

Newsletter No. 3 2021 from KMCH Support Group

Haverdal 24 June 2021

Hello, Namaste and Thashi Delek

When we write this newsletter Nepal is still partially closed due to Covid-19. The school in Yalbang is closed and the children at the school home are back home with their families in different villages in Humla.

From the school home

When the children are not at the school home, the focus is now on implementing various investments to improve the living conditions and facilitate the work of those who work at the school home.

We have now allocated money to ensure that the children will have lamps at their beds. It will hopefully save their eyes and facilitate their studies and give them a possibility to read books just for fun and not only schoolbooks. Now they only have one ceiling lamp in the rooms where they sleep 8-10 children, so reading in good light can only be done outdoors in the daytime. As we have mentioned before, we also have plans to purchase books and set up a library either at the school home or at the school. However, this may have to wait until a future visit to Nepal.

We have a greenhouse at the school home that was built when we moved there in 2012. The number of children is now double that of then and there is a need for another greenhouse. The construction has perhaps already started. It is good if we can produce vegetables by ourselves, not only to get healthy vitamins, but also for the economy.

As a part of our tree planting project -TPP- we run a fruit tree nursery and plant trees next to the school home and on other places belonging to the village of Yangar. To protect the nursery and plantings, we need to build fences to protect the plants from animals. We have now allocated money for this.

We have quite large stocks of rice and flour. We will now build real storage boxes. We hope that this will reduce waste and facilitate the work of those concerned.

We will also purchase a wood splitter and a dough mixer. This would greatly facilitate the work of our "woodcutter" and chef. The image below shows how logs are split into firewood. It is from our visit in 2014, but the technology is the same today.



Here we hope that there soon will be a bed lamp for each bed.



Hard manual work that can be facilitated with a log split.

So, assuming there are no children living in the school home now, it will be full of activities there. Now we're just hoping the school can start again. The children have already lost too many months of study in 2020 and 2021.

Up-to-date information on politics and more in Nepal (Italo)

The monsoon period has now begun. The rainy season is usually between the beginning of June and the last week of September. The rain is of course essential for the farmers, but the monsoon also is a also a period of torrential rains and flooding. More than 7,000 wildfires during this year's dry season mean the risk of landslides is high, the authorities warn.

The last few months have been hugely turbulent for Nepal. The second wave of Covid-19 is currently hitting hard. Virtually all of Nepal's 77 districts have imposed some form of lockdown. The infection is everywhere, even in very isolated areas such as Mustang and Humla. The worst situation has been around Kathmandu and in the border regions with India. There is a major shortage of oxygen and many COVID-19 sufferers have died when they have not been able to receive adequate treatment. Aid shipments of respirators and oxygen from several countries have improved the situation. In rural areas in particular, however, the lack of trained staff and equipment is hitting an already poor health service hard.

Nepal began vaccinating in early March and 1.4 million people over the age of 65 were able to get their first dose. A promised delivery from India of another million doses has not arrived. Many are waiting for their second dose.



The Bodhnath Stupa, people doing a holy walk around it and people selling things to tourists and others.

There is a great deal of irritation and anger directed at the government, which over the past year has spent their in a constant struggle to secure its power instead of planning for the expected second wave of Covid-19 they knew would come. President Bhandari decided, in December 2020, on prime minister Oli's recommendation, to dissolve parliament and call for new elections by May 2021. The Supreme Court went against this decision and reinstated Parliament. Now the same drama is playing out again. Oli felt threatened again and the president dissolved parliament. This time, too, the opposition considers it a violation of the Constitution. It is possible that the Supreme Court again will go against the president's decision.

Oli's constant maneuvers to secure his position have naturally impaired Covid-19 management. Unfortunately, the opposition is showing the same irresponsible side. It must be so hard to be a young Nepalese, not least a young woman, and constantly see these men in power always put their agenda in the first place.

Support to KMCH Support Group can be paid to our bank on: BIC-SWEDSESS IBAN-SE57 8000 0832 7990 4500 6518. We are very grateful for all contributions.

Greetings from the board of
KMCH Support Group

By
Hans



A beautiful view from one of our hikes up to the school home. Photo: Jonathan Stenvall

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