Additional Stuff for Rotary Grant:

**For Project Overview:**

After the devastating 2015 Nepal earthquake destroyed our homes and school, the children of Digam village in the Nuwakot Region, now walk 1.5 hours each way to get to the nearest school. This and other barriers put many young people at eminent risk of losing an education and a just future because of distance, severe weather and the great risk of abuse on their journey. We need a forum for education for the young people who would be in primary school - however the hour and a half walk each way to the nearest school is too far for the children under 10 years old. Many adults have not received adequate education as well, thus adult literacy classes are needed as well.

Our people of Digam, approximately 65 km North East from Kathmandu, have a long history of trauma, we are primarily dependent on traditional agriculture which barely supports us for 5 to 6 months of the year, so working adults, usually men, temporarily migrate outside the region as laborers and other low paying jobs, leaving the women and children behind to rebuild and take care of immediate needs. Can you imagine what your life would be like if your community was torn apart and had to experience so much loss.

Our village needs attention because they are off the beaten path and overlooked by the government as we are so remote - the nearest village is a 3 hour trek - and the government rarely visits us or listens to our needs, but our people are still worthy of care and support. Many indigenous communities like ours in Nepal are overlooked by the government and not given the services we deserve, it is a terrible problem in this country.

As we are so remote there are not any NGO's who know of us or work with us, until recently one small Nepal registered nonprofit, The Relief Trust, whose president is a distant relative of one of our community members started to help and has connected us to this resource of Rotary Club. This nonprofit, The Relief Trust (TRT), does trauma relief work with undeserved communities like ours and will be a cooperating organization for this grant. This grant would be the first funding we would be receiving to help our community move out of poverty and rebuild our village from the earth quake and years of not being noticed. There are programs The Relief Trust has identified that will train the community members of Digam Village with skills to bring in income, job creation, diversify the agriculture to increase yield and ability to sell seeds and value added products, educate us to be come literate and connection to outside markets for financial sustainability and public health.

We are forming a Digam Village Community Development Council to help us stay organized and have a place to develop leadership skills and make decisions about our social security. As we are an indigenous culture in Nepal, we have not had outside influence or education on good group processes and welcome that. We know we need leadership and communication skills to move our program and village forward effectively. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with The Relief Trust and Aranya Solutions on these topics.

We are at the early stages of development where this grant will help us get started with some trainings and develop the rest of the program to rebuild our community to become resilient. We are excited to have a Social Mobilizer join us, someone who stays in the village with us to encourage, empower, communicate to ensure sustainability and understanding of the programs and keep all parties updated as needed.

**Program Overview:  
Facilitate** acommunity and education space that incorporates:

* **Health Services** including basic hygiene and first aid instruction, and regular medical visits for primary treatment of Digam residents, working in partnership with other hospitals and health professionals.
* **Community Center** to be used for Council meetings, gathering space for youth, distribution of food, clothing and other materials on an as available basis. The village will incorporate sustainable development using natural building with local resources and materials to build the center.
* **Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihood** training will be provided to diversify the agriculture, extend growing season, improve livestock raising techniques, and create value added products.
* **Small Enterprises and Cooperative** will be initiated, with assistance from other successful programs and suggestions for income generation using local resources, such as honey production.
* **Education - School Area/ Classroom** for adult literacy and primary education classes, training local residents to be the teacher, creating job development for them as well.
* **Leadership Development with Community Council –** This council will be the central hub for decision making, thus we will support them with leadership and organizational training for an effective council.

**Details on Program:**

**The Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood Training** - will bring 15 people from Digam Village to Kathmandu, Nepal for a week long training. The training will be conducted by the **Peace and Development Studies Center** ([www.peds-edu.com](http://www.peds-edu.com)) by professionals in Agriculture, many who have been AgroEconomists with the Nepal Government and Assistance agencies.

Training will include: diversification of crops, Livestock management techniques and livelihood so Digam residents know how to grow year-round, rather than just a few months of the year. We will identify livelihood initiatives such as creating value-added products and selling seeds for how we can increase our economic development.

**The Educators training** will bring 4 people from Digam Village to Kathmandu, Nepal for a 10 day training. The training will be conducted by the **Nepal Department of Education** for a specialized training in how to teach education basics. This training includes resources for the educators to use to follow-up on the training, teachers manual and books for the students in the village. The focus areas will be on Adult Literacy and basics of education as well as Primary Education - grades 1-5.

**The Leadership, Governance and Decision Making skills training** held in Digam Village with 20 leaders in the Digam Village Community Development Council and anyone in the village who is interested. The trainings will be conducted by **The Relief Trust and Aranya Solutions**, two organizations that focus on soft skills, leadership development, meeting process and organizational skills, professionally trained in these subjects. All villagers are welcome to attend the training and specialized training will be held for those in the Digam Village Community Development Council. These trainings will be a monthly series held February- May 2018 with regular follow-up and communication.

**The Digam Village Community Development Council** will build upon existing systems for a cooperative to support our financial health and ways to handle additional income from the livelihood initiatives. We will incorporate the leadership, governance and decision making trainings into our systems for accuracy, transparency and accountability - and equality. We want to build upon this council to have a voice to local government and make decisions to build a future with resiliency in mind.

**Health & Sanitation** comprehensive trainings will be held in Digam Village for all 250 community members and neighboring villages. The 2 day trainings will be held in April and May and include first aid, health check-up's, basic sanitation awareness and family planning. There will be bi-monthly follow-up from the health professionals. The trainings will be conducted by **health professionals, the local health post and healers in the region**.

In the recent years - we had developed toilets and sanitation stations from trainings conducted by The Relief Trust. We have identified a need for additional education, awareness and resources around health, hygiene and family planning.

**Community Center & School** - One of our major goals is to build a community center in Digam Village to promote enduring community bonds, new business enterprises, access to health services, and education within the village for adult literacy and primary school. We begin to design this building Winter and Spring 2018 with the intention to start building after the monsoon season, October or November 2018. Construction and design management conducted by **The Relief Trust.** All villagers will be involved in the design and building of the community center, the carpenters and those skilled in masonry from the village will be the main builders of this multi-use building. We will build sustainably and low cost using natural resources and community participation for their full ownership.

**The outreach** will be done in Digam Village monthly with follow-up's conducted through **The Relief Trust and Aranya Solutions and the host country Rotary club**. Educational pamphlets will be developed and handed out, information will be shared verbally and in personal interviews where we go house to house to make sure every household has the most current information about the activities happening in the village and improvement initiatives.

There will also be a **social mobilizer**, someone who stays in the village with us to encourage, empower, communicate to ensure sustainability and understanding of the programs and keep all parties updated as needed.

**Impact and Outcomes from the project:**

**250 people of Digam village will directly benefit from:**

1. Permanent, earthquake-resistant Community Center and Primary School buildings. A space to create and lead from.
2. Reduction of School- drop-out and early marriage.
3. Cooperative promoting entrepreneurial opportunities.
4. Ability to read and write from the literacy classes.
5. Health Camp raising awareness on health and hygiene.
6. Establishment of Digam Village Community Development Council for governance, leadership and sustainability of the program.
7. Agriculture Trainings.
8. Job development opportunities.
9. Stronger, self-reliant community.

**How Needs Were Identified:**

We conducted multiple survey's, interviews, site visit, and focus groups for assessment of community needs over the last 5 years.

Additionally, The Relief Trust, a Nepal-based nonprofit who does trauma relief work, conducted a survey of the 1.5 million residents in the Nuwakot District, where we live, which documented very high rates of child labor and school dropout - which shows the need for good education. In addition, the vast majority of young people have illiterate parents because of high rates of very early marriage and child births, starting around age 14. Family planning and general education clearly is needed for healthy livelihoods and understanding the impacts of the current circumstances. Critical thinking skills have not been something shared in our culture and we look forward to learning about this.

Digam village needs attention because we are off the beaten path and overlooked by the government services, but our people are still worthy of care and support. The Relief Trust (TRT) has supported Digam village with basic needs since the earthquake and will continue as a support system as Digam is rebuilt.

We learned about research being done on communities like ours that are overlooked from our partners and an article on Scale Gaps, which is when government and INGO's talk about scaling up programs for communities, they are interested in reaching large numbers of people and will generally miss about 10% of the population. It is this sector of population, those who are left out of scale efforts often due to multiple layers of vulnerability, who are difficult to address in broad government implementation, who stand a high risk of living in ultrapoverty forever. They need to focus on depthof scale in reaching those who would otherwise be left behind rather than breadth of scale in seeking universal coverage that generally exclude roughly 10% of the population. Our community unfortunately falls into this 10% that doesn't receive these resources.

If we are to eradicate poverty, we must leave no one behind.To scale these solutions, governments, NGOs, and funders themselves must commit to focusing on adapting policy, program design, and delivery mechanisms to ensure the inclusion of all.

Source: <https://trickleup.org/challenging-concepts-scale/?utm_source=Trickle+Up+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=9f93829c3d-Dec2017TrickleUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f3069e4057-9f93829c3d-93887513&mc_cid=9f93829c3d&mc_eid=48837ff01e>

We conducted multiple survey's, interviews, site visit, and focus groups for assessment of community needs over the last 5 years. We also discuss in our households, groups, in the fields when we work, and with the Digam Village Community Development Council what we need, want and desire for our community village improvement and livelihood. We shared these with The Relief Trust and they helped us think through solutions and a process to address these needs... and what additional needs we were not aware of that we are looking into.

**Incentives:**

A stipend of $250 USD will be given to the Digam Village Community Development Council to support our social services and poverty alleviation fund as we strengthen our village cooperative, where we have a representative from each household in the village.

In addition the agriculture and education training programs will be paid for through this grant to support their skills and knowledge development.

For the community center the design will be developed with the community input and facilitated by the Digam Village Community Council. The community will also help build the community center as there are many carpenters and those skilled in masonry in the village who will be instrumental in the construction. The community having ownership in the projects and products is very important to all of the people involved in this project.

There will also be a social mobilizer, someone who stays in the village with us to encourage, empower, communicate and keep us updated as needed.

**Partners involved - Sustainability – long term:**

The Digam Village Community Development Council will continue to grow and strengthen, where we will build towards having a voice with the local government and work with them over time to have our Village recognized and needs met. We will oversee and support the development of the continued community development, education, agriculture and economic development programs.

President of the Ward of their District (local government) has been in communication with us and visits our village on occasion. We will strengthen and build our relationship with this local contact to the government. We have requested that the government pays for the teacher salaries, helps with road maintenance repairs and general support to the village.

The Relief Trust - local Nepal Nonprofit that has worked with this community for the last 5 years and will continue to.

Aranya Solutions will continue to support our community development for the next few years.

**Vocational:**

**Describe Trainings:**

The Agriculture & Livelihood Training - will bring 15 people from Digam Village to Kathmandu, Nepal to the Peace and Development studies Center to be trained by professionals in Agriculture, many who have been AgroEconomists with the Nepal Government and Assistance agencies.

The Educators training will bring 4 people from Digam Village to Kathmandu, Nepal to the Department of Education for a specialized training to teach how to teach. This training includes resources for the educators to use to follow-up on the training, teachers manual and books for the students in the village. The focus areas will be on Adult Literacy and basics of education as well as Primary Education - grades 1-5.

The Leadership, Governance and Decision Making skills training will be conducted in the Village with The Relief Trust and Aranya Solutions, two organizations that focus on soft skills and organizational skills, professionally trained in these subjects. All villagers are welcome to attend the training and specialized training will be held for those in the Digam Village Community Development Council. These trainings will be monthly February- May 2018 with regular follow-up and communication.

Health & Sanitation comprehensive trainings will be held in Digam Village where we will bring in health professionals, the local health post and healers in the region. The 2 day trainings will include first aid, health check-up's, basic sanitation awareness and family planning.

**Identify Needs:**

Digam village had identified that we did not know how to grow year-round as the temperatures get very cold in the winter months, which is considered off season and concluded through discussions that we wanted to grow year-round and diversify our crops.

As we have a newly formed Digam Village Community Development Council we don't have established organizing skills or procedures - thus we know we need meeting & facilitation skills, plus leadership & governance training is needed if we are to be successful and sustainable.

As there are no schools close enough for the young children to walk to for primary school we have a clear need for some way of education for these youth. Also the adults who did not finish or go to school as we are a remote village.

We have some health and sanitation knowledge with local and indigenous healers and herbal knowledge with some people in the village, however there is no wide-spread knowledge about health and sanitation - again most of the adults can not read and write, so all knowledge is passed down through the generations, and sometimes there are gaps in the knowledge, especially over time. There is no modern or western influence in this remote village, and the health issue was recently brought to our attention from the Relief Trust when they trained us on how to build toilets and sanitation stations.

**Objectives for Trainings:**

The Agriculture & Livelihood Training - will bring 15 people from Digam Village to Kathmandu, Digam residents know how to grow year-round, rather than just a few months of the year, diversification of crops, seed saving and more. Livestock management techniques. We will identify livelihood opportunities and how we can increase economic development initiatives. The trained villagers will go back to Digam Village and train the rest of the community for all people who live in Digam Village to have this knowledge and increase their yield, income and health.

The Educators training will train 4 people from Digam Village how to teach so the villagers can have better education, literacy, and communication skills. The focus areas will be on Adult Literacy and basics of education as well as Primary Education - grades 1-5. The objective is that this will enable more economic growth opportunities, happiness, education and personal growth for all villagers. This training includes resources for the educators to use to follow-up on the training, teachers manual and books for the students in the village. There will also be job creation - for 4 new teachers, this objective also includes that the government will get more involved with the village and pay for the teachers salaries, the request has already been made for this.

The Leadership, Governance and Decision Making skills training will be conducted in the Village with The Relief Trust and Aranya Solutions, two organizations that focus on soft skills and organizational skills, professionally trained in these subjects. All villagers are welcome to attend the training and specialized training will be held for those in the Digam Village Community Development Council. Objectives and outputs: Increased organizational capacity, Communication and organizing skills – for the village council and whole community, Facilitation skills, Ability to Conduct a meeting process. Indigenous Community Mediation skills, Team work activities (including assett mapping of skills and resources in village), Decision making processes - for village council to know how to make collective decisions, Increased Leadership Skills.

Health & Sanitation comprehensive trainings will be held in Digam Village where we will bring in health professionals, the local health post and healers in the region. The 2 day trainings will include first aid, health check-up's, basic sanitation awareness and family planning. The villagers will have basic first aid skills to handle minor medical emergencies, Hygiene education for sustained health, Regular medical visits for primary treatment of Digam residents (if we have 1 or more visits a year). Understanding reproduction and respectful treatment of each gender, domestic training. Critical thinking, family planning. Reduced child marriage and young parents (under 18).

**How Community was involved in Planning Trainings:**

We had multiple meetings with both the community and partners. There were survey's that gave us information on where the priority areas were to start with the planning. The Relief Trust and Aranya Solutions took the information on the priorities and our available time throughout the year and organized when the trainings and programs would be - then set a meeting with a few select members of Digam Village to get input and finalize the schedule - together.

The final schedule runs through the Digam Village Community Development Council for final approval and awareness raising, there is member from each household in the council - so each house is represented and has a voice and vote.

**Other initiatives/ Women:**

The women will have more opportunities for empowerment and are encouraged to form a women's group to further their education both with domestic issues such as family planning and womens health as well as economic development initiatives. Some women who are on the Digam Village Community Development Council will be encouraged to share their leadership and communication skills learned in the trainings with the womens group and educate them on these topics.

The women will help with agriculture, seed saving and selling, weaving and selling scarves and products, beekeeping and creating value-added products from agriculture, beeswax candles and other goods. The

women will work with the Digam Village Community Development Council and social security cooperative to support them in financial literacy, savings and supporting economic growth.

In the survey The Relief Trust did in the Nuwakot Region, they found that when women are seen as financial providers there is less domestic violence. This is also true when women focus time and attention on education, they complete school more often than early age child birth.

**Incentives**

A stipend of $250 USD will be given to the Digam Village Community Development Council to support our social services and poverty alleviation fund as we strengthen our village cooperative, where we have a representative from each household in the village.

There will also be a social mobilizer, someone who stays in the village with us to encourage, empower, communicate and keep us updated as needed.

We will encourage the women to take on more leadership, where the leadership trainings will be most helpful to support their empowerment. We will have a womens group form for a support structure within the village.

The grant will also pay for the trainings, and the attendees will then train the other villagers to continue the education and work as a community.

**Follow-up on trainings:**

Monthly visits and follow-up, reports, and interviews. Direct observation in the visits from partners and educators. Reports from the Digam Village Community Development Council.

**Community members involvement:**

The local health post and traditional healers will do regular check ups.

Those in Digam Village who have been trained in education and agriculture - continue the work and additional trainings.

Social mobilizer to stay in Digam Village who will encourage, empower and follow-up with all community members and households.

We will encourage a womens group to form, to support womens empowerment in Digam Village.

The Digam Village Community Development Council will continue to grow and strengthen, where we will build towards having a voice with the local government and work with them over time to have our Village recognized and needs met. We will oversee and support the development of the continued community development, education, agriculture and economic development programs.

President of the Ward of their District (local government) has been in communication with us and visits our village on occasion. We will strengthen and build our relationship with this local contact to the government. We have requested that the government pays for the teacher salaries, helps with road maintenance repairs and general support to the village.

The Relief Trust - local Nepal Nonprofit that has worked with this community for the last 5 years and will continue to.

Aranya Solutions will continue to support our community development for the next few years.

**Vendor selection process:**

First we identified the skills in the village and local community - such as carpenters who can build necessary items for the community and those skilled in masonry to help build the community center and school area.

We are training educators from Digam Village for the primary education schooling and adult literacy classes.

We look at what is locally available in the region to support local economic development.

**Maintence plan:**

Digam Village Community Development Council will oversee the continuation of materials and operations. There will not be many materials purchased at this time that will require maintenance.

**Community Maintance:**

We give maintenance training and follow up on a monthly basis.

**Materials bought:**

Educational books for reading, writing, basic education and literacy.

**Who owns the items purchased:**

The Digam Village Community Development Council and Digam Village

**Sustained funding:**

We are in discussions with the local government (President of the Ward of their District) to financially support this village's teacher salaries, road maintenance, and general assistance to the village.

We will be selling crops, seeds and value-added products that we create in Digam Village.

**Income generating:**

Yes, the agriculture training will increase Digam Village agriculture production, diversify the crops, yield seeds the community can sell, opportunities for value-added products the community can sell.

With increased education there is the ability to read, write, basic arithmetic which can lead to better communication and economic development opportunities.

The women’s group in Digam Village will create income generating initiatives such as weaving and creating candles from the beeswax in the beekeeping activities.

**Why chose Cooperating Organization:**

There are not any NGO's who have known of us or have reached out to work with us, until recently one small Nepal registered nonprofit, The Relief Trust, whose president is a distant relative of one of our community members started to help and has connected us to this resource of Rotary Club. This nonprofit, The Relief Trust (TRT), does trauma relief work with undeserved communities like ours and will be a cooperating organization for this grant. This grant would be the first funding we would be receiving to help our community move out of poverty and rebuild our village from the earth quake and years of not being noticed. There are programs The Relief Trust has identified that will train the community members of Digam Village with skills to bring in income, job creation, diversify the agriculture to increase yield and ability to sell seeds and value added products, educate us to be come literate and connection to outside markets for financial sustainability and public health. The Relief Trust has been working with our community for the past 5 years, trained us in how to construct a toilet and sanitation stations, as well as some trauma relief work. We have a good relationship with this organization and trust them, and appreciate all they are doing to help us and connect Digam Village to valuable resources and trainings.