



Hello!

from the

HIMALAYAS

Diyalo Foundation
Field Report June 2018



Hello from the Himalayas!

The Diyalo Team is back from its business in Nepal. We went on a whirlwind tour cross the country, with a school visit in Wana, a participatory design session and community meeting in Sewalung, site visits and government meetings in Baneshwor and Chainpur, and engineering meetings with our implementing partners in Kathmandu.

We made a lot of progress, learned a lot about our partner communities, spent time with the students of the Diyalo school, and documented it all. On the following pages of this Field Report, we'll show both the good and the bad as a short photo-essay.

We're exhausted, but we're excited to share our progress.



Top: Surya Karki (right), founding member of the Diyalo Foundation, looks out into Sankhuwasabha.

Center: Ethan Levine, Diyalo architect, with our land rover in Tumlingtar.

Bottom: Adam Rouhana, Diyalo CEO, during the design workshop with the Sewalung community.



Design Workshop

As part of our community meetings at Sewalung, our architect worked with the schoolchildren during a participatory design session.

Top: Khem, one of our partners from United World Schools Nepal, helped translate between the community members and our team. Here he is explaining the drawing workshop to the schoolchildren while our architect sets up the art supplies and drawings for the students.

Center: Some of the students asked to draw with the actual construction documents themselves. Students at some moments produced their own recreations of the drawings, while others added to or improvised with the drawings as a base layer.

Bottom: We collected all the students' work - over one hundred drawings in total - which is being compiled into a book we intend to give to the community. Work ranged from the highly avant-garde scribbles of the early childhood development students to nuanced reproductions of construction drawings from students in sixth grade.





Status of Sewalung

Our community meeting at Sewalung focused primarily on resolving the major outstanding barriers to construction of the additional classrooms. We spent several hours speaking with the heads of the community to ensure that they would resolve our concerns before work begins at summer's end.



Top: Surya and Adam explain to the community heads and school leadership what remains to be done before Diyalo can complete construction at Sewalung.

Center: A landslide a few weeks prior left dirt and rubble on top of the toilets. Though the community did enough work to make the facility minimally operational, it is clear we will need to raise the funds to additionally rebuild the toilets.



Bottom: In the process of clearing land for the construction of the new classrooms, the process left behind a ten foot wall of unretained earth at the end of the site. The community has agreed to build a series of retaining walls to ensure that a landslide similar to the one atop the toilets does not happen at the new school.

Trials and Tribulations

Our travel was not entirely smooth sailing. At various moments we encountered the full breadth of difficulties, ranging from our flight getting cancelled while mid-air to a surprise hailstorm that stranded our land rover on the mountainside.

Top: After our land rover becomes deeply entrenched in the mud, we walked the final mile and change uphill to Sewalung. We enjoyed the view, although the hike left us sweatier than expected for the community meeting.

Center: We experienced an unexpected 15-minute layover while some stubborn cattle, who appeared to be afraid of the land rover, refused to leave the middle of the road. Eventually they were persuaded to move by their exasperated companion.

Bottom: On our way down from Sewalung, thunderstorms converted the majority of the road to thick mud. Though we successfully freed the land rover from the mud during the attempt captured here, we later needed some assistance from a local tractor to get us out when were stuck much later at night. Fortunately, the storms had by then subsided, although we were all sufficiently wet and muddy anyhow.





A Standing Invitation

The Mayor of Baneshwor has invited the Diyalo foundation to build a new school at one of the sites below. Should we accept, our second school will literally be on top of the world.



Ironing Out the Kinks

Back in Kathmandu, we spent several hours with our engineer Manjeet Pandey to prepare our documents for construction.

Top: Ethan (left), Surya (center) and Manjeet (right) discuss opportunities for potential cost reductions .

Center: Ethan and Manjeet draft up and consider an alternative layout for the ceiling beams and roof structure.

Bottom: Drawings and mark-ups from the engineering review.



Adieu!

until next time

KATHMANDU

