Kanti Children’s Hospital – Nepal

**Reporting period:** February 1, 2016 – August 31, 2016

**Prepared by:** Suman Gurung

**Organization:** Real Medicine Foundation Nepal (www.realmedicinefoundation.org)

**Project title:** Kanti Children’s Hospital

**Project location:** Kathmandu, Nepal

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**February 2016 – August 2016**

Real Medicine Foundation

11700 National Blvd., Suite 234

Los Angeles, CA 90064

+1.310.820.4502
Background

Kanti Children’s Hospital is the only government referral level children’s hospital in Nepal providing medical care to children up to age 14. The hospital treats children from all over the country, with a total target population of about 14 million children. The hospital’s administration is overseen by Kanti Children’s Hospital Development Board, which is an autonomous body under Nepal’s Ministry of Health. Kanti Children’s Hospital depends heavily on the government for financial support and human resources. Thus, although the hospital provides free health services to underprivileged patients, there are always constraints with regard to the availability of funds, which makes it challenging to provide medical support to every child that is referred to the hospital.

Social Action Volunteers (SAV) is a local NGO that was established in 1988 to address gaps and serve the neediest patients of Kanti Children’s Hospital and their families. A majority of the patients at Kanti Children’s Hospital are referred from the poorest and most remote areas of Nepal. SAV provides various support programs to long-term care (two weeks or longer) patients and their caregivers in the non-paying ward of Kanti Children’s Hospital. Services and supplies provided by SAV include medicines, a blood bank, lab services, transportation, food supplements for patients and their caregivers, shelter for family members, cooking facilities for families, or complete coverage and care for both the patient and family members.

RMF’s Presence

Shortly after the April 2015 earthquake, which killed and injured thousands throughout Nepal and damaged parts of Kanti Children’s Hospital (the only government referral level children’s hospital in Nepal), RMF determined to help address the hospital’s need for equipment, medical supplies, and capacity building to improve health service delivery. RMF began by donating $408,000 worth of medicines and medical supplies to Kanti Children’s Hospital, and forming a partnership with Social Action Volunteers (SAV).

In 2016, RMF has continued to support Kanti Children’s Hospital by providing financial support to SAV from January 2016 to the end of this reporting period, August 21, 2016. RMF’s support has helped enable SAV to provide the following supplemental medical supplies and services, which would otherwise be unavailable to many of the neediest patients at Kanti Children’s Hospital:
• Free medicines and supplements;
• Help for patients to access available hospital services like x-rays and lab tests;
• Financial support and other arrangements (such as transportation) for patients who require services outside the hospital, such as MRIs and CT scans;
• Nutrition support for children admitted to the Oncology and Malnutrition wards at Kanti Children’s Hospital; and
• A blood bank available to patients.

RMF’s support has also been used to provide the following support to patients and their families:
• Lodging space at a very affordable rate: SAV charges about NPR 30 per day per person (equivalent to 30 cents per day per person) for cleaning and maintaining the lodging space, but if a family is unable to pay this nominal fee, they can stay for free;
• Food, a kitchen, propane gas, and cooking utensils for needy patients and their families who are willing to cook their own food. (Many families are unable to afford restaurants.);
• Bathroom and toilet facilities for patients’ families;
• A clothing bank for needy patients and their families;
• A playroom and library at Kanti Children’s Hospital for patients and their siblings; and
• Any other facilities or support that patients and their families may need depending upon circumstances and individual cases.
In addition to RMF’s financial support being used to provide the abovementioned services and supplies to needy patients at Kanti Children's Hospital and their families, during this reporting period RMF Nepal has also managed and mobilized the volunteers of SAV and Kanti Children's Hospital, giving them further opportunity to assist patients and their families through:

1. Conducting health-oriented programs such as health camps, workshops, and seminars, and
2. Organizing fundraisers to maintain and improve current projects.

Medicines supplied by RMF being used during a health camp organized by SAV
RMF-donated medicines used for a SAV health camp in Chhatar Deurali VDC, Dhading district, March 2016

Patients waiting for their turn during the health camp
An elderly man being examined by a doctor at the health camp

Patients helped by RMF-supported SAV in February 2016