

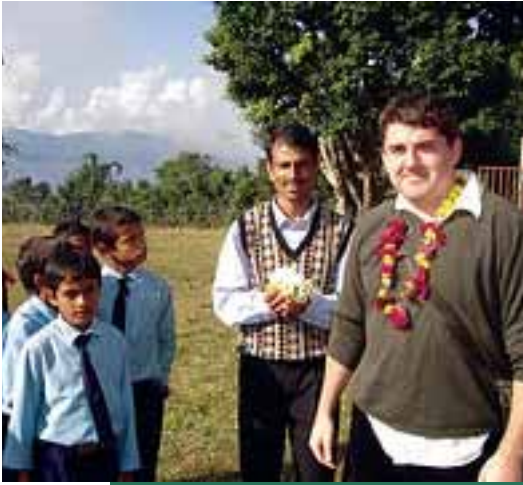


**GLOBAL ACTION NEPAL**



# **Annual Report 2008**

*Reaching new heights*



“ GAN...has empowered us to become an active and effective voice, and one that is bringing about significant improvements throughout our community.”

2008 has been a difficult year financially for almost everyone, and GAN has been no exception. Fortunately, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have managed to stay on a fairly even keel and, due to the diversity which we have been able to introduce into our funding, we remain confident about the future. The majority of our programmes have continued unaffected – although we have unfortunately had to make some cutbacks – and our plans for 2009 are still ambitious. We plan to continue with our core child sponsorship and education programmes, and to develop new programmes that meet the needs of Nepal.

Although economically Nepal struggled like almost everyone else last year, the political outlook was somewhat more positive than in recent years. The elections in May 2008 passed by relatively peacefully, and the people of Nepal are cautiously optimistic about the future.

As ever, but especially in these difficult times, thank you for all your support during the past twelve months. Without it, we wouldn't have been able to accomplish a fraction of the things detailed in this report. I hope you feel as proud as I do that we have been able to accomplish all that we have during the past year, even when confronted by these financial challenges.

As well as the many individuals who have been so generous, we would like to thank the following: the Isle of Man Overseas Aid Committee, the WF Southall Trust, the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust and Emma Treves.

Best wishes,

**Chris Sowton**  
**Chair**  
**Global Action Nepal**



“ These GAN sponsored projects have been so successful that Shrijana Basti is being used as a model for other villages in the area.”

The focus of Global Action Nepal this year has been the strengthening of local partner organisations, enhancing the capacity of education stakeholders, disseminating good practices to the wider audience and broadening our links with like minded organisations. The results have been encouraging: two partner NGOs, 11 community groups, 64 stakeholder schools, 64 childrens clubs and 89 child education concern groups all received assistance from GAN throughout the year helping them carry out their work effectively. Additionally, at an institutional level, GAN established and strengthened its links with the World Bank, the British Council and the Department of Education.

A new initiative during the past year was the development of “civil society information centres”, which have proved to be a great asset for communities where we work. These centres provide resources, information and support for people in a range of often-confusing legal and political issues. This year, GAN has also published two resource books, “A handbook on open space theatre for development,” and “Non-violent education for peace, prosperity and well being”. Our status within Nepal continues to grow, with our work being featured on national television and radio.

It has only been possible to achieve this through the support of individuals and organisations who wanted to help people of Nepal and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our national and international supporters and well-wishers who made this possible.

Thank you,

**BK Shrestha**  
**Country Director**  
**Global Action Nepal**

# GAN in Nepal

It's been a busy year for GAN in its Nepal operations. Under the leadership of country director BK Shrestha, we have seen some great successes in terms of child and teacher development, which have had a knock-on effect on the wider communities where GAN works. Here's a round-up of just some of the projects we have initiated:

## Community Capacity Building Programme

In Nepal, parents often do not see the value of sending their children to school, especially when there are so many other pressing demands on the household. Since many parents themselves are often illiterate or did not attend school, they need to be sensitised as to the importance of education. This is why GAN works to secure constant community support to help foster a culture of learning in families. Through action groups set up by GAN, some 900 parents in our project areas are now involved with local education activities. 1,074 parents were trained in child health and hygiene last year, and 787 parents actively created educational environments at home.



## Child sponsorship and micro-credit

We now have over 100 child sponsors in the UK, contributing a small amount each month to support a child's education in Nepal. In the last year, we've introduced 'seed banks' into some of our sponsored communities. These micro-credit loans have helped families set up small businesses in their communities, and have meant that some children have now been able to leave the child sponsorship scheme as their parents can now pay towards their education themselves.



## Teachers Development Programme

It's a sad fact that in many of Nepal's schools, while teaching takes place, learning does not. There's a shortage of qualified teachers, and classrooms are often poorly equipped and without basic sanitation.

This year, Global Action Nepal trained 269 teachers. We created 'child-friendly' classrooms and built basic sanitation facilities (toilets, drinking water) in 51 schools.

## The Women of Ekata

*“Before Ms. Parbati Gurung from GAN began visiting our village, we thought that being women meant that we could not achieve anything without the support of men; our voice was often ignored and many of us lived isolated lives within our own homes.*

*However, with GAN’s support, the women of the village have formed the Ekata Child Education Concern Group, which now has over forty members. We meet regularly to discuss a whole range of issues including our children’s education and the roles of women in our community. The committee ensures that all our children are attending school and we have even established a savings scheme for our members.*

*GAN also made clear to us the link between good levels of sanitation and the prosperity of our community. Our committee has been teaching people the skills of basic personal hygiene and ensured that our village and its water supply are kept clean.*

*None of this would have been possible without GAN’s support. They have empowered us to become an active and effective voice and one that is bringing about significant improvements throughout our community.”*

*Mrs Dhana Kumari Gurung, Coordinator, Ekata Child Education Concern Group, Armala, Kaski*



## Children’s Clubs

GAN now operates 51 Children’s Clubs across our project sites. The aim is to inspire children to help their peers and their communities through activities not normally included in the national curriculum. GAN’s Children’s Club members run drama clubs, produce newsletters, even operate savings schemes for other students. The clubs increase student confidence and create awareness of their rights. We estimate almost 8,500 school children were involved with Children’s Club activities in 2008.

# Fundraising

**2008** saw some great fundraising events taking place in the UK.

The usual curry nights and pub quizzes were as popular as ever, and Emma Hippolyte's skydive took our fundraising efforts to new heights!



**2009** is shaping up well. We're proud to have our biggest team of London Marathon runners ever. Many of our runners have set up websites where you can help them along the way – please visit [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and help sponsor Anna Lord, Tracey Costley, Laura Burr, Tim Nolan, Lena Grannell, Andy Hamilton, Maarten Rabay, Kerry Viner.

**Join our mailing list or find us on Facebook for more information on upcoming fundraising events.**

## Social Transformation in the village of Shrijana Basti

*“GAN's work in our village of Shrijana Basti, sixty kilometres south of Kathamandu, has given us the opportunity to improve our traditionally poor levels of health, sanitation and education. GAN has helped us to establish a series of local committees that have brought benefits to all members of our community.*

*Every child in the village now attends school regularly and those pupils who had left education before passing their exams have been invited back to complete their schooling. Our village is much cleaner and, for the first time, every house has a functioning toilet. The women of our community attend regular meetings in which they discuss their worries and support each other.*

*These GAN sponsored projects have been so successful that Shrijana Basti is being used as a model for other villages in the area in the hope that our success can be emulated elsewhere.”*

*Mr Arjun Sunar, Chairman, Shrijana Child Protection Committee*

# How can you help?

Like many other charities, now more than ever we're looking for support – both in terms of finances and resources. If you're looking for a worthwhile cause to support this year, why not get involved? We're always on the lookout for the following:

- **Child sponsors** – for **£12 a month** you can support a child through their education. You'll receive regular communication from the child and their school, as well as a picture of the child you're sponsoring
- **UK operations support** – have you got skills we could use? We're looking for designers, writers, events organisers and those with experience of working for overseas charities to help with the smooth running of GAN. We are particularly looking for people who can help us make changes to our website.

## Donate

**£10** supports an adult to attend a literacy class

**£20** can buy five chickens as part of a microcredit project

Just **£50** provides start-up costs for a children's club

**£100** trains a primary school teacher for a year



To donate to GAN, visit [www.justgiving.com/ganepal](http://www.justgiving.com/ganepal).

For more information or to get involved please email Lisa Gillingham at [lisagillingham@yahoo.com](mailto:lisagillingham@yahoo.com) or call 07958 586919. Alternatively, visit [www.gannepal.org](http://www.gannepal.org) or join our Facebook group (searching for 'Global Action Nepal' should do it!).



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