



# MountainProjects e.V.

Donate Education . Change Lives

## Annual Activity Report MountainProjects e.V. 2014 - 2017

MountainProjects e.V. has accomplished the following in Kagate, Nepal:

1. Earthquake Relief Effort
2. Construction of a preliminary school after the quake
3. Design and construction of a new school for 90 children
4. Development of local agricultural and growing of medicinal herbs

### 1. Earthquake Relief Effort

In 2015, two massive earthquakes devastated Nepal to an unimaginable degree. The epicenter of the second quake was located just 22 miles north of Kagate Village with its tremors destroying the village. Our main focus of building a new school was now of secondary importance. First efforts had to ensure the survival of all villagers and in light of this, we have supplied several tons of food, blankets, warm clothing and drugs to Kagate. Tents and tarps provided basic shelter to protect the villagers against the heavy monsoon. This relief effort was hindered by a lot of difficulties by the Nepalese government. Thanks to our help, all villagers survived the quake and its aftermaths.

The district government in Manthali banned us from reconstructing the village. It is not conducive to our aid work in Nepal to comment on the exact circumstances and reasons. However, more than two years after the earthquakes, reconstruction of the houses has started through international support with the approval of the Nepali government.

### 2. Construction of a preliminary school

The shack which served as a "school" until the quakes was destroyed by the tremors. MountainProjects' prime task was to provide the children with as much normality as possible in the harsh and bitter times right after the catastrophe. Thus, we have built a very basic and preliminary school to ensure the continuation of classes. In fact, this makeshift school gave strong hold to the children.

At the same time, MountainProjects built a retaining wall to safeguard the preliminary school as well as the construction site of the new school against landslides.

### 3. Design and construction of a new school for 90 children

In 2016, the Nepali architect Bikash Palikhey, who studied at TU Aachen in Germany, started working on the first designs for the new school in Kagate. The decision to integrate an earthquake-resistant design not only proves to be a sustainable investment of donations by MountainProjects, it also provides a unique safety concept to the school kids in case of another quake.



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Phase 1 construction started in August 2016. Heavy monsoons again prevented an earlier start and in January 2017 we faced the same issues with the spring monsoon. Finally, Phase 2, comprising two buildings which serve as a pre-school for the youngest kids, was finished and put into operation in August 2017.

From the outset, MountainProjects has developed a concept which enabled the villagers to participate in simple construction works. This generated an income allowing them to provide for their families after the quakes.

MountainProjects has successfully opted for a female teacher with the district government in Manthali in August 2017 to introduce a female quota into the district. Gender equality is a social problem in Nepal. Recruiting a female teacher allowed MountainProjects to send out a vital signal of equality, which we take seriously. The children learn that there is no difference with respect to women and men.

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 saw the start of the construction of Phase 2 building: the foundation of the main school. This is a two-storied building with four separate classrooms. Two additional female teachers will add to the team once the building is ready and will give classes to the elder children of the village who suffer a lot of discomfort currently having to cope with a harsh journey to school over exposed paths to Bethali, approximately 1.5 hours away from Kagate.

The usage of domestic materials is a distinct focus of our school construction. It provided employment for many locals, thus generating a solid income. The cost of expensive transport distances on rough roads into Kagate could be reduced considerably. This speaks for a sustainable and careful handling of our donations.

The second and bigger building of Phase 1 provides separate toilets for girls and boys. This also lets us clearly demonstrate our commitment: to the children to learn mutual respect. Separate toilets are very unusual in Nepal.

The roof of the smaller Phase 1 building, the so-called Kindergarten, is deliberately designed to function as a rooftop terrace for the children. This sun-drenched spot shall be a place for the kids to congregate and spend time during their breaks enjoying an undisturbed view of their village and the landscape. This helps them to develop a respectful attitude towards these values.

Solar energy heats up all classrooms through ground floor windows which flood all rooms with daylight helping to save lots of energy. All buildings are aligned in such a way to receive sunlight permanently.



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### 4. Development of local agricultural and growing of medicinal herbs

Fertile soils, which are mainly used for own consumption, offer potential for Kagate. In 2015, MountainProjects reserved funds to further develop farming.

The devastating earthquakes have thwarted this investment for the time being. Yet, the funds remain reserved for purchasing pigs to start breeding, and greenhouses to achieve higher revenues with wild Ayurvedic medicinal herbs. The basic substance for Tiger Balm and Vick Vaporub both grow wild around the village. Contacts have already been established with dealers from India.

Each school child will have a newly planted tree to take care of. This contributes to an increased awareness of environmental matters. It is of the essence to the kids to understand how to sustainably and respectfully treat nature, which is an important asset in Nepal.

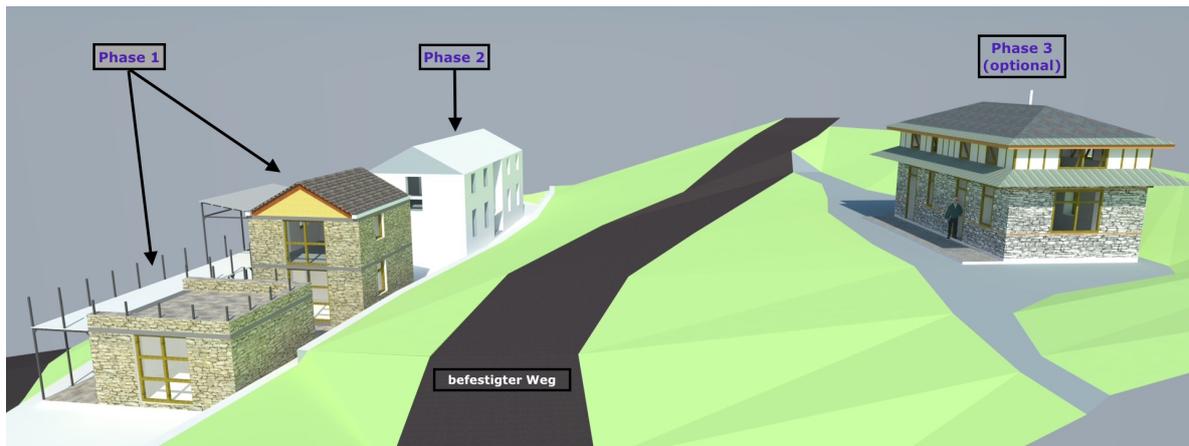
Medicinal herbs and farming are the future of Kagate. Promoting it through donations is an essential step towards permanent independence of human aid. MountainProjects' top goal is self-sufficiency for Kagate.



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## Pictures



Bikash Palikhey's design of the new school in Kagate

## MountainProjects' Earthquake relief effort in Kagate, Nepal



Relief Supplies



Relief Supplies



Distribution



Distribution



Emergency Shelter



Emergency-Teaching



Emergency-Teaching



Devastations



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## Kagate School Project



Cattle Shed as „school“



Class in the Shed



Preliminary School



Teaching in the new Phase 1 school



Phase 1



Phase 1



Phase 1



Separate Toilets for girls and boys



Retaining Wall



Children in Kagate



Villagers



Andreas with Children in Kagate

München, November 17, 2017

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