



Many thanks to the many people who have given if not donations of money and things, time and morale support. With the recession biting as hard as ever, it is difficult raising funds to meet the teacher's salaries. A big thanks to everyone who has contributed to RAN in all sorts of ways. In particular, thanks for donations of clothes and money to the children at Kanti Children's Hospital. This is government run hospital where poor families who cannot afford the costs of their child's treatment receive help from SAV (<http://www.pa-nepal.org/ran/kanti.html>)

A very big 'thank you' to all the volunteers who have helped at the healthposts at Deusa and Rawadolu, during the past months, and who are helping the schools at Bardia, Garimudi and Rawadolu right now.

Shree Jagadamba Higher Secondary School, Madhela, Bardia

There are 1,760 students and just 23 teachers in this school that teaches from kindergarten to 12. Most classes have over 100 students. In some classrooms, there are no desks, in others, mats on the floor.

Despite these problems, the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) results are above the national average and attendance is about 80%.

Some of larger classes are split in two – class 9 has 252 students. The cost of an additional primary school teacher will be shared with the school from the new school term in April.

Close to the Bardia National Park, where tigers, rhinos, and wild elephants roam, most of the local people are poor Tharu farmers. Cut off to a large extent during the political conflict, it is still a very neglected area. The school is keen in promoting environmental awareness, and participates actively in the School Environment Conservation Education Network, Nepal (SENSE).

Deusa healthpost, Solukhumbu

In October, Dev Kumari Rai completed three months dental health training in Kathmandu and is back at the healthpost. Kamala Rai is spending a couple of weeks with a nurse who is running community health training at Rawadolu, as part of the Okaldhunga Mission Hospital's community health programme. It is envisaged that Kamala will work closely with the schools and women's groups in Deusa, as well as providing back-up to Dev Kumari as required.

Gulmi District Hospital



Out of the 65 district hospitals in Nepal, only 14 are capable of performing surgery. Gulmi District Hospital is one of three government hospitals that the Nick Simon Institute (NSI) is supporting, with doctors that can perform vitally needed surgery. As a consequence, from 20 or so patients a day, Gulmi hospital now receives 200-400 patients a day.

Located in a central-western hill district, Tamghas, the district headquarters of Gulmi feels more like a large village. A narrow black-top road leads here from Tansen, Palpa, the neighbouring district a couple of hours away – but goes no further. Medical volunteers who can help this small hospital are

very welcome.

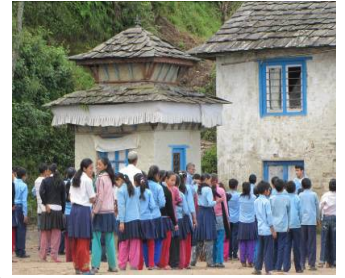
Rawadolu, Okaldhunga

In September, a short visit to Rawadolu to see the impressive work that this village, along with the neighbouring village, have done to set up their own hydro-electricity power plant.

Two medical volunteers have helped Rajendra Basnet, the CMA (Community Medical Assistant) who runs the sub-healthpost here, and another volunteer has been helping teach at the school.

Annapurna Community Eco-lodge treks

Mahabir Pun is well known for his pioneering work in bringing wireless internet to the villages in the Annapurnas. Schools and healthposts in a number of villages around Nagi, between Beni and Poon Hill in the Mygadi District are linked to the internet network that has been set up here.



In addition to this and other income generation schemes, advice was sought on how to use tourism to maximise benefits to local people. Building community lodges and running them so the community benefit, several villages are working together to form trekking routes that give a close-up taste of village life. At the same time, the trekking and views are magnificent: the Annapurnas, Dhaulagiri and Macchapuchhre, to name a few. Vimal Thapa from Nature-treks.com is working closely with the project. As



well as treks, anyone interested in volunteering for a variety of projects at Nagi or any of the other villages in this area, further details can be found at www.himanchal.org.

What is needed?

As always, (no surprise), money is most needed. In order to spread funds wider, RAN is adopting a policy to share the cost of extra teachers with the school, giving the school more commitment and control over the teacher. The salary of a teacher ranges from about 10,000 to 15,000Rs a month (about £100-£150 a month) depending on the level taught. Money for books is always welcome – school libraries have been set up in Garimudi and Deusa, and support to these and the school libraries at the other schools is ongoing.

Volunteers: Are always welcome. Anyone who would like to volunteer for any amount of time, whether at the healthpost or schools, or if you know anyone who might like to volunteer, please contact Marianne at m_heredge@yahoo.co.uk.

Medical students who would like to spend some, or all of their elective in Nepal are very welcome - please contact Marianne for further details.

If you would like more information about Rural Assistance Nepal (RAN), please visit the website at www.nranepal.org.

Donations can be made to the Rural Assistance Nepal charity bank account. Please send any cheques to Mrs Christine Miller, 8 Ravensmead, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire SL9 0NB, Great Britain. For payments made from outside the UK, please contact Marianne for details of ways to pay.

RAN works in partnership with The Mountain Fund (www.mountainfund.org) and for US taxpayers, payment can be made via The Mountain Fund.