



## 6 Months after the earthquake.... Where are we now?

### SAMBHAVA TERRE DU POSSIBLE

Dear Friends, it's already six months since Nepal collapsed, taking with it the hopes and smiles of the Nepalis. The earthquake ravaged houses, families and the economy of the whole country, leaving behind a legacy of challenges; daily life to be rebuilt, the future to be reinvented. We had the honour to be present with Nepali families at this time, and together, thanks to the chain of solidarity which you have created, Nepal becomes a land of possibilities. Sambhava was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015, and has begun to make its first steps on the path.

### THE BIRTH OF THE FAIRIES' LITTLE FINGERS...

#### The training programme

There is young Rupa, barely 22, who, after the total destruction of her village, came down into the streets of Kathmandu hoping to find a way of surviving and rebuilding. She hoped one day to start a family. Then there is Ranjana who witnessed the deaths of her sister in law and her five nieces and nephews when the earthquake brought down the family home. Installed in a bamboo cabin, she now thinks only of one thing: finding work to offer her 12 year old son a school education. There is also Hame, forced into marriage at the age of 12, seeking her opportunity to be free with her three daughters. There are thirteen people who began to have the same idea, even as the earth trembled under our feet. "Teach them to fish rather than giving them

fish." After the bags of rice were exhausted we looked towards the future, asking ourselves how we could make a lasting impact. How could we support people to act in such situations, how could we really and lastingly help? Work, they need work, but they need skills. Our decision, therefore, was to propose a training to the families affected by the quake. Working with Nasreen of "Local Women's Handicrafts", a charity supporting women's rights in Nepal, we began our training program. Learn to weave, sow, knit, or even crochet... enough skills to

#### NEWS IN BRIEF...

- ✓ Place : Goldhunga, near Katmandu
- ✓ 13 women in training
- ✓ For a 6 months duration
- ✓ 55 euros a month, paid by the supporter of each woman.
- ✓ Trainers from our partner organisation; Local Women's Handicrafts
- ✓ Trainings in: sowing, embroidery, weaving, local arts, management

find work and to become independent. It was here, between the aftershocks and the monsoon, in streets still not cleared of their debris, that 13 young women began their training. With each step they could turn their faces to the future with just a little more hope, a few more possibilities. Beyond the salary, the training, the possibility of work, there lies a dimension which we discovered slowly through listening. Each of these women, by making the choice to work was taking their place in a revolution. The revolution of being a woman in Nepal, choosing emancipation, making decisions for herself, becoming independent, working. In this

overturning of the values into find a group of women ready each other, to unite their forces world for their children. For their education, the freedom to the telling of their stories, their expresses this will to become a In this enormous project each

*“MY DREAM IS TO OFFER  
MY CHILDREN THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE,  
THANKS TO A GOOD  
EDUCATION.”  
LAXMI ARYAL*

which they were raised they and determined to support for women's rights, to create a daughters; the right to an choose, respect... Everything in struggles and responsibilities, free women.

of these brave women is followed by a guardian angel, supporters, sometimes whole families, from Germany, France, England or New Zealand who are helping them to learn, to build a future by offering to pay their salary; 55 euros a month for 6 months.

Sambhava hopes to make the first evaluations, to find out if 6 months really allows them to develop the necessary skills to become professionally independent, with the possibility of expanding the project by six months, of sourcing new supporters.



**Hame**



**Rupa**



**Ranjana**

### **BECOME A SUPPORTER...**

**On your own, with family or friends, you have the chance of offering a Nepali woman the chance of learning, of finding support, of opening her spirit to the future. In becoming a supporter you assume the responsibility of a salary of 55euros a month over the course of the training, that is to say, six months. She will tell you her story, her dreams and her progress, and you will receive an update during her training. Don't hesitate to contact us for more information.**

## THE WEAVERS OF THE SUMMITS

### New perspectives for family Tamang



Easter last year, we counted ourselves amongst the lucky hikers to open the new guest house in the village Thulo Shyapru, Langtang, 2500 meters above sea level. We met a young guide, Damai Tamang, the owner of the guest house, and his family. We sang and danced together in this mountain village. The quake was the end for Thulo Shyapru, close to the epicentre, the village was entirely destroyed. Survivors found shelter but waited three days for aid and food. Sometime later we received a call for aid from Damai; they needed money, clothes, food, medicine... he was ready to walk down the mountain for supplies. We sent him what money we could, understanding only later that it had not been enough; the lease for the now ruined guesthouse would cost them for a further seven years, and in any case tourism was no longer

a realistic option. We wanted to offer them work – we remembered ladies sitting weaving in the kitchen waiting for their momos to finish cooking. "Give us a list of your skills, we will send you the materials." Straight away we received a little parcel of traditional Tibetan treasures; sown bags and napkins, bracelets, socks and bonnets. Damai's two sisters have become our Weavers of the summits, and we have already received the second large command of products, woven with love and professionalism.

## A COMMUNITY GARDEN

### How to cultivate the land

Very quickly after the quake we realised that the broken food chains for the families of Goldhunga would necessitate intelligent solutions. We realised that those families living close to the cities had little knowledge of working the land. We decided then, to create a community garden, allowing the women in the training project and from Local Women's Handicraft, their neighbours, to

feed themselves correctly, at the least cost, whilst learning to work their land.

Seeds, soil and soul. A huge program. One of our members started collecting organic seeds in France. Unfortunately shortly after the land owner withdrew the offer, so the project becomes longer term. We have found another small plot, on which a family in need is living. We are working hard on the conception of the garden as our next priority.



## A FUTURE FOR LITTLE NEPALIS

You too will have the right to go to school.



Her name is Mejahbi, she is 8 years old, in a few months she learned to speak Nepali, read, count and has enough English to assert her wonderful personality. She is the niece of Nasreen; she is from the other side of the Indian border. In her little village sending your daughter to school is a secret. When her father went to work in another region Mejahbi's mother took this huge risk, sending her to Kathmandu to unfold her opportunities to learn. *She hopes her father does not realise.* We lived with this little girl, slept on the same carpet in the weeks which followed the quake. Thinking of her we think of all the other children we met, the children of the women in training, the children of the Tamang family, notably. Many who still haven't taken their places on the benches of the schools. With Sambhava we hope to give them this chance. For the children of Thulo Shyapru, there are boarding facilities at Dunche, for the children of Goldhunga we are forging a partnership with the private school in the village. April is "back to school", by which time we will be in Nepal. We will need supporters ready to accompany Nepali children in their learning, in their building a future, ready to make them the finest gift they will ever receive; the opportunity to go to school.

### TAKE PART - GET INVOLVED

*Antoine is ready to make us a website, Diego is running and organizing a fundraising-marathon for us in New Zealand, Coralie sells our products in her shop "Aux Delices du Mazenc" as well as Jenny, Kristin and the team at "Café Avenir" in Germany... Camilla and Matthias have mobilised their college classes and Karin and Joachim, as well as Gudrun are collecting funds by asking their birthday party guests to bring donations instead of presents. Camphill-communities in Ireland are selling our products; we are the recipients of fundraising from the young people of Fay. Richard has taken the garden project under his wing, there are all the supporters, members, donators, translators, friends - those who have invited us to tell our story; Le Beal, Isabelle Desmero and Andre Sakellaridès, the Arienti family, the mayor of Livron, Elisa Marchello and the MJC of Briancon... and everyone who has offered support, ideas, enthusiasm... THANK YOU... it's together that the earth becomes round!*



*Manon, Katrin et Mona...*

*SAMBHAVA Terre du Possible*