

GAN Newsletter

Reaching New Heights Together

~ December 2009 ~



UK Registered Charity 1090773

Dear Supporter,

Season's greetings from Global Action Nepal! It's been a busy few months for the charity. We're working on some really exciting projects in Nepal at the moment, which are keeping country director BK Shrestha and his team busy. Please read on to find out the latest from our projects in Nepal, and how you can support GAN in the UK.

- Model Parliament Project

This month, GAN organised a 'model parliament' in Kathmandu, where 65 children took the place of Prime Minister and MPs to discuss their country's political situation and come up with solutions for better education and security. The project was designed to help children better understand their rights and the way the country is governed. It attracted widespread attention from the media and other charities in Nepal, and received very positive feedback from the children involved.



Above: photographs of delegates at the model parliament

Left: press coverage of the event

- Micro-credit Programme

The team in Nepal has witnessed first hand the effect GAN's micro-credit schemes are having in some of the country's poorest areas.

It is a sad fact of daily life that children are often taken out of school because they have to work to support parents and younger siblings.

By setting up seed funds and low-interest loans, GAN has enabled families to start businesses and make money, helping their children to learn for longer.



Cows are often a desirable purchase by those who are involved in GAN's microcredit programmes



Dancing is a popular pastime for Children's Clubs

- Children's clubs

In impoverished districts, GAN has established clubs led by school children to run activities not normally covered by the National Curriculum. Creating drama, running newsletters and similar activities inspires confidence, promotes attendance and helps learning – and because their peers run the clubs, children are keen to join and one club can impact an entire school.

In the Makwanpur district, GAN is working with the local community to improve school standards and attendance – the community itself has raised money for the project and is helping to implement it, ensuring the effect is long-lasting.

- Livelihoods Programme

In the summer, in partnership with World Vision Nepal, GAN began a 4-year programme to improve education in the district of Lalitpur. The programme focuses on activities such as teacher training and improving school infrastructures, combined with innovative activities such as engaging parents and students in the management of schools and providing extra-curricular activities. Through this work GAN aims to raise the standards of education for children in the district and build a bright foundation for their future.



A child-friendly classroom, providing better educational opportunities to primary level kids

Over the past six months, GAN has conducted training for 92 teachers. In addition, we have been running a ratings-busting radio programme to promote children's rights.

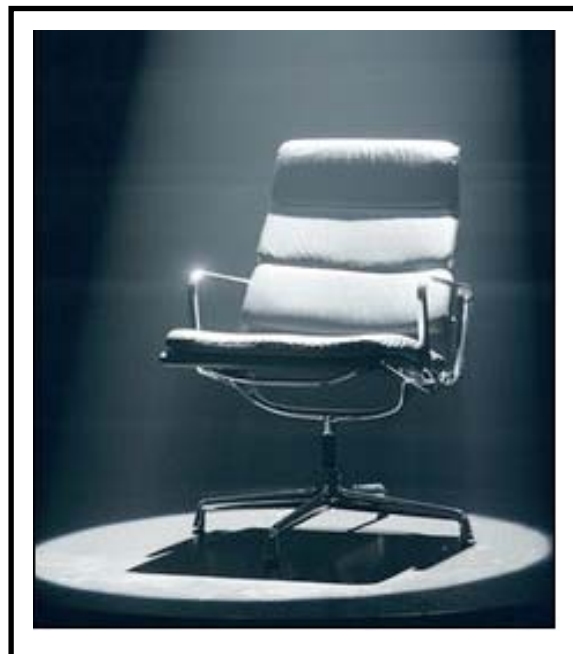
Next year, GAN will be looking to further develop the community relationship between education stakeholders, and to develop the skills of school governors and administrators.

- GAN in the UK

Our support network in the UK has continued to grow, and it is thanks to organisations such as the British Council and the Isle of Man Government that we have been able to carry out more charitable work in Nepal than ever before during the last few months.

Individual donations continue to make a huge difference. The team taking part in next year's London Marathon for GAN have signed up and dusted off their running shoes. This is one of our biggest fundraising events of the year, so spare a thought for those in training as the rest of us relax over the festive period!

Our chairman Chris Sowton took part in **Mastermind** and impressed the audience with his knowledge of the history of Lord's Cricket Club, and Hindu gods and goddesses. He was frustratingly pipped to the post during the semi-finals, but not before he'd raised over £3,000 for GAN. The first show will be broadcast on February 5th, so please tune in.



The infamous black chair

Over 160 school children in Nepal are now sponsored by people in the UK. The money they donate goes to buying books, uniform, stationery and other essential facets of school life for children who would otherwise have nothing. Please contact Jan at igcase16@hotmail.com for info.

- How can you help?

- We're a small charity with very low running costs in the UK, so the majority of the money donated goes straight to our work in Nepal. Please donate via our JustGiving site (www.justgiving.com/ganepal) – every penny really does count.
- If you feel like raising some money yourself, drop us a line and we can help get you set up.
- Child sponsorship is a great way to get involved – in return for £12 a month, you receive regular communications and school reports from your sponsored child in Nepal, and the knowledge that your money is changing a child's life.
- If you're keen to know more or get involved, please let us know! Contact globalactionnepal@googlemail.com or search for the Global Action Nepal group on Facebook for more information.

Finally, thank-you to all our supporters who have helped us this year. You've read about the difference your money makes, and without you, this work simply wouldn't happen.

Our very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a successful 2010.