

To donate
€4

SHOES FOR NEPAL FOR WINTER

To make a once off donation of €4
for new shoes for people in Nepal.

• Text NLT4 to 50300



Terms and conditions for €4 donation: 100% of the text cost goes to Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland (NLT) across most phone network providers. Some providers apply VAT, which means a minimum of €3.26 will go to NLT. Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 01 443 3890

Why Shoes for Nepal?

Imagine having no feeling in your feet. You step on a stone, a piece of glass, a splinter, and the silent damage is done: tissue infection or muscle injury, leading to blood poisoning and eventually lameness. Leprosy, which destroys nerve endings, can cause such damage if left untreated. And in parts of Nepal where the disease persists, poor - or absent - footwear can make every step risky. A simple pair of shoes makes all the difference.

At Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre (LLSC) in south eastern Nepal, shoes are custom-made for leprosy patients. Each pair of canvas shoes, reinforced with microcellular rubber, costs from just over €4 and allows the wearer to move on in life, literally, using what's probably the only transport available: their feet.

Donate

There are many ways you can help these beautiful people and this stunning country. For more details see our website at www.nlt.ie or contact vera.mcevoy@nlt.ie

World Leprosy Day 2016

Help us to raise funds to support people affected by leprosy, by organising a coffee morning in your home, workplace or area. Do get in touch, let us know how we can help.

NLT is a signatory to the Dóchas Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. We welcome feedback about our communications. Contact us at info@nlt.ie



Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland would like to thank all those who support our work. We are deeply grateful to all the donors, churches and individuals who strengthen our mission in a variety of ways. If you would like more information on any item covered in this edition, please contact: by email vera.mcevoy@nlt.ie or by telephone 086 2584367



Nepal Leprosy Trust News

Beating leprosy, breaking stigma and building lives

Winter Newsletter 2015. Issue 15

What a difference a donor makes



Lal Busti village school in 2015 and the old school below in 2014

In April 2014 an Irish family donated funds for materials to rebuild a permanent 2 room school in Lal Busti village in rural south eastern Nepal. They also paid for new uniforms and school books.

The original school building was made from mud and bamboo and required rebuilding each year after the monsoon (see photo on right). The top image was taken in April 2015 in a new brick building and with new uniforms and books. The villagers built the school themselves under the guidance of the village development committee. And what a transformation: don't the photos say it all?



Strikes and quakes: Nepal's double tragedy



Children on their way to a temporary learning centre in Golche, Sindhupalchowk

As if the earthquakes weren't enough, Nepal is now suffering a second disaster. With more than 400 quakes above magnitude 4 since April, the physical devastation has been compounded by political turmoil that has left people eating raw food and transport at a standstill.

When Nepal's constitution was signed on 20th September after 7 years of political wrangling, most parties celebrated. NLT's Christian staff were delighted to see the country remain secular instead of becoming a Hindu state.

But not everyone was happy. The Madhesi people of the Terai region, where Lalgadh Hospital is based, say the constitution divides the country unfairly. For nearly 4 months, Madhesi activists have blockaded the southern border with India, preventing the entry of fuel, food, medicines

and other essentials into Nepal.

As winter sets in, UNICEF has warned that the lives of more than 3 million babies could be threatened by the shortage of vaccines and antibiotics. Food prices have rocketed and the education of nearly 200,000 children is on hold because their schools were destroyed in the earthquakes. Businesses are on their knees across the Terai.

The timing couldn't be worse. With nearly all transport suspended, earthquake relief work is on hold as supplies of food, water and building materials can't be delivered. Winter snow will further hamper aid efforts. According to UN and government estimates, around 1.75 million people lack proper shelter, and more than half a million face severe food shortages.

"The risks of hypothermia and malnutrition, and the shortfall in life-saving medicines and vaccines, could be a potentially deadly combination for children this winter," said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake.

With people turning to firewood for fuel, indoor pollution is raising the risk of pneumonia which, last year, was responsible for the deaths of around 5,000 children under 5.

Around 60% of Nepal's medicine is imported from India, along with large amounts of fuel and other supplies. Stocks of tuberculosis vaccine have run out in regional medical centres.

Update from Dr. Graeme Clugston, Medical Director at Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre

In Kathmandu

Work has almost ground to a halt at the NLT workshop in Kathmandu because of leather and glue shortages. Building work is on hold as cement cannot be sourced. The acute fuel shortage forces cars to wait for days in queues more than a mile long, hoping that some fuel will get through, but mostly people are walking everywhere. Even equipment such as the water treatment plant that keeps drinking water in Kathmandu clean, is threatened with shut-down, presenting the real risk of water-borne disease. Cooking gas is now so scarce that many have had to revert to using wood for heating food and water, and some in Kathmandu are eating food raw.

At Lalgadh

Here at Lalgadh Hospital, we have no fuel to run the hospital generator, the community programme has all but stopped for the past three months, and with no gas cylinder cooking for the hospital 60-70 patients is now done with wood from our hospital trees, cooking on outside mud fireplaces. Our outpatient clinics are still busy but quieter than normal, with about 200-300 outpatients each day instead of the usual 300-500. We are still able to connect by vehicle with Kathmandu using the new road from nearby Bardibas over the Sindhuli and Kavre mountains, a 6-hour trip that avoids the blocked Terai roads. But our ambulance and vehicle use is carefully restricted by shortage of fuel.



Only the roof of Ramechhap Primary School survived the earthquake. It is still in use as a temporary centre.



Where possible we give each family 14 metal sheets to build temporary shelter for the winter.

Donations to date from the Irish public have reached €15k. This money has provided clothing, food, medicine, blankets and sufficient aluminium sheeting to build temporary homes for 125 families. A huge thank you to the generous hearts of Ireland.

"Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody worldwide: a Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master." *Luke 2:11-12 The Message*