

HELP RURAL NEPAL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016



Help Rural Nepal has been working with our Nepali NGO partner Path Nepal, led by Shital Dharel since 2008. Together we have helped the people of a remote area in Dhading District with health and education projects.

2015 was a very difficult year for the Nepali people. The two major earthquakes struck in April and May devastating many lives. This was followed by the Indian border closure which lasted until January 2016. While people were struggling to rebuild their homes and lives, the closure prevented commodities such as fuel, medicines and cooking gas getting into Nepal. It also made any transportation within the country very difficult.



When the earthquake struck, Shital Dharel was immediately able to take emergency supplies to the village while we in the UK raised funds to send out to him in Nepal. It was wonderful to know he could get aid there so quickly. We would like to thank you all who supported Help Rural Nepal at this desperate time.



Pam visited Khahare village at the end of last year and saw the devastation the earthquake had caused and found that photographs didn't convey the scale of the disaster. Every building in the area had been badly damaged and almost all will have to be rebuilt. Most families were living in temporary huts but some people had started rebuilding.

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Help Rural Nepal's first school was very badly damaged and will have to be rebuilt. But amid the ruins we were pleased to see that the library cupboard was undamaged and the solar panels were still working. The children have transferred to Khahare school where they are very happy.

The community of mostly self supporting farmers, were harvesting the rice crop and trying to get back to normal life. The children were back at school and attending classes in makeshift classrooms.

In spite of everything we were given a wonderful warm welcome by everyone.



We saw the progress being made on the new building, funded by Help Rural Nepal which will provide 3 new classrooms.

Some of the damaged school buildings were being repaired by a wonderful team of volunteers.



We were able to donate cricket bats, footballs and volleyball nets to replace the lost sports equipment at Khahare school.

All the older classrooms here had been destroyed in the earthquake but the much loved library building survived.

Almost every home has a buffalo, a cow and a few goats and many of these animals were lost in the earthquake. The local Women's Group is organising a micro financing scheme where people can borrow money to replace their animals. Borrowers will repay the loan within an agreed length of time and the money will be used to lend again. Shital and Pam attended the Women's group meeting and donated money from Help Rural Nepal to start the scheme. The group will keep accounts and send us regular reports.



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A team from Nepal Kids Kino, Bristol, came to the village to show children's films on an large outdoor screen. Most children had never seen films such as The Jungle book (dubbed in Hindi) and certainly not on an outdoor screen in the dark.

They showed films in school playgrounds and at a nearby tented camp and brought much fun and excitement to the children and adults who had experienced such difficult times.

In the daytime the team organised film workshops at schools and showed the results later in the evening much to the delight of the children!



We were able to take warm clothes to help the community through the approaching winter and knitted blankets and baby clothes made by a group of Somerset knitters were given to the Health post to distribute to new babies. These were gratefully received and we pass on their thanks to you all.

Back in the UK our fundraising continues and with help from two Rotary Clubs we hope to be able to fund new school toilet blocks and improve hand washing facilities. The toilets were badly damaged in the earthquakes and this would be a great opportunity to provide hygienic facilities for the children at school.

We thank Chelwood Rotary, Rotary Bristol Breakfast and Chew Magna Independent Women's Group for inviting us to talk at their meetings and for their very generous donations.

Shambala Festival organised a Flags for Nepal fundraising appeal at their festival in August and we would like to thank everyone who sponsoring the prayer flags that were flying over the main stage. We would also like to thank the festival directors for their support and we look forward to working with them in the future.



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Many thanks also go to Nicola, Natalie and Roseanne who volunteered to run the Help Rural Nepal stall at Shambala Festival seen here with Catherine. The stall provided information about our work and the earthquake, sold Nepali goods and managed to enjoy the festival too!



Pam returns to Nepal in March and will be visiting all our projects. In the near future we hope to facilitate update training courses for the teachers in the villages.

We will continue to support the recovery program in the community.

Help Rural Nepal would like to thank you all for your continuing support. The earthquakes were devastating for the people of Dhading District and it will take years for them to fully recover. We will continue to support them with your very generous help.

Best wishes and thank you all



from

The Help Rural Nepal team- Pam, Felicity and Catherine
Shital Dharel from Path Nepal
and the next generation of Nepal.... Namaste!

www.helprruralnepal.org