

Newsletter 2025 with review 2024



Himalayan Projects vzw

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Namaste, donors, sponsors & sympathizers,



Collaboration is the new trend, but the more different partners, the more visions, perspectives, working methods and discussions. This led to many emails, conversations and crises, it was a tangle to get out of it and at the same time achieve our 'own' objectives. And.... It worked!!! Just like

last year, our logo: 'Wrinkles in an ocean of mountains' had various meanings. Our results are impressive. We are extremely proud of it.

- ✚ *A far remote school in Dolpa district has a full-fledged computer classroom as well as a small school in Lamjung.*
- ✚ *We are now taking over the care of a number of children from the former hostel in Hemja with housing, food and clothing.*
- ✚ *The empty village of Chitre unfortunately meant the end of our medical post. No loss: the dental practice moved to a community hospital in Lamjung district.*
- ✚ *The development of a training center in Hemja also moved and is now being established near the same hospital in Lamjung.*
- ✚ *Near our headquarters we established a cooperative dental clinic with our Chitre nurse and local staff. It is the new base for medical camps of the Bsure team.*
- ✚ *No more shivering cold in many schools with our warm sweaters.*

We are sending you this story to let you know where your support really helped. We hope for your further support, also mentally! With the current world politics, if not more, the small independent non-profit organizations continue to provide crucial assistance to the aggrieved in this beautiful Himalayan country of Nepal.

In these politically turbulent times, it is even more important that we join forces, that is the only way we will get out.

Kind regards, the Bsure team, led by Paul Vande Moortel and Jolanda Bijl. Following is our full report:



*Some highlights:
Water for a whole village:*



Computers for two schools:



Shelter for children:



New dental clinic and mobile school camps by Bsure-team:



The water project in Salangiri, Gorkha: neatly completed and operational.

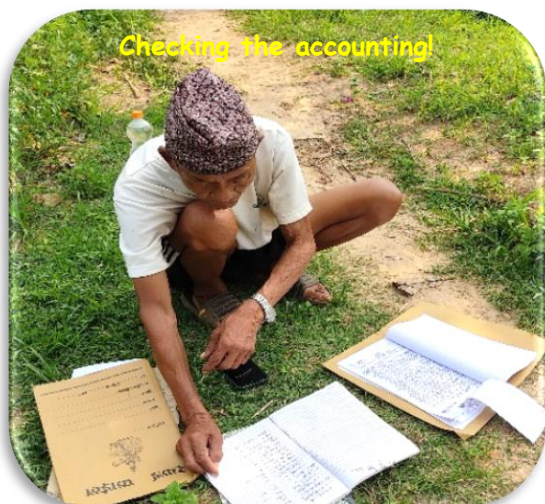
In a mountain village that was severely damaged during the 2015 Nepal Quake earthquake, many houses have now been rebuilt with small government subsidies (a paltry €2,000 per household!).

However, the government did not seem interested in water supply. Just as we previously provided an entire village with water in Siling, not far away, with storage tanks and filtration, we also decided to help this village. There was spring water but with a small old concrete storage tank that leaked. There was often insufficient water, so we built a concrete platform at the top of the village and installed a new storage tank for 40,000 liters.

From there we set up a new network of pipes to every house in this vastly spread out agricultural village. The works proceeded slowly as an upstairs neighbor with their own well water did not allow access for excavators and delivery of the enormous plastic 5000 liter tanks. A hilltop had to be leveled by hand and a foundation was laid. All material had to be delivered on site on the backs of many volunteers. The installation, concrete work, burying of pipes was done by the local population and we paid the technicians. This was their contribution to this project: no money, but muscle power and time.

Thanks to, among other things, a grant from the Province of West Flanders, we were able to install kilometers of plastic pipeline to all the houses in this village. Each house also received a water tap and meter with a cement collection and drainage.

Result: 55 houses now have their own drinking water. The meter for fair distribution of capacity. There is a free minimum, but anyone who uses a lot of water, for example to irrigate the fields, pays a fixed amount per m³. This provides a fund for maintenance of the network and the storage tanks. In this way we guarantee the sustainability and stability of the water supply. **Nine years after the earthquake!**



Some extra's for the local primary school in Salangiri.

The water project also caused a lot of inconvenience to the small school just below it. Their playground served as a construction site and the endless passage of workers and porters caused a lot of inconvenience. As compensation and thanks, we connected this school to the electricity grid. Every classroom and the teacher's room had sockets and lighting. Because of the metal roofs, we also equipped the classrooms with fans for the warm season. With a grant from the municipality of Beernem, we also provided a complete package of books and educational game materials



Yet another school in Lamjung district gets computers and more.

In this lower secondary school, the children finally had access to computer education. Various classes were given computers and we also provided a lot of educational material such as books and DVDs as well as play materials for indoors and outdoors. Now they can play volleyball, badminton and play cards and board during the rainy season.



The school itself also contributed with some repair work and carpet in the nursery classroom. Sitting on a cement floor is neither fun nor healthy. We received help from the City of Bruges for this project for the Shree Shanti Secondary school. Thanks.



In the far off Rolpa district: the Shree Saraswati Secondary School.

Although the Nepalese government has been building roads (or what passes for them) like crazy since 2015, many areas in the north remain deprived of basic facilities such as modern schools with electricity, drinking water and computer classes. After the school community of Ghusbang was able to obtain electricity mainly with its own resources, we decided to also make computer lessons available for this remote school. In the first phase we provided some computers for teacher training and this year we were also able to set up a complete computer classroom with a grant from the City of Bruges. This school is located 6 hours walk from the nearest road which is also 8 hours off-road from our headquarters in Pokhara. Fortunately, we received practical help from the World Magar Federation Belgium, whose board member traveled back and forth to this difficult destination for us. All computers and accessories were brought to the school on the backs of volunteer villagers. The computers had already been taken from Kathmandu by truck to Pokhara for a day and then by bus to the nearest village on a road. And so it happened: this neglected region also has modern education.



Update on the Gunsha hospital in the Far East!

Speaking of distances. Our furthest project to date is located right on the border with Sikkim (India) and Tibet (China) in the Kanchenjunga mountains. Practical for us: 1000km by road including earthen roads, so off-road. Then 2 days uphill to 3690 m. Destination: a small hospital. 14 days there and back, but first because of the monsoon, then the busy trekking season for the local residents and then again the freezing cold and snowy roads prevented us from getting there ourselves. The rare telephone and internet connections also made coordination very precarious.

Fortunately, we just received confirmation that all our donated medical equipment has finally arrived on site from the nearest city where we left everything in a hotel. Hopefully this year we will be able to say hello in person and see everything in action. We are especially curious about the results of the oxygen generators. Even further and higher up is a Tibetan refugee camp for which some of our medical aid was also intended.



Farewell to our medical post in Chitre.

What seemed inevitable for years became final in 2024: we closed the Aid Post with pain in our hearts. The village has almost emptied and in February we barely had 9 patients a year. A full-time nurse was bored and only stayed for the fixed salary. From the end of 2006 to March 2024, we helped thousands of people and that counts. There is an asphalt road now with bus service so that other aid stations are now easily accessible.



The government also closed our primary school earlier, so that our anchorage in this village since 1997 has come to an end. A beautiful but empty village that we will miss. Our nurse Sharmila has found work in Cyprus and Sasina is now working in our new 'Nayagaun Dental Clinic'. Nothing is lost, but changing and adapting is part of life. And so it happened. With thanks to the long-standing sponsors, the work continues elsewhere in Pokhara and now also in the community hospital 'Sahodar' in Lamjung district.

From an explosive project to implosion, from drama to rescue.

It is not always known that everything does not go smoothly. After all, charities have good news to share. But just like in our own modern, rich country, it is a lot more difficult to set things up in Nepal. Especially with the newly promoted working methods of collaboration and multi-year planning with huge budgets by Nepalese standards, things can sometimes go wrong.

We left Nepal at the end of 2023, leaving behind sufficient resources and infrastructure for a first year of work at the newly established Family Care Center in Hemja. A second phase with a second floor for additional workspaces was planned for this year.

In the meantime, arguments arose between other partners and the local NGO and, after numerous mediation attempts, the collaboration between the initial main sponsor and Jana Hitaishi was stopped. Well, Himalayan Projects was suddenly left orphaned with its investment subsidies. When we returned it turned out that our dental practice for students had only been used once in 6 months, we decided to no longer fill that empty box. Planned workshops also took place very sporadically and with 4 employees with a good salary but lacking ambition or work is not a '**structural improvement for the ancient cultures of the Himalayas**' to mention our most important objective.

But fortunately, the founder and driving force behind this project, Jolanda Bijl, has not given up everything and she helps us to further support children who have been abandoned and to help devise and manage our alternative solutions. See her narratives further on. The alternative solutions are also discussed in detail later.

In short, from the ashes of this failed project emerged:

- **Dental Cabinet** (Chitre) moved to Sahodar Community Hospital in Rainas, Lamjung.
- **Training center** under construction in the old hospital building of Sahodar Community Hospital.
- **Dental Camps** for schools now from **Nayagaun Dental Clinic** in Pokhara
- We will continue to monitor and support children from the former hostel through our **Study Fund**.



Big changes lead to fantastic projects.

Jolanda: I picked up last year's newsletter again. That's when I really realized that 2024 turned out differently than Paul and I had planned.

In 2024, the partnership Jana Hitaishi Foundation (Nepal) and Nepali Children (Netherlands) and with them the project of completing the training center by Himalayan Projects fell apart. Without assigning blame or going into details, we can conclude that two organizations had a lot of problems with Jana Hitaishi. This has led to the dissolution of Nepali Children and I now express my love for Nepal through the Himalayan Projects ngo.

In June 2024, Paul and I traveled together to Pokhara, Nepal. What should have been a fun prospecting tour turned into a six-week period of very hard work, but with results.



Family service was originally started to place hostel children back with their families in combination with intensive guidance of the children and family members. Unfortunately, we no longer found the children in the hostel, but there was also no guidance. Some were even without family, income or food, so they were in deep trouble. Paul and I decided to take eight abandoned children under our care. And more to follow as we can secure more sponsors.

They paid their debts, arranged accommodation and made agreements to pay monthly costs. During the 6-week visit we were able to interact intimately with the children. It is always nice to give children a good time. A time they will remember for a long time. An unforgettable example:

It's a nice warm day and we decide to go out together. One of the mothers also comes along. By bus we go to a district of Pokhara 6 km away. It is already an experience to take the bus. A bus wants to leave near their home. We ask if we can get in. He's actually not on duty, but we're allowed to come anyway. After a few kilometers he stops because he wants to eat first with one of his friends. Oh well, we have the bus to ourselves. Some girls go dancing, the other gets behind the wheel. What fun. And then suddenly there is another driver who takes us to the agreed place.

All children can choose new clothes, shoes and school bags there. The mother who never buys anything for herself also gets a new dress. Everyone was very happy.

Then it's time to eat and drink something. We eat some snacks and drink a soft drink in a local restaurant. They almost never get this and it is therefore a holiday, which we end with a temple visit. Shoes off, a basket with offerings (flowers, sweets, candles) to place next to the various statues that represent the gods. When everything is over, it's finally time to eat the popcorn we brought with us.

We return tired and satisfied at the end of the day. Most of them are sleeping on the bus. A day to cherish for a long time.

WILL YOU HELP with ongoing sponsorship of these children? Then we know for sure that we can continue to care for these children in 2025. We need approximately 500 euros per child per year.



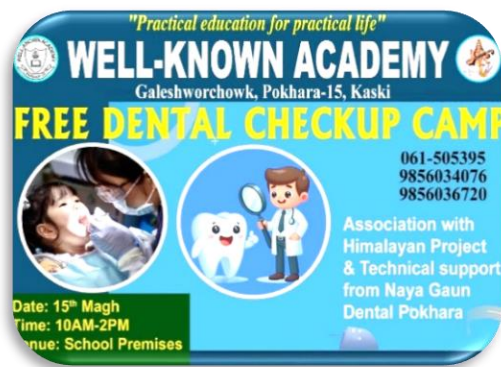
Our study fund evolves with the times.

As mentioned earlier, we had to rescue a number of children from the abandoned hostel after the implosion of the Family Care Center in Hemja. However, we did not let the children share in our problems and regularly took them on outings. After all, children go to school 6 days a week and otherwise don't get to go anywhere.

Near Changu Narayan in the Kathmandu valley, 240 km from Hemja, we visited Alisha, a former hostel girl several times. She is now staying with an uncle. She also received a visit from her sponsor and brought a surprise from him from the Netherlands. Back in Hemja, 3 children live together with an older sister, Manisha, who now works full time and for whom we provide extra resources. She also takes care of purchasing food and paying rent for 3 other children.

We also received educational board games from the Khazana Foundation from the Netherlands which we happily introduced to the Shrijana Residential Secondary School for the Deaf in Argaun near Pokhara. A boarding school with more than 500 deaf children from 49 (out of 77) districts throughout Nepal.

The other sponsored children were also no longer followed up and due to a conflict of interest we also had to stop contact with the school opposite. Instead, we distributed hundreds of sweaters to the poorest children of this school and 2 others such as the Manakamana Se-condary school in Pelkachaur, Syangja district and the Shree Tribhuvan Shanti Model Secondary School in Dhungepatna, Kaski district. After all, it is still pleasant here during the day in winter. In the morning and evening it is really cold (6°C) because there is no heating or insulation in the schools and houses. By spending the end of the year in Nepal, we only now realize how cold those children are and we will pay more attention to this every year.



khazana
FOUNDATION



Jolanda: We also discovered that the dental supplies loaned by Himalayan Projects had hardly been used. Logically, Paul demanded his things back. The agreement was that the gift from 'Vitadent Mondzorg' would also be used for this, but that did not come to fruition. Getting the materials back was not without struggle, but with the intervention of a lawyer and the local authorities, we finally managed to get most of the items back. These are now housed in a cooperative community hospital in Rainas, Lamjung district.

In order to be able to carry out all the work, we will purchase a few more items in 2025, namely a sensor for the mobile X-Ray, endomotor and apex for root canal treatments, etc.

You can also help with the completion of the dental cabinet for this non-commercial hospital, which is located in a remote area. After all, with some operations the teeth must first be in order.



Training center moved to a nearby community hospital.

In this cooperative community hospital we found the ideal place to provide our support for in the coming years. The non-profit with strong local roots already offers more than basic medicine in this rural area. With 18 staff members, open 24/7/7, it is a popular hospital that also offers minor surgery, in/out patient care and pregnancy support. It is also clean and tidy!

To help further develop this center, we moved our dental cabinet because there is no dentist in the area. For some operations, the teeth must also be in order first, that's why. We also added some equipment like a mobile digital handheld X-Ray.

The canceled second phase of the Family Care Center in Hemja was re-outsourced to the establishment of a training center near this hospital, with a view to in the old branch. After the renovation, training will be given here for both the hospital's medical staff and the local population on health and hygiene.

The location will also be offered to other local associations as a meeting space for all kinds of activities.



Jolanda: We discussed our problems with a pharmacist that Paul has been working with for a long time. Through him we had already rented premises for a dental clinic from which we could set up school campaigns. We promised him that the things from Hemja would come here. As the six weeks went by, things looked increasingly bleak. Paul and I decided that we did not want to keep him waiting any longer and bought him a completely new practice on the condition that free dental care would be provided to children 1 day a week. This is how our second location was born!

And good news: this is already working. In the meantime, 7 schools have been approached and all children receive a dental check-up and basic dental medical care. Finally we really get started and all donations and grants are finally put to good use.

We couldn't have been happier! What an unexpected success! But this success also has a downside. How do we get this financed? The dentist, dental hygienist, nurse and cleaning lady must be paid. Monthly wages cost 650 euros. In a year's time, this successful practice will be able to pay for the free consultations from the proceeds of all customers who pay for their treatment.

So, for this too we humbly appeal for your help!

A brand new dental practice.

From the moment we realized that the collaboration with Jana Hitaishi from Hemja was no longer viable, we looked for a different and better alternative. For example, we found two spaces for rent a few hundred meters from our own headquarters for a very reasonable price. We now operate a dental practice through a cooperative. It is also our new base for our school actions and medical camps organised by our Bsüre team.

Busy for weeks, working myself to install all electricity and water supply and drainage, making custom furniture and the endless bureaucratic paperwork'. We were able to officially open at Christmas and at the beginning of January we also had a first 'paperwork' school visit with 500 checked children, with no fewer than 220 treated in practice. What a wonderful start.

We also looked for staff and found Eliza Timilsina, a recently graduated dentist. Sasina Purja, our former health post nurse from our medical post, was also willing to join our new team. That gave us an experienced staff member who could also supervise the school programs and Dental Camps. In 2025 we will still need a hygienist and a cleaning lady. The law prescribes this as minimum occupancy. Pharmacist Shankar Rana and Lokesh Rana are our local anchors who ensure and manage everything in our absence.

However, with a grant from the Province of West Flanders, we can only guarantee the school programs for one year and the current practice must be self-financing. That is why we also accept paying customers, but at very reasonable prices. Over the last decades, sugar devouring has become a real plague: soft drinks and sweets. Dental practices are springing up but are expensive and all concentrated in the busy city center. We are the only one in this area and hope to set a trend. Naturally, the Emergency Fund will still intervene to provide free treatment for the poor.



Eliza, tandarts



Nurse Sasina





Jolanda: In addition to these large, labor-intensive projects, we also had time to arrange smaller things. For example, we had school materials with us to teach children how to deal with money and save in a playful way. But educational, games, computer supplies and warm sweaters have also been delivered to schools.

But most importantly: Paul and Jolanda got to know each other very well during a major crisis, supported each other and gave each other hope. Together they found the courage to continue. And the result is better than we could have imagined.

Eight children are safe again, 2 well-run dental practices, contacts with 2 new schools, a new Nepalese foundation where the dental work has been placed and a new Nepali network that helps us carry out all the work. I look back on 2024 with gratitude and hope to be able to travel to Nepal again in 2025. Of course, I want to meet “our” children again and enjoy the sun-drenched country. Are you coming with us?

From The Netherlands, many greetings. Jolanda Bijl.

Bsure-team in action.

Spending a total of 5 months in Nepal, including 6 weeks with Jolanda, has caused us a lot of frustration, emergency measures and serious thinking this year. But we think we've succeeded in finding worthy alternatives. The Family Care Center may not have been completed, but we can restart all elements elsewhere, albeit dispersed.

A new experience indeed. Usually the problems are more time and budget related. Estimating prices, exchange rates and inflation in advance remains difficult. Collaboration is the new fashion, but it must be done in a similar manner, approach, objectives and working methods. Once again we have been confronted with the fact that giving advances is out of the question. Nepalis can't handle that. They lack attitude, experience, education and training.

Additionally, you have to be quick on the ball, but of course you cannot be everywhere and manage everything yourself. In addition, you are also confronted with inflated 'tourist prices'.

Anyway, 2024 started badly but ended well. That's the main thing. It is a complicated story, we hope to give a clearer picture of our operations next year.

During my last days at Christmas and New Year we were able to arrange some outings with our sponsored schoolchildren and a fun party. We would like to end this report with a few more photos on a positive note.

Thank you also for the trust and support of everyone who contributes to this.

Many pebbles make the Everest!



Meanwhile, with us in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Back in the country, funds need to be refilled and fortunately, in addition to our regular sponsors, there are also some schools that help realize our dreams. Equally important, however, is raising awareness and sensitization among our population and especially youth about our world with its diversity and its problems. Access to water and air for everyone, why not opportunities?



Original: A family in Dirksborn, north of Amsterdam, where you can buy all kinds of small items in the garden cum shed to the benefit of our projects. Thanks to the Dutch couple.

This year we could once again count on the generous support of the Sint-Rembert Institute, the primary school of Elverdinge and the technical school VTI-Bruges. The Fatima school in Rotterdam (Netherlands) was also particularly generous.

Furthermore, we held our info booth at the GROS festival in Oostkamp and the Bruges 'Feest in 't Park'.



News from our joint-venture: Aasha Project in Thimi in the Kathmandu valley.

- They support in **education, micro-financing** and **Relief**: details on www.project-aasha.webnode.nl.

What is in store for Nepal in 2025?



Student wins award!



- With Nepalese local dentists we will visit various public schools in Pokhara and the surrounding area for check-ups and a workshop on dental care and hygiene. Selected children can then receive free treatment in our new Nayagaun Dental Clinic in Pokhara. Paying patients are treated at fair prices and will help us make this project sustainable.
- The collaboration with the Sahodar community hospital in Lamjung district will be further expanded and we will provide additional medical dental care equipment and a new digital X-Ray device.
- We will further support our sponsored children through our Study Fund. Some are doing particularly well and we are happy with that. We have also started handing out warm clothing to poor children. The demand here is so high and we expand depending on our budget.
- The Emergency Fund remains active for generally medical costs of the weak.
- We hope for volunteers to strengthen our educational and medical work.

Activities in Belgium and The Netherlands in 2025.

- Various schools and organizations sponsor us with campaigns where we will also provide presentations and workshops.
- On June 28 we will be at the Festival in 't Park in Bruges with our info booth, on the 13th of July in Oostkamp and elsewhere.
- We continue to network and collaborate. For example, there is an annual 4th Pillar meeting in Brussels and we are also an active member of the Global Council of the city of Bruges.
- In Belgium, the Ministry of Finance requires you to pass on your national register numbers to them.

Together we can support the underprivileged, that is our aim!

How your support can make a difference:

Financial support possible by sending money to our project account
BE14 3800 1081 6783. (Iban-code: **BBRUBEBB**) and tax-deductable.

*Plenty of choice and
can be combined:*

*Sponsor a school
child. This is possible,
e.g. €25.00 a month.*

*Sponsor our medical
programs. Good for
everyone's health.*

*But volunteers are
also welcome in our
schools, medical
post or at medical
camp. Teachers,
doctors and den-
tists. We, or more so
they need You.*

*One-time donations help
our Relief Fund for ur-
gent assistance.*

*If you are organizing a
benefit or special birth-
day party, you can also
use this to feed our
Study Fund for educa-
tional materials, school
uniforms and books for
schools, but also, for ex-
ample, sanitary towels
for school girls.*

*And what afterwards?
Make us heirs.
Eternal thanks.*

*Would you like to visit our
projects? Contact us.*

*Are you already a sponsor? Help us with word-of-
mouth advertising or pass on our newsletter be-
cause we do not do paid advertising!*

*Would you like brochures or our extensive educa-
tional and workshop offering for schools or
events? We will be happy to send it to you.*

*More info: www.himalayanprojects.org &
www.facebook.com/HimalayanProjectsVZW.*

*The post is expensive! Please provide your email
address for more and more regular news.*

*Belgian sponsors: at the request of the Ministry of Finance:
please provide us with your national ID number. This can be
done by telephone or by post/e-mail. Please, don't forget!*

Stronger together.



*Only with your support can we hope
to make a difference somewhere.
Voluntarily without interests beyond
the welfare of children and their fami-
lies. Stay with us and strengthen us in
our ideals and their future.*

*Greetings from Paul, Jolanda, Niels,
Ohm, Sasina, Shankar, Eliza and
Lokesh from the Bsurre team, wishing
you all good health and good luck.
Namaste.*



*This article is written by people, just
like our projects are driven by and
for people, but above all sponsored
by people first.*

*And so, we hope for a more human-
itarian world where we can make a
difference in far off Nepal: 'Wrin-
kles in an ocean of mountains!*

*Thank you so very much for your
participation and as a famous per-
son once said: history does not re-
peat itself, but people do.*