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Message from the Country Director

SIL International (Nepal)'s goal is to mainstream the ethnic minorities in Nepal through language development and inclusive education. For that SIL International (Nepal) through its valued implementing partners serves ethnonlinguistic minorities' access to formal and informal education in their language they value most; through mother tongue-based multilingual education (MTB-MLE) and mother tongue-based bilingual literacy program. MTB-MLE is a formal school program where the curriculum and resources begin in the mother tongue and transition to Nepali. Children learn best when instruction is given in their mother tongue. Our mother tongue-based bilingual adult literacy programs target adults who have missed out on formal schooling opportunities and seek to empower them with literacy and numeracy skills, first in their mother tongue and then in Nepali.

In addition to formal and informal education, linguistically marginalized communities have been served through language research and language development. Language survey is the first step in our understanding of the diversity of languages in Nepal; the next steps of language documentation, alphabet development (orthography), literature development and dictionary development lay the foundation upon which further education programs can be built.

During these years SIL International (Nepal) has helped many minority language communities to revitalize, preserve, promote, educate, and document their language. It has impacted many of the people of different minority language communities. In the pages that follow, you will have the opportunity to read some of their genuine impact stories.

Due to COVID, time and the situation were not in our favor, even though our esteemed and valued implementing partners have made us more than happy to share their achievements and success stories in this Annual Report of the fiscal year 2077-78.

Be safe, maintain social distancing, and strictly follow preventive measures.

Sincerely,

Prithvi Chaudhary
Country Director
SIL International (Nepal)
About SIL International Nepal

SIL International is a 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 ethnonational 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, and economic needs and goals.
Mother Tongue Based (MTB) Bilingual Literacy

For the past year, SIL and its partner organizations implemented two new bilingual adult literacy programs. The aim of these programs is to equip illiterate or adults barely educated, with basic literacy and numeracy skills, first in their mother tongue and then transitioning to Nepali.

ME Tharu MTB Bilingual Literacy Program

This program is implemented by Transformation Nepal (TFN) in Saptari district. The mother tongue literacy class started in January 2021. Due to lockdown in April, the course was not able to be completed. The remaining part will combine with the Nepali course to be conducted in December 2021.

TFN Accomplishments

- Completion of MT Literacy Primer Book Development and printed as well as distributed to the project area, Saptari.
- 12 Literacy classes facilitators were selected and provided with TOT training for running the Literacy Classes.
- MT Literacy classes stationary were bought and distributed successfully to the MT classes.
- Refresher TOT Training was provided to 12 facilitators of MT Literacy classes where left lessons of MT Literacy Primer Book were discussed.
- Successfully conducted and completed 12 literacy classes in Surunga Municipality, Saptari where 280 participants were benefited.
- Monthly monitoring and evaluation of literacy classes by Social Mobilizer. Project Coordinator and local stakeholders also did monitor and evaluation of all 12 literacy classes.
- LPAC meeting held successfully in Surunga Municipality hall where concerned stakeholders and local leaders were also participated.
- Development of MT Reading Book completed, printed and successfully distributed to the project area.
- Development of Bridging Nepali Primer Book is going on.
Darai Reading Fluency Program

This program is implemented by Nepal Lhomi Society (NELHOS) in the Chitwan district. Extra mother tongue reading fluency class has been added to this program as requested by the community. Five mother tongue reading fluency classes were conducted in February 2021. Most of the participants enjoyed learning to read and write in their own language. It helps them to realize the importance of preserving their language and culture.

The teaching material for literacy class is completed and ready for printing. The mother tongue literacy class will start in December 2021.
Mother Tongue Based (MTB) Multilingual Education (MLE) for Children

SIL Nepal is partnering with Nepali Languages Preservation Institute (NNLPI) and Nepal Lhomi Society (NELHOS) to implement two Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) programs. The MTB-MLE program aim to provide better quality education to monolingual non-Nepali speaking children coming from rural non-dominant language communities, enabling them to integrate successfully into the mainstream Nepali-medium education system by first starting early literacy and kindergarten education in their language.

Western Tamang MTB-MLE

SIL Nepal partners with NNLPI to implement a four-year Western Tamang MTB-MLE program in Dhading district. Since April 2019, four government schools participated in this program. The Western Tamang community continued to participate and contribute actively.

Accomplishments

- Due to COVID-19 lockdown, there was only one teacher training conducted in December 2020. All English and Mother tongue subject teachers attended.
- School visit and informal reading assessment done in December 2020
- Teaching plan for all language subjects, from Grade one to three have been revised due to new integrated curriculum
- Grade3 Tamang textbook drafted and sent for classroom testing
- Total of 219 students (KG-G3) completed respected grade in March 2021

Impact story

Harka Tamang is a Grade 1 English teacher of Singala Secondary School. He participated in the English teacher training in December 2020. After the training, he tried to use newly learnt activities in the class by using Tamang as language of instruction. He found the students were interested, excited and actively participated in classroom activities.

He said, “Our Grade one students are so lucky. There are different kind of English teaching materials available in classroom, such as TPR cards, games, songs and pictures. The method and materials increase the students’ interest and enable them to learn English easier. They found learning English is fun. I never got such an opportunity in my school day.”

He was happy to use these materials and interactive methodology in teaching English. He shared his experience with the neighbouring English teachers and the learning achievement of the students. Therefore, two English teachers from Jharliang have requested to attend our teacher training and provided the G1 English teaching materials to them in the next school year.
Eastern Tamang MTB-MLE

SIL Nepal has been partnering with NELHOS to implement a four-year Eastern Tamang MTB-MLE program in Sankhuwasabha district. Since April 2019, four government schools participated in this program.

Accomplishments

- Teacher training done in September and October 2020
- Mother tongue material development workshop in November 2020
- Grade 2 Mother tongue textbook drafted and sent for classroom testing
- Regular school visit and monitoring except lockdown
- Total of 138 students (KG-G2) completed respected grade in March 2021

Impact story

The villagers of Dima village were not aware of the importance of education and no idea when is the proper age to enrol their children in school. Usually they sent the child to school at age of 7 or 8. Due to the language barrier, they could not understand much in the class and failed the examination. Since they are older than the normal classmate, they didn’t want to repeat and decided to leave the school.

Another issue was that the school combined Kindergarten and Grade one students together in one classroom. The students could not learn much in this kind of setting.

Mr. Gopal, one of the parents, said, “After NELHOS introduced this MTB-MLE program, the school arranged the KG and G1 students in separate classrooms. We also learnt how our language can help our children in education. We can include lot of local familiar topics in the education program. We found that our children enjoy going to school and learnt faster and better than before.”

The entire Dima community are grateful for this program. The language barrier has been reduced after the program started and the dropout rate of the students has obviously reduced.
Orthography (Alphabet) Development

Orthography in unwritten languages is an urgent task for the language development process. It is the first step in language preservation, promotion and development. Alphabets need to be developed and standardized. SIL with the partner organizations and collaboration with the community organizations conducted the initial orthography development workshop. Then, a draft for field test is prepared in a two-week workshop.

With the incorporation of the feedback from the language community, revisions are made at a review meeting and the orthography booklet is finalized. Then, two local facilitators from the language community are trained to lead orthography promotion classes in their language area. These two-day classes introduce the participants about the process of how to read and write their mother tongue consistently.

MTCN Accomplishments

- Gamal Kham Orthography Workshop (2021, Jan. 7-8): 16 participants from Rolpa at Kathmandu participated the workshop and with the help of consultant and language speakers draft of Gamale Kham created and sent for field-testing.
- Gamal Orthography Review Meeting (2021, Jul. 28): 8 participants from Rolpa participated from Gam, Rolpa at Ghorahi shared their feedbacks and suggestions reviewing the Orthography booklets.
- Kurux Orthography Workshop (2021, Jan. 31-Feb. 2): 17 participants from Sunsari and Morang took part in Orthography making of Kurux language at Inaruwa and orthography draft was made.
- Kurux Orthography Review Meeting (2021, Aug. 07): Kurux Orthography reviewed in Sunsari with 10 Uranw people. Participants gave their feedback on grammatical parts of Orthography and the Orthography revised accordingly.
- Maikoti /Takale Kham Orthography Workshop (2021, March 2-3): 15 participants from Maikot, Rukum took part in Orthography making of Maikoti /Takale language and orthography draft was made.
- Orthography Workshop Kathariya Tharu (2020, Dec. 29-30): 8 participants took their part in Orthography making of Kathariya Tharu language and orthography draft was made.
- Kathariya orthography draft distribution and Review: 10 participants took part in the revision of the draft after the distribution to different villages of Kailali, like inSukkhad, Godhaghodi, Lausa, vajeni, Bardagoriya, Tulsipur kota etc.
MTCN Publications:

- 300 copies of Kumali Orthography booklet were printed and distributed to Kumal Community. (020 Sep.20)
- Dewas Rai Orthography Publication (2020 Sep.27)
  800 copies of Dewas Rai Orthography booklet were printed and distributed to Dewas Rai Community.

Orthography Promotion Classes

In partnership with HIS Nepal, drafts of writing guides have been distributed in the respective language communities for feedback.

HIS Nepal Accomplishments

- Publish 1000 Copies of Dewas Anthology Book
- Published and distributed 500 copies of Gurung Anthology.
- Trained 2 facilitators on Jumli, 2 on Chepang, 2 on K. Tharu and 4 on Kudux to teach writers Guide on their own language.
- Conducted 5 Jumli OP with 103 participants.
- 8 Chepang orthography Promotion Classes were conducted with 290 participants.
- 8 Kathariya Tharu Orthography Promotion Classes were conducted with 269 participants.
- 8 Kudux Orthography Promotion classes were conducted with 240 participants.
- Published 300 copies of Kathariya Tharu writer’s guide, 300 copies of Kudux writer’s guide.
- Published teaching material for Kudux, Kathariya Tharu and Chepang Orthography Promotion Classes.
- Uploaded digital writers guide of Gurung, Dewas, Chepang, Kudux and Kathariya Tharu.

Impact story

We had a meeting with the Chepang leaders for planning of the Chepang OP. We also had a meeting with the treasurer and one member from the Nepal Chepang Sang. The member of this organization is working with the National Foundation for The Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFDIN). It is a government organization for indigenous nationalities. When we shared what is Orthography Promotion, to whom we share it with and how it is conducted, he became so excited. He said ‘it is what we are looking for, your technical support will be enough, we ourselves will manage and conduct this program, we will choose the best person for facilitators. It is very important for our language.’ We told him we may support only 10 classes but it will not be enough for your community. And they said ‘we will do ourselves, we need your guidance/ technical support only’. So, they had a meeting in their organizations and planned to run the program from April 2021.
Language Documentation

Language documentation is a useful tool to carry out the relevant discourse like, interactive, narrative, procedural, oratory and formulaic. Similarly, documentation in reports, drama, poem, song, language play, proverbs, etc. have been done in Uranw, Dumi and Kumal. A useful computer software program ‘SayMore’ (proposed by SIL International) is used for the data processing in the language documentation. The audio recorded data (in the field) is rerecorded in careful speech and is processed systematically using thorough procedures like, oral translation, transcription, written translation, etc.

MTCN Stakeholders’ Meetings

- **Kathariya Tharu (2021, Dec. 28):** 8 participants of Kailali, Sukhad participated in the program and became ready to join further LEAD program in coordination with MTCN.
- **Gamal Kham (2021, Jan. 6):** 16 participants from Rolpa participated in stakeholders’ meeting at MTCN, Kathmandu. They were introduced about the language development work and became ready for further lead program.
- **Danuwar (2021, Aug. 21):** 27 participants from Sindhuli, Siraha and Sarlahi participated in stakeholders’ meeting at MTCN, Kathmandu. They were introduced about the language development work and became ready for further lead program.
- **Meche (2021, Sept. 19):** 17 participants from Jhapa participated in stakeholders’ meeting at MTCN, Kathmandu. They were introduced about the language development work and became ready for further lead program.
MTCN Accomplishments

- **Gamale Kham language Documentation and Data-processing (2021, Jan. 11-Feb. 24):** Language Documentation of Gamale Kham was done in 56 sessions. Within 14 days about 3 and half hours recorded materials in Gamale Kham was data-processed by 3 language speakers.

- **Danuwar language Documentation:** Language Documentation of Danuwar was done with 61 language speakers from Sindhuli and Udaypur. We were able to collect various materials like songs, poem, jokes, conversation etc. in Danuwar language within 11 hours audio recordings.

- **Danuwar language Documentation Data-Processing (2021, Sept 20-30):** 3 hours recorded materials of Danuwar language materials data processed by 3 language speakers from Sindhuli and Siraha in 11 days.

Dictionary (By MTCN)

Having a dictionary is foundational to any language group. The record of the lexical units can represent the body of knowledge of the speech community. Systematizing the language with spelling, pronunciation, part of speech and definition can be taken as efforts in giving importance to the language as resource of the community. It paves the way to further language development and even to mother-tongue education activities. In order to respond to demands of the digital age, we have started to publish dictionaries in electronic format. Fourteen different dictionaries from Nepal can be browsed at www.webonary.org. They can also be downloaded to any android device (phone and tablets) from google play store or installed using an SD-card.
MTCN Accomplishments

Dhimal Dictionary Dedication and Distribution:
MTCN has handed over 400 copies of the dictionary to Dhimal community organization for the purpose of the distribution in the Dhimal community. 50% of the sales will go for the promotion and development of the language, culture and research depart of the DJVK, 10% to distributors and 40% will be returned to MTCN.
Financial Summary

Income

The total income of SIL International (Nepal) for FY 2077/78 was NRS. 2,46,68,728. Out of which NRS. 2,46,19,921 was from SIL International & NRS. 48,807 was generated from other sources.

Expenditures

The total expenditure of SIL International (Nepal) for FY 2077/78 was NRS.2,46,55,309. Out of which, expenditure on program was NRS.1,90,59,889 & expenditure on administrative service was NRS.55,95,420. The expenditure details on different projects & administrative service is as follows:

### SIL International Nepal
Comparative Budget Expenditure Report for Year to Date 15th July 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Project</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Spent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Development/Language Assessment (MTCN)</td>
<td>8,056,000.00</td>
<td>7,811,201.00</td>
<td>244,799.00</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<td>Yamphu Literacy (MTCN)</td>
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<td>Orthography Promotion (HIS Nepal)</td>
<td>1,828,500.00</td>
<td>3,563,031.00</td>
<td>(1,734,531.00)</td>
<td>195%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majhi Literacy (HIS Nepal)</td>
<td>1,828,500.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,828,500.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meche MLE (NNLPI)</td>
<td>3,031,600.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,031,600.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Tamang MLE (NNLPI)</td>
<td>1,250,800.00</td>
<td>2,640,625.00</td>
<td>(1,389,825.00)</td>
<td>211%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Tamang MLE (NELHOS)</td>
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<td>1,196,364.00</td>
<td>632,136.00</td>
<td>65%</td>
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<td>Chitwan Darai Literacy (NELHOS)</td>
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<td>1,879,486.00</td>
<td>(50,986.00)</td>
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<td>Mid East Tharu Literacy (TFN)</td>
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<td>1,969,182.00</td>
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<td>Total Program Expenses</td>
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<td>19,059,889.00</td>
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<td>Total Administration Expenses</td>
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<td>5,595,420.00</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>24,655,309.00</td>
<td>5,143,941.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FY 2077/2078 (2020/2021)

Language Development/Language Assessment (MTCN) 8,056,000.00
Yamphu Literacy (MTCN) 2,332,000.00
Orthography Promotion (HIS Nepal) 1,828,500.00
Meche MLE (NNLPI) 1,828,500.00
Eastern Tamang MLE (NELHOS) 3,031,600.00
Majhi Literacy (HIS Nepal) 1,250,800.00
Western Tamang MLE (NNLPI) 1,828,500.00
Chitwan Darai Literacy (NELHOS) 1,855,000.00
Mid East Tharu Literacy (TFN) 1,828,500.00
Total Program Expenses 29,799,250.00
Total Administration Expenses 5,959,850.00
Total 23,839,400.00
Acknowledgements
SIL International (Nepal) would like to express our thanks to the Social Welfare Council Nepal (SWC), for their support and authorization of our work. It is truly our privilege to serve the government of Nepal.