

Newsletter 2021 and year report of 2020



Himalayan Projects npo

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Namasté geachte donors, sponsors en sympathisanten,



Help! I am stuck in Nepal and I have to manage it here with much more limited means. And yet I'm still so much better off than the average Nepali who have to survive in their already difficult circumstances, with no work or only half paid work (min. wage is €100 per month). Yet another disaster after the civil war and

earthquake and the annual - at times terrorizing - monsoon downpours triggering landslides. Since 2019, also tornadoes and more hailstorms due to climate change ravage here. Now, the whole world is suffering. Most of us never before had to endure such setbacks and look how hard we are suffering. Masks, lockdowns, party less, and still poor countries have it much worse than the average Westerner does.

So, we cannot complain endlessly of having all our school programs, workshops and info booth work canceled. We can achieve something with limited resources too. Without a real medical camp by the Bsurre team but still on tour distributing protective materials to protect schoolchildren and teachers and off course continuing existing projects. Stuck here since October, having my return flight postponed month by month I hope to join the family sometime and get my long due vaccine.

Strangely enough, it appears to be safer here in Nepal than here. How did that happen? People in Nepal stay closer to home, shop less and in the immediate vicinity without needing transportation. Or, is it immunity? It is striking. Even as prices of masks get lower and people get out more, albeit by a small well-to-do minority if it is for spending money. An infection is big news here and quarantines are strictly followed because everyone in the area and even further away is aware of it. The only real danger here lies in the medical treatment with effective infection; the hospitals are hardly equipped for this. So knock -on-wood, but luckily, we have good weather and lots of nature here.

Please read on to see what we did, nothing spectacular but essential nonetheless!



Kind regards from Paul Vande Moortel and also Nita Buduja Pun and Dr. Jan Dryhoel, together the Bsurre team. Keep it safe.

Some highlights in this edition:

Protecting schools.



Drinking water for Siling.



A new computer class starts.



Food relief for the poor.



Children in need.



Read our next pages...

OMG. Their problems are ours too, for once.

No, we are not happy about that, but at least the virus is impartial and not discriminatory. Somewhat fairer maybe?

We do not want to write endlessly about the Covid-19 here, but of course, we will not escape it. Let us first report very positively. After months of closing the schools, we were able to quietly set up the brand new **computer class** in the **Shree Ambika Secondary school** and start it up to a limited extent at the beginning.

Last year we donated 22 computers with a grant from the **Province of West Flanders** and this year with the support of the City of Bruges and the **Nato Charity Bazaar**, we were able to furnish the classroom with locally made computer desks, multimedia equipment, carpet, curtains, and chairs and so on. The higher technical degrees can now receive modern computer lessons with the correct and sufficient computer materials. I was the first to test the computer class but much happier to finally see the students in action and actively learning together again.

Naturally, we took advantage of our visits to support prevention methods with water taps and disinfectant soap at the entrance to the school, masks for the children, visors for the teachers and disinfectant products for the maintenance staff. This way all children and staff can learn and teach in a safe environment.

We also support two orphans with financial help thanks to the sponsorship of a Swedish teacher couple and now we also took care of 2 others of which the father has run away and the mother is without income. She got a part-time job at the school. **If you want to pay for the school costs of these two children, please contact us (min. 10 euros per month).**

With a grant from the municipality of **Beernem**, we were also able to buy some additional educational play material for the kindergarten classes.

Due to its dynamic attitude and very active school committee, they were the first public school to win the '**International British School Award**' for three years and are exceptionally a growing school that now teaches entirely in English. Future-oriented so with technical classes in a computer and internet-oriented 3rd degree.

Sponsored: Jibsan (9) and Khushi B.K. (11). For the sisters Sneha (9) and Smriti Poudel (6), we are still looking for sponsors.



NATO Charity Bazaar



Let us call it the C-story



When the Lock-downs hit us, Nepal was just as quick and just as hard. However, without financial support and only the villagers were able to continue their traditional way of life and re-fish almost unhindered. A few were able to return to their villages in time, but too many workers in the big cities in Nepal were completely trapped in a small rented room and were barely allowed to go out for months. Without income sources what so ever.



With the positive response from many of our loyal sponsors and an emergency aid grant from the **Province of West Flanders** and the **Lions Club Meetjesland**, we distributed protection products to impoverished Nepalese. We supplemented this with food packages for the poorest of the poor. Our Nepalese volunteers on site were given a safe-conduct to tour around for two weeks, during which we handed over mouth masks to the police checkpoints as 'goodwill'. Well, they are on the street every day.



Then we waited patiently until we could travel there ourselves again. Lots of patience and regularly checking the internet when the border would open. Suddenly during the Nepal festival season, the online tourist visa application opened and I immediately booked a ticket. dr. Unfortunately, Jan Dryhoel from our Bsure team was unable to join us. After a day of working through the night to get house and luggage ready and the necessary computer file backups and drive copies, shower and breakfast at 4:30 at night and a 3 hour drive to Amsterdam at 8:30 check with Turkish Airlines, where they also almost panicked because my printout of my negative corona test did not mention an hour to check the max. 72 hours of recording time. After phone calls again I was able to continue with little sleep because the plane was surprisingly packed and vigilance was advised because many quickly released their masks and had to be pointed out. So on October 18 I landed in the Kath-mandu airport where they asked me in amazement how I got there! I left on Friday, but when I landed on Saturday morning, the border turned out to be closed again. We also claimed that we did not have the visa stickers.



Together with another American of Polish descent and two Nepalese with foreign passports, we were referred to a small room. The ex-Nepalese were quickly helped by an obscure person allegedly from the military for an additional financial reward which I promptly refused. After many phone calls back and forth with acquaintances, it turned out that a Member of Parliament was once a guest at our home in Belgium, now Minister and understood our impasse.



A few hours later they turned out to have the stickers to write a visa. The visa had already been paid for a few hours, because that service apparently worked without any problems. But nothing is easy here and then they tried to give me another month visa instead of the effectively paid 3 month visa. When I asked if I should call my protector again, I suddenly could!



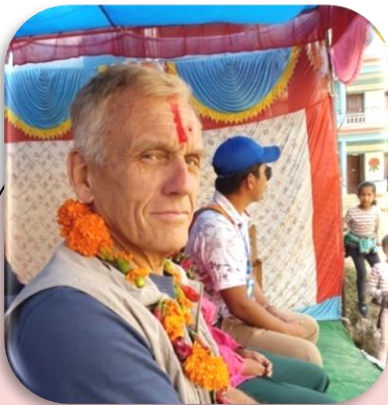
After two nights of no sleep and another 5 hours of waiting in the airport for my visa, where there was also nothing to eat, I could start the 7-hour car trip to Pokhara. A whopper of a jet lag as a result, but the self-imposed quarantine at home in Pokhara came in handy.

Well rested, I was able to get to work and bought masses of masks, visors for teachers, disinfectant soap, thermometers, disinfectants and sanitary towels. After all, many adolescent school girls cannot afford this and have to go home ashamed when their period comes and are then unable to come to school for a few days.



We have helped dozens of schools this way. It would be too boring to list them all and the photos are also representative because it is always the same scenarios of solemn handing over, speeches, practical explanations and an extensive visit to the school classes where each school also has different shortcomings and needs. brings up.

We will also try to continue this through 2021, but meanwhile there is a shortage of funds and we urgently need a financial injection. We can only hope that as you read this, a spontaneous gesture of sympathy will follow with an additional donation to provide important protection to the schoolchildren.



Dr. Jan Dryhoel reporting:

Medicamps in Nepal during Corona times.

While everything was locked up in Belgium, it wasn't much better in Nepal. A strict lock-down, air traffic restrictions, strict quarantine rules for incoming Nepalese and closing the borders have meant that Nepal has done relatively well on a global level. With 276,000 infections, they only have a death toll of 3,019, and that out of a population of 28 million people. In October, the borders opened little by little, a visa was not yet available, quarantine rules were still as strict and only foreigners with a valid reason could enter the country. Since domestic traffic was also restricted, we decided that it would be very difficult to organize medical camps. For 6 weeks of work, being in quarantine for two weeks doesn't make much sense. However, there was a lot of demand from villages that we could not help in 2019.

But we didn't give up. We were able to donate our large stock of medicines to local health institutions, and we were able to buy protective products against Corona locally and distribute them to schools and local organizations and employees.

***What does the future hold?** If air traffic normalizes, the quarantine measures relax, and a vaccination program also starts, we will make a plan again to organize medical camps. The financing of these medical camps is of course a thorny issue. With the still strict rules in Belgium, we have not been able to do any activities, such as lectures, benefit evenings, school activities, fairs and so on. Painful.*

Are we going to be able to go, are we going to be able to finance it? All issues that are still open.

We would like to thank you for the support we received for financing the emergency aid that we have carried out, and hope to be able to knock on your door again in the future when we organize medical camps again. Signed, Doctor Jan, Bsurre team.



Shorttrack about some other projects.

- **Siling, Gorkha district.** We have visited a few times to see the progress of the rebuilding of the houses and to discuss the installation of a water filter early next year. It remains a courageous village with a strong and active social fabric that makes annual progress.
- **Bhakimele, Myagdi district.** Due to the crisis, the finishes and class finishing are still, but in the meantime, teaching is taking place again. During our visit, we also brought protective equipment, but apparently, they have nothing to do with it in these remote villages because they are completely Corona-free. Good thing, too. There are hardly adequate medical facilities here.
- We have handed over some sports equipment such as **basketball** and **volleyball**, etc. to some schools and distributed medicines to aid stations.
- Our own **medical post** and school in **Chitre** is also quiet and free of Corona.



Meanwhile in Belgium.

With the Lock-downs and all our fears, frustrations and sadness for lost relatives and acquaintances, the lights went out for so many extra activities such as sport, culture and unfortunately solidarity actions for charity. Therefore, there is hardly anything to report. Unfortunately, we have not heard anything from the annually sponsoring schools, but we hope that we can quickly put these exceptional times behind us. All other activities such as stand work and workshops were also cancelled, which was a serious financial loss for our non-profit organization and for which there was no alternative. The government only provided some compensation for wage costs, but we are all volunteers and therefore unpaid. However, the **tax deductibility** is significantly increased to **60%**, which many sponsors accepted and paid an additional donation to compensate for the loss. Bonus: this also applies to **2021**.

News from our other joint ventures.

- Wij werken ook samen met de **Aasha Project vereniging** dat helpt in **educatie, microkredieten** en aan **noodhulp doet**. Vindt meer gedetailleerde informatie op hun persoonlijke website: www.project-aasha.webnode.nl.

About our plans for Nepal in 2021:

- Finishing and inside decoration of our newly built middle school in **Bhamikele, Myagdi district**.
- A sanitary block, sponsoring of poor children and school uniforms for the **Shree Ambika Secondary School** in Hyangja, Kaski district.
- Our **eighth tour** with the Bsure-team, led by Dr. Jan for free **medical camps** in the remote villages of these Himalaya's.
- In the far east of Nepal on the Indian border with Sikkim and Darjeeling lies **Ghunsa**, at 3595 at the foot of the **Katchenjunga** (8596m) where we want to donate lab and other materials to the **hospital**.
- New applications such as a **water tank** for **Salanggiri**, a poor village in Gorkha are being studied.
- In **Siling** and neighboring villages, we are installing a **filter** installation for clean and potable water.
- We also manage our schools and medical post and help in need through our **Study and Emergency Fund**.



Activities in Belgium in 2021.

We are happy that our annual sponsoring primary school De Leeuw from Zedelgem has planned a solidarity action to help us move forward again this year. With sincere thanks. Hopefully more will follow because the need is high.



How your support can make a difference:

Financial support is possible by making a donation by our project account (Iban n° BE14 3800 1081 6783) for which you can receive a tax certificate to get a refund of 60% (Belgium)!

- **Sponsoring us on a regular basis** - preferably monthly - is the ideal way to support our activities, as we can then make a prognosis on an annual basis and guarantee the regular functioning of our school and medical projects. We suggest €20 per month but any amount is welcome.
- A **one-time deposit** helps us fill shortfalls on our fixed operating costs and purchase extras. For example, for €0.25 we can hand out a toothbrush and paste to the children during our Bsure camps.
- **Benefits and collection campaigns:** Do you want to organize something with your school, association or friends, acquaintances or work colleagues? Maybe your employer can invest in it. We have a lot of didactic and decoration material. A Nepalese meal and/or workshops are possible. On the website himalayanprojects.org you can view and/or download our educational folder. This income is used for additional investments and the purchase of educational and medical material. We also feed our Emergency Fund for urgent aid and Study Fund for higher studies with it.
- Make us **heir** in a mono or duo bequest. How? See our **website**, via your notary or also on will.be.

How about volunteering?

In Nepal, we have a great need for **doctors, dentists and teachers**. Interested? Please contact us for more information.

Are you already a sponsor? Then you can help us by doing some word-of-mouth advertising, because we don't spend your sponsorship money on paid advertising. Leaflets and newsletters are available on request.

For more information: www.himalayanprojects.org, and www.facebook.com/HimalayanProjectsVZW.

Safely signing out!



Thousands of masks, visors and dozens of liters of disinfection, thermometers, later I am somewhat worn out and still stuck in Nepal. Let me thank those who remained faithful to our cause and endeavors for giving extra and crucial support to our small non-profit organization with its small projects that do make a difference for the less well off.

Finally, we wish you; your family and all loved ones good health and good luck. I hope that the world will soon overcome this mayor health crisis.

Daandebhat (Thank you), the Bsure-team! And please remember: Doing good really feels good



Also in 2021 you will receive no less than 60% of your donation via a tax certificate. You may deposit a maximum of 20% of your taxable income instead of 10%. In concrete terms, you will receive €24.00 back with a deposit of the minimum donation of €40.00. For example, if you really want to donate €100.00, deposit €250.00 and help move mountains of work! You know our logo by now: RIPPLES IN AN OCEAN OF MOUNTAINS!