

Ekerö in September 2013

Newsletter no. 4 2013 from KMCH Support Group

Hello, Tashi Delek and Namaste

We hope that you have had a great summer. As the weather is concerned, it has been very good at least in Sweden. In Humla the weather has been good after the initial period of heavy monsoon rains, which caused both floods and landslides. In the area around Yangar and Yalwang there were no major injuries.

Chembal has during the summer been both to Tibet and to Simikot to try to send e-mails and images but he failed. Now Chembal is back in Kathmandu and has sent us information about what has happened in Humla this spring and summer. Below you can read some of it.

The new school home

Our new hostel with eight rooms in two floors was completed before the summer. It is built in traditional style and of building materials from the local area, with one exception. The roof is made of metal and was purchased in Tibet. It is practical, effective and virtually maintenance-free but expensive. It was transported on yak backs from the boarder of Tibet to Yangar.



The new school home



The metal plates for the roof are loaded at the boarder of Tibet

We are pleased that the main building now is completed. It facilitates the everyday life for both the children and the staff. The house has electricity coming from a micro hydro power station in a river outside the village. The building has been completed on "borrowed" money.

Instead of letting the building stand half-finished Chembal has, as the "doer" he is, agreed with villagers to complete the construction on "credit" and pay them later when we have collected more money for this purpose.

They have also built a provisional dining hall where the children can eat and participate in additional classes during the summer. During the winter they have to be in the hostel. The kitchen is for security reasons in a separate building.



The dining hall under construction



Children eating in the dining hall

We are very pleased that so much has happened the past two years. Now we need to permanent the assembly hall and the kitchen and then we have to consolidate the operations at the level it is today. In the future we hope to build a washroom with shower and water heated by solar panels. The Swedish- Tibetan School- and Culture Organization has built washrooms for a nunnery in northern India. We can take advantage of their experiences, when and whether it can become a reality.

The eight rooms in the hostel are all of equal size, 13 x 12 feet. The walls of the hostel are thick and consist of stone stabilized by timber. They have been smeared with mud to protect from wind and cold. In winter, the temperature is creeping down to – 25 C. The children are sleeping in five of the rooms and the staff in the other three. All are sleeping on the floor, but we hope soon to be able to build bunk beds. We have already received funds for some pieces.

Twelve more children in school home

There is a long cue of more than 100 children to KMCH. The new school home gave room for some more children. Because of that Chembal accepted 12 new children so the number is now 47, 27 girls and 20 boys. The parents of the new children have agreed to help with food and clothes for their children this year. Next year they hope that KMCH will be able to take over responsibility for them.

The marginal cost, that is, the direct variable cost of an extra child is, according to the financial report for 2012, around \$ 30 per month. More than half of that are accounted for by the cost of food. The total cost per child is including all costs as food, clothes, stationary,

cleaning, transports, travels, administration, rents, communication etc. and salaries to the staff, including salaries for two teachers in the school who also live and work at the school home, was 2012 almost \$ 75 per month.



Annual meeting in KMCH Nepal



Playing volleyball in front of the hostel

Teaching of traditional dance and song

In spring, some children from KMCH and ISIS (which is a large international NGO that runs a school home in the village where the children's school is located) organized teaching in traditional Tibetan music, song and dance. For this course our children have got additional funds for clothes and musical instruments etc. The people of Humla are very keen on maintaining the knowledge of the Tibetan traditions. During the summer the course was ended with a big performance in the school.



Dance performance outside the school home



Children on their way to school

In July the children from KMCH performed at a festival at the monastery in Yalwang in front of around 1,500 spectators. It became a success and everyone was very impressed by their knowledge.

The Greenhouse

It is gratifying to hear and see how well the new greenhouse has worked. It was ready in December 2012 and gave harvest already during the winter. During the spring and summer harvest has been very good and has contributed with a tasty and healthy addition to the diet. The greenhouse is 20 x 37 ft.

Two men from the village have learned to build greenhouses, so we hope that other greenhouses will be built without the help of KMCH. Many persons have expressed interest and been to Yangar study our greenhouse.

Pleasing is also that an organization that is financed by the Norwegian Government, among other activities, also have started to support the construction of greenhouses in Humla. They have large resources so collaboration on cultivation techniques, pest control, etc. can be possible in the future.

The children are not only busy to manage the greenhouse they also manage a kitchen garden where they grow herbs and vegetables. Furthermore a pregnant goat has been purchased which soon will provide milk. Perhaps there will be more goats later. All these activities provide both food and knowledge.



A part of the kitchen garden



The KMCH goat

We will give you more information from KMCH and Humla in coming newsletters. As previous years, our children do very well in school and seem to be happy to be in the KMCH family. They learn a lot not only in school but also in the hostel about cooperation, hygiene, environment, horticulture etc. which can be useful in their future life.

More photos from the hostel can be seen on our website and on our Facebook.

EXTRA NEWS

I just heard that the film about Humla and KMCH, which you can see a part of on our homepage, is ready. Due to that Chembal has been invited to USA to introduce the film and inform about Humla and KMCH.

Greetings from all of us in KMCH Support Group

by

Hans

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