

## CTAS NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021

These past 6-months have continued to be very challenging. Contrary to the position at the end of last year, up until when Nepal had not been particularly affected by the pandemic, it is currently in a strict lockdown, with a rising number of daily new COVID cases and daily deaths (over 8,000 per day). Happily our NGO team is (so far) all OK and remain healthy.



There have been a couple of other short lockdowns since last December, but we are delighted to report that in-between these we have managed to all-but complete the Mahendra School water project. This will mean that when the children are able to return to school they will have running water to the toilet block, which is even more critical at the current time when hand washing is one of the ways to combat the spread of COVID.



Our NGO chairperson and construction supervisor have been working with the local villagers to get the 15,000 litre underground water tank concreted and plastered. This work was completed in mid- May.

The work is hard, as everything is done by hand.



The tank is finished, the roof on and the inspection hatch since sealed. The piping is laid to the toilet block: and the pump is rigged up and ready. This tank will enable the school to capture and utilise the spring water, which feeds it all year round. When we are able we are planning to extend the supply to the kitchen and hostel.



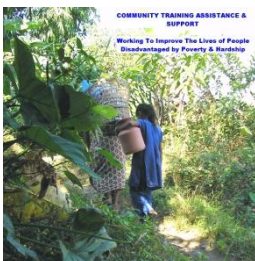
The children come from Lahachok and nearby villages to attend the Mahendra School: and the principal, teachers and students are very happy that they will have water "on hand".

When they are back at school we plan to deliver a series of health & hygiene sessions, with particular emphasis on the importance of sanitation and effective hand-washing procedures.

Our other school projects (daily tiffin and the supply of teachers) resumed for several months earlier this year, but sadly has had to be suspended again in line with local government guidelines: and we have had to close the kindergarten for the time being. I haven't seen the infants for over a year, as travel to Nepal at the moment is not possible as it is on the "red list" for COVID.



Our staff and teachers are being retained on 50% pay through these difficult times, as without them it would not be possible to continue our work: and huge thanks go to them for their efforts during the past months.



Thank you for your continued support, which enables us to make such a huge difference to people's lives, especially in these very difficult times. Stay safe.  
*Michele Spencer (Chairperson)*

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