

CHANCE for NEPAL 2020 REVIEW



*Our wings are small...
...but the ripples of our heart are infinite*
Amit Ray Author & Spiritualist

My goodness! What a challenging year 2020 was for us, and indeed all charities near and far!

However, with the wonderful support from so many, we have remained positive and have continued to make an impact on the lives of hundreds of children and their families. Covid-19 still continues to cause havoc in Nepal, with inadequate testing and diagnostic analysis and with so many people in remote areas of the country unable to reach medical facilities, many will have died from Covid. Official numbers of cases and deaths are low compared to the UK, but the misery caused by starvation has taken its toll. Schools, colleges and universities had, at best, limited online classes for many months, mainly for older students with access to the internet

Daily migrant workers unable to feed their families without work was so stressful for everyone, bringing misery upon misery with starvation. In May we ran an SOS Food Relief Appeal and the incredible support we received raised over £13,500.....it just blew me away - I cannot thank you all enough, so humbling as we too were in grave hardship due to Covid. The funds raised from our SOS were sent to our partners on the ground who organised the distribution of relief food parcels for those most in need. From Kathmandu Valley, Bhaktapur, Chitwan and Malwanpur in the south, Nuwakot, in the north and Dang in the west.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Funded two new schools in Surkhet district
- Funded over 1000 relief food parcels, each feeding a family of 5 for two weeks
- Funded 1000 anti-rabies vaccinations for dogs
- 26 children receiving educational sponsorship in schools/colleges/universities
- Funded a nurse and medicines plus running costs of a Health Post in Dang
- Funded books and the salary of a librarian at Dhubichour School, Dang
- Funded 3,550 hot meals through GMIN to migrant workers during the pandemic
- Funded 410 Physiotherapy sessions, 273 family counselling sessions and 260 food baskets on the Burns Unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital in Kathmandu.

DONATIONS Received:

• Pegasus Project	£23,353
• Aerobytes	£10,000
• Joanna Lumley	£ 5,000
• Peter & Rosy Gent	£ 5,500
• Shah Jahan Mosque - Woking	£ 5,000
• Martin Gordon	£ 2,400
• Geraldine Williams	£ 2,000
• Alan Rivers	£ 2,000
• Tudor Grange School	£ 1,855
• Valerie Lee	£ 1,400
• Ivy Tan	£ 1,000
• Keith Payne	£ 1,000
• Malcolm Pride	£ 1,000
• Jane Lewis	£ 1,000
• L G Seidel	£ 1,000
• Hugo Wagner	£ 942
• David & Jenny Bradshaw	£ 750
• Bonny Dodson	£ 540
• Suria Solutions	£ 500
• Tracy Robinson	£ 500
• Stephen Dennison	£ 500
• Janet Milton	£ 360
• Peter Gellatly	£ 355
General Donations under £300	£ 4,955
HMRC Gift Aid	£ 8,000
Educational Sponsorships	£ 9,148
CHANCE 100 Club	£ 3,785
Fundraising Events 2020	£ 4,810
Total	£ 98,653

Fundraising Events - Our heartfelt thanks to our fundraisers of 2020.

Ashley Sault 50 th birthday fundraiser	£ 1,000
Jane Edwards 40 th birthday fundraiser	£ 675
Andy Noble and Bioscript	£ 1,800
Ali Moore	£ 40
Sharon Yuen birthday fundraiser	£ 200
Crab Pot Café, in Cromer – Gratuities	£ 735
Total (as above)	£ 4,810

Grand Total 2020

£ 98,653

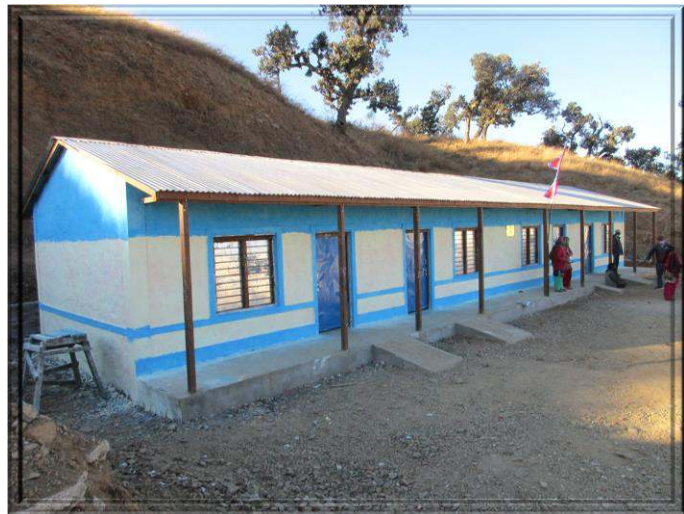
OUR PROJECTS

EDUCATION

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING: Nepal Rastriya Basic School, located in Hansigaun, Panchapuri.

This is our 4th school building with the brilliant organisation GMIM and their 44th school! The new wing of the school will be a great addition for the Nepal Rastriya Basic School, located in Hansigaun, Panchapuri, rural Municipality, Surkhet which lies 650kms from Kathmandu. The wing should have been started in March, but lockdown struck. Then the monsoon followed by yet another lockdown! Finally, just before Christmas the wing was completed and handed over to the school. Opened for only two weeks before a positive Covid case was reported and the school closed again. I understand from January 2021 physical classes will resume.

The school is located on the top of a hill, 44kms from Birendranger and 3 hours walk from the nearest road. The school has 244 students from nursery to Grade 8. My thanks go to Peter and Rosy Gent who donated £6,250 including gift aid, and to Jatinder Dosanjh, Tim Young, Balaji Seevaram, Sanjay Kumaran Chandrababu and Velraj Huppusamy, 9 guys who came together in October 2019 to trek to Everest Base Camp and raised £6,035 for our projects in Nepal.



We used £3,750 from this to make up the £10,000 needed to build this wing. Each classroom will be furnished with tables, a carpet and white board. The building will be known as the Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Edmund Hillary Wing, these two men being the first to climb Everest in May 1953.

2nd New School Building in Bhudebhaber, Surkhet.

In December 2020 construction of a new wing commenced at Shree Nepal Rastriya Primary School. This school has 220 students in classes from nursery to Grade 5 and the new wing will provide 4 additional classrooms. The school is located in Surkhet Choukuney, rural Municipality ward No 4, which is in the west part of Surkhet and 75kms from Birendranagar, the capital of Surkhet district. It was established in 1988 by the local community. The school currently has only one safe classroom, therefore the majority of classes are conducted outside - no fun in the cold winter months. This school is due to be completed by the end of February 2021.

It is thanks to **Pegasus Project UK**, an educational sponsorship charity which has organised educational sponsorships for students in Nepal for the past 17 years, that this new school wing is being funded. Pegasus Project wound up its affairs and donated their balance of £23,353 to Chance. We felt it would be a fitting tribute and legacy to have a school wing in their name and used £10,000 of their donation for this build which included £1,500 for the furniture for the four classrooms. The wing will be known as 'Phoenix'. We used a further £5,000 from their donation to help their past students and their families over the lockdown period by way of a food allowance over 7 months duration. The remainder of their funding went to our Chance projects.

“The Pegasus team are delighted to hear the school building is nearing completion and that children in Nepal will continue to benefit from their legacy into the future.” Pegasus Project UK

MAV SCHOOL UPDATE

Due to over 6 months of closure because of the lockdown, except for some on-line classes for the older students, the funds we had given for the Tiffin meal programme were used to help the families most in need at the school to buy food for their families at this critical time. We also fund water for the water tank and soap so the children can wash their hands, before eating and after going to the toilet.

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME – something to celebrate!

Our educational sponsorship programme started in 2007. **Mingma** was our first student, aged 5, and is now in his first year of college and still with the same amazing sponsor, what staying power Malcolm!

Sonam Lama aged 22 also had the same sponsors through her education, Lynn and Nick, and here she is the first student to graduate with a Bachelor degree in Hotel Management, which included a year in a hotel in Thailand. As part of her degree she worked part time in a restaurant during her last year to contribute 50% of her final year’s fees. All credit to Sonam, what a wonderful achievement.



Sayun Lama, below aged 22 is taking her final exam in January 2021 for her Bachelors in Computer Science, specialising in network technology and cyber security.



Not letting the girls run away with the honours, **Neeraj** aged 23 is in his final BBS 4-year degree, thanks to Jackie and Chris.



We have several more students coming through college with 25 students in total receiving educational sponsorship in schools and colleges.

Seeing these three mature young adults is testimony to their hard work and determination to make themselves and their sponsors proud. The best thing you can give a child is a good education which hopefully will secure them a good job in the future. I am thrilled for Sayun, Sonam and Neeraj and all the others who have done well. This makes my heart sing!

Other news

In October, GMIN, our long-term partner on the ground, brought to our attention the plight of Mr Yagya Lal Yogi, his wife Meena and their two children, Deepak 11 and Deepa aged 14.

Yagya and Meena had been working in India for 17 months, to earn money to clear their loans in Nepal which had incurred very high interest rates. Yagya is partially deaf and has learning difficulties and both are illiterate. Meena went to India with Yagya for support. They both worked as farm labourers to earn the maximum possible, leaving their two children with relatives in their home village near Surkhret. At the beginning of August, when lockdown eased for a couple of weeks they returned home to their village, the journey using up all their savings. A precarious journey nevertheless during the monsoon season!

On arrival, they were quarantined for one month before at last being reunited with their children. Three weeks later, the torrential monsoon rains washed away their home and they had nothing!



CHANCE wanted to help this family and donated £1,000 to build a one room new dwelling for them and supply new bedding.

I say **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful supporters of CHANCE – your support means special things like this can happen – hopefully this family's lives will be turned around for the better.

Papa's Children's Home

Our 10th year of supporting Papa's Home by funding the food for 22 children. During the pandemic, half of the children returned to their villages to stay with relatives where it was thought safer than being in Kathmandu.



Over the years of supporting Papa's I have watched the children grow, some of them into teenagers and two now at University, what a credit to their hard work and the care and attention of Lalit and Dhanusha his wife who run the home. Dhanusha is a great cook as you can see.



Chance also has 5 children with English sponsors. One generous sponsor, Valerie Lee, bought a laptop for the children's use so that they could continue with on-line classes during lockdown.



On my birthday in December, they arranged a skype call and bought a cake and sang happy birthday which was so lovely, then devoured the cake before I could say save a slice for me!

HEALTH

BVS (Burns Violence Survivors)

In 2020, Chance funded 260 nutrition baskets, 95 Goody bags, 410 sessions of physiotherapy and 273 sessions of family counselling for children on the Burns Unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital in Kathmandu. Sadly, several months of lockdown meant the BVS team did not have access to the ward to provide the food baskets and goody bags, though the counselling and physiotherapy continued.

Nutritional support is a critical aspect of burns treatment. The metabolic rate of burn patients can be greater than twice the normal rate, and this response can last for more than a year after the injury. Significant nutritional support is vital for burn patients' survival. The nutrition program promotes optimal wound healing and rapid recovery from burn injuries and minimizes the risk of complications, including infections during the treatment period

BVS visits Kanti Children Hospital on a weekly basis. Each child receives a food basket which includes as recommended by the medical staff, eggs, bananas, apples, high calorie food supplement, fruit juice and biscuits. They also receive a Goody Bag with a toothbrush, children's stickers, knitted doll, soft toy, Rubik cube and a rattle of babies.

Tensin (name changed for protection) is 10 months and lives with his parents in Kathmandu. He is an only child. His father is a driver and his mother a housewife. Tensin suffered 18% - 2nd degree burns to the lower part of his body. His mother had plugged in an electric kettle to boil and had gone outside for a few moments to bring in the washing. Tensin pulled on the cord of the electric kettle and water spilled out onto him. His mother applied aloe-vera and he was rushed to hospital for first aid treatment. After two days his condition deteriorated and he was brought to the burns unit at the Kanti.



Sujan, (name changed for protection) aged 5, lives with his mother, step-father and three siblings in Kathmandu. His step-father is a labourer and mother a housewife. Sujan suffered 20%, 2nd degree burns to his neck and face, hand, chest, stomach and right knee. His parents separated when he was young and his mother married again. Their financial situation is extremely poor. His step-father was cooking lentil soup on a low stove. Sujan was playing nearby and tumbled into the hot pot of lentils. His step-father immediately removed his clothes and poured cold water on the wounded area. After that, he was taken to a nearby pharmacy where he received only a dressing. After 2 days, he was brought to the Kanti Children's Hospital. After a few weeks in hospital he was discharged after surgical treatment.

A split second is all it takes to change a life forever! It can be hard for us to imagine how many of these terrible burns can happen, so many seem through carelessness. I have seen the living conditions of many, with open fires to cook on and warmth, just built on the dirt floor inside the home. Maybe the father is away working to send money back to the family, mother might be looking after 2, 3 or 4 children in one room, no convenience food, but cooking from scratch for her family, trying to keep things tidy, children playing, rough and tumble, slipping and falling, all in cramped conditions. Mother leaving her children to go to the nearest well for water, which may be a 15 minute walk or more. No clean work surfaces, no cupboards to keep things in, puts hot liquids on the floor to cool while cooking something else, small children around her feet, yes, just one split second!

Each year, we fund an emergency fund for BVS of £1,000 to help families with the lowest income and in dire circumstances. Many patients can have great distances to travel, from as far away as Dang in the West, for the expertise of the specialist burns unit in Kathmandu, they have little means to return home or buy necessary medicines once they leave the hospital. The emergency fund may be used for debridements, skin grafts, food for the journey home, sometimes clothes if the families' circumstances warrant this help. BVS do a truly amazing job and Chance have been supporting the burns unit for over 14 years. BVS send us a monthly report of the children who have received help from CHANCE in one way or another.

Should anyone like to donate specifically to increase this fund so we can do more, please contact: info@chancefornepal.org

Mountain Heart Nepal (MHN) – New Hospital in Hetauda update: Siddhasthali Rural Community Hospital

The initial hospital which was shared in my last Newsletter has been fraught with problems at local and government levels so has now been moved to another site close to the initial one. The ethos, aims and objectives of MHN remain the same as with the initial hospital. The design had to be changed due to a smaller plot of land.

Dr Aban Gautham (Founder of MHN) writes:

“The proposed hospital will provide quality treatment for a very low price (lower than any other hospital) to everyone and free treatment for patients who cannot afford treatment. The low fee policy based on the ability to pay would enable the hospital to become self-sustainable and support Mountain Heart Nepal’s projects to make health care accessible to those residing in difficult geographical locations throughout Nepal.

The construction for the initial hospital design could not move forward as we were not provided with a building permit by the Municipality and they suggested getting approval from the Council of Ministers for the lease agreement. Approval from the Council of Ministers would take several years and be a tedious process. As a result, there was a need for a new approach to implementing our hospital project without further delays.

Although it was a daunting task to start from scratch, the following solution was agreed upon consultation with donors, stakeholders and board members.

Solution 1: *The purchase of private land by the hospital as this would solve the problem of getting a building permit. Obtaining a building permit was vital to allow risk to be managed well as the hospital building, equipment, staff and patients can be insured.*

Solution 2: *Since land is expensive and with limited funding, it was certain that we could only purchase a smaller plot. Therefore, it was necessary to change the initial design of the building as*

it needed a much greater area. Hence, the need for a permanent multi-storey building to accommodate all health services on a smaller piece of land.

The objectives remain the same:

Objective 1: To provide affordable and quality healthcare for all, in particular, free healthcare to deprived groups, marginalized people, women, and children.

Objective 2: To meet the health needs of people residing in rural Nepal through comprehensive promotive, protective, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care by strategically prioritizing key health care services aimed at individuals and families.

Objective 3: To establish outreach centres, conduct and collaborate for clinical research and to be an effective centre of excellence.

Objective 4: To rapidly mobilize hospital staff to respond to epidemics, floods, and landslides through health camps.

Objectives 5: To empower individuals, families, and communities to promote and protect health and well-being.

Chance for Nepal a UK registered charity added value to this hospital by adding a sensory garden dedicated to Jenny Bradshaw. Jenny's parents and Andy Sturgeon a UK garden designer of distinction, have both agreed to support Mountain Heart Nepal's new plan. Jenny's parents, along with Chance for Nepal will fund the garden designed by Andy in this new location.

Chance for Nepal is also supporting us by funding 15 hospital beds, an incubator, wheelchair, and by offering two disadvantaged women from the local area, to attend a vegetable skills training course with the Women's Cooperative Society (WCS). The training will enable the women to return to the hospital site with the knowledge (and support for each other), to grow vegetables which in turn they will sell to the hospital to feed staff and patients as well as sell at market, thus enabling them to educate their children with the money they make.

The construction of the initial 15 bedded hospital is funded by Direct Relief, USA.”



The new design for a multi-storey hospital

For any inquiries relating to the progress of the proposed hospital, or if you would like to get involved in any way, please contact us at mountainheartnepal@gmail.com

The foundations are being laid in January 2021

Other Health News:

Health Post in Purandhara, Dang – Western Nepal

Chance funded the building of The Health Post in 2018 which had 1,781 patient visits during 2020. We funded the running costs, medicines and salary of a CMA (nurse) and a caretaker/helper who lives on site which amounts to £4,000p.a. Tigers have been spotted close to the Health Post so as a precaution it was felt necessary and safer to have a live-in helper/cleaner. Patient numbers increase month on month and the Health Post is a great asset to the local villages.



Rabies Vaccinations with Sneha's Care

Chance donated £1000 which funded 1000 anti-rabies vaccinations for dogs - these were carried out by Sneha's Care during May and June.

SOS Food Parcel Distribution

The relief food parcel distribution continued into late Autumn when the lockdown began to ease and migrant workers returned to work. It is still unknown just how long their work will continue for. In the photo below is Dhruva Giri, founder of the Sapana Lodge together with his team distributing food parcels. These purchased with donations from Chance and others during October to 665 families in rural Ichchhakamana where the migrant workers had no work, so no pay = no food.



Special thanks

Firstly, I would like to say a massive *THANK YOU* to everyone who has supported Chance for Nepal during 2020 where we have witnessed a year like no other due to Covid and all its consequences as well as so much hardship here at home. You still found love and compassion to give generously. With your kindness we have undoubtedly saved hundreds of lives and greatly improved the lives of thousands! All this would not be possible without your support.

My deep gratitude to our wonderful Patron, **Joanna Lumley**, and trustees **Edmund O'Reilly Hyland** and **David Smail**.

A massive thank you to **Viv Craggs**, who does the reconciliation of the banking for the accountants and **Wilkins Kennedy** who for the past 13 years have audited the accounts for free as their donation to Chance. **Adrienne Golightly** who runs our CHANCE 100 Club, both hers and Viv's spread sheets are legendary! **Chris Blizard**, a whiz too, who manages gift aid for Chance. They give their time and support freely, and Chance couldn't operate without their valuable help and support.

Thanks to all our educational sponsors and members of the CHANCE 100 Club we have 95 members and would like 100! Please email info@chancefornepal.org if you would like to come on board. Just £5 per calendar month and the chance to win one of three monthly cash prizes of £120 - £80 and £50 respectively.

A special mention and thanks to **Eddie Forrester** of **Aerobytes** who for the last 5 years has been a corporate sponsor for us. One of the kindest and most generous of men.

Paul Lamberty, founder of **Boonwag Digital Marketing**. Paul, our website designer, keeps us at the top of the search engine, thus bringing ever increasing donations to Chance. Paul also helps throughout the year with adding our posts to the website.

Thanks to **Raissa Distefano** who monitors our education programme. There could be no education programme without her careful and thoughtful monitoring.

Special thanks to our partners on the ground in Nepal who regularly update me on our projects: Shenpen (Rangjung Yeshe Shenpen) - Grassroot Movement in Nepal (GMIN) - Mountain Heart Nepal (MHN) - Sapana Village Social Impact (SVSI in Chitwan) - Burns Violence Survivors (BVS)

We would love to hear from anyone who may like to fundraise for us. 2020 was such a tough year to fundraise with no gatherings, marathons cancelled, none of our quiz nights were able to go ahead, everyone told to 'stay at home'. Hopefully during 2021, with the massive vaccination programme, life will regain some normality!

Not having my annual visit in November due to the virus left a massive void in me. With every fibre, I plan to be back in my beloved Nepal in November 2021.

Barbara

Barbara Datson
Founder Chance for Nepal.
You can follow us on Facebook: [Facebook/chancefornepal.org](https://www.facebook.com/chancefornepal.org)