Serving language communities throughout Nepal
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SIL International
Statement of Purpose
SIL serves language communities worldwide building their capacity for sustainable language development, by means of research, translation, training and materials development.
Message from the Country Director

When referring to the beauty of Nepal, people often refer to the majestic Himalayas. No doubt this true, but perhaps one of Nepal’s greatest treasures is her languages. The linguistic diversity is staggering.

However, this also poses many challenges, especially in terms of communication and education. Those Nepalis that are born into language communities that do not speak Nepali as their first language struggle to educate their children. Many adults in those communities also struggle to read and write.

It is SIL’s belief and experience world-wide that mother-tongue literacy and multilingual education is a powerful solution to this problem. Focusing on the mother-tongue initially helps to break down those linguistic barriers to learning and opens the door to becoming literate in Nepali.

In addition to multilingual education and literacy, language development is another powerful tool to helping linguistically marginalized communities. Not only is this a way to honor and preserve a rich cultural heritage that represents the beauty of Nepal, but it has practical benefit as well. A dictionary, for example, can help speakers in a community connect more deeply to the outside world. In developing a writing system for their own language, they can develop materials that will help them achieve their own development plans. Health materials, for example, can be made very relevant to their specific community.

It is SIL’s privilege and joy to be involved in work in Nepal. While this past year has brought along with it many challenges, we have also seen much fruit. This can be seen in the smile of so many children that have learned to read and write, or in the eyes of a grandmother that for the first time understands how letters go together to form a word.

In the pages that follow, you can read the details of the work. None of this could have been achieved without our partners, for whom we are very grateful. They have proven to be hard-working, with a shared vision for the people of Nepal. They are also passionate about this work and have taught us much.

May you also be pleased with our small contribution to your great country.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Watters
Country Director
About SIL International Nepal

SIL International is a world-wide, nonprofit organization committed to serving language communities worldwide as they build capacity for sustainable language development.

Founded in 1934, SIL's linguistic research exceeds 2,590 languages spoken by over 1.7 billion people in nearly 100 countries. SIL makes its services available to all, without regard to religious belief, political ideology, gender, race or ethnonlinguistic background. SIL has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and formal consultative relations with UNESCO.

SIL International first worked in Nepal under a formal agreement for linguistic research under Tribhuvan University from 1966-1976. In 2008 we began to support the Central Department of Linguistics on their Linguistic Survey of Nepal “so that all her people, regardless of linguistic background, will be included in the overall fabric of the nation.”

In 2011-12 SIL (Nepal) signed General and Project Agreements with the Government of Nepal to implement multilingual education programs, mother-tongue-based adult literacy programs, linguistic surveys, orthography and dictionary development, and language documentation. Our General Agreement was renewed in November 2016 and our Project Agreement was renewed in October 2017, for five years. It is SIL’s belief that every person has worth and that worth can be affirmed through language development. We believe that language development will contribute to social harmony and will help minority ethno-linguistic communities more fully integrate into broader society.

SIL (Nepal)’s overall objective is to assist ethno-linguistic communities in developing a series of ongoing, planned actions that ensure that their language continues to serve their changing social, cultural, political, economic and spiritual needs and goals.
About SIL International

SIL International is a faith-based nonprofit organization committed to serving language communities worldwide as they build capacity for sustainable language development.

Founded in 1934, SIL (formerly Summer Institute of Linguistics) has grown from a small summer linguistics training program with two students to a staff of over 4,400 coming from over 86 countries. The organization has completed linguistic investigation in over 2,590 languages representing over 1.7 billion speakers in over 100 countries. The organization makes its services available to all, without regard to religious belief, political ideology, gender, race or ethnolinguistic background.

As an international nongovernmental organization (INGO), SIL partners with government organizations, local groups and other INGOs. SIL has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and formal consultative relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

SIL is about languages and the people that speak them. Language is a deeply personal part of individual and community identity. Connecting with people by using their own languages speaks to their hearts.

No community should have to choose between preserving their heritage and accessing resources. Our vision is that language communities have the information and skills to ensure that their language continues to serve their changing social, cultural, political and spiritual needs. We serve alongside communities as researchers, trainers and consultants, supporting efforts such as translation, literacy and development of books and other resources in the local language.

We are especially concerned for those whose languages are different than the ones used by most people in their nation. Language shouldn’t be a barrier to experiencing the wholeness and fullness of life that God intends for all people.
Mother-Tongue Adult Literacy

SIL has conducted five mother-tongue literacy programs, for speakers of Yakkha and E Tamang in Sankhuwasabha District, E Magar in Dhankuta District, Syuba in Ramechhap District and C Tharu in Nawalparasi District. The aim of these programs is to equip adults with basic literacy and numeracy skills first in their mother tongue and then transitioning to Nepali.

Accomplishments

- Mother tongue primer developed
- Mother tongue reading books for participants printed
- Teacher training done 2 times for each project
- MT literacy class completed
- Total participants signed up: 709, course completed: 510, completion rate: 72%
- Start to develop the 2nd phase Nepali primer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Project</th>
<th>Partner Org</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>No of classes</th>
<th>No of participants signed up</th>
<th>No of participants completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yakkha</td>
<td>MTCN</td>
<td>Sankhuwasabha</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Magar</td>
<td>MTCN</td>
<td>Dhankuta</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syuba</td>
<td>HIS Nepal</td>
<td>Ramechhap</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Tamang</td>
<td>NELHOS</td>
<td>Sankhuwasabha</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Tharu</td>
<td>TFN</td>
<td>Nawalparasi</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>709</strong></td>
<td><strong>510</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children’s Education

SIL Nepal has been partnering with Nepali National Languages Preservation Institute (NNLPI) to develop and implement Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) programme in Nepal since 2010. The MTB-MLE programme aims to provide better education to monolingual non-Nepali speaking children from rural non-dominant language communities, enabling them to integrate successfully into the mainstream Nepali-medium education system by first starting beginning literacy and kindergarten education in their first language. Currently, two MTB-MLE programmes are running among the Rajbanshi language community in Jhapa District and the Western Tamang language community in Dhading District of Nepal respectively. The two programmes are at different stages with different contexts – one phasing out and one just starting implementation – and face different types of challenges.

Rajbanshi Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB MLE)

Since April 2016, SIL Nepal and NNLPI have implemented a three-year exit plan for the Rajbanshi MTB-MLE programme. It is put in place to enable the schools to transition to financial independence. During this phase out period, SIL Nepal and NNLPI continue to provide teachers’ salaries and onsite teacher training to Chilhara and Amgachhi MLE schools.

Accomplishments

- The average attendance rate in Amgachhi School and Chilhara School is 72% and 75% respectively this school year.
- The MLE project team made a full revision to all three kindergarten learning materials
- The first batch of MLE Grade 5 graduates from Amgachhi completed Grade 6 and have integrated well in the local Nepali-medium government secondary school.
Following the Western Tamang (WT) MTB-MLE needs assessment trip in the northern Dhading District in December 2015, SIL Nepal and NNLPI partnered with Shree Dongden Devi Secondary school in Tipling VDC to embark on a four-year Kindergarten to Grade 3 MTB-MLE program. Learning from the Rajbanshi MTB-MLE experience, the MLE project team engaged the community and school teachers in various curriculum and material development workshop from the beginning. Through their active participation and contribution, WT teachers are trained to write stories in their mother tongue, the community has also built a greater sense of ownership towards the program.

**Accomplishments**

- KG material development workshops Aug & Nov 2016
- KG teacher training and Stakeholders’ mobilization Apr 2017
- KG class started in Apr 2017
Language Survey

SIL has provided technical support to the Linguistic Survey of Nepal (LinSuN), a project of the Central Department of Linguistics, TU to survey all of Nepal’s languages.

Accomplishments

- SIL survey specialists conducted training for LinSuN researchers on the topics of field phonetics, maps in survey reports, and Excel for data processing.
- A comparative study of Danuwar and related varieties was conducted and a report is in progress.
- A comparative study of Majhi and Bote was conducted and a report is in progress.
- A preliminary sociolinguistic survey of Walungge and related varieties was conducted and a report is in progress.
- A preliminary sociolinguistic survey of Naaba was conducted and a report is in progress.
- The LinSuN reports on the following languages are in progress: Thakali, Dhuleli, Surel, Jerung, Hayu and Sherpa
Language Development Planning

SIL International has developed a practical tool called *A Guide for Planning the Future of Our Language*. This participatory tool is meant to be used by local communities who are interested in maintaining the use of their traditional language. The tool helps language communities to discover the state of the language, decide what they would like the future of their language to look like and develop a plan to move forward toward that desired future.

Our NGO partner Mother Tongue Centre Nepal (MTCN) has conducted trainings for members of different language communities and the trained people have then lead discussion groups in their own areas. One discussion facilitation normally has 15 to 30 participants.

**Accomplishments (implemented by MTCN)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data processing (Nepali version)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Tamang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotyali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khas Jumli</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Review: Data processing (Nepali version)**

- ME Tharu                      February, 017
- Syuba                          March, 017
- W. Tamang                      April
- Dotyali                        May
Orthography (Alphabet) Development

Before literacy programs, literature, and dictionaries can be developed, alphabets need to be established and standardized. SIL has developed a participatory orthography development process that enables communities, with the help of trained linguists, to develop an alphabet and spelling rules within a two-week workshop. Participants leave with a draft writer’s guide for further testing and input. After testing and receiving input from the language community, revisions are made at a review meeting and the orthography is finalized.

After the orthography is finalized for a language, two local facilitators are trained to lead orthography promotion classes in their language area. These two-day classes give an introduction to people how to read and write the mother tongue. As the participants are already fluent readers of Nepali, they are not learning literacy skills per se, but how to apply their literacy skills to their own mother tongue. These classes have proven very popular and effective.

Accomplishments (in partnership with MTCN and HIS-Nepal)

- EMagar
- Dotyali
- Darai
- Gurung
- Yamphu
Dictionary Development

Having a dictionary is foundational to any language group. Especially for minority language groups it has the effect of validating the language to the speakers themselves as well as to other language groups. It paves the way to further language development and even to mother-tongue education activities.

In order to respond to the demands of the digital age, this year we have started to publish dictionaries in electronic format. Ten different dictionaries from Nepal can be browsed at www.webonary.org. They can also be downloaded for any Android device (phone and tablets) from Google Play Store or installed using an SD-card.

Accomplishments (in partnership with MTCN)

Dictionary
- Dhimal
- Yamphu

Publication
- Printing paper and webonary
  - ME Tharu (Mid-Eastern Tharu)
  - WTamang (Western Tamang)
- Android App Published
  - Athpahariya
  - Chepang
  - Dumi
  - Khaling
  - Lhowa
  - Lohorung
  - ME Tharu
  - Syuba
  - Western Tamang
  - Yakkha
Financial Summary

Income

The total income of SIL International (Nepal) for FY 2073/74 was NRS. 31,876,859 (Thirty One Million Eight Hundred Seventy Six Thousand Eight Hundred & Fifty Nine Rupees) of which NRS.31,849,441 (Thirty One Million Eight Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred & Forty One Rupees) was from SIL International & NRS.27,417 (Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred & Seventeen Rupees) was generated from other source.

Expenditures

The total expenditure of SIL International (Nepal) for FY 2073/74 was NRS. 31,851,458 (Thirty One Million Eight Hundred Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred & Fifty Eight Rupees). Out of which, expenditure on program was NRS. 28,568,060 (Twenty Eight Million Five Hundred Sixty Eight Thousand & Sixty Rupees) & expenditure on administrative service was NRS. 3,283,398 (Three Million Two Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Eight Rupees). The expenditure details on different projects & administrative service is as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Project</th>
<th>Actual Expenditure</th>
<th>Spent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rajbanshi Multilingual Education (11%)</td>
<td>3,594,440.00</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rana Tharu Adult Literacy (5.2%)</td>
<td>1,646,512.00</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowa Literacy (2%)</td>
<td>646,335.00</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthography Promotion -HIS Nepal (9.7%)</td>
<td>3,092,783.00</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistic Survey in Nepal -LinSun (0.2%)</td>
<td>64,384.00</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Development Foundation -Dictionaries (24.2%)</td>
<td>7,710,903.00</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lang Assess-MTCN (0.1%)</td>
<td>45,425.00</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lhomi Multilingual Education (4.9%)</td>
<td>1,549,509.00</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT Literacy: Chitawan Tharu, Eastren Mager, Syuba,</td>
<td>7,942,612.00</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yakkha, &amp; Eastern Tamang Literacy (24.9%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.Tamang MLE -NNLPI (5%)</td>
<td>1,605,401.00</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Early Grade Reading -Tech. support (2.1%)</td>
<td>669,756.00</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin Expenses (10.3%)</td>
<td>3,283,398.00</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT Resource Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.Tamang MLE (NELHOS)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Expenses</td>
<td>28,568,060.00</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>31,851,458.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SIL International Nepal
Actual Expenditure Report
for FY 2073/74

- Rajbanshi Multilingual Education (11%)
- Rana Tharu Adult Literacy (5.2%)
- Lowa Literacy (2%)
- Orthography Promotion - HIS Nepal (9.7%)
- Linguistic Survey in Nepal - LinSun (0.2%)
- Language Development Foundation - Dictionaries (24.2%)
- Lang Assess-MTCN (0.1%)
- Lhomi Multilingual Education (4.9%)
- MT Literacy: Chitawan Tharu, Eastern Mager, Syuba & Yakkha, Eastern Tamang Literacy (24.9%)
- W.Tamang MLE - NNLPI (5%)
- National Early Grade Reading - Tech. support (2.1%)
- Admin Expenses (10.3%)