

United World Schools and the RCRT Trust

August 2018 Report

Project Objective: To create educational opportunity in Nepal by developing a cluster of three schools in Sankhuwasabha District, Eastern Nepal.



Students at newly opened UWS Tellok School taking part in outdoor games, August 2018

Expenditure Overview: June - August 2018

Please see the expenditure report attached for full details.

Funds received to date: \$58,500

Total project expenditure to date: \$47,609.89

Project balance: \$56,294.51

UWS Tellok School

Total project cost: \$31,214.80

Expended to date: \$22,536.35

The bulk of construction costs has been expended as school construction is complete. As construction of toilets and a well was undergone at the end of August, the cost of this will be reflected in the next reporting period when final invoices are received. The remainder of funds will be spent on additional school resourcing over the coming year, including the cost of additional furniture and learning equipment. Additionally, the cost of education staff salaries and further training will be expended throughout the year.

UWS Khamare School

Total project cost: \$31,714.80

Expended to date: \$23,601.79

There has been a slight overspend on transportation, labour and construction costs due to the unprecedented severity of the monsoon season in Nepal. This has caused road closures, increasing expenditure. The construction of toilets and a water source has not commenced yet, so this will be reflected in the next reporting period, alongside expenditure on school resources, staff salaries, training, and monitoring and evaluation costs.

UWS Hedangnagadi School

Total project cost: \$40,974.80

Expended to date: \$1,471.75

Due to the landslide in the Hedangnagadi area, construction has been delayed, meaning expenditure during this reporting period was minimal.

UWS Tellok School



Opening UWS Tellok School

Following the successful construction of the six-classroom building, UWS Tellok School opened in 'soft-launch' in June 2018. This allowed the children of the Tellok community to begin attending lessons taught by government teachers as soon as possible, while the final training of community teachers was completed. At the end of July, the school closed for a short period for the customary 'monsoon break' that takes place across Nepal during the height of the monsoon. Following this, **the school opened fully for the new academic year on 16th August 2018.**

Student enrollment and attendance

Approximately **70 students have been attending the school regularly** during soft-launch phase. During the monsoon break, our Education Officers went door-to-door to encourage parents to send all children, including girls, to school. Across our schools, this programme has had great success in increasing enrollment. We expect to see a steady increase in enrollment over the next year, as the school becomes fully embedded in the community.

Improving the school environment

During the monsoon break, we began installing a water tank and building latrines. Latrines and hand-washing facilities are now in the final stages of construction, and should be completed within two weeks. These facilities help support the health of students at UWS Tellok School, alongside regular hygiene and nutrition lessons. Over the next term, our focus will be smaller improvements to the school environment, including decorating the classrooms with learning resources and educational posters.

Teacher training

As noted in our previous report, **three government teachers** have been allocated to the school. We have also recruited **two teachers from the local community**. All of these individuals underwent initial training during the soft-launch period and the monsoon break. This included targeted sessions focusing on lesson planning and child centric learning techniques.

Community engagement

A School Support Committee has been set up to oversee the governance of the UWS School. This body is made up of local leaders and parents. So far, the group has supported enrollment and assisted with setting up and decorating the school. They will hold regular meetings, which will also be attended by our Education Officers, who can provide support and ensure the group is functioning well. An engaged and active School Support Committee will be key in ensuring the long term success of UWS Tellok School.

UWS Khamare School



Construction Update

Construction of the six-classroom school began on 27th May 2018 and was completed on schedule. We are therefore pleased to report that **UWS Khamare School opened on 16th August 2018**, at the beginning of the new academic year. As part of the building work, a water pipe will soon be constructed connecting the school to a well in the village. This ensures that students and teachers have access to safe, clean water. The latrines and hand-washing facilities are yet to be constructed and will be started once those at UWS Tellok School are complete. In the meantime, clean water is being provided in bottles.

Preparing the school for opening

Two teachers have been recruited from the local community to work at the school, and they have undergone intensive training to prepare them for the opening. **The government has also allocated three teachers** to work at the school, at no cost to UWS. These teachers have formal training in delivering the national curriculum and preparing students for exams.

School resourcing has also commenced and new school furniture is currently being built. This is made from metal and wood, to ensure it lasts. To avoid delays with opening the school, the community has donated basic wooden furniture to use in the meantime. The school library has been stocked with books suitable for all levels. We also gave all students stationery and textbooks on their first day to support their learning.

Attendance

146 children have been enrolled in the school, which is very promising as our original reconnaissance data identified c.150 children of primary school age in the community. In particular, it is encouraging to see so many girls attending lessons (pictured right).

Our Education Officers will work with the local community to ensure all these children attend the school regularly.



UWS Hedangnagadi School



Construction Update

As stated in our previous report, there was a severe landslide in the Hedangnagadi area on 28th May 2018. This comes as part of a particularly bad monsoon season across much of Southern Asia, with many areas affected by floods and landslides.

The UWS team is still unable to reach the construction site due to the surrounding roads and tracks being blocked by the landslide. Access is pending the landslide being cleared by the local government. The UWS Nepal team is in close communication with the Sankhuwusabha authorities, who have informed our team that they expect the landslide to be cleared by the end of September. However, this is dependent on weather conditions and the rain subsiding. It is therefore possible that access may be delayed until mid-October.

Our construction team is prepared to begin work as soon as the site is accessible. If they are able to access the site at the end of September, **we expect construction work to be completed by the end of the year.**

Monitoring and Evaluating the Schools

Once open, we will closely monitor the progress of each school during monthly observation and training visits. This is to ensure that the support we deliver is targeted, and that the education provided is of a good standard. Each UWS Education Officer oversees three schools. They spend one week per month in each school, with a fourth week spent in the central office, feeding back and developing training plans. Key indicators used to monitor school performance are:

- Student enrolment and attendance
- Girl:boy ratios
- Teacher attendance and performance
- School Support Committee engagement

As well as this data, the Nepal team send photos and videos to our UK head offices to allow us to qualitatively monitor specific aspects of the school, such as the quality of learning environments. Additionally, after a school has been open for one year, students will sit national exams. We use the results of these to monitor student achievement and compare the performance of our schools with that of government schools.

Data sets for the schools you have funded will be available when they have been fully operational for one month. We look forward to sharing initial data for UWS Tellok and Khamare Schools with you in our next report.

United World Schools Progress: June - September 2018



Students at UWS Wein Wa School, Myanmar. Thanks to supporters like yourselves, we have a number of successful projects across Nepal, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Thank you for supporting these projects.

Our work is only possible thanks to supporters like the RCRT Trust. We are committed to reaching some of the poorest communities across South Asia and have continued to make progress over recent months. As of September 2018:

- **144** UWS schools are currently open in Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal. These are serving remote and marginalised communities that might never otherwise have access to an education.
- **10** further schools are in development across these three countries.
- Approximately **21,000** children have attended a UWS school since we opened our first school in 2008.
- **12,485** students currently attend lessons in a UWS school each day.
- **694** teachers are employed across our schools, **386** of whom are local teachers trained by UWS.
- **4** UWS dormitory blocks are open next to government high schools in Cambodia. These are giving UWS primary school students a pathway to high school.