Planned activities: Primary school improvements in Dolakha, Nepal
Educate the Children

Educate the Children (ETC) Nepal has worked with children and women in Nepal for a quarter of a century. ETC’s main goal is to build self-reliance among marginalized communities by ensuring quality education of children and adults through integrated community development activities that create awareness and sustainable improvements towards the quality of life. ETC strives for the improvement of women’s status by providing various capacity-building trainings, literacy classes, awareness programs, and support to improve their socio-economic status through different income generation activities. Similarly, ETC also provides education support to the children of poor families in its working areas through school improvement programs, scholarship support, training/professional development opportunities for teachers and school administrators, and the formation of child clubs for extracurricular activities at various schools. ETC implements its activities through its Integrated Community Development (ICD) over the course of five or more years in a specific geographic area.

Currently, ETC is working directly in 30 schools and with nearly 1,000 women from highly marginalized communities (including Thami, janajati, and dalit populations) in the Lapilang, Lamidanda, and Babare Village Development Committees of Dolakha District.

The devastating earthquakes of April 25th and May 12, 2015 destroyed almost all school facilities in these three VDCs. Buildings at all 30 schools with which ETC presently works were either destroyed or damaged to the point of being unsafe. Given the dire need of these schools and the importance of enabling the continued education of some 3,300 children enrolled there, ETC started relief activities during the summer months, as follows:

• ETC supported building materials and technical support to build temporary learning centers (TLCs) at all 30 schools.
• ETC also provided limited teaching classroom/school supplies and recreational materials at all 30 schools, to replace those destroyed when homes and schools collapsed.

This quick response enabled students to resume their interrupted educations as soon as was reasonably possible. However, there is a need to provide additional supplies, and it would be very desirable to improve the TLCs to make them sturdier and more weather-resistant. The TLCs will likely be in use for some time, perhaps years in some cases, before quake-resistant permanent buildings are constructed.

With that in mind, ETC seeks to improve 34 permanent classrooms (two at each of 17 primary schools) in Lapilang, Babare, and Lamidanda VDCs and to provide them with additional furniture, classroom supplies, and recreational materials. The recreational materials are just as important as the academic materials, because even if just for a short while, children can forget their troubles in play as they did before their lives were upended. Primary schools are low on the priority list for the District Education Office, as they tend to be smaller than lower and higher secondary schools. ETC is prioritizing primary schools because the young children enrolled there
deserve a strong start to their education, without which they are less likely to succeed in later grades.

The work will be begun as soon as possible after Tihar (early to mid-November), provided that the materials can be transported to Dolakha. This is more difficult now than under normal circumstances, given the fuel shortage and resulting transportation/logistics challenges. Once the work has begun, it will require 12 months to complete the work at all 30 schools, not counting the monsoon months.

**Tentative Budget (per school)**

**Facilities improvement/construction:**
- Cement 40,000 rupees
- Stone 36,000 rupees
- Windows/door 24,000 rupees
- Earthquake safety materials 50,000 rupees
- Skilled and unskilled labor 85,000 rupees
- Painting 20,000 rupees
- Transportation 50,000 rupees

*Subtotal, facilities improvement/constr.* 305,000 rupees

**Furniture (20 sets desks/benches)** 50,000 rupees

**Classroom supplies:**
- White board or chalk board 6,000 rupees
- Charts, posters, etc. 10,000 rupees
- Puzzles, blocks, etc. 10,000 rupees
- Stationery (paper, pens, etc.) 14,000 rupees

*Subtotal, classroom supplies* 40,000 rupees

**One slide and one swing set** 16,000 rupees

*Total per school* 411,000 rupees

*Total per school ($ appx.)* $ 3,914

*Times 17 schools, total costs* 6,987,000 rupees

*Times 17 schools, total costs ($ appx.)* $ 66,538

Notes:
- This budget **does not** include any portion of Nepal staff salaries for project oversight/planning and other related expenses that will be incurred.
- The dollar values are derived using the current exchange rate of 105 rupees per dollar.
- Some materials currently forming part of the TLCs will be re-purposed for these improved buildings (e.g., galvanized metal sheets for roofing) and thus have no further costs attached to them.
**Priority schools**

The four primary schools at which ETC will first complete this work are described below. We would be grateful for the Nepali Center of North Carolina’s support of the work to be completed at as many of these schools as you are able and willing to do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School name</th>
<th>VDC and ward #</th>
<th>Grade levels</th>
<th># teachers</th>
<th># students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deurali Primary School</td>
<td>Lapilang-3</td>
<td>Pre-primary – 5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65 56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guranse Primary School</td>
<td>Lapilang-2</td>
<td>Pre-primary – 5</td>
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<td>46 43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jankalyan Primary School</td>
<td>Lamidanda-5</td>
<td>Pre- primary – 5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>45 42</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Babare-1</td>
<td>1 – 3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>42 43</td>
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<th></th>
<th>women</th>
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<th>girls</th>
<th>boys</th>
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<tr>
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<td>43</td>
</tr>
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Work at these four schools, once begun, should be completed in three to four months.

Photos of Guranse Primary School:

*At left: February 2015*

*Below left: May 2015, soon before the second earthquake*

*Below right: TLCs, summer 2015*