



TRAS Annual Projects Report for the year April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Things returned partially to a more normal rhythm during the 2021/2022 year for our TRAS partners in India and Nepal. We were able to close the Voice of Children and Snow Lion emergency projects coping with Covid-19 and funded just one new one for the Tibetan Department of Health in India at the start of the fiscal year to buy lifesaving oxygen concentrators for overwhelmed Tibetan clinics and hospitals. Our stalwart donors immediately sent in over \$5,000 towards the \$10,000 commitment, with our general fund making up the difference. TRAS sent the final payment of \$7,000 to the Snow Lion Foundation for PPE and medical supplies.

Our education projects with Munsel-ling School and the Voice of Children team all returned to full strength and the final 9 students in the READI Nepal project in Humla were in their final year of high school and doing well.

A flurry of 5 new requests at the beginning of the year and 5 more at the end resulted in 10 new projects being approved and we were set for a successful year. However, another problem intervened. The Indian government's policy of FCRA certification for local charities wishing to receive funding from abroad had its 5th anniversary - and with that every charity had to apply for renewal of their certificates in early 2022. The backlog created is enormous and ongoing, so we have not been able to send funds to some of our partners old and new. And in Nepal a new ruling stipulates that no charity may receive more than \$5,000 at a time, resulting in stopped payments and the rearranging of our payment schedules. All rather frustrating after our donors have come through with the funds and yet we can't send them.

Some details:

#293 CTA Nurses Training - providing scholarships to 8 students. We were still waiting for news of the selections committee being able to meet by the end of the TRAS fiscal year - things had been slowed down by the pandemic. We were expecting three students to graduate, with three new ones being selected. It seemed that the current students were mostly back at their nurses training institutes and we looked forward to hearing more soon. \$5,867.50

#297 Voice of Children Education Projects, run by AMAN and Vimarsh were back on track helping well over 300 children with education centres, tuition centres, computer classes, teenage girls monthly meetings, women's monthly meetings, outreach events and trainings in human rights and government programs. An innovative training finally got off the ground for young women to learn to ride 'scooties' - those nippy little scooters, a great boon for getting to work or volunteering with VOC! \$33,988. (That's just over \$100 per child)

#300 READI Nepal requested \$15,300 from TRAS this year, as the final students would be at the hostel and their high school until the year end. The future is exciting with the near-

completion of READI's own school (paid for by the Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu and with a donation of land) and we await further developments.

#328 IDEA Midwifery Training came to a grinding halt during the Covid-19 pandemic and then came the startling news that the Ministry of Health had closed down all training centres that did not have their own 100 bed hospital. This put paid to 25 years of a very successful 18-month midwifery course (with students doing their practicums in Pokhara hospitals), which trained 1,000 midwives now working in the country. Things were in limbo for the rest of the year.

#329, 332 and 341 Munsel-ling School in Spiti, north India, home to 500 + students, usually sends TRAS new project proposals each year, and in recent years TRAS has built a health centre, training nurses for it, a science lab, a library, greenhouses, water systems, and a laundry complex. The past two years saw approval for a flush toilet block and 68 rocket stoves to heat the buildings in a much healthier way and at the end of this year a solar wall against the junior girls' dormitory. All three went ahead in spite of the restrictions in travel and delivery of materials because of Covid -19, and finally in this year TRAS received reports that the toilet building is completed and the stoves are all installed. TRAS sent the final payments in 2021 of \$3,970 for the toilet building and \$8,238 for the stoves. The solar wall was started but the funds to be sent in March 2022 were waiting in Vancouver, held up by the need to renew their FCRA certification. \$16,760

#333, 334, 336, 337 and 339 The Ray Yee Fund Projects: in our last annual report we announced the sad passing of ardent Tibetan supporter Ray Yee, who did so much to facilitate the arrival of hundreds of Tibetans to BC over the past few years. We said that the family and friends of Ray wished TRAS to handle the donations sent in his memory, amounting to \$40,000. Over the year TRAS approved a series of projects to help the Tibetan children and youth in Arunachal Pradesh - those who were not selected to move to Canada. These projects provided Tibetan musical instruments for one school, sports equipment (including lots of soccer equipment for Ray's favourite sport) for 12 high schools further south in India to which the AP students are sent, repairs to a staff room and the senior classrooms at one school, a new water treatment plant and new toilets for one school, furnishings for a science lab and a library and a supplementary diet over the winter months for the students of two remote schools (a piece of chicken or one egg a week and extra veggies and fresh fruit made a huge difference health wise and allowed the children to concentrate better in school) \$40,000 in all (luckily the Sambotha Tibetan Schools Society got its FCRA approval early in the year).

#338 Dekyiling Handicraft Centre: this centre trains carpet weavers, tailors and incense stick makers and has been supported in many ways by TRAS since its opening in the early 1980s for the Tibetans who had to leave Bhutan. TRAS continues to provide sponsorships and scholarships to needy students, and we received a plea for help to purchase two new computers for the office to deal with the administrative work of the handicraft centre and the needs of the children. This would clearly help them produce the reports and details TRAS requires every six months, so the purchase was approved. \$1,625.66

The next 4 projects were approved just before the end of the fiscal year:

#340 Voice of Children Remote Libraries: A decade ago TRAS was able to fund the opening of village libraries in several remote mountain villages and stock them with shelves, a table and chair for the volunteer local librarian and a large selection of books. These little rooms, in volunteers' houses, became popular meeting places not only for children but for their parents and local teachers (when there were teachers) and have been very successful in encouraging literacy. TRAS received a request to open 10 more libraries in further away villages and to replace the worn out matting and to add new books to the existing 12 libraries. Thanks to a generous grant from the Yosef Wosk Family Foundation all of this will be achieved in the 2022/2023 year. \$8,922

#342 and 343 Manjushri Library and Tibetan Alphabet blocks: the Manjushri Education project was created by former staff of the Tibetan Department of Education who could see a need for a children's library in Dharamsala to cater to the 2000+ Himalayan children in the Dharamsala area. They wanted a place which would appeal to children and would enhance their reading habits. They started the library in 2020 and appealed to TRAS for 900 books (400 in Tibetan and 500 in English) and for help creating sets of Tibetan alphabet blocks (to be distributed to all Tibetan primary schools and nurseries in SE Asia and the Tibetan Diaspora and available at cost to parents). Again thanks to a Yosef Wosk Family Foundation grant these needs should be met in the coming year. \$9,500

#344 Kunphen Dawa Rehabilitation Centre: TRAS had just approved the Centre's request to fund 4 information workshops to help young people avoid the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction when Covid-19 struck. The workshops were postponed but should be scheduled for later in 2022. They will be aimed at older students, principals and teachers of educational institutes, and the families of youngsters. Addiction sadly has become a real problem particularly in the Dharamsala region. \$5,000.

So although some of it had not yet been sent, the committed funds for projects in the fiscal year 2021/2022 were \$128,087.79.

We thank, as always, our generous donors who responded so readily to the emergency needs and who keep supporting the longer term aims of education and health for the children of the Himalaya.

My personal thanks to directors Megha Shakya (Nepal projects), Sanjeev Singh (Voice of Children projects), Videsh Kapoor (Munsel-ling projects), Raheesa Jina (Snow Lion Foundation) and to Kate McInnes for writing up the projects for the website and newsletter. And a big thank you to Joanne MacLeod at the office for all her help.

Respectfully submitted,

TRAS Projects Director,

Daphne Hales

September 12, 2022.