

Community Members Interested (COMMITTED) is a tax-exempt non-profit organization registered in the US under section 501-(C)(3) of the US IRS Code, and COMMITTED-Nepal is an approved non-governmental organization (NGO) under Social Welfare Council (SWC) regulations of the Government of Nepal. In unison COMMITTED strives to ensure free quality education to children in communities we serve as part of our Sikchya Mero Adhikar (Education-My Right) campaign. COMMITTED collaborates with communities--through a comprehensive community planning process--to set up Social Business for Education (SBE) projects. In addition to financing education of the children, SBE projects also finance community development projects, address livelihood issues and foster awareness of, and consideration for, the conservation and sustainability of natural resources and environment.

January 31, 2013 - December 31, 2013

COMMITTED- U.S.	
Income:	Amount (\$)
Give Back America	121.00
MC Dean	1,000.00
Nepal Ko Yuwa	6,927.15
EIF & Individual Donations	38,420.62
Accrued Income	2,397.83
Total Income in 2013	48,866.60
Expense:	
Nepal Projects	22,445.00
Project Monitoring	6,000.00
Postage	15.14
Website & Domain	29.99
Printing	25.00
Registration & Renewal	155.00
Bank Fees	60.00
Paypal Fees	107.63
Razoo Fees	25.20
Refreshment Expenses	7.26
Total Expense in 2013	28,870.22

July 16, 2013 - July 15, 2014

COMMITTED - NEPAL		
INCOME	NPR	US\$
Grants		
COMMITTED US- Education is Freedom	2,232,155.25	22,777.09
SBE Other Funds/Raithane	2,812,747.50	28,701.51
NEMIRA	276,735.00	2,823.83
Park Family	22,787.60	232.53
NCELL	107,000.00	1,091.84
Individuals & Corporates	377,647.00	3,853.54
Fund Raising Events	1,162,875.00	11,866.07
Interest Earned	53,785.94	548.84
TOTAL INCOME	7,045,733.29	71,895.24
EXPENSES		
ADMINISTRATIVE/OP EXPENSE (NOT COVERED BY PROJECTS):		
Salary	188,423.77	1,922.69
Rent	8,333.32	85.03
Utilities	24,321.55	248.18
Communication	74,627.86	761.51
Printing, Advertisement, Newspaper	21,678.00	221.20
Meeting Expenses	3,752.00	38.29
Legal and Fees	14,052.75	143.40
Repair/Maintenance/Purchase/Renovation	151,994.14	1,550.96
Local Transportation, Parking	8,032.00	81.96
Supplies, Mailing, Refreshments	134,280.97	1,370.21
SUB TOTAL	629,496.36	6,423.43
PROJECT EXPENSES:		
SIP: Education is Freedom	1,751,281.00	17,870.21
SIP: KKUMNAMU (Dream Tree)	429,578.83	4,383.46
SIP: Manahari Makwanpur (Recon)	847.50	8.65
SBE/SIP: Dolagiri HSS Project	2,353,008.00	24,010.29
SIP: Panchankanya HSS Chitwan	49,520.00	505.31
SIP: E- Library Raithane SS	3,150.00	32.14
SBE: Community Fishery Thangpalkot	786,479.37	8,025.30
Awareness Event Expenses	591,116.50	6,031.80
Volunteer Teaching Resources	39,384.00	401.88
SUB TOTAL	6,004,365.20	61,269.03
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,633,861.56	67,692.46

Note: Financial Activities reported for COMMITTED U.S. and COMMITTED-Nepal are for two different time frames due to varying legal accounting periods.



Dear COMMITTED Supporters,

COMMITTED has grown slowly, but surely. Although we are still a small group of people working hard to improve Nepali communities, we have touched many lives since inception. As a result of your continued support, significant number of children and their families in Nepal are receiving care in some form and they thank you for your financial and moral support.

In 2013, we successfully completed school improvement programs at various schools. As a part of the KKUMNAMU Projects (Dream Tree) we installed libraries at Shanti Nikunj Secondary School-Kathmandu, Taltuleswori Primary School, Chilauney Secondary School-Thangpalkot VDC, and Kumbheswori Primary School-Gunsakot VDC. A reading corner was also created for children at Saat kanya Primary School-Thangpalkot VDC. Improvements to primary section classrooms, library renovation, gender and age separated toilets, access improvement, playground creation, and rainwater harvesting system were also completed at Dolagiri Higher Secondary School, Changu VDC of Bhaktapur District.

The Social Business for Education and Community Development program (SBECD) is a part of our Sikchya Mero Adhikar campaign (Education-My Right) that seeks to establish free and quality education for Nepali children as their basic right. As a part of the SBECD program, a vegetable farming activity involving the children and teachers of the school was initiated in Changu VDC, Bhaktapur District. The objective was to initiate an income generating activity for the school through vegetable farming. The students and the teachers were involved as a part of the school's science curriculum. Another innovative approach to our SBECD model is the use of solar energy for community electrification, income from which goes towards school operations. This solar energy based social business is currently serving twenty households.

Currently, COMMITTED's key focus is at Thangpalkot VDC of Sindhupalchowk District. In addition to school improvement activities, providing scholarships, curriculum and school operations improvements, COMMITTED initiated a cage based nursery and production project utilizing the local one acre Raithane Pond. Here again, the aim is to establish a community led fishery as a social business in which the committee members also have a financial stake. Income from the fishery will be used to meet deficient school operational costs. In addition, the fishery site will also serve as a training center for the local farmers to adopt fish farming should they choose to. A school level fishery curriculum is also in the pipeline, through which a certification based fishery training will also be initiated for children from the higher grades. As a pilot project in 2013, the action research will help us make decisions whether a scale up is appropriate in year 2014. The results so far has been very positive. As envisioned, we also seek to develop comprehensive community plans for the VDC, and hence integrate agriculture based social business activities, including the fishery to assist public schools and the communities at large.

Lastly, I would like to thank all who have supported and encouraged us over the years. It is not easy on us. Without your encouragement and support it would be a futile effort. Therefore, if you have concerning questions regarding our past activities as well as our financial documents, or even to help us in our work we would much appreciate your direct communication. We believe an honest dialogue with us will help make improvements to existing lapses in our operations.

Sincerely,

Jayjeev Hada
 Founder/Chairperson—COMMITTED U.S.
 Founder/Executive Director-COMMITTED Nepal

	COMMITTED U.S.	COMMITTED Nepal
Founder	Jayjeev Hada	
Chairperson	Jayjeev Hada	Dinesh L. Shrestha
Vice-chairperson	Atulya Dhungana	Sanjeev Hada
General Secretary	Ritima Pradhan	Ritima Pradhan
Treasurer	Johana Shah	Rajasudan Pradhan
Member	-	Sachin Shrestha
Member	-	Surekha P. Limbu
Member	-	Sanjay Gorkhali

Our Focus

COMMITTED's focus are in the areas of Education and Poverty Reduction. Our work in these areas fall under the following: campaign.

Sikhya Mero Adhikar (Education-My Right) - We believe that education is a basic human right of all children and that it should be free and of quality. Under this umbrella COMMITTED is implementing its two programs—School Improvement Program (SIP) and the Social Business for Education and Community Development (SBECD) program. SIP seeks to provide quality education with infrastructure and other curriculum and management related improvements. The SBE program seeks to provide sustainability for schools so as to eliminate school fees imposed on the children. COMMITTED collaborates with communities--through a comprehensive community planning process --to set up SBECD projects. In addition to financing education of the children, SBE projects also finance community development projects, address livelihood issues and foster awareness of, and consideration for, the conservation and sustainability of natural resources and environment.

Board of Directors

In 2013 board membership remained intact. We expect a few minor changes to the Board membership in 2014. As a strategy to include a diverse and proactive people on board, we are constantly on the search for women board members and individuals from varying background. Bringing on board individuals with a sense of social responsibility with values similar to those of COMMITTED's is an ongoing process.

Administration

With the advancement of 2013, we saw our team grow as welcomed two new members to the team. Dorje Gurung joined COMMITTED on July 2013 as Education Program Director. He takes lead role in formulating specific education and curriculum related projects as a part of COMMITTED's "Education- My Right" campaign and co-ordinates with on-site school teachers regarding formulation of new projects, implementation and monitoring of active projects. With extensive teaching experience around the world, Dorje's knowledge as a Science teacher opened up newer possibilities. His approach of integrating several of our projects with the children's Science curriculum proved to be a success.

Another addition to the team is our Communications and Development Officer Ashmita Khanal. She joined COMMITTED in November and brings on board her unique experience from Teach for Nepal. As COMMITTED's Communication Officer she will serve as the face of the organization.

Website

In 2013 we launched an entirely redesigned and revamped website . The vivid design of the website is driven by our mission of providing quality education to the underprivileged children and livelihood opportunities created for the community at large. The homepage sheds light on our organization's values and visions. It draws attention to our area of work, and our campaign and how we strive to achieve our goals. The easy to navigate presentation and specific pages and tabs guide visitors to their desired information. It features links where visitors can send in their queries, a centralized portal for volunteers to sign up, introduction of our team members, our legal documents, and a contact us page.

Fundraising

Walk for Nepal—Washington DC & Dallas, Texas

In April 2013, COMMITTED was part of Walk for Nepal event co-organized with other organizations such as Nepal Ko Yuwa and Gorkhali Foundation in Washington DC. A large number of people walked on behalf of their representative organizations. To show case solidarity for Nepal’s development. With participation of 66 walkers, COMMITTED was sponsored by 165 individuals raising in excess of \$8,000. COMMITTED was able to establish itself as a prominent force in the Washington DC Area among all Nepali NGOs with the amount of funds raised by any single organization. Our US Board Treasurer—**Johana Shah** showed her dedication towards our cause by raising the most amount of funds. As a reward she was even gifted a mini iPad. The funds from the event will be used towards a community fishery project at Thangpalkot VDC as a part of a bigger pool of funds required in 2014-15. COMMITTED also represented the Walk for Nepal Dallas, Texas event held in November 2013. Led by Sanu Adhikari, the WFN-Dallas COMMITTED Team was able to generate in excess of \$900 to support a water and sanitation project at Sri Raithane School, of Thangpalkot VDC, Sindhupalchowk District. The entire COMMITTED family including the beneficiaries thank all individuals who took time off from their daily schedule to walk with us during the event as well as the sponsors and the entire Walk for Nepal event team for making this a meaningful experience.



2013 WFN—DC & Dallas Walkers

Aditya Dhungana	Bradley Hiller	Gunu Upadhyay	Kumar Deuja	Nina Kunwar	Rajeeta Sitoula	Sanu Adhikari
Anelia Atanassova	Chris Hoban	Jagadish Upadhyay	Kumar Upadhyay	Nischal Shrestha	Rara Karki	Saumya Pradhan
Anita Shrestha	Dayna Shah	Janaki Thapliya	Lailu Gautam	Paras Rathor	Reema Rajbhandari	Saurav Rana
Anjila Prasai	Deepa Isac	Jaya Amatya	Lalima Maskey	Patricia Hoban	Ritesh Shrestha	Shiela Shrestha
Anuragi Thapliya	Dharana Nepal	Johana Shah	Lokesh Rajbhandari	Piyush Karki	Romu Uprety	Sravan Thapa
Anusha Dhungana	Dushyanta Rana	Johannes Widmann	Madhuri Thapa	Prabha Deuja	Sabin Basnyat	Surhid Gautam
Arnav Kunwar	Garima Karki	Kabindra Sitoula	Manzoor Ahmed	Prabin Rana	Sahara Shrestha	Sweta Basnet
Atulya Dhungana	Gaurav Karki	Kamla Pariadhaven	Matthew Handley	Pradumna Thapa	Sandipa Basnyat	Tina Lama
Bikash Thapliya	Ginger Elsea	Koichi Omori	Maya Craig	Prakriti Deuja	Sangita Sigdyal	Vedika Thapliya
Bonas Khanal	Gunjana Rana	Konstantina Kostova	Michele Hellebuyck	Pravin Karki	Sanjima Shakya	

Education is Freedom

The “Education is Freedom” campaign was led by Dorje Gurung (www.DorjeGurung.com), a lifelong science teacher, after his release from Doha. In Qatar he was wrongfully accused of insulting Islam, but released soon after a world wide release campaign. The campaign was led with the motto “Help provide high quality education to children in rural Nepal. Give them the freedom to pursue their dreams.” A sum in excess of \$37,000 was raised. Generous donors from all over the world helped support the cause. Funds raised will be used to support Shree Raithane School of Sindhupalchowk for it’s infrastructure, curriculum, school operations and the fishery program.



Social Business for Education and Community Development

Solar Electrification at Dolagiri Higher Secondary School

Solar panels were installed as a part of SBE in Dolagiri Higher Secondary School in Changu VDC of Bhaktapur District. A Users Committee was formed to ensure efficient running of the social business. The site was evaluated for solar placement and eight solar panels were installed on the school rooftop. Currently twenty households are benefitting from the project. The intended target is 30 households. Each household pays approximately Rs 200 per month for a total of 20 watts of power usage. The installed timer regulates operational hours



Vegetable Farming—Dolagiri Higher Secondary School

A horticulture project as a social business was carried out at Dolagiri School. Horticulture experts were taken to the school for an initial evaluation and consulted for site suitability and the type of vegetables appropriate for various seasons of the year. The experts recommended three different sites appropriate for vegetables, farming, and fruits. Appropriate sites were fenced to secure from domestic animals. Under guidance from the science teacher, students from grades 7-10 are involved in the plantation, caretaking, and harvesting of the vegetables and fruits. Grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in the management faculty will be guided to manage the farm as a business. Income from the business will be used towards the school’s deficient operational needs.



Cage Fishery at Raithane School, Sindhupalchowk

The Aquaculture initiated on a rudimentary basis under Social Business for Education in 2012 expanded steadily in 2013. The Raithane Pond was identified as a potential site for pilot production but the depth of the pond and lack of advanced fishing techniques posed difficulties. Hence, as per the expert’s input, certain sizes cages were set up in the Raithane Pond and 6,800 fingerlings of the Carp variety (Grass, Silver, Big Head) were stocked in the cages in addition to the existing Common Carp in the Raithane Pond.

The boat constructed the in the earlier year is used for fishing operations as well as to generate income with its recreational use. The boat was prepared at the site with boat makers brought in from the Begnas Lake area, Pokhara. Income generated from the fishery would go towards Raithane School’s operations. Funds for the Cage Fishery was provided by Western Union Foundation. The fingerlings will be sold to villagers who wish to start their own fishery when they are of appropriate size. Two part time staff have been hired and assigned duties of feeding the fingerlings, keeping water in check, recording temperature, and all other fishery operation needs. The fingerlings were stocked late in the year in autumn but a good size growth is expected by next spring for stocking into other production sites for full growth production.



Projects 2013—School Improvement Program (SIP)

Dolagiri Higher Secondary School

Between the month of June and August, with funds from Ncell, COMMITTED carried out major renovation activities at Dolagiri Higher Secondary School in Changunarayan, Bhaktapur. The renovation program comes under our School Improvement Program (SIP). With a population of approximately 300 students, the school did not have adequate infrastructure and resources for a proper learning environment. Only two out of the four toilets were functioning and walls of the primary classes were crumbling. Much progress has ensued since August- classrooms of the primary sections have been improved. A very steep piece of land has been filled to create a leveled playground with slides and swings. Above all, the school which lacked proper lavatory now seven new gender separated toilets and four renovated toilets. The school’s library went through an intensive makeover for a more inviting and improved readership. The school also boasts an improved access and rainwater collection system .



KKUMNAMU (The Dream Tree)

The Kim Children’s Library at Raithane School paved path for more libraries in government schools of Sindhupalchowk District. With major funding from our volunteer Sieun “Alice” Park’s family and Bank of Kathmandu, COMMITTED has now established four new libraries at Chilauney School and Taltuleswory School of Thangpalkot VDC; Kumveswori School of Gunsakot VDC; and Shanti Nikunj School in Maru Tole, of Kathmandu. District.

Establishing libraries in schools encourages students to read more. Each of the new libraries boast of new furniture, fresh painted walls and shelves stacked with books suitable for varying ages. The libraries feature a modest space for individual study and learning spaces for joint activities. A group of dedicated volunteers put in considerable effort in making the quiet space more welcoming– with creative wall art work. Asia Foundation donated most of the books and the Park family also invested in books for each library.



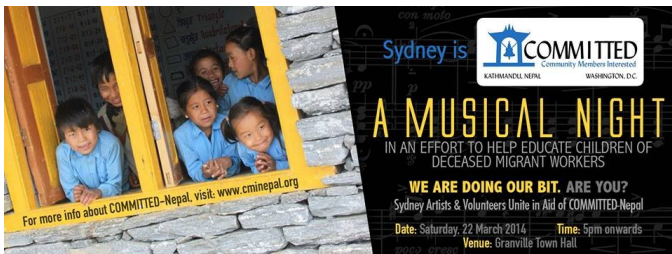
To staff the library with knowledgeable personnel and to ensure better learning of the children, a team of three teachers were trained on library management. A library management committee comprised of members from School Management Committee and staff members was also created. The libraries are named Books from BoK (Bank of Kathmandu) and KKUMNAMU I, KKUMNAMU II, and KKUMNAU III and KKUMNAMU IV. In Korean, KKUMNAMU stands for “The Dream Tree”. As a part of the KKUMNAMU initiative, a Star Reader Program is in operation in its second year. The first Star Reader Award function was carried out in Raithane School, Chilaune School, Talutleswory School, and Kumveswory School late in 2013. Students from all different grades and all four schools were awarded books as a token of encouragement to read more.



2014 Activities

We're COMMITTED Campaign (Kathmandu & Sydney)

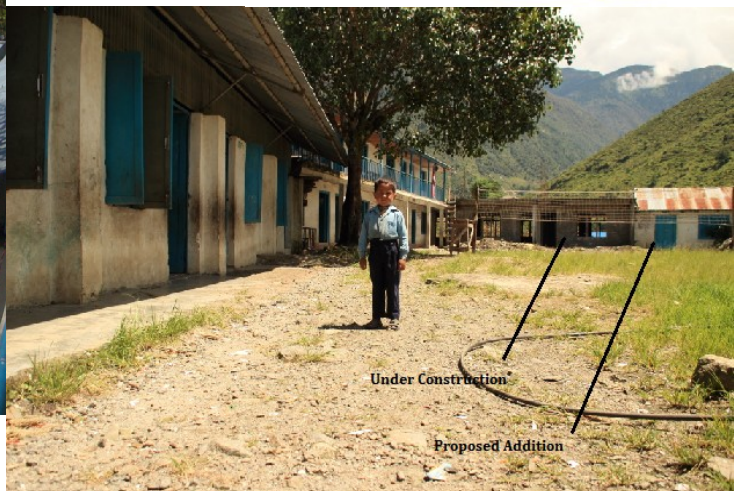
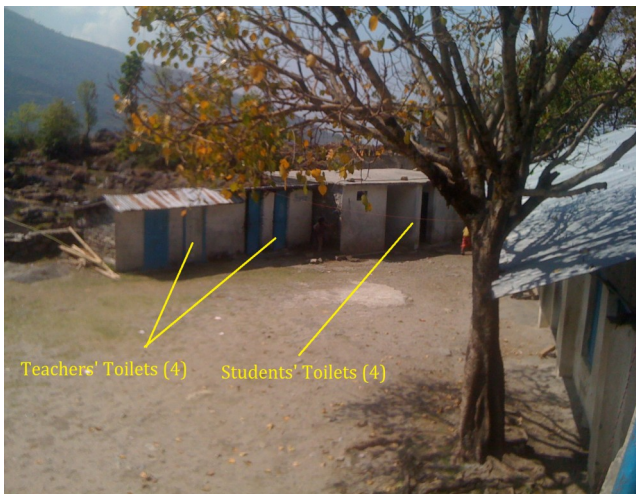
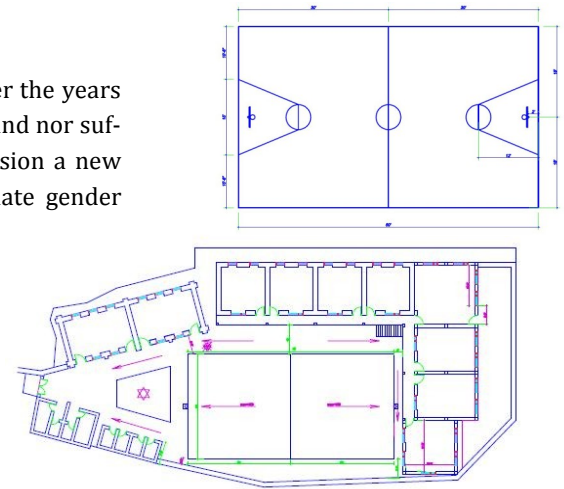
Planning has initiated for the We're COMMITTED event set to take place in Kathmandu in January 2014. The campaign will see two fundraising dinners with live musical performances and a free concert to raise awareness about the plight of migrant workers and to help raise funds for the education of deceased migrant workers. Though COMMITTED does not focus on issues of migrant workers, providing education to the needy is our sole objective. Renowned national and international artists have agreed to perform at these events on a pro bono basis and Nepal's leading national daily, The Kathmandu Post is our official media partner for the event. A line up of award winning artists such as **Feyago, Kellee Maize, Albatross, and Kutumba**, and **Joint Family International** are lined up for the events. Three separate events are planned at Capital Grill, Hotel Radisson, and the Durbar Square-Kathmandu.



Similarly, We're COMMITTED—Sydney event is also planned for March 2014. This too is a musical event being organized by COMMITTED's well wisher and a social activist **Monika Ranjitkar**. She will be coordinating with local Nepalese musical and play artists in Sydney to raise awareness and to generate funds for the education of the children of deceased migrant workers.

School Improvement Program at Raithane Secondary School

The Raithane Secondary School has seen major improvements in its infrastructures over the years but it still lacks a few essential components. The school does not have a proper playground nor sufficient bathrooms for the 350 students. Under School Improvement Program, we envision a new building, a multi-purpose basketball court with an organized sports program, adequate gender separated toilets, a rainwater haresting system, and reading corners for primary grade children in their classrooms. While COMMITTED's engineer finalizes a design for the sports facility, we are preparing to secure funds to set up WASH facilities in the school.



Community Fishery Scale Up at Thangpalkot VDC

In 2014, the fishery program at Thangpalkot VDC of Sindhupalchowk will be our major focus. A fish nursery and production sites at various locations are planned. Among the few potential sites considered site adjacent to the school has been selected for the nursery. The land is being leased for ten years and is located in a swampy area, securing water availability all year round. Along with the community fishery to benefit the school community, willing local farmers will also be trained to adopt fish farming as a livelihood opportunity. The training will enable the farmers to jump to cash crop based farming. The fish nursery will supply fingerlings to individual farmers who wish to start fishery in their private farms. Surplus fingerlings will be stocked in the community pond for production. Income from the production pond and the sale of fingerlings will be used to meet deficient operational costs for the Raithane School. The fish farm will also be used as a training center to not only train the farmers but also adolescent school going children as a life skill learning course with certification. The people involved in the fishery committee are also investing approximately Rs.100,000 towards the fishery operations.

A critical component of the project is the inclusion of a farmers' market, in which local farmers including the fish farmers will be allowed to put up stalls twice a week to sell their produce. Through advertisement of the marketplace (Haatbazaar) in the local radio and other outlets, it will not only help sell the local produce including the fish, but also help vitalize the local economy. The 'haatbazaar' will be managed by the VDC, thereby assisting the local body with additional resources. Such a 'haatbazaar' will be the first of its kind in the entire Sindhupalchowk District. A fish farmers' group will also be established to link the locally harvested fish with the nearby towns and market places, and also to establish linkages and support from the government agencies associated with fish farming.



Local Governance and Participatory Planning

COMMITTED understands that the local government's ability to create an enabling environment for all local stakeholders including civil society actors to do their part with support from the central government stands at the crux of most development related matters in the rural areas. The last local government elections were held in 1997. Since then, due to the Maoist insurgency and the governments inability to conduct local elections the local representatives were disbanded after their term expired. These critical vacant positions, since 2002 have been replaced by government officials as Executive Officers (EO) assigned to areas they are not familiar with. Legitimization of the All Party Mechanism (APM) and their use in critical local level planning and budget allocations decisions has led to catastrophic outcomes resulting in a complex political economy at the local level. The culture of political party representatives hijacking key development related activities to benefit their personal interests has affected local government operations and distanced the local citizens from participating in local matters. Although the APM was disbanded in 2012 upon direction from the CIAA, the political representatives continue to interfere with local governance operations.

Recognizing that education as well as poverty and other development and social aspects of the society are to be led by the local government and is only possible with comprehensively planned long range local development plans, COMMITTED will step into the area of local governance matters in 2014 and beyond. For the right of children and adults and the community at large, whether it is for education, livelihood, culture or similar, the local body has to be in the lead. For a local government to be effective establishment of a long range plan through a participatory planning process and their implementation is a must. Despite practiced annual plans, following the 14-step budget allocation process through a participatory planning process, expressed ward level needs are seldom translated into actual disbursement of funds for the identified plan components. The adopted needs/plans, are generally disregarded by a pecking order among key political representatives and community elites. Hence transparency and accountability are issues that require attention during the course of plan formulation and implementation.

Beginning 2014 COMMITTED will seek to formulate and adopt a long range plan with resource mapping for Thangpalkot VDC and integrate the income from the 'haatbazaar' and community fishery as added resources for the VDC to fulfill its obligations towards services expected by the citizens. With successful program implementation at Thangpalkot VDC, using the community social business in tandem with the long range plan formulation and implementation, COMMITTED seeks to showcase the model for scale up in other VDC of Nepal.

Impressions of Thangpalkot Community Fishery

