

# UMN News

ISSUE 70 | MARCH 2021



LIVELIHOODS &  
ENVIRONMENT



*Fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepali society*



## Dear friends



**JOEL HAFVENSTEIN**  
Executive Director

In September, COVID-19 cases and deaths were rising steeply. All the conventional indicators suggested the winter would bring either a continuing surge or a high plateau in cases. Coronaviruses are known to spread more during cold months. The government had abandoned many preventative public health measures, including by October sharply cutting back on its previous support for PCR testing and contact tracing. The Dasain and Tihar holidays could be expected to spread the virus from urban hotspots to rural areas.

And yet the number of COVID-19 cases throughout the country fell from November onward, with only temporary mini-surges after the holidays, and is presently low. It is not just a result of less testing; we are plainly seeing fewer hospitalisations and deaths.

While this has confirmed the need for us to hold any predictions lightly and humbly, we expect that this is a valley between peaks – that Nepal (and India, which has followed a similar pattern) will unfortunately see at least one more wave of coronavirus before vaccination becomes widespread. Please pray that any future wave is mild.

Meanwhile, however, due to the lack of a winter surge and any lockdowns in response, our hospital patient numbers have stayed higher than we dared hope, and our revenue gap is significantly less than we had feared. The Save Our Hospitals Appeal can thus be declared a success earlier than we had expected.

This is thanks not only to the unexpected drop in COVID rates, but to your generosity and prayer, which brought us confidently through the autumn coronavirus wave. While that wave never fully reached Okhaldhunga District, there was a significant surge in Tansen, which treated 117 COVID patients between September and December, and had to repurpose its entire medical ward for COVID treatment. We will continue to address the impact of coronavirus and lockdown through both our hospital work and community development work.

Thank you for your ongoing faithful support, which with God's help has brought us through this year of unexpected challenges and unpredictable change.

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UMN 2021



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# AN ENCOURAGING ROUTE AHEAD FOR BAJHANG & DOTI

After almost 10 months of restricted mobility due to the pandemic, I was finally preparing for travel to UMN's Bajhang and Doti Clusters to observe the livelihoods work there. My first cluster visit with UMN!

During the visits to various beneficiaries and enterprises, I perceived many challenges and opportunities for building resilience of the poorest people's livelihoods. Some of the challenges are remoteness from basic services, migration of young generations leaving the older generations particularly elderly women, weakened social safety nets due to migration, ongoing and future vulnerabilities such as earthquakes, landslides etc. Despite these challenges I saw abundant opportunities in both the clusters. In **Bajhang**, as one of the upcoming districts despite increasing road accessibility for rural villages, they still lack access to basic services such as education, health, clean drinking water, irrigation etc. However, the area has the potential to produce a good yield from fruit orchards (apple, walnuts etc.: (page 7), high value medicinal herbs (*Pakhanved*, *makhi jhar* etc.) rhododendrons, berries and to develop tourism-related enterprises with Khaptad National Park, Surma Sarobar Lake, Mt. Saipal and Tapoban nearby, which are part of the Great Himalayan Trail. **Doti** on the other hand is an important district containing most of the river systems within Karnali Basins, which are more vulnerable to climate change than other major basins of Nepal as indicated by an IPCC (International Panel for Climate Change) study. Despite the challenges, the district is full of opportunities such as scope for citrus fruits, high value herbs and spices (*chiraito*, cinnamon, szechwan pepper etc.), bee keeping, dairy enterprises and fish farming.

In this issue you will read about some encouraging Livelihoods and Environment work from four of UMN's working locations - Doti, Bajhang, Rukum and Kapilvastu.

I can see much possibility and scope for generating solutions to the existing challenges which remain in these remote, far-flung communities that need our support.

I came back encouraged having seen the wonderful work we are doing in improving livelihoods and building secure and stronger communities.

**NIKI MASKEY**

Thematic Lead – Resilient Livelihoods  
(In UMN since October 2020)







In Upallogau, a village in Doti, there has been a shortfall in food production within the last decade, which has been further aggravated by an increase in the intensity of disasters, most likely due to the impact of climate change. Now, the global COVID pandemic has triggered job losses which have pushed the community into an even more precarious food security situation. About 36 migrant returnees in this village of 146 households have found a way forward through UMN's help.

**UMN's local partner:** Centre for Equal Access Development

**Project:** Climate Sensitive Governance for Livelihood Restoration

This project helped households affected by climate change-induced weather hazards as well as COVID-19 effects. In order to minimise and control the frequent landslides, trees, shrubs, grass and fodder were planted in landslide-prone areas of the village. Many marginalised and vulnerable groups were also dealing with a shortfall in income and food. Twenty households were helped to construct goat sheds and selected beneficiaries were given improved breeds of goats and bucks. The whole community has grown in their understanding of these ever-increasing climate-induced hazards and how to protect against landslide damage in their area.

**TIRTHA TIMSINA**  
Project Manager - Livelihoods

Limited local livelihoods options result in most male members of the family migrating to India as daily wage seasonal migrants. In the past year, this project in Doti District has helped such seasonal migrant returnees to begin developing their entrepreneurial skills, thereby opening doors to an alternative source of income generation.

**UMN local Partner:** Rural Community Development Centre

**Project:** Badikedar Integrated Community Transformation

Launching in January 2020, the activities in this project were revised twice after the lockdown in March 2020. Activities were reduced to 25 from the 57 which were initially designed. Following the training in diversified enterprises, set-up support was given in November, after the lockdown was lifted. Already, after only four months, we have seen 38 migrant returnees working hard and happy to be involved in small enterprises such as goat-rearing, poultry, vegetable and fish farming, meat shop, driving, etc.

Tirtha Timsina, UMN's Livelihoods Project Manager in Doti, says, "The migrant returnees have seen that working as migrants is not secure and satisfying, more so after the COVID pandemic. Training and support to set up micro enterprise was given according to their skill and interest. So far it has been good."

**DOTI  
PROJECT**

**SECURE  
MIGRANT Returnees**





# SAFEGUARDING LIVELIHOODS



This new project in Rukum East aims to restore the delicate balance between the two aspects of wellbeing - economy and ecology. The people of this area have environmental and economic vulnerabilities which increase their exposure to climatic stress and shock.

**UMN Local Partner:** Nepal Magar Society Service and Information Centre (MIC-Nepal)

**Project:** Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (SEED)

This new project is being implemented in Puttha Uttarganga Rural Municipality of Rukum East District since August 2020. The project aims to see environmental resources conserved for a sustainable future, to improve agricultural practices and entrepreneurship for economic growth and to make communities empowered, and duty bearers responsible to establish environmental and socio-economic justice. The project is strongly based on the 3E principle, which is: Engage, Educate & Empower.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the project was quick to support and contribute to restoring life and livelihoods for the hardest-hit individuals and families of the project area. Priority was given to the most marginalised, vulnerable, and poorest families who were severely affected by COVID-19. So far, 76 most affected families have received livelihood support to run their on-farm and off-farm business. The majority of the individuals have been involved in livestock rearing business like goat rearing, pig rearing, poultry farm, sheep rearing, blacksmith work, also tailoring, grinding mills, small tea shops etc. Though this is the initial stage of the project, as of mid-Jan 2021, 13 individuals have started earning an average income of NPR 5,000 (approx. USD 43) each month from the small business initiations that we helped to set up.

**SURAJ SONAR**

Project Manager - Sustainable Environment and Economic Development

## UKUM PROJECT



# KAPILVASTU PROJECT

Many of the community ponds are in a state of degradation due to shrinkage, pollution, lack of community governance and a lack of any water replacement mechanisms being in place. UMN alongside their partner have looked at this critical environmental issue and with planned interventions have witnessed a significant improvement in eight such ponds in Yashodhara Rural Municipality of Kapilvastu.

**UMN Local Partner:** Dalit Social Development Centre (DSDC)

**Project:** Strengthening Community Resilience through Livelihoods and Environment Improvement (SECURE)

Life has become happier and much more secure for 325 farming households in Yashodhara Rural Municipality. The community ponds that were shrinking, leaving the fields of small farmers dry and a big yield gap in the harvest season, are now thriving with life. UMN trained the community surrounding the ponds on the importance of natural resources and coping mechanisms in the changing climate. Further, it helped them to form Pond Conservation Management Committees to restore and conserve eight degrading ponds. As a result, the water holding capacity of the ponds has now increased. Significantly, this provides a facility to irrigate an additional 19.5 hectares, allowing people to harvest well and engage in commercial farming; two of these ponds are even used for fish farming, bringing in a good additional income. The committees have plans to use the earnings from the ponds to conserve the ponds and for community disaster risk reduction activities. A positive and sustainable result for everyone!

**MELSAN SHRESTHA**

Project Manager - Livelihoods

The  
**degrading**  
ponds in  
KAPILVASTU





# Adapting for food security

## BAIHANG PROJECT

UMN runs a Food Security project in Masta Rural Municipality, Bajhang (a food-insecure district), where production from farming is sufficient for only three to six months a year. As a result, malnutrition and poor health are alarming issues in the communities here. The project aims to build resilience through food security, mainstreaming climate change, conflict sensitivity and gender equality.

**UMN Local Partner:** Ekikrit Bikash Manch

### **Project:** Food Security Project

Over the past two years this project has been tackling the current and future questions related to food security in this area. Helping individuals and farming families enhance their ability to meet the food security challenges and increasing local skills and knowledge at the same time, has brought about some good results in the last two years.

Five small irrigation schemes have benefited 169 households, irrigating around 17 hectares of farming land. Farmers were able to harvest 12% more yield than the previous year and able to extend their food security by two weeks. The sale of vegetables has also helped 65 households to purchase other food items for a month. In addition, farmers have gained knowledge in crop variety: they are able to identify and select the right variety which performs best in their climatic condition. A community orchard supported by UMN has been a successful venture with 400 apple saplings and 300 walnut saplings.

The project activities were revised in the COVID context and 94 households were supported with relief materials. This relief support helped COVID-affected households to fulfil their food requirements during the critical time of lockdown.

**RAM SHARAN SHRESTHA**  
Project Manager - Livelihoods



# A Different kind of FIRST YEAR

## When did you start thinking about coming to Nepal and preparing?

We've been hoping to come to Nepal for a long time but the planning stages of actually getting here came when we encountered the World Medical Mission post-resident program. We discovered they had a partnership with UMN and UMHT. For us it seemed like the right fit.

## What were your expectations / what were you looking forward to?

I think we expected to see a lot of temples, monasteries and mountains. We knew of the Himalayas but not so much of the natural topography of the hilly and terai regions. Nepal has always been a place that has both fascinated and inspired us. We were definitely looking forward to the Himalayas, the colours, the textures, the momos (of course) and meeting the people that call this amazing place home!

## What have you missed out on due to COVID and lockdowns?

Due to the restrictions, it inhibited some of the domestic travel that we would have liked to have done. We are hoping that visiting places like our partner hospital (in Okhaldhunga) will still be possible in the future. We also ended up not being able to travel to a sibling's wedding in the US. However, we ended up making a memory of it by waking up in the middle of the night, dressing up, and joining them via livestream to celebrate!



## MATTHEW and LIBERTY HARRIS

From: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Role: **General Surgeon**

United Mission Hospital Tansen

## Highlights of the year?

What lockdown did provide was time to just 'be'. So, this past year has been a very special time in that regard. Cooking together, learning Nepali, etc. was quite special. Some highlights of the year include:

- ➔ Getting to know the staff, the patients and working with the amazing surgical/medical team in Tansen Hospital.
- ➔ Building friendships with our local community who have become more like family.
- ➔ Being involved with local projects and meeting the people that are making a daily impact.
- ➔ Walks through the villages, cups of hot chiya (tea) with friends, and sunrises over the valley.

## What's been tough?

If we heard it once, we have heard it dozens of times, 'your first year in Nepal was quite different.' So, it's been unique but we are really grateful to be here. We have seen tremendous suffering and yet witnessed so much resilience and strength in the patients, the team and the hospital. They have certainly challenged and encouraged our faith as God has continued to work.

## Your hopes for 2021?

This year we hope to get more rooted in the community, and to continue to grow in Nepali language/culture acquisition. We hope to explore more of the country and maybe even get to experience some treks along the way.

We know 2020 was a different year for so many across the globe. We saw Nepal and the world face enormous challenges and change. We also saw hope rise and light shine in the midst of it as God's grace carried us all through.





# DISASTERS:

inspiring churches to respond



Multiple disaster incidents such as landslides, flash floods, lightning, and fire accidents hit Hasaura village of Nawalpur District every year due to its geographical vulnerability. These have brought many troubles to the community, including the 300 members of Avishek Church. Pastor Nir Bahadur Tokuri, 42, has been serving as a pastor at the church for 16 years. His regular work is preaching the gospel of Christ to his church members but now he is also a Treasurer of Koilefedi Community Disaster Management Committee.

In 2015 when UMN's partner ISN discussed working with the churches in disaster management, he was not positive towards the work of NGOs.

However, once he got involved in the many interaction programmes, both in the churches and the community, his perception changed and he later became one of the key motivators in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

With his enthusiasm, the churches have prepared a DRR action plan and reviewed their plan yearly and carried out DRR activities. Using a disaster management fund which is collected monthly, the church has responded every year to any disasters occurring locally or sometimes

beyond the district. He shared, "Earlier when the disaster happened, we only prayed. But now we have capacities to support the affected families along with our prayers." Avishek Church is a role model for churches of the rural municipality as it has made donations following one flood and landslide incident, supported 42 poor children and 27 elderly people with warm clothes during winter, gave medical treatment support to the poor families and organised rallies on environment conservation. Recently during the COVID-19 pandemic, the church contributed food for five poor families for a month. The church youth have made the community aware of safety measures around COVID-19 and have established a handwashing corner at Hasaura's main junction.

Pastor Nir Bahadur shared, "The Lord has asked his disciples to serve the ones who are in need. In the Bible, disciples are used to mitigate or reduce the risk or impacts of disasters: by warning signs given before the event, providing relief or relocating victims after the disaster. Through this project, we can tell about God's love through caring for those affected by disasters." He is very committed to the effective running of the church disaster management committee to provide services and spread the knowledge that they learn through the project.



## PHIL RAWLINGS:

**10** YEARS & MOVING ON

Phil Rawlings first came to UMN in early 2011, for three months for Graphic Design & Communications Advisor role. He subsequently left his UK graphic design job to return full-time, taking on the new role of International Communications & Technology Advisor for UMN.

### "Will you go anywhere?"

When God first challenged me with those words, I had no idea how my life would change. I've gained so much in the ten years since I moved from my comfort zone in the UK to Nepal (for what I thought would be four years); amazing friends, a fulfilling vocation, a master's degree, and a newfound love for writing and illustrating children's books, not to mention a wife!

There are many things that I am proud of from my time with UMN. The first major undertaking of re-designing the UMN logo (launched ten years ago and still looking good), the 60th Anniversary booklet, and the mentoring of Nepali designers in the communications team. I am delighted to see fresh and creative ways of communicating still coming from the team today.

I remember shortly before arriving in Nepal, being unsure if I would be able to do the work that was tasked of me. I need not have worried, as God had the plan all along and gave me the ability to do things I didn't think I could.

I use those memories of worry from long ago to help me now, as we are preparing to leave Nepal and embark on a new adventure in Afghanistan. As before, the calling from God is a strong one, and we know that He goes ahead of us to prepare the way.

Working with UMN has been a true blessing and one of the most incredible times in my life. I've met so many amazing people from different cultures and other faiths, and at times I have been genuinely humbled by their hospitality and kindness.

Nepal and UMN are in our prayers, and I know we will meet again someday.





# IN PURSUIT

of her

## DREAMS

Eighteen-year-old Muna from Dhading District received a scholarship from Grade 3 to 10 for her diligence, but she faced challenges to pursue higher studies. Her father was the primary breadwinner of the family. Despite working relentlessly as a labourer, he often still struggled to meet their basic needs.

Muna with with a lot of hard work completed her Grade 12 but she couldn't afford to study further. Under such financial pressure and anxiety, her father's behaviour changed suddenly as he started consuming alcohol and quarrelled at home. She felt hopeless and disgusted with her life. Muna's mental health was affected due to her unfinished studies, financial crisis and her father's condition. She spent most of her time alone and took up drinking herself and became addicted.

Meanwhile, UMN and its partner CIRDS\* met Muna and motivated her to start getting involved in community engagement activities. Being convinced, she first of all participated in a survey for child risk assessment under UMN's SVC\*\* Project. She then repeatedly took part in different activities as a community volunteer such as the '16 days activism on gender-based violence', parents' group meetings and got engaged in different discussions with stakeholders. With a cheerful face, a happier Muna now shares, "I saw hope in my life again due to this community engagement."

Now, Muna is the secretary of Kalika Youth Club. She participated in a three-month basic level beautician training as a part of the vocational skills opportunities offered by the project, aimed at minimising the risk of children and youth dropping out and making their lives easier and self-reliant through skills and entrepreneurship.

Muna had earlier thought about going abroad to work but has now changed her mind to stay in her home country and start a new life. She has undergone a lot of changes. In the days to come, Muna looks forward to learning new skills, helping to alleviate her father's worries. Her life had turned dull but now her happiness has returned; as she starts to dream again, the colours and desires are coming back.

\* Chandrajyoti Integrated Rural Development Society

\*\* Safeguarding Vulnerable Children (SVC) Project. This project is still running in Dhading until December 2021.





# THE LATEST FROM OUR HOSPITALS

## TANSEN AND OKHALDHUNGA

See also Vaccinations news (page 17) and Save our Hospitals Appeal news (page 14) in this issue for good news on those! For further hospitals' news and stories, see our recently published Friends of Tansen 2021 (<https://www.umn.org.np/download/FoT2021.pdf>) and Friends of Okhaldhunga 2021 ([www.umn.org.np/new/documents/foo2021.pdf](http://www.umn.org.np/new/documents/foo2021.pdf)).

### Okhaldhunga Community Hospital

The recent signing of the new Five-year Agreement with the Provincial Government's Health Directorate Office (Province No. 1) was a joyful day and significant development for UMN and everyone at Okhaldhunga Community Hospital (OCH). In this new agreement we have also proposed that OCH will be upgraded to a 100-bed hospital in the future.

The Mid-Level Practicum (MLP) two-month residential training in the hospital has been successfully completed by two more batches of students. The 17th batch of trainees were staff in charge of government health posts in Okhaldhunga District, and the 18th batch of trainees were paramedical health workers from Bagmati (Province 3). Meanwhile in our School of Health Science, the third batch of nursing students, four of whom are male, have begun their Proficiency Certificate Level training.

Since our last report in the December issue, we have moved our Outpatients Department back into its original building, which is a great relief! We have also re-organised the space available so that we can operate an antenatal clinic and have a room set aside for minor procedures, dressings and vaccinations.

Our COVID isolation area now only has three separate rooms for patients. We still have a room set up for the delivery of COVID-19 positive pregnant patients while the other rooms are for isolation staff to use as living quarters. The only downside now is that we haven't settled on a place to run our fever clinic. However, we are still not able to get PCR testing done, so the fever clinic has less impact.







### United Mission Hospital Tansen

The hospital continues to be busy. We are seeing around 400 outpatients per day. As the COVID situation improves we are slowly increasing the number of patients we can see each day. 78% of our patients this year are government insurance patients. Whilst it is great that these people are getting their health care covered by insurance, the hospital income is down as there is a difference between our actual costs and the amounts reimbursed by the scheme. We also have three clerks fully occupied with entering data and processing claims.

The medical ward is still being used as an isolation ward as we want to be ready if there is a second wave of COVID patients, but currently there are only three to six patients in there, with either suspected or confirmed cases. Tansen School of Health Science students have returned and quarantined and a new intake of Lab and Nursing students have started their courses. Our skilled birth attendant training has also restarted. Meanwhile the wastewater system is progressing with phase one. The Gobar gas (biogas) plant (see photo) has now been primed (with dung) and is ready to produce gas. This will reduce the quantity of wet waste being incinerated from maternity and other departments.





# OUR HOSPITALS ARE SAVED!



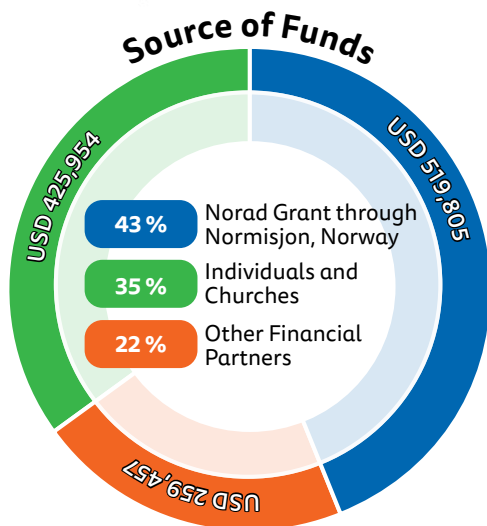
We are incredibly grateful to all those who donated generously and sacrificially to Save our Hospitals, since the early days of lockdown in April 2020 and then continuously until the end of the Christmas Appeal.

Through the generosity of hundreds of people, churches and organisations NPR 141,482,242 (approx. USD 1,205,215) has been donated for our hospitals. Nearly half of this came from one large grant in October, while of the remainder, over half came from individuals and churches (see the charts).

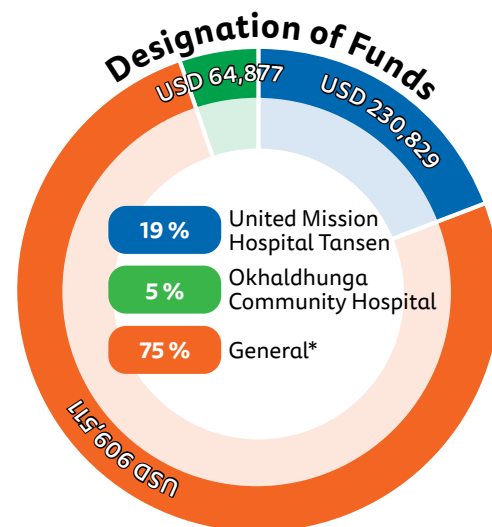
We are so thankful that we can celebrate success, as Joel has shared in his letter (page 2) – **thanks to your support, the hospitals are saved!** This has been possible with slightly less funds than we estimated since thankfully the extent of COVID and lockdowns haven't hit as hard as we expected.

It seems clear that the hospitals are now far from the risk of a funding collapse. We have raised enough to fill the 2020 gap, and also to fill the gaps we expect in the first half of 2021. As you can see from the Tansen update (page 12), there is always a new challenge and the need for donations to the hospitals, but for now we can rejoice and celebrate!

Once again a huge thanks to everyone who donated and really did save our UMN hospitals!



To learn more about the impacts of the pandemic in Nepal and UMN's response, please visit: [www.umn.org.np/corona-response](http://www.umn.org.np/corona-response)



\* General means the funds will go to either or both hospitals. All of the Save our Hospitals' appeal money will be spent on hospital rather than on UMN cluster responses to COVID.





# UMN's Christmas Appeal Result

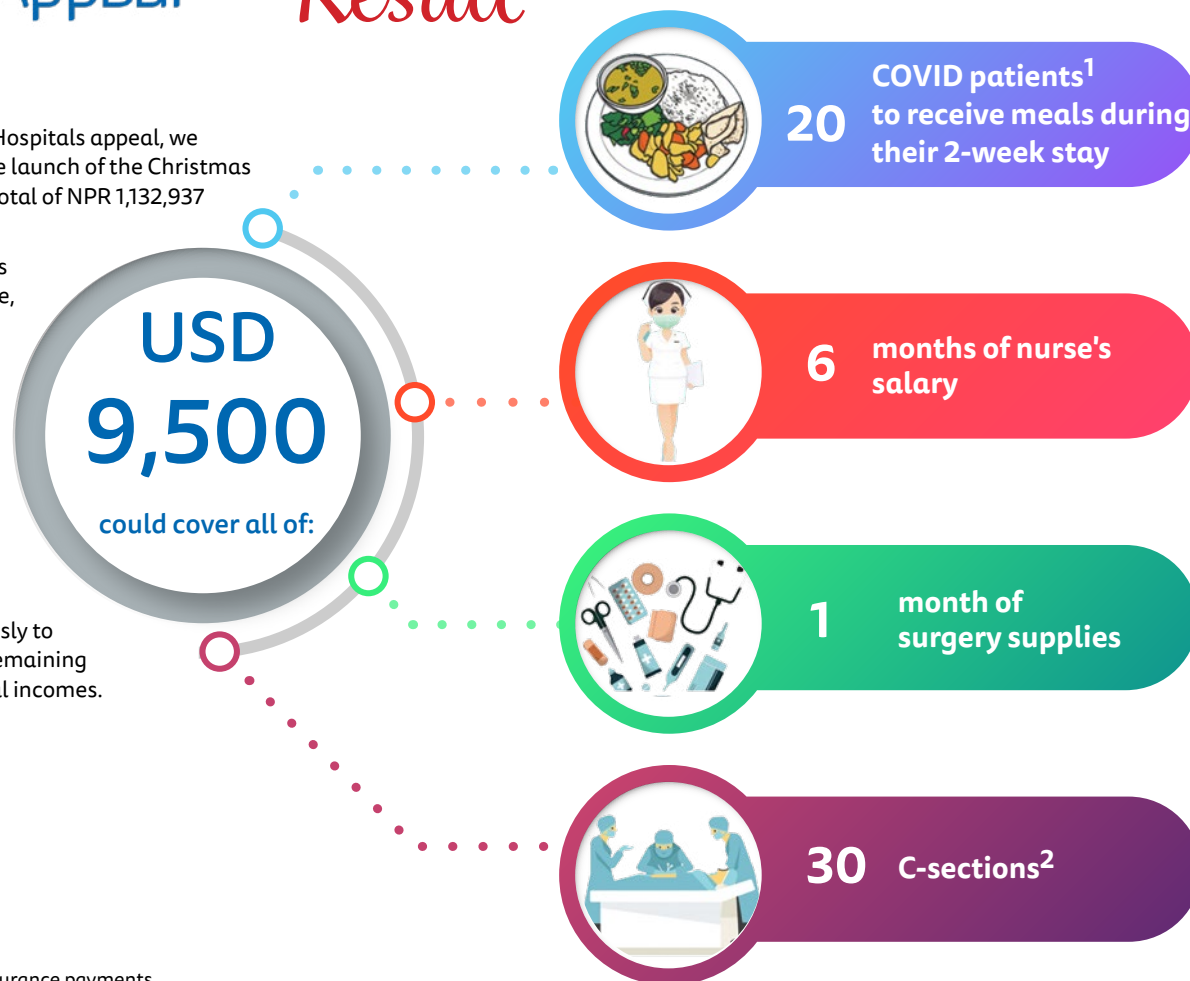
As part of the final stage of the Save our Hospitals appeal, we launched our Christmas Appeal. Since the launch of the Christmas Appeal on 1 December 2020, a fantastic total of NPR 1,132,937 (approx. USD 9,500) has reached us!

According to the 'gifts' which we shared as part of the appeal, this would, for example, have raised enough for **one of** these:

- ➔ Meals for 118 COVID patients<sup>1</sup> to cover their two-week stay
- ➔ Employing a nurse for 21 months
- ➔ Surgery supplies for over 6 months
- ➔ Subsidising 79 C-sections<sup>2</sup>

Or, see the graphic (right) for an example - it could have covered all of those!

Thank you to everyone who gave generously to this Christmas Appeal to help us fill the remaining COVID / lockdown shortfall in our hospital incomes.



1. And their isolation staff

2. Covering the shortfall after government insurance payments





## PRAY

We ask for your prayers regarding our agreements with Government and the related need for ex-pat visas. Pray for the relevant officials in the Social Welfare Council (SWC), Health Ministry and Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare. Ask that we will be given wisdom in all our dealings with these officials, and that we will find sympathetic understanding. In recent times some other INGOs have successfully concluded their General Agreements. We are hopeful that soon the UMN one will be signed off.

Pray for Dhana Lama and Joel Hafvenstein as they make preparations for handing over the responsibilities of Executive Director. At this time of great uncertainty they need help from above. Pray strength and wisdom for them in the countless daily pressures and decisions that must be made.

The sense of emergency about the pandemic has subsided as infections have recently reduced. However please pray that there will not be another wave following relaxation of precautions. While infections may have reduced, sadly suffering from the pandemic has remained with increased unemployment and poverty. In many areas, livelihoods have suffered and people are struggling to gain enough income to survive. Please pray for the projects you have read about in this UMNews. Every one of these efforts is bringing relief and hope to many dozens of families who previously had lost hope.

Please pray for all hospital staff who work hard to provide full medical services under very trying conditions. Both our hospitals are engaged in COVID vaccinations (page 15). Pray that supplies of vaccination will be sufficient. Remember the Hospital Leadership Teams in Tansen and Okhaldhunga, led by Rachel Karrach and Yub Raj Acharya respectively. There are difficult decisions to be taken daily.



## JOIN US

UMN's cross-cultural teams provide opportunities for suitably skilled expatriates to work with Nepali colleagues, sharing technical skills and demonstrating God's loving concern for all people, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable.

Expatriate team members do not receive a salary or remuneration from UMN directly, but are self-supported volunteers, or supported by a sending mission or church in their home country. If you are interested in any of these positions or if you would like to ask about other opportunities for service in UMN, please contact Felipe Rocha at [expat.recruitment@umn.org.np](mailto:expat.recruitment@umn.org.np) to learn more. Send your CV or resume with your email.

### PRIORITY NEEDS

**EXPATRIATE SUPPORT ADVISOR – KATHMANDU BASED:** From July 2022

**FUNDING MANAGER** for Hospitals.

**DOCTOR FOR UNITED MISSION HOSPITAL TANSEN:** One Obstetrician/Gynaecologist needed long-term from July 2021.

**DOCTORS FOR OKHALDHUNGA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL:** One GP with rural experience, one Orthopedic Surgeon and one Obstetrician/Gynaecologist.

For all doctors, flexibility, the ability to work in a resource-limited setting and an interest in teaching and mentoring junior Nepali doctors are required.







## Vaccinations for hundreds of our hospital staff!

We are delighted and amazed that one million doses of COVID vaccines have reached Nepal and many of UMN's hospital staff have already received their first dose!

In Okhaldhunga Community Hospital a vaccination centre was created in the maternal waiting home to vaccinate 409 people on 29-30 January, run in partnership with local government health workers. Most of the hospital, Community Based Rehabilitation and Okhaldhunga School of Health Sciences staff received the vaccine, as well as many district health and community health workers.

Through United Mission Hospital Tansen, 1067 doses have been administered. The first phase with 640 people, covered most of our staff in the hospital, the School of Health Science and also health workers and female community health volunteers from two out of the three nearby rural municipalities. Vaccination days started on 1 February, a day earlier than planned. The



## International Women's Day

What an exciting way to celebrate International Women's Day! The local girls and women of Putha Uttarganga Rural Municipality, Rukum East, enjoyed a two-day Volleyball Tournament. UMN is proud and delighted to be associated with this fun-filled event and to see women happy and encouraged.



vaccination team were still away on vaccination training, so it was Laxmi Khanal our nursing supervisor who gave the first doses! On 15-18 February a second event vaccinated a further 427 people – workers from utilities, financial services, government offices and elected representatives from all three rural municipalities. Like Okhaldhunga, this programme was done in partnership with the District Health Office.

It was hard to control the queues and crowds at both hospitals! A handful of people experienced stronger side effects for a day but have now recovered. India donated these doses of COVISHIELD (a license name for the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine). We are so grateful to see these vaccines reach Nepal and other lower income countries. Those who have received their first vaccines will soon be getting their second doses. However, a large number of health workers were wary to trust and take the vaccine and so far Nepal has only received enough doses to cover 2% of the population, so there is a long way to go.

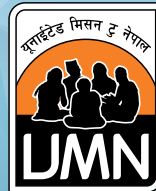


MY DEAR **BROTHERS AND SISTERS,**  
**STAND FIRM.** LET NOTHING  
MOVE YOU.

ALWAYS GIVE YOUR SELVES **WORK** OF THE  
FULLY TO THE LORD

BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT **LORD** IS NOT IN  
YOUR LABOUR IN THE VAIN.

1 Corinthians 15:58



*Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society*

**UNITED MISSION to NEPAL**

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