



DISASTER RELIEF PROJECT ACHIEVES GOALS IN NEPAL

April 2017





In April 2015, a devastating earthquake struck Nepal and shattered the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Aftershocks in the days following the earthquake left further scars across the landscape. Nothing was unaffected: businesses, schools and vital infrastructure (such as roads) were destroyed, entire villages were flattened, and more than three million people were left homeless.

This level of destruction had a significant impact on Nepal's children. In addition to the personal losses many suffered, the destruction and damage of schools and thousands of classrooms meant that children could not return to school, putting their education and futures in jeopardy. Many of Projects Abroad's partner schools, where our Teaching Projects are based, were severely affected.

In the weeks following the earthquake, Projects Abroad volunteers began gathering to support Nepal, and the Disaster Relief Project was launched in June 2015. In June 2016 we were able to extend our aid to more schools in the Kathmandu Valley, thanks to our partnership with the Nepal Youth Foundation.

The primary goal of the Nepal Disaster Relief Project was to rebuild classrooms so that children could resume their education in a safe environment. Projects Abroad is extremely proud to announce that we achieved this goal within 20 months.

My first day was an eye-opener because walking through the city, I could see the damage the earthquakes had caused and how they affected the living conditions for the locals. It was devastating. Although I was not able to stay to see the school I worked on completed, it felt good to know that I had an input in giving the local children another chance to learn in the coming future and helped restore hope where it was lost.



Takudzwa Chipamaunga, Disaster Relief volunteer.





In just 20 months, **9** schools in the Kathmandu Valley have been rebuilt with the help of more than **500** volunteers from Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and China working alongside engineers, architects, and local staff. Within these schools, **96** classrooms were built.

Thanks to staff and volunteers' collective efforts and dedication, more than **2000** children have been able to go back to school!



I felt so grateful to all Projects Abroad volunteers and Projects Abroad for helping out our school during such a difficult time. I also don't have a word to thank them. I have seen them working so hard in the heat and rain to complete the school. I will always be grateful for all the volunteers of Projects Abroad.



Mr. Surendra Maharjan, Principal of Sunrise School.

In the wake of the catastrophe, the Disaster Relief Project addressed immediate and longer-term needs in Nepali communities. Now that the situation in Nepal is no longer critical and the project has accomplished what Projects Abroad set out to do and benefitted thousands of children, it has been closed.

As we have done in many other countries, we will now open a General Building Project in Nepal. Only 5% of local schools have received government funds to rebuild so far, and our new project will focus on assisting schools that are still in need of help and support.

Like Disaster Relief, the General Building Project will respond to both short- and long-term needs in Nepal. The work that will be done on this project is important. Without the assistance of Projects Abroad volunteers and staff, it will be years – possibly even decades – before all schools affected by the earthquake are rebuilt. This setback would have overwhelming consequences for children in Nepal, disrupting their education and resulting in uncertain futures.



Around 4,000 classrooms in the district were destroyed by the 2015 earthquake and its aftershocks. The record at the District Education Office shows that only 192 classrooms of 96 schools have been built so far. With volunteers working on the General Building Project, we would be able to help speed up this process.

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Georgiana Poparad, Projects Abroad Operations Manager in Nepal.

In the coming months and years at the General Building Project, volunteers and staff will focus on:

- Building classrooms for the schools that were not able to get the funds to rebuild
- Interacting with local children (such as teaching English)

Volunteers help with all aspects of building work, including digging foundations, ground levelling, mixing cement and concrete, brick laying, plastering, and painting.

Find out more about the General Building Project in Nepal and help more children return to school:

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-projects/building/general-building-projects/volunteer-nepal/>

Since the earthquakes struck Nepal in 2015, Projects Abroad volunteers and staff have made incredible progress in rebuilding schools for local communities in the Kathmandu Valley. In just 20 months...

