

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF HUMLA- NEPAL

Promoting Education in the Himalayan Region



LOCAL CONTEXT

Humla, located in northern Nepal, is one of the most remote and least developed regions in the country. Its population lives in extreme poverty and deprivation.

The **literacy rate** is only **21.3%** and is especially low for women (7.8% vs. 36.5% for men).

There are hardly any schools in the Upper Humla region and the ones that do exist are located far from the villages. These schools are run poorly, the quality of teaching is very low, and they generally don't go higher than the elementary level.

Thus, the majority of children do not have access to education and many families have no choice but to send their children to schools outside the region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Himalayan Children's Society (HCS) has been working in Yalbang (Upper Humla) since 1999 to provide quality instruction for the children of the region.

As commuting to the school is not a possibility for most children, the HCS has built a hostel for 122 students from 12 villages to make it possible for them to attend school.

Project Manager: Karuna-Shechen

Local Partner: Himalayan Children's Society

Location: Yalbang, Upper Humla, Nepal

Sector: Education

Direct Beneficiaries: 250 Humli Children

Project Budget: \$110,000 USD

PROJECT GOALS

Primary Goal:

↘ Double the capacity of both the residence built by the Himalayan Children's Society (HCS) and the local school, to allow the enrollment of 100 new students.

Secondary Goal:

↘ Help reduce the loss of youth from the 12 villages in the Upper Humla who leave the region in order to seek an education.

PROJECT STRATEGY

This project aims to help slow the loss of the region's youth:

↘ By offering a greater number of children a place to stay near the local school.

↘ By expanding the local school in order to double the number of children who can attend.

↘ By working with the local school to continually help raise its standards.

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

100 more Humli Children:

- Will be housed in the residence
- Will be enrolled in the local school

Nine teachers at the local school:

- Will now have optimized teaching conditions

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

A well-educated younger generation contributes economically and socially by helping their families and working for the good of their communities.

The development of this project will impact the development of the 12 villages linked to the school as well as the development of the entire Upper Humla region.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1) A higher literacy rate in addition to a larger number of high school graduates in the 12 selected villages.

2) Improved management of the local school in Yalbang, higher teaching standards, and the possibility to add a new grade level each year, eventually offering classes that lead to and prepare for university.

LOCAL PARTNER AND KARUNA-SHECHEN

Inspired by the HCS mission to promote quality local education for children in the poorest regions of Nepal, Karuna-Shechen partnered with HCS.

An initial partnership was established in 2005 when Karuna-Shechen financially supported six Humli children to live at the HCS residence in Kathmandu.

In 2010 and 2011, Karuna-Shechen increased its support by sponsoring 30 children in the HCS residence in Upper Humla.

In the future, Karuna-Shechen will continue to help HCS develop its capacity to house more children in the Upper Humla and will contribute to the expansion of the local school in Yalbang so that it can enroll 100 more children.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROJECT

- **Expansion of the residence** to accommodate 100 new students, thus giving them the opportunity to receive an education.
- **Development of sponsorship** for the children in the residence to cover their tuition and living costs.
- **Expansion of the local Yalbang school** to accommodate more students, to ensure that the school has the necessary books and supplies and, in the future, to be able to add new grade levels.
- **Development of skills and motivation of the teachers**

HCS will direct the expansion of the residence and the Yalbang School.

FUNDS NEEDED

Karuna-Shechen is raising funds for the expansion of the HCS residence in Yalbang and for the expansion of the local school.

Total cost of project: \$110,000 USD

Cost for the expansion of the residence

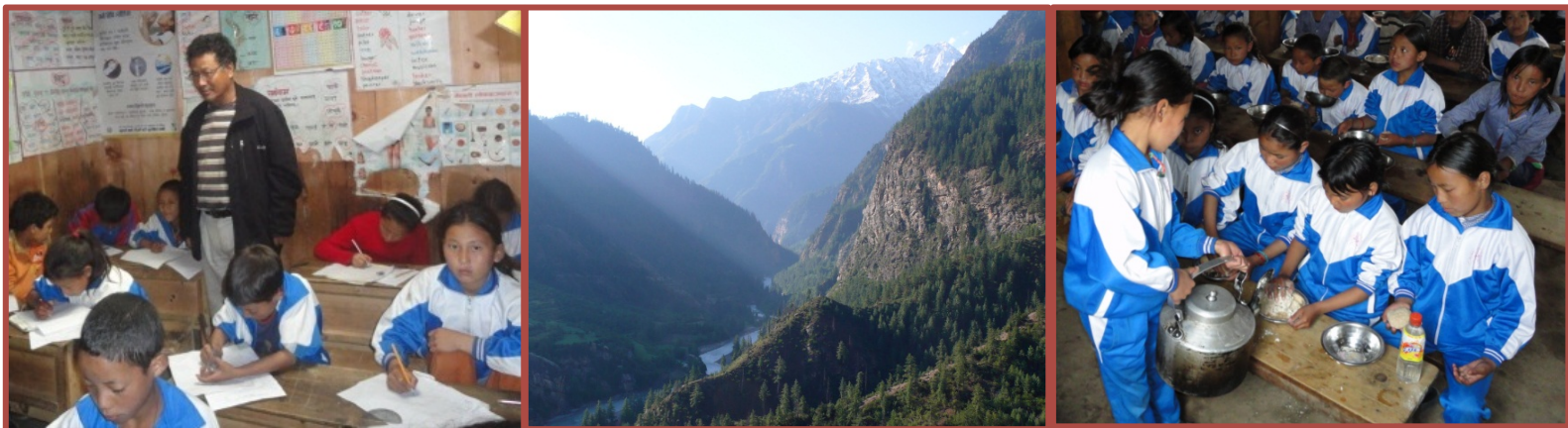
Dormitory: \$54,000 USD

Kitchen/Dining Room: \$26,000 USD

Cost of the school expansion

Six new classrooms: \$30,000 USD

To receive more information about this project, please contact one of Karuna-Shechen's branches.



PROJECT MANAGER: KARUNA-SHECHEN

Karuna-Shechen is a humanitarian organization that implements health and education projects in the Himalayan region.

Founded and directed by Matthieu Ricard and inspired by the ideal of compassion (*karuna*) in action, the organization is deeply rooted in the traditions and values of the communities it serves.

Since 2001, Karuna-Shechen has initiated and developed 111 projects in India, Nepal and Tibet, propelled by the conviction that access to basic health care and education is a right for all.

www.karuna-shechen.org

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