

*Himalayan Trust Nepal*  
**Shree Saraswati Basic School Improvement Project**  
Project Funded by Light for Kids, Germany

**Progress Report**

Reporting Period: January 2023 to January 2024

**Introduction:**

Shree Saraswati Basic School, located in Hill village, Ward #7 of Mapya Dudhkoshi Rural Municipality in Solukhumbu, Nepal, has been the focus of the School Improvement Project implemented by Himalayan Trust Nepal (HTN) with funding support from Light for Kids Germany. The main objective of the project is to enhance the quality of education and create an optimal learning environment for the students.

Under this initiative, HTN has undertaken several initiatives to bring about positive changes in the school, including classroom repairs, initiation of a day meal programme, appointment of an English teacher, provision of child-friendly furniture, and distribution of school uniforms.

In 2022, HTN successfully completed the repair and maintenance of the school's classrooms, which involved wall plastering, floor repairs, addressing water leakages, and repainting the classrooms. These refurbishments have significantly improved the learning environment and the overall educational experience of the students.

In 2023, in close coordination with the local government, HTN implemented the day meal programme, appointed an English teacher, supplied child-friendly furniture, and distributed school uniforms to the students and teachers. Additionally, HTN provided training to the teachers through various training programmes along with classroom-based support for the teachers by HTN trainers.

This report offers an overview of the project's progress and accomplishments for the period of January to December 2023.

**1. Day Meal Programme:**

The school's day meal programme for students and teachers began on January 16th, 2023, following a community meeting at the school attended by local government representatives, parents, and community members. This initiative has successfully provided nutritious meals to the school community, consistently delivered on time. Mr. Phurinjee Sherpa, a resident of Hill, was selected and tasked with preparing these meals. The HTN team visited the school regularly to provide feedback on the quality of meals to the service provider. The programme has contributed to improved attendance among students and is expected to positively impact their academic performance.



*Students having day meal during lunch break*

## 2. English Teacher Salary Support:

As part of the project's efforts, an English teacher was appointed on the 13th of February 2023. Mr. Rakesh Sunuwar was selected and appointed by the school. He has been actively engaged in teaching English to basic grade level students, and his presence has had a positive influence on the school environment, contributing to the gradual improvement in children's learning achievements.



*Mr. Rakesh Sunuwar, English Teacher supported by the project while teaching in the classroom. The classroom is set up with the furniture provided by the project.*

## 3. Supply of Child-Friendly Furniture:

The supply of child-friendly furniture was another significant aspect of the project, positively received by both students and teachers. The furniture included low desk, cushion, carpeting of the classrooms of ECED and Grade 1, desk/bench set for grade two to five, and white boards. The new furniture has provided a comfortable and safe teaching and learning environment for the students and teachers. The upgraded classrooms have been met with delight by students and teachers, and parents have expressed appreciation for the support. Currently, the school boasts 19 students, five teaching staff, and one office assistant.

## 4. School Uniform Distribution:

HTN distributed school uniforms to the students and teachers of Hill School in the month of December 2023. The uniform includes a set of tracksuits, a t-shirt, a jacket, a pair of shoes, and socks for the students, and a jacket for the teachers. The uniforms were prepared in Kathmandu, featuring the logos of Light for Kids and the school. Both students and teachers expressed great happiness upon receiving the uniforms.





*Students and teachers with new school uniform*



*ECED class students with their teacher (left), Teachers with new jackets (right)*



*Grade 4 & 5 students with Head Teacher (left), Ms. Kinju Sherpa, Executive Member of Mapya Dudhkoshi Rural Municipality handing over the uniform to a student*

## **5. Printer Support to the School**

Considering the need of the school, HTN purchase multi-function printing machine for Saraswati Basic School. There was a problem of printing and copying the documents at the school. Now the problem after providing the new printer.

## **6. Teacher Training:**

In addition to the project, HTN provided training for teachers as part of its Education Programme. The teachers underwent training in Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED), student literacy improvement, and teaching skills enhancement in alignment with the government's new curriculum. Additionally, HTN's teacher trainers visited the school and provided classroom-based support. These supports have helped in improving the quality of teaching and learning environment at the school.

## **Conclusion:**

The School Improvement Project at Shree Saraswati Basic School, implemented by Himalayan Trust Nepal (HTN) with support from Light for Kids Germany, achieved significant progress from January to December 2023.

Initiatives such as the day meal programme, served by Mr. Phurinjee Sherpa, improved attendance and academic performance. The appointment of Mr. Rakesh Sunuwar as an English teacher enhanced the learning environment, while child-friendly furniture and school uniform distribution contributed to student comfort and engagement.

HTN's provision of a multi-function printing machine addressed administrative needs, and teacher training programmes improved teaching quality. These collaborative efforts with local stakeholders highlight the transformative impact of targeted interventions in enhancing education and fostering community development.

The school community, comprising students, teachers, and parents, has expressed gratitude for the generous support from Light for Kids. Likewise, the local government has acknowledged the project's initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of education at Saraswati Basic School.