

Newsletter

Spring 2020



Above. Professor Tom Potokar and colleagues from ITCs in India, Nepal and South Africa., Kathmandu November 2019

There is always much to report and we are so grateful to all those who help us deliver our unique programmes to improve the quality of burn care and prevention around the world. The Interburns network is truly 'global' and yet often feels more like close family.

Our thoughts are currently with all healthcare professionals working at the frontline of this new pandemic.

Right. Female community health volunteers (FCVHs) receive training in basic burn care and prevention, Nepal.



News update

- Our training programmes have been badly affected by COVID 19 and we can only hope that the situation will ease in the coming months. We will work hard to increase the availability of online content and you can visit www.interburns.org for the EBC online course.
- We are delighted that we can continue our collaboration with Centre for Global Burn Injury Policy and Research, following an extension to the NIHR Grant. This extension will allow us to work together until July 2021.
- Applications for fellowships at Interburns Training Centres (ITCs) are 'on hold' during the current crisis. We will inform you when applications re-open.
- Programmes in Basic Burn Care (BBC) in Ethiopia, Nepal and the occupied Palestinian Territories (oPT) have successfully trained hundreds of community level health care workers in burn prevention and first aid, more details in our next issue.

Follow us for more news!



Participatory Burn Care and Prevention in Nepal by Kamal Phuyal, Sagun.

More than 80% of the population live in rural areas in Nepal (2011 census). Community level health posts provide basic health care for the local population, supported by up to 51,416 trained Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs). FCHVs advocate healthy behavior and report to local health posts and are crucial to understanding community level health problems and providing support.

As part of the ongoing NIHR project, Interburns partner in Nepal, the NGO SAGUN, organised an 'adapted' Basic Burn Care (BBC) course for FCHV's in November 2019. This course is called *Community Burn Care and Prevention (CBCP)* and focuses attention on the needs of the local community. It is a very practical course that helps to build skills about burn prevention as well as first aid. To make such courses work well, we ensure that community members are fully involved in helping us understand their needs and what will work in their community - it is a truly collaborative experience.



150 FCHVs were trained in 3 rural municipalities covered by the research project: Rasuwa, Makawanpur and Dhanusha districts.

The training included information on different types of wound and how they need to be looked after, We also discussed the way in which the time of year can make a difference to the risk of getting a burn, as well as the best way to refer patients to the right place to make sure they get the help they need. Participants discussed prevention strategies, such as better placement of cooking stoves or improving household wiring systems, and local erroneous beliefs. This was the first time FCHVs had received any training about burns and they committed to sharing what they had learned when they returned to their own communities.

Many thanks to the Sagun team: Kamal Phuyal, Anil Dhital, Bijay Maharnaj and Punyaswari Suwal with support of local facilitators: Sanjeev Mahato and Ramsharan Acharya.

Training EU Burn Assessment Teams (BAT) 19th-23rd January 2020

Mass casualty burn incidents overwhelm hospitals and medical staff in even the most well-resourced of settings. An innovative European response is to build specialist Burn Assessment Teams (BAT) including an anaesthetist, a surgeon, a nurse and a coordinator who can be deployed to provide rapid and reliable triage support. Interburns was recently the lead applicant awarded EU funding to design, deliver and evaluate the first ever pilot training for EU BAT teams, working with partners from the European Burn Association, Norwegian Directorate of Health and CGBIPR.

5 teams from France, Austria, the Netherlands, Nordic countries and Spain took part in 3 days of intense activity including group work, lectures and a simulation of a mass burn disaster in Anjörnm, Maland. Many thanks to Dr Amy Hughes, Course Director and all who took part.

“The teaching methods combining theory, practice and team building dynamics have been brilliant.”

“I definitely feel ready for a BAT mission!”



Burn Prevention work in Ethiopia, the West Bank and Nepal



Partner: AMREF Health Africa, Ethiopia

Key steps:

- Community surveys
- Develop + pre test toolkit
- Focus group discussions
- Basic Burn Care (BBC) for 84 Health Extension Workers including toolkit use.
- Translate into Amharic + Oromifa

Target: 44 health posts and seven health centres, 60% of households in estimated 107,000 population..

Key messages: most common types of burn (scald, flame); immediate first aid (cooling, cleaning).

Partner: SAGUN, Nepal

Key steps:

- Quarterly magazine 'Poush Jan' (burn); 1000 copies via health posts and local governors to communities and schools.
- Burn prevention training for 1000 Women's Cooperative members.

Planned: writing competition, street theatre.



Partner: Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).

Key steps:

- Community surveys and FGDs
- Working with Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD).
- Poster + brochure with simple, achievable message.
- Plan audience (work with Ministry of Religious Affairs at Friday prayers).

Target: PHC centres with emphasis on nurses + teenagers at schools or community centres.

