



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

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Newsletter No. 47

Dear friends,

Our children experienced two happy events in the middle of the pandemic: the wedding of our employee Tilak Bohara who takes care of our children up to 4th grade, and the birth of a daughter for our supervisor couple in the 3rd house.

Tilak got married in December. We wish him and his wife Sunita many years of happiness and contentment together. Sunita is now also working with us.



Laxman and Saru became parents to a young daughter on March 26th, whom they named Ananya. We are happy with the overjoyed parents and wish the little earth citizen that she can grow up in peace, health, security and with lots of love.

The first lock-down in Kathmandu lasted until January. Children and supervisors breathed a sigh of relief when school started again. The children were happy to get out of the house and see their other classmates, while our staff was finally able to shift down one gear again. It was exhausting to have all the children at home all day, to support them in their studies and to keep them occupied.

Unfortunately, the break was short-lived, because a very hard second COVID-19 wave hit Nepal at the end of March, which led to another hard lock-down with schools being closed again and very restrictive opening times even for grocery stores. The Indian variant (Delta variant) had spilled over the green border in the south as Nepalese workers returned home when they lost their jobs due to the new virus outbreak in India.

In addition, the surprisingly low number of cases at the beginning of the year had made the Nepalese reckless. They filled the streets again without wearing masks, as if there had never been a pandemic. As before the pandemic, buses were crammed with passengers to make up for financial losses. Even more dangerous were the religious festivals, which were again celebrated with no social distancing. All of this created the breeding grounds for the second COVID-19 wave.

In the last school year our students had been in school for only three months. This is why the government wanted to extend the school year from April to June, but then came the second wave and those plans had to be cancelled. Without any real break between the two school years, the new school year just recently began. This time, however, our 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students are going to school every day while the others continue to study at home with the help of home supervisors and the young adults.

Although the online lessons in the secondary school are going well, the students are beginning to feel insecure about their final exams, which will most likely be postponed from July to autumn - so far without a fixed date. We already experienced this grueling process with the tenth graders last year. Fortunately, the government has already decided this year that they will have their qualifications recognized without an examination and it will be on the basis of their performance at school. Our management team and the three Germans on site immediately sat down with the young people to discuss their future with them. The completion of the 12th grade is so highly regarded in the Nepalese population that all parents and children, regardless of talent, want it and view it as more important than vocational training. However, we would rather let our children go into life with a, if perhaps brief, vocational training after the 10th grade than see them fail in secondary school. Our team did a good job in their talks with the students and was able to convince them to follow this path, which is a big step in the right direction. A successful example is Apsara, who completed the 10th grade a year ago and did a 3-month Montessori training course. She found her first job at the SEB School, which is our children's school.



Our first house, in which our boys from fifth to tenth grade lived, became too crowded. Moreover, the supply of service water was no longer guaranteed. To have a new water reservoir they would have had to dig deeper, but the homeowner wanted us to pay for it. Then the rent of the adjoining former corn field, which we used as a sports field, was to be quadrupled after the landlady had almost doubled the rent for the second house. We gave up on both the house and the sports field and moved to a much more spacious house just two houses from our brick home. As tenants, we are very welcome because we pay the full rent punctually at the beginning of the month instead of paying it off during the month like many Nepalese people.

Despite the fact that Rajesh required all domestic staff to move into the house as a precautionary measure and that he and the other caretakers made sure that the children had no contact with the outside world, almost two thirds of our children and

employees became victims of COVID-19. Despite more space than ever before, the children still live close together, so that the virus has an easy time spreading amongst us. Only in the third house with our older boys and girls all but two remained healthy. Fortunately, all the sick showed mild symptoms so that a quarantine at home was sufficient. Again we invited the government test team to our home, and luckily they did not discover any further cases. One can only hope that the sick were immunized as a result of their infection because the vaccination rate in Nepal is very low.

The second COVID-19 wave hit the small Himalayan country with full force. The incident rate soared to more than 9,000 new infections almost overnight. More contagious and dangerous than the first wave, it led to the rapid overcrowding of hospitals, which were not afraid to take advantage of the emergency: prices were quickly adjusted to meet demand. This meant that the poor could not afford a hospital stay that could devour an entire month's income. In the press one saw pictures of sick people lying in the corridors and in courtyards. Above all, there was a lack of

oxygen and oxygen concentrators, hygiene materials, etc. Unfortunately, after the first wave, the government had made no provisions for any new outbreaks. It was and is still preoccupied with itself.

Our "100's group" asked us for financial help to set up a few emergency rooms for poor, sick people in an empty school. We would like to take this opportunity to once again warmly thank all of you who responded to our appeal via the local press of my town, betterplace and gut-fuer-die-ostalb and who made a spontaneous donation. You have saved many lives. Since the group was still supported by a women's initiative and also unexpectedly by the government, we were able to pull back our support here and use part of your donations to benefit those directly affected. Among them were the parents of our former employee Navaraj, whose mother even had to be artificially ventilated because of pneumonia in connection with COVID-19. The father had a milder case of COVID-19. Without our support, they would not have been able to afford the treatment in Nepalganj. Even though they had left us of their own accord, we felt obliged to help them. They were very impressed by our loyalty and reliability.



We also helped the manager of a small Nepalese children's home in Bhaktapur, who was at great risk due to her previous illness. She's back home now too. We had already supported this children's home with food when it was first locked down. All three persons still suffer from the long-term effects and some of them still need a lot of medication.

Former trekkers brought to our attention the request of a nurse from lower Syrabesi in Langtang, who asked for three hospital beds, oxygen bottles and concentrators as well as various measuring instruments and control devices for three health posts in her area. We were happy to help her, if only because it is not very common in Nepal to work preventively. In doing so, it is sending the right message for the future.

Because of the very early and strong monsoons this year, it has not been possible yet to deliver all relief supplies to their destinations. She, too, thanks you very much.



In the meantime, Germany, like many other EU countries, has sent many relief supplies to Nepal to combat the pandemic and handed them over to the government. Did these deliveries help reduce the number of cases quickly? Well as fast as the numbers jumped up, they also went back down. However, we do not know how large the number of unreported cases is. Nepal, whose biggest source of income is tourism, did not want to miss the lucrative business with the Everest and Dhaulagiri trekkers again, which brings in around 4 million dollars into the official coffers just for the trek on the highest mountain in the world; The trekkers are supposed to leave the same amount behind for private use. Despite the many deaths on Everest in 2019, the government issued 408 permits, which is a

few more than two years earlier. COVID-19 broke out among the trekkers. It is not yet clear how many of the 1,100 or so locals who took care of their well-being were infected and then carried the virus into their villages.

You can find more pictures and texts in German on the German website and under <https://www.betterplace.org/de/projects/95105-hilfe-fuer-arme-coronakranke-in-kathmandu> and <https://www.betterplace.org/de/projects/92575-anschaffungen-fuer-unser-neu-habenes-haus-in-nepal>.

What remains is hunger, which unfortunately tends to increase rather than decrease. 70% of all Nepalese work in the informal sector, i.e. as day laborers who, with a lot of luck, were able to work for a few months between the two lock-downs. All reserves have been used up everywhere. This time the government does not even do something selectively to help its people. That is why more and more petitioners come to us from farther and farther away and take long and arduous walks by themselves because there are no buses during the lock-down. We are grateful to you that you have supported us with so many donations against hunger that we were able to distribute well over 300 food parcels by the end



of June. We also supported two small children's homes. We have already mentioned one of them above; the other was led by an American pastor who has not been heard from since his return to the USA during the first lock-down. We also provided these children with potatoes, tomatoes, onions and eggs. Because of the great demand, Rajesh is in the process of packing another 100 food packages. We cannot accept the fact that people seek suicide again



or starve to death. Rather, we have to try to make savings in other areas. If you want to continue to support us in this fight against hunger, we would be very grateful for a donation - no matter how small it may be - to our donation account using the keyword "Hunger".

Due to the lock-downs, many families can no longer afford to send their children to school and are increasingly asking us for help. We are therefore looking for new sponsors. Sponsorships start at 35 dollars a month. You can find more information on our homepage.

At the moment the challenges for the small country are endless, because a very violent and very early monsoon with its water masses destroyed entire villages in many parts of the country and also claimed human lives. There were a few moderate earthquakes in Langtang again, and the government is in such a deep crisis that parliament has been dissolved and there will have to be early elections in the autumn. Nobody feels responsible for the people and the country any more.

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.

Please remain loyal to us, we still need urgently you.

All children and recipients wish you all the best in these difficult times! Stay healthy!

With kind regards,

Ellen Dietrich

