



Update on MSP Projects – 10.27.2015

We have some exciting updates from Nepal! Our local coordinator, Pemba, has identified several projects that the MSP was gladly able to fund. These projects are related to the town of Nakchung which is located in proximity to Lukla, though is still roughly a 3 hour walk (Nepali proximity in other words!).

During the earthquakes, the trail connecting the town to Lukla was swept away in a landslide, and has since made life for the Nakchung community quite difficult as this is their primary road in and out of their town. Pemba spoke with the community and identified two ways that the MSP could help this community. First, funding the rebuild of the trail and re-connecting this town with their neighboring communities. Secondly, pay for boarding expenses for a group of ten Nakchung children who are currently living with relatives in Lukla to attend school there.

Rebuilding the trail to the Nakchung community

Around October 7th work began on rebuilding the trail. A monk was in attendance to perform a puja ceremony. Due to the risk of loose and falling rocks in the area, construction helmets repurposed by Pemba from earlier relief efforts this year have proven to be a necessity, as the safety from workers is a priority.

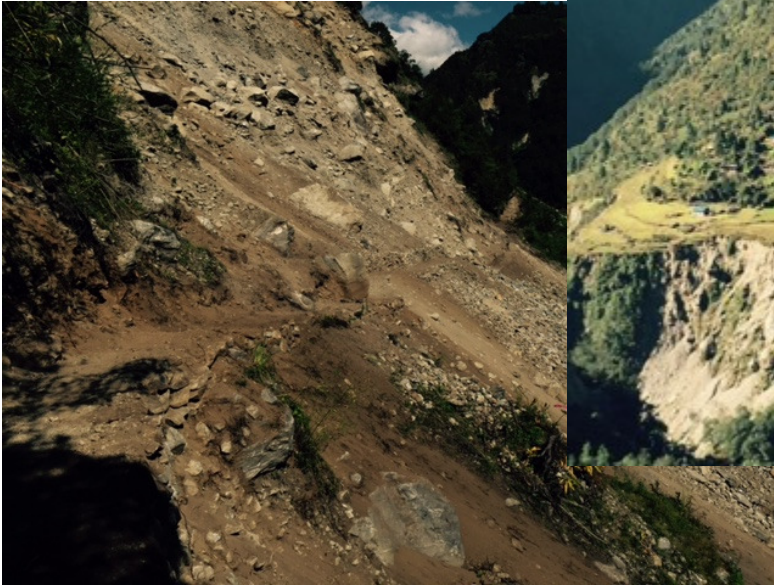


The project is expected to take roughly a month. Originally quoted at ~\$11,000 USD, we have contributed \$5,000 so far and anticipate the final cost to be about half of the original estimate.

Some images from October 11th show the progress being made! It's awe-inspiring to see the pace and the craftsmanship occurring to get this done. No wonder it's only expected to take a month!



These images help provide insight to the extent of the damage which occurred and the terrain the workers are dealing with. It truly helps you appreciate the work that it takes to create the network of trails connecting these communities.



An update from October 19 shows the group very hard at work and plowing ahead (or pick-axing ahead perhaps?) to get the trail completed.



Funding the Nakchung students

Pemba's communication with the Nakchung community revealed that there was an opportunity for us to assist ten children who are attending the Hillary school in Lukla. Before their road was swept away, these children were making the three hour walk to and from Lukla each day but are now boarding with their relatives as the road isn't passable. It was decided that the MSP could assist by funding their scholarships and contribute towards their boarding for the remaining three months of the year. A separate proposal to continue funding their boarding and education after the road has been completed is being considered.



Pemba with the Nakchung students and their families



Pemba distributing funds to the children's families

Future Projects

As always, we're in a constant search for more projects we can assist with. Currently being discussed for the future are the following several items:

- Contributing to the building of the school in Phading (~3 hours from Lukla), which was destroyed completely and has to be rebuilt at a different location.
- Rebuilding the Lama/guest quarters at the Keyngma Monastery near Lukla (damaged in the earthquake)
 - Cost would come in around \$4000 USD. This is a higher cost than normal because they want to use concrete so it will stand up in the event there is another earthquake (Concrete costs ~\$40/bag up in Lukla)
- Rebuilding the prayer wheel house at the Keyngma Monastery (also damaged in earthquake and currently closed to people)
 - Roughly \$2000 expected cost for the same reasons listed above
- Repairing stone mani walls in the Lukla proximity
 - Many stone manis were destroyed or damaged in the earthquakes. The locals are getting around to repairing them using donation money they have been collecting from one another. If we'd like, Pemba has suggested making a small donation towards these efforts (\$500-1000)