

# EVEREST-CARÈNE-USTINOV school in Nele, Nepal

Project Status March 2017



*11 classrooms built with traditional, reinforced construction techniques*



# Status report March 2017

## 1. What happened since our last visit in december 2016?

- During the last three months the workers built the foundations, the walls including cornerstones, throughstones, windows, doors and ringbeams. The structures of the 11 rooms are approximately 60% completed.
- Mobilized by the head of construction committee, ward chief Chuda Basnet, and under the technical supervision of builder Purna Basnet the community workers did a great job.
- 32 skilled community workers worked 833 days (maconry, carpentry)
- 150 unskilled community workers worked 711 days (digging, carrying, helping)
- Loads of stones and wood with a total value of sFr. 15'000.- were transported, carried and prepared for the construction works



## 2. The construction process

During our housing project, Dundi a farmer from Nele, visited all houses under construction almost every day. We gave him a small camera and he documented the progress with photos. We asked him to do the same with our school project.

Pictures say more than words :



*Digging the foundation trenches was done by community members; women carry the dirt away.*



*Foundations are done with big stones; all masonry work is done by hand*





*Corner stones and through stones are prepared and built properly for earthquake reinforcement*



*All carpentry work (door and window frames, ringbeams etc.) are done by hand. Paul explains details about the wooden earthquake reinforcements; they want to know*



*School children want to help to clean up*



*Community workers preparing and transporting stones and mud; they are happy to earn some money; sFr. 10.- per day*



### 3. Project Visit February March 2017

- When we arrived the weather was foggy and cold; around 30 community workers were in the process of completing the masonry work and preparing wood beams
- We were impressed and happy with the quality and with the construction progress



- As already in december we paid all the workers ourselves. Most of them are beneficiaries of our housing project. They receive sFr. 10.- for unskilled and sFr. 12.- for skilled labor. The committee chief and the technical supervisor receive sFr. 15.-/day. Payday is a big thing for the people of Nele, we actually paid 1544 day salaries.





*Nepali construction management team ☺*

*Purna Basnet, macon/carpenter*

*Paul Metzener*

*Chuda Basnet, ward chief*

*Martin Stähli, visitor*

*Lok Thapa*



Purna is sharpening his hand tools



Dundi prepared meals for the workers twice during the 3 months; total cost for 2 x 45 meals = sFr. 117.65

#### 4. Next project steps

- During the coming two months the builders will complete the masonry work, the roof and they will start with the concrete floors and the veranda. After that drainage, windows and doors will be installed.
- The plastering will take some time as all the mud must be carried by community workers for several hours. The color of the lower part will be in natural red-orange, the upper part and the internal walls will be plastered white
- We decided that a small house for the head teacher will be built within the compound; he actually lives with his family in a very poor shelter.
- By around mid May the main works should be completed. The wood ceilings and the wood paneling inside can also be finished during the monsoon in June-July.
- The question of window shutters and furniture will be discussed during our next visit, which is foreseen in May 2017. The carpenter will prepare samples.
- An inauguration event will be planned for around mid May 2017. If the donors wish to attend the inauguration event it could also be planned for October-November 2017 when everything is complete.

#### 5. Finance

• Donation in October 2016 from Carène Foundation	sFr.	25'000.-
• Donation March 2017 from Carène Foundation	sFr.	10'000.-
• Donation March 2017 from Ustinov Stiftung	sFr.	10'536.-
Total Donations as per end of March 2017	sFr.	45'536.-
• Payments for new school up to End of March 2017 (rounded)	sFr.	52'000.-
• Advance paid to school committee for works after march 16th	sFr.	16'000.-
<b>Total Payments per end of March 2017</b>	<b>sFr.</b>	<b>68'000.-</b>

*Cashbook and receipts for all payments are available from Paul.*

#### 6. Cost Forecast:

As mentioned in the previous report in december 2016 the originally estimated sFr. 70'000.- will not be enough for the entire project. For reasons of earthquake resistance we had to separate the buildings, always two classrooms are one separate building. Additional funds will be needed for a new teachers house, for glass windows; for drainage of rain water in monsoon; for wooden wall panels inside; for furniture and materials; etc...

Carène already granted an additional amount of sFr. 30'000.-. Any unforeseen/additional cost will be covered by our «Verein Unterstützung für Nepal». Several private donors have already promised to help out, should we need money to complete and support the school.

In agreement with Mrs Woldai from «Ustinov Stiftung» they want to support the school on a long term basis; an additional proposal will be made after construction.

#### 7. Housing project

For information: 246 (originally planned were 224) houses are already completed. We can say, Nele is almost back to normal. Our beneficiaries are now experienced in the traditional earthquake resistant construction technique. After the great effort to build their own house, they now have the time and are available for some work at our school, they are in need of money to settle their debts. This is a win-win situation.





*Here we see around 100 of the 220 children that will go to school at the new «Everest Carène-Ustinov School Nele, Solu Khumbu»*

For the report:

Brütten, 05.04.2017