

CHANCE FOR NEPAL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021



It's such a crazy world we are living in, with so many unknowns and constant adjustments with the easing of restrictions ! The last six months have been an anxious time and particularly hard for the Nepalese. With the lockdown at last easing, comes the arrival of the monsoon season, seeing the worst rains in over a decade with many livelihoods in ruins. One blow after another! Life is hard and desperate, the stoical Nepalese soldier on the best they can.

We are in regular contact with our Nepalese friends and long-term partners on the ground and have been quick to act and make a difference in this time of urgency and crisis.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our SOS Emergency Food Parcel Appeal. This raised a hugely impressive £8,500, all these funds have been sent to our partners on the ground. My heart filled with joy for the many families we have helped, and continue to help with food packages and the loyalty you give to CHANCE. As donations came in, they immediately went out and turned into food packages which were in turn distributed within days to give emergency food relief aid to hundreds of families in Kathmandu, Dang in the West and Chitwan and Kalika in the South.

The second wave of Covid 19 hit much harder than the first, consequently the official death toll increased dramatically to almost 10,000. Only deaths of those who died in hospital were reported. Deaths occurring in villages and remote areas (often where there is no medical help) were not included in the government figures so the death toll is far higher.

All schools have remained closed for physical classes for the most part of this year so it's been a case of resorting to on-line teachings, which brings its own problems, such as students needing a mobile phone and internet access to be able to log onto the internet for the teachings. A good second-hand mobile phone is 5000Nrs = £40, and this of course is out of reach for many - if it comes down to the choice between a phone for their child's on-line education or food on the table..... it is down to survival!

In conjunction with the Plymton Rotarians we are helping to fund the salary of a qualified nurse/counsellor and an emergency free phone line for a trial of 6 months, and a computer for the collection of data for people struggling with Covid symptoms. It is hard to imagine how it feels being alone with no medical intervention, in remote regions, each day fearful. The free toll line gives them reassurance and advice on how to cope with their symptoms or those of a family member and with a follow-up call to see how they are coping. To get the helpline known in communities, a radio jingle, giving out the number is transmitted several times a day for a one-month trial. This project received £2,500.

The following images show emergency food parcel distribution from our three partners on the ground:

- Grassroot Movement in Nepal (GMIN)
- Mountain Heart Nepal (MHN)
- Sapana Village Social Impact (SVSI in Chitwan)





Our partners work tirelessly to make up food parcels and distribute them to the most needy, in collaboration with the local ward office of each district.

Here is a link to a short film taken of one of the emergency food distributions made by SAVI. More than any words I write, this makes my words sing, with English subtitles, you will be rewarded to watch to the end.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OYXNpY4ki4>

Below, a brief outline of our achievements for the first half of 2021 – a more detailed account will be in our Annual Review.

January

Our 5th new school was completed by Grassroot Movement in Nepal (GMIN) - The Shree Nepal Rastriya Primary School, situated in Surkhet Choukune, West Surkhet with 220 students. The building work started in December 2020 and was finally completed and opened at the end of January 2021.

The Shree Nepal Rastriya Primary School



March/April

Skills Training with Women's Co-operative Society (WCS)

We funded two skills trainings with WCS, one in Gagalphedi, Sankhu, the other in Jhankhel, Bhaktapur. A total of 63 underprivileged women attended the intensive four-day training in elementary vegetable farming. These women are able to earn enough from selling the vegetables they grow at local markets to fund their children's education. Empowering women to have their own business and learning how to manage their own finances is a real success story with WCS. It can become quite a social affair with some women having a plot of land adjacent to each other, sharing ideas, rotating crops, supporting each other and their local community. The aim is to enhance self-employment, empowerment and economic productivity. 94% of the women who have participated in one of these trainings has significantly increased their annual income.

For the past 16 years we have funded well over **1000** women through both elementary and advanced vegetable farming. SHENPEN our long-term partner on the ground (since 2005) monitors this programme.



March

Shree Secondary School – Chitwan -Sports Equipment

We continue our support for this school. Six years ago, we provided concrete posts and nets for two Volleyball pitches and a concrete table tennis table. In March we funded 5 footballs, 10 table tennis bats and balls, 20 skipping ropes, 5 volleyball nets plus other smaller items – (£240), providing the students with lots of necessary activity for good health and wellbeing.

This is a government school where for years we have funded a 'Tiffin' meal programme for the youngest children.



April

Mountain Heart Nepal - Medical Check camp at Makwanpur

People of low socio-economic groups living in Hetauda-6, suffer multiple problems of illiteracy and connectivity hence are deprived of quality medical care. To address this, Mountain Heart Nepal conducted a free medical camp to provide preventive and curative health services. The medical camp led by Dr Aban Gautam - founder of MHN and 4 doctors used the premises of Shree Krishna Primary School to provide free health check-ups and medicines to 250 patients and 100 children. CHANCE funded all medicines for the medical camp.

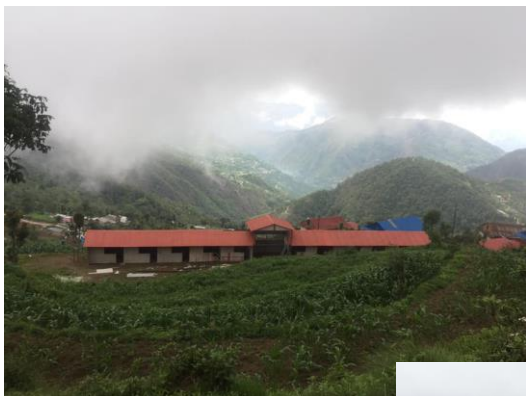


May/June

The Nima Academy - Ramechhap

Bimala Ghising, co-founder of the school with her sister has just completed their new school building. The school is situated at 3140 metres above sea level and 5-6 hours from Kathmandu. There are 9 students from the age of 5 – 13 who stay in the school hostel as they live too far away. There are 6 students who walk 5 hours every day from home to school and back! This is the value parents put on having their child educated! Due to the hilly terrain, the path to the school is difficult and treacherous during the monsoon season (June- August). There are 7 classrooms and a library room, which is a rarity in schools in Nepal. On several occasions I have come across schools where only a handful of books are available to students, and then under lock and key and rarely available, as no teacher has the time to man a library. However, this is not the case at the Nima Academy. A purpose-built room to house the library will be in operation in the coming weeks. The Brampton Charitable Trust, through Chance, has funded desks, chairs, books, white boards, as well as sports equipment for the current roll call of 60 students. The school has the capacity to take up to 150 students. A special thank you to Sharon Yuen, who funded £400 for two water tanks at the school along with the pipe work and installation. CHANCE has funded books for the library.

There is a small hostel at the school where 10 very bright children have been awarded a scholarship to enable them to get the best education staying where they live, rather than being sent away from their family as young as 4 years of age for their education, as Bimala was when she went to school in Kathmandu. The school is actively looking for sponsors for scholarship students, so if anyone would like to sponsor a child please contact info@chancefornepal.org



The Nima Academy

June/July

Sapana Village Social Impact (SVSI) Chitwan

Food relief

We have supported SVSI for many years now and were eager to lend our support with their emergency relief food packages. Our first donation of £1,000 gave emergency aid to 120 families living in Musahar, Chitwan and in July we sent a further £1,000 when SVSI organised another relief mission for 300 families living in Kalika, just outside Chitwan. Both communities have been badly affected by floods and landslides due to torrential rains during the monsoon.

The children in the lower school receive our 'Tiffin Meal' programme now in its 7th year.

GMIN – (Grassroot Movement in Nepal)

Food Relief

We funded £1,000 for emergency relief food packages to 100 families of daily wage workers affected by the Covid lockdown, which contained rice, oil, lentils and salt to feed a family of four for three weeks. This distribution was to 20 daily wage workers and their families in Tulsipur, 49 families in Shantinagar Rural Development and 30 families in Shantinagar, rural municipality all in Dang, 500 km west of Kathmandu.

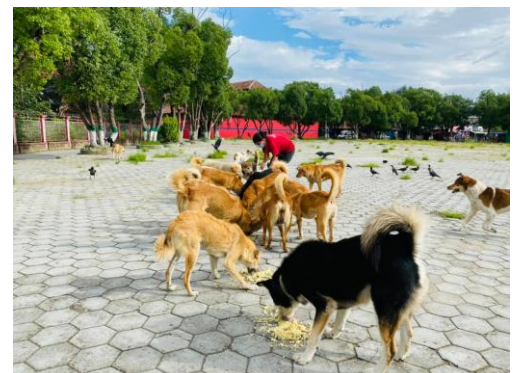
In July we donated a further £1,500 – for 150 families of the Gandharva community in Dang. This community has been hit hard by the lockdown and are mainly musicians who depended on performing in social events. Relief aid was given to 80 families in Ghorahi, 55 families in Babai and 15 families in Babai Rural Municipality.

Not forgetting our four-legged friend with Sneha's Care

We are delighted to continue our support to Sneha's Care, as well as our annual funding to them for 1000 rabies vaccinations. (The latter on hold during the monsoon) We funded emergency food distribution to the street dogs as during lockdown, with no one allowed on the streets, the street dogs who are dependent on being fed went hungry.

Words of Sneha: *"Our eyes were full of tears today seeing these innocent faces waiting for us and the excitement they got after getting food. They offer so much love and loyalty to us without a second thought. They do so much for us and it is important to appreciate the love and compassion that they bring to our world including keeping us safe, assisting us and loving us unconditionally."*

"During this lockdown, it becomes our responsibility to help them and prove to them that we are their friends not their enemies and we don't harm them. Despite many difficulties and risk, we have been continuously carrying on our feeding program because they are completely dependent on us to survive."



Siddhasthali Rural Community Hospital with Mountain Heart Nepal

update from Dr Aban Gautam.

“The construction of the Mountain Heart Nepal hospital located in Hetauda, Makwanpur continues to progress despite continued lockdown due to COVID-19 and heavy rainfall almost every day during the Monsoon season.

The lockdown was imposed on 29 April and ended on 21 July 2021. However, international flights are limited and schools, religious sites and public transport remain closed. Back in mid-May there were more than 9,000 new infections and up to 250 deaths daily causing a devastating blow to Nepal, with families scrambling for hospital beds and bottled oxygen amid the shortages of medical supplies in the country of 30 million people.

As well as during Monsoon, Nepal receives an average of 105 days with around 80% of rains in the monsoon from mid-June to September. The Monsoon put another pressure on the hospital construction because some of the workers left to work in their family landholdings in the village during monsoon for planting and harvesting of crops. Nevertheless, despite disruptions in the schedule during each spell of each rain, we were able to complete soil compaction at the plinth level, stone soiling and formworks. The formworks of 1st floor beams and slab has also been completed. By the end of third week of July the concreting of the 1st floor will be completed.

Additionally, to fulfil the increasing demand of oxygen therapy to treat Covid-19 patients, the hospital received additional funding of \$102000 to equip the hospital with an oxygen plant. To accommodate the equipment, a temporary shelter has been built.”



Progress on the main hospital building

Kanti Children's Hospital

BVS (Burns Violence Survivors) have only had access to the burns unit for 4 out of the past 7 months. From the beginning of July, the unit opened up again so BVS can make its vital contribution. We fund weekly food baskets with high calorie nutritional ingredients and a 'Goody Bag' with soft toys and games for each child. Chance also funds physiotherapy and counselling to patients and their families.

Goma is aged 3 and from Dhading, 80km from Kathmandu. Her mother had gone to the community forest to collect grass. Her father was busy ploughing a field and Goma with her 5-year-old brother was being looked after at home by her aunt. After preparing a meal her aunt was busy with household chores. Meanwhile, Goma who was playing alone around the open stove accidentally fell into the fire and got severely burnt. Her aunt saw her and immediately applied eggs on the burnt areas. She took her to a nearby local health post where she received some ointment. On the same day, she was referred to the Gajuri Hospital where she received dressings only. Unfortunately, her wounds became infected and she was taken by ambulance with her mother to Kanti Children's Hospital for further treatment the next day. She suffered 15%, second degree burns to her face, hands and elbow. She recovered well and was discharged.



Yamuna aged 4 lives with his family in the district of Ramechhap, which lies 175km from Kathmandu. His father is a van driver and his mother a housewife. Yamuna suffered 3%, 1st degree burns to his lower arm and fingers and required a skin graft. He suffers from autism. He was with his mother and grandparents in their cowshed where his mother was preparing cows fodder on an open cooking stove. Yamuna was playing close

by when he accidentally fell into the hot fodder. Immediately his mother poured cold water and applied aloe-vera and toothpaste on the burnt area. He was taken to a nearby health post where he received first-aid treatment. The following day he was admitted to Bhimsenthan Hospital where he received dressings and medicines. His wounds were deep, so he was then referred to the specialist burns unit at the Kanti Children's Hospital. He came with his mother on the local bus which took many hours. *One cannot envisage what that must have been like.* He has now fully recovered and is back home.



Permission given by parents and names changed for protection

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS

We currently have 26 students receiving educational sponsorship.

Fund-raising

A massive thank you to:

Steven Taylor who organised a fund-raiser in March for CHANCE – ‘Couch to 5k’ and raised £846.

Lucy Evens who did a birthday fund-raiser in March and raised £200.

CHANCE SOS Emergency Food Relief Appeal - £8,250 Thank you so much for all your support. None of the above would happen without it!

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be able to fundraise for us. With large gatherings cancelled, marathons, quiz nights etc, it has been tough to raise funds for our projects.

For those who do not use Facebook, Paul Lamberty – (<https://boonwag.co.uk/>) who manages our website has given us a ‘Get Social’ tab at the top of the Home page – by clicking on this you can follow our Facebook entries and keep up to date on a weekly basis until our Annual Review at the end of the year.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful Summer.

Barbara

Founder: Chance for Nepal

Patron: Joanna Lumley