



THE NEPAL TRUST

Working with Health, Community Development & Hope in the 'Hidden Himalayas'

THEHE PRIMARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT HUMLA DISTRICT, NEPAL



Thehe Village, Humla District

Concept Note compiled by Jeroen van den Bergh

Concept Note

1. Our details

Name of Organisation	The Nepal Trust
Organisation Address	G.P.O. Box No: 8975, EPC 4131, Maharajgunj, Bansbari Kumar Marg, Nursery Land, House # 46 Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: / fax: 00 977 1 4372354 Website: www.nepaltrust.org
Contact Person	Jeroen van den Bergh
Job Title	Country Director (Nepal/ UK)
Telephone Number	Tel: +977 9803072834
Email Address	Email: jeroen@nepaltrust.org

2. Context.

The Nepal Trust has been operating in the ‘Hidden Himalayas’ (the remote North Western corner of Nepal) for almost 20 years. It has operated its School Education & Literacy Programme continuously during this period, despite the disruptions caused by the Maoist conflict. With the conflict now settled, the Nepal Trust wishes to revitalise and revamp its Education & Literacy Programme. This Concept Note sets out the broad plans and objectives for the establishment of a new Government endorsed Primary School in Thehe village, Humla district for which the Nepal Trust is seeking external funding support.

3. This concept note includes:

- Project background
- Project need
- Project duration
- Project location
- Project beneficiaries
- Problem statement
- Project objectives (specific)
- Expected outputs and results
- Areas for assistance
- Amount of funding requested

Concept Note

- **Project background**

The overall pattern of poor education standards in rural Nepal is dominated by severe lack of education infrastructure, skilled and motivated teachers and education materials and equipment.

The level of education in Humla district is poor and ranks among the lowest in Nepal, with many people, particularly women, being illiterate. Education development indicators of Humla indicate that the total literacy rate of people (6+ years) is 22.62% (female 8.87%, male 36.5%) and approx. 60% of children never go to school, due to poverty (**Source: District Development Plan 2008, District Information and Documentation Centre, District Development Committee, Humla**).

Child illiteracy rate (10-14 years) is 45.3% and only 2.6% of children pass the SLC, equivalent to the Irish Junior Certificate or British GCSEs, whereas in 66% of the district, there is no secondary school (**Source: District Profile and Analysis, District Development Committee 2007**) and enrolment of children in primary education (up to Class 5) is only 26.8% (**Source: Population of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, 2006**).

Many schools lack basic infrastructure such as sufficient class rooms to accommodate students and teachers, sanitation measures, blackboards, cabinets, desks and chairs, teaching equipment, and skilled and motivated teachers. Only a few economically well-off families are able to send their children to private schools in cities outside, but for the majority of people there is no other alternative than to accept the current conditions within their villages.

It is paramount therefore in any education approach to consider the problems faced within the communities and link any proposed education intervention to this analysis. Such an approach allows for a better use of resources - in Humla, the population groups which exhibit the highest levels of illiteracy, social skills and malnutrition in Nepal are women and young children. The government has built schools in some of the villages in Humla district with the plan to ensure education for all Humli children by 2015. The schools are staffed and managed by the District Education Office (DEO) in coordination with the local school management committees. The schools are often overcrowded which forces students to sit outside for their classes, which forms a big problem during monsoon time and winter months.

- **Project need**

A similar scenario can be found in Thehe village (Thehe Village Development Committee (VDC) in Humla district). The Thehe community is a heavily overcrowded and extremely poor community where living standards are very low. Main occupations of villagers are agriculture, animal husbandry and herbs collection. There are only few government and private office services. Up to recently Thehe had only 1 registered primary -and secondary school (Ram Dev Primary/ Secondary School), which severely lacked the required school infrastructure to accommodate all students in the area; Hence the Thehe community has been pressing the Government to solve this problem.

In the fall of 2012, the Government (through the Humla DEO) declared that it officially authorized the establishment of a new government supported primary school up to class 5, notably the **Panchamukhi Himil Primary School**, in order to solve the problem in Thehe.

The school has been officially registered as a Government school and also land has been registered in the name of the school committee (**see ANNEX I**). The school itself is led by full-time teacher and superintend Mr. Kali Bhr. Bhandary, but does not have the facilities to accommodate students as yet.

The problem is that although the school has been registered, the Government does not have sufficient funding to construct the actual new school building, hence the DEO, Thehe VDC and Thehe school committee have requested the Nepal Trust to assist them in the construction of a new school that initially would be utilized as primary school and due to the huge amount of students slowly could be developed into a secondary school and could act as a model example of a school in Humla district.

The Humla DEO, Thehe VDC, Thehe school committee and community have indicated however, that they would provide all the land necessary to construct a new school. Once the new school is build, and due to the fact the school has been taken up into the Government curriculum, they will also take full responsibility to provide the required school teachers and education materials for the students to run the school properly afterwards and the school committee has authorized the school principal to act on behalf of the committee to negotiate with Nepal Trust to build the new school. For this they have provided the Nepal Trust with respective official commitment letters and meeting minutes (**see ANNEX II, III**).

The main aim of this project is to aid the recovery of this post-conflict area, with a focus on child education. The long-term aim is to promote social reconstruction, political stability and social cohesion by developing an improved and sustainable (primary) education delivery system in the area at grass-roots level, which falls within the new Government policy.

The project also aims to reinstate and develop primary education provision in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly those which focus on achieving global primary education and extreme poverty reduction, whilst encouraging recovery of a post-conflict area within the new Federal Republic of Nepal (28 May 2008).

The project has been developed by the Nepal Trust in consultation with Humla DEO, the local Thehe school committee and Thehe community and is in harmony with Nepal's national education policies.

- **Project duration**

The Thehe School Construction Project can be completed within 3 years (36 months) and can start from November 2012. The project will be managed by a committee led by the Nepal Trust for 3 years after which as much as possible of the responsibilities and tasks will be handed over to the DEO, the local Thehe VDC, school committee and communities, and/or private organizations to ensure project sustainability. The Nepal Trust will integrate the school project in its overall development program and will keep facilitating Thehe school committee after project hand-over to run the school properly, whilst leaving the community in charge.

- **Project location**

The project will be located in Humla District, North West Nepal. Humla is Nepal's highest and most inaccessible district, located in the far NW of the country with an altitude ranging from 1500-7300m. Simikot is the district's head quarter and has an airstrip which allows planes to land with good weather. The closest road-head to Humla is 9 days walk to the south; and from Tibet 6 days walk away to the northeast. Humla is one of the poorest and least developed regions of Nepal and thus in the world.

- **Project beneficiaries**

The direct beneficiaries are poorer people in Thehe village, Humla district (**see ANNEX IV**). Thehe village is located 5 hours walk from Simikot HQ and has around 240 households comprising a population of 2,522 people (1,217 males and 1,305 females) from which 697 are school students (363 boys and 334 girls). Thehe village has an annual population increase rate of 4.45%, which means that annually over 100 students need to be enrolled in the local school system available (**Source: DDC Humla Field Survey, 2010**).

The indirect beneficiaries comprise the wider community of Thehe VDC which has a total population of 403 households comprising approx. 5,000 people including disadvantaged and directly conflict affected groups. Next to this, indirect beneficiaries include other local stakeholders, local formal and informal (non) Government institutions and surrounding VDCs.

- **Problem statement**

The immediate problem to be addressed includes the lack of (primary) school infrastructure and low levels of education among the population in Thehe VDC and the surrounding communities which contribute to the high levels of illiteracy, lack of employment opportunities and low income levels in the area.

- **Project objectives (specific)**

- a. To provide accessible, responsible, and improved education infrastructure and services for local communities
- b. To raise education and literacy levels among local communities
- c. To increase physical and mental health conditions among local communities

- **Expected outputs and results:**

- a. New equipped school building, toilet facility and canteen constructed to be used by local students and teachers
- b. Increased education and literacy levels among local communities through school library education
- c. Increased level of hygiene and health awareness through health education and sport activities and games among local communities

• **Areas for assistance:**

Besides the provision of land, the community will provide in-kind support to the project (e.g. unskilled labor, local materials, etc.) which will amount to approx. 5% of the total construction cost. This will not only create a bigger sense of ownership, but also a sense of pride within the community. Funding assistance is sought for the following specific areas:

1. Construction main (primary) school building, incl. white boards and furniture (e.g. tables, chairs, benches, racks)
2. Construction hygienic and environment responsible school toilet and sanitation facility (girl friendly)
3. Construction school canteen with kitchen compartment and furniture (tables, chairs)
4. Establishment first school library in Thehe VDC incl. provision of children books and education materials (e.g. novels, literature, poetry, atlases, globes, stationary, etc.)
5. Provision of sport equipment and games to increase physical and mental health of students and to encourage them to participate in team building exercises
6. Technical design school, toilet facility, canteen, furniture (see ANNEX V, VI, VII, VIII, IX)
7. Plating and signage at school compound
8. Basic Painting/ Decoration/ Kitchen Equipment/ Toiletries/ Tools incl. Transport
9. Local monitoring/ evaluation and Government/ community liaisons
10. Admin/ project support

• **Amount of funding requested**

Funding requested - € 80,000.00 (Eighty Thousand Euro)

	Year - 1	Year - 2	Year - 3	Total
Funding requested	17,238	36,893	25,869	80,000

For a more comprehensive breakdown of the funding requested please see the table below:

S.N	Particulars	2012	2013	2014	Total Rupees	Total Euro
1	Main School Building	1300012.56	2600025.12	1300012.56	5,200,050.24	47,273
2	School Toilet and Sanitation Facility	350219.89	700439.78	350219.89	1,400,879.55	12,735
3	School Canteen and Kitchen Room	175902.89	351805.78	175902.89	703,611.55	6,396
4	School Library Equipment/ Books/ Education Materials/ Stationary incl. Transport	0	0	365000	365000	3,318
5	Sport equipment/ Games incl. Transport	0	0	100000	100000	909
6	Consultancy Fee Technical Design School	70000	0	0	70000	636
7	Plating/ Signage	0	0	48500	48500	441
8	Basic Painting/ Decoration/ Kitchen Equipment/ Toiletries/ Tools incl. Transport	0	150000	250000	400000	3,636
9	Local Monitoring/ Evaluation	0	36000	36000	72000	655
10	Nepal Trust Overheads, Admin, Project Support (5%)	0	220000	220000	440000	4,000
	TOTAL	1,896,135	4,058,271	2,845,635	8,800,041	80,000
	COST PER YEAR (EURO)	17,238	36,893	25,869	80,000	

* 1 Euro = 110 Nepalese Rupees (November 2012)

** In case of inflation or unforeseen expenditures the budget headings for e.g. painting/ kitchen equipment/ toiletries, sport equipment and library equipment can be adjusted per requirement

PHOTO ALBUM



Nepal Trust Thehe Community Liaison - October 2012



Thehe Village



Old School Thehe - Overcrowded by Students and in Bad Condition



Nepal Trust Volunteers Inspecting Thehe School Land



Thehe Primary School Students



Thehe Primary School Students