



Helping Nepal
Communities Prosper,
On Their Terms

Impact Journal
FALL 2020
Partners in resilience



Ready for resilience

Thanks to donors like you, dZi makes long-term commitments to our partner communities in Nepal. This means that ***long after our projects are complete, we are able to help them adapt to changing needs and challenges.***

With COVID-19 cases on the rise in Nepal, we are carefully coordinating with local government so field staff can continue with projects while they follow social distancing and proper health precautions.

Because we have your support, we've been able to provide PPE and provisions for 14 rural health centers, including surgical gloves, N95 masks, digital thermometers, and folding beds for the ill.

dZi also implemented a *Cash for Work* program that will bring income to families most affected by the economic hardships from the pandemic. *See page 4 for more details.*

With your help, dZi is doing everything possible to help the people of rural Nepal prosper—safely in the face of COVID-19 and far into the future.



Ready to lead



For the last 13 years, Nepal Country Director Ang Chokpa has implemented dZi's programs and managed the staff in Nepal. Hailing from a village near Mt. Everest, her local knowledge and ability to communicate with staff and partner communities is key for dZi's success.

dZi is deeply connected to Nepal because the majority of our staff live and work there. In fact, many come directly from our partner communities because they understand how important it is to give back to their own villages.

You care about growing these communities, too. The way our Nepali staff feel about dZi is a testament to why your support is such a worthy investment.

Her 29 staff members range from structural engineers, agricultural technicians, education specialists, and building inspectors. Each person is encouraged to bring their creative ideas to the table to ensure the highest quality and most efficient techniques on all projects.

dZi staff feel strongly about the work they do because dZi is respectful of local culture and each other. Projects are implemented where the need is greatest and where help is requested. The team appreciates long-term *partnership* and how involved the local people are with increasing the sustainability of their own communities.

We consider you, our generous donor, part of our team, too. Thank you for helping us be the best team possible for our Nepal staff and those we service in our partner communities!

Ready to prosper

dZi's **Cash for Work** program is a successful example of how *your support enables us to adapt to the changing needs of our partner communities—turning crisis into opportunity for hundreds of vulnerable families in Nepal.*

With local and regional markets closed due to COVID-19 lockdowns, households in remote Nepal have lost the ability to sell their cash crops and local products—their crucial income. Many households do not have more than a month's supply of food and will likely borrow money at very high interest rates to pay for food, creating a long term financial struggle.

Cash for Work began in August after identifying the most financially at-risk families in our project areas. By funding important public works projects with the greatest infrastructure needs, we doubled our impact in our partner communities.

We are fast-tracking critical projects like road and footpath reinforcement and irrigation maintenance while creating employment opportunities for those hit hardest by the lockdowns. 881 households and over 4400 family members have benefited from Cash for Work to date.

Identifying the need. Reacting quickly. Adapting successfully. **With your help, our partner communities can maintain economic and food security, even in the most challenging of times.**

“Everyone involved in this program, thank you!” says Nirata Kulung, who was selected for the Cash for Work program in Gudel based on income criteria. She earned 16,150 rupees (\$136 US dollars) by working on a neighborhood trail, which was **“a great opportunity and great relief during this crisis.”** Nirata plans to use her Cash for Work earnings to buy groceries for her family and stationary for her children. **Your gift helps hard-working families find security in a time of great uncertainty. Thank you!**



Ready for the unpredictable



dZi knows that not every project always goes according to plan. The climate, geography, and remoteness of our partner communities in Nepal can create challenges.

Our resourcefulness was put to the ultimate test at the Naankhola Truss Bridge site on September 7th.

People from Cherem and Nazing have long felt disconnected from each other and each communities' resources and dreamed of easier access between the villages. They were filled with hope that their dream would come true with the bridge at Naankhola.

With peak monsoon season underway, massive flooding created a landslide that destroyed

the construction site. **Investments like building materials—sand, stone, steel, and cement—and labor from community members were lost, the project was halted, and both Cherem and Nazing continue to be isolated.**

Our team says they've never seen such a project setback in all our years in Nepal. While the disaster at Naankhola has created a huge challenge, dZi will never abandon a project and we vow to complete it. Luckily, our community partners feel even more inspired to rise to the challenge and rebuild the bridge.

Now, we are reassessing construction techniques and seeking a newer, larger design—possibly even a suspension bridge. While our future plans for Naankhola depend on the safety of the foundation site, **thanks to you, we remain committed to the villages of Cherem and Nazing and their dream of safe passage between the communities.** We will learn from this crisis and be better able to serve our partners in the community with better, stronger construction options—ready for the unpredictable.



Ready for their future



dZi's Quality Education Program (QEP) is a testament to why our long-term partnerships work. For over a decade, dZi has supported school construction and helped establish Parent Teacher Associations throughout remote areas of Nepal.

Because we remain actively involved in communities for years after projects are completed, dZi was there to help and quickly shift focus when COVID-19 struck.

Thanks to you, we can now devote the QEP to ensuring that learning continues at home despite school closures, minimizing student drop-outs, and preventing school-age children from entering the work force.

Students who have the resources they need for a safe and productive learning environment are more likely to stay in school and thrive. That's the kind of future you give to our community partners in Nepal.

QEP & COVID-19: How you help keep children in school and out of the work force:

- 6,000 self-learning practice books for young children from 133 schools so they can continue their education during the pandemic
- 4,150 students and teachers at 41 schools will receive a pair of reusable, locally made masks
- 2,433 students and teachers from 26 schools will benefit from the construction of child-friendly handwashing stations, and 22 toilet facilities at 16 schools will be built or renovated—all helping to maintain sanitation and minimize the spread of COVID-19



Ready to innovate



Our partner communities in Nepal endure some of the roughest, most dangerous forces of mother nature—from monsoons, to earthquakes, to landslides.

Because of donors like you, dZi has been able to help provide new technology in building materials. Interlocking bricks made from sand, soil, and cement are replacing stacked stones mortared with mud. These bricks, one of the most innovative and strongest materials in Nepal, are hand pressed through a mold and set to cure for 21 days.



“It took us some time to learn how to make the new bricks, but now we find it easier and faster to construct. The school is really solid, safe and earthquake resistant. I can’t wait to see how it will look when it is finished! I think this school building is going to be one of the best in the area.

**- Himal Tamang, Chairperson,
Saraswoti School
Construction committee**

Your partnership with dZi means progress—consistent building materials are essential for a safer community. As schools and other buildings constructed from interlocking bricks are stronger against the forces of nature, they result in peace of mind for families and longevity that will serve them reliably for years to come.

Ready when you are.

We are all partners in resilience—dZi, the communities in Nepal, and most importantly *you*.

And when resilience calls for adapting quickly, your tax-deductible donation matters even more. **The U.S. dollar goes further in Nepal, meaning your gift can fuel more programs and projects.** We are on the ground and ready, empowering communities with the knowledge and tools to create lasting improvements in health, education, and agriculture.

Please make your gift today—our partner communities are relying on you so they can better respond to adversity and grow stronger together!

Online at
dzi.org

Send a check to:

dZi
PO Box 632
Ridgway, CO
81432

Give us a call with any questions
+1 (970) 626-9765
info@dzi.org



To learn more about becoming a Visionary Society Member, planned giving, or to make a stock transfer, **please contact Jim Nowak, jim@dzi.org or (970) 596-5112**

Every rupee we spend in our partner communities is audited three times annually, first by the community members themselves when the projects are completed, second by the Nepal Government, and finally by nonprofit accounting specialists in the U.S.