

# EARLY YEARS PROJECTS, SINDHUPALCHOK, NEPAL



**REPORT TO THE ROTARY CLUB  
OF MIDTOWN KATHMANDU  
AUGUST 2019**



## 1.0 Introduction:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the results and impacts of the Global Grant overseen by the rotary club of Kathmandu midtown which supported First Steps Nepal projects in rural Sindhupalchok from 2016 to 2018.

1.2 **Background:** First Steps Himalaya has been working in rural Sindhupalchok, Nepal since 2009 supporting improved early childhood and early primary education. Following the success of its previous projects, a second global grant was applied for and implemented from 2016 to 2018.

1.3 **Project location:** Sindhupalchok

## 1.4 The project supported the following:

- Teacher training
- Fit out of the teacher training centre at Sangachok
- Refit and support to Jana Jyoti School, Sangachok, Shree Golma Devi Secondary School, Jitpur and Shree Seti Devi School, Lamidanda
- Maintenance and repairs of the FSN project vehicle

## 2.0 Project achievements

**Teacher training centre Sangachok:** With funding from the grant, FSN was able to finish the internal work on its earthbag training centre. This included repairing an internal wall that had been damaged in the 2015 earthquake. The training centre was also painted, carpeted and fitted out with shelving units, display racks and desks. A projector and laptop was also purchased which allowed FSN to create and show power point presentations during teacher training sessions. A power inverter enabled FSN to continue with its work during power cuts which are frequent. Folding tables and chairs were purchased for the training hall as well as cushions for participants choosing to sit on the floor. The completion of this work meant that FSN was ready to initiate its own training services. Whilst initially the newly completed centre was run by trainers from outside Nepali trainers, by the end of the grant, the FSN staff had become fully fledged trainers themselves. This built the capacity of FSN and made it more self reliant. The grant also funded training from The British School teachers for the core team to develop their professional skills.





### Jana Jyoti School, Sangachok

The grant paid for the fit out of 4 recycled brick classrooms which were constructed with funding from a Rotary District Grant from Scotland. This included paint, carpet and furniture as well as supplying learning materials. It also fitted out two earthbag classrooms at Sangachok housing the ECD and the play group. The ECD is now a centre of excellence on a national scale for Nepal with one of the best early childhood facilities for young children to be self directed in their learning. The ECD room is fitted out with learning corners each with different activities including language, numeracy, construction and science. There is an excellent outdoor play area which is an essential part of the centre.

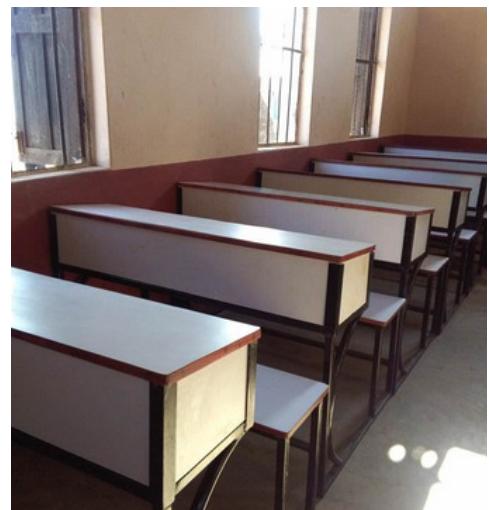


The play group is unique in that there are very few such groups where parents can join their younger children in play based learning. This is important in teaching parents the value of child centred learning methods. The play group classroom is circular and brightly painted which is appealing to young children. It also provides a solid foundation for children moving into the ECD.





**Jitpur School:** The grant provided carpet, low tables and desks for the students in seven classrooms. It also funded an extra teacher which meant that children were not left unattended. Headmaster Gyan Tamang was very enthusiastic about FSN methods and the school went from strength to strength both during the project period and since the grant ended too. The classrooms are cleaner, teachers more committed and children enjoy learning .



**Seti Devi School, Lamidanda:** As the school had been demolished following the 2015 earthquake and had not been rebuilt in time for the start of the grant, it was not possible for our team to work with the school throughout the grant period. However by the end of the grant period, the school had been rebuilt and the furnishings funded from the grant were put to use. This included carpet, low tables and desks. We also trained the teachers at the training centre in Sangachok who were monitored by the supervisory team.. The impact of the project was not as great as at the other schools but still vital in this very poor community who lacked awareness on the importance of education.



**Project vehicle:** The FSH project vehicle had repairs and maintenance done which kept it on the road for longer enabling us to reach all our projects, improve time efficiency and effectiveness in overseeing the projects.

**Project impact:** The impact of the entire project has been very successful. The funding enabled FSN to build its capacity to roll out quality teacher training services at its own rural location in Sangachok. By creating the infrastructure to offer training to rural teachers, this has allowed FSN to share its knowledge to a wider community across Nepal. The training centre base also supports mobile training services reaching other districts of Nepal.

The impact on the schools has been very positive. Not only do the children have much nicer classrooms but they are well resourced and conducive to learning. The biggest success was at the primary section of Jitpur School and the early childhood part of Jana Jyoti School. The play group and ECD are now amongst the best in rural Nepal serving as a model for others to replicate.

Overall, FSN has seen increased awareness of child friendly methods, better attendance and teachers who now understand the basic concepts of modern education methods. FSN is most grateful to the Rotary Club of Ellon and the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Midtown for overseeing this grant.

