

The Guy Joseph Early Childhood Development Centres

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world and over one million children are not enrolled in school. The majority of these are girls, who are affected by discrimination in almost every area of their lives, and children from the lowest caste of 'dalits' or untouchables. Many parents have low income, few opportunities and are themselves illiterate, so are often powerless to access their child's rightful education.

Together with ActionAid, **Guy's Trust** is constructing three brand new Early Childhood Development Centres for 25 children each aged up to five years old, one in Dhikurpokhari, one in Dansingh and one in Bhalam, all in the Kaski region where Guy lived. We are also providing learning and recreational materials as well as a wider programme of teacher training, parental education on nutrition, health and hygiene, and building for earthquake resilience.

In each village we will also be supporting 150 children up to five years old in other schools through specialist Early Childhood Development teacher training, 150 children aged five to eight in other schools who are behind in their development, as well as 50 children most unlikely to access any kind of education. In total we are supporting between 300 and 350 children in each village.

Early Childhood Development programs relieve childcare burdens for families whose support systems are stretched to breaking point. They provide parents with a forum for discussion and information about education, fill significant gaps in children's lives, help smooth the transition to school and provide positive alternatives for young children who otherwise contribute to serious overcrowding in grade one schools.



Whilst the government of Nepal has included the development of Early Childhood Development centres in its current Education Plan, progress has been slow. Their current approach has been to work with existing schools but as schools are already very overcrowded, the influx of younger children only worsens the quality of education many receive.

ActionAid will work closely with the community to ensure that parents understand the importance of education and the community will be involved in the running and maintenance of the centre thus ensuring its long term sustainability.

ActionAid will also use the Guy Joseph ECDCs as best practice development models to advocate to policy makers and legislators for the mainstreaming of similar infrastructures across Nepal.



The total budget for the three projects is £124,000 which includes running costs for the centres for the first two years. In subsequent years maintenance and teachers' salaries will be paid by the government. We can provide a detailed budget breakdown for those who are interested - please email Vicky at info@guystrust.org