

Project reference: 17001

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Overview

This is an interim report for the work done at **Shree Kiulethane Basic School** located in Gufa village. The whole of the school's facilities were affected by the April 2015 earthquake, which impeded the school's ability to operate. We requested funds to help with the dismantling of older buildings, rebuilding six new classrooms, constructing a toilet building, providing fencing for the playground and funding continued teacher support.

Soon after the funding was approved, we initiated meetings to discuss the detail of the project and its implementation. The most complicated bit was to decide on the exact location to rebuild the new school as the villagers demanded that the old building site should be left clear to provide a good sized open play space. We began clearing the new site from February 2017 and this work involved the removal of the mud and included the excavation and leveling of the sites for the new buildings. In May 2017 we started the actual construction of the new buildings and this work in progress was witnessed by Stephen Carrick-Davis, CEO of Mondo Challenge Foundation when he visited in June 2017. See video Stephen made of work in progress at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=205&v=c2pDbCWTxSA

1.2 Overall aims of the project

The project's aim was to build sufficient earthquake-resistant classrooms and a toilet block, plus other facilities such as fencing and playground, to enable the children who are currently being taught in TLCs to return to proper classrooms as soon as possible.

1.3 Summary of results to date

The school of 145 pupils has continued to operate during this building project with the children being taught in the Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) but the aim is to move them into the new block by early December. This school building block funded by Foundation Eagle will sit alongside a two-classroom block built using a rammed earth building technique which another funder has supported us with building.

During all the building work the HELP team consulted closely with the head teacher and local education and village committees. These classrooms are now almost complete minus the door and window fitting and painting. The new toilet block has also been completed. (see photos).

2. IMPLEMENTATION

The major challenge we faced as this project unfolded was identification of the new land site, which caused a few months of delay. After several rounds of meetings with the villagers, we agreed on land just above the old school site for new building. We had to go through the process of ensuring that the new land was brought under the ownership of the school and undertake a massive clearing of the site. Another challenge was the lack of water supply at the building site. Because of its location, Gufa village suffers from the perennial problem of not receiving enough water during the dry season (December through May). The water that flows to the school was only sufficient for children and teachers to drink. This meant we had to deploy four people daily to carry water in buckets from a nearby water source to the school site. This was to ensure that the building work did not stop due to water shortage. Furthermore, the delay meant that the project was not finished by the time of the monsoon, which also restricted the transportation of goods and also affected the availability of our workforce who had to take care of their personal monsoon issues.



2.1 Dismantling Old Buildings.

We put 15 locals to work for over 20 days to dismantle the old building. As the breaking of the concrete slab in the deconstruction of the building was technical work, we hired four building dismantlers from Kathmandu to assist the locals. Ten trucks were used to remove the debris from the site. In total, we spent Rs. 3,25,000 or approximately £2500 on it. This was £500 more than we had estimated.



The original school which needed to be dismantled.



2.2 Construction of New Classrooms

The building of six classrooms started in early May and they are nearing completion. They require windows and doors (the frames are in place already) and the attendant furniture (handles, locks etc), and the suspended ceilings need to be installed as well as being painted. Alongside the six-room building, we have also completed a two-room rammed earth building providing a total of eight classrooms for the school.

A new Government Standard came into force in March 2017, requiring classrooms to be increased in size to 20x24ft, which added to the challenges faced by the team. As a result, we built four large classrooms 2 of the increased 20x24ft and two of 30x18ft which will be partitioned with plywood to yield 4 classrooms of 15x18 feet which will meet the school's current needs.



The head teacher of the school





The construction of the new buildings required some preparation. The site required excavating and leveling, and the resultant earth needed to be removed. This necessitated the hiring of specialist labour and earth-moving equipment, and took 10-12 days to complete. The new classroom block has been constructed using reinforced brick-built masonry and is a 'Truss-Model' building, metal framed, reinforced brick construction with a trussed roof and suspended ceiling. The ceiling has yet to be installed.

Including the site clearance cost, we have so far spent £32,000 on the building and to finish the remaining work on the building, we will require £4,000. We are managing the costs as tightly as we can to keep them as close as possible to the original budget.

2.3 Toilet Building Construction:

The new toilet building has been built next to the rammed earth building. The building plans call for a block of 8 cubicles, 3 for boys, 3 for girls and 2 for staff – a larger size than we initially planned as the locals and the DEO insisted that a bigger toilet building is required in order to be able to upgrade classes in the future.

The previous toilet building was to be built out of hollow concrete block but the one we have built called for brick masonry. This meant that the costs have gone up. The construction started in late September, work was halted during the first half of October month due to the Dasain/Diwali holiday period, but recommenced mid-October and the work is now almost complete. Each cubicle is sized 5 by 6 feet,

fitted with running water and has a proper door and ventilator. A septic tank is built just outside the toilet building, which is 10 feet deep and 12 feet diameter in size.

Due to the change in the design and use of brick masonry, the total cost is now predicted at £5,000.



2.4 Compound Fencing

Due to the work still required to complete the building construction, work cannot yet begin on the compound fencing. The shifting of the building location to a new site means that the size of the fencing has increased too. About 280 feet long fencing is now required in total but for the time being, we plan to install half of it to cover the front side. The work on fencing is planned to be commenced from mid November and targeted to be completed by mid of December.

2.5 Teacher Support

The need for supporting the English teacher has been satisfied and the teacher, Mr. Bhim Badahur Tamang will continue to teach at the school for two years period.

3. BUDGET

S.No	Items	Original Budget in £	Spent in £	To Spend in £
1	Deconstruction of older building	2000	2500	0
2	Construction Six Classroom Building	36000	32,000	4,000
3	Construction of toilet building	3500	4500	500
4	Fencing and school gate	1500	0	1500
5	Teacher salary	2500	1000	1500
5	Admin	4550	4000	550
	Total	£50,050	£44,000	£8,050

CONCLUSION:

Between Eagle funded classrooms and Rammed Earth building, we will have built eight classrooms. Our budget is on track on most items, however due to higher cost on toilet building and building demolition, we are likely to overrun the budget by £2000. If necessary, we will cover this extra cost from other sources.

We plan to finish each bit of the work by the end of December and handover the building for the children to move into their new classrooms from the 1st of January 2018 onwards.

Stephen Carrick-Davies and Jimmy Lama
04 November 2017



Jimmy (far left) with the village and school committees at the start of the project