

Summer 2018 Update

General

- The new government in Nepal is bringing in the biggest changes for a generation so things are difficult to predict for individual schools as many small schools are now being merged and bigger area schools are being created. It all makes perfect sense and is something we have discussed. The problems coming out of it are, as usual, connected to funding. We have moving cautiously while the situation develops.
- The Government is now releasing money to schools to rebuild and while some schools are able to rebuild, others are being left short. It's a bit of a minefield so we were right to decide to tread carefully and probably slow down building, we need to check out each school carefully before even considering a school build.
- Starting from the new school year in April 2018, IT/computing is being introduced to the national curriculum for classes 7-12. Crazy as only the city schools have computers and the kids have to pass the annual exam before they can move up a class, rural schools are teaching IT from text books only. This could be a good project for us to follow up.

Shree Mahendra Higher Secondary School Likhu

The work on the old road out of Kathmandu means that it's now passable again, work is continuing and this road will only get better. The last part of the road is still as it was but with the improvements out of Kathmandu the journey time has dropped from 4.5 hours to 2.5 hours, although as always much depends on conditions on the day. During our April visit we had time to talk to the headmaster properly and get to know the village elders, likewise they have had time to get to know us and what we're trying to achieve. With the clearer understanding we are not as concerned about this school as we once were.



- The primary stage of Likhu is now finished and the rooms are in use.
- The secondary phase building of the additional 2 classrooms and toilet block. The plans have been passed and work will begin as soon as possible. This is Nepal Government funded with money from the aid packages received after the earthquake, as agreed.

- Additional 1. – The school has a grant from the government for 1 Lak rupees (roughly £715) for WiFi connection and new computers. This is woefully inadequate so we have supplemented the grant with [e2eChallenge17](#) money to fund additional computers. We have spoken to the school and have explained that they will need to put electrics and a good WiFi connection in first then they should make computer desks and if there is any money left it should be used towards computers, only when they have done that will we consider buying additional computers.
- Additional 2. – A large screen internet TV or projector and screen would be very useful for the school to give the children access to the remote schools internet classes program.

The school is now the main school for the area and is offering classes 11 & 12 for the first time. They are still very resource poor. We think the school is an ideal flagship school for YYY Foundation as there is still so much we can do and the teachers are very receptive to making improvements. We propose we check back on the school to see how much of the work we have done with them is being implemented and if we're happy then we should fund the additional computers the need straight away.

Mangala Devi Basic school Likhu

- The school have been using the books and duplo we gave them last year, it's great to see they haven't been put on a shelf and the children not allowed to touch them.
- The upgrade of the building (government funded) is really good, when I visited all the building work had been completed and the painting was half done.
- The perimeter fence has been removed to allow for building work, we need to check it's replaced properly.

The government want to change the school from class 1 & 2 to EDC (early development class) merging it with Shree Mahendra, this makes sense as there isn't a nursery or reception school in the area, but class 1 are still pretty small. The biggest problem is that would mean cutting the teachers monthly salary from NRs 15,000 to NRs 6,000 and he can't take that big a cut. Negotiations are going on to keep class 1 at Mangala Devi and we have endorsed it from our point of view as we feel that the children are still quite small and it would be a better transition for them. It would also mean a much smaller cut in the teacher's wage, it's a bit of a wait and see situation until negotiations are complete. Once we know what is happening, they will need help with recourses for EDC class children, worth our consideration



Hagam School

The government has paid for an additional 4 rooms and has said that the school should also include EDC this is still in the early stage of building and is moving very slowly, partially because the villagers are concentrating on building their own homes before monsoon. There is little enthusiasm for school and many of the children only attend part time. They were supposed to send 2 teachers to the teacher training we ran, however only 1 came. In the beginning the teacher was very quiet and shy but as soon as she understood what we are trying to do she became very enthusiastic and is probably the teacher that learned the most. Having been to the village several times we think the biggest problem here is a total lack of understanding of the value of education due to the remoteness of the village. As Hagam is so far behind in understanding, it's difficult to tell the elders what to do. We suggested that with work with our staff in Nepal to run a couple of adult classes for the parents showing them the benefit of educating their children. I believe this is the toughest school to support, but because of that it's the one where we can make the biggest difference.

- The school building has finally progressed well, we didn't take too many photos of the building because the painting is due to start on the 16th April and the school will be cleaned in time for the new school year.
- There is still a bit of cosmetic work to be done.

The building work is progressing well in the village so we are hopeful that more labour will be available to work for us soon.



Hagam Community Centre

The villagers would like to move the location of the community centre from the current temporary centre to a location closer to the village. They have bought land collectively and will put a water supply in and will prepare the land for building so there will be no additional cost to YYY Foundation. There will be more news to follow once our Nepali staff have visited Hagam to double check the land and to assess whether we need to send workers or not. The general feeling is that whatever we decide is best we will need to get the materials into Hagam before Monsoon starts and the road closes again. (April 2018)

Hagam Secondary School

We haven't managed to get here yet, it's a further hours' walk from Hagam itself, as far as we know they haven't had any outside help since the earthquake. It may be a project we look at in the future but it's a very difficult area to work in so we have to be patient and proceed with caution.

Shree Sarashwoti, Kalinchok

The school is quite small, in all 25 -30 children with classes 1-3 and EDC. They have lost everything, very little of the furniture was in a fit state to salvage. The Government are funding rebuilding 2 rooms but the school needs 5 and 3 toilets.

- The villagers are clearing the land and preparing it themselves
- The villagers are also putting in a proper water supply themselves
- The proposal, if we decide to go ahead, is to combine resources with the government money to build a 5 classroom block much the same as in Siranchour with a separate toilet block of 3 toilets

We think this will be a lovely project to be involved with and are proposing we approach the donor as soon as possible to explain that the school desperately needs resources as much as rooms.

Shree Kaldevi secondary school, Chautara

Like Shree Mahendra in Likhu this is to be the main school for the area in the new government plans and is also being partially merged with some of the smaller schools including Siranchour. It's also planned for the school to become a higher secondary school as soon as building work can be completed, future plans are for a nursery, lower kindergarten and upper kindergarten.

The school is fairly resourceful and staff have managed with the help of government money they have enough to build most of the rooms there is a lot of active building work going on and they are negotiating to buy more land for a sports field. Like Likhu they are struggling to fund the necessary computers for the new curriculum they also need an additional room for the computers.

Siranchour

There is a new Headmistress who is very much into improving the school, she is lovely and came on our course. The new government plan means that the older children will go to Shree Kalidevi while classes 1-3 will stay and there will be the addition of an EDC class. We need to speak with Help for Nepal before considering anything else here.