

Success Story: Supporting Communities through the COVID-19 Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic created one of the most difficult periods for families, children and communities across Nepal. When schools closed, livelihoods collapsed, and uncertainty spread,



vulnerable communities in rural areas faced deep challenges that affected education, health, and daily survival. During this time of crisis, Child Development Nepal (CDN) stepped forward with compassion and commitment to protect children and strengthen community resilience in Sarlahi district. This success story highlights how

timely interventions, community partnerships and continued dedication helped transform a period of fear into a journey of hope and recovery.

When the government announced lockdowns to control the spread of COVID-19, schools across the district shut down indefinitely. Children lost access to safe learning spaces, mid-day meals and regular interaction with teachers. Parents worried about their children's future as the risk of learning loss grew each day. To address this, CDN quickly developed home-based learning strategies and distributed age-appropriate learning materials. Teachers were supported to conduct phone-based follow-ups, interactive guidance sessions, and community-level mentoring while maintaining safety protocols. These efforts ensured that children stayed connected to their studies even when classrooms remained closed.

Families also faced severe economic hardship as daily wage laborers lost their income sources. Many households struggled to secure food, sanitizers, masks and basic supplies. Understanding this urgency, CDN distributed essential food packages to the most affected families to reduce hunger and provide immediate relief. Along with food support, CDN delivered hygiene kits containing masks, soaps, sanitizers and awareness leaflets to promote safe practices against COVID-19. Community members were educated on handwashing, physical distancing and recognizing symptoms, helping reduce fear and misinformation.

Ensuring children's safety and emotional wellbeing was another major priority. CDN encouraged parents to create simple, safe learning environments at home and provided guidance on stress management, positive parenting and children's emotional support. Mothers' Groups played an active role in identifying vulnerable households, sharing accurate information and encouraging families to adopt protective behaviors. These community structures became valuable channels for spreading awareness and offering practical support during the lockdowns.

As restrictions eased, CDN worked closely with schools to reopen safely. Teachers received orientation on safe school operations, sanitation was strengthened, and handwashing stations were established. Students were welcomed back with encouragement, learning materials and classroom activities designed to rebuild confidence and motivation. The transition back to in-person learning happened smoothly because of the groundwork laid during remote learning.

The impact of these combined efforts was deeply felt across communities. Children were able to continue learning despite school closures. Families practiced better hygiene behaviors, reducing the risk of infection. Food support helped households overcome the toughest months of the pandemic.

Teachers and parents built stronger relationships as they worked together to support children's education. Most importantly, communities felt supported, valued and connected during a time when isolation and uncertainty were widespread.

Local residents expressed heartfelt gratitude to Child Development Nepal for standing with them throughout the pandemic. They appreciated not only the material support but also the



reassurance, guidance and commitment shown during the crisis. The COVID-19 response became a powerful reminder that when organizations and communities work together, even the most difficult challenges can be overcome. This success story remains a testament to collective resilience, hope and the power of timely action.