

“Seasonal Greetings from TMI”

Message from Brian Peniston, TMI Asia Co-Director:

TMI’s newest project, the Lake-to-Lake Project is helping distribute over 1,000,000 kg of rice to more than 9,400 families in some of Nepal’s poorest districts in mid Western Nepal. With the much-appreciated support from World Food Program (WFP), TMI and local communities have helped construct over 150 village level projects that meet basic needs and help create the foundations for future mountain enterprise since February 2008. This is just the beginning so thank you for your support.



Plough animal in Dolpa

“Lake to Lake: Food for Enterprise”

The “Lake to Lake: Food For Enterprises” Program is being implemented in 3 districts of Karnali Zone by The Mountain Institute under the banner of United Nations World Food Program. The program aims to provide food assistance to food deficit and conflict affected populations in Nepal (PRRO). Initially it covers 22 Village Development committees of Jumla, Mugu and Dolpa districts. Lake-to-Lake uses two mechanisms: Food for work (FFW) and a TMI initiative entitled Food For Enterprises (FFE). The initial program is for 4.5-months. The program is being implemented through an partner NGO named Dolpo Institute, an NGO run by local people from Dolpo. The Mountain Institute is assisting the Dolpo Institute by providing technical and administrative assistance and capacity building training.

Food For Enterprise Strategies

- Modify and replicate successful TMI projects in other districts
- Modify and adapt WFP’s Comaco Project from Zambia, Africa to Nepal
- Replicate TMI’s enterprise and conservation programs in East Nepal
- Convert food assistance from humanitarian relief efforts into community managed development programs
- Develop sustainable partnerships with local NGOs
- Increase community capacities to adapt to climate change



Carrying rice to EDP



Trail condition during monsoon in Dolpa



Damaged trail in Dolpa

Brief information about Micro Projects

All the implemented micro projects were selected through the community consultation. The programs are being implemented with complete impartiality, regardless of race, caste, religion, political opinion or gender, without linking assistance, either directly or indirectly, to any religious or political persuasion.

“Without the trails and bridges, our lives would become a miserable” (Local people of Dolpa 08)

Improved trails and bridges strengthens mountain enterprises

Getting food to remote mountain communities and mountain products to markets requires well constructed trails and wooden bridges. The FFE project has been helping improve wooden bridges using local materials and using Food for Work to pay for local unskilled labor. In some places GI wire boxes have been used to protect abutments from flood damages. These are small bridges less than 14 meters in span. Since February 2008, 40 bridges in 3 districts were identified for improvement. 38 bridges were completed by the end of July 2008.

In remote mountain districts, safe trails and bridges are the only means of travel for visitors and local people, and a key factor in local development. They provide access to government services, health care, education and markets. They are also critical to develop community-based tourism enterprises in Nepal's mountain regions. Improved trails and bridges minimize safety concerns and environmental hazards of tourism. Since February 2008, the FFE project has improved over 140 km of trails, widening them to make them safer and faster to walk for local people and for the mules who bring many local supplies. In one instance, the project shortened the distance to Dunai Hospital by nearly 3 hours for over 1500 families from Upper Dolpo. Bridges are necessary to help minimize the safety and environmental hazards of tourism. Having good trails means eliminating physical danger and improving walking conditions on rugged trails.

District	Household Involved	Qty of food aid(MT)
Dolpo	2724	3421.24
Jumla	3639	578.82
Mugu	3059	489.42
Total	9422	1409.48



Local people of Raigaon in Dolpa

Community Trails

Community Trails has been constructed of width of 2 meters so that in future these trails can be used as village link road. Local people have constructed both the improvement and new trails as identified program activities.



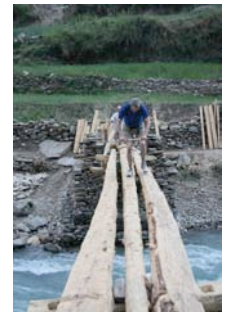
Mule trail improvement in Jumla



MAPs nursery bed preparations

Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Nurseries: Emerging mountain enterprises

Since February 2008, TMI has helped communities establish 12 MAPs nurseries in Dolpa, Mugu and Jumla Districts, with locally managed four nurseries per district. These nurseries are planted with locally valuable cash crops such as Chiraito and Bikuma. Once mature, these seedlings will be transplanted to farm land of trained farmers. So far TMI has trained 150 farmers in cultivation techniques



Ghatta (Watermill)

To free up women's time and reduce drudgery 12 improved watermills (ghattas) were identified as priority micro projects. In the three districts, Turbines, HDPE pipe, and shafts were provided. 4 watermills have been completed and the remaining are under construction, due to transportation delays.



Newly built ghatta in Mugu



School boundary / playground improvement programs

Due to frequent disruptions from free roaming livestock and other pests, students were finding it difficult to concentrate in many sites. Students were having trouble concentrating due to frequent disruptions due to livestock visits and other unwanted visitors. In addition, many schools did not have adequate play grounds. These were identified and prioritized during community consultation programs and 37-school improvement projects were prioritized. 27 projects have been completed with 10 on going. 18 classrooms and 642 meter of boundary walls have been constructed since February 2008.



School compound improvement





The Mountain Institute

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The Mountain Institute (TMI) is the only organization in the world developed exclusively to addressing the unique needs of conservation and equitable development in mountain communities throughout the world. We measure ourselves by the impact we have in three areas:

1. Conserving high priority mountain eco-systems,
2. Increasing environmentally and culturally sustainable livelihoods for mountain communities,
3. Promoting support for mountain cultures and issues through advocacy, education and outreach.

To ensure the sustainable future of the world's mountains and people, The Mountain Institute's mission is to "Conserve mountain environments", "Improve mountain livelihoods", and "Support mountain cultures.

The Mountain Institute's Mission and Vision

The Mountain Institute's vision is to contribute to a world where mountain and mountain people are valued and understood as integral and important to all the world's ecosystems and to the human populations that live within them; and where thriving mountain communities prosper in ecologically rich mountain environment.

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