

**Wheel Chair Project, Nepal  
Project Description 2010**  
Non-Resident Nepali Association,  
Switzerland

**Implementing organization:**

**A) Non Resident Nepali Association, Switzerland**

NRN-CH is the Swiss National Coordination Council (NCC) of Non Resident Nepali Association (NRNA). It is committed to address NRN issues within Nepalese Diaspora in Switzerland, and it aims to be a platform for the Nepalese and friends of Nepal in dealing with Nepal related issues.

It nurtures excellent relationships with NRNA International Coordination Council (ICC), NRNA's, and other organizations and institutions in Switzerland and abroad.

**B) Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children, Banepa.**

The hospital and rehabilitation centre for the disabled children is a program of a non-governmental organization, the Friends of the Disabled (FOD). It is the only tertiary level hospital in the country located in Banepa which provides the best reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation for children below 16 years of age. Its services are aimed at under privileged physically challenged children in Nepal. (For more information: [www.hrdcnepal.org](http://www.hrdcnepal.org)). Community Based Rehabilitation Department is an important department of HRDC/FOD. CBR formed by FOD/HRDC addresses the systematic follow-up of the clients after initial treatment through health camps in various parts of the country (s. map below).



**Project description:**

**Duration of the project:**

2 years. During the project period 10 wheel chairs will be distributed to the needy physically disabled children.

**Background (...why the project is needed):**

The Nepalese constitution defines persons with disabilities as persons who are mentally or physically unable or incompetent to lead a normal life. The term includes persons whose mobility is impaired, who suffer from spinal curvature, have visually impaired in one or both eyes, have hearing impairment, are unable to speak properly, or whose hands, legs, or fingers are impaired or missing. The Physical disability affecting lower extremities limits the mobility of the affected persons dramatically, needing the use of wheel chairs. According to the "Country Profile on Disability in Nepal" of JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency) physical disability is the most common disability (about 28% of disability) in Nepal. The incidence of the physical disability is about the same as mentioned above in children and adolescents. It is believed that the physical disability incidence increased during and post insurgency period.

**Feasibility study (summary):**

HRDC organizes dozens of health camps every year. The health camp team comprises of a resident doctor, a physiotherapist, an orthotist-prosthetist and a social worker. Hundreds of physically disabled children attend such health camps.

During these health camps one can screen the needy children for the wheel chair project and check the suitability of geographical characteristics for the use of wheel chairs.

**Prosthetic Orthotic Department** of HRDC designs and produces different types of orthopedic appliances such as artificial limb, spinal brace, lower limb orthoses etc. This department plays a vital role in the rehabilitation of the children with physical disability through assistive device in order to make them mobile in different terrain and achieve better rehabilitation outcome. The project can take the advantage of this facility for the repair and maintenance the wheel chairs.

Implementation strategy:

- **Donor Organization:** NRNA, Switzerland

- **Implementation Committee:** Project Team of NRNA, Switzerland

- **Implementing Institution:** HRDC, Nepal. In particular a physiotherapist and a social worker of the hospital will be responsible for the project implementation under the hospital administration.

- **Selection Process:** The needy physically disabled children will be selected from the hospital Out Patient & In Patient Department, as well as from the mobile health camps. The treating doctor, physiotherapist and the social worker will work together in the selection process and decide who should get wheel chair.

- **Repair and maintenance of wheel chairs:** Through prosthetic and orthosis department of the hospital/local facility.

Completion measurement parameters:

- Handover the wheel chairs to needy children during the mobile camps or in the hospital by hospital staff

- Photo documentation of the handover and/or use of wheelchair by hospital staff

- Submission of conformation letter signed by the recipient, mentioning that he/she

received the wheel chair, to NRNA, Switzerland

Support/management strategy, after the completion of the project:

- Repair and maintenance support through prosthesis and orthosis department of the hospital/repair during health camp/ repair in satellite centre.

Local/community contribution:

- Selection and distribution from the hospital.

Remarks:

- The project will be started from 2011.

- In case of unclarity in the process of implementing the project, decision of the NRNA, Switzerland will be the final.

- NRNA-Ch members are always welcome to visit the project implementing hospital (HRDC).

**Literature on disability profile in Nepal:**

1. Prevalence of Childhood and Adolescent Disabilities in Rural Nepal, S. Sauvey, D. Osrin, D.S. Manandhar\*, A.M. Costello and S. Wirz, From the Center for International Child Health, Institute of Child Health, University College London; and \*Mother and Infant Research Activities (MIRA), GPO Box 921, Kathmandu, Nepal. Correspondence to: Professor Sheila Wirz, Center for International Child Health, Institute of Child Health, University College London, 30 Guilford Street London WC1N 1EH, UK. Manuscript received: September 3, 2004, Initial review completed: November 1, 2004; Indian Pediatrics.

2. Country Profile on Disability, KINGDOM OF NEPAL, March 2002 Japan International Cooperation Agency, Planning and Evaluation Department.