

HAGAM VILLAGE

While we were in Nepal in February we visited Hagam, a village we knew had been badly hit by both earthquakes.

Hagam had been cut off from the outside world for over 18 months, after numerous landslides during the second earthquake had closed the road and paths. We set off from Kathmandu early morning and headed 2 hours north towards Tibet before reaching the trail to Hagam, which took us a further three hours into uncharted territory. Sadly, the conditions took their toll when, one hour along the trail, one of our vehicles started giving us trouble and a few of the party were finding the conditions more than they had bargained for. We sent the vehicle back with several passengers as we knew the road would deteriorate; those who continued were given the most incredible experience that made the few hours discomfort more than worth it.



This is a personal account of the day by Martyn, one of the **e2e Challenge** advance party for **Leadership challenges**.

It was a three hour drive to the village on roads that couldn't really be called roads, just dusty rutted tracks with sheer drops to one side and steep walls of loose rock and shale the other. There was abundant evidence of previous landslides and collapses that made it all a bit unnerving at times. We wound our way higher and higher until the track just came to a sudden end. We had arrived at the village.

As we looked down toward the hastily patched corrugated clad building that was once a school, you could see a line of children all waiting outside holding a small bunch of flowers that they had collected that morning.

Nothing had prepared me emotionally for what was to come. It was so humbling as we walked along the line receiving their gifts of flowers. Little grubby nervous faces looking up and then down as they said the Nepalese 'Namaste' greeting. I was struggling to hold back the emotional tears.

The children all started to laugh and smile as we took pictures of them and us together and then showed the pictures to them. It was a moment I'll never forget. We stayed for about an hour chatting playing with them and the teachers. I felt so sad at leaving. It was a much quieter journey back down.



The school in Hagam will be our next project, at an initial cost of £12,000
A further £7,000 will enable us to build a much needed community hall and health post.