

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2015

Our Summer Newsletter focuses mainly on the aftermath from the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal on the 25th April and news on how we have responded. Over 9,000 people lost their lives and over 23,000 were injured. At a magnitude of 7.8 with the epicenter lying east of Lamjung, it was the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal since 1934.

Hundreds of thousands were made homeless and entire villages flattened. Aftershocks are still happening and may continue for many months. Now the monsoon season has started causing landslides and sending more chaos to the already fragile infrastructure as they try to rebuild their lives and homes. The monsoon season is making the process of getting relief through to the more remote villages even more hazardous. It is also the planting season so farmers need to tend their land for future crops. Even without the earthquake disaster, this is the time when food is scarce in the villages – the new crops just being planted, and last year's stored food almost finished!

We set up an immediate on-line SOS Earthquake Emergency Relief Appeal and the response was truly staggering with over £24,605 donated to C.H.A.N.C.E. Thank you so much to everyone who gave so generously. There was the genuine wish to help in whatever way possible. Being so far away, this was best served by donations.

There is still much to do and from such a major disaster the long-term effect will take years to put right so we continue to need your support, especially as the media coverage has all but gone. Landslides at the end of July where 23 people died made a small piece in the newspapers!



Earthquake devastation



This family lost everything



So much damage

It is now over three months since the earthquake struck. The people of Nepal are known for their stoicism and resilience, but this major disaster took its toll. Just when people began to move back into their homes, if they were still standing, and shops started to reopen, another major earthquake hit again on 12th May with such force that many of the houses which were still standing after the first quake were brought down by the second one.

The International community, the Nepalese government, the police and the Nepalese people have been stretched beyond their capabilities in trying to first reach more remoter villages and bring aid as quickly and efficiently as possible and then to help with the rebuild, but where to begin with such a mammoth task? As I write this Newsletter, relief aid has still to reach villages that have seen no one since the first earthquake! How tragic is that! They have had to bury their dead and try to somehow to rebuild their lives.

From our appeal we immediately sent out £4,000 to provide water, food and shelter which was distributed on the ground by trusted friends and organizations quickly and effectively. We then looked to more long-term help with rebuilding; many of our projects needed this help.

From the £4,000 sent in immediate aid, 7 relief aid trips were undertaken. Two by Triple Gem School and 3 by Pegasus School (one of which you can read Kinley's personal account as well as other organizations we know and trust who visited remote villages in desperate need for food and shelter.

TRIPLE GEM SCHOOL



Foundations being laid for three new semi permanent classrooms



Finished with a new playground



Happy smiling faces of the children in their new classrooms

The school building for the younger children which is an 8 minute walk from the main school was severely damaged by the earthquake and structural engineers said the building was unfit for the children to return to. Lama Kondan the headmaster was most anxious to find a place to rent and the landlord of the unsafe building was in no hurry to repair the existing building so Lama Kondan has managed to rent a small piece of land adjacent to the main school and we provided £2,300 where three semi permanent classrooms have now been built with a playground. These classrooms, albeit not long term, tick all the boxes until Lama Kondan finds a more suitable piece of land. This plot is perfect for its close proximity to the main school which is on a year by year rental. All the materials used are reusable.

Tragically, Ajay aged 11 lost his life in the earthquake. We funded a memorial cup for Ajay who received his education through an English sponsor. The cup will be presented to the best overall

sports person on a yearly basis who will have their name engraved on the cup. A lasting memorial for Ajay.

PEGASUS SCHOOL

From your generosity to our appeal we funded three relief aid trips which Mr Kinley, the Headmaster, carried out with the help of teachers and senior students. These missions took place on a Saturday, when the school was closed. They took water, food and shelter to different villages on each relief mission.



Sharwan and Neejai, ex students wanted to come back to help



Happy villagers with supplies

Here is Kinley's account of one such trip. Two of the boys, Sharwan and Neeraj are on the bus in the picture above were sponsored for their education through C.H.A.N.C.E and have just completed the SLC (School Leaving Certificate) and are now at college.

Kinley's words: *Kathmandu, Nepal 11th July 2015*

It is now over two and half months since the major earthquake in Nepal – of the 25th April and then the one on 12th May.

We were very lucky to be provided help by many of our international friends – some whom I had not even seen and many who had not been to Nepal. We had managed quite a few trips to many villages to render our help by distributing much needed food and materials.

With the funds from C.H.A.N.C.E Nepal (UK) and the Lions Club in Australia, we made a relief distribution 2 trips to 2 wards of Perku Gabisa, Sindhuplachowk.

As usual we had the help of our hostel children when we were dividing the packages into individual packages for easy distribution. This time we decided to distribute to the people of the village of Perku Gabisa. They had 73 households in these 2 wards. The nearest vehicle stop was over an hours walk from the villages so we had to ask the villagers to come to our side of the hill.

Knowing that while we were waiting we would have lots of other visitors, we managed to take 102 packages.

We started at 6.30 AM. It was like always a mixed group of senior students and teachers. It was the same route we always used to take till a place called Dolalghat. From there we took the route that would take us through Khadechaur – the bus route towards Jiri, the old gateway to Everest before flights to Lukla started.

When we crossed Khadechuar, we got ourselves into a huge traffic jam. The road from the China – Nepal border had been closed since the first earthquake. And funnily it was on the 11th July that it was reopened so we had over 400 trucks on the way. Each police checkpoint had to have an entry of these vehicles documents and the manifest of the load and it was taking between 5 to 10 minutes per vehicle. For what purpose, we could not find out as all these truck containers were locked and sealed in the presence of the custom people at the border. So you can imagine the amount of time we had to wait at these checkpoints. The roads being narrow and the drivers in Nepal always wanting to rush around though never arriving on time anywhere – the way they rush about, you would all people in Nepal were very punctual and manage their time well), it was only at about 2.30 that we reached the distribution point.

And this time we saw a new crowd. We saw more of old people and young children who had come to receive the food packages as many of the adults had gone to find work (to Kathmandu) or were in the fields doing the planting and could not take the time off to come to receive the food, however important it was to receive the food packages.

And for this village, it was the first time that they had received any food packages. They had received tarpaulins from the government but not food. According to them, no INGO or NGO had reached them to help them with food. This made me wonder how they had managed and will manage in the future and how many such villages, far way form the motor roads were managing. Asking questions were futile, as I knew, we would not have the answers to their answers and would not know how to respond to their answers.

It is difficult to explain the mood of our trip, the mood of the people gathered. The desperation we saw in our previous trips to different villages was not seen as if it was hidden too deep inside or as if they did not care at all about their conditions and yet we could see some of them smiling and laughing when they were receiving the packages. We had taken some candies and treats for children and was shared amongst the adults also, and the adults acted like children when receiving it.

Life is hard for us. But I felt that it is very hard for these people affected by the earthquake. Houses destroyed. Most houses having some dead or injured. Daily tremors between 4 to 5 magnitude being experienced. So they can't even try to forget the experience and try to lead a new life. We could also see the new corn plants growing tall. Millets being just sown, so life is going on.

As usual the sad part was the leaving. In that short space of time, we feel a bit attached to the people, thinking that maybe we are bringing them some hope, that they are not forgotten and worst of all, yet again some people who has to leave empty handed. Because the village was opposite to Takanpur, where we did the previous distribution, some people from Takanpur had come expecting some help. Though it should have been 73 houses there were about 95 from these villages as some people from the nearby villages had also come so even with our extra packages, many went back empty handed. What to do?

We were getting late and so we started the return journey. And again we were stopped by the traffic jam. Trying to cross all those container trucks and trying to cajole the policemen into helping us across was yet another experience. But we finally arrived home at midnight. Exhausting day for all of us but as you know a very fulfilling day.

Tashi Delek

I felt the above account gives a great insight into one such trip. We have funded 3 such trips taken by Mr Kinley.



Father and son leave happy with much needed supplies from a Pegasus relief aid trip

As a result of a generous donation from the Rivers a trust, C.H.A.N.C.E has been able to provide the funds needed to build a new wing for Pegasus school which will provide two new classrooms and a multi purpose room. It was imperative for the Trust that the new build would be earthquake safe and so a structural engineer has drawn up plans, bore holes have been dug down for the foundations. Cement pillars containing steel rods giving a strong structure are being used. The building is in progress and I will post pictures in my end of year report.

GMIN

We have come to know of a brilliant organization called Grassroots Movements in Nepal (GMIN), which have built many semi permanent shelters in remote areas which were devastated by the earthquakes. Their aid was immediate, they were on the scene distributing at first tarpaulins, bamboo, food and water. Now they are building semi permanent shelters and schools. C.H.A.N.C.E has donated £4,600 to build three new semi permanent schools. See one of these below. The next one will be in the village of Sindhili 526km from Kathmandu. We are funding will have 5 classrooms and building is about to start in the next two weeks. It will have a concrete floor and steel rods making it a stronger construction which should then last 10 years or more until the government finally gets round to reaching out to these remote villages. We will also be supplying furniture for the school.



Foundations being laid



Construction of 3 classrooms

We also donated funds for one of many relief aid trip by GMIN taking emergency supplies of water and food

SHENPEN

We donated funds to give immediate financial aid to the women we support through skills training through Shenpen in outlying areas of Kathmandu. WCS (Women's Co-operative Society) requested financial assistance in preference to further training sessions in the aftermath of the earthquake. We donated to over 70 women.

We also donated funds for immediate relief aid in remote villages, which was undertaken by the monks from the Ka Ling Monastery.



We donated through Shenpen, our partner on the ground in Nepal to the monks from the Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery in Boudha who gave out food, water and shelter in immediate aid

RABIES VACCINATIONS

At the time of the earthquake, Street Dog Care were vaccinating dogs against rabies which is a yearly event funded by C.H.A.N.C.E. Below is part of Andrea Bringmann the founder of Street Dog Care's report.

Area of reach Street Dog Care (SDC), through the generous support of Shenpen and C.H.A.N.C.E for NEPAL (UK) was successful in vaccinating a total of 808 dogs in and around the Boudha area, reaching approximately 80 percent of the region's dog population. The funding for that came from C.H.A.N.C.E for NEPAL (UK).

Starting at the Boudha Stupa, four teams of volunteers, and four veterinarians worked out from all main roads and side roads; from Mahankal Road to Chabil, from Jorpati towards Mahankal Road/Medical college, including all side roads, from Boudha main road to Jorpati. During this weekend we were able to finish about 500 vaccination and were planning to finish the other half during the second weekend. Unfortunately this was not possible, due to the earthquake and we could only finish a total of 808 vaccinations this year, read report below.

During the second weekend we covered the southern areas of the main road, from Jorpati towards the Bagmati river, Tusal to Pashupathi - including all side roads. DOGS_Vaccinations were administered directly on the street at the dogs' natural residences, no dogs were removed from their territory, further reducing likelihood of stress.

Each vaccinated dog was marked and photographed. During our second planned weekend of the mass vaccination the big earthquake occurred on day one. Unfortunately we were not able to finish our goal of 1000 dogs, as we lost the remaining vaccination due to a lack of power and were not able to keep the vaccine cold for the coming days. We were lucky enough to be able to finish a total of 808 vaccinations during the whole rabies campaign and are still happy about the result. On the day of the earthquake our teams have been able to vaccinate about 300 dogs. Unfortunately we lost about 200 vaccinations, as we could not keep them cold. It was also very hot during the time of the earthquake, which made it even more challenging. It was a very difficult time for all the team, people and animals in the valley. Here a small report on what has happened during that day:

It was soon to be lunchtime on Saturday, April 25th when the first earthquake occurred. Our staff and volunteer groups were carrying out our street dog vaccination. The aim was to reach 500 dogs during that weekend, so as to fulfill our goal of 1000 vaccinated dogs in the Boudha area. Half way through, we were stopped by a display of nature's force so strong that Kathmandu is no longer the same city we knew before. Our teams were luckily out in the streets when the ground first started shaking. Then came long waiting times, full of fear and uncertainty while bearing the many aftershocks. We went together with dogs to fields or other safe places, away from buildings and walls that menaced to crumble down. Nobody knew yet what was really going on. As the afternoon came, our teams met at the dog centre and we could see, to our relief, that everybody was safe.



The team from Street Dog Care, Jasmin Brocking who manages the centre is on the far left |

Below is a list of how the funds were distributed.

£2,300 to build 4 new classrooms, as the junior block was deemed unsafe
£1,000 for 2 relief aid missions to remote villages
£600 immediate earthquake relief fund . The hostel collapsed and everyone was sleeping in tents.
£105 for a memorial cup for Ajay who died in the earthquake
£200 for Metok's family who lost everything

PEGASUS SCHOOL

£12,000 for new wing (2 classrooms and a multi purpose room)
£1,700 for 3 relief aid missions to remote villages

SHENPEN

£1,000 for WCS for financial relief aid
£500 for immediate relief aid to remote villages

GMIN

£2,800 to build a 5 room semi-permanent school in Sindhuli. To provide school furniture.
£1,800 to build 3 temporary classrooms in 2 schools.
£500 for immediate relief aid, water and food.

BURN VICTIM SUPPORT (BVS)

£500 to provide emergency aid to burn patients at the Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu

£25,005

I would like to thank you all so much for your amazing support. You have undoubtedly made a dramatic difference to many children and their families' lives.

OTHER NEWS



Our Drive Through Car Wash Event

On a VERY wet and soggy Sunday at the end of July, with Nepalese prayer flags adorning the William IV, a real country pub in Albury, Surrey, we held our C.H.A.N.C.E for NEPAL Drive Through Car Wash!!!

Even the weather could not dampen the enthusiasm of the brilliant team of washers. My HUGE thanks go to Christian Staunskjaer with the team of car washers, Alex Dangerfield, Tom Cain, Lewis Keen, Matthew Fletcher, Tom Westcott, and Ned Kelly and yes my husband Frank! They all worked so hard and with such good spirit.

Christine Fletcher and Christian Staunskjaer organized the event. How special are you guys! We had the kind permission of the Landlord of the William IV, Giles Madge, at Little London, Albury. Thank you Giles.

Amazingly, through the rain the cars kept coming! With donations per car wash plus raffle tickets sold we had made a brilliant £835 by the time the raffle was drawn.

The funds raised from this event together with a further donation from C.H.A.N.C.E has been sent out to GMIN to build a new school with 5 classrooms in the remote village of Sindhuli. I hope to visit this school and others we have supported financially when I am there in November. There will be more on this in my end of year report.

I look forward to being in Nepal during November. I hope to get out to remote areas as well as visiting our projects in the Kathmandu Valley and Chitwan.

We have an active C.H.A.N.C.E for Nepal Facebook page - Take a look and 'Like' it if you do! All our projects are monitored regularly.

Have a wonderful summer

Barbara

www.chancefornepal.org