



Fondazione Lama Gangchen

Help in Action Onlus

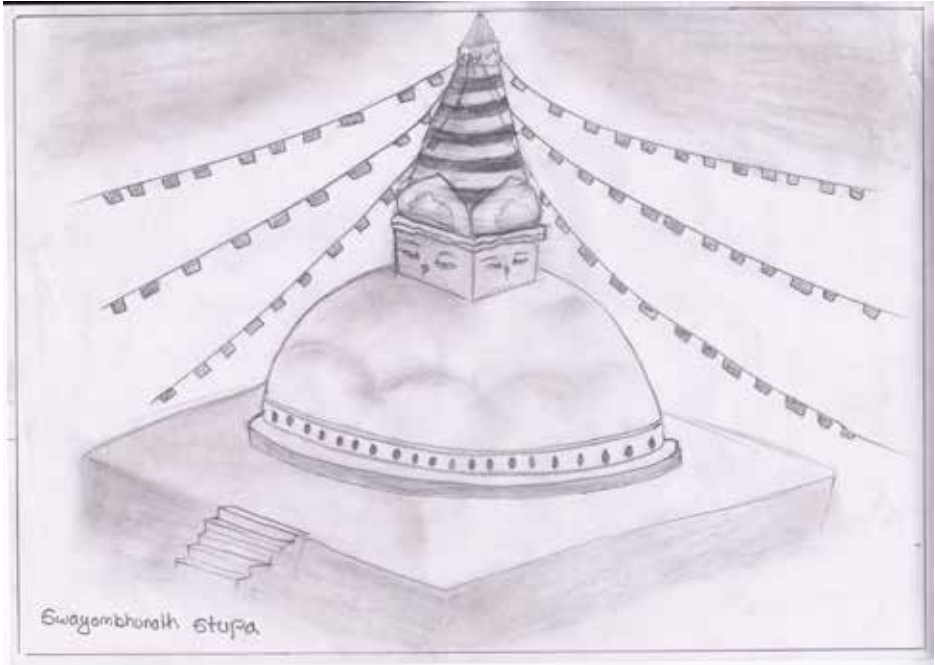


MONASTERY PROJECT 2020-21

MONASTIC EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS

**- helping children in need -
Kathmandu, Nepal**



Buddhism in Nepal has significant historical importance, as it was in present day Lumbini (in the south of the country) that Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha of the Shakya lineage, was born in about 623 BC. Monasteries in Nepal are still today very much the heart of their communities and continue to provide important spiritual, cultural and social functions.

Nyanang Phelgyeling Monastery was founded in Tibet in 1689 by the 5th Dalai Lama, near one of Milarepa's hermitages. In 1959 a group of monks reached Nepal, bringing with them ancient and venerated sacred objects. In 1970 the Monastery was rebuilt in Nepal near Swayambunath Stupa, one of the most important sacred sites of Kathmandu.

Sed Gyued Monastery was founded in Tibet, in 1432, by a disciple of Lama Tsongkhapa upon his request. It was destroyed in 1959 and rebuilt in 1986 on the outskirts of Kathmandu, near the famous Boudanath Stupa.

Both monasteries are open to visitors and the surrounding communities and strive to preserve their centuries old lineage and traditions.

MONASTERY PROJECT 2020-21

CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW BUILDINGS

These two monasteries have always offered a safe haven to young boys from their local communities: a place to be educated, cared for and to have their basic needs for food and shelter met. Following the devastating 2015 earthquake the number of children requesting admission to these monasteries has greatly increased. Many of them come from remote villages and have been taken in because they have lost one or both parents or have families, who after losing everything, are now unable to care for them.

These children follow, as well as monastic studies, the state curriculum. If, in the future, they choose to leave the monastery they will have received an education that allows them to fully enter life outside of the monastery.



The aim of this much needed project is to help these monasteries overcome their current logistical and housing difficulties for the small monks and their education. This will allow them to continue to offer the best instruction possible - based on Buddhist principles and at the same time in line with the curriculum of the Nepalese Government. This is for both the small monks already living in the monasteries as well as for those who will be welcomed in the future.

To do this it is necessary to provide solid and safe structures to replace those damaged by the earthquake, providing new classrooms, bedrooms, toilets and showers for the young monks.



Sed Gyued Monastery

The economic situation of the monastery is based on the donations they receive and is therefore constantly in emergency; nevertheless, the monks try not to reject requests for help.

Presently there are 78 monks including 67 children, 53 of whom have arrived in



the past 3 years. These young monks are now housed in dormitories. Requests for admission are constantly increasing.

Aware of the great responsibility it has towards the future of the children it cares for, in April 2019 the Monastery obtained registration with the Nepalese Government as a non-profit school.

The monastery presently has five teachers for the subjects of Nepalese, English, Mathematics, Social Studies and

Science. They would like to include the study of computers, physical education and Tibetan Trulkor Yoga.

In addition to these subjects, the young monks also learn Tibetan language and the fundamentals of Tibetan Buddhism's spirituality and art: the prayers, the memorisation of texts, the drawing



of simple elements of sacred art (for example the 8 Auspicious Signs); from the fourth class they study Buddhist philosophy, how to make and carry out ceremonial offerings, the drawing of mandalas for which the Monastery is well known.

At the moment there are only three classrooms, other classes study in the dining hall and library. There is no room for the 4th class starting this year or for the following classes to come.





SED GYUED PROJECT:

3 floors with rooms and classrooms for young monks

The first phase of this project involves the laying of the foundations and the ground floor (about 155 square metres): an anti-seismic structure in reinforced concrete creating 5 classrooms, a staff room, three bathrooms, a corridor and porch.

The second phase is the construction of two more floors (about 310 square metres) for more classrooms and bedrooms for the small monks.



Nyanang Phelgyeling Monastery

Phelgyeling has also welcomed many children following the earthquake and continues to receive many requests for help from families and villages. Presently there are 56 monks, including 41 children (11 who arrived in the last year).

Like Sed Gyued, the monastery has started the process of obtaining registration with the Government as a non-profit school. At the moment, the young monks are studying Tibetan, Nepalese and English. After the school is registered, the other subjects of the Government curriculum will be added. Their education now includes memorising sacred texts, studying the



fundamental principles of Buddhism, preparing ritual objects, performing pujas (sacred ceremonies) and traditional sacred Cham dances.

The elderly abbot has a profound knowledge of Tibetan astrology and spiritual healing and transmits this precious lineage of teachings.

Unfortunately, the main building, built 50 years ago, suffered damage in the 2015 earthquake: the walls and ceilings are crisscrossed by deep cracks that are opening wider over the months. It rains into the classrooms and in the monks' rooms making them unusable. The small kitchen is also very old and unhygienic, and the dining hall is too small and in poor condition.

For all these reasons, the monastery has in recent times very reluctantly had to reject new requests for help and admission for small monks.



NYANANG PHELGYELING PROJECT: 4 floors with rooms and classrooms for young monks

The first phase of the anti-seismic structure in reinforced concrete is the laying of the foundations and construction of the first two floors (approx. 200 square metres): the ground floor will have a kitchen, dining hall and storage room, stairs to the upper floors and open porch; the first floor will have 4 bedrooms for the small monks, toilets, showers and open porch.

The second phase is the construction of a further two floors (approx. 200 square metres) creating classrooms and more rooms for the small monks.



**DONATE TO THE MONASTERY PROJECT
TO ENSURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THESE
YOUNG MONKS TO LIVE AND STUDY IN:**

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