



# Nepal Australia Friendship Association

Queensland Incorporated | Established 1989

All Donations tax deductible | 100% of ALL Donations go direct to helping the people of Nepal

## 25 YEARS 1989-2014



### Tawal area school with health clinic above

#### NEPAL: KEY DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

(from recent and reputable sources: Nepal Census (2011), World Bank, WHO and UNICEF)

The population of Nepal is now 26,494,504, with 125 caste/ethnic groups. Approximately 25% of the population live under the International Poverty Line on less than US\$1.25 per day. The national literacy rate is 65.9% (males: 75.1%; females 57.4%). School completion rates show that 39% of the total Nepali population completed grade 5; 10.2% completed SLC (grade 10); and 10.2% have studied above SLC level. One in 4 households now has a male working out of the country for more than 6 months of the year.

In 2012 the infant mortality rate (probability of dying between birth and one year of age) was 34 per 1,000 and the maternal mortality rate was 170 per 100,000 live births in 2010.

About two-thirds of total households use firewood as their usual source of fuel for cooking. Electricity is the main source of lighting for more than two thirds of total households. Other sources of lighting for households are: kerosene (18.28%); solar (7.44%) and bio-gas (0.28%).



# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE What is special about NAFA?

**NAFA has a proven track record of making a real difference in improving the lives of disadvantaged children, families and communities in Nepal. It takes a special organisation to consistently achieve good outcomes over 25 years. NAFA is special in the way it operates here in Brisbane and in Nepal.**

In Brisbane we are entirely volunteer run – with no paid staff or office expenses. 100% of tax-deductible donations/fundraising goes to NAFA-supported projects in Nepal, a promise that we can keep as a small volunteer run association. Executive officers visit Nepal annually at their own expense to assess and monitor NAFA projects to ensure our funds are used wisely.

NAFA has a well functioning, stable management committee. Regular monthly meeting goes guide the 25+ projects NAFA supports each year in Nepal. Its two main annual fundraising events (the New Year Dinner and Nepal in the Park) are very competently run by members of the Nepali community

and a band of volunteers who are affectionately known as “red shirts”.

The Nepalese community in Brisbane also makes NAFA special. Members of the Nepali community hold key management committee positions and provide valuable advice on all aspects of doing aid work in the complex context of Nepal. They also generously provide financial support for NAFA projects. NAFA and the Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ) are truly partners in aid.

Members of the wider NAFA network are also special. Some supporters leave the allocation of the funds to our management committee, while other supporters have an interest in specific projects and earmark their donations accordingly. We appreciate the generosity of both donor types.

In Nepal, NAFA works in partnership with the Joy Foundation Nepal, ‘Smile Back to Me, Spain’ and ‘Nepaleducaid’, Austria. Our special partners in Nepal include three volunteer coordinators, Phurba Sherpa, Chandra

Tamang and Surendra Prajapati who coordinate NAFA projects for the Solu Khumbu/Okhaldhunga, Tawal and Thimi areas, respectively.

Our other special partners are the communities of Nepal. NAFA expects a contribution from each beneficiary community, be it cash or in-kind. This makes the NAFA dollar go further and ensures ownership and accountability from the local community. Community contributions include, for example, carrying cement, wood and other materials from the road head and hauling rock and sand from sources sometimes far away. These contributions instil pride and ownership of the new asset and increase the skills and experience base within the community.

Our model of development in Nepal is also very special. Effective overseas aid requires more than good intentions. It should incorporate a framework for best practice that leads to better processes and outcomes. So it is not only WHAT we do but also HOW we do it. We listen and negotiate rather than tell people

what to do; value and utilise local knowledge and practices; strengthen local capacity; and where possible establish baseline data to evaluate and measure change over time.

Overseas development work is challenging but very rewarding and both Deborah and I are very proud to have been involved in such a special association since 2000.

Rod Setterlund OAM



## 



JOY Foundation Nepal extends our heartiest congratulations on this 25th Anniversary of NAFA. JOY is proud to be associated as a Local Partner in Nepal and thanks NAFA for its support in the field of health service, education, drinking water, and micro hydro projects. Our partnership has supported eye camps (organized by Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology) that have restored the sight of more than 4,000 people. Joy congratulates NAFA for 25 years of assisting thousands of people in remote areas of Nepal as well as assisting other partner organizations like Prisoners Assistance Nepal, V.S. Niketan School, Buddhist Education and Social Development Centre/Nepal, Punarbal Plus, Community Child Rescue Center and Association for the Welfare of Intellectual Handicapped. We sincerely hope NAFA will continue its generous support in Nepal for the betterment of community people.

Raju Shrestha, President  
JOY Foundation, Kathmandu



Our humble team is inspired, nurtured, encouraged and mentored by NAFA. Projects have been well researched, completed and assessed, including supply of teachers, education aids, health workers, medical aids and medicines - a testament to the benefit of the hard work and personal sacrifice of NAFA members. Thank you guys for your continued support, enabling us to set a parallel path of relieving suffering...It is a great comfort to know we can draw on your expertise and wisdom.

Sue Tuck, President  
Hearing Nepal Program Inc. Qld, Australia.



Our sincerest congratulations for the successful service of your organisation for these precious years in different parts of Nepal. We are very happy and honoured to receive your support that made our work easier and are able to help the needy ones. Best wishes for continuing years.

Macha Bhai Maharjan  
President



From Badri Basnet

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to express my greatest gratitude and satisfaction for coming of age of the Nepal-Australia Friendship Association (NAFA). I still remember vividly when we laid the foundation of NAFA on the top floor of Nepalese Peace Pagoda (located opposite to Vulture Street railway station at the time) in South Bank in October 1988. It was started with eight dedicated members including Jim Simpson and family, John Cameron, and Stella Taylor. I was given the opportunity by the team to take a leading role. Due to my job related relocation from Brisbane to Gatton in February 1989, I handed over the leading role to Jim Simpson and the team.

Since then NAFA has been groomed by many dedicated members. NAFA would not have reached to the current state of success and the celebration of the 25th Anniversary without the uninterrupted and dedicated leadership roles of Jim Simpson, Tony Faux, Jim Drapes and Rod Setterlund. Of course, behind a successful leader there is always a very dedicated team. NAFA has been very fortunate to have many dedicated team members including long-standing members such as Ross and Brenda Hazelwood. NAFA has been equally fortunate to have an on-going support from many Nepalese community members including Mana, Hari, Nirmala, Deepak and Achut.

I would like to THANK every one of YOU (i.e. mentioned above and many other names that comes in my mind) personally for bringing NAFA to this grand success. Thank you team! Very well done! Please keep up the good work!

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# The First 25 years

NAFA was formed in 1989 after the 30 volunteers from the Nepalese pavilion at Expo 88 wanted to help underprivileged people in Nepal and form friendships with the small Nepalese community in Brisbane. Today NAFA's membership includes the original founders, people who have enjoyed visiting Nepal and many members of the Nepali community.

In 1988 Mr Badri Basnet was elected president of the steering committee that oversaw the establishment of the association. In January 1989 when the association was formalised, Jim Simpson took over the president's role. As the Brisbane Nepalese community increased more Nepalese joined the association and its committee. It is this mix that ensures NAFA's work in Nepal and especially its fundraising in Australia continues to expand every year improving the lives of the disadvantaged people in Nepal.

NAFA's first donation of \$500 was taken to Nepal in 1990. After discussion with the Australian Ambassador, Les Douglas, it was distributed to a leper colony and a girl's school in a nearby village. A far cry from the over \$100,000 we now allocate to projects in Nepal each year. Les also suggested we consider the work of the Nepal Eye Program (later Tilganga Eye Centre) supported by Fred Hollows. The following year, 1991, we funded our first Remote Eye Camp at Risyango where 61 people had their sight restored by cataract surgery and later that year co-funded with the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu another Eye Camp at Tupche where 186 cataract surgeries were conducted.

Funds were delivered directly by hand to the recipient or to the Australian Ambassador. In 1992 the Ambassador said that 'he was unable to understand how such a small group such as ours could keep funding the Eye Camps'. Since then we have funded 22 camps where over 4000 people have received cataract surgery.

For the next 10 years we grew steadily continuing to fund eye camps each year as well as delivering goods like clothing, spectacles and

a humidicrib to the Patan Hospital in Kathmandu. We also arranged through Telecom the installation of an \$80,000 PABX into the new AUSAID funded Tilganga Eye Centre building.

NAFA's first fundraising event in 1989, a celebration of the Nepalese New Year has become an annual event. The other major fundraiser was a dinner in October celebrating Dashain. In the early years the small Brisbane based Nepalese community looked forward to these events as a way of getting together and celebrating their festivals.

In 1999, the Dashain dinner was changed to an outdoor event called Hike to Help Nepal. This function at Mt Coot-tha involved a 20Kg pack-carrying race as well as a gentle bushwalk. This has now evolved into



Nepal in the Park with more focus on Nepali culture and children's activities as well as the bushwalk. Each year as the Nepalese community has grown in Brisbane so they have taken a greater role in assisting us to make our functions successful.

Early fundraising included second-hand market stalls, chocolate sales and raffles. That has now developed into a colourful Nepali craft stall selling merchandise from Nepal.

Our first major rural assistance project, 10 years after formation, was a water infrastructure project in the remote village of Tawal. The following year together with

the Australian Embassy Nepal, we funded the construction of a Health Clinic in this village.

In 2004 we embarked on an ongoing child sponsorship program at VSN School, Thimi and Prisoners Assistance Nepal children's home as well as expanding our work in remote areas. Obtaining tax deductibility status in 2005, enabled us to attract more donors for our work.

Since 1989, we have funded or co-funded the building of 30 classrooms, 6 school toilets, 11 village water infrastructure projects, 3 water mills, 2 school fences, 3 micro-hydro projects, 243 improved cooking stoves in 8 remote villages as well as many smaller aid projects. Each year since 2001, a number of knitters in Australia have supplied NAFA with 8500 jumpers and 10,200 beanies which have been distributed to schools in poorer communities and children's homes.

NAFA works closely in Nepal with our partner Joy Foundation Nepal via an MOU signed in 2004. This alliance has allowed us to have someone on the ground in Nepal when members are not there. It enables us to transfer aid funds safely for on forwarding to our project coordinators. Joy also assists with any queries and provides valuable information and help.

For many years now, NAFA executives and members have made an annual trip to Nepal, including to trek the rural and remote areas to examine requests for assistance and to monitor projects already in progress. NAFA has developed a suite of policies to help achieve its aims and objectives including those relating to accountability and financial sustainability.

We are proud of what NAFA and its supporters have achieved in the 25 years since formation and hope that our association and work will continue into the future to keep on "making a difference" to people in Nepal.

Ross Hazelwood  
Secretary/ Nepal Projects  
Coordinator





# SOME MEMORIES.....AND THANKS

*"We heard about NAFA's work from other Nepali families so we became interested to support NAFA. We were very excited when we knew about NAFA and quickly got involved with its fundraising activities. Those events were like Christmas for us, as we could meet our fellow Nepalese and NAFA members who had also became our second family.".....*

**Rajani Kahadka**

*"We arrived in 1994 when there were only 3 or 4 Nepalese families in Brisbane. We learnt of NAFA's work in Nepal and got involved, helping to produce its annual fund raising events. Many of our children grew up with NAFA, performing every year in Nepalese costumes. We are fortunate to have Australian friends who would dedicate their time to help disadvantaged people in Nepal."*

**Nirmala Pandeya**  
**NAFA Vice-President**

*"I was two when I arrived in Brisbane. My dad attended monthly NAFA meetings and mum also helped out. At 8 years of age I started performing traditional dances at their annual fundraising dinner. Mum choreographed my dances and arranged my outfits. So many kids don't get the education that we have and many girls miss out. Thank you NAFA for changing the lives of countless children, as well as men and women in Nepal."*

**Salika Khadka**

Please go to our website if you would like to read the full version of these letters.

**nafa.org.au**



Congratulation to NAFA on its 25th Anniversary Celebration

Nepal Australia Friendship Association (NAFA) is celebrating 25th Anniversary of its establishment on 10th of May 2014. During the past 25 years, NAFA has been involved in several projects related to health, education and income generation that aim to benefit the disadvantaged people mainly in remote areas of Nepal. The projects include providing education and training opportunities to rural and underprivileged children; training to nurses, engineers and technicians; promoting health of rural people by promoting smokeless

kitchen stoves, and conducting eye clinics at remote parts of the country; building drinking water supplies, school buildings, toilets, libraries and mini hydropower plants; supporting underprivileged children through a partnership with PA Nepal; and distributing small gifts and hand knitted jumpers to villagers. NAFA's work has touched the life of many people back in Nepal and their programs/projects have provided much needed hope to many disadvantaged people and communities of the country.

The Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ) Inc. would like to congratulate NAFA for completing 25 years of its operation

with very effective outcomes. On behalf of the Nepalese community in Queensland, NAQ Inc. would like to convey heartfelt appreciation and sincere thanks to all the dedicated volunteers of NAFA for the beautiful work they have done for socio-economical development of our motherland. NAFA indeed is an inspirational, unique and wonderful organization, and we are proud to be a partner and be associated with it. NAFA has created a great legacy and will be cherished for many years to come.

All of the money raised by NAFA volunteers and partners goes directly to the project and the targeted community. We are always very thankful at NAFA members who have shown so much kindness and understanding while working and living closely with the people in Nepal. NAQ will always assist and work closely with NAFA in this wonderful journey of helping the needy communities in Nepal.

Once again, a heartfelt thanks to NAFA and its present and past members. Congratulations and best wishes on the 25th Anniversary celebration on 10th May 2014.



*"I danced alone in my first NAFA New Year celebration. I was five. I still laugh when I see the video. I stared at the ceiling the entire time. The next year with a friend, I looked at the audience and smiled throughout two performances. I performed almost every year until I was 16. It became a bit of a tradition, meeting up with my friends every week for a month or two to practice. I remember our mothers' late nights sewing costumes, the hectic (but fun) hour before our performances and the anticipatory jingle of our music as we walked on. A lot of us "kids" who performed are now grown up with our own responsibilities. Nevertheless, we try to make it every year. Both the Brisbane Nepali and NAFA communities have become part of our extended family. It's nice to have an event of our own that we can be proud of and celebrate together."*

**Neha Pandeya**



"It is wonderful that the Association has not only existed for such a long time, but flourished, inspiring people to be involved in activities that make significant improvements to the lives of less fortunate people in many areas of Nepal. NAFA and its associates should take a bow. May your good work continue and inspire others to get involved and help in any way they can to improve the quality of life of communities in need all over the world."

Jim Drapes, Director, Back Track Adventures, Brisbane, Australia.



"Heartfelt congratulations and happiness to Nepal Australia Friendship Association on its 25th anniversary. We feel greatly honoured to be associated with a reputed international social organisation helping to educate the local unfortunate children." Mr Surendra Bikram Prajapati, Founder Principal, Vinayak Shiksha Niketan School, Thimi, Nepal.



"25 successive years of NAFA supporting sustainable grass roots community development projects in Nepal. Since 1991, the strong bond with NAFA has led to quality eye care services in rural communities through Outreach Microsurgical Eye Clinic Camps. Tilganga wishes NAFA success to achieve positive outcomes by supporting equitable eye health, education and development projects for economically poor communities and individuals in Nepal." Professor Dr Sanduk Ruit, Executive Director, Nepal Eye Program, Tilganga Eye Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal.



# 25 Years of Development

## KEY MILESTONES

N AFA has supported many and varied educational, health and community infrastructure projects over the past 25 years. It has grown into a sustainable, medium size aid organisation over that time. These are some examples of our key milestones since our formation in 1989:

Year	Milestone
1988	Steering committee of Expo 88 volunteers, presided over by Badri Basnet, to consider formation of an association
1989	Association formed. Jim Simpson elected President First fundraising dinner
1990	Tony Faux elected President
1991	Commenced funding of 1st annual Tilganga remote cataract surgery eye clinic
1993	Punam Howard, Tibetan Kitchen takes over responsibility for catering for fundraising dinners
1994	Telecom donated Commander telephone system to Tilganga Eye Centre
1997	Jim Drapes elected President
1999	Funding of water holding tanks and tap outlets at Tawal, Dhading
2000	NAFA/AusAid co-funded construction of Tawal health clinic servicing 5 villages in Tawal area
2001	Water infrastructure project completed at Mulkarka, Solu Khumbu
2002	Commenced funding of Tawal health clinic worker salaries
2004	Child sponsorship program expanded to include VSN Thimi school and PA Nepal Commenced funding of jumper and beanie program Signed MOU with Joy Foundation
2005	Tax deductibility status approved Commenced funding of 2 teacher salaries at Tawal area school Commenced funding of women’s income supplement (goat) project at Phulbari, Kavre
2006	Co-funded construction of a Prisoners Assistance (PA) Nepal children’s home at Sankhu Commenced funding of Butterfly Foundation child care centres
2007	Rod Setterlund elected President Cochlear ear implant operation for Sophie, a child at Butterfly child care centre, Pokhara
2009	Commenced funding of Thimi carpet factory health clinics Commenced education and community infrastructure development-related projects in the Solu Khumbu and Okhaldhunga areas across 10 villages
2010	Commenced funding of HearingNepal program Social, health and economic surveys undertaken at Tawal Micro-hydro projects funded at Tawal/Tawal Besi, Dhading and Lumsa, Solu Khumbu
2011	Funded primary ear and eye clinics in Tawal for remote villages in the Ri VDC
2012	Co-funded construction of 8 new classrooms in partnership with Smile Back to Me, Spain and Nepaleducaid, Austria, extendingTawal area school to Grade 10 Funded re-establishment of the Tawal adult literacy program Biogas project funded at Kophu
2013	Improved cooking stove projects funded in Tawal area and 4 villages in Solu Khumbu



Tawal Health Clinic



New classrooms at Kophu



Micro-hydro electricity plant



School toilets, Shyama



VSN School, Thimi



# 25 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED 1989 - MAY 2014: \$935,514

## HIGHLIGHTS OF NAFA ALLOCATIONS



### One-off Projects

Since NAFA was established, \$354,373 has been allocated across 109 one-off projects

**One-off projects funded or co-funded by NAFA include:**

- 30 classrooms
- 6 school toilets
- 11 village water infrastructure projects
- 3 water mills
- 22 remote surgery eye clinics performing 4000 cataract surgeries
- A 5 day eye and ear clinic for 12 villages - 1,100 attending
- 3 micro hydro projects
- 243 improved cooking stoves in 8 remote villages

**NAFA has funded or co-funded one-off projects in 14 districts, with the most allocations to:**

- Dhading (including Tawal)
- Solu Khumbu (including Mulkarka, Lumsa and Kophu)
- Okhaldhunga (including Patale)
- Kathmandu (including Sankhu and Lapsephedi)
- Bhaktapur (including Thimi) districts

### Multi-year programs

Since NAFA was established \$581,141 has been allocated to 16 multi-year programs with the largest programs being:

YEAR	PROGRAM	TOTAL \$ ALLOCATED
1995 - ONGOING	Child sponsorships, including VSN school, Thimi; Prisoners Assistance (PA) Nepal; and students with a disability	308,236
2008 - ONGOING	Further Education and Training (FEAT) for college (Grades 11 & 12), Bachelor level & vocational training study	44,854
1991 - ONGOING	Tilganga remote cataract surgery eye clinics	81,754
2010 - ONGOING	HearingNepal ear care, treatment and hearing aids	36,583
2005 - ONGOING	Tawal area school (servicing 6 villages) teacher salaries	33,198
2002 - ONGOING	Tawal area health clinic (servicing 5 villages) salaries	42,845
2006 - ONGOING	Butterfly Foundation child care centres	24,495

By the end of 2014 NAFA’s allocations to Nepal will exceed ONE MILLION DOLLARS!



- Other multi-year programs include:**
- Thimi carpet factory health clinics (2011- ongoing)
  - Nepal Association of Hard of Hearing (2011- ongoing)
  - Thimi carpet factory crèche (2011 – onging)
  - Tawal adult literacy (2009 then 2012 - ongoing)
  - VSN School/PA Nepal arts and craft project ( 2004 - ongoing)
  - Jumper/beanie distribution project (2004 - ongoing)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NAFA’S ACHIEVEMENTS

Year	Award	Name
2008	Non-resident Nepali Association Australia (NRNA) Friend of Nepal	ROD SETTERLUND
2009	University of Queensland Vice-Chancellor’s Alumni Equity and Diversity Award	DEBORAH SETTERLUND
2010	Non-resident Nepali Association Australia (NRNA) Friend of Nepal	ROSS AND BRENDA HAZELWOOD
2010	Queensland Government Multicultural Award Outstanding Volunteer	HARI KHADKA
2013	Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the Nepalese people	ROD AND DEBORAH SETTERLUND
2013	Nepalese Association of Queensland (NAQ) Special Service Award for recognition of contribution to the communities in Nepal	ROD AND DEBORAH SETTERLUND
2013	Non-resident Nepali Association Australia (NRNA) Friend of Nepal	HELEN ZADA
2014	NAFA Life Members for 25 years of dedicated service to NAFA and the people of Nepal	ROSS AND BRENDA HAZELWOOD



Ross & Brenda Hazelwood - Life Members of NAFA



OAM Medal Presentation for Rod & Deb Setterlund at Government House



Hari Khadka -Qld Outstanding Volunteer with wife Rajani



Helen Zada - NRNA Friend of Nepal





*"We could have not achieve this humanitarian feat without your unwavering support. I am glad to inform you that it is through the generous support of NAFA that we have been able to go this further."*

**BUTTERFLY  
FOUNDATION  
NEPAL**

*"The partnership with NAFA was and still is very, very successful. Many education projects in Tawal and surrounding villages have been realised in a very short time. The development in the villages is unbelievable if you compare it with the situation we found during our first visit in 1997. Thank you NAFA!"*  
**nepaleducAid  
Austria**



Dear NAFA Organization,

The communities in Solu Khumbu and Okhaldunga heartily congratulate NAFA for helping Nepalese people for 25 years.

We like to thank you for your help to our small villages in Solu Khumbu and Okhaldunga for past 13 years. You have helped many villages get better water to use for drinking before we had to fetch and carry taking many hours. Now we have water taps near people's houses.

You have brought light to 4 villages with Micro Hydro and water turbine machines. Many families can now work much better at night, children can study and lives have been improved.

Near many villages the trees are being cut down for firewood more

and more every day. Your help with bio gas and new cooking stoves will reduce number of trees being cut down. It will reduce the smoke in the house and will improve everyone's health.

Our children thank you for making classrooms and school environment much better for them to go to school. It is important to have more children going school to higher grades so in future they can use this knowledge for improving remote villages. These children are the hope of our future, so to help them is to help others.

All people in Mulkharka, Kophu, Narjing, Lumsa, Gernapur, Dimil, Patle, Shyama, Dhupisurke and Chhermading village say thank you to NAFA for all your help and cooperation.



dhanyabaad (thank you)

**Phurba Sherpa  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Solu Khumbu and Okhaldunga**



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Chandra Tamang from Nepal. I work with NAFA as the Hilly Region Development (HRDC) coordinator, based in Kathmandu.

Firstly we congratulate NAFA's 25th Anniversary. Long Live NAFA forever! This organisation is surrounded by all the nice, warm hearted, supportive people from Australia. Here I try to briefly express my experience working with NAFA over 18 years. There are no words in dictionary to express NAFA's support but we try our best!

I was born in a village called Tawal. It is located about 100 km by crow fly from Kathmandu. It takes about 9 hrs drive, then half a day walk to Tawal village. It is a very remote village where there was no drinking water supply, no electricity, no health post. There was a small primary school with small and dark rooms. Most of the children from the village helped their family working in the field and making dokos "baskets" to sell in market and trade for salt, clothing etc.

There was no cash to buy pens and books for school. So their parents didn't send children to school and instead let them help support their family from childhood. Fortunately my parents sent me to get higher education in another school, 4 hour walk away. In Nepal school runs from Sunday to Friday. I leave from village every Sunday at 4.00am with some millet flour, potatoes, and gundruk, to cook myself to live. It was so hard life.

I was lucky to meet up with a friend who was working as a trekking guide. He took me trekking as a porter. It was a great opportunity to see the different world. Then I started to dream. Well I must make a change in my village and area by educating people there.

During my trekking, I was lucky to meet Mr. Lloyd, a teacher from Australia. When we became friends, I expressed myself to him in my broken English and with hand, feet, head and eyes. Fortunately he was very smart to understand my language. He was already involved with NAFA, but I didn't understand the meaning of NAFA at that time. I suggested to him to visit my village. Fortunately he came there and we slept in a cow shelter, and all night poor and hungry rats run over us.



Almost all the people from village come to see him, because most of the people from village never seen a white man and wonder what this strange man doing here? Some of children afraid he may eat them. All the kids and people from the village rounded up him to see how this strange person eats etc.

He understood the needs from the village and report this to NAFA members back in Australia.

He started to support with some pens and note books for school, which helped to encourage children to go school and get better education. This village is very lucky to encounter a non profitable NGO NAFA to raise money in Australia and bring it to village.

With the partnership from a NGO from Austria, Nepal Educaid and Spain Smile Back to Me, NAFA has been supporting Tawal and surrounding villages. More NAFA members come to village like Rod, Deb, Brenda, Ross and other members, to experience the real life and reality of projects and they visit every year to monitor the projects.

Here I try to list some of the projects NAFA has been supporting in Tawal, Kutal, Dhuseni, Latap, Tawal Bensi and Richet village:

- a water infrastructure project
- building of a health clinic and subsidy of three health workers
- replacement of classrooms in 5 villages
- teachers salary at Tawal and computers at Tawal school
- construction of a library/science lab and community shelter
- improved cooking stoves
- distribution of knitted jumpers
- support to establish and run four adult literacy courses
- micro hydro power station
- a solar system in health clinic and a freezer to store vaccinations
- hearing camps and eye camps in Tawal and surrounding villages
- sponsoring students for higher education.

These projects have made a big difference to the lives of the people in Tawal and the surrounding area. Here I am trying to express how much we appreciate the support from NAFA and its members' hard work. I fully hope there will be new borne NGO's like this in the Globe, to support poor village, and poor people to make their life different. On behalf of people from the area we congratulate NAFA members and we wish all the members long life.

With kindest regards  
Chandra Tamang  
On behalf of over 4000 people from Tawal and surrounding villages.