



File form: 0444-04 – Second interim report for the Eagle Foundation – April 2019

Construction of Birthing Centre & Maternity Clinic, Auraiya Village, Rautahat District, Nepal

Date of grant accepted: 9th May 2018 (GBP 41,078)

Background Thanks to the generosity of Fondation Eagle, a Maternity Clinic and Birthing Centre has been constructed at Auraiya Village, in the Terai Region of Nepal. This is an area of great need, with deep seated poverty. Whilst the official poverty level in the District is 33% (compared to 23% nationally) in reality it is higher in the rural areas. For example, most of the people living in the vicinity of the Health Post are from the Dalit caste – with neither land, nor money and living in one-room huts without latrines. Levels of education are low – 64% of women are illiterate and 40% of children malnourished [Nepal Human Development Report]. We are pleased to report that the main construction phase of this project is now complete and the final fittings are progressing apace. The official opening is scheduled for the end of June. Once opened, it will provide maternal health services to 1,250 women annually; and it is anticipated that 250 women will give birth here per annum, under the care of trained midwives.

PROJECT TIMELINE

There were some early delays to this project, as the necessary permissions from the Health Department were sought and the land was formally acquired from the local Municipality: *'We faced some difficulty working with the Municipality, difficulty not in the sense that they do not want the Birthing Centre, or they are not cooperating, but in the sense that they do not feel the pressure of time, despite our engineer preparing drawings on time and our many follow ups'* – Ramakanta Paudel, Programme Manager, IMPACT Nepal.

However, by the end of October 2018, the project was authorised to proceed and the Mayor of Ishanth Municipality laid the foundation stone for the Birthing Centre. The construction progressed from site clearance, through to concrete work and steel reinforcements, as shown in photographs below.



IMPACT Nepal fieldworker Sarita (left) has been monitoring the building work on the ground and co-ordinating the other project activities



Community Leaders from the surrounding area and Female Health Volunteers (in blue saris) have been receiving training and support to establish IMPACT Mothers' Clubs, which will promote and complement the work of the new Birthing Centre



The new building consists of six rooms, with three toilets:

- Outpatient room (for general patients) and administrative space
- Medical procedures room
- Nursing room
- Ante and postnatal clinic room
- Delivery room
- Postnatal ward

As you may see from the final photograph above, the main work on the structure and exterior of the building is complete. It remains to install the electrics; finish the flooring; and undertake the final plumbing fix. These works are planned during May, with a final opening date for the Birthing Centre scheduled for late June.



The Health Post's lead Medical Officer – Chadrawati Basnet – second from left with other members of her staff

As planned, the new building will also incorporate the services of the existing one-room Health Post. Originally, IMPACT Nepal had planned to demolish it but it has now been decided to keep it as a storage room, as it is located on the same plot as the new building. The six staff will transfer to the new facility in June. The team consists of one senior Community Medical Assistant (CMA); two lower-grade CMAs; two midwives; and one general assistant.

CMAs provide 90% of treatment services in rural areas of Nepal and in the case of Auraiya, the lead CMA, Chandrawati Basnet, is responsible for the day-to-day provision of primary healthcare; safe motherhood services (especially pregnant check-up, providing iron tablets, distribution of birthing kits and deworming drugs); the tuberculosis control programme; family planning services; and adult health education.

'In the old building, there was problem for checking patients and pregnant women. There was a shortage of room and privacy and there was the leaking roof in the ceiling. Now there are six rooms in the new Birthing Centre, which is sufficient for providing all basic health check-ups, delivering babies and nursing. We, the Health Post family members, are happy and thank IMPACT Nepal for this service'
Chandrawati Basnet (lead Community Medical Assistant of Health Post)

Last year there was a tragedy which shook the heart of this community, a vehicle carrying a pregnant woman to hospital was in an accident caused by the poor road conditions of the rainy season. All five passengers, including the expectant mother, died instantly. The new building, located at the heart of the community will lessen the need for such dangerous emergency journeys and local people are eagerly awaiting its opening:

'Rich people can take their pregnant family members to India for treatment but we poor people have no option at the moment; and if there is an emergency the distance to travel is so far. So, this new Birthing Centre is very praise worthy and will be highly beneficial for poor people like us'
Jagarnath Hazra, a Community Leader in Auraiya

'We expect because of the new Health Post and Birthing Centre more doctors will come and we need not go outside of the area for the treatment and to give birth. Especially if it is in the night, or in rainy season where there is flooded rivers, we need not go far as we will have a better medical facility right here. Moreover our travel expenses will be less here as we had to pay for bus fare, food etc.; and there won't be language problem also. We feel more comfortable to ask for treatment here at home. Thanks to IMPACT - you must stay here and help us'
Mr. Brij Kishor Thakur, local resident

As described in our proposal, women in the Terai are traditionally hesitant to be seen outside of the home alone. Thus one way we have found for health messages to be disseminated in a culturally appropriate way (especially about sensitive issues relating to female health), is through our IMPACT Mothers' Clubs. These women's forums are led by an IMPACT trained volunteer and over the past eight months, 10 new leaders have been trained and 10 clubs established, each with at least 10 members. They promote the importance of attending ante and postnatal appointments; of ensuring that complicated births are supervised by a trained attendant; and the importance of breastfeeding and sound nutrition for child health. The new Birthing Centre will make it more straightforward for women to enact this advice in practice.

We are pleased to report that the committed support of Fondation Eagle for this building project has attracted funding from another source to support our 'Safer Motherhood' activities in the area. Thus whilst the building work has been carried out, IMPACT Nepal has initiated a thriving nutrition and livelihood project for local women. These activities will be based from the new Health Post in due course.



The first meeting of Auraiya's newly established Mothers' Club. Monthly meetings will discuss family health and promote the activities of the new Birthing Centre. For example, encouraging pregnant women to attend medical appointments and seek the services of a trained midwife in the event of an emergency.



A wrap-around nutrition project is benefitting the communities which will be served by the new Birthing Centre. Activities so far have included the distribution of agricultural tools and livestock to impoverished families; training and microloans to establish home-gardens and women's small agricultural businesses. These activities will be based at the new Centre from June.

Thank you

Thanks to Fondation Eagle, there are so many positive changes afoot for people living in Auraiya and the surrounding areas. The Birthing Centre and Health Post is uniquely positioned at the heart of the communal area to send a powerful message of hope and support to women who would have previously had no choice but to birth at home, or undertake an arduous and expensive journey to an unfamiliar clinic outside of their community. Over 40,000 people will ultimately benefit from improved health services and we look forward to sending you another update once the services are up and running.

Expenditure statement

Construction of new Birthing Centre and Maternity clinic	Cost (£)	Expenditure (£)
Structural calculations and architectural design	808	808
Earth work excavation	293	293
Flat brick soling	983	983
Concrete work	5,551	5,551
Reinforcement	5,641	5,641
Form work for concrete	2,516	2,516
Brickwork	5,203	5,203
Doors, windows and external gate	2,969	0
Plastering and external render	2,381	2,381
Paintwork	883	0
Earth filling work	1,156	1,156
Site clearance	81	81
Electrical work	1,383	0
Sanitary and Water supply work	1,500	0
Sub-total of construction	31,348	24,613
VAT@13%	4,075	3,200
Salary of sight engineer and IMPACT Nepal project Manager	3,700	3,700
Sub-total	39,123	31,513
Project management@5%	1,956	1,576
Total	41,079	33,089

Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 146.179 NPR (02.02.18)