## EXPLORATION GRANT

**• The Human Journey: The Human Journey focuses on learning more about who we are and what our future is on this planet. Storytelling method**

An Exploration Grant application is a request for funding by an *experienced* project leader in the areas of conservation, education, research, storytelling, and technology. The applicant and his or her team members are expected to demonstrate successful completion of similar projects with measurable and/or tangible results. If you have received a grant from National Geographic in the past, you may submit a new proposal after you have closed your previous grant record.

Grants are typically funded for between US $10,000 and US $30,000.

National Geographic Society: Inviting Applicants for Standard Grants

Deadline: 4 April 2018

The National Geographic Society is currently inviting applicants for its Standard Grants which is a request for funding by an experienced project lead.

The National Geographic Society awards grants for conservation, education, research, storytelling, and technology through its Committee for Research and Exploration. All proposed projects must be novel and exploratory, and be of broad interest. National Geographic Society grant-funded projects should be bold, innovative, and transformative.

**Funding Information**

Grants are typically funded for less than US $30,000.

**Three Lenses**

**• The Human Journey: The Human Journey focuses on learning more about who we are and what our future is on this planet.**

• Wildlife and Wild Places: Wildlife and Wild Places includes projects on all

living organisms, where they live, and the local evolutionary and ecological

processes that sustain them.

• Our Changing Planet: Our Changing Planet comprises projects looking at a spectacular variety of ever-changing systems on land and in the sea.

**Project Focus**

• Conservation

• Education

• Research

**• Storytelling**

• Technology

**Eligibility Criteria**

• National Geographic welcomes applications from around the world, and specifically encourages applicants from outside the United States to apply.

• Applicants planning to work outside of their home country should include at least one local collaborator on their team.

• The Committee will not usually consider applications that support strictly laboratory or collections work.

• Grants are awarded on the basis of merit and exist independent of the Society’s other divisions.

• The applicant and his or her team members are expected to demonstrate successful completion of similar projects with measurable and/or tangible results.

• If applicants have received a grant from National Geographic in the past, applicants may submit a new proposal after applicants have closed their previous grant record.

More Info: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/grants/grant-opportunities/>

Details: <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/animals-wildlife-and-biodiversity/national-geographic-society-inviting-applicants-standard-grants/>

Questions from Nat Geo written in purple, answers in black

# Table of Contents/ Outline

• Title of Project (short, descriptive, and free of jargon)\*

• Amount Requested from the National Geographic Society - US$

• Total Project Budget - US$ 150’000 :-)

• Project Start Date October 2018

• Fieldwork Start Date Mid October 2018

• Fieldwork End Date May 30 2019

• Project End Date November 2019 (?)

• Project/Fieldwork latitude and longitude Digam, Nepal (I couldn’t find the coordinates when I looked up Chipling, Nepal, which is 2170 meters above sea level, closest village to Digam). However we can put in the district coordinates….

Nuwakot District coordinates: 27.8866° N, 85.1479° E

Nuwakot District Nepali: नुवाकोट जिल्ला, a part of Province No. 3, is one of the seventy-seven districts of Nepal, a landlocked country of South Asia. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuwakot_District)

[Area](https://www.google.com.np/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS716US717&q=nuwakot+area&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3sEjOKTPUkspOttLPyU9OLMnMz4MzrBKLUhMBYwdejCkAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiZtsunzPrZAhWKp48KHZ8uD-IQ6BMImQEoADAS): 1,121 km²

[Zone](https://www.google.com.np/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS716US717&q=nuwakot+zone&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3sEjOKTPUks0ot9JPzs_JSU0uyczP08_JT04EMYqtqvLzUgG_p2abLAAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiZtsunzPrZAhWKp48KHZ8uD-IQ6BMInAEoADAT): [Bagmati Zone](https://www.google.com.np/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS716US717&q=Bagmati+Zone&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3sEjOKTNUAjMtLc2S0rRkM8qt9JPzc3JSk0sy8_P0c_KTE0GMYquq_LxUABXdXA83AAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiZtsunzPrZAhWKp48KHZ8uD-IQmxMInQEoATAT)

[Region](https://www.google.com.np/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS716US717&q=nuwakot+region&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3sEjOKTPUks8ot9JPzs_JSU0uyczP08_JT04EMYqtilLTgTQApRdtyC4AAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiZtsunzPrZAhWKp48KHZ8uD-IQ6BMIoAEoADAU): [Central Development Region, Nepal](https://www.google.com.np/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS716US717&q=Central+Development+Region&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3sEjOKTNU4gIxTQot0soqteQzyq30k_NzclKTSzLz8_Rz8pMTQYxiq6LUdCANAO7Q0946AAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiZtsunzPrZAhWKp48KHZ8uD-IQmxMIoQEoATAU)

[Did you know](https://www.google.com.np/search?safe=active&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS716US717&q=nuwakot+did+you+know&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3sEjOKTPUkslOttJPzs_Nzc_TL8kvyEy2SivNS0tMLimOz04GAOfZ4WcrAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiZtsunzPrZAhWKp48KHZ8uD-IQ6BMIpAEoADAV): Nuwakot is the eighth-largest hydroelectric power station in Nepal by capacity

Helembu (another village and trek near Digam village) Coordinates 28.0515° N, 85.5303° E

Helembu about 72 kilometers northeast of Kathmandu, is noted for its scenic grandeur and pleasant climate. The Helambu region, extending from north of Taramarang to the tree limit of the Gosainkunda Lake and lower slopes of Jugal Himal, has several highland Tamang and Sherpa villages, scattered on both sides of the Malemchi Khola. This trek is rated as an easier trek because the elevations are lower, ranging between 800m. and 3600m, which indicates less climbing and warmer temperatures.

• Lens

• Discipline(s)/Field(s) of Study Storytelling

• Project Summary [Abstract]

Team Members

# Project Details

**Project Summary**

*Summarize your project in 250 words or less. Include your goals/objectives, anticipated results, and any broader significance. Avoid jargon. (1500 Characters)*

**• The Human Journey: The Human Journey focuses on learning more about who we are and what our future is on this planet. Storytelling method**

**Exploring what leadership is and means to create social change - starting with the village.**

Our team wants to tell the story of humanitarian leadership that bridges cultural divides and furthers understanding. We start by telling the story of Nepali villagers who are struggling to adjust to a rapidly changing world and empower them with leadership training and critical thinking skills. We want to give villagers a voice and raise awareness about their needs, culture, and their offerings to nearby regions and communities beyond, while providing support to create that change. The village life in the foothills of the Himalayas (Nepal), still recovering from the 2015 earthquake, is indeed unique.

Through Innovation Labs - public events in the USA and Internationally - we will curate Virtual Reality experiences that simulate real village life to modern audiences to promote empathy, understanding of different lifestyles, and bridging cultural differences. We incorporate vignettes of international leaders who inspire, creating a broader perspective of what leadership looks like. The people who take the Virtual Reality experience may be humbled by the villager’s resourcefulness and leaders, thus inspired to incorporate these values in their lives.

The leadership training includes understanding governance, communication skills, decision making and emotional intelligence. We focus on why humanitarian leadership is needed for the future. We act as a pollinator creating a web of relationships supported by a communications platform nurturing meaningful interactions between stakeholders, supporters and network to support a more connected, compassionate, culturally diverse world to promote humanitarian leadership.

**250 words exactly! 1732 characters (we get 1500 characters… need to take out spaces, etc.)**

**Exploring what leadership is and means to create social change - starting with the village.**

Our team wants to tell the story of humanitarian leadership that bridges cultural divides and furthers understanding in developing countries. As this world of mobile technologies, AI, robotics and data accelerates to incomprehensible complexity, what happens to the people in remote villages in Nepal? Have they been forgotten? We’ve asked for their requests and they want empowerment, leadership tools, access to resources and education – they want to have a voice. What about change makers? Why don’t we hear of their positive impact in humanitarian causes? How can we promote their heroism and learn from their inspiration?

Through Innovation Labs - public events in the USA and Internationally - we will curate Virtual Reality experiences that simulate real village life to modern audiences to promote empathy,  
understanding of different lifestyles, and bridging cultural differences. We incorporate vignettes of international leaders who inspire, creating a broader perspective of what leadership looks like. The people who take the Virtual Reality experience may be humbled by the villager’s resourcefulness and leaders, thus inspired to incorporate these values in their lives.

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platform nurturing meaningful interactions between stakeholders, supporters and partners towards a more connected, compassionate, culturally diverse world to promote humanitarian leadership.

**Do you or your Team Members already have any media commitments or interest for this project? This includes media commitments already held by your home institution or other funding bodies.**  *(2,000 Characters)*

Due to a robust partnership with ICA Nepal, Relief Trust, and Rotary Club, we have significant traction with qualified experts in the realm of logistical implementation. We have an amazing team of videographers who have been creating documentaries in Nepal for 10 years, who have a good cultural understanding and stunning footage of the Himalayas and village life.

Additionally, we have been building a network of supporters raising $10,000 in donations from 150 individual donors, matched by the Rotary Foundation. Through our communications platform we will engage many more followers by highlighting International Leaders and reaching their networks. We have commitments for interviews with leaders Manoj Gautam, the Executive Director of the Jane Goodall Foundation, author Starhawk, plus many more.

Both Carlos and Katrina are no strangers to social media engagement and marketing analytics. Carlos worked as customer success engineer with CloudEngage, a tech startup where he actively engaged with their social media community and clients, analyzed SEO reporting in Google Analytics and engagement metrics on LinkedIn, Youtube, Facebook and Twitter. His LinkedIn marketing amassed 2,742 followers and his last video was viewed by 264 connections. Carlos established a rhythm for content creation, his articles saw a weekly responses of up to 240 click throughs to the CloudEngage website.

Carlos also has an artistic background having been featured on reality television show and on Univision in both instances he was a content creator.

Katrina has a background in event coordinator for a number of high profile multimedia events, and worked with Disney. Katrina has been the force behind creating a support network for this project and has demonstrated an innate ability to weave and inspire people with different talents and resources to work together.

We feel blessed to have a tremendous board of directors and advisors, their experience and motivation has been invaluable to our work.

**1990 Characters - we get 2,000 Characters**

**Please describe your special qualifications, certifications, or credentials relevant to this project.** (4,000 Characters)

### Team/ Staff Bio’s

**Katrina Zavalney**, our founder and Executive Director, from San Francisco, CA  brings a new perspective to a whole village solution with a Master’s degree in Organization Development and over 15 years of community development, event planning, leadership, and sustainability policy creation at high profile institutions as Disney. She transitioned to the nonprofit sector because she believes that her connections, experiences and knack for building inspiring partnerships rooted in mutual respect can have a meaningful impact for communities. She loves to dance, teaches Zumba and Mindful Movements at conferences and trainings. Katrina is a Rotarian, believing in “Service Above Self.”

**Carlos Munoz Kampff**, Communications Director is a content creator, web developer and entrepreneur from Brazil who has experience in the corporate tech startup scene at CloudEngage and Star Power Music, national television exposure (TruTV and Univision), and nonprofit experience. Carlos has audio/video content creation degree from Berklee College of Music, and computer programing certification from Epicodus. At CloudEngage Carlos was part of an agile team creating cutting edge technologies that allowed for geography, language, weather and social media responsive web applications for clients such as T-Mobile. He was CloudEngage’s lead blogger and video content creator as well as social media commitment and SEO analyst. Carlos identified that he had a desire for creating real positive impact and to use his tech and content creation skills to mitigate income inequality and the erosion of cultural diversity.

**Sophie Dia Pegrum**, is a British American film director and documentary cinematographer who has produced and shot films in the Antarctic, at the North Pole and in the Himalayas. Her documentary films include "77 Below" and experimental "Come to the Edge", shot on the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica and featuring artist Lita Albuquerque. The award winning "Talking to the Air: The Horses of the Last Forbidden Kingdom" was shot on the border with Tibet in the high Himalaya. Sophie co-founded [Shakti Pictures](http://shaktipictures.com/) - a documentary film production company with a social justice focus, which has produced three films in Nepal - award winning documentary "Daughters of the Curved Moon", "Talking to the Air" and "Pink Tiffany". They also produce commercial work for NGOs and commercial enterprises. Sophie’s website: [sophiepegrum.com](http://sophiepegrum.com/)

**Sarala Tiwari**, Assistant and cultural advisor in Nepal. Sarala is a freelance advisor for developmental works in Nepal. Born in a traditional family in a rural village of Nepal, she grew up challenging many boundaries that keep women from going after their dreams. She has now graduated from college with a Social Work degree in 2015. She is currently pursuing her Master’s degree in Rural Development & Psychology.

### Partners:

**ICA Nepal -** [www.ica-nepal.org](http://www.ica-nepal.org/)

With the aim of changing lives and changing societies, the **Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA)** Nepal was established in early 1998 in Kathmandu, Nepal. In the 20 years of existence, this organization has worked with many villages, community programs, and initiatives in Nepal and beyond with Global Partners. ICA believes every individual has a capacity to bring change in his/her situation, and has continuously worked for human capacity development, and hence, has emerged as one of the leading organizations in leadership training and facilitation in Nepal. ICA Nepal believes that no sustainable development or change is achieved without considering existing cultural dynamics.

**The Relief Trust – Nepal -** [www.therelieftrust.org](http://www.therelieftrust.org)

The Relief Trust does trauma relief work through counseling and leads training in psychosocial support and emotional intelligence work for community development.

Together the team brings a wide diversity of cultural and professional experiences with the support of an all star board of directors and advisors.

**3941 Characters out of 4,000**

**Background and Relevance**

Introduce your project, including the gap in knowledge you want to address. Tell us why the topic is important to your field and/or to science more broadly. Review previous work done on this topic, citing relevant literature, and present the theoretical framework for your project (include citations in the Bibliography/Works Cited section below).

### Addressing Scale Gaps

According to analysis by Sisir Pradhan of the Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) regarding the status of international development and government programs, “When we talk about scale as a government, we are interested in reaching large numbers of people and we 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. [...]

Delivery of government services to scale gap areas is impeded because:

1. Governments must operate with tight cost margins that are difficult to maintain in areas of poor access and multiple dimensions of poverty which are often more expensive in delivery and adaptations to design of project services.
2. Investments tend to be made at a central level and delivering programs to remote areas is not only a logistical challenge, but also a challenge of human resources. It’s difficult to retain highly skilled people to work in these areas.
3. Target populations are often not aware of programs that should be available to them, preventing increased demand for services from triggering additional investments or the capacity to deliver them.
4. The villages identified as falling into the scale gap are generally geographically isolated and difficult to access. They have significant populations that have been historically marginalized and socially excluded.

[..]Governments have done relatively well in universal programs for food security, rights to land, information, jobs, and work. But do these social protection programs address ultrapoverty? In order to end extreme poverty, and ensure the full enjoyment of rights, these scale gaps must be addressed.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

In response to these realities on the ground we identified the need for a new kind of organization to address the needs of communities like Digam Village (a rural Nepali village we work with)[[2]](#footnote-2) that are overlooked by so called “Scale Gaps". Rather than focusing on providing direct services to this sector of the population, those 10% who are left out of such “scale” efforts often due to multiple layers of vulnerability, we act as an agile catalyst organization that connects different existing assistance providers with populations in need of help like Digam Village in a partnership model. Additionally, we empower local change makers with the leadership skills and know-how to do this resourcing work themselves thus promoting resourceful collaboration directly and indirectly.

### A New Type Of Humanitarian Leadership & Leadership Development:

To fulfill this mission Katrina Zavalney’s took the year of 2017 to Nepal for action research of international community development. She focused on making connections, learning about humanitarian needs first hand and identifying potential partnerships. She found a unique opportunity to do work aligned with sustainable land use and utilizing her skills in leadership development, as a coordinator and community organizer. She recognized that her skills and network were rich in resources that could be leveraged to help coordinate communities in being self-sustaining, strengthening their capacity to have meaningful livelihoods, access solutions to current local issues, and train and support new leaders in the community. To achieve these goals Katrina created a nonprofit, Aranya Solutions, and assembled a small staff with diverse skills and backgrounds.  Aranya means “abundant forest” in Sanskrit, signifying resourcefulness and prosperity.  The nonprofit is collaboration-based, working in partnership with organizations and local institutions including schools, local governments, local nonprofits and INGOs.

Partnerships have already been implemented on our first project: We have been working on a village livelihood in Nepal since May 2017 with local Nepal nonprofits The Relief Trust and ICA Nepal. We successfully completed a needs assessment for the Nepal Digam Village Community Development then identified programs for the next 4 years for agriculture, education, health, leadership and community development.

### Next Steps: Communications Platform and Leadership Development

To take our strategy one step further we want to create a new type of humanitarian engagement campaign for the general western population. We find that there are many well meaning people in affluent countries that are in theory willing to help, but feel dissociated from the positive impacts that philanthropy can have - this is a limiting factor for the thriving of humanitarian development. We want to captivate these audiences with stories of the courage, dynamism and engaging “change maker” attitude. For these reasons we are requesting this grant from National Geographic, so that we can implement an innovative awareness communication campaign to promote and celebrate humanitarian leadership that addresses the needs of developing countries and acts as a catalytic force. We want to expose audiences to a more visceral connection to village life and inspiring leadership through virtual reality experiences, live feeds, interviews and real time social media engagement.

**Why leadership is needed for Community Leaders & Villagers** - Communities will need to know how to work together more, especially as there are more natural and man-made environmental disasters. We need people with good communication skills, leadership and decision making skills that keep the entire community in mind to delegate roles and empowering the skills and strengths of the individuals to support the whole. In comprehensive community development work, we emphasize the importance of shared leadership. We believe that a leader is not a single person or a hero doing everything and anything to accomplish a task or transform a neighborhood. A leader is a person who is passionate about their community, who is willing to bring their skills and to learn, who is committed to action and (most importantly) dedicated to acting with others to outline a vision, set goals and produce results. When we talk about “building capacity”, we increase people’s ability to serve as leaders and work together to achieve the change they want to see.

We train village councils in leadership because they are the central hub for decision making on a localized level, thus organization is needed for an effective council for systems for accuracy, transparency, accountability, and equality. We want to build up these councils to have a voice to local government and make decisions to build a future with resiliency in mind. Through this program the villagers develop skills to bring in income, livelihood, functional literacy and connection to outside markets.

The villages has expressed great interest in leadership and communication trainings. Their leaders have shared "We are forming a 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."

**Ecological Perspective:**

We have an ecological mindset in our approach to systems thinking and holistic support, where we strive to think and act like a forest ecosystem. We act in collaboration with our web of partners to provide access to assets that bolster cultural resilience, sustainability impact and livelihood. We work together to develop systematic improvements with a focus on localization, serving as a bridge to resources and providing necessary infrastructure. We will help leaders work together, create a network, and identify the strengths and skills locally. We have a number of activities and framework that encourage this behavior, and necessary skills to embody this leadership style.

**Not needed… IMO**

The research shows that when governments 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 the population, those 10% who are left out of such “scale” efforts often due to multiple layers of vulnerability, that is difficult to address in broad government implementation. These people therefore stand a high risk of living in ultra-poverty indefinitely. There is a need to focus on depth of scale to reach those who would otherwise be left behind, rather than breadth of scale. Our community, Digam Village, unfortunately falls into this 10% that doesn't receive resources.

**Why Nepal - The Needs in Nepal:**

In developing countries, like Nepal, farmers suffer from lack of education, training, tools, techniques and modern equipment that hinders in increasing productivity, which affects economic opportunities. Individuals and small organizations working on local/ village levels lack connection, resources and knowledge on how to connect with donors and funders. Community development and education has been a major challenge for some villages in Nepal, many people leave school before finishing grade 10… and in our focus area, many children walk over 1.5 hours to school. Girls are often married at age 11 and have children then become young mothers, thus they do not even complete grade 8, and have not formed critical thinking skills. Because of poor education, there are not many job opportunities, so many young people immigrate to work in Gulf countries, leaving holes in their home community. They come back broken by the challenging work life and economy of the Gulf countries after doing hard labor working 12 hours a day to earn only $200 USD a month. Many youth also go into sex-work both in Nepal and in neighboring countries, not recognizing the long term/ lifelong health, emotional, and mental impacts from these actions.

**Goals and Objectives - Expected Outputs**

What do you plan to accomplish with this project? Present your research question(s) and, if relevant, what hypotheses you will test to answer these questions.

What does leadership look like and what skills need to be developed in a developing nation?

## Two Complementary Goals

There are two main goals: the first goal is creating visibility, opportunities, and cross-cultural compassion for the villagers by telling their stories and the stories related to internal and external leadership initiatives affecting their cause. This first goal is to be primarily addressed through our Communications Platform.

The second goal is the development of leadership skills, humanitarian activity and innovation, brought forth by the Leadership Training and Innovation Labs. Both goals are closely intertwined and will work together to positively impact people’s lives and ability to cope with a changing world.

We will focus on both a micro and a macro scale by telling the human stories of the villagers needing assistance, and humanitarian leadership at various levels that seeks to address those needs.

On the micro scale rather than just telling a static story of the villager’s conditions we will connect them with the empowerment and support they requested and convey the story they create as they regain control over their lives and their community’s future by learning and leveraging the leadership skills needed in a developing world.

On the macro scale, we we will train leaders and celebrate the stories of change makers of diverse backgrounds. The story is also about the joint discovery of what that type of leadership would best help their cultural resilience and well being - It is ultimately a story about empowerment, inspiration and compassion.

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### Communications Platform Objectives and Inputs:

1. **Sharing the Stories of the Villagers**

We will give the villagers support through our communications platform to tell their story, their successes and struggles. As described before, this is where we also capture their journey acquiring and exercising leadership acumen. We will create and follow a schedule of content creation and dissemination, but will also be responsive to pertinent developments in the villages and outside forces. We will create and share videos, virtual reality experiences, pictures, articles, and blogs on our website and on social media platforms. This content will also be curated at public think tank events called Innovation Labs. We will focus our subject matter on the stories of the villagers we work with in Nepal.

1. **Involving a Community of Supporters**

We want to help our supporters experience the meaning of the work we are doing - they want to make a difference by being part our mission - we in turn want them to experience the journey with us and feel inspired. Towards that end, we will create timely videos, live updates from the field, social media posts and other content to engage our community.

1. **Promoting Leadership that Inspires**

To further weave a culture of humanitarian excellence, creative innovation and leadership, we will have interviews with people who inspire us. We will give voice to change makers and learn from the experience and wisdom of thought leaders in the areas we serve and around the world. This content will be created and shared in videos, stories and Innovation Lab experiences.

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### Communications Platform Outputs:

* 20 leaders and 20 villagers can share their stories through our communication platform.
* 10 content deliverables will be published each quarter. Those deliverables will be video interviews and vignettes, articles, informational resources and a virtual reality experience.
  + Quarterly newsletter with project activity and content updates. We will add a short video as part of the newsletter whenever possible for a personal touch.
  + 20 minute 3 dimensional virtual reality experience documentary.
  + Inspirational stories about the innovation, craftsmanship and creative success of the villagers. At least one per quarter.
  + Live feeds when possible. Will attempt 2 per year.
  + Inspirational interviews available on Youtube and Patreon. At least one per quarter.
  + Monthly informational vignettes about pertinent influencers.
  + Quarterly interviews with pertinent influencers. (More frequent when possible)
  + Articles with professional resources for leadership. At least one per quarter.
* Weekly social media interaction - commenting, liking, posting, and sharing - with our larger audience.
* 17’000+ potential supporters view our content and are exposed to the resources on the communications platform. As a result they are inspired to feel deeper compassion and better understand the lifestyle and culture of developing country villagers and leaders on the forefront of humanitarian development. They also feel inspired to affect change in their own personal lives and community with qualities such as resourcefulness and collaboration.
* 340 monthly supporters who are engaged and want to contribute to the sustainability of the overall project in a variety of ways.
* 300 Innovation Labs attendees experience our virtual reality content. This content is also made available online for people to view using 360 display capable smart phones (most regular 3 year old phones have this capability). We estimate that this online VR content could be viewed by 1000 viewers.
* Development of responsive personalized website that serves as a communications hub.

### Leadership Development and Innovation Labs Objectives and Inputs:

1. **Leadership Development**

Our team assisted by local partner ICA Nepal will provide training on emotional intelligence, communication skills, compassion and embodied empowerment for an an innovative leadership training program as we see the need for more leaders with soft skills such as emotional intelligence and strategic systems thinking perspectives to bring solutions to problems the world is facing today.

1. **Innovation Labs**

Our team will curate events that will be focused on raising awareness of humanitarian leadership in developing countries and that will assemble solution driven think-tanks that lead to action plans for addressing climate change and humanitarian issues. During these events we want to generate compassionate awareness of humanitarian causes and promote collaborative innovation. At Innovation Labs events we will feature change makers and learn from the experience and wisdom of thought leaders in the areas we serve and around the world. This content will in turn also be connected to our communications platform in the form of video, podcasts and interviews of inspiring people who drive innovation.

### Leadership Development and Innovation Labs Outputs:

* \_\_ of individuals trained by in person leadership training workshops.
* \_\_ attend Innovation Lab events - promoting leadership values that inspire on a personal level.
* \_\_ are trained through Online learning opportunities and communications platform resources.

**Emotional intelligence is the base for the leadership development program:**

Emotional intelligence development allows one to examine how they construct the belief system that drives their behavior. Discover the subtle manifestations of one’s subconscious to learn to manage emotions to achieve goals. Only then will one be able to change in ways that will enable influence on others more powerfully.

**How we Define Leadership Skills:**

There are many skills that will be learned in in these trainings, a few we will focus on:

1.     Mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence & Self-awareness

2.     Dealing with fears and phobias. Self-regulation & understanding emotional triggers

3.     Improving interpersonal relationships, volunteer management & employee engagement.

4.     Enhancing Confidence

5.     Improving communication effectiveness

6.     Action Planning & Goal Setting

7.     Reciprocity – Reciprocal Contribution and Incorporating Feedback

8.     Critical Thinking skills & creative problem solving

9.     Compassion and Empathy. Consciousness raising & Ecological mindset

10.   Active listening for deep and meaningful dialogue

11.   Improved Management Systems. Improved capacity to respond to change.

**How we operate:**

We will do an assessment / diagnosis with the participants to identify the levers for change and best practices to enable to maximum growth for a personalized, customized approach to meet their individual development needs.

**Results / Expected Outcomes**

What are the expected results of your project?

How will your project advance your field of research?

How do you plan to disseminate your results and to whom?

For our mechanism of accountability we’ll employ an array of financial reports, training program survey feedback, direct accounts from our stakeholders, Google Analytics statistics, Social Media platform reporting, donor relationship management reporting and surveys. Additionally, the Institute of Cultural Affairs will be conducting 3rd party oversight.

**Communications Platform Outcomes and Measurements:**

We are striving to create a tightly organized program with clear goals and accountability mechanisms, while also being responsive to potential outside impacts and realities on the ground - i.e. we want to be responsive to new developments and opportunities as they present themselves.

**Impact:**

1. By curating the villager’s stories and giving them a voice, we aim to support the cultural resilience of their way of life and livelihood.
2. By engaging a following of supporters we bolster the sustainability of the overall project.
3. By creating and sharing resources for leaders we will unleashing a chain reaction of solution-orientated activities on climate change and humanitarian issues.

**Outcomes:**

1. Connect the village with resources and networks to improve the standard of living and improve disaster resilience.
2. Communications platform reaches a large audience that finds meaning in supporting our efforts.
3. Communications platform inspires new leaders to become change agents.

**Communications Platform - Measurements:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Output Measurements** | **Collection Method** | **Frequency** | **Beneficiaries** |
| **Output Measurements**  Villagers can share their stories through our communication platform. | **Collection Method**  Stories captured on video and photography.  Direct observation | **Frequency**  Quarterly | **Beneficiaries**  Villagers, especially those in our livelihood program. |
| **Output Measurements**  17’000+ potential supporters are exposed to (view) our content. | **Collection Method**  Social media platform statistics and Google Analytics reports. | **Frequency**  Quarterly as well as automated weekly reports. | **Beneficiaries**  Prospective and current audience. |
| **Output Measurements**  2% conversion rate from viewer to supporter resulting in 340 monthly supporters. | **Collection Method**  Donor management reports and Patreon dashboard juxtaposed with Google Analytics and social media statistics. | **Frequency**  Quarterly | **Beneficiaries**  Community of supporters. |
| **Output Measurements**  340 subscribing users are exposed to the resources on the communications platform. | **Collection Method**  Google Analytics and Youtube dashboard. | **Frequency**  Quarterly | **Beneficiaries**  Community of supporters/followers. |
| **Output Measurements**  300 Innovation Labs attendees experience our virtual reality content. | **Collection Method**  Direct observation logs. | **Frequency**  At each Innovation Lab event. | **Beneficiaries**  Innovation Lab event attendees. |

### 

**Outcomes from the Leadership Development Trainings:**

1.        Stronger, more effective Leaders

2. Resilient and self-reliant communities

3. Establishment of Village Community Development Council for governance, leadership and sustainability of the program.

4.        Livelihood and development opportunities

5.        Inspired new leaders and change makers

6. Certifications issued for completion of trainings

**Impact on Leaders Lives:**

• Demystification of Leadership and Management

• Creating managers who also lead

• Root cause analysis to prepare/plan for better results

• Stakeholder analysis and action planning

• Social & Emotional intelligence: How to understand and work with others (team building, conducting meeting, how to deal with difficult people/customers, excuses vs. reasons, complain vs. request etc.)

• Management of change

• Improvement of work climate (trust building)

**Leadership Development Program – Measuring Impacts**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Measure** | **Collection Method** | **Frequency** | **Beneficiaries** |
| **Measure**  Number of individuals trained | **Collection Method**  Registration and Direct observation. Follow-up in village with group and individual interviews. Individual interviews will be both with the trainee’s and people in the village to get their feedback. | **Frequency**  Every training plus 2 follow-up sessions. Village trainings will be a monthly series in Nepal, March- May and Oct- Dec 2018 with regular follow-up and communication over the next few years. | **Beneficiaries**  Village leaders specialized sessions for leadership trainings |
| **Measure**  Number of individuals who participate in Virtual Reality experience | **Collection Method**  Registration and Direct observation from feedback after experience. Collection will come through online survey | **Frequency**  Every experience plus 2 follow-up sessions. Every training plus 2 follow-up survey (1 month after VR experience) | **Beneficiaries**  Community leaders, and event participants |
| **Measure**  Innovation Lab Attendance - Promoting leadership values that inspires on a personal level | **Collection Method**  Registration and Direct observation. Number of views for the live cast of the event. Emails collected will receive an online survey right after the event. | **Frequency**  Each event, roughly 6-8 events from May-December 2018 | **Beneficiaries**  meaning entrepreneurs,  community organizers and leaders |
| **Measure**  Online learning opportunities and communications. | **Collection Method**  Registration and Direct observation. Online survey after program. | **Frequency**  Every training plus 2 follow-up sessions | **Beneficiaries**  People who want to sharpen their leadership skills, focus on Political leaders and decision makers. |

### The Lessons We Want To Learn With This Project

1. We want to experiment and learn about what would be the most effective type of leadership that can bring partnerships together to mitigate the issues of scale gaps in developing countries’ humanitarian work.
2. We want to learn about the effectiveness of virtual reality experiences in inducing cultural understanding, inspiration for innovation and a passion to serve in audiences.
3. We want to learn about how to best engage our audience of philanthropic supporters in real time about the journey of leadership development so that they feel part of the journey themselves.

### How We Will Share Our Findings

First and foremost we will leverage our communications platform to share our findings in article and video interview format. Additionally, we will prepare a presentation at World Pulse in Portland, Oregon 12 months after the beginning of the project where we will present discoveries, insights, and stories of our journey to a community of peers in the international development, documentary, philanthropy, technology innovation fields.

**External Capacity Development**

If applicable, please describe how your project contributes to the social or professional development of institutions, communities, or other individuals through training, mentoring, education, media outreach, or other methods. Specify who will benefit from your project.

Our team believes that this project can be informative to other international development projects that are looking for ways to promote leadership that can better resource and serve rural villages. We think that by developing this new type of collaborative partnership weaving humanitarian leadership style, the field of leadership training in developing countries and general can be positively transformed. Lastly, we are confident that the leaders we train will start their own organizations, that will bear their own impactful fruits or participate in ways that help existing efforts flourish and interweave.

**Methodology**

Detail and justify the methods you will use to complete your project, noting any special or unusual tools and equipment, as well as the field, lab, analytical, or computational techniques you plan to employ. Make sure to indicate which populations, communities, and/or locations you will target with this project. If appropriate, specify the anticipated sample size.

Sample Size: 20 people directly in the village council who will experience leadership trainings

### Overall Approach To Intervention Projects

1. Identify Projects
2. Listen to the communities needs and identify skills and resources (asset mapping)
3. Determine training and programs to meet the needs, with the community
4. Identify resources and partners
5. Fundraising
6. Implementation
7. Evaluation

In our needs assessment, we use an action research method in an informal interview setting for participants to be relaxed and offer honest answers on issues related to the target area. We then assist organizations/ communities to develop a structure to more efficiently meet their needs. Most things will be done in partnership and collaboration where Aranya Solutions acts a bridge to resources and infrastructure.

### Criteria for Identifying Projects and Partners:

We will work with those that align with the values of Sustainable Land Use, Community Development and Sustainable Solutions locally and globally. The project must align with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld) and bring positive impact to the environment and people. It is important that the work will not bring harm to people, animals or the planet.

### Communications Channel Methodology:

***Inspiring and Building Trust:*** We will tell the villager’s human journey by looking through the lens of community leadership and grass roots innovation. We will weave relationships, inspire empowerment and become trusted sources of informative content. To accomplish this we will establish a steady rhythm of quality, engaging, and responsive content.

***Interactivity and Responsiveness:*** Today’s technology allows for a new kind of interactive philanthropy, where live-feeds, day-to-day informative updates, images, video and tweets are becoming increasingly important to donors and supporters. A crucial part of Aranya Solutions’ pollinator effect is engaging in innovative platforms like Patreon and an interactive website to create a more intimate and immediate way for individuals to become informed supporters and contributors.

***Innovation in Storytelling:*** To captivate a large number of viewership we will create videos that highlight the stories of villagers and leadership with a backdrop of stunning Himalayan vistas in an innovative new approach by using cutting edge 3 dimensional 360 Virtual Reality footage (also known as VR). 2 dimensional imagery and videos of panoramic views often falls flat (no pun intended) from the original because they lack the depth and presence that the distance from landmarks provides. The purpose of giving people this experience is for them to experience the life and culture in developing worlds of those we serve in a more visceral way. Virtual Reality can help build empathy, understanding because it virtually erases the separation of looking at a boxed screen - now you are inside the experience. We believe that empathy helps us feel what someone is going through and inspires us to act to improve a situation for others.  Using this technology for good we will be able to raise awareness about this work, be recognized as something new and innovative, inspire, and create a buzz… which means being part of articles, interviews, tech trade shows and meetups that will further increase the visibility of this important work. Virtual Reality shows a full 360 degrees scene and the technology is more and more accessible, even a cell phone will be able to experience our video footage.

***Leverage the Influencer Effect:*** Today the disruptive trend in social media marketing is not necessarily a technology itself, its creating a mutually beneficial relationship with people known as influencers. We will seek out humanitarian and technology influencers who are content creators that are at the cutting edge of sustainability, technology, consciousness expansion and promoting equity for all. These influencers will have followers and connections who will resonate with our message, share our content and encourage people to participate and grow our base of support. We believe in reciprocity and will highlight these influencers and their work in our inspirational interviews series, which is promoting leadership that inspires. We will hold innovation labs with these influencers to result in concrete action plans and solutions for climate change and humanitarian issues. These innovation labs will establish action groups to further drive action, innovation and awareness on an ongoing basis. People can then connect to our responsive personalized website experience that creates a central hub for our compassionate community.

### Leadership Process Methodology:

***Assessment & Diagnosis:*** We will work with the participants to identify the levers for change and best practices to enable to maximum growth for a personalized approach to meet their individual development needs.

***Knowledge Sharing is Transformational:*** Rather than simply imparting knowledge, this training strives to build relationships, and connect deeply with individual and collective purpose to achieve lasting change in our communities and the world. It will be for long-term change and growth.

***Information Gathering:*** We gather feedback and follow-up with participants to assess & re-evaluate how effective this program is. What will make it more effective?

***Authenticated Certification of Accomplishment:*** We will offer certification for the leadership training, that will come from our partner, ICA Nepal, from the Global ICA institution.

**Works Cited**

Include any bibliographic information to support the research or scientific evidence you referenced in the Background and Relevance section.

Scale gaps info & trickle down link: <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>

UN Women RFP for Leadership in Government (from Save the Children)

# Budget

Please list the amounts and types of support already received for this project

from individuals or institutions other than the National Geographic Society.

• Funding Source

• Description

• Amount - US$

**\*Note:** ***For the budget*** *we can add a bit more in the food & lodging (and use the extra for salaries) as they only allow 20% for salaries. Meals let's plan at $12/ meal we can usually eat a meal for around $3 in Nepal, sometimes less, sometimes more. Either way you can generally eat under $10/ day!*

***Lodging + Food*** *- Please ensure that per diems for lodging and food are comparable for the visiting team and local collaborators. Lodging should cover the cost of adequate, suitable, and moderately priced housing in the respective country. Food should cover the cost of up to three adequate meals per day.*

*$12/ meal / day = $36/ day x (days) =*

*20% for salaries*

*What’s nice is they also include Institutional Overhead - Can constitute up to 15% for grants over $50,000. Plus travel!!*

*Measurement and Evaluation - Can constitute up to 10% of total project budget.*

*Airfare - Please provide the source by which airfare pricing was determined and clearly identify the individuals (by name and project role) for whom airfare is being sought. (Katrina will handle this)*

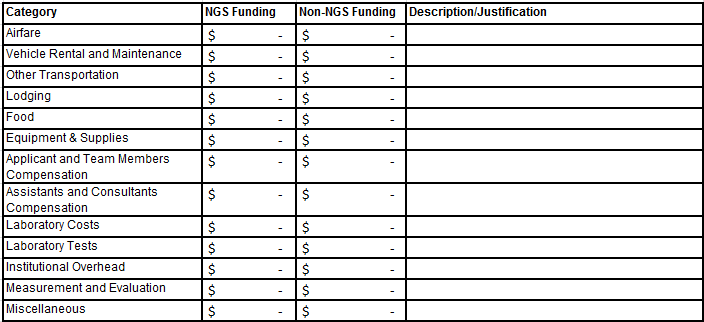
*$1500 round trip tickets (from USA to Kathmandu) 1 trip each or 2 trips each? Maybe best for 2 trips each, one in Oct 2018, one in April 2019 for before and after video footage. (2 trips each = $6,000 USD)*

*$250 jeep ride + homestay each trip to the village (4 trips, plus extra if we stay more than 1 day each time) $1,500 budget for this?*

## Budget for National Geographic

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Communications Program Budget Items** | **USD** | **Budget Breakdown Detail (in USD)** | **Description Detail / Notes** | **Category** | **URL** |
| Camera for three dimensional virtual reality footage. | $1395 | Camera $1195  Accessories $200. | Vuze Vuze 4k 3d Spherical VR Camera | Equipment | https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1382310-REG/vuze\_vuze\_4k\_3d\_360.html |
| Virtual Reality headsets | $1464 | Each of the 3 headsets is $488. | Samsung Hmd Odyssey Windows Mixed Reality Headset. To be used for Innovation Labs demonstrations and content creation. | Equipment | https://www.amazon.com/Samsung-Odyssey-Wireless-Controllers-XE800ZAA-HC1US/dp/B078K2S122/ref=sr\_1\_1 |
| Multimedia laptops | $2787 | Each laptop costs $929 dollars. | Dell Inspiron 15.6" Full HD VR Ready. To be used for virtual reality demonstrations, content creation and administrative purposes | Equipment | https://www.amazon.com/Dell-Inspiron-Quad-Core-i5-7300HQ-Bluetooth/dp/B077ZFHKKJ/ref=sr\_1\_4 |
| Adobe Suite software for content creation. | $240 | $20 a month discounted subscriptions for a year. | Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Premier and After Effects | Software |  |
| Communications Platform Content | $19’200 | Workload breakdown:   * 1. 10 content deliverables per quarter plus two live feeds a year. 10 hours a week.   2. 4 hours a week of social media posting and responding.   3. 2 hours a week of website updates.   (Total 16 hours a week at 25$ an hour. $1600 a month.) | These deliverables will be in various formats such as VR experiences, video interviews and vignettes, articles and informational resources. | Content |  |
| Travel to country (airfair) | 4200 | 3 x’s 1400 round trip each |  |  |  |
| Travel in country (jeep) | 1500 | *$250 jeep ride + homestay each trip to the village (4 trips, plus extra if we stay more than 1 day each time)* |  |  |  |
| Leadership Facilitation |  |  |  |  |  |
| Web Platform Development | $2000 | 80 hours of coding to develop education platform and the online store for the handcrafted goods. | Education platform with tools for leadership training and administrators and online store for selling goods. | Personel |  |
| **Total for 12 months.** |  |  |  |  |  |

*Equipment + Supplies - Non-expendable equipment requests over $1,000USD should be identified. Please explain how the equipment is integral to the proposed project and not available through other sources of funding.*



# Team Members

• First Name Katrina

• Last Name Zavalney

• E-mail Address KatrinaZavalney@gmail.com

• Citizenship American

• First Name Carlos

• Last Name Munoz Kampff

• E-mail Address elmunoz42@gmail.com

• Citizenship Brazilian (USA Green Card Resident)

• Local Collaborator?

ICA Nepal

The Relief Trust

• Co-Primary Investigator?

Not sure what this means… thus not sure who it is :)

• Team Member project role and skills relevant for carrying out the project.

Listed in Bio’s Section

• Current Institution

Tatwa’s college- Patan Campus

• Highest Degree Awarded

Masters Degree, Partners have PhD’s

• If you or your team members have received previous funding from National Geographic and it has resulted in publications or products please list these projects with the related grants before submitting your application.

Asking Sophie… the rest of us - no

• Please list up to five Applicant and Team Member publications or products relevant to this proposed project.

Bio Section - Sophie’s work mainly

• Please describe any Applicant or Team Member special qualifications, publications, certifications, products, or credentials relevant to this project.

In Bio section

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Old Descriptions: (keepings here)

### Old - Not needed…

### Exploring what leadership is and means to create change in a developing country - starting with the village

**We want to tell the story of villagers who are struggling in daily life, and capture the changes as we bring leadership training and critical thinking skills to them. We want to give villagers a voice and raise awareness about their needs, culture, and offerings to their region and communities beyond, and skills on how to create that change. The village life is a unique story, especially in the remote mountains in Nepal, the foothills of the Himalaya’s affected by the destructive 2015 earthquake.**

**Our goal is to raise the visibility for the villagers in such a way that it will further cultural understanding, attract potential partnerships, funding and beneficial livelihood opportunities. Through Innovation labs and events in the USA and Internationally we will set up virtual reality experiences that simulate real village life to create empathy and understanding for this lifestyle. We will act as a pollinator creating a web of relationships to help bridge to understanding different life styles, being resourceful with what one has and what leadership looks like in different situations.**

**This leadership training will involve understanding community governance, communication skills, decision making and emotional intelligence. Our communications platform will nurture an ecosystem of meaningful relationships between our stakeholders, supporters and network of leaders to support the rise of a more connected, compassionate, and culturally diverse world. Looking at what kind of leadership is needed to lead the way.**

-- 247 words (including title)

### Edited version 250 words

### Sharing The Stories & Offerings Of The Digam Villagers:

**Digam village is a rural community in the Himalayan foothills. There, life had been rooted in the rhythms and joys of nature. Recently, though, they are seeing their youth leave for work in faraway gulf countries and have been set back by the 2015 earthquakes which destroyed their homes and school, without any meaningful disaster relief. The Digam villagers have been overlooked by the government, nonprofits, and international organization. They fell through these so-called “Scale Gaps”, and now their way of life and culture is at considerable risk.**

**We want to tell their story to give them a voice and raise awareness about their needs, culture, and offerings to their region and communities beyond. Theirs is a uniquely human story. Our goal is to raise the visibility for the villagers in such a way that it will further cultural understanding, attract potential partnerships, funding and beneficial livelihood opportunities. We will act as a pollinator creating a web of relationships to help bridge resources needed in these communities.**

**Leadership training that involves understanding community governance, communication skills, decision making and emotional intelligence will be taught so the villagers can manage themselves and effectively communicate their needs to governments and larger International organizations (INGOs) so more resources can be identified to address the needs of their people.**

-- 250 words exactly

By forming relationships, identifying assets and needs we can help bridge some of these gaps by being both agile and responsive. To name some examples of this approach: we’ve connected the villages with support from the Institute for Cultural Affairs in Nepal (ICA Nepal) so these villages can have assistance in rebuilding their livelihoods and community center, which was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. We have connected the villagers to teacher trainings so that they can learn to teach their own primary education and functional adult literacy in the village once more. We bolster individual’s livelihoods by connecting the villagers with agriculture training and regional markets.

**As an example - The people of the remote village in Nepal, Digam Village, have a long history of trauma, and are primarily dependent on traditional agriculture which barely supports them 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?**

**Through our work we will document the process of supporting this community, and others on how to have right livelihood from agriculture trainings, functional literacy education, financial health and education and more.**

**Nat Geo Grant Info & Draft - Democratizing science**

Grant info:<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/grants/grant-opportunities/democratizing-science/>

**Background and Relevance**

Introduce your project, including the gap in knowledge you want to address. Tell us why the topic is important to your field and/or to science more broadly. Review previous work done on this topic, citing relevant literature, and present the theoretical framework for your project (include citations in the Bibliography/Works Cited section below).

“While in advanced economies emerging technology use cases aim for reformative or incremental change, their application can be truly disruptive in Africa [and other similarly developed nations] where leapfrogging is possible in the absence of legacy systems.”

<https://www.tekedia.com/case-studies-of-the-leapfrogging-disruptive-impacts-of-emerging-technologies-in-africa/>

This grant application concerns a program within the larger Aranya Solutions project in Digam village.

The project in Digam village was initialized because of the village’s dire need for disaster relief stemming from the 2015 earthquake. The village community and it’s structures, like so many other communities’ in Nepal, were deeply affected by the earthquake. Unfortunately, due to Digam village’s distance to larger urban centers and local relief organizations it was left to fend for itself. This has resulted in dire ramifications for the cultural and economic resilience of the village: their school was destroyed derailing the education of the village kids for 3 years already, additionally, many of the working age youth is leaving the village to find work in gulf countries in hope to send back remittances. These among other factors are putting the existence and future of Digam Village in grave danger. Aranya Solutions assembled partnerships with The Relief Trust, ICA Nepal, The Rotary club and others to help rebuild the village school and give it the resources it needs to maintain and adapt it’s way of life to a fast changing world. This project is already underway.

While most aspects of the support we are providing to Digam village is based on simple resources, hygiene training, education support, and building assistance, we want to evaluate whether the use of so called “leapfrogging technologies” - advanced technologies that allow for sustainable off the grid benefits - could bolster their livelihoods and thus protect their culture from being dismantled by unavoidable economic pressures. The village will thus serve as a case study for “leapfrogging technologies” as a way to achieve cultural resilience for rural villages.

But we actually will go beyond just a passive case study: we will host Innovation Labs in the United States and other countries with the purpose of identifying, promoting, implementing and even develop prototypes of such leapfrogging technologies. Realities and difficulties on the ground in Digam village will directly inform and be addressed by think tanks at Innovation Lab events. This practice will dramatically shorten the iteration life cycle and create a responsive feedback loop. Technology experts will be able to adjust the solutions such as to overcome any hurdles, additionally the villager’s usage and innovations can be shared in real time as well to inspire fine tuned solutions that could work in other similar situations.

The Innovation Labs will give visibility to the overall project and to sustainable development in general. This will help the project be more sustainable and will attract the talent and resources necessary to do our work in a more impactful scale in the future.

Counter argument: https://www.economist.com/node/10650775

**Goals and Objectives**

What do you plan to accomplish with this project? Present your research question(s) and, if relevant, what hypotheses you will test to answer these questions.

Focus utilized : Develop new or utilize existing citizen science technologies such as mobile or web-based applications that promote the collection of data relevant to understanding human variation; for example, data on the current status of or trends in cultural, linguistic, and genetic diversity of the human species

Hypotheses: By implementing a specific stack of emerging technologies - solar panels, DIY wind turbines, satellite dish receptors, mobile phones and online market place activity - remote areas at risk of culture shattering workforce migration, like Digam Village, can retain it’s young workers and thus be more culturally resilient, while also bypassing (leapfrogging) technologies that are less efficient, require expensive logistical grid systems, and are more harmful to the environment. The study will record information on the successes and challenges in the adoption of this emerging technology stack, and then would evaluate how the cultural resilience of the village is impacted through the different stages of implementation. Moreover, Innovation Labs think tank groups will work to responsively taylor the technology solutions to our stakeholders needs, these interactions will enable further innovation and creative implementation strategies.

1. Challenging Our Concepts of Scale by Jaya Sarkar, <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> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Digam Village is located in Talakhau Rural Municipality of Nuwakot district of Nepal. The Nuwakot district is one of the most affected districts by the massive earthquake of 2015. This village is in the foothills of the Himalayas, 25000 meters high in the mountains, 65 km from northeast of the Kathmandu, which is at least 7 hours trek from the village. The nearest town to the Digam Village is Chipling. This village is the site of Aranya Solutions first collaboration project. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)