

2020

AT A GLANCE

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION



2,699

students reached
through DB4N's
CLEC network

9

new Collaborative
and Community
LECs in 4 districts.

4

existing CLECs
upgraded with
modern technology

Strengthened partnership with Kathmandu
University School of Education with the
signing of a Letter of Agreement for
research and the impact of CLEC

02

new members
joined the Nepal team



5 - GORKHA:
(3 school-based, 2
community-based pilots)
1 - UDAYAPUR
2 - KHOTANG
1 - SYANGJA

17 teachers certified with
the CLEC approach in
Teaching and Learning
(1-credit course with the
Kathmandu University School
of Education)

22+

educators and
municipal staff
trained on-site

29+

teachers participated in workshops
related to learning digital tools, use
of email & internet, etc.

03

donors joined an immersive
journey to see the impact of
CLEC and interact with the
students & teachers.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

CLEC #12, LAUNCHED IN TRIYUGA, UDAYAPUR



Triyuga Municipality has marked a major milestone in digital and collaborative education with the launch of Collaborative Learning Environment Center (CLEC) #12 at Triyuga Secondary School, Gaighat.

In partnership with Digital Bridges of Nepal, the municipality aims to promote hi-tech, inclusive, and collaborative learning as part of its vision to become a regional innovation hub. After a scouting visit in mid-August to assess needs and infrastructure, the CLEC was successfully installed and inaugurated from September 6–9, 2025.

Teachers and Grade 9–10 students participated in onboarding sessions that introduced collaborative learning

tools and methods. With strong support from municipal leaders and Chairperson Basanta Kumar Basnet, the new CLEC is set to enhance innovative teaching practices and empower learners across the community.



CLEC #13 & #14 LAUNCHED IN KHOTANG

Kepilasgadhi Rural Municipality successfully launched Collaborative Learning Environment Centers (CLEC) #13 and #14 at Shree Prithvi Ma Vi and Shree Kuhudanda Ma Vi from November 1–6, 2025, in partnership with Digital Bridges of Nepal.

Both schools were equipped with collaborative furniture, electrical setup, and laptops provided by the Rural Municipality. Teachers and students participated in onboarding and training on the CLEC approach, Shine Methodology, and collaborative learning practices. Municipal leaders praised the model and expressed interest in expanding CLECs to more schools. The new centers are now ready to support innovative, inclusive, and 21st-century learning in Khotang.



CLEC FOLLOW-UP FIELD VISIT 2025



As part of DB4N's commitment to follow up with every CLEC for at least five years, the CLEC Follow-up Trip 2025 focused on strengthening existing centers through continued, hands-on support. From May to July 2025, visits to Manang, Jomsom, Gorkha, and Biratnagar ensured that CLECs remained functional, actively used, and aligned with collaborative learning goals.

Key work during the follow-up included:

- Assessing CLEC usage and classroom practices.
- Replaced the non-functional equipment.
- Empowering teachers to lead collaborative teaching and learning sessions.

A MEANINGFUL JOURNEY OF CONNECTION AND IMPACT: DONOR'S JOURNEY 2025

The 2025 Donor's Journey brought supporters Catherine Wyle, Melanie Wyler, and Eileen O'Reilly to Nepal to see the impact of Digital Bridges 4 Nepal (DB4N) firsthand. From exploring Kathmandu's heritage to visiting the Collaborative Learning Environment Centers (CLEC) in Bhimsenthapa, the donors witnessed how technology is boosting student confidence and creativity. By staying in local homes and meeting with community leaders, the group deepened their connection to the mission, concluding the trip inspired by the students' growth and the program's bright future.



MINI CLEC: STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY LEARNING IN BHIMSENTHAPA RURAL MUNICIPALITY, GORKHA



In partnership with Digital Bridges 4 Nepal (DB4N) and Bhimsenthapa Rural Municipality (BTRM), the municipality has launched an innovative pilot initiative—the Mini CLEC—to bring governance, learning,

and digital access closer to every ward. Building on the success of school-based CLECs, this model directly connects each ward to the municipal office through digital platforms, promoting inclusive governance, faster decision-making, and equitable access to resources. Each Mini CLEC is equipped with an octagonal table, chairs, podium, SMART Board, and laptop.

Objectives of the Mini CLEC:

- Strengthen local governance through real-time virtual participation in municipal meetings.
- Enhance community learning with decentralized hubs for trainings, orientations, and workshops.
- Expand youth and citizen engagement through accessible digital tools and community programs.
- Reduce travel time and costs, enabling greater efficiency in local service delivery.

Early results are already visible: Ward 2 (Tandrang) is using the CLEC for workshops and meetings, while Ward 5 (Baguwa) has become an active hub for youth programs and community learning.

REFLECTION ON MY VISIT TO GORKHA

My recent visit to Gorkha for the pilot collaboration program was a deeply rewarding experience that blended professional mission with personal connection. Working alongside my team—Nitesh, Prakash, and Bholanath Dhital—we delivered five practical modules tailored to the digital needs of ward members, using hands-on activities to build their confidence. The participants' overwhelming curiosity even led us to introduce topics like AI and Google Forms beyond our original plan, sparking requests for more in-depth future training. The trip concluded with heartfelt feedback from attendees who found the technology accessible for the first time, and a reflective journey home with my team that reinforced the power of going the extra mile. Ultimately, this journey was a powerful reminder that simple, heartfelt teamwork can create a lasting impact and bridge the digital divide in meaningful ways.

- Tashi Norbu Lama, Trainer



CLEC'S TRANSFORMS GORKHA'S CLASSROOMS

Impact Assessment: CLEC Project in Bhimsenthapa, Gorkha

A six-month impact assessment of the Collaborative Learning Environment Center (CLEC) project across four schools in Gorkha—Shanti, Brindawati, Siddhakali, and Saraswoti Ma Bi—reveals a transformative shift in education. Implemented by **DB4N** and **KUSOED**, the project is successfully bridging the digital divide for **341 students** (over 56% girls).

Key Findings & Statistics

- **Student Engagement:** 95% of students reported increased interest in their studies; 78% found complex subjects easier to understand.
- **Teacher Approval:** 100% of teachers found the CLEC lab user-friendly, with an average impression score of 7.11/10.
- **Skill Development:** 85.7% of students noted improvements in teamwork, social skills, and mutual support.

Qualitative Impact

- **Self-Directed Learning:** Students like Sudip Lamichhane highlighted the power of independent research, noting that the internet facility allows them to learn beyond the standard curriculum.
- **Pedagogical Shift:** Teachers reported a move from theoretical to practical, research-based instruction. Lead teacher Jit Bahadur Ale emphasized that the approach fosters leadership and time management.
- **Community Leadership:** Rural Municipality Chairman Lok Prasad Banjara noted that CLEC has motivated positive behavioral changes and a culture of curiosity among students.

The Path Forward

While the project has redefined classroom dynamics, the assessment concludes that **strengthening digital infrastructure** and providing **ongoing professional support** are vital for long-term sustainability.

STORIES

"I really like the concept of the CLEC. Until now, I had never learned using this kind of technology, but the CLEC allows us to understand things we don't fully understand in the classroom through the internet and group discussions. If this project becomes successful in our school, we will be able to learn many new things.

I feel that the project work we do in groups is very creative because we don't just rely on reading books. I am very happy that the CLEC has been launched in our school. I believe our projects will be successful, and the CLEC will support us a lot—especially in preparing for the SEE."

ADITYA RAUT

Triyuga Secondary School



DONORS JOURNEY

-MELANIE



"The Donor's Journey is about telling the story of how DB4N interacts with the Nepali people and culture in order to create an innovative approach to strengthening communities through education."

In November 2025, I was part of a Donors' Journey group visiting remote municipalities in Nepal where DB4N had installed

Collaborative Learning Environment Centers. CLECs bring the most up-to-date computer equipment and effective teaching practices to public schools in underserved areas in order to reduce the technological and financial gap faced by students and their families. We met with teachers, students, and local officials, to ask them about their goals and concerns for the future.

We wanted to find out how the CLECs were helping them begin to move toward their goals and to address their concerns. We learned that the biggest problems facing these communities, and Nepal in general, are: lack of jobs, lack of education and training in remote areas, young people having to leave Nepal to get work, and human trafficking among girls and young women.

Over and over, I heard young people say they were worried about having to leave Nepal in the future, like many of their friends, to be able to work in countries that provided jobs.

Many teachers told us that DB4N helped them provide a more effective and modern education by installing computers in the CLECs.

This was my second Donor's Journey to support Digital Bridges, and what I am always amazed by is the combination of spirituality, the kindness and curiosity of the people, and the incredible history of the region.

These traits are well expressed by our Nepali "Team" who work on installing the CLECs in remote and underserved areas. As this was my second Donor's Journey, I was once again amazed and impressed by the combination of spirituality, the kindness and curiosity of the people in Nepal, and the incredible history of the region.

As Buddha was born in Nepal, and Hinduism as well as Buddhism are the main religions, spirituality is woven into everyday life. It is a way of being that blends ancient traditions into daily life.

NEW MEMBERS

FROM NEPAL



DB4N is pleased to welcome two new team members to the Nepal Liaison Office, marking an important step in strengthening our team support to deliver more CLECs across Nepal. **Neetu Khanal** joins us as the Impact and Engagement Coordinator, where she will lead story building efforts, support community engagement, and help enhance the visibility of DBofN's initiatives. Her role will focus on capturing meaningful field

evidence, elevating local voices, and ensuring that program impacts are communicated effectively to stakeholders.



Similarly, **Bholanath Dhital** has come onboard as the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, bringing expertise in data collection, monitoring frameworks, and results-based reporting. His work will contribute to stronger impact tracking, and improved program effectiveness across all CLECs. Together, Neetu and Bholanath bring valuable skills and enthusiasm that will support DB4N's mission of **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION**.

FROM USA



Chandler is a multicultural and multilingual nonprofit professional. He has a master's degree in international affairs from the University of Utah and 12 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, including significant international experience and experience working with immigrant communities. He has worked and/or studied in the United States, Lebanon, Mexico, Spain, Italy, and France. He has also worked with international organizations in Peru,

Afghanistan, and Mali before joining the Digital Bridges team. Chandler has worked predominantly in international development, refugee resettlement, Latino empowerment, and immigrant rights. Chandler brings nine years of development experience to the DB4N team, and is looking forward to growing the organization's budget and operations. In his spare time he enjoys comedy, poetry, music, and traveling.

Mingma Sherpa joins the DB4N team with a deep-rooted commitment to social change. Having started her journey as a volunteer at age 14, she has spent years learning how nonprofits can better support the communities they serve. With experience in both local and international settings, Mingma now coordinates our outreach efforts, ensuring that our communications remain grounded in the real-life experiences of the schools and communities we work in.



A NOTE FROM CLAUDE

- PRESIDENT, DB4N

As we continue to strengthen communities through education 2025 is coming to a close we have a lot to be thankful for, first let me acknowledge our donors who are making it possible for all the great work Nitesh and his team are doing in Nepal this year alone we have opened 9 CLEC (Collaborative Learning Environment Center) 5 in Gurkha 3 schools and 2 community based pilots 1 CLEC in Udayapur and 2 in Khotang to close the year we will open in Syangia at the end of December.

Today close to 3000 students are positively impacted by the CLEC concept and the work from the DB4N team on the ground in Nepal.

In November Ed, our founder, took a board member and others on a two week donor journey. The testimonials and photos they shared were inspiring and a living proof that the work taking place is life changing for the students that are part of the CLEC program.

2026 will be another very dynamic year with 15 CLEC planned. Our donor's contribution will be essential in supporting our growth, if you are not already donating please consider becoming one of our donors.

We continue to strengthen the U.S board to be at the service of our team in Nepal and are actively searching for a treasurer. If you know someone in your network please reach out to claudio@digitalbridges.org.

On behalf of our board, board advisors we would like to wish you and yours a Happy, healthy holiday season and Happy New year see you in 2026.