



Tashi Ling
Education for Himalayan Children
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Life in the Himalayas: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE0EneDT5c4>

December 8, 2015

Tashi delek!

The Nepal government is has yet to approve our repair/retrofit plans which were filed months ago. It is now more than 7 months since the first earthquake, but SMDers are still in temporary "classrooms". Open on one side, the 'rooms' are separated by tarpaulins. It's the dry season, very dusty and getting cold.



Nepal has been crippled by a fuel crisis for weeks on end. Schools have had to close because there is no cooking fuel (propane). The southern Nepal-India border and other crossings have been closed for more than 3 months. Nepal is dependent on India for essentials, including food, medicine and fuel.

Schools have had to close and hospitals are warning that they will also have to close. Unicef and the Red Cross say another humanitarian crisis is looming - children under 5 are most at risk.

Luckily, our Manager, Karma Lekshey is very resourceful in keeping us provisioned. Somehow he manages to get enough firewood and food so our kitchen is still running (and so is SMD). Our cooks have been working outside, over wood fires for weeks on end.



Good news/bad news. The good news is that we have enough money to repair and retrofit the building that is closed for our use. The bad news is that we have not started any repairs yet - we are STILL waiting for government approval. Our engineer's plans were filed two months ago, but cannot do *anything* until we have approval from the Ministry of Finance.

The Thrangu Group continues to get help into the villages. SMD has been sending our graduates who have gone on in their education to become licensed Health Assistants (paramedics) to work in health posts. Phurbu Choden B250 has been working in Prok village in Nubri, Gorkha District.



Phurbu Choden delivered babies, give teaching about health and hygiene to the mothers' group and to the young monks at a monastery. She worked to create awareness of sanitation, safe mothering and nutrition in Prok.

Nelha Sangmo Lama B296 also worked at health posts in Nubri for a year, and now has started dental school in the Philippines. The photo shows Nelha on her way to another village to provide health care.



Since the earthquakes, outmigration has increased. More than 40 high schools ("plus twos" = schools offering Grades 11 & 12) in our area have closed. Lately, I've been working with SMDers preparing as many as I can to win scholarships so they can finish high school overseas. I am happy to say that we are being helped overseas in this too, Briony Reid, Tashi Dolma Lama B298 and Dechen Dolma Lama B366a travelled to Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island with that very aim in mind. I believe Shawnigan Lake School is going to give us a spot to a Himalayan girl.



There are many obstacles, but the children in Thragu Rinpoche's care are happy and healthy.



Shirley Blair