

Completion report – Pahar Trust Nepal
Shree Ramkot Secondary School, Ramkot, Kaski



Ref: SG007.17 (Final report)

Aims and Objectives:

The primary aim of the Shree Ramkot Secondary School project was to deliver a new, 6-room, 2-storey school building to provide a safe and secure learning environment for the students of the village and surrounding communities. The existing school buildings had received major damage during the earthquake of 2015 and many needed to be demolished.

Project activities:

A stone laying ceremony was conducted by the Executive Director of Pahar Trust Nepal (PTN) in April 2018 and construction began in October 2018. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of July 2019. The work has been well supported by local contractors, the School Management Committee and the local community. The support of the community has been vital to the success of the project and included the preparation of the ground for construction and the provision of timber from the local woodland.

In July 2019 a group of students from Chew Valley School, North Somerset visited the school to help with finishing works including painting and tree planting.

Timeframe:

The project commenced in October 2018 which was later than the original start date of September 2018.

Construction was scheduled to complete in May however, due to the delayed start and heavy, unseasonable, rains in March and April the project has been slightly delayed and is expected to complete at the end of July 2019.

Replication/Progress:

In November 2018, PTN celebrated its 25th Anniversary of working to support the people of Nepal. To the end of 2018, PTN has delivered the following:

- 237 individual projects delivered
- 152 schools built, extended or renovated
- 656 classrooms provided
- 47 libraries created
- Over 40,000 students supported
- 29 other projects delivered including hostels, toilets and health posts.

The continued success of our work is due to the high level of quality of the construction and the ongoing relationships that are developed with the beneficiary communities and the donors, supporters and friends of the Trust.

PTN currently has over 100 projects waiting for support in the pipeline and more are received every month. It is estimated that the combined cost of these projects is in excess of £6,000,000 which demonstrates the continued need to provide support to Nepal.

Development of education:

The new school building will provide a much-improved learning environment for the students of Ramkot. In April 2019, the school received a new laptop and video projector from another PTN supporter which will help enhance the learning experience. PTN are also in the process of establishing up a link between Ramkot School and Ashley Hill Primary School, Onchan which will provide an ongoing relationship between these two schools to build friendships and share cultural experiences. This will be formalised in November when Howard Green, PTN President visits Ramkot for its official opening.

Beneficiaries:

The school has currently 392 students on roll with 184 girls. The new rooms will provide much more space for the students and will also allow for subject specific rooms to be set up which is important for secondary level education. The increased capacity will also allow the school to increase its student numbers in the future.

The school will serve the local population of around 6000 people and of these, nearly 1200 are under 17 so will be direct beneficiaries of the new school.

The wider community will also benefit from the new building and will be encouraged to use the space for out-of-school activities such as youth clubs or as a community meeting space. This approach is fully supported by the school management committee.

Community Involvement:

The community of Ramkot have been very supportive of the construction and have provided materials such as wood, from their forest and also labour, both skilled and unskilled. The community also carried out and paid for the site preparations to clear the construction area which required the hiring and use of heavy plant machinery.

Liaison with authorities and government:

PTN have a long-standing history in Nepal and has a respected relationship with the Department of Education and the Social Welfare Council (SWC). All projects are regularly monitored and approved by the authorities.

With the move to a federalised system of government in Nepal, PTN is well placed to further develop relationships with the Local Municipality Education Officers and it is hoped that this will increase local government support for the work of the Trust.

Sustainability:

As with all PTN projects, the community has been vital to the success of the project and the School Management Committee is focused on continuing to improve the education provided by the school. Since beginning the project, the school has developed an agricultural learning lab on site and continues to work to delivering the skills required within the community.

The formation of the new school link with Ashely Hill Primary School will provide an ongoing focus on education improvement and offers opportunities for teacher in both countries to learn and share ideas to enhance their work.

Ramkot School has also become a Life Member of Pahar Trust Nepal which is a demonstration that they are committed to continuing to build on their relationship with PTN and to provide the best education they can to their students.

Monitoring and evaluation:

Construction has been carried out by trained PTN staff who have remained on site throughout the build. PTN's structural engineer has also made regular monitoring visits to oversee the works. There have also been visits by UK Trustees in November 2018 and the UK Executive Director visited the site in April 2019.

All PTN projects are approved by the Social Welfare Council who have also conducted monitoring to ensure the quality of the school.

PTN will continue to monitor the use of the school and the education provided through an ongoing relationship with our office in Pokhara.

Sustainable development goals:

The project supports the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- 1– No poverty
- 4 – Quality education
- 8 – Decent work and economic
- 10 – Reduced inequalities

Budget:

As previously noted, the construction is now within its final stages and therefore the final costs have not been received for the electrification works and furniture. These are expected in the next few weeks.

As of 25th July 2019, it is expected that the works will be completed within the original budget.

A final budget breakdown will be provided once the project is financially complete.

Alan Sweetman
Executive Director – Pahar Trust Nepal
26th July 2019