

Dear Friends and Supporters,

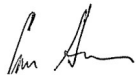
It is hard to express the depth of the challenges and triumphs that we have experienced over the last six months. The day after our Spring Newsletter was published, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal.

The tragedy of the April 25 earthquake was beyond words. But the NGN team leapt into action, even as they dealt with their own loss. Recognizing the danger the earthquake posed to children, including the increased risk of trafficking created by the disaster, NGN quickly developed a strategy to protect children and keep families together. This strategy developed into NGN's new Community Anti-Trafficking project. (You'll get the chance to read all about this new project in the pages of this newsletter!)

Over half of the children rescued in March have been reconnected with their families. We have leads on nearly all the rest. But our work wasn't done - at the beginning of August, NGN conducted another rescue from an unsafe "orphanage." With that, an additional 17 children were welcomed into our transit home, the youngest of whom is just one and a half years old.

It is because of the commitment of our supporters that we have been able to rapidly put an earthquake response in place while not just maintaining but furthering our core programs. Thank you - we are so grateful!

Warmly,



Conor Grennan,
President
Next Generation Nepal



17 Children on the Path to Recovery

It took weeks of hard work and persistence from the NGN team to secure the rescue of 17 vulnerable and at-risk children living in dreadful conditions in an "orphanage" near Nepal's border with India. But that dedication and commitment paid off, and those 17 children are now out of harm's way and safe in NGN's care.

On the afternoon of August 3, 2015, many hours after they were rescued from the overcrowded, dirty, tin-roofed building they had been forced to call home, they walked into the safety of NGN's transit home in Kathmandu. With sleep in their eyes, and exhausted from the long journey, the children slept soundly in their new beds that first night. Even before daybreak, the rehabilitation process had already begun.

The children arrived at the doorstep of NGN's transit home in dingy, worn clothing that looked like it might completely disintegrate or be carried off with the next breeze. Inside, they were as fragile as their clothes, and were protective of what little they had out of fear of being left with nothing. Most of them were suffering from chronic skin conditions. Some of the worst cases were those whose skin had blistered from the heat generated by the orphanage's corrugated tin roof under which temperatures were more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.



Safe at NGN's Transit Home

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It had only been a month since five of the children had been trafficked from their villages in the northwest district of Mugu. For them, the wounds of being taken from their families were still fresh. Their parents had all paid for them to be taken to Kathmandu to attend boarding school. The children felt they had been cheated and their parents deceived.

The unscrupulous operator of the orphanage told the children to lie and tell anyone who came by the home that their parents were dead. They were denied contact with their families, preventing their mothers and fathers from knowing where they were and the state they were in. This, along with everything else these young kids were subjected to, caused them emotional trauma. Now, with the knowledge that they are safe, their emotional wounds have begun to heal. The children are eager to be reunited with their families and the process of family tracing is well underway. In the meantime, NGN is working hard to mend their bodies and minds and they are receiving the support that they need to heal, both inside and outside. They are learning to trust again, and remembering how to laugh.

Introducing NGN's Community Anti-Trafficking Project (CAT)

Life in Nepal was normal until the morning of April 25, 2015, when a massive magnitude 7.8 earthquake shook the Himalayan nation, killing over 9,000 people and affecting the lives of millions. Schools and homes were flattened, and uncertainty and fear permeated people's lives. This chaos created a fertile environment for traffickers to prey on vulnerable children. NGN feared that families, wanting to fulfill their dreams of education, food and shelter for their kids, could become easy targets for traffickers eager to make a profit off of people's loss.

Quickly realizing the threat of trafficking and the need to protect children affected by the earthquake, NGN developed a strategy to address this growing danger and combat it in the hardest-hit district of Sindhupalchowk. Out of this, NGN's Community Anti-Trafficking (CAT) project was born. The CAT project is a multi-pronged approach, done in coordination with the Government of Nepal, aimed to prevent child trafficking to exploitative childcare homes through the promotion of family preservation and the sensitization of communities to the dangers of trafficking.

The CAT project began by working with the Government of Nepal to set up help desks in two locations in Sindhupalchowk to collect data on the affected children and families in the area. On May 8, NGN established its first child-friendly space in a displaced persons camp in Barhabise to provide a safe and secure place for children to play in the aftermath of the earthquake. Over the next few weeks, NGN set up two check posts at busy crossroads to monitor all buses headed to Kathmandu for any children traveling without their parents or legal guardians as a means to stop the trafficking or displacement of children before it was too late.



Village kids enjoying a new CFS tent in Sindhupalchowk.

The CAT project is now being implemented across the entire district of Sindhupalchowk. Eleven child-friendly spaces have been set up, all managed on a daily basis by members of the local community. Every day, hundreds of children affected by the earthquake have access to free structured play, recreation, leisure and learning activities. The children are also provided psychosocial support and care to restore a sense of normalcy to their lives and help them cope with the trauma they have been through. Widespread malnutrition has become endemic among children in highly affected districts and to help combat this NGN provides healthy, locally sourced snacks for the children daily. Equally important is the role of NGN's child-friendly spaces for parents: assured that their children are safe, they can focus on the process of rebuilding their homes and lives. In addition to the child-friendly spaces and check posts, NGN will also be implementing a campaign in communities to raise awareness about the dangers of trafficking through street drama, a documentary and radio messages.

Through the CAT project NGN is determined to stop the displacement and trafficking of children to orphanages through the implementation of targeted activities focused in high risk areas. Undaunted by the recurring aftershocks, landslides and heavy monsoon rains, NGN remains committed to its mission of child protection.

Going Above & Beyond: The NGN Team Doesn't Rest Until They Know Every Child is Safe

The depth of the tragedy of the Great Earthquake is incomprehensible. Millions of people were affected and their lives forever changed. The pain cut deep and the fear was profound. At such times it can be easy to lose sight of the good, letting it be obscured and overpowered by its counterpart. But there were positives; there were gestures of kindness. People stepped up to help each other. When they could have taken time off to recuperate after the earthquake, our team jumped into action, going above and beyond the call to duty to make sure the children of Nepal were safe.

Former Reintegration Officer Sandup and current Reintegration Manager Rupa assemble a package of emergency supplies for the families of NGN's reunified children. Once it was clear that the children in NGN's care in Kathmandu were safe and all of their

immediate needs were being met, our reintegration staff set about locating and checking on the children NGN has reunified in their villages. Phone lines were interrupted and connections severed, making it extremely challenging to track some of these children down. Despite continuing aftershocks and dangerous conditions, missions into some of the hardest-hit districts were organized. Former members of NGN's reintegration team offered to provide their invaluable skills to support NGN in its post-earthquake response.

The earthquake left Nepal riddled with unknowns. People across the highly affected areas were beginning to feel desperate as they waited for relief to reach them. Strong aftershocks posed an ongoing threat to everyone's safety. Not knowing what they would find, the NGN team assembled emergency supplies for each family. These packages contained food staples, medicine and hygiene products as well as tarps and rope for any family in need of shelter. When the NGN team finally located all eight children and their families, their relief was huge. Though all the children were safe, many had lost their homes and possessions. It wasn't easy to get supplies to the families and their gratitude was immense. Not only for the material things they were brought, but also for the lengths to which the NGN team had gone for their children.

Karma's was the first family they visited, a family who had lost a lot in the earthquake. Our team was there to help them in whatever way they could. And yet, despite the family's loss, instead of taking the supplies brought to them, they invited the team to join them for a meal. Through the disaster and its aftermath, these acts of reciprocated kindness have served as a reminder of why we do what we do. It is in these moments that we can all find strength.



Former Reintegration Officer Sandup and current Reintegration Manager Rupa assemble a package of emergency supplies for the families of NGN's reunified children.

Empowerment Project Update

It has been many years since Amita was first taken to Kathmandu. Her family sent her with the hopes of a better education and safety from the war that was raging in the countryside. The Maoists had already taken one of Amita's sisters and her parents couldn't bear for this to happen to another one of their daughters. Now in grade 10, Amita is working hard to become a computer engineer. But beyond doing well in school she has made a commitment to being a good citizen of Nepal, one that contributes to society and helps the people around her. Once she gets her degree she plans to return to Humla and serve her local community and help them utilize local resources. In the meantime, she is studying hard and taking advantage of the opportunities she is getting through the Empowerment Project. She attends mentoring sessions where she and the other youths hone their public-speaking skills, improve their English and learn lessons from people in a wide variety of fields and backgrounds. When Amita walks into a room she brightens it with her smile. She is a caring, sensitive young woman and we know she is going to take all of her knowledge and bring it back to Humla and uplift her community.



Amita shines through the darkness of child trafficking.

Next Generation Nepal Highlights

NGN is committed and proud of the work we do to bring home the lost children of Nepal. We hope that you, too, share our dream of protecting Nepal's children and continue to support our work. Below are NGN's highlights as of July 31, 2015:



In addition, through the Empowerment Project:

- 18 youth have passed the SLC
- 19 youth are enrolled in +2 or Diploma
- 5 youth have passed +2 or Diploma
- 4 youth are enrolled in Bachelor Degree Programs

Update from NGN Canada

We are so excited by all of the activities and achievements being made by NGN Canada! For this month's orientation week at the University of Calgary NGN Canada has been chosen as the official charitable organization. Every year the University chooses a common read book for incoming students to be discussed as part of the school's orientation program. They have selected "Little Princes" to be that book this year - the second time in five years! Not only that, the students will be holding a contest during the week to see which Faculty can raise the most funds.

As NGN Canada continues to raise awareness about our work through activities such as those being done at the University of Calgary and through promoting the Campus Ambassadors Program in Canada, they have increased NGN's visibility around the world. They are spreading the word about NGN's programs in Nepal while growing and expanding our network of supporters all across Canada. We want to give a huge thank you to all of our Canadian donors and supporters!!!

NGN's Campus Ambassadors Program

Next Generation Nepal may be coming to a nearby university or college campus. We are very excited to announce the launch of the organization's Campus Ambassadors Program. This program is designed to equip college students and campus communities to come together and participate in the missions of raising awareness of children's rights issues in Nepal and raising funds to sponsor the reunion of children and families across the country.

The program will allow students committed to the mission of NGN to form on-campus clubs and organizations directly linked to NGN headquarters. Each on-campus group will work as a team, hosting monthly events designed to either increase awareness of the issues or funding to support the organization's mission. Ambassadors will be challenged with the goal of raising enough funds to sponsor a rescue mission throughout each academic school year.

The program is designed to be adaptable, and each campus organization will look a little different, depending on the culture, structure, and climate of each campus and its surrounding community. Events to raise awareness may include visual displays in public areas of campus, guest speakers and presentations at groups or documentary and film screenings. Fundraising ideas can include food festivals, hosting a 5K, or having local businesses sponsor group expeditions. These groups will play a crucial role in helping NGN fund its continuing work as well as increasing public knowledge of issues surrounding voluntourism, child trafficking, and the challenges in Nepal.

Each on-campus organization will remain in contact and communication with NGN headquarters, collaborating on ideas for fundraisers and the best methods for reaching out to the community. Each group is also expected to meet regularly for the purpose of planning fundraisers and events as well as to strengthen and reinforce the sense of community. Conferences and other gatherings will be held to connect different groups from various campuses with each other and with NGN headquarters on an ongoing basis.

NGN's Campus Ambassador Program goes live at the beginning of the school year this fall. Further information about expectations and roles for Ambassador Groups will be posted on NGN's website, along with an application to officially register an on-campus group. Groups may also need to meet school requirements to be recognized by the host institution. Beyond that, all that is needed are a few leaders and a group of any size interested in participating in the mission of NGN in order to connect your campus with our work to reconnect families across Nepal.



*Philippe Lazaro, Director
NGN's Ambassador Program*

A Child Comes Out of His Shell



7 year-old Sitaram

Sitaram is a 7-year-old boy from a remote village in Sindhupalchowk. It isn't hard to lose oneself among the rice paddies and tall cornstalks that blanket the rolling hills where he lives. This is just what Sitaram used to do instead of going to class. His parents would send him off to school every morning, but most days he never showed up. Instead, he hid out in the fields until it was time to return home. When he did go, he isolated himself from the other children. He found it difficult to make friends and bond with his peers. He wouldn't listen when people talked to him, nor did he talk much himself.

Sitaram's school is no longer standing, but class still goes on. NGN's child-friendly space is in the spot where the school once stood and during school hours it is used as a temporary learning center, a place where class can be held and learning can continue despite the lack of a physical school building. This means that not just Sitaram, but all the children from the

surrounding villages, have a place to learn while their school is rebuilt. Sitaram doesn't hide out during the day anymore. The principal of his school says that he is a new boy since NGN set up a child-friendly space in the village of Selbun Bhumestan. Not only has he started coming to class regularly, he does so with a smile on his face. He has made friends, and has opened up to those around him. The boy who once hid inside himself is all out in the open. He loves to sing and dance, talk and listen, laugh and play.

The child-friendly space has given Sitaram a safe place to be and has helped him cope with the trauma he has experienced. It has given him a platform to express his feelings and he is emboldened to come out of his shell. It is an environment where he can feel comfortable and is supported and encouraged to engage with other children through activities and structured play. NGN's 11 child-friendly spaces provide this stability and sanctuary for hundreds of kids each day.

Sitaram's story is special, but it is not unique. After the earthquake, many children stopped going to school. As one teacher said, "They thought, 'We've nearly lost everything and we could die at any moment, so what is the point [of going to school]'. Since then, NGN's child-friendly spaces have returned a sense of normalcy to their lives. They have something to look forward to when they wake up every morning and school no longer feels futile. Life is still difficult for these children as their families continue to rebuild their lives and adapt to the new post-earthquake reality. But with the help of the child-friendly spaces, they have somewhere to go that provides a respite from the challenges they face and an opportunity to reclaim the joy and purpose in their lives.

Priya Offers a Helping Hand

As part of NGN's Empowerment Project, the youths must dedicate time to giving back to their country and community. There are many ways that they can do this. Priya has chosen to volunteer at NGN's transit home, helping the newly rescued kids adjust to their new surroundings and lend a hand where she is needed. She knows just how these kids feel, having been in their shoes before, and is therefore the perfect person to support them. Mohan is the youngest child NGN has ever had in our transit home. He is extremely vulnerable and requires extra care, which Priya helps provide for him. She is uniquely qualified to offer him the support he needs, as she herself was once a vulnerable young child, new to NGN's transit home. She has chosen to use that experience to give back to other children, and it is a wonderful thing to watch.



Priya and Mohan enjoy a moment in the sun during a break in the monsoon rains.

Reconnecting Families

Anil, 12, and Archana, 9, are siblings that have already experienced more in their short lives than most adults will ever have to face. In March NGN rescued the pair, along with 12 other children, from an illegal "orphanage" where they had been neglected, exposed to disease and drug use and left to fend and care for themselves. A month later, they weathered the Great Earthquake that struck Nepal.

On July 21, 2015, less than four months after being rescued, Anil and Archana were reunited with their sister whom they hadn't seen in three years. When they caught sight of her, their faces brightened instantaneously, and that pure joy remained throughout the day's visit.



Mathila and Sarita can't hide their excitement with seeing their aunt who had feared she might never see the girls smiling faces again.

Their sister, Aayusha, is but a teenager herself, however that didn't stop her from asking her younger brother and sister some serious questions, particularly about how they were doing in their studies. She knows the importance of education, and made sure to express her desire for them to aim for the top of their respective classes. As family, she wants to see her siblings succeed.



Anil and Archana were overjoyed to spend the day with their sister, pictured here with her arm around Archana and standing next to Anil.

Since the rescue in March, NGN has been able to reconnect eight of the 14 children. Each of these reconnections was filled with joy and emotions, tears and laughter. Seeing each other again had just a little extra meaning, a touch of added sweetness, following the earthquake that shook the country.

Orphanage Trafficking Goes Mainstream

A positive development to come out of the carnage of the earthquake was a surge in media interest regarding orphanage trafficking, and in turn, a new focus on this problem by influential agencies such as UNICEF and the Government of Nepal. In the months following the disaster, NGN was interviewed by troupes of journalists from across the globe. We were given a unique mouthpiece to tell the world about our fears that the earthquake could be an opportunity for unscrupulous traffickers to take advantage of families while they were vulnerable by persuading them to give up their children and put them in exploitative orphanages. The BBC, The Guardian, The Australian and many other reputable media companies helped spread NGN's message. Possibly as a result of our cause getting so much publicity, the Government of Nepal was inspired to put effective measures in place to ban the opening of new orphanages (to prevent children being placed there unnecessarily) and restrict the movement of children without their parents unless they had official paperwork. These actions alone may have saved hundreds of children from being trafficked. The more people that know about trafficking, the harder we make it for the traffickers, so, please, help spread the word!

Here are just a few of the articles that mention the work of NGN and the issue of orphanage trafficking:

From The Guardian: *Does this 'Nepal' image make you want to build these children a home? Think again*
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/may/07/nepal-children-image-orphanages-donate>

From the London School of Economics: *Want to help the children of Nepal? Don't fuel the orphanage industry*
<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/careers/2015/05/05/want-to-help-the-children-of-nepal-dont-fuel-the-orphanage-industry/>

From Friends International: *Nepal Earthquake - Further Crisis for Children*
<http://friends-international.org/blog/index.php/nepal-earthquake-further-crisis-for-children/>

From Princes to Kings

The NGN Senior Youth have long expressed their interest in giving back to their communities, and have volunteered their time in the past. However, until April, they had never been faced with something as big as the crisis that engulfed the nation. At that critical moment, they were determined to take an active role in helping affected children in Nepal, no matter how challenging. The initiative they took was as remarkable as it was important and meaningful. The earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25, 2015, left immense destruction in its wake. The immediate physical toll from both the April 25 quake, and the subsequent large aftershocks were huge. In the aftermath of the earthquake NGN realized that the potential new risks children faced of being trafficking and displacement would be massive. NGN got straight to work doing a rapid assessment of affected children in Kathmandu. Knowing that the worst devastation to life and property was outside of Kathmandu, NGN was acutely aware of the need to get out into the field and start work at once, before children became separated from their families. This response would develop into NGN's Community Anti-Trafficking project.

When the NGN team assembled outside the office to load a truck full of supplies and head off into a precarious situation in one of the most heavily affected districts, seven of Connor's Little Princes were there. They were there to help. They were there to provide support. They were prepared to go wherever they could be needed. They showed themselves to be kings.



NGN Executive Director Anna Howe and Program Director Samjyor take a photo with NGN Senior Youth in a displaced persons camp in Barhabise, where NGN set up its first child-friendly space

Stay in the Know

There are so many ways that you can keep up to date with everything that is happening at NGN. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter and check out our website often for new Stories from the Field and information on our latest work. And if you're inspired by what you see, please share with your friends and help us spread the word on the work NGN is doing on behalf of the children of Nepal and how they can help!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal [<http://www.facebook.com/nextgenerationnepal>]

Twitter Handle: @NextGenNp

Help Us to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal

Across Nepal, thousands of children continue to be mistreated in abusive "orphanages." We at NGN are committed to bringing them home! Your support makes it possible for us to pursue this goal. We can only continue to rescue, rehabilitate, and reunite these children with their families with your help. You make all the difference.

Here are some examples of how your donations are helping:

- **\$33** covers the monthly cost of searching for and reunifying a child.
- **\$64** provides all the post-rescue care for a child for a month.
- **\$396** covers the costs of searching for and reunifying a child for a year.
- **\$768** provides all of the post-rescue care for a child for an entire year.

Please make a donation today. www.nextgenerationnepal.org/Donate_Online

Thank You NGN Supporters!

NGN's work over the past six months has been done in the shadow of the tragedy of the April 25th and May 12th earthquakes. It is a tragedy that continues to loom over Nepal, and will for a long time. Nevertheless, in this time we have been able to have a positive effect on thousands of children and their families. This is only possible because of you, our supporters. During this difficult time you have done more than you can imagine for children in Nepal. Without you we would not be able to do the work we do and we couldn't have established our Community Anti-Trafficking project. It is you that gave children child friendly spaces. It is you that have kept families together. Everyone has been so generous during this difficult time and we are immensely grateful. Your support sustains us and we thank you heartily. THANK YOU!!!

