Because we can better respond to crisis.

COVID-19 has hit Nepal’s remote communities with an unprecedented economic crisis that will affect generations to come. Traditional means of earning income are no longer an option. The nationwide lockdown has entered the second month. This is one of the most strict closures on the planet, and vulnerable families are unable to buy or sell basic goods, including food and seeds. Public health facilities in remote villages lack even the most basic equipment to diagnose or treat COVID patients and will be quickly overwhelmed as the virus spreads.

For the past 22 years, dZi and partners like you have helped Nepal’s families endure a number of serious crises—from the 2015 earthquake to the civil war. We have learned that the key to true resilience is focusing on long-term systematic changes. Together we create safe spaces for education, productive farming techniques, bridges to connect remote areas, clean water systems, and access to markets and trade systems.

Nepali people in our project areas have a strong foundation upon which to stand and bravely face this economic crisis. We know that with your help, and by following dZi’s proven community partnership methods Nepal can weather this storm.

Rapid Response: dZi on the ground in Nepal:

- We are the first organization to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to health care workers in our project areas.
- dZi is acting in an advisory capacity for rural government officials on best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- dZi staff are following proper social distancing protocols while working one-on-one with farming families, distributing seeds and providing technical support, to ensure they can grow enough healthy food.

Resilience realized

Members of The Visionary Society, a group of dZi’s long-term donors, have pledged to match all donations to dZi up to $75,000 through June 21st, 2020. Join us in our goal of raising $150,000 as we not only provide relief to help these communities weather the current economic crisis, but to ensure that they have the tools to focus on a healthier, more prosperous future.
A long-term donor recently commissioned a professional external evaluation of our work by Informed International*. They found that **dZi’s dedicated approach is proven to help remote communities become more resilient and more prosperous.** The data shows that dZi achieves results that few other organizations can—including a measurable increase in overall happiness for the whole community. This proves what communities have been telling us for years: **our holistic and long-term approach really works.**

**Educated children ensure a strong future:**
Our partner communities show an **83%** increase in regular school attendance for children.

**United communities will prosper:**
Civic engagement is increased by **25%**.

**Healthier people thrive:**
Life-saving health and sanitation practices like daily usage of sanitary toilets increases by **40%**.

**Happiness matters:**
Partner communities demonstrate a **39%** increase in people who consider themselves “very happy.”

*www.informedinternational.org*
Deuki Maya Rai is a 41-year-old farmer from Bung, Solukhumbu. After participating in a dZi agricultural program, she learned to grow new varieties of vegetables and crops which she sold at weekly markets, nearby tea houses and lodges. She was successfully earning $40-$50 each week—approximately the same salary as a coveted school teacher’s job.

Since all markets are closed due to the lockdown, Deuki Maya Rai cannot sell her coriander, onions, and garlic. The crops lay unharvested in her field, about to die. Her large cabbage crop, almost ready for harvest, will likely go to waste, too.

Your support inspires farmers like Deuki Maya Rai to envision a time beyond the crisis—where rural villages can continue to depend on her fresh, healthy crops for food security and nutrition.

Through this massive financial setback and uncertainty, Deuki Maya Rai's partnership with dZi has helped her maintain her long-term goals for the future. dZi has inspired her to dream big and with continued guidance, she plans to produce more crops and even buy a truck to transport her produce to more profitable markets.
Remote communities lack any options for even the most basic medical care, and elderly or ill populations are extremely vulnerable to the COVID virus. A healthy community with strong immune systems and few pre-existing conditions can limit the severity and the spread of the virus.

As the head of the health post in the community of Gudel, Kirti Dhan Rai recalls a time when he frequently saw patients with severe diarrheal diseases and tapeworm. Many also suffered from respiratory problems like a chronic cough and asthma.

“Since dZi has started working in Gudel, I have seen a radical improvement in the health problems in our village,” Kirti Dhan Rai says. “I have not seen or heard any people complaining about cholera, diarrhea, or tapeworm in quite some time.”

He credits dZi projects—made possible by donors like you—for better health in his village. Together, toilets, drinking water systems, and smokeless cook stoves have helped local families be healthier than they have ever been before. dZi has also helped transition Gudel to a plastic free zone and supports programs to teach about basic sanitation and hygiene in schools.

In the face of COVID-19, Kirti knows that having a healthier population that practices keeping their homes and surroundings clean could mean the difference between life and death.
Water is so essential that we hardly notice it in our daily lives. There are many rural villages in Nepal where a families’ entire daily schedule revolves around fetching water from meager sources, hours away. *Without access to adequate supplies of clean water, families have to make the impossible choice between cooking, drinking water, and washing.*

dZi’s drinking water projects, like the one recently completed in the village of Lispu, *can truly transform every aspect of life for rural families.*

Susma Rai notes the countless ways her family makes use of the fresh, clean water from the new drinking water system. “With these new water taps, I have enough water to bathe, wash clothes, cook, and use the toilet. I use the excess water to irrigate my kitchen garden and grow vegetables.”

With the newfound ability to wash her hands frequently with fresh water—a task so critical to our health, especially these days—Susma Rai feels better able to protect herself against coronavirus. And she feels healthier and stronger thanks to the nutritious vegetables she grows and shares with her family every meal.

**Most of all she feels grateful—to dZi and to supporters like you—for connecting her with such a life-changing staple.**

Our clean water projects must resume as soon as we are able because water truly gives life to Nepal. To watch a short video on the profound impact of dZi’s water projects, visit [dzi.org/water](http://dzi.org/water).
With your generosity, we see dZi projects come together all over rural communities in eastern Nepal. But our partnership is truly visible when we witness the people come together.

Dilli Ram Rai, a villager who benefitted from the irrigation project in Gurunkhore, recalls what his community was like before dZi’s partnership.

“We were busy with ourselves and used to only see our neighbors during social ceremonies. The irrigation project made us work together for a common goal—I have never known any organization who made us lead, plan, and work on the project ourselves before I came across dZi Foundation,” he says.

Dilli Ram Rai’s words illustrate exactly why our partnerships work: “This project helped us to unite. We learned that we can achieve anything with strong unity among community members.”

Each project you make possible is another remote community brought together, working hard to learn and prosper for the long-term. Every project builds upon previous projects and helps a community become more resilient together.

A unified community is better prepared to face challenges, like COVID-19. Dilli believes that “if we stay together for each other we can easily fight against the coronavirus too.”
We are all partners in resilience—dZi, the communities in Nepal, and most importantly you. Your tax-deductible donation fuels our programs and staff on the ground in Nepal, empowering communities with the knowledge and tools to create lasting improvements in health, education, and agriculture.

In this dire economic crisis, our partnership will help Nepal remain focused on the future and thriving—resilient beyond COVID-19.

Please make your gift today to help us reach our fundraising goal of $150,000, and to take advantage of the $75,000 match donation to double your impact!

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Every rupee we spend in our partner communities is audited three times, first by the community members themselves when the projects are completed, second by the Nepal Government, and finally by nonprofit accounting specialists in the U.S.