

Fondation Eagle – Final Report:

Shree Saraswati Basic School, Labse Laangarche in Nepal

REFERENCE FF 0452-12

1. Summary

1.1 Overview



This is the final report for the work done at Shree Saraswati Basic School located in Laangarche, Sindhupalchok, Nepal. The school's facilities were wholly affected by the April 2015 earthquake, which impeded the school's ability to operate. We requested funds to rebuild and repair the damaged structures at the school and a grant of £34,000 was awarded to Mondo in April 2018.

In our proposal, we requested funds to build a six-room school building on two stories, (three rooms on the ground floor and three rooms above), as well as a toilet block. This proposal remains intact. We have completed the following work and officially handed over the school to the school management committee and the local government office on the 24th of May 2019.

1. Reconstruction of six classrooms.
2. Construction of four-room toilet building with septic tank.
3. Ground leveling and fencing.
4. Desks and benches.
5. ECD and classroom management.

As we reported earlier, there has been an adjustment to the original plan since the school has successfully secured funding for an additional four classrooms from the District Education Office. These additional four classrooms have been built alongside the six new classrooms we have funded.

The construction work that was postponed in May of 2018 due to early monsoon resumed in November. The full-fledged construction progressed since January 2019 at a pleasing speed and we completed everything by the middle of May 2019.

1.2 Overall aims of the project:

Our aim was to build enough classrooms in an earthquake resistant manner to allow the school to run up to 8th grad in the future, enabling children to return to proper classrooms as soon as possible. To do this, the school now has ten classrooms, of which Fondation Eagle has partly funded six classrooms together with another funder we had, plus toilet building and other facilities.

1.3 Summary of results to date



We have completed the six classroom building, four room toilet building, metal fencing around the school compound, equipping the classrooms with desks and benches and setting up of ECD (Early Childhood Development) classroom. There are currently 133 children as of June 2019. About fifty children from this school who completed their primary education have moved to a nearby secondary level school. In the future, the school aims to find enough manpower to run up to grade eight independently so that children can be retained at the school up to full basic education (grade 1 to 8). There are four government-funded teachers at the school. We have recently launched a "Saathi" teacher programme, intensively training model primary teachers: two Saathi teachers will be placed at this school from the third week of July.

We have spent £66,000 as we committed towards the school and are thankful to our other donors at Rotary Club of Yeovil for raising the remaining funds.

Overall, it was a successful project: within a year project cycle period that started from May 2018 and last until May 2019, everything was completed to budget.

The school was handed over successful and happily amidst an event on the 24th of May in the presence of representative from Rotary Club of Yeovil. Please check for the video link here that shows the handover ceremony.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3z0baSc5Fo&fbclid=IwAR3NI0xaSfv487RxWXrkur2IQECaAuYPSApq3WPhhbNPxwgm5wCtgN5qF4E>

2. Implementation



It was a slow start to begin the project due to by a land issue that the School Management Committee had to resolve, going through various village level agreements and gaining permission from the government. After two and half months of such preparation, the work started formally in May of 2018. The early monsoon of 2018 delayed the work by almost six months.

The school management committee took the key lead on the construction aspect of the building. They employed on average 10-15 local skilled and unskilled workers each day during the building of the school. The workforce were mainly locals who are trained masons and also included four village masons who were trained at the masonry training programme we conducted in late 2015. Consistent with our general approach, this has ensured further participation of the local community in reconstruction efforts. We deployed a full time site Engineer, Mr. Punkaj Mandal, to supervise the building work at Langarche for a six month period.

As mentioned earlier, our trustee, Nitish Upadhaya together with the Mondo's chair, Simon Cowley visited the site in May to oversee initial foundation work. Our country manager, Jimmy Lama, together with his team at HELP have frequently visited the school site to monitor progress. We have also invited Engineers from the District Education Office and local PaanchPokhari Rural Municipality Office to back up the supervision work.

2.1 New buildings



We began the construction of the new classrooms in the first week of November 2018 to do the ground leveling and the foundation work. Starting in January, the local workforce begun to cast the 12 concrete columns that formed the main structure of the building. Soon after this was complete, we begun the brickwork phase on the ground floor forming the exterior walls of the classroom block followed by slab casting in February. The structural work on the second floor was completed by mid April including the installation of the truss roof and CGI sheets. The plastering of the exterior and the interior walls, covering the

brickwork to allow for painting, were completed in mid May.

Each of the classrooms is installed with a false ceiling within the classrooms on the upper floor. This is to regulate the temperature of the classrooms, and also reduces noise levels, particularly during the monsoon season. Between the false ceiling and metal roofing we have installed a mesh netting, to block off birds and other wildlife from entering whilst still allowing airflow. All classrooms have been fitted with electric installation, including lighting. Both the interior and exterior walls of the building were painted by mid of May and soon after it, the classrooms were furnished with desks and benches plus whiteboards ready for opening on the 24th of May.



All the buildings were designed using sophisticated software, which helped to model an earthquake resilient frame structure. The reinforcements to the classroom building have been developed in line with structural analysis and modeling conducted through this software. Red bricks have been used for the in-fill wall. We ensure that the bricks we are using are of the highest quality. In addition, the in-fill wall system is strengthened by use of earthquake resilient steel bands that tie the wall to the frame.

2.2 Toilet Building Construction:



The new toilet building has been built next to the six-classroom building. The building has a block of four cubicles, 2 for boys and 2 for girls. The toilet building is designed to fit the available land and meet the users demand calculated on the basis of number of students and teachers. It has a five feet long porch to cover the area from rain. The outer space of the toilet building has a space with several points for water taps. A modern septic tank has

been built 100 meters away from the toilet building so that the waste is treated well and that the liquid waste can be used for biogas or kitchen garden purpose in the future.

The toilet building was built in partnership with an organization called HealthHabitat, who made both financial and technical contribution including the placement of highly skilled international plumbers. The school management committee has been provided with training and a tool kit for repair and maintenance in the future.

Together with the local masons, the toilet building was supervised by Bishnu Shrestha, an expert to whom we contracted the work. The construction of the toilet building started in early March and was completed in mid of May. Each cubicle is sized 5 by 6 feet. The cost of the toilet building was £ 7,000 or Rs. 11,50,000.

2.3 Compound Fencing and School Gate:



As we described in the interim report, we have now installed fencing of metal poles and GI wire netting for the total length of roughly 450 feet in length. At the entrance, we also installed a gate so that it prevents any unwanted visitors from entering the school premises without permission and the school area can be locked up when there are no school days. It cost us Rs. 500,000 or £3,500 to do the fencing.

2.4. Furniture and other resources:



Each of the classrooms is equipped with a new set of desks and benches made out of metal frames and wooden planks and is fitted with a whiteboard. We have also supplied the school with a basic set of sports equipment. We have set up an attractive nursery classroom for early graders with carpet flooring, cushioning and small tables. The room is equipped with a wide variety of teaching and learning materials that the students and teachers can use.

2.5 Teacher Support

The need for supporting the English teacher has been satisfied and the teacher, Mr. Dhurba Raj Khadka has taught for a year. Starting August of 2019, the school has been selected for our brand new Mondo HELP Saathi teachers programme which is a scheme we have designed and developed to place high quality teachers for two years placement. The candidates are selected through a much more rigorous process and go through an intensive training programme.

3. BUDGET

S.No.	Heading	Original Budget in £	Spent in £
1	Construction of six new classrooms	48,000	48,000
2	Toilet Building	5,000	7,000
3	Compound Fencing and School Gate	2500	3,500
4	Furniture: Desks and Benches/White Board	500	1,000
5	Other resources: Nursery Classroom and Sports Equipment.	1,000	3,500
6	Teacher's Salaries and Training	4,000	4,000
7	Admin costs @ 8%	5,000	6,000
	Total	66,000	73,000

CONCLUSION:

The total expenditure to do all the above at Shree Saraswoti Basic School was £73,000. Between Eagle Fondation and another donor at Rotary Club of Yeovil, we raised £66,000. The additional funding came from an Australian based Ngo called HealthHabitat at £7,000 mainly to fund the toilet building. Our budget was otherwise on track on most items, however due to higher cost on toilet building, fencing and setting up ECD classrooms, the extra donation from HealthHabitat was very useful to cover the budget overrun by £7000.

Anna Brian and Jimmy Lama 28 June 2018