YYY FOUNDATION

10 March 2016

I have been busy since I arrived in Nepal, I went to Sindupalchowk to check on our projects there. Now Unkhubari has some land they are able to start building and Siranchour is almost finished one or two days more is all that is needed. We are ahead of schedule and will easily be able to complete the official handover on time in three weeks, watch this space for lots of happy pictures soon.

Whilst there I took the opportunity to go up towards the Tibet border and the situation is pretty grim. Whereas aid is starting to arrive in the south, it is a long way off here. The area is well known for its instability, the earthquakes and their still continuing aftershocks have exacerbated things. With thousands of landslides, some blocking the road for months at a time, it is not really surprising that the general perception, outside the area, is that it's inaccessible.

Adding insult to injury the US declared the area as unsafe, all personnel including local workers were evacuated and all aid stopped, even pre-existing projects have had their funding withdrawn.

In desperation the people are bulldozing roads in the most dangerous places just to get access to the outside world. It's not all doom and gloom though, remember this is Nepal where the people are probably the world's best at accepting and being grateful for what they have, everyone I met had a smile on their face.

What's left of Nagpuge school, the only school in the district to go from reception to A level equivalent. The rusty tin structure is the current classroom.

Back in Kathmandu and things are improving, the border blockade is over, though I'm sure the people the people stuck in fuel queues aren't too happy, they are at least in a queue. In Thamel, the tourist area, the constant power cuts and lack of fuel for generators has meant the multitude of dance bars are now silent, harking back to the days of 8.30 closing time with rickshaw drivers and street vendors huddled around small fires for company.