



Nepali Village Initiatives Association Inc.

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Training courses delivered, earthquakes in Nepal – so much has been happening since our last Newsletter. There's much to cover, but let's start with:

The Earthquakes

The death toll from earthquakes in Nepal has been reported in excess of 8,000. Hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their homes, and not one but three World Heritage sites (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Patan), as well as the medieval palace complex of Gorka, substantially destroyed. It could have been much worse. Both first and second quakes struck during the day, when people were out of their homes in the fields and elsewhere. Had they struck at night, so many would have been buried in the devastated homes.

The first quake struck on Anzac Day, April 25. Ten days earlier the annual Bhaktapur Bisket Festival was in full swing, with daily crowds of many thousands packing the temples and city squares.

**Help!
Donations
needed
See end of
Newsletter**



April 16



After April 25

Had the quakes struck and the palaces collapsed during the Festival, how many lives might have been lost?

More than a month has passed since the first quake, but the situation in the country remains tense, with ever-present fears that there is more to come. Experts say there are more stresses in the earth yet to be released.

We are pleased to say that none of those we have been working with have been directly affected (apart from Krishna having the harrowing experience of evacuating his mother from the third floor of a Kathmandu hospital where she was awaiting surgery, as large gaps opened in the hospital walls.). However, the following excerpts from emails received show the continuing level of concern:

Rinzin Sherpa, May 13: “On 25th April I was in Tibet with group which we supposed to do Everest base camp trek from Tibet side, but we have cancelled the trip and I have send group back to home via Beijing instead of Kathmandu. Myself flew back to Kathmandu on 29th April, Nimdiki School building wall were collapsed last 25th April earthquake I was building the wall yesterday while there was earthquake.

There was another big earthquake 7.1 richter scale yesterday it was so scary more than 60 peoples are killed and thousand of injured in different part of Nepal. Again all the people are started staying in outside in the open place we all feel scared and insecure we are also started staying outside in open area as there were chance to have another more earthquake. So scared but what to do everybody has the same problem here.”

Umed Pun, May 26: “We are still getting after shocks (almost 300) and we are getting more mentally prepared unlike in the first few weeks. We may perhaps get these after shocks for next 6-7 months; that is what the experts say. Sorry about the delay [to our recruitment process] but we are still far from returning to normal life.”

Parshuram Niraula, May 26: “The disaster completely turned the situation upside down. Still there are light tremors almost everyday, some bit strong and longer. We are living with fear of possible similar of stronger quake.

However, people are slowly beginning to get into their normal work. I am also starting to work quite recently only. In fact we had started to work, but the second jolt gave more fear. Many people left Kathmandu and went back to their villages. Many are still under tents even in Kathmandu for fear of more quakes.”

Krishna Pun, May 26: “We arrived in Kathmandu yesterday 10 pm in a rush. We were in Rima when the landslide happened that was in the 2nd night of training time and in 3rd day when we finished the training in the afternoon and hoping to come back to Beni that night but it was almost impossible to come through. So we stayed in Bharat Pun's home observing the landslide and Kaligandaki blockage till dark. Next morning we headed the other way via Kaphaldanda just over the land slide area and made a great loop to reach the other side of dam towards Beni. It took 4 and a half hours to reach the road. fortunately we got a bus to come to Beni.



It was really a very big landslide which destroyed Baisiri village totally for ever having around 26 households. No human casualties because of the quick information made but animals and other properties gone under.”

and again May 27: “We saw the river breaking the blockage and was really huge and thought it might damage Kalipul area at Beni but heard it went its own path with big volume.”

Reports say a “The river water was dammed forming a 100-meter deep and three kilometers long lake following the landslide. It is estimated that nearly 3 million cubic meters water had been collected in the

river-turned-lake.” “Dammed water began to overflow 15 hours after the debris blocked the river. The water level had risen up to 300 meters before the river reclaimed its course”. This along a section of the valley through which we had passed as we left the area on May 5 (see map at end of Newsletter).

Even now, many Nepalis in Kathmandu and elsewhere continue to work and sleep outside in the fear that there will be further building collapses.

Progress with LEARN

And so to progress with our teacher training program. LEARN, the NGO we established to deliver our teacher training into the future, ran its first 10-day training course at Muktimarga Higher Secondary School in April last year. Since then LEARN has run a total of six training courses amounting to 43 training days, drawing in 150 teachers from around 25 schools. A further 22 days have been spent providing in-school support for Shikha and Ghara schools, and conducting a Baseline Survey for those of Rima Resource Centre.

Program	Date
Ghara 10-day training	23 Apr - 2 May 2014
Rima Baseline Survey	5-14 June 2014
Shikha and Ghara In-school Support	14-25 June 2014
Ghara SMC & PTA Orientation	19-21 Sept. 2014
Rima 10-day training	10-19 Oct. 2014
Rima Refresher training	9 - 14 April 2015
Ghara 10-day training	25 Apr - 4 May 2015
Rima SMC & PTA Orientation	22-25 May 2015

The extension of the program to Rima was covered by a Direct Aid Program grant from the Australian Embassy, and applications will be made over the next two years for the continuation of this program.

Distributing school supplies
at the conclusion of
10 days training
Ghara, May 4, 2015.

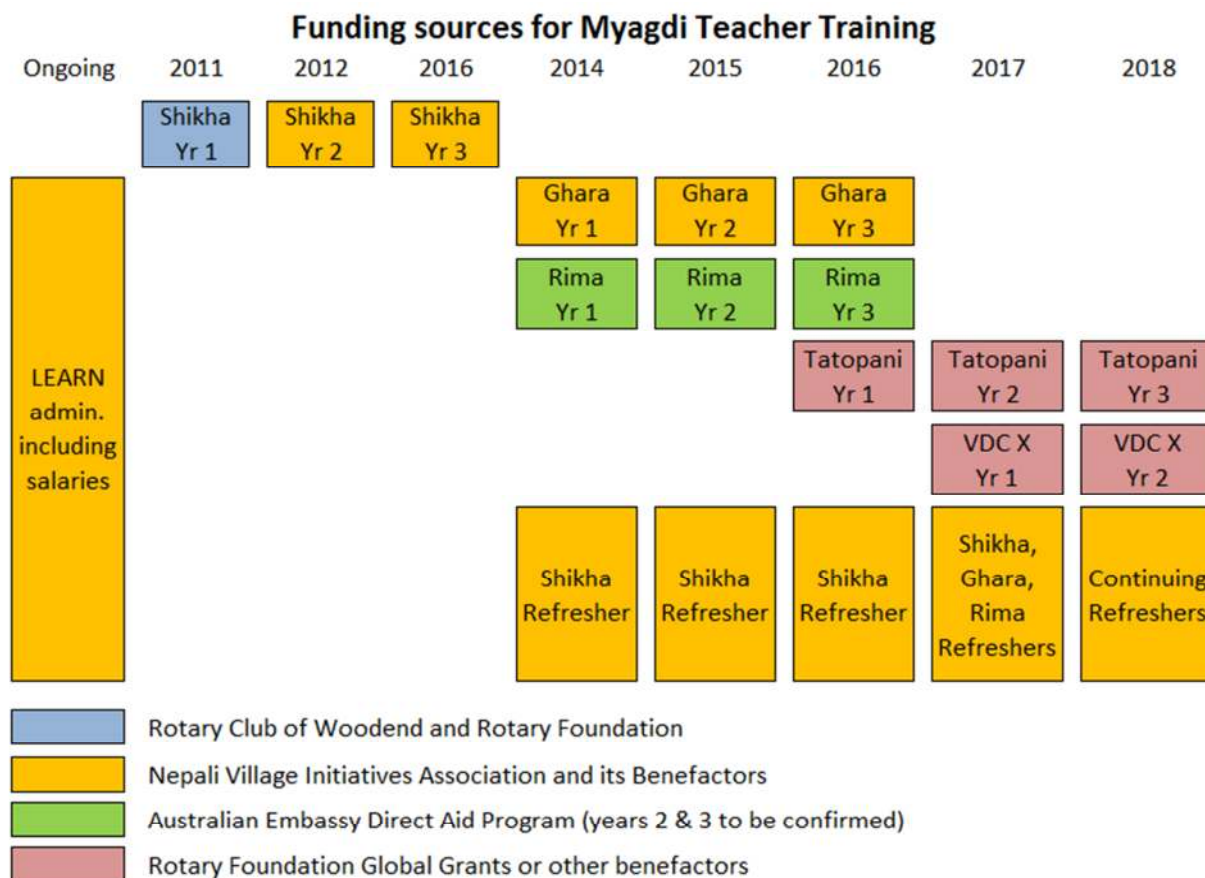
Paudwar village can be seen
on the hillside opposite,
left of centre



The big consequence of the establishment of LEARN is that we now have a teacher training delivery capability that allows us to accept funding to provide training to teachers from further groups of schools. Such funding for training over a three year period is a convenient package for grant applications. We will be seeking such funding through Rotary International (Rotary Foundation Global Grants) and elsewhere, including private benefactors.

Accessing grant funds in this way could see a rapid and continuing expansion of the training that we are able to deliver.

This diagram, showing the sources of our funding over the past three years and the immediate future, shows how we expect to operate on a combination of base funding and grant funding. Private benefactors, including members of the Nepali Village Initiatives Association, will underpin the structure by contributing the base funding.



Recent visit

A team of nine volunteers returned from Nepal on May 8. Peter and Ronda Hall were accompanied by daughter Rowena Hutchins and her daughters Amy (8) and Claire (6); grand-daughter Heidi Huber (18), Somraudee Parry (19), and Garth and Marg Perkin from the Rotary Club of Coolamon, NSW.

We arrived in time to visit Bhaktapur on Nepalese New Year's Day (April 14) where the annual Bisket Festival was cause for a week of celebrations. After further sight-seeing in Kathmandu we visited Chitwan where the girls enjoyed riding an elephant into the river for a wash. On to Ghara Village for the start of a 10-day training course, where the opening ceremony was interrupted by the earthquake. As communications were limited, it took us 24 hours to learn how extensive and devastating it had been.

We spent a day or two playing with the children of Ghara, then moved on to Paudwar where we did the same. Gyan Bahadur Pun, former headmaster of Paudwar school, had instigated the filming of a documentary to capture the old village culture before it is lost forever. Highlights were a couple of pujas – religious ceremonies held for the first time in more than thirty years. They were thoroughly enjoyed by all, villagers and visitors alike. We were the only “outsiders” but we'd been given traditional village clothing which the old people of the village really appreciated us wearing.



Donations

Recipients of NVIA newsletters have been a great source of support for NVIA and all that it is trying to achieve. As the end of the tax year approaches I unashamedly ask you to think what you can contribute.

Our primary focus remains the continuing build-up of our capacity to improve the quality of education delivered by remote rural schools. Since we started this program in 2011 we have been responsible for the delivery of sixteen training programs amounting to over 100 training days, reaching around 150 teachers of more than 25 schools. Baseline surveys and in-school support programs have accounted for a further 100 days in the field.

To continue and extend this program, we seek your continuing support.

In addition you can help us to respond to the ***disastrous earthquakes*** which have left damage across the country. Myagdi District where we operate escaped relatively unscathed, though even there ***34 schools were damaged or completely destroyed***. We are accepting funds to go towards reconstruction where the children's schooling has been most seriously interrupted.

Visit our website www.nepalaid.org.au/donations to see how donations can be made directly to the Association. However, should you want a tax-deductible receipt, please go to www.rawcs.com.au/donations. Type in 43 as the Project Number, select 2009-10 as the Year Registered. Clicking "Find this project" should then bring up Nepali Village Initiatives. Click "Donate Now", and complete the required details. Under "Requests" you may indicate where you would like the money directed, such as "Teacher training" or "Earthquake restoration".

Please note that you can pay by Credit Card, by Direct Credit to the Rotary bank account or by cheque. Whichever way you choose, the money will be passed on to our project.

Please also note the option to contribute on a regular basis. As our operations grow we have increasing commitments that we need to meet, so that the assurance of an income stream in the form of commitments by regular supporters is greatly appreciated. Such commitments can be terminated at any time.

