

Interim report – Pahar Trust Nepal

Construction of 2 school buildings and education improvement in rural Nepal

Ref: SG09-19

Aims and Objectives:

The primary aims and objectives of the project are to:

- Construct two, new, 6-room schools within rural communities in Nepal affected by the 2015 earthquake.
- Improve the learning environment for students through the provision of a safe, secure, earthquake resilient and engaging learning environment. The schools identified in need of support were:
 - Shree Janakalyan Secondary School, Makaikhola (originally Shree Himalaya Secondary School, Gorje)
 - Satyasheela Secondary School, Pidhikhola
- Provide a programme of education improvement within selected IOM funded schools through teacher support and training

Project updates:

Shree Janakalyan Secondary School. Following the successful application, Pahar Trust Nepal (PTN) was informed by Shree Himalaya, Gorje that the school had been approached by another donor for support and therefore, no longer required assistance. An alternative project, of the same size and cost, was identified at Shree Janakalyan Secondary School, Makaikhola. However, due to heavy monsoon rains a site visit was delayed until October 2019 and the reallocation of funding was approved by the Cabinet Office on 25th November (Appendix 1).

During the development of the project at Shree Janakalyan, PTN were approached by the Chairman of the Madi Rural Municipality where the school is located, who proposed to provide funding (3,232,193 NRs) to the project in order to build an additional 4 rooms within the new school. Following further negotiation, it was agreed that a new, 10-room school would be built between both funds which will significantly increase the impact of the funding received from the IOM International Development Committee.

The match funding from Madi Rural Municipality is the first time that PTN has received this level of direct financial contribution to the capital costs of a project. It is a demonstration of the respect held for the work of PTN in the area and the increase in local decision making and funding through the federalisation of Nepal. PTN is seeking to develop this joint funding model for future projects where possible.

Education Improvement. Following the resignation of PTN's, Education Improvement Officer it was agreed that the programme of education improvement to selected schools funded by the Isle of Man would be provided by Global Action Nepal (see Appendix 1). This programme was expected to start in early 2020 but following the COVID-19 pandemic all schools in Nepal have been closed since March and there is currently no Nepali Government plan for when these will reopen again. This funding will be held in the UK until such time that the programme can begin again which is likely to be in 2021.

Satyasheela Secondary School, Pidhikhola. The construction project at Satyasheela Secondary School is expected to progress as specified and is scheduled to begin after the monsoon. This is on the assumption that there will be no impact from the pandemic.

Timeframe:

The foundation stone laying ceremony for Shree Janakalyan took place on 30th October 2019 and was attended by Mr Howard Green (MBE) and Mrs Sue Green, Co-Presidents of PTN (Appendix 2).

Construction began April 2020 due to the contribution from Madi Rural Municipality and subsequent redesign and costing of the project and the additional delay caused by COVID-19 and the lockdown in Nepal. Due to the requirement of Madi Rural Municipality to have expensed the funding by the end of the Nepali fiscal year, the works have been split into ground and first floor with the ground floor funded by Madi Rural Municipality and the first floor by IOM Government, International Development funding. However, all works are being coordinated by PTN.

Works to the ground floor of the building are now well underway and this should be completed by the end of July. The first floor will begin post-monsoon with the overall completion date for the school expected to be February 2021. (Appendix 2)

Replication/Progress:

PTN remains committed to its mission to improve education, health and sanitation facilities for disadvantaged communities in Nepal. From 1991 to the end of the 2019-20 financial year, PTN has raised in excess of £4,200,000 to support rural Nepali communities. Nepal has gone through significant development but the inequalities faced by rural communities in accessing quality education and health provision remain.

Summary of projects completed to date:

- 248 individual projects delivered
- 159 schools built, extended or renovated
- c680 classrooms provided
- 51 libraries created
- Over 40,000 students supported
- 38 other projects delivered including hostels, toilets and health posts.

Development of education:

As reported above, the education improvement programme has been delayed due to COVID-19 but will be rescheduled once schools in Nepal are able to reopen.

The provision of the new building at Shree Janakalyan will provide a significantly improved learning environment compared to the current conditions at the school. The new building will be earthquake resilient, providing a safe and secure environment to learn. The rooms will be larger, lighter, have insulated ceilings and be connected to mains electricity.

Following construction, PTN will encourage the school to become a life member of PTN and will seek to establish a link school in the UK to provide valuable support and engagement within education for the future.

Beneficiaries:

Shree Janakalyan Secondary School. The school has currently 196 students on roll with 78 girls and 118 boys. 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 secondary level grades account for 112 of the total number of students at the school. The increased capacity at the school will also allow it to increase its student numbers in the future.

The school will serve the local population of around 3,500 people and of these, 450 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.

Community Involvement:

The community of Makaikhola are fully committed to supporting the project and have contributed 20% towards the capital cost of the construction. The contribution will be provided through labour and materials.

N.B. Due to COVID-19, the community have been less able to provide labour during the current time due to social distancing during lockdown.

Liaison with authorities and government:

PTN continues its long-standing relationship with the Nepali Government and relevant departments including the Department of Education and Social Welfare Council. As outlined above, the relationship PTN has with the local Municipalities has continued to develop and it is hoped that further financial support will be received at the local level for future projects.

Sustainability:

As with all PTN projects, the community will be vital to the success of the project and the School Management Committee (SMC) is focused on continuing to improve the education provided by the school. A fund will also be allocated by the community and SMC to provide funds to ensure that there will be funding available for maintenance and up keep of the building.

The financial contribution of the Rural Municipality demonstrates the commitment from a Government level to support the education in this area and PTN will continue to work with the Chairman to ensure that the school can continue to develop the quality of the education provided.

Monitoring and evaluation:

Despite the challenges faced by COVID-19, PTN have been able to continue construction during the national lockdown with permission from the Local Government. Construction has been overseen by trained PTN staff, who will be on site for the duration of the works, to ensure these are delivered to the high quality expected of PTN schools. PTN's structural engineer has been in regular contact with the site team and following the easing of lockdown in Nepal will begin regular monitoring visits to oversee the works.

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

Sustainable development goals:

The project supports the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG1 – No poverty
- SDG4 – Quality education
- SDG8 – Decent work and economic growth
- SDG10 – Reduced inequalities

Budget:

As outlined above, the budget for Shree Janakaylan Secondary School submitted within the application to the IOM Government's International Development Committee has changed due to the additional funding received from Madi Rural Municipality. The funding of the school has been split into ground and first floor to enable the accounting of the spend from Madi Rural Municipality within the Nepali fiscal year. The summary budget for the 5-room, first floor of the school is shown below.

Cost item	Funding received
Total construction cost to PTN(UK) for 1 st floor of Shree Janakaylan Secondary School (5 rooms)	£36,178.84
PTN UK overhead contribution @10%	£3,617.88
Total project cost	£39,796.72

Income sources	Funding received
Funding request from IOM Government	£35,817.05
PTN UK funding	£3,979.67
Total project cost	£39,796.05

Original funding request - £42,819.66

As agreed on 24th June 2020, PTN will review the final costs of the project on completion and unspent funds will be returned to IOM International Development Committee.

Alan Sweetman

Executive Director – Pahar Trust Nepal

3rd July 2020

Pahar Trust Nepal

Registered charity number: Isle of Man 987, UK 1028469



Funding allocation change request for
International Development grant - SG 09/19

School construction project proposal and Education
Improvement Programme

October 2019

Introduction

Pahar Trust Nepal (PTN) successfully secured funding from the Isle of Man Government's, International Small Grants 2019-2021 programme. Funding was awarded for the "Construction of two school buildings and education improvement in Rural Nepali Communities". Two schools in Nepal were identified in the application with the first, Shree Himalaya Secondary School, Gorje scheduled for construction during 2019/20.

In September 2019, PTN were contacted by the community of Gorje to confirm that they had received a donation from a new donor and that support to construct the new building was no longer required.

PTN has, identified an alternative school to benefit from the Isle of Man Government Funding, in agreement with the Madi Rural Municipality Chairman, and request an alternation to the funding allocation.

Funding was also secured to provide salary contribution to the Education Improvement Officer (EIO) at PTN. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances the EIO relocated to Kathmandu and left the Trust. Following their departure, PTN has been in discussion with an established NGO delivering education improvement, Global Action Nepal (GAN) regarding a pilot programme of in-depth school leadership training and support at four Isle of Man supported schools.

GAN (<https://globalactionnepal.org/>) has been a partner of PTN work in Nepal for many years and their Director and Founder has visited the IOM on a number of occasions to work with local schools and to promote the importance of providing quality education in rural Nepal and the positive impact that the many link schools on the IOM can have to support this work.

Request for funding alternation

PTN request the following alternations to funding re-allocation of International Development Small Grants – SG 09/19:

- School construction (£42,820) to new community as outlined below.
- Education Improvement Officer salary contribution (£8,586) to pilot programme between PTN and Global Action Nepal.

New school construction project proposal

The new project identified would be in the village of Makaikhola, Kaski. This is within the same district as the previous project. The village has a population of c3,500 and is located about 2 hours East of Pokhara in the District of Kaski. As is common with many villages in Nepal, the main source of income for the village is from farming in the local fields.

Shree Janakalyan Secondary School provides education to 194 students from pre-school to 17 years old and has 18 teachers funded by the Nepali Government. The school is well attended but requires improved facilities and additional space to provide effective education.

The proposed project will consist of the demolition of an existing, single storey building which is old and was damaged in the 2015 earthquake (see below). This will be replaced with a new, 2-storey, 6-room building providing a spacious and safe learning environment for the students.



Project design and cost

The new school will be built to the current earthquake resilience standards and the designs are approved by the Nepali Government.

Pahar Trust Nepal (PTN) works in collaboration with local communities to ensure they are bought into the project and will take ownership of the new school once completed. The community will be required to contribute 20% of the overall cost of construction which may be provided through the supply of materials, labour and cash donations. PTN also provides opportunities to employ local crafts people and labourers to deliver the project which delivers additional income to these rural communities.

PTN are also in discussion with Madi Rural Municipality to provide additional funding support to the project.

The project will be undertaken in the same district and to the same designs as Shree Himalaya, Gorje. Therefore, the project costs will be unchanged to those previously submitted in the original application.

Images of school area and location







Appendix 2 – Project progress images

Foundation stone laying ceremony and site preparation



Construction progress images

