



## Completion report – Pahar Trust Nepal – Shree Himalaya, Mauja, Kaski

Ref: SG007.17

**Aims and Objectives:** The primary aim of the project was to deliver a 6-room, 2-storey school building to provide a safe and secure learning environment for the students of the village and surrounding area. The existing school buildings were badly damaged by the 2015 earthquake and were described by the headteacher of the school as “... difficult and dreadful to run the classes in ...”.

**Project activities:** This construction project was completed in May 2018 supported by local contractors, the local community and a group of 42 volunteers from Santander bank who spent 5 days at the village supported by Charity Challenge. The group built ‘curtain walls’ on the ground floor of the building, created concrete steps and planted trees in the garden area. Community support has been invaluable in delivering the project which included the need to repair and improve the road access to the village after it was washed away in the monsoon. They have also provided labour and materials to ensure the project has progressed well.

Following the visit by Santander, a number of the group have carried out fundraising to support the school with the provision of uniforms for every child and to date they have raised over £4,000.

**Timeframe:** The project commenced in June 2017 and was originally scheduled to be completed in March 2018. However, due to damage caused to the road during the monsoon the project experienced delays. The road had to be rebuilt and due to its instability only small deliveries were able to be made. The building was finally completed in May 2018 and will be officially opened by the Pahar Trust Chairman in November 2018.

**Replication/Progress:** Pahar Trust Nepal has delivered over 200 individual projects in the country since 1993, the majority of these have been schools. Each construction project has different challenges and our team of skilled engineers and construction experts are trained on an annual basis to learn from our work and to look at new techniques to further improve the quality and efficiency of our projects.

**Development of education:** During the delivery of this project Pahar Trust Nepal has created a new post within the Nepali team to focus on the quality of education within our schools. The Education Improvement Officer will work with teachers and schools to develop a network to share best practice, lesson ideas and provide peer-to-peer support between teachers in these isolated communities.

The Trust is excited about the opportunities that this post will bring to improving the quality of education within schools, promote enhanced pedagogy and encourage teachers to utilise new teaching methods and technologies in a more structured manner.

**Beneficiaries:** There are currently 185 students on roll at the school and the School Management Committee is hopeful that the improved facilities will enable them to increase capacity by freeing up space in other school buildings in the village. The school will serve the

local population of c2300 individuals. Of these, 701 are estimated to be under 16 which provides significant for the school to increase its student numbers.

Secondary beneficiaries will be the community who will be able to use the school building outside of teaching hours and during holiday periods for community activities.

The School Management Committee are committed to developing opportunities for their students and we will work with them to identify a possible friendship school in the UK to expand the experiences of the students by sharing their culture with young people in another country.

**Community Involvement:** The community of Mauja have been very supportive of the construction and have provided both skilled and unskilled labour to deliver the project including painting, carrying out road repairs and helping move materials to site from road head to construction site.

**Liaison with authorities and government:** Pahar Trust Nepal has a long-standing history in the country and is well respected by the government and Department of Education. Construction is carried out in accordance to the requirements of the Social Welfare Council and is regularly monitored to ensure that our projects are delivered to a very high standard. With the current political changes in Nepal with the move to a federal government arrangement it is expected that there may be changes regarding how Pahar Trust Nepal interact with the local government as education will become locally controlled. However, our partner organisation in Nepal is a registered NGO and has strong relationships with the government so are well positioned for these changes.

**Sustainability:** The School Management Committee and the village leaders are very supportive of the school and have already shown interest in receiving support to improve the quality of their education provision. They are a forward-thinking community and have previously raised funds which have been invested to maintain and support the IT suite at the school.

Following the recruitment of the new Education Improvement Officer the Trust will be able to provide on-going support and guidance to school and, coupled with a potential link with a UK school, will ensure continued engagement of the community with the school.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** The construction of the school has been carried out with approval from the Social Welfare Council who have conducted monitoring of progress during the build to ensure the quality of the school.

The Trust will continue to work with the school to monitor the improvements of the education delivery within the school as part of the new Educational Improvement Officer's objectives.

**Sustainable development goals:** The project supports the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 1– No poverty, 4 – Quality education, 8 – Decent work and economic and 10 – Reduced inequalities.

**Budget:** The construction was delivered 908,073 NPR (£6,263) over budget against the original BOQ estimate due to the following reasons:

- The work started just before the monsoon and heavy rain damaged the road which needed to be repaired. Although repaired the poor road meant that delivery vehicles were unable to deliver full loads of materials which increased transport costs.
- Materials needed to be transported by hand from the road head to the school due to the damaged road.
- An increase in material costs was also reported due to a high rate of inflation and current political transition within the country.

Despite running over the initial estimated budget, the project was still delivered within the funding received by IOM Government due to;

- an improving GBP:NPR exchange rate,
- additional funding support that was received for the project from Santander (via Charity Challenge) and a local community leader,
- the local community have also agreed to contribute an additional 444,000 NPR (£3062) to cover some of the additional costs such as the road repair.

The final financial position is shown below:

Income source	Funding received
Mauja community additional contribution	£3,062
Grant from IOM Government	£41,272.50
Donation from Santander (via Charity Challenge)	£3,000
Donation from Om Gurung	£3000
Total project cost	£50,335

Original cost estimate - £45,676.32

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30<sup>th</sup> May 2018