



JHAMTSE GATSAL CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY

Quarterly Report (Q3 FY 2021-22)

October – December 2021

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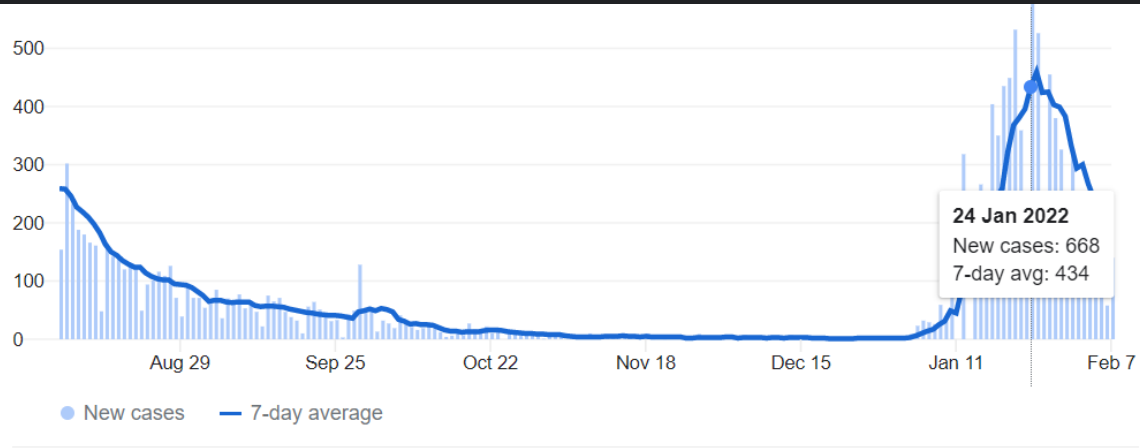


Community Highlights

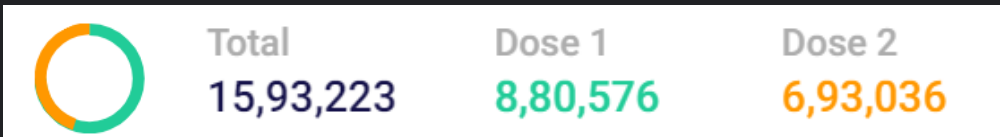
Major Updates from the Community

Community Highlights

Arunachal Pradesh – New Cases



Arunachal Pradesh - Vaccination Status



COVID-19: The New Normal

- This quarter has seen relatively fewer cases of COVID-19 compared to the rest of the year. Arunachal Pradesh saw an all time low of new cases in this quarter.
- Vaccination drives were conducted across the state, with healthcare workers covering the remotest of regions to ensure that all citizens in the state are vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Lumla Circle, the area where we are located, has slowly eased into a new normal with schools and stores resuming regular activities.
- At Jhamtse Gatsal, we continue to be vigilant, following our lockdown and quarantine protocols. All supplies are quarantined for 3 days before they are accessed for usage.

*All data is as on 8th February, 2022



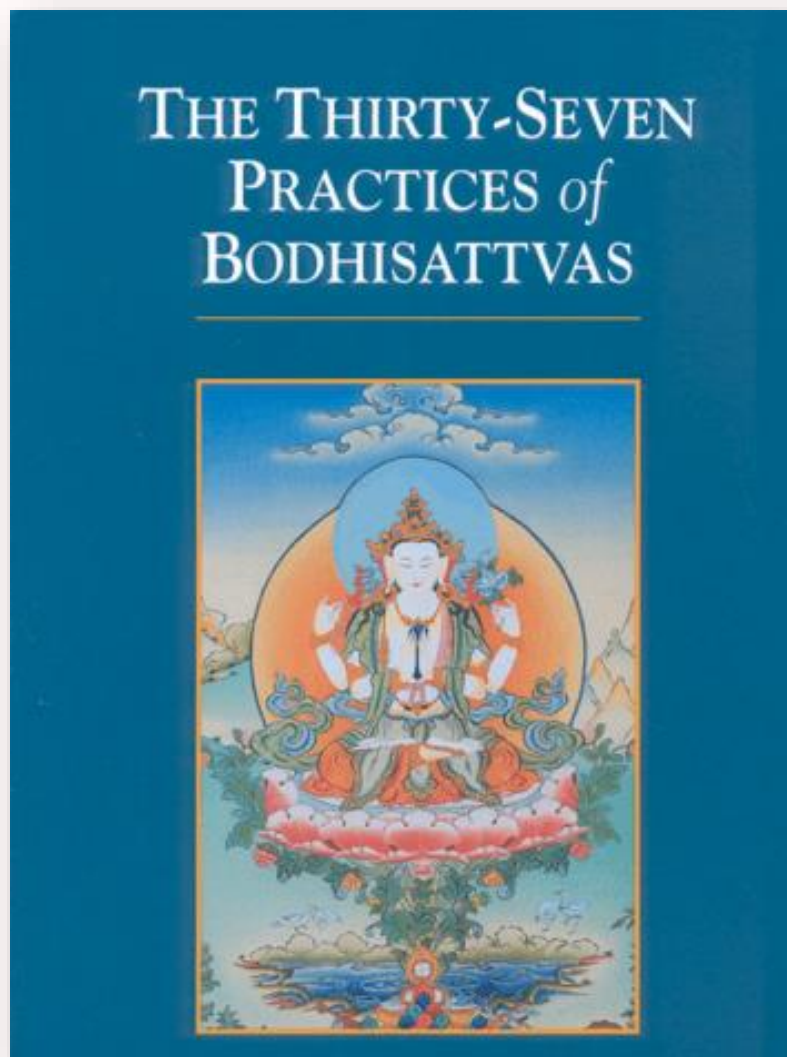
Workshops and Programs

- Two of our primary teachers, Minoti Singha and Padmini Maurya, took part in a 6-day workshop to integrate art and learning curriculum, conducted by Art Sparks.
- Through this workshop, they focused on learning to teach problem solving, observational skills, and collaboration through art.
- They are now implementing the action-based lesson plans with their children and have received encouraging feedback from their students.
- Some of the aspects they worked on are Exploring materials, Child development in visual arts, Introduction to art education, and Robust art teaching methodology using different material like paint, clay, collage paper, and self-portraits through integration of flexible thinking through exploration, and using detailed observation.

Community Highlights



Community Highlights



Workshops and Programs

- All the local staff are continuing their training with our Founder, Gen Lobsang La, on the 37 Practices of Compassion and Mindfulness.
- All our teachers are signing up for the SEE 101 Learning training program. This initiative is being led by our English teacher, Ophelia Lobo. Our Founder, Gen Lobsang La, has initiated conversations with the SEE Learning India team and we hope to be further trained in SEE Learning as a team.



Cultural Celebration

- We celebrated His Eminence Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche's birthday on the 5th of November this year. We took a pledge as a Community to uphold 12 commitments towards becoming a zero-waste community. These included reducing our use of plastic, saving plastic so that it can be repurposed into other daily use items or be used for our upcoming road construction projects.
- The Community also celebrated Diwali and Christmas with a lot of enthusiasm this year. It was a delight for all the children to have a student playing Santa this year – Lobsang Wangchuk!
- We are incredibly grateful to Father Barry for his thoughtful gift of winter tracksuits for our children!
- On the 10th of December, we observed the anniversary of H.H. The Dalai Lama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

Community Highlights



Community Highlights



Hiring and Legal Status

Hiring

- We hired a Middle School Science teacher, Rashmi, who completed her quarantine and has settled into the Community. She has begun teaching classes.

Legal Status

- After successfully registering for the Section 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act, which were mandatory for NGOs to receive funds from sources in India, we were also successful in registering for form CSR-1, which is mandatory for receiving any CSR funding or participating in CSR related activities in India.
- With this, we have completed all the paperwork necessary for our financial operation within and outside of India.





Community Engagement

Outreach, Visits and Interactions

Community Engagement



Community Outreach and Engagement

- Gen Lobsang La hosted a women's group, Women Against Social Evil (WASE) from Pasighat district in eastern Arunachal Pradesh. The WASE group members are all mothers who have come together to fight the issues of drug addiction in their children, which is increasing in central and eastern Arunachal Pradesh.
- They spent a day at the Community learning about our practices, ranging from familial care to waste management strategies. They were very touched and inspired by the story and vision of Jhamtse.
- It was a very emotional moment for everyone present to hear about the love and passion with which these mothers were fighting for their children's future. They moved our children and staff to tears sharing their journey in crusading against drug and alcohol abuse in their region.



Community Outreach and Engagement

- In early December, the Honourable Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu, along with other dignitaries of the state visited Jhamtse Gatsal, for the inauguration of our new family house and laying the foundation stone of our Kitchen and Dining Complex.
- Gen Lobsang La shared with them our educational model and how Jhamtse Gatsal aims to be a center of learning excellence for the state and beyond.

Community Engagement



Community Engagement



Awards and Recognition

- Gen Lobsang La was one of ten achievers from different fields in Arunachal Pradesh, like education, literature, environment, who were invited to interact with the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu, in the first week of October. The panel discussed various aspects of development of the state, such as education, environment, tourism, etc.
- In the last week of November, Gen Lobsang Phuntsok La was honoured for his work in the field of transformative education, sustainable development, and social entrepreneurship in the Mon region by *Monpa Mimang Tsokpa*, an NGO which aims to unite and work towards the development of all people of the *Monpa* tribe.



Community Outreach and Engagement

- In the first week of December, we hosted a group of eight teachers who teach in a government school in a neighboring village, Mukto. Gen Lobsang La gave them a presentation on Jhamtse Gatsal's educational model on how children can be brought up with a gardening mindset as opposed to a carpentry mindset.
- Gen Lobsang La was invited to give an online talk to educators of The University of Edinburgh on The Three Essentials of the 21st Century. In the webinar, Gen Lobsang La talked about how important it is for children to receive an integrated education of the heart, mind, and body.

Community Engagement



Community Engagement

Dekho Apna Pradesh - Tour of Arunachal

- In the second week of October, our founder Gen Lobsang La was invited on a 12-day tour of eastern Arunachal Pradesh under the *Dekho Apna Pradesh* (Explore Your State) campaign launched by the state government to promote tourism.

Genla meeting young monks from Namsai



All smiles with the warm and welcoming hosts of Bene village, Aalo



With a lady of the Momba tribe of Mechuka



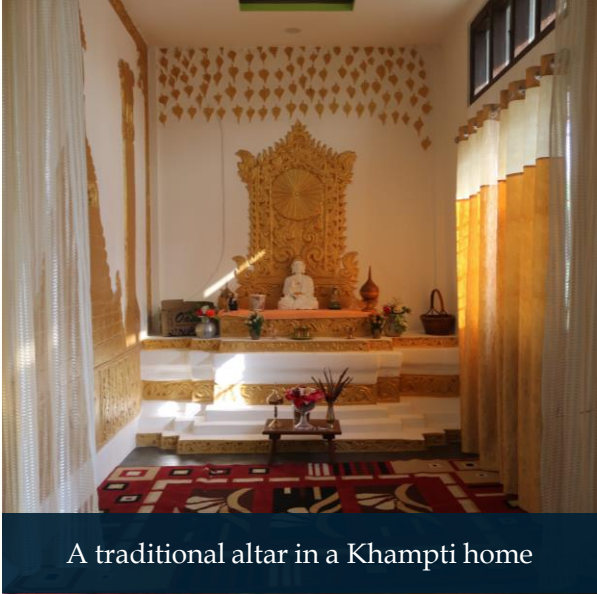
As a part of this initiative, a team of five, which included Gen La, administrative staff, Teke and Humaira, and students, Rinchen T. and Raju K. toured different parts of eastern Arunachal to meet homestay owners, local entrepreneurs, and experience the unique cultures of the different tribes in the state.

Community Engagement



Community Engagement

- Through this journey, we were honoured to spend time and learn from the rich indigenous knowledge of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh.



With 26 indigenous tribes and over 100 sub tribes, Arunachal offers a plethora of knowledge and experiences to all visitors and serves as a destination worth multiple visits.

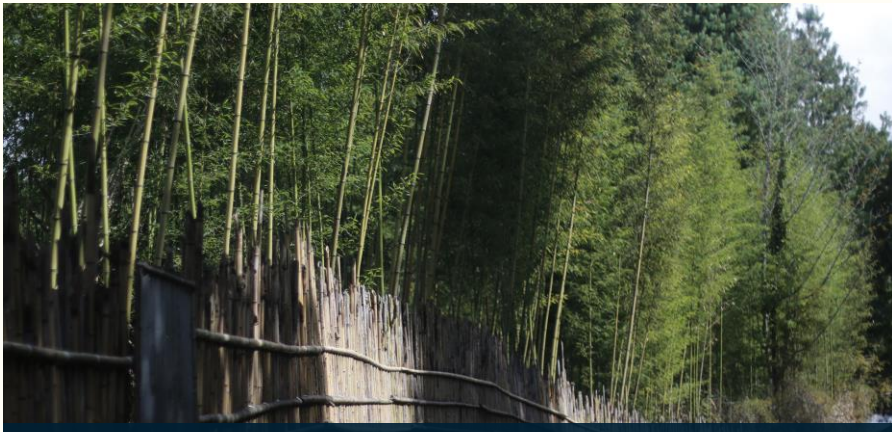
Community Engagement



Raju striking a joyful pose in the Mechuka Valley



Genla walking the sprawling tea estates of Oyan Village, Pasighat



The lush bamboo plantations of Ziro Valley



The rich Buddhist heritage of the Mombas of Mechuka



Attending an Apatani wedding in Ziro





Health and Wellbeing

Families, Farms, and Kitchen



Family Houses

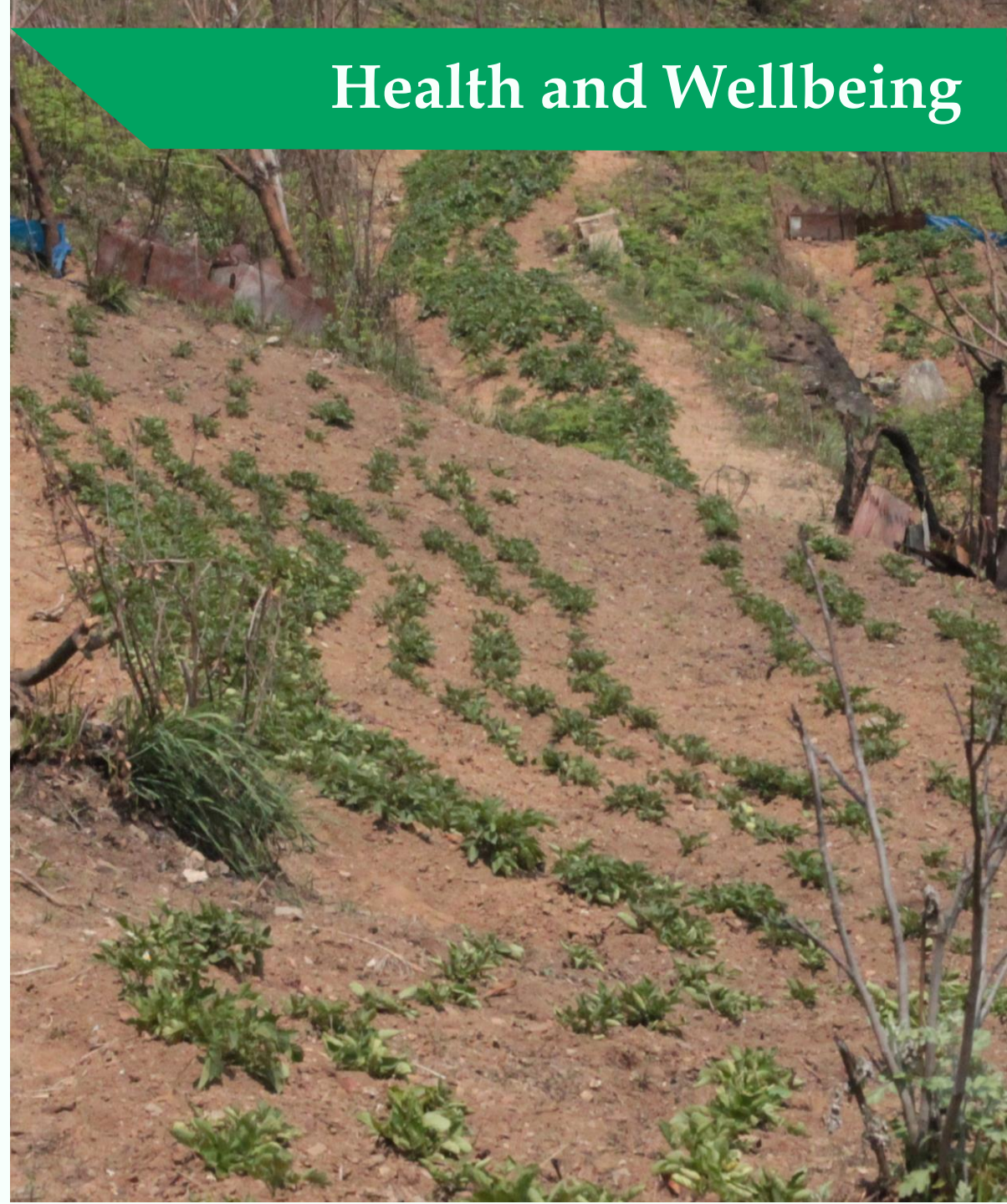
- On returning to the Community, the children were overjoyed to re-engage in regular activities.
- The campus came to life with the children's laughter and voices. All the children settled in well within their family houses. They are healthy and well.
- The little children took a little longer to settle in as their routines had been disrupted, but meeting their friends and family raised their spirits in no time!



Kitchen and Farming

- The kitchen started functioning in full swing once the children were back on campus. During their quarantine, the kitchen facilitated meals with social distancing by dividing the children into two groups
- The farming team was also delighted to receive the children and was most enthusiastic in providing fresh, healthy produce for them.
- The farming team also worked on preparing the farms for upcoming spring. They collected seeds and preserved them for our seed conservation initiative.

Health and Wellbeing





Education

Progress in Academics

Education



Academics at School

- Having completed their quarantine, all the children resumed classes at the beginning of October. The teachers and children demonstrated a lot of dedication and perseverance in catching up with their studies as there were several challenges with online classes during the second wave of COVID-19.
- Nonetheless, with the support of the Community, all the children were able to write their half-yearly exams successfully.
- Due to the shortened academic year, we weren't able to conduct elections to select the student representatives. However, two students from Grade 11 volunteered to be the school representatives. The cabinet was also chosen for the year.



School Activities

Jhamtse Media Club

- Our High School Geography teacher and Sports coach, Tenzin D., has started a media club in addition to the after-school activities around music and sports. The media club focuses on teaching children photography, videography, and writing for social media.

Little Socrates Club

- Two of our teachers, Sampurna G. and Ophelia L., have organized a club called the Little Socrates Club. They envision this club to be a space where children debate and discuss concepts like beauty, science, religion, philosophy, and more.

Code to Enhance Learning

- Four of our middle school children took part in an online coding programme, where each child was taught to code using an app called PocketCode. The children learned to make animation, games, and videos, which can help create awareness on the problems they see around them – like climate change and plastic pollution.





School Activities

Learning with Smartphones

- Minoti Singha, our primary school teacher was chosen for a campaign, #LikeATeacher run by digital media platform The Better India in collaboration with smartphone company Nokia. As a part of the campaign, 12 teachers were chosen from across the country and given 4 smartphones which could be used towards digital empowerment of their students. The students spend an hour every day in groups listening to audio stories, working on apps like Duolingo and learning Maths through activities and educational video channels like Khan Academy.

Sports Leadership - The Huracán Foundation

- Our High School Geography teacher and Sports coach, Tenzin D., has been selected to receive a grant from The Huracán Foundation. With the support of the Foundation, Tenzin hopes to increase girls' participation in sports and focus on inculcating transformational education through sports. He is determined to use sports to instill in children the values of commitment, discipline, and hard work.



University and Gap Year Students

University Students

- Some of our university students remain on campus, attending online classes due to the constantly fluctuating status of COVID-19 in India. The children who are at University have been safe and well on their campuses.
- All the children pursuing higher education have given their end of semester examinations and are gearing up for their next semester.

Gap Year Program

- After Grade 12, the children embark on a Gap Year – a bridge course between Grade 12 and beyond. Students indulge in a one-year long journey of self-exploration and understanding their role in fulfilling Jhamtse Gatsal's vision, while being prepared for the world. We currently have six students pursuing the gap year, focusing on acquiring emotional resilience, 21st century skills, leadership and management skills as well as healthy lifestyle habits for a self-reliant journey into adulthood.





Infrastructure

Major Updates from the Community

Construction: Family Duplex 2





Construction: Family Duplex 2

- The Family Duplex 2 was ready to be used by the month of December.
- We gathered in the family duplex for auspicious prayers to bless the family house before the children and Amalas moved in.
- In early January, the children moved into the family house with a lot of delight! They have settled in comfortably and are enjoying their stay in their new home.
- The children and the Amalas have expressed their deepest gratitude to all the supporters of Jhamtse who have made it possible for them to have a beautiful family house to share with each other.



Study area with a traditional touch.



Little children enjoying nap time in their new beds.



Amala's newly set up room in the Family House.



A freshly set-up kitchen ready to provide delicious meals for the children.



Children doing their chores in their open-air washing area.



View of the mountains from the balcony on the west side of the building.



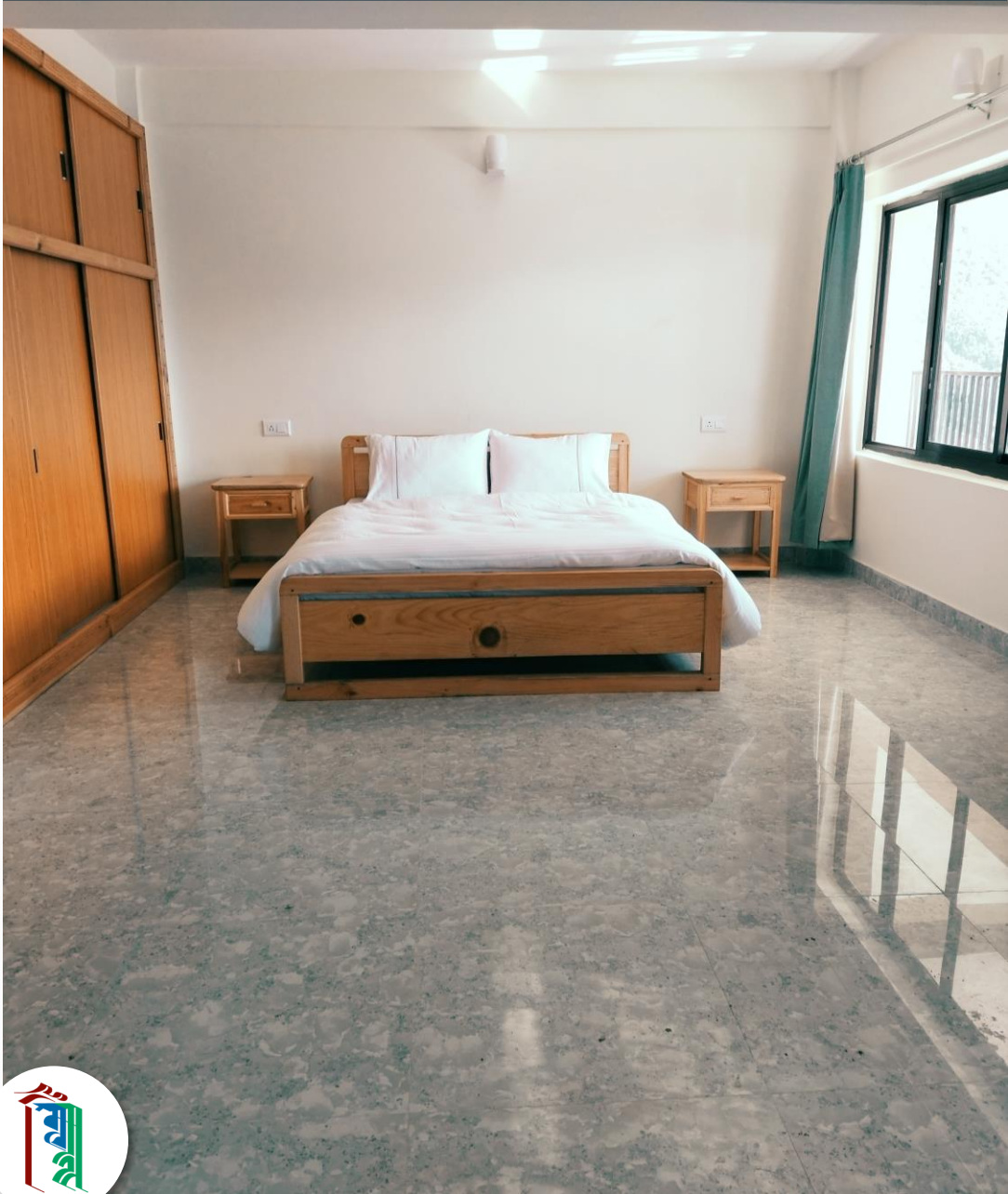
Adding splashes of color with plants and a wooden railing



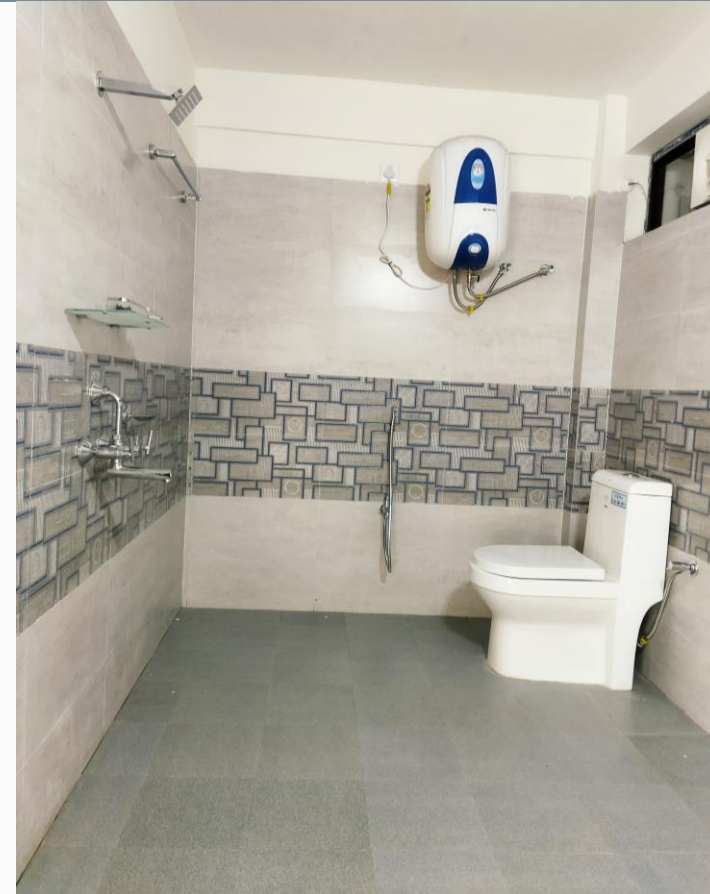
The Pema Choetse serving as a welcoming sight on the eaves!



Guest rooms ready to welcome our beloved visitors.



Fully functioning bathrooms ready to be used.





Inaugurating the cupboards in the new Family House!



Blessing the new family house with prayers



The altar set up for prayers



Excited to move to the new homes



The move became an event of its own!





Kitchen-Dining Complex

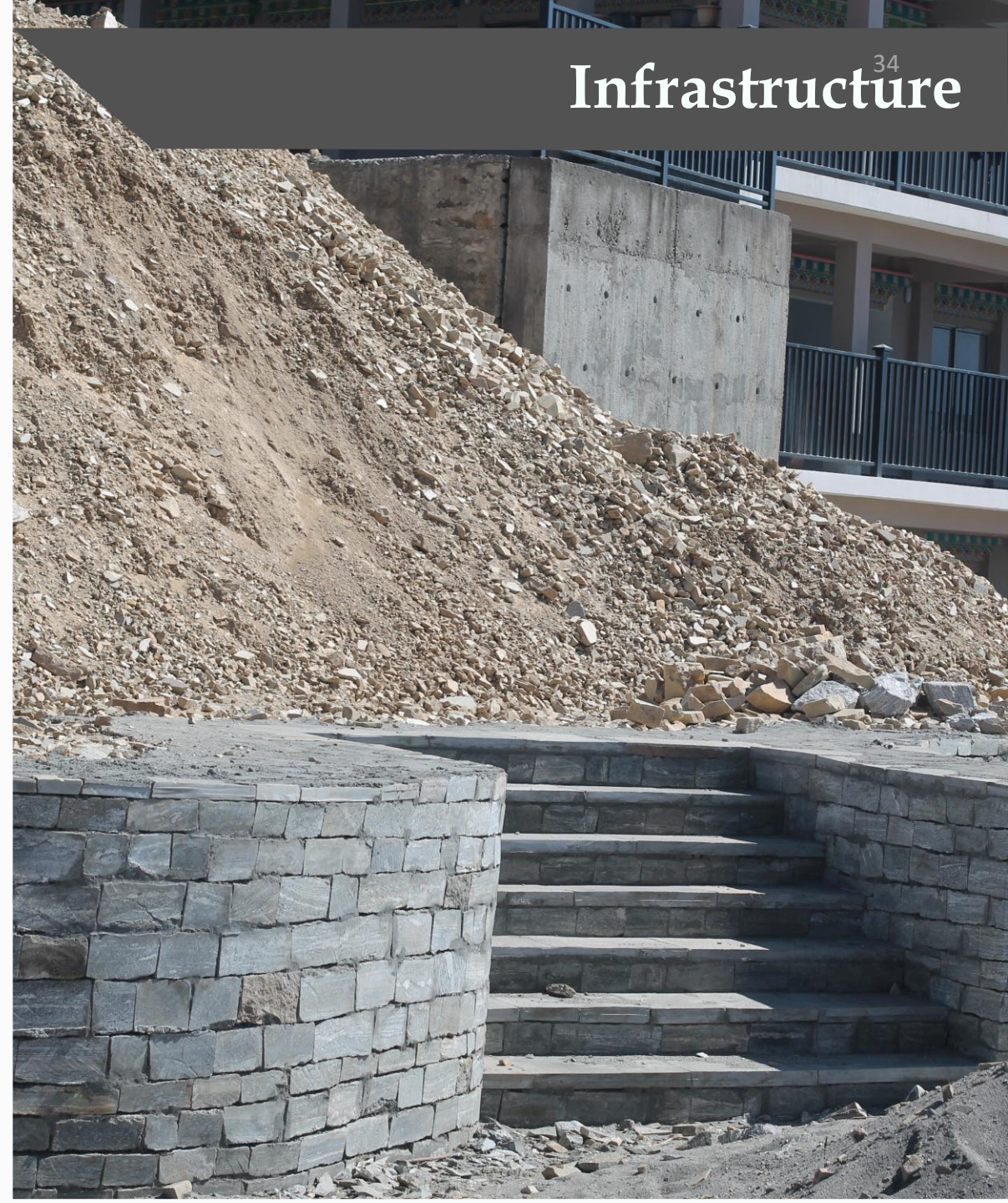
- The Biome team visited the site in order to ensure that the drawings were in line with the on-ground conditions.
- Upon their request, we then conducted a detailed survey of the site so that we will be able to mark the building foundations on the ground more accurately to receive a more accurate Bill of Quantities.

Rainwater Harvesting

- The rainwater harvesting team visited the campus for a site inspection to go over the details of the implementation plans.
- We plan to begin implementing the project from the family houses and then work our way down the rest of the campus.

A Terraced Wall

- As there is a steep drop from the family houses level to the adjacent areas, we felt that a staggered wall would be a valuable addition to the landscape in terms of safety and aesthetics. Work on this wall is in progress now.



Thank you!

JHAMTSE GATSAL CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY

