



HAUS DER HOFFNUNG - HILFE FÜR NEPAL e.V.

Spenden zugunsten des Vereins werden von deutschen Finanzbehörden als mildtätig und gemeinnützig anerkannt (VR 701024).

www.hausderhoffnung-nepal.de; www.facebook.com/HausderHoffnung; Instagram: @selfhelpnepal

Vorsitzende: Ellen Dietrich, Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 241, 73529 Schwäbisch Gmünd, Tel. 07171-89607

E-Mail: info@hausderhoffnung-nepal.de

Schriftführerin: Ingrid Schneider-Winter, Fritz-Fischer-Str. 7, 79379 Müllheim, Tel. 07631-170793

Schatzmeister: Walter Neumann, Balinger Str. 15, 71636 Ludwigsburg, Tel. 07141-460620

Kreissparkasse Ostalb, IBAN: DE 44 6145 0050 1000 0511 51, BIC: OASPDE6A

Winter 2020

Newsletter No. 46

Dear friends,

also Nepal is still very much affected by COVID-19. All stores are now open again and public and private transportation is allowed to run again so that some people have work, but the schools and colleges are still closed. They should reopen after the holidays in mid-November, but the government is still keeping quiet about the exact date. We are fortunate that our support team, supported by some of the older children, has been able to set up several hours of home study for our children every day since the lock-down began at the end of March, and now they even had them take a class test that was graded. This school year will not be a lost one for our children.

Due to the lack of a digital infrastructure in schools and parents' homes, online lessons up to 10th grade are hard to even imagine. The extremely small classrooms make face-to-face teaching impossible because the students sit close together packed in like sardines. Since the colleges (grades 11 and 12) are better equipped, the teenagers above 10th grade have 3 hours of online lessons and homework every day.

The two largest Hindu festivals take place in October and November, the most beautiful season in Nepal: Dashain and Tihar (Festival of Lights). Traditionally, our children celebrated Dashain at our children's home in their respective buildings. Rajesh gave the children the Dashain Tika (red blessing mark on the forehead). Since gifts of clothing are common for this festival, the children were given urgently needed new uniforms. The supply of clothing coming from Germany has currently stopped. The older girls also received a kurta surwal, the typical Nepalese women's garment. There was goat meat, a delicacy and a real holiday feast in Nepal. There was a lot of play in the afternoons. Many boys from House 1 had specially rehearsed a dance for the party, which you can watch at <https://youtu.be/xL4A54rn4qQ>. Their confident movements almost give the impression that the unplanned intervening goats are part of the choreography. I am very impressed with their performance and proud of them because to do the dance so well required a lot of practice and full concentration.



Covid-19 affects the country's main source of income, tourism. Now in the main travel season there are no tourists. Hotels, restaurants and shops in the Thamel tourist area are closed. There are hardly any trekking permits. In addition, many trekking areas do not want tourists at all because they are afraid that they will bring the virus with them. Inner-Nepalese tourism during the festive days was also discontinued because the extremely full, special buses were canceled, and these buses were customary on these days to take people to the villages to celebrate with their extended family or village community. The government banned the popular "bailo" and "deusi", where children and young people go to Tihar (November 14th-17th) singing and dancing from house to house and receive gifts in the form of fruit, rice and money, where there is a lot of hustle and bustle.



Unfortunately, the virus also got into our house through a couple of employees who went to town. We then had all children and domestic workers tested. Some received a positive result, but in most cases, they showed no or only very mild symptoms. Now they are all in quarantine in the 3rd house. We hope very much that there will be no new cases and that the immunization of those affected will work. The number of cases in Nepal peaked in mid-October with almost 6,000 new infections - around half of them in the Kathmandu valley. They are currently (November 13th) around 3000 per day. The country has more than 1000 Covid-19 deaths and over 80% recovered. Generally speaking, more than 10,000 tests are performed every day. Some sources doubt whether all the results are always correct.



The otherwise unchecked desire of the Nepalese to shop before the holidays was very limited this year. Within two weeks more than 2,000 people registered as unemployed. A newspaper showed long lines of people sitting in the street waiting for a food ration from the government. How good it is, thanks to your generous support, that, we have been able to distribute more than 800 care packages and have been able to resolve some rent arrears. Otherwise, landlords would have put these families of 4-6 people, who usually only have one room, on the street. The recipients came to us as petitioners with tears of despair in their eyes and walked away from us with tears of thanks and happiness. Can money ever be better invested? They are day laborers who still do not have a job and are dependent upon our support. Among them is a partially blind woman who, before the pandemic, sang in the streets of Kathmandu for donations to support her family. The long and violent monsoons this year caused landslides in various areas of the country, destroying houses and killing people. This is also the case in the Jajarkot district, which is far in the west, has not yet been developed in terms of roads, and from which some of our children also come. Here, too, we provided help through a trustworthy middleman.

In winter, in addition to hunger comes the cold in the Terai, the south of the country. Summer temperatures of 40-45°C (104-113°F) drop to 10°C (50°F) or less. It is always foggy. The cold creeps into the residents' bones. That is why we fulfilled the requests of some people in need for blankets and are currently distributing 50 blankets. You helped make this possible with your 271 contributions to our fundraising campaigns, which meanwhile have raised a total of € 35,821 (\$ 42,473): Fortunately, donations are still being received for this campaign, even during the preparation of this newsletter. Three very far-sighted people have even set up a standing order for it. Our help will certainly be needed for a long time. Nepal's economy won't recover as easily as ours. Thank you very much for your exemplary sympathy for the fate of these people.



As announced in the last newsletter, we would now like to let Prakash talk about his impressions from his school year in Germany.

Hello, I'm Prakash and I'm from Nepal. I grew up in an organization for children, the "House of Hope". After the tenth grade, I had the opportunity to fly to Germany. It was one of my big dreams to visit a European country and last year I was in Germany. Since I was a child, I've only heard about European countries and learned a little more from the German interns here in Nepal. I also wanted to see it for myself and experience a different culture.

I was able to go to Germany because I took part in an international school program. I was in Germany for a year and did a German school year. The classes were of course in English and I had the opportunity to make many foreign friends because the class was an international class. There were about 18 international students who came, for example, from Argentina, the USA, Italy and Montenegro. There were three of us from Asia: two Nepalese (besides me, Samjhana, who comes

from the same organization) and a girl from Myanmar. I lived with a German family as a guest student. After 6 months I moved to another family, and I was loved equally in both families.

Of course, I learned a lot about German culture. German food, for example, tastes really good, but I found punctuality too strict in Germany. But I like how the Germans plan everything in advance. It is a little different with us Nepalese. We are super spontaneous and plan very little. Language is also an issue. Although I had already learned a little German in Nepal, I had problems understanding people at first because they spoke very quickly. But then I always said: "Please slowly and clearly!" After 5 to 6 months I got used to it and didn't need to say that anymore. Culturally, I found Christmas pretty cool because in our organization we only celebrate Christmas on one day and even that isn't that huge. And most of the Nepalese don't celebrate Christmas because most of them are Hindus or Buddhists. I really enjoyed Christmas in Germany. All the lights and the Christmas markets were amazing! I really enjoyed that.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I enjoyed Germany very much and simply learned a lot about life. For example, that you should plan properly in order to get by, or that if there is a misunderstanding you can talk about it, what we rarely do in Nepal. At some point in the future I will definitely visit Germany again - at least that's how I planned it. And yes, I still especially miss German food! But to be honest: I've never liked soda and salad.



At the last general meeting in September there were changes in the association that we would like to inform you about. Our secretary Toni Lang and our treasurer Joachim Müller resigned for private, family and professional reasons. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them very much for the work they have done. Ingrid Schneider-Winter as secretary and Walter Neumann as treasurer are their successors. Both got to know Nepal during our group trip at Easter 2014 and have been involved in the association ever since. Both of them were working in the school system and are now retired. Ingrid worked as a senior intern for a month before the global lockdown. I am pleased that they have taken on this task and I wish them a lot of joy in this honorary position.



The slow-down of life that occurred as a result of the pandemic has set free the creative powers of our Nepalese children, employees and our former interns. In Nepal, the older girls and boys (!) have made beautifully patterned friendship bracelets. Two employees are using their newly acquired knowledge from their sewing course to sew small bags, while others have learned to crochet from interns and have crocheted blankets. Rajesh sent all the products to Germany, where they have been successfully sold. Orders are still gladly taken. In Germany, various former interns have teamed up to design a special Nepal calendar, which, in addition to pictures about Nepal and our children, also contains texts in which they express their deep, inner connection with the country and our children's home. If you couldn't order the calendar on time, don't worry too much since we have also ordered a small number that we will be happy to deliver to you. Simply register by email.



I am very happy about these initiatives and thank all of those involved from the bottom of my heart. They demonstrate that we have two dynamic and creative organizations with committed people. I am grateful to see that I do not need to worry about their future.

Due to COVID-19, no big party could take place during Tihar, but only a "family celebration", which was very nice. You can watch the video using the link <https://youtu.be/SmzMgEivdrs>. The blog, which

is regularly updated on our German website, informs you in words and pictures about all the activities and campaigns taking place in our organization. It's worth checking it out on a regular basis. If you don't speak German, you can still enjoy the many pictures there.

We would be happy to welcome further sponsors. You find more information on our website that is translated into English: www.homeofhope-nepal.com

If you live in the U.S. and want to support this organization, you can do so by sending a check to the following American organization that is kind enough to transfer your contribution to our account in Nepal and to issue a tax refund slip to you.

Nepal Hope 38112 Young Drive, Fremont, CA 94536

Don't forget to state „SHN“. “SHN” stands for Self Help Nepal, the name of our organization in Nepal.

The current year presented all of us with major challenges, and we only hope that we can master them both personally and as an organization no matter how much longer they will continue.

Please remain loyal to us because we urgently need you!

With great gratitude for your continued support, I send you my best wishes for the time ahead.

With kind regards,

Ellen Dietrich

