

RESPONSE



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Health AND HAPPINESS

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 **AsianAID**
Give Hope TODAY

Resilience is a child's superpower



DEAR SUPPORTERS

As we reflect on our learnings and look towards the future of Asian Aid, we are excited about some additional opportunities we can provide to empower more vulnerable children in the years to come.

Our focus is always on the children and how we can create ways not just to educate them but assist them to flourish in faith. Our holistic approach reaches beyond education to helping families and communities improve their health, happiness and financial prospects with more options to grow.

That is why we are pleased to announce the re-commencement of our Women's Health Project in Nepal in the later part of last year. Our health team provides general health support, cervical cancer screening, prolapse assessments and corrective surgeries. With your support, the mums whom we have been able to help will now be able to pick up their children with a grin not a grimace. A healthy mum helps create a happy child.

We are also launching an additional water program at a new location which covers another of our Adventist schools. We have expanded our community project that surrounds three of our sponsored children's schools in Bangladesh. These programs will provide opportunities for parents to increase their household income through micro business opportunities, improving health through growing vegetables, learning better farming techniques and having access to fresh water for drinking and irrigation. This year we will also focus on resilience because resilient children can recover from setbacks and get back to living life. Resilience develops when children experience challenges and learn to deal with them positively. We would like to take this time to build on the resilience of

the vulnerable children we support. Moving forward, Asian Aid will continue to grow with your support which will allow us to create an enduring faith-based legacy that will Give Hope Today, tomorrow and into the future. We continue to keep eyes on the children and now they are back at school, we are monitoring for any gaps where assistance may be needed to help them to catch up. I am sure you will join me in welcoming the children back in 2022 and trust that you will continue to pray for each one of them.

Paul Esau, CEO



ANSWERING WOMEN'S SILENT CRIES IN REMOTE NEPAL

Asian Aid and our Partner COSAN have been working together since 1982, and one of our most successful programs has been Women's Health in Nepal.

Several years ago, the Nepali government recognised the crisis of women's health in remote Nepal. As part of that initiative they made Prolapse correction surgery free of charge. As a result, we moved our focus and resources from practical medical intervention towards reproductive education. Our aim has been to create a proactive approach to women's health and we have had some real success. However, after travelling to some of the very remote areas in Nepal in 2019 and after visiting Scheer Memorial Hospital, it became evident to us that women in remote areas still find it difficult to access medical care and reactive surgical intervention was still urgently required. In response and in early 2020, pre-COVID-19, we announced that we were rebooting our Women's Health Program and expanding it to include cervical cancer screening. Our partnership with COSAN and the Scheer Memorial Hospital is growing. It will be doing more and going more remote.

"With uterine prolapse, if you look at a woman, you won't even know that she has uterine prolapse because she would be carrying out all her daily activities, she would be going to work but then her

quality of life, she herself, would know how much she is suffering," says Dr. Angela Basnet.

Dr. Angela Basnet who will be again overseeing our upcoming project partnering with COSAN and Scheer Hospital says that cervical cancer is a growing issue in Nepal where the death rates for cervical cancer are some of the highest in the world.

Uterine prolapse occurs when the pelvic muscles are not strong enough to hold the uterus in place and it slips down. While easily surgically corrected, this causes women significant pain and shame. Due to social and cultural attitudes and the lack of education, women do not discuss the issue and live with it for years or even decades.

Dr. Angela noted that if it is known that a woman has uterine prolapse, she is often left out of community events and gatherings which causes isolation. "Most of the time, their husbands leave them because of myths about uterine prolapse such as it has occurred because of what she did in her past life," she explained.

The best advocates for these projects are the women themselves who are able to walk away without the constant pain. They share their experience with other women who are then encouraged to also come and get seen at the health camp. Nepal has a strongly patriarchal society and Dr. Angela explained, as a result, these types of issues are considered

taboo and are overlooked. "Women's health is very much neglected with only life-threatening conditions addressed," she said.

The lack of education around women's health means that cervical cancer is often ignored until serious symptoms occur.

Issues surrounding cervical

cancer and treatment can be solved through early detection.

"Most of the women present very late when the cancer has spread or there are features of complications. That is when they seek medical help. Our aim is to catch the disease early so women will have a better quality and longer life," Dr. Angela said.

“WOMEN'S HEALTH IS VERY MUCH NEGLECTED WITH ONLY LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS ADDRESSED.”



FIRST MEDICAL TEAM VISITS REMOTE NEPALI VILLAGES

The medical team from Scheer travelled seven hours from Kathmandu to examine and treat patients, especially women who otherwise have very limited access to medical care.

The camps were held at government schools where our staff converted desks into examination tables and used sheets to provide privacy for examination and procedures. Women were screened for cervical cancer. Gynaecology specialists provided examinations, counselling and prescription of medicine for female related issues.



One of the things we have been investing in to improve women's health is enabling access to basic reproductive services, especially for women and girls in rural areas. As a measure of our success, we can report that in one quarter in the districts we work in

239 WOMEN ATTENDED ALL FOUR ANTE-NATAL VISITS

359 WOMEN DELIVERED THEIR CHILD IN A BIRTHING CENTRE

386 HOUSEHOLDS STOPPED PRACTISING CHHAUPADI (MENSTRUAL ISOLATION)

- 620 Women were seen
- 500 Underwent cervical cancer screening
- 25 Tested positive for cancer
- 25 Underwent thermal coagulation
- 40 Diagnosed with uterovaginal prolapse
- 16 Ring pessary insertions
- 26 Referrals for hysterectomy
- 275 Pelvic inflammatory disease diagnoses





BACK TO BOARDING

Our partner staff in Nepal are taking every precaution to ensure health and hygiene is maintained.

All children's Boarding Houses are provided with sanitizers at the entrance. In addition there is soap at every tap and the children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly. The Boarding Houses are sanitised weekly.

Separate isolation rooms and quarantine areas have been arranged for those who show COVID-like symptoms who have returned from their homes.

The children's house parents wear PPE and temperatures are taken upon entry.



OXYGEN FOR INDIA

Supply of Oxygen Concentrators and Multipara Monitors to Adventist Hospitals in India.

Through one of our partners in India, we were able to equip several Adventist hospitals and medical centres with much-needed oxygen concentrators and multipara monitors. This advanced equipment is not usually available for marginalised groups. We have been able to catalyse progress in several economically disadvantaged communities. SDA Medical centres who treat those who cannot afford private hospitals can now offer better treatment that will save lives.



FROM SPONSORED CHILDREN TO LEADERS

There is something special about a story that comes full circle. Such is the case for Shohag Boidya, who went from receiving sponsorship as a child in Bangladesh, to now serving Asian Aid-sponsored Bangladeshi children.

Almost 40 years ago, an employee of Sonapur Adventist School and his wife welcomed their second child, Shohag, into the world. Unfortunately in 1987, Shohag's father was violently attacked by a robber and passed away. His widow and the young family returned home to South Bangladesh. Upon moving south, Asian Aid stepped in to provide sponsorship so that Shohag and his older brother could continue with their Adventist education. Throughout these early years Shohag grew not just in his body but in Spirit.

After graduating from high school, Shohag completed his bachelor degree in Education at Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College. Upon finishing college, he worked for the Bangladesh Union Mission whilst commencing his postgraduate studies. In 2008, Shohag married and became a proud father. Two years later he graduated with a Master's in Education. Having dreamt of working for Asian Aid, he began working for our Partner BCSS. He has used this role to grow the West Bangladesh Mission. Sponsorship enabled Shohag to realise his



talents and gave him the opportunity that so many do not have. "Without Asian Aid, my life would have been destroyed in my childhood," says Shohag. "I am grateful to BCSS; and all our Asian Aid sponsors for giving new life to the children of Bangladesh."

Our enduring legacy of flourishing in faith and future prospects continues with Shohag so join us in congratulating him as the new head of our Partner BCSS in Bangladesh. We are also celebrating the promotion of Pastor Milton who will now be serving as the President of East Bangladesh Mission.

There are no greater mentors than the ones who have walked the same path.

With India, Nepal, and Bangladesh still coping with COVID-19 lockdowns and recovery, we look forward to your continued support.



ADVENTIST EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

You can help us increase the quality of life of children that attend our Adventist schools by improving their school and families' circumstances. Your donations go to improving educational resources, establishing child clubs, raising child rights awareness, teacher training and livelihood training for parents so children and the wider community are benefitted.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

We are excited to see our children returning to schools, but in many instances additional support for both a child and their family may be required because they have been identified from our welfare checks as being at a higher risk of not returning to school post-COVID. You can help us to ensure that no child loses their chance of an education.



FAMILY FOOD FUND

Our Family Food Fund provided food security for families struggling to put food on the table during the pandemic. Moving forward, we are incorporating into our Programs tools to improve nutritional outcomes for children and their families. Your support of \$40 per month will help improve diets and create sustainable options for families across all our Programs.

SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

Our Special Needs Schools help children who may otherwise miss the opportunity to be educated receive the help they deserve and hope for their futures. You can help us provide life-changing programs for children to transition towards meaningful and independent living as adults with practical skills.



SPONSOR A CHILD

We currently have children under our care and because of the current situation impacting on all of us, **WE NOW HAVE AN ADDITIONAL 500 CHILDREN WHO NEED SUPPORT.** As the economic conditions worsen we expect this issue to increase. Here are just three examples of why these children need your help.



ASISH BUDHA
CD01358 - \$55

Nine-year-old Asish lives in Nepal with his family. His parents earn a daily wage working in the fields, and struggle to make ends meet. Asish is keen to go to school and become a police officer, but he needs a sponsor.



DIYA RANI BORMON
A20981 - \$55

Eight-year-old Diya Rani is a kind and helpful girl who loves maths and counting. She lives with her parents in a mud house with a tin sheet roof. Diya's father is a day labourer, and with one income her parents find it impossible to provide for Diya and her brother's education. With a sponsor, Diya can fulfil her dream of serving her community and supporting her parents financially by being a nurse.



NAGA CHAITANYA KURUGANTI
A19255 - \$55

Naga is 12 years old and is partially visually impaired. He has two brothers, one elder, one younger, and they like to help each other. Naga's father works as a driver, and his mother as a labourer, but with their low income they cannot afford to pay for Naga's education. A timely sponsorship now will mean that he is able to grow up to be independent, become an engineer and live a thriving life.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR (child's name) _____

Sponsorship at \$49 a month Sponsorship Plus* at \$55 a month

*Plus helps us run additional child-focused activities in vulnerable communities

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT (Please write project name below)

- A regular donation of _____ a month
 A one-off donation of _____
 A one-off donation of _____ to Women's Health

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

- CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
- FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
- CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
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Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

YOUR DETAILS



Name _____

DOB ____ / ____ / ____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____

(if already a supporter)



POST TO

PO BOX 333, Wauchope,
NSW 2446, Australia

If you do not wish to receive updates or promotional materials from Asian Aid please tick this box. This excludes our quarterly newsletters. Promotional materials will be sent by email unless otherwise requested.

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible

For more information, visit www.asianaid.org.au
call (+61) 02 6586 4250 or email contact@asianaid.org.au

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