

HIMALAYAN INITIATIVES

ANNUAL REPORT to end of March 2016

Himalayan Initiatives is an unincorporated association. It was founded in March 2013 and was registered as a Scottish Charity in September 2013, Scottish Charity no. SC044266. It works to support community led sustainable development. The focus of its work is disadvantaged communities in rural Nepal. This is the charity's third annual report. The Trustees during this period are the charity's two founders Jane Lockyer (JL, Chairperson) and David Easton (DE, Treasurer) accompanied by Rob Mackay (RM, Secretary) and Joanneke Kruijzen (JK). Himalayan Initiatives works in close partnership with Nepal Non- Government Organisation "Community Building for Sustainable Development" (CBSD) which is affiliated to the Social Welfare Council of Nepal.

The two devastating earthquakes in Nepal on April 25th and May 12th 2015 meant that emergency relief and the provision of transitional shelters became immediate priorities. Our supporters were generous with donations and in their support of fundraising events. As a result our annual income has exceeded £48000 (more than a three-fold increase on the previous year). This allowed us to provide CBSD with the funds it required to deliver emergency relief in Sindhupalchok , Lower Solu Khumbu and Dolakha districts and provide 40 transitional shelters to Nele village in Lower Solu Khumbu. Over the course of the year we have supported longer term recovery planning as well as the development of on-going initiatives – foremost of these being the metal stove project.

Summary of Activities:

April 2015: Delivery of 67 metal stoves to Nele village about a week before the first earthquake on 25th April.

Himalayan Initiatives donated £1500 to help the immediate relief effort (to DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal and to the British charities: World Water Works and Humanity First for the provision of water survival boxes)

9th May 2015: Board meeting

12th May 2015: Second earthquake with epicenter close to Simigaon village.

CBSD undertakes relief efforts in Sindupalchok district and Nele area in Lower Solu Khumbu. Jhareni Primary School, Lower Solu Khumbu, funded by Himalayan Initiatives and built for quake resistance, was undamaged in the quakes.

June 2015: CBSD complete the building of 40 transitional shelters in Nele – just ahead of the monsoon.

July 2015: 60 tarpaulins delivered to Simigaon

November 2015: Charity trek to Pikey Peak and project villages- JL and 4 participants.

JL visit to First Steps Himalaya Teacher Training Center in Sindupalchok to see earthbag building first hand and discuss options for rebuilding for quake resistance.

2nd December 2015: Board meeting and AGM. Rob Mackay appointed as secretary. (Joanneke Kruijzen retired as secretary due to ill-health and continued as board member)

January 2016: Following good feedback on the metal stove project- it was agreed to fund provision of 102 stoves requested by villagers in Jhareni, Lower Solu Khumbu. Funding was also agreed for 2 teachers (for Rukura and Jhareni) to commence work April 2016.

February 2016:

Board meeting

CBSD organizes mason (builder) training in earthquake safe construction in Nele- 30 participants from the area attend.

JL gives a talk to Over 50's club in Huntly

March 2016:

Board meeting

Stationery supplied to Mammerku school. Also agreement to fund school uniforms for Mammerku school.

"Twinning" of Kellands Primary school, Inverurie with Rukura Primary School, Nele, Lower Solu Khumbu agreed.

Main official fundraising activities organized by Himalayan Initiatives:

29th May 2015: Dance in the Stewarts Hall Huntly (£1859)

6th June 2015: Coffee Morning Stewarts Hall Huntly (£2234)

Main Fundraising activities organized by supporters:

Sales of Nepalese handicrafts by Ama Mundi (£1203)

Dance and auction at Kemnay June 2016 (£1939)

Tin Hut Ceilidh (£763)

DE sponsored beard (£500)

Various supporters set up fundraiser pages linked to the Himalayan Initiatives BT MyDonate page raising considerable sums, this included a team of 4 participating in the Thames Path Challenge (£5830) and participants of the Himalayan Initiatives Charity Trek Nov 2015 (£3735)

Over £5000 was raised by one supporter through sales at a whisky auction.

Local musician Sharon Hassan held a number events raising funds specifically for relief work in and around Kathmandu delivered through Kutumba band member Kiran Nepali and to support the work of charity First Steps Himalaya in Nepal (£4640)