sustainable economic and social development.

## 3rd Annual Regional Meeting of READ

Representatives from READ Global, READ India, READ Bhutan and READ Nepal participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regional Meeting of READ held at Gokarna Forest Resort in Nepal between 17 to 22 February. In this meeting, priorities for 2012 were discussed, lessons learned and highlights from 2011 were shared, and the main challenges of 2011 were shared. Thoughts on the importance of READ's work were also shared, and ways to make this work more apparent and stronger in the wider community were also presented and discussed.



# National Level Meetings

## Project Advisory Committee Meeting at Central Level

The meeting of Central Project Advisory Committee was held in Sauraha, Chitwan. The members of this Committee included representatives from the Social Welfare Council (SWC), National Planning Commission, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, and Ministry of Education. Participants from READ Nepal and RIRC were also present. The participants appreciated the READ model and READ's activities, and suggested new projects and activities.

## Project Advisory Committee Meeting at District Level

Six District Project Advisory Committees were formed and met in 2012. These were in the six districts of Nepal namely : Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Kaski, Nuwakot, Rupandehi and Kavre.



# Nepalese Contribution in Library Construction



Students painting their piggy banks 'khutruke' during the '100 days 100 rupees' campaign

In 2011, READ decided to build the 50th library using the fund raised from the Nepalese community. Thus began the 'Nepali le Sakchaun' Campaign to promote a culture of giving in Nepalese society – where community development efforts have traditionally been driven by international funds.

As a part of fund raising, Read Information and Resource Center ( a local NGO of READ Nepal) and Anuvuti International launched the '100 days 100 rupees campaign' in different schools of Kathmandu- delivering piggy banks 'Kutruke' that collected NRs 221,344. This campaign was carried out with the aim of fostering a culture and habit of giving for social cause in the children from a very young age. Also, READ Nepal organized fundraising dinner event which was hosted by Mr. Rabindra Puri, an advisory board member of READ Nepal, where representatives from NGOs, INGOs, corporate businesses and other potential donors were present. A total of NRs. 412,067 was collected from this event.



Students counting collected money during the campaign



# Institutional Partners



**THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION** has been an integral partner for READ since 2006, when READ Nepal won the Foundation’s Access to Learning Award. Since then the Foundation has supported our expansion into Bhutan and India and has more recently provided capacity-building funding to help us strengthen our program design, information and communication technology offerings, monitoring and evaluation processes, and fundraising capacity.



**Practical Action** and READ are working together to address the needs of rural communities by answering questions from villagers on topics such as agriculture, animal husbandry, legal rights, and health. Answers are shared through a broad range of media, including pamphlets, signs, videos, and radio programs. Over 20,000 questions from villagers have been answered to date, resulting in better livelihoods.

**IMPLEMENTING AND IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:**

- Government of Nepal
- District Development Committee, Chitwan
- Anubhuti International
- Nepal Community Library Association
- Sagarmatha Radio
- Latter Day Saint Charity
- Nepal Federation of Environment Journalists (NEFEJ)
- Norwegian Amateur Theatre Association
- Town Development Fund (TDF)
- UNESCO Nepal



**The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)** and **The Norwegian Association for Adult Learning (VOFO)** have partnered with READ to promote literacy and expand our reach into more remote communities in Nepal through the piloting of READ’s Hub and Satellite Model as well as women’s empowerment and livelihood skills programs.



READ Global was founded by Myths & Mountains President Dr. Antonia Neubauer in 1991, and operated as the nonprofit arm of the company for many years. Since that time, both Myths & Mountains and its clients have provided invaluable support of READ’s work. Today, READ is proud to receive ongoing support from the entire Myths & Mountains team.

We could not have reached millions of villagers without generous support from our institutional partners around the world. We thank all our partners for joining us in inspiring rural prosperity through their monetary contributions, program partnerships, in –kind contribution and employee engagement.

# Financial Summary of 2012

**Rural Education And Development (READ)**

Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal


Balance Sheet as on 31st December 2012			
Particulars		Current Year Amount NRs	Previous Year Amount NRs
<b>Sources of Funds</b>			
Reserve & Surplus		(2,207,144.55)	530,436.18
Severance Reserve Fund	1	2,762,147.29	1,768,017.21
<b>Total Sources of Funds</b>		<b>555,002.74</b>	<b>2,298,453.39</b>
<b>Application of Funds</b>			
Fixed Assests	2	1,509,742.10	1,517,187.69
<b>Current Assets, loans &amp; Advances</b>			
Program Advance	3	117,075.44	42,954.00
Cash & Bank Balance	4	3,990,486.37	3,829,070.95
		<b>4,107,561.81</b>	<b>3,872,024.95</b>
<b>Less Current Liabilities &amp; Provisions</b>			
other Payables	5	4,958,772.17	3,089,896.25
TDS Payable	6	103,529.00	863.00
		<b>5,062,301.17</b>	<b>3,090,759.25</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>(954,739.36)</b>	<b>781,265.70</b>
<b>Total Application of Funds</b>		<b>555,002.74</b>	<b>2,298,453.39</b>

Significat Accounting Policies & Notes to the Account

  
Parshu Ram Pandey  
Finance Manager

  
Sanjana Srestha  
County Director



  
FCA Yuddha Raj Oli  
Partner  
P.Y.C & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

Date : 9 March, 2012  
Place : Kathmandu



# READ Family 2012

## Advisory Board Members    READ Core Staff

Dr. Shanti Basnyat	Sanjana Shrestha	- Country Director
Mr. Hem Raj Gyawali	Pratima Sharma	- Program Manager
Mr. Manohar Bhattarai	Parshu Ram Pandey	- Finance Manager
Mr. Bhola Kumar Shrestha	Suhrid Prasad Chapagain	- Business Dev manager
Dr. Nirmal Kandel	Chhatra Bahadur Khatri	- Business Dev. Manager
Mr. Rabindra Puri	Durgesh Kumar Yogi	- M&E Officer
	Pushpa Bhadel	- Admin Officer
<b>Emeritus Board Members</b>	Chin Kaji Shrestha	- Program Officer
	Raju Babu Shrestha	- Program Officer
Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma	Sarada Maharjan	- Finance Assistant
Prof. Shankar Raj Pathak	Arjun Maharjan	- ICT Administrator
Dr. Mohan Man Sainju	Sushmita Lama	- Program Assistant
Ms. Rita Thapa	Devi Maya Rai	- Office Aid

## READ Project Staff

Tapash Bhattarai	- Project Officer
Sabita Shrestha	- NCLA Secretary
Deepa Subedi	- Librarian
Anju Tamrakar	- Finance Assistant
Sirjana Pradhan	- Admin Assistant
Saajan Thapa	- Field Supervisor
Sujan Shrestha	- Field Supervisor
Lal Bahadur Thapa	- Field Supervisor
Arjun Maharjan	- Field Supervisor
Prabha Wagle	- Program Assistant
Anjali Basnet	- Library Assistant
Sarita Sharma	- Library Assistant
Parbati Sodari	- Receptionist
Sarojini Basnet	- Receptionist
Kamada Jha Kharal	- Receptionist
Ganga Khadka	- Library Assistant
Bina Tamang	- Office Guard
Saraswoti Majhi	- Office Aid

## Volunteers

Sushmita Lama
Sarojini Basnet
Rahul Shrestha
Swoit Gurung
Krischal Shrestha
Shanta Bhandari
Atma Guragain
Sadhana Thapa

## Acronyms

CLRC Community Library and Resource Center  
EIFL Electronic Information for Libraries  
ICT Information and Communication Technology  
INGO International Non Governmental Organization  
NAAL Norwegian Agency for Adult Learning  
NGO Non Governmental Organization  
NORAD Norwegian Agency for Development  
PLIP Public Library Innovation Program



Community's participation during turmeric farming at Deurali village, Nawalparasi. Turmeric farming is one of the sustaining projects of Deurali CLRC.

Cover photo: Inaugural ceremony of Janajagaran CLRC, Nuwakot  
All photos by READ Nepal unless mentioned otherwise.