



# MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2018



# Nepal Update

## IN APRIL:

The newly appointed Prime Minister of Nepal spent 3 days touring India for his first official tour as the head of Nepal. Although no significant or ground breaking deals were signed during the visit, it was seen as a success since it helped improve relations between Nepal and India, which got tense after India imposed the economic blockade in 2015.

This month, Nepal celebrated the new year 2075 based on its official calendar. Nepalis also celebrated the 2,562nd birthday of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. People of many religions observed this occasion in different ways to show gratitude and love for Gautam Buddha.



# Kathmandu Office Update



Rhododendrons are blooming!

## A Busy Month!

In April, the Kathmandu office was busy planning for next year's projects. We received 13 proposals from our partner NGOs for next year. The Kathmandu office evaluated the proposals and decided to conduct feasibility studies for 10 of them. Chokpa started the feasibility studies for the Solukhumbu projects and Rupak will be conducting the studies in Khotang. Brent Bishop also visited the Kathmandu office, which was very exciting. Thank you, Brent!

## US Office Update

Jim had a busy month of fundraising and travel around the West. Ben, Michelle, and Jim started prep for the board meeting, which will continue through May. Ben also had a successful trip to the UK and Europe and made some great connections for fundraising through Paul Mulholland. The US staff has also been busy prepping and finalizing any last details for Mountainfilm. In April, we formalized our partnership with Solidarity of Unbridled Labour and began working with them to conduct initial stakeholder interviews.

# Updates from our Partner Communities

## Construction Projects

This month we completed construction on 5 school projects. Of the 5, 4 are in Rakha and Sungdel, Khotang and 1 is in Gudel, Solukhumbu. We also conducted public audits of the school projects with local community members. The 4 school projects in Khotang are funded by Detroit2Nepal.

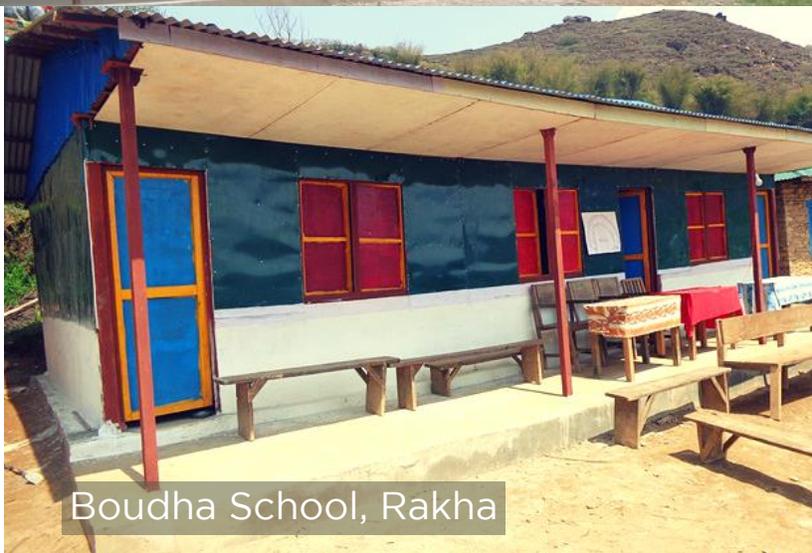
Construction of the remaining 6 schools is in progress. We expect that 5 of them will be finished by the end of May. However, the school in Chheskam had some unexpected delays and will be completed in June. Because of a few unforeseen challenges, such as a shortage of stove masters and possible project duplication, the Improved Cook Stove project in Gudel is also delayed. We have almost finished the ICS project in Chheskam.



Surya School, Sungdel



ICS project in Gudel



Boudha School, Rakha

# Agriculture Program



Agriculture technician for Maheswori, Thamsari, organizing ginger from farmers.

This month, we completed the feasibility study for Bung so that we can create an agriculture project plan for next year. The feasibility study was done by our agriculture program coordinator and agriculture technician for Gudel.

In addition, we trained 203 farmers on organic pesticides preparation, 92 farmers on farmland manure improvement skills, 105 farmers on ginger, turmeric and chilli cultivation, 25 farmers on peanut cultivation and 20 farmers on how to make a model kitchen garden.

Under the supervision of the Community Market Facilitator for Khotang, 106 farmers from Maheswori sold ginger and turmeric worth NPR 96,290 (\$904 USD). The CMF for Solukhumbu resigned from his post this month.

# Meet Rewati Rai

Rewati Rai has been dZi's Agriculture Program Coordinator since 2015. He leads our agriculture program team to achieve the goals we set under this program. He is from Rakha, where dZi piloted the agriculture program. He lives there with his wife and 2 children.

Rewati worked as a teacher and social mobilizer for 10 years before joining dZi. He says serving his community is what keeps him motivated to work in agriculture and with dZi. Apart from social work, he loves to write poems and dramas during his leisure time.



## Up Next in May!

- Submission of Project Agreement Proposal to Social Welfare Council.
- Feasibility studies for the projects proposed for next year.
- Combined meeting of agriculture team in Rakha.
- Board of Directors meeting in Telluride, CO.

# Story of the Month



"Our neighbors helped us carry mud required to build this improved cook stove because it's only me and my husband here. My son lives in the cities. This new stove has been a blessing for us. We can now cook two food items at the same time quickly, and there is no smoke. I can see clearly what I am cooking. The pots do not get as dirty. I have been using this stove every day for the past month and a half."

- Elderly Lalichandra Kulung from Chheskam who is very happy with the new Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) at her house. You can learn more about our ICS program [here](#).

# Thank you for reading!



As always, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any comments, feedback, or questions you'd like explained in the April report to me at [rupak@dzi.org](mailto:rupak@dzi.org)