

## WireBridges Help Nepalese Improve Their Lives

### VillageTech Solutions

**Safe** There have been more than 3,000,000 safe trips in 10 years over Nepal's rivers with VillageTech Solutions' (VTS') 34 WireBridges ("TarPul") with no reported injuries. These easy-to-use bridge-carriages offer reliable transport for a moderate flow of people, overcoming barriers to education, health, and income.

**Appropriate** TarPul are physical, social, and symbolic. VTS' bridge builders mix appropriate technology, smart design, local fabrication, and community labor with patient, consensus-forming discussion. A community organizes a supportive User Group,



ensuring a peaceful environment and good labor relations, and pays what it can for a bridge. Donors like you provide the rest of the funding. VTS guarantees a high quality product at a fixed price, fast completion, typically 2 to 3 months, and long term service. All through the years of regional conflict, these bridges have always been protected by the people, never harmed.

**Active** Some TarPul have replaced dangerous 'tweens.' Others provide new crossings saving hours, up to a full day, in people's journeys. An active TarPul may be seen and experienced at Thumka on the Trisuli. Closer to Kathmandu, a full-scale model is available at the Nakhu Khola just south of Patan.

**Smart** The small carriage seats two adults but often carries four to six persons or their goods weighing 250 KG or more. The carriage hangs from wheels which roll on wires stretched across the river. Two wires suffice to 80 meters. From 80 up to 172 meters four wires are used. A tow rope loops between the posts that stand on both sides, allowing the carriage to be pulled by both the passengers and anyone standing on either side.



**Affordable** Some WireBridges have been built days from the end of the road. Remoteness is not an issue. All components are portable. The heaviest posts or wires weigh about 115 KG. The main factors affecting the cost of construction are the distance from Kathmandu (days of travel), topography (the civil work), and length (shorter or longer than 80 meters). The current cost of a complete bridge ranges from eleven to fourteen lakh Rupees (\$14,000 to \$20,000). Maintenance involves periodic replacement of ropes and trolleys.



**Available** A community usually takes the first step by paying for an evaluation their site by Village Solutions (VS), the bridge-building company. Discussions with the community and a field survey follow. VS prepares a proposal including a completed price. VTS then helps the communities to find sponsors, if needed. Nepal School Projects, KAAA (Kadoorie), the German Embassy, Parvati Fund, Bridges to Prosperity, CARE, Li-Bird, Rotary, the Flora Family Foundation, Dhulikhel Hospital's supporters, CSP, PAF, and individual donors have helped. Once funded, construction work is done by members of the community with VS supervision. Once the concrete hardens, the bridge can be assembled, tested, and working in two to three days.

**On Call** VS and VTS welcome community and donor partners. So far no community has been too far, no site too difficult.

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