

Completion report – Pahar Trust Nepal – Shree Udaya Secondary School, Dhampus, Kaski

Ref: **SG013.15**

Aims and Objectives: The primary aim was to provide a safe, secure learning environment for the children of this Himalayan community. The school comprising of 10 rooms in a 2 storey building will be used as classrooms, teachers office and a library for Shree Udaya School. The primary objective of the project was to replace an old (non-Pahar Trust) school building which had been badly damaged and made unsafe for use in the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

Project Activities: The school building was successfully completed with the help of contractors and the local community in May 2017. The school and community as a whole are very pleased with their high quality new building. A team of 7 people who travelled with a company called Charity Challenge volunteered at Dhampus and helped for 5 days on the construction of Shree Udaya School. The group laid 3 concrete classroom floors and pathways. They also filled in the huge trenches which had to be dug for the foundations.

Timeframe: The project grant was issued February 2016. Once funding was confirmed the appropriate approvals were sought from the Social Welfare Council of the Government of Nepal. Work began on the site in May 2016 with site clearance of the old building with building materials retained where possible. Work was halted during the monsoon season June-September 2016 because it is unsafe to work and transport materials during that time due to heavy rain causing landslides and flooding. Work began again in October 2016 and completion was in May 2017. Work was slightly behind schedule due to general strikes in Nepal due to certain factions voicing their concerns over the constitution and proposed amendments and more recent local elections.

Replication/ Progress: We have built over 80 schools in Nepal. This has enabled us to modify and improve the design of the building over time. We maintain the highest standards by providing annual update training for our technical staff so they are always aware of the latest methodologies and technologies.

Development of Education: Throughout the construction of Shree Udaya School many PTN Trustees have worked in schools (on Island) and colleges. This was to keep them informed about the construction and to enlighten them about Nepal and Nepali culture. PTN have also had a respected teacher trainer from the Isle of Man in Nepal during February 2017. She ran training on areas such as school linking, the use of IT in the classroom and leadership and management. The training was attended by teachers from Shree Udaya School.

Beneficiaries: The immediate beneficiaries are the current students and teachers at Shree Udaya School. There are 275 students at the school. Secondary beneficiaries will be future generations of students in Dhampus and the whole community. It is hoped that this high quality school facility will help tide the flow of urban migration to Nepal's polluted and over-crowded cities where children do not have as good quality of life.

Community involvement: The community have been heavily involved in the project. Firstly, the community and their relatives in the UK raised £10,000 for the building project. Then the local community also helped to clear the site of the old ruined building and to transport materials from the local road head.

Liaison with authorities and government: The PTN is a well established and respected organisation in Nepal. Our partner organisation in Nepal is a registered NGO. We work with the Department of Education, in line with their guidelines and complement their requirements for the building of schools in Nepal. All our school building projects go through a rigorous approval process by the Social Welfare Council of the Nepalese Government.

Sustainability: Our qualified team in Nepal carry out an annual inspection of established Trust schools. We are confident that the community of Dhampus will cherish the new building and ensure it is maintained in the best possible condition. We will work with the community at Dhampus on an ongoing basis and are looking to establish a link for them with a school on the Isle of Man and help them to fund other education projects that they require in the future.

Monitoring and evaluation: The quality of the construction is evident from the photograph showing the completed school building. The Social Welfare Council carried out a recent inspection of our schools and found them to be of a very high standard. Our buildings are designed to meet all the requirements of the planning process and the Education department and are built to be earthquake resistant.

Sustainable development goals: This project provides a positive impact under the following UN sustainable development goals; 4 Quality Education, 1 No Poverty, 10 Reduced inequalities, 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.

Budget: The construction work was kept to budget. However we needed to send extra money to Nepal to cover the project than initially budgeted because Brexit had an adverse affect on the GBP:NPR exchange rate. In that one day the rate dropped from approx £1:NPR160 to £1:NPR130 and it has not recovered since. We were able to cover this exchange rate movement from donations received from the group which participated in the volunteering program with Charity Challenge.

Total contribution from Friends of Dhampus UK £10,000

Total grant from Isle of Man Government International Development Committee: £39,663

Total donations from Charity Challenge group to cover FX shortfall: £6,358

Total cost: £56,021

Total budgeted cost: £ 49,663

Harriet Hancox, Project Manager, Pahar Trust Nepal

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