

Annual Progress Report of Fiscal Year 2080/81

Cricket Association for the Blind, Nepal

Kumaripati, Lalitpur

1. General Assembly and Meetings

Eighteenth General Meeting was held on 25th July 2080.

Three meetings of the Central Committee were held in 2080/81.

2. Honors and Awards

2.1 Jyoti KC Netrahin Women Cricketer Talent Award:

The Jyoti K. C. Netrahin Women's Cricket Player Talent Award 2079/80 was honored and awarded to the following women players with Rs. 5,000 in cash:

Binita Pun B3

Binita Somai Magar B2

Rita Thapa B1

2.2 Nepal-India Bilateral T-20 Blind Women's Cricket Series:

The 16 female cricket players who successfully participated in the Nepal-India Bilateral T-20 Blind Women's Cricket Series held in Mumbai, India, from 25th to 29th December 2080, were awarded Rs. 10,000 in cash.

On 23rd November 2080, the Inauguration Program of the Association's Inclusive Cricket Training Center in Godavari Municipality, Ward No. 5, Lele, was attended by the Chief Guest from Godavari Municipality, Gajendra Maharjan, G.N.PA Ward No. 5 President Milan Silwal, former national cricketer Sarad Bheswakar, representatives from Nepali Rainage Cricket Club, UNDP representatives, and other well-wishers and guests.

3. Participation in International Competitions

The National Blind Women's Cricket Team of Nepal participated in the India-Nepal Women Bilateral Cricket Series for the Blind in Mumbai, organized by the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), from 25th to 29th December 2080.

A closed training session for the competition was held from 6th to 14th November 2080 at the center and from 15th to 20th November at Mulpani Cricket Ground. The Nepali team, under the captaincy of Gita Poudel and vice-captaincy of Vinita Pun, was coached by Rajan Praju and Nahendra Niraula, with Jyoti K.C. serving as the team manager. The 21-member team left for India on 24th November. Nepali Rhinos Cricket Club, in collaboration with former national cricketer Sarad Bheswakar, supported the National Blind Women's Cricket Team by providing Art of Living and Intuition Classes and cricket shoes. Honorable Member of the House of Representatives Sovita Gautam bid farewell to the Nepali team at Tribhuvan International Airport. India won the competition 4-1.

4. Two-Day Refresher Training for SHGs

A two-day refresher training for eight old SHGs and three new SHGs was conducted on 11th and 12th August 2023 at Narayani Resort, Gaidakot, Nawalparasi District. A total of 35 visually impaired participants (8 female and 27 male) in key positions of their respective SHGs attended the training, facilitated by Mr. Khemraj Sapkota. The primary focus was on proposal and report writing aligned with the basic requirements of local government financial assistance for local NGOs. The first day of training focused entirely on proposal writing, covering key terminologies, the need for proposals, identifying problems and their causes, designing SMART objectives, selecting activities aligned with the objectives, and creating a reliable budget.

5. Cricket Training at Kaski

Amar Singh School, which has 32 students and a playing field, hosted a five-day cricket training session from 16th to 20th September 2023. Although many visually impaired children and youth were interested in playing cricket, only 30 participants (including 12 girls aged 10 to 25) were selected.

The training, conducted in collaboration with the Cricket Association of the Blind, Kaski, was led by Ms. Bhagwati Battrai Baral and Ms. Binita Pun.

6. Refresher Cricket Training at Rupandehi

A five-day refresher cricket training was conducted at Jabai Cricket Ground, Butwal, from 3rd to 8th September 2023, targeting youths and children in and around Butwal Sub-metropolitan City. There were 30 participants in total, including 13 children from Shanti School. Of the participants, 9 were girls. The training, facilitated by Mr. Khemraj Sapkota and Ms. Geeta Paudel, successfully delivered training to both new and experienced players. The event was coordinated by the Cricket Association of the Blind, Rupandehi. After the training, cricket kits were handed over to the children of Shanti School.

7. Refresher Cricket Training at Bardiya

In coordination with the Cricket Association of the Blind, Bardiya, a five-day refresher training was conducted at the Guleria Sports Complex Cricket Ground. The training included 6 students from Banjgadi High School and 24 participants from the community, totaling 30 visually impaired youths and children aged 11 to 24. Thirteen girls participated in the training. The session was facilitated by Mr. Naresh Chaudhary, a graduate of last year's training, and Ms. Binita Somai Magar, an international player.

8. Refresher Cricket Training at Myagdi

Myagdi is a hilly district in Gandaki Province, connected to the neighboring districts of Parvat and Baglung. Each of these districts has at least one school for children with visual impairments. Although most of the previously trained students through the KCF project have either graduated or moved to Kaski for higher education, most of the children currently available for training in the project location are new to the sport. To maintain the legacy of cricket in the region, a five-day cricket training was conducted at the playfield of Shivalaya High School, Parvat, from 22nd to 26th September, involving 30 visually impaired children from Ganodaya High School, Myagdi, Janata Dhan High School, and Shivalaya High School, Parvat. These three districts

were chosen because they are geographically close to each other, with schools also in proximity. The training was facilitated by Mr. Sunil Rana Magar and Mr. Bishal Bika, both of whom were recipients of previous training for trainers. For ease of learning, cricket rules were printed in Braille and recorded in audio. On the final day of the training, a nine-member Self-Help Group (SHG) named Myagdi Cricket Club of the Blind was formed, chaired by Mr. Ganesh Subedi.

9. Cricket Training at Kanchanpur

Under the management of the Kanchanpur Cricket Association of the Blind (CAB), a five-day refresher training was conducted from 4th to 9th September at Bhimdutta Municipality, Kanchanpur. The training was facilitated by trained coaches Mr. Birendra Singh and Mr. Sunil Rana Magar. The session included 30 participants aged 13 to 22, with 11 girls among them. Cricket kits were handed over to the students of the school at the end of the training.

10. Refresher Cricket Training at Banke

Banke is another location from the previous KCF-funded projects. The district has two schools for visually impaired children—MP High School and Tribhuvan High School—and a college where around 50 children and youths with visual impairments are pursuing their studies. However, due to the suspension of hostel facilities for visually impaired students by the Banke Association of the Blind, and while the school is in the process of establishing a hostel for blind students, the children have had to commute from their homes, making it difficult for them to practice cricket regularly. Furthermore, when students returned to school hostels, they lacked cricket kits, which further hindered their ability to play. To revive cricket in the area, a five-day refresher training was conducted at the premises of MP High School, Banke, from 25th to 29th September 2023. Thirty visually impaired youths and children, including 9 girls, participated in the training, which was facilitated by Mr. Surendra Tamang and Ms. Sarita Ghimire. The training was inaugurated by the principal of MP High School, and the closing ceremony was attended by the ward chair of Banke Metropolitan City. At the end of the training, a nine-member Blind Cricket Committee was formed, with Mr. Naresh Chaudhary as chair.

11. Training for Trainers

The training manual drafted during the first semester of the project has been revised and updated, incorporating feedback from the consultants involved in the Training for Trainers program, as well as from coaches and participants from various project locations. Based on this updated manual, the second phase of the Training for Trainers program was conducted from 30th November to 2nd December 2023 at the CAB Inclusive Cricket Training Centre, Lalitpur. The program was attended by 16 selected visually impaired women cricketers, aged 15 to 33, representing all 13 SHGs formed during the KCF project. The participants were chosen based on their cricket knowledge, prior coaching experience, and performance in national and international matches.

12. 1st Tournament Between Five Teams

On the occasion of the 32nd International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the first tournament between teams from five SHGs (Bagmati, Sindhupalchowk, Kaski, Myagdi, and the Visually Impaired Women's Team, which included female players from all SHGs) was held from 3rd to 6th December 2023 at Mulpani Cricket Ground, Kathmandu. The tournament was played in a league-based T20 format and involved 85 visually impaired cricketers, aged 11 to 32, with 19 girls participating. The tournament was inaugurated by renowned social activist Ms. Jyoti K.C. on 3rd December (International Day of Persons with Disabilities). The Bagmati SHG team emerged as the winners, defeating the Kaski SHG team in the final. Mr. Sunil Rana of Kaski was named Player of the Tournament, with a highest score of 270 runs. The prize distribution ceremony was attended by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Mr. Hari Dhakal on 6th December 2023.

13. 2nd Tournament Between Six Teams

The Cricket Association of the Blind, Nepal (CAB), in collaboration with the Banke Association of the Blind, organized the second cricket tournament from 16th to 20th February 2024 at Kohalpur Cricket Ground, Banke District. A total of 102 players, including 16 girls with visual impairments, participated in the tournament, which involved teams from Rupendehi, Chitwan, Banke, Kanchanpur, Surkhet, and Bardia. The event was attended by local representatives, including the Deputy Mayor, ward chairpersons, and school principals. The tournament was played on a league and knock-out basis in a T20 format.

The tournament was inaugurated by Ms. Sarmila Subedi Paudel, Deputy Mayor of Kohalpur Municipality, and concluded on 20th February with a closing ceremony by Mr. Lal Bahadur Rana, Acting Head of the Municipality. The Kanchanpur team won the final match, defeating Bardia by 80 runs. Mr. Padam Badila of Kanchanpur team, with an unbeaten 312 runs and 4 wickets, was named Player of the Tournament. The event garnered significant media attention, with coverage on national and local media, and the final match was broadcasted live via the Krishnasar FM Facebook page, attracting over 7,000 viewers. A documentary of the event was also aired on YouTube.

14. Community Awareness through Cricket in 7 Rural Parts of 7 Provinces

14.1 Community Awareness through Cricket at Lamidanda, Sindhupalchowk

The Cricket Association of the Blind, Nepal, in local partnership with the Cricket Club of the Blind, Sindhupalchowk, conducted a one-day cricket demonstration program at Lamidanda, Selang Rural Municipality, Sindhupalchowk District, on 12th May 2024. Lamidanda lies at an altitude of 2,260 meters above sea level and is predominantly inhabited by Sherpa people, many of whom are illiterate and have limited understanding of disability issues.

Most of the youth in this village have migrated to larger cities or abroad in search of employment, leaving behind children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities to guard the homes. The primary source of income in this remote, hilly village is agriculture. While women manage the households, men work as shepherds and collectors of the Himalayan herb Yarsha Gumba (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*). Due to the remoteness of the village and its school, only about 25% of children attend school regularly. With support from military personnel stationed at the Langtang National Park, the demonstration took place at the Buddha Stupa premises, where 22 visually impaired students from Bandevi High School and local community members participated. The demonstration was attended by local community members, including children,

youth, park rangers, and forest office staff. In addition to showcasing the rules and importance of cricket for visually impaired people, the event highlighted various aspects of disability, such as the need for care and support, educational opportunities, and the potential of visually impaired individuals. The local sighted children, youth, and forest staff were invited to play cricket while blindfolded. At the end of the demonstration, visually impaired players shared how cricket had impacted their lives and highlighted other skills they possess. Local spectators were asked to fill out knowledge assessment forms to gauge any changes in their perceptions after the demonstration. The event concluded with visually impaired players singing and dancing to showcase their talents. The demonstration was attended by approximately 250 community members.

14.2 Community Awareness through Cricket at Barpak, Gorkha, Gandaki Province

The village of Barpak, located in Gorkha, is well known as the epicenter of the April 25, 2015 earthquake, which claimed the lives of 42 villagers and left many others disabled. Though over nine years have passed, the village is still in the process of reconstruction. Barpak has lost much of its original charm with the construction of new concrete buildings, homestays, and viewing towers. The village sits at an altitude of 1,920 meters above sea level and is mainly inhabited by Thakali and Gurung communities. While agriculture is a key source of income, many men from Barpak have found employment in Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Indian and British Armies, significantly improving the economic status of the community. However, awareness of disability issues and the public perception of persons with disabilities remain low among the local inhabitants.

On 14th May, a demonstration cricket match was organized by visually impaired players from Gorkha at Himalayan High School, Barpak. The event was attended by 25 school teachers and around 350 students, as well as community members. Sighted students and teachers participated in a blindfolded cricket match. The event received coverage from national FM radio and newspapers. Additionally, on 13th May, a similar demonstration took place at Amar Jyoti High School, Palungtar, Gorkha. This demonstration was attended by 35 teachers and 150 students, with the rest of the students absent due to early examination schedules. Teachers and students, in addition to filling out knowledge assessment forms, also participated in blindfolded cricket.

14.3 Community Awareness through Cricket at Kanchanpur, Sudurpashchim Province

On 31st May 2024, the Blind Cricket Association, Kanchanpur, organized a cricket demonstration at Bhubaneswari High School, Ward No. 6, Bedkot Municipality, Sasiya, where community members from various ethnic backgrounds, including Tharu, Rana, Chhetri, and Brahmin, gathered to witness the event. This demonstration was a powerful display of the skills and determination of visually impaired cricketers.

Many community members were curious about how the visually impaired players could identify and hit the ball. The players explained that the ball makes a clicking sound, which helps them gauge its distance and direction. Some women from the community even interacted with the players, shaking the ball to understand its mechanics. The event left a lasting impression on attendees, with many commenting that they had never imagined visually impaired individuals could play sports so skillfully. The chief guest, Mr. Rajdip Daiiha, Principal of Bhubaneswari High School, shared his amazement at the demonstration and described the experience as an eye-opener. He emphasized the need for inclusive school infrastructure and committed to making the

necessary adjustments for the betterment of children with disabilities. A total of 550 people attended the event.

14.4 Community Awareness through Cricket at Mahottari, Madhesh Province

On 5th June 2024, in collaboration with the Madhesh Province Blind Cricket Association, a cricket demonstration was held at Ramgopalpur School, Ramgopalpur Municipality, Mahottari District. The event aimed to raise social awareness regarding disability and sports.

Ramgopalpur is a rural village in Mahottari District, predominantly inhabited by Maithali-speaking people. Most of the elderly population is illiterate, while many of the youth have migrated to India or Kathmandu in search of better opportunities. The principal of Ramgopalpur School, Dharendra Kumar Mandal, was invited as the chief guest. The demonstration was attended by social workers, intellectuals, teachers, journalists, and students from various schools, making it a grand success.

A total of 22 visually impaired students from Loharpatti High School and Bisapatti High School participated in the cricket demonstration. The event was attended by about 2,300 students from Raigopalpur High School, with some boys even playing cricket with the visually impaired players. The principal also participated in the demonstration by playing cricket with a blindfold. During his turn at batting, one of the teachers bowled to him. Afterward, the principal commented, "It was very difficult to play blindfolded. This experience makes me realize how challenging life must be for visually impaired people." He believed that the students who attended the demonstration gained valuable insights into this important issue.

14.5 Community Awareness through Cricket in Morang District, Koshi Province:

On 18th May 2024, in local coordination with the Koshi Blind Cricket Association, CAB successfully organized a cricket demonstration aimed at raising public awareness about the capabilities of visually impaired individuals in sports. The demonstration took place at Gumwa Chowk in Belbari Municipality, an area known for its rich agricultural land and vibrant community. Belbari is characterized by its fertile terrain, primarily utilized for farming, with residents from the Brahmin, Chhetri, and Limbu ethnic groups. Given the region's hot climate, the demonstration was scheduled for the early morning to allow community members to participate before attending to their farming and household responsibilities. The event was held in an open area that serves as a bustling marketplace (or Hat Bazar) every Saturday. This strategic choice maximized foot traffic, attracting a diverse audience of shoppers and local residents.

As people gathered to buy and sell fresh vegetables, they were intrigued by the game being played by visually impaired athletes. The demonstration effectively highlighted the skills and determination of the players, fostering a sense of curiosity and admiration among the attendees. Many community members expressed their surprise and enthusiasm, engaging in conversations about the sport and the athletes' remarkable abilities. This event not only aimed to promote inclusivity but also encouraged the local community to rethink perceptions of disability. Overall, the cricket demonstration was a success, drawing attention to the importance of accessible sports and promoting awareness about the capabilities of visually impaired individuals. A total of 172 people directly observed the demonstration.

14.6 Community Awareness through Cricket in Bardiya District, Lumbini Province

Bardiya Buspark, located in Bardiya District, Nepal, serves as a key transportation hub and junction for travelers heading to various destinations within the region and beyond. It is a busy area where local and long-distance buses converge, providing access to nearby attractions like Bardiya National Park, known for its diverse wildlife, including tigers and rhinoceroses. The buspark has various elements, such as ticket counters, waiting areas, and food stalls, making it a convenient stop for both locals and tourists. The atmosphere is lively, especially during peak travel times, as passengers come and go.

For this reason, the buspark was selected as the location for the cricket demonstration. On 2nd June 2024, the Bardiya Cricket Association of the Blind coordinated a demonstration on the concrete floor of the local bus station in the morning. Travelers, transport personnel, and other vendors gathered to observe the demonstration, followed by a short informative session to educate the public about disability, disability sports, and the presence of blind cricket in Bardiya District. Due to the bus station's busy nature, the demonstration was brief, but the public took initiative to bat and bowl during the session. A total of 200 people were reached through the program. After the demonstration, members of the public interacted with the players, inquiring about their playing experiences and the challenges they face in their daily lives. Some of the drivers expressed regret for having previously overlooked blind and disabled passengers, but promised to offer better assistance to disabled passengers in the future.

14.7 Community Awareness through Cricket in Karnali Province

Chhincnu, a suburban city located in Bheriganga Municipality of Surkhet District, has a diverse demographic, including Khas, Dalits (specifically Bishwokarma), and Magar communities. It is a place where many people migrate within the municipality in search of better educational and health facilities. Although 2.6% of the population is disabled, there is a general lack of awareness about disability issues, and the community has only heard of disability sports in passing. For this reason, this community was selected for the demonstration. On 21st September 2024, in local coordination with the Karnali Province Blind Cricket Association, a cricket demonstration was conducted at an open ground where local community members could come and watch the game. The event was communicated to the public through representatives of Bheriganga Municipality, with outreach to local mother groups, farmers' cooperatives, children, and other community members. This initiative successfully encouraged blind cricket players and ignited a spark for future engagement and awareness regarding the rights of disabled individuals to participate in sports. Altogether, 98 people directly observed the demonstration and were sensitized to disability issues and disability sports.