

Ekerö in December 2013

## **Newsletter no. 5 2013 from KMCH Support Group**

**Hello, Tashi Delek and Namaste**

### **KMCH Support Group has now existed in 6.5 years.**

It is six and a half years since KMCH Support Group was started in June 2007. Chembal Lama began the operations in Kathmandu at the end of 2006 with six children from Humla, but the Organization KMCH in Nepal was formed formally in January 2007. The six children at the start had grown to seventeen before we left Kathmandu and moved home to Humla and the village of Yangar in spring 2010. Then we already had seven children in rented house there.

In the summer of 2008 the village council of Yangar set aside land for a future school home a bit outside the village and located on an altitude approximately 80 meter higher than the village itself. In autumn 2012, the children – then 35 - moved to a provisional building on that place. In spring 2013 the school home got a second floor. So now it consists of eight rooms on two floors. The kitchen and an assembly hall are located in separate provisional buildings. There is no heating yet and we have just a few bunk beds. The number of children is now 47.

Much remain to be done, both regarding investments and to keep up with the increasing running costs, before we are consolidated at this level. This level is, however, far above at least my expectations and thoughts when we started in Kathmandu 2006. Now we have to go on and try to ensure that the operations can continue and stabilize at this level. If there will be a further expansion we think that it requires resources that we in the KMCH Support Group in Sweden and our friends in Switzerland believe that it must be new groups outside Sweden and Switzerland who must contribute to.



The House on the far left is located in Kathmandu. KMCH rented the first floor of this house between 2007 and the spring of 2010. The House in the middle is located in the village of Yangar in Humla. It was rented between 2009 and 2012. The house on the far right is the new school home.

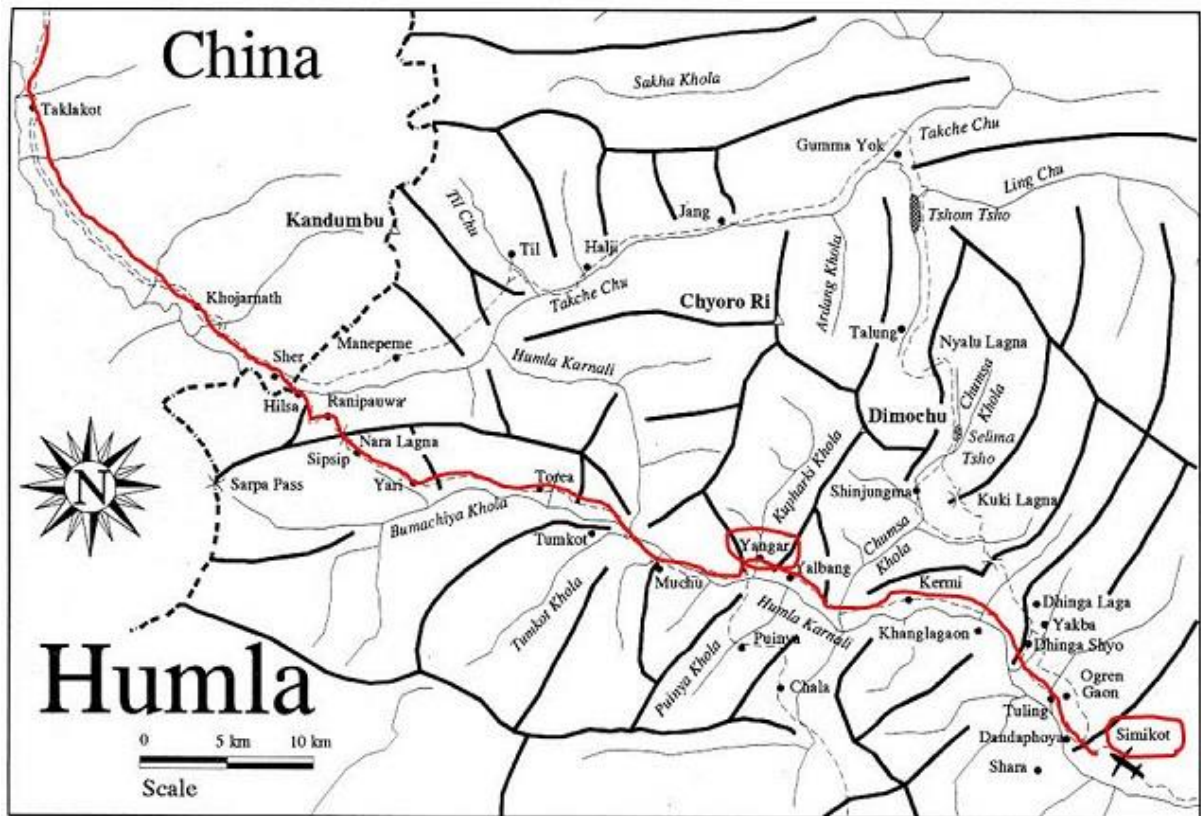
## **Chembal Lama visits the United States**

As we announced in our last newsletter Chembal has been invited to the United States to meet friends and inform about KMCH and Humla. Hopefully he will have many information meetings during the months he will be in USA. Chembal has informed us that his friends will start a support group to KMCH. We hope that it will be so.

## **NCC – KMCH ´s health clinic**

In Chembals report for the first eight months of this year we can read that the number of patients to NCC under that period of this year has increased significantly compared to the same period last year. Patients have come even from lower Humla, which could mean two to three days walk. Chembal refers to the good reputation of the clinic.

Another reason for the increased number of patients to NCC may be that corruption regarding a hospital in Simikot was revealed at the end of 2012. This has led to that the head sponsor of the hospital – an American NGO - at least temporarily has withdrawn its support. Unfortunately it is not the first time that money from sponsors goes into other “pockets” than they are aimed for.



Above a small rehearsal of the map over the northern part of Humla. The main village Simikot can be seen at bottom to the right. Yangar is marked by a red circle near the middle along the red marked Pilgrim's way to Kailash and Manasarovar. West and North of the village of Kermi most of the people are tibeto-Nepalese called Bhotias.

**Schoolwork**

Chembal reports with delight every time that our kids are good at school. It is perhaps not so surprising for they get help from our two teachers both before and after the regular school day. The teachers work thus as teachers in the school during the day and then as extra teachers at the school home mornings and evenings.

There seems to be many different ranking lists in the Nepalese schools. There are competitions between pupils within the school and between schools and the outcome is noted carefully. In the ordinary school work, children from the KMCH often get very high ranks in their respective classes. Their ambitions are very high. They know that it is due to KMCH that they can attend school, so they work hard.



Our first bunk beds. Now we need around 45 new beds so everybody can sleep in beds and not on the floor.

### **Some words about the actual Nepalese politics**

In the 1990s a Maoist guerrilla started an uprising against the King and the ruling parties of the country. Its influence grew gradually. In November 2006 there was peace between the guerrilla and the parties in the Parliament. In early 2007 they adopted a temporary constitution. It included a decision to abolish the monarchy and to hold elections to a new Constituent Assembly. At the election in April 2008 the former guerrilla under the name Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists got about one third of the votes. The second largest party was, Nepali Congress, which has long been the dominant party in Nepal. In addition to these parties there were several local parties and a lot of Communist parties represented. The Constituent Assembly's first decisions was to depose the King and proclaim democracy.

The disagreements between the parties in the Assembly have prevented the development of a new Constitution and made that much of the political work "stalled". In May 2012 the Nepalese Supreme Court refused to extend the mandate of the Constituent Assembly and declared new elections. These elections took place, with a one-year delay, in November this year.

In the elections to the new Constituent Assembly 77.5% of those entitled to vote gave their votes. The Maoists, now under the name of Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, lost much of their support and became only the third largest party. Nepali Congress became the biggest party followed by the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninists, which is an amalgamation of different Communist groups. The party is considered to represent a moderate communist policy. These two biggest parties will together have over 50% of the seats in the new Constituent Assembly and have



expressed a willingness to cooperate in the development of a new Constitution. (Sources: *UI Sweden and the Nepalese press.*)

We can only hope that there will be a rapid progress in this important work so the political process can continue without major disruptions. It is important so the Assembly can be able to focus on improving the living conditions of the population in this one of the world's poorest countries.

### **The modernity comes to Humla**

In the newsletter just before this summer we told that Chembal had called from Yangar to Sweden. Earlier, he had to go to Simikot to be able to make calls from his cell phone. He has recently told me that it soon will be possible to use internet even in Yangar. If it will take some months or perhaps a year was not clear to me. Likely internet will come to Yangar before the road from Tibet. The road has been under construction for several years now. Last spring it had come to the village of Tumkot. It has not past Tumkot yet because the work to repair the road after the destruction of the heavy monsoon rains this summer has taken all the resources.



**Thank you for this year**

# MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR

we wish you all

**from KMCH Support Group**

by

Hans

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