

GURJE REPORT

March 22nd, 2009

CONSTRUCTION

Medical Clinic

The new health post in Gurje is nearing completion, this is being done through the generous funding of the Haar family from France and under the supervision of the SolHimal-Umbrella Organisation Nepal. The interior brick wall construction has now been completed. The outer wall is constructed with local stones and the inner partition is done with bricks. There are twenty four windows and fourteen doors in total which have all been fitted except two windows and the main doorway. The final horizontal structural support beams are being constructed and are expected to be finished within the next week. The construction of the roof should begin within the next week also.



Biogas

The biogas plants in Gurung Gaun, Arkhaule Top and Arkhaule Bottom have all been constructed through the funding of our good friends *UNICA Foundation* from Holland and we are very pleased to have the Project Manager Roy Voss here in Nepal. He will visit Gurje in the coming weeks for a site inspection.

The biogas plants in the schools of Arkhaule Top and Arkhaule Bottom are in the final stage of gas production. In Gurung Gaun the dung collection is expected to be completed within the next week.

Hydro-electricity

The locals have been all but finished their part of collecting materials and digging the pit for the turbine housing. Universal Consultancy technicians have completed the final site survey and found that it is possible to provide 3kW rather than 2.5kW within the original budget they will send their technicians to the site this week and begin the construction of the canal.

The hydro-electric peltric set will provide power the Health Post and Gurje School, after this the power will also be for The SolHimal-Umbrella Office which is vital to the future of SolHimal-Umbrella Organisation as they hope to move the main part of their operations to Gurje.

The twenty cum Biogas Plant is being constructed within the grounds of the SolHimal-Umbrella Gurje Office. The primary purpose of this Biogas Plant is to provide sufficient gas supply to feed the children of Gurje School, who come to eat Daal Bhaat every school morning. At full attendance we have one hundred and ten children availing of the Food for Education Programme. We have already started the feeding programme, but have to cook using gas bottles which we find to be very expensive both to buy and transport. The use of biogas is cheap, sustainable and environmentally friendly and can also be used for compost afterwards for the local women's groups.

EDUCATION



The final exams are running in all of the schools across Nepal at the moment and all of the students are busy studying. After these there will be holidays for three weeks, so all of our staff and volunteers are busy preparing the Food for Education Programme, which will begin after the holidays. Solene and Vincent our resident French volunteers have been working very hard these past couple of weeks. They have laid cement and built shelves in all of the schools kitchens and have worked closely with the schools to create management committees and to find cooks for each.

These “Management committee” of five members in four schools, includes principal, teacher, chairperson and two parents from the local students. This committee will supervise education programmes and the sponsorship programme, while also supervising the regular attendance of teachers and the stock for stationeries and feeding materials. This committee will conduct monthly meetings and will discuss the progress, development and problems of their school. They will then submit monthly reports to SolHimal-Umbrella. We are working very closely with the District Education Board in this area to raise the level of education and to hopefully make a model for Nepal.

Literacy Class

Solar panels have been installed in all 4 schools and 2 training centres for the main purpose of adult literacy classes, which now run every evening. This work has also been kindly funded by our good friends *UNICA* Foundation from Holland.

With this in mind we have begun working with a local NGO from Kathmandu, *Kumari Womens Home*. They specialise in vocational training and will be running literacy classes with the womens groups for the next year. They will also train them in the production of food products such as jam and how to make handicrafts such as incense.

Health Camp

This week on March 15th, *Community Action Nepal* conducted a two day training seminar related to health especially for women. The senior nurses Sunita Tamang and Kalpana Tamang gave training and information about different communicable diseases and also the prevention from these diseases. This programme is mostly focussed for the health of mothers' and children. They taught the women about the dangers of cancer, and demonstrated the importance of cleanliness and hygiene. They ran these programmes for two days in Gurje and one day in Gurung Gaun, about one hundred fifty women participated. We are very pleased to continue our good relations with *Community Action Nepal*, especially with Sunita and Kalpana and we look forward to working with them closely in the future in our Gurje Village Project.



Base Camp

Our local plumber Jeevan has been busy finishing the plumbing for the Office/Living Quarters. He has finished the installation of a 1,000 litre water tank which will also supply the Health Post.

AGRICULTURE

Jyoti our agricultural expert distributed many potatoe seeds some months ago and these are now beginning to show results. So, we are working with the womens groups this week to help with the cultivation. These potatoes will be ready to harvest after 2 months. We are continuing our training for “well-developed agriculture” with the womens groups and are constantly expanding our working area to reach as many villages as possible.

Due to this dry season, farmers are facing some problems and need all the help they can get.



kiwi sapling



potatoes

This week, we organized eight new womens groups. They are as follows:

S.N	Group name	Address	Chairman name	Number of members
1	Naya Bhawana Mahila Bachat Group	Saurathok village, Samundradevi VDC, ward no: 3	Kumari Tamang	26
2	KorthokMa Bachat Group	Korthok village, Samundradevi VDC, ward no: 4	Laxmi Tamang	21
3	Morthok Mahila Bachat Group	Morthok village, Samundradevi VDC, ward no: 6	Lalmaya Tamang	20
4	Bista Tole Mahila Bachat Group	Bista Tole village. Samundradevi VDC, waed no: 7	Urmila Bista	18
5	Mahadevsthan Mahila Bachat Group	Mahadevstan village, Samundradevi VDC, ward No; 9	Pramila Tamang	32

6	Maghagaun Mahila Bachat Group	Maghagaun village, Samundradevi VDC, ward no: 8	Phoolmaya Tamang	51
7	Dandathok Mahila Bachat Group	Dandathok village, samundradevi VDC, ward no: 7	Chhaya Lama	19
8	Kalika Devi Mahila Bachat Group	Bakhati tole village. Samundradevi VDC, ward no. 5	Bhagwati Budhathoki	35
9	Panchakanya Mahila Bachat Group	Bakhati tole village, Samundradevi VDC, ward no. 5	Goma Bhakati	30
			Total	252

We are already working with:

S.N	Group name	Address	Chairman name	Number of members
1	Tamu Jagriti Mahila Group	Gurung gaun village, Sunkhani VDC, ward no.2	Laxmi Gurung	21
2	Naya gaun Mahila Bachat Group	Naya Gaun village, Sunkhani VDC, ward no.1	Pramila Tamang	23
3	Gurje Mahila bachat Group	Gurje village, Samundradevi VDC, ward no.1	Thulimaya Tamang	13
4	Arkhaule Mahila Bachat Samuha	Arkhaule top village, Samundradevi VDC, ward no.2	Kumari Tamang	23
5	Ganeshdevi Mahila Group	Phedigaun village, samundradevi VDC, ward no.2	Radha Tamang	40
			Total	120

In the coming weeks, Jyoti will distribute many seeds and cultivation materials to both the old and new womens groups. He will start nursery's with the groups for many seeds including; coffee, beans, cucumber and asparagus. For cultivation we will provide; spray machines, sprinklers, register books...

*Thanking you,
Report Prepared By,
SolHimal-Umbrella staff*