REPORT:  
Simpani Gaurigaun  
Drinking Water Project  
April 2019

Background

Following the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal in April 2015, Bhai Raja Panday, a Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Mid-Town Kathmandu (RCMK), shared with me a project proposal (on 18 July 1916) to rehabilitate the drinking and domestic water supply system in Simpani Gaurigaun village of Dhading district. Based on my previous conversation with Hannah Laufer, a WFP Alumna and President of the Palm for Life Fund (PILF), based in New York, I immediately (on 20 July 2016) shared the proposal with her to explore the possibility of raising fund through PILF. Hannah was supportive and agreed to launch fund raising from the PILF platform. After several iteration of revision to the project document, mainly by Bhai Raja Panday and the RCMK, the project was launched on 28 November 2016.

The Project

The project entailed constructing a water collection tank, installing water pump to lift the water up to a distribution tank, constructing distribution tank, installing piping and taps to 32 households in the village, and a primary school of the village. The initial estimate was about $32,000. After modification to the project to meet the specification of the Rotary Club, and other useful suggestions, the total outlay amounted to about $46,000.

Fund Raising

Following the launching of the project on the PILF website, I had written to friends and colleagues who has sent their condolence for the damages caused by the earthquake and expressed a desire to contribute to any cause that I would initiate. The first contribution was received from a friend on 24 January 2017.

Bhai Raja Panday was also approaching various friends and colleagues to raise funds. I learned afterwards, but Rotary Club of Masan-East (RCM), and Rotary Club of Dashum (RCD) Republic of Korea has already made a commitment to fully fund the project with some modification in the scheme, which they had communicated to the RCMK on 18 January 2017. The project became a joint project of the RCMK, RCM, RCD and WFP Alumni Network, Nepal Chapter. At that point, I stopped actively pursuing additional funds. Nevertheless, one another colleague made a contribution on 16 April 2017. This additional contribution was used to provide some basic training on the use of water to the villagers and school children.

WFP AN Nepal Chapter provided a commitment to the RCMK on 11 August 2017 which facilitated the finalization of the Rotary grant from the two Korean clubs. When the Korean grants were finally processed, WFP AN Nepal Chapter and RCMK signed an agreement, and funds raised were handed over to the RCMK.

Field Visits

A joint Rotary Club of Kathmandu and WFP Alumni Network team visited the project site on 30 January 2017 – after the project was launched on PILF, a contribution was already received, and the Rotary Club of Korea had made a commitment.

A second visit was undertaken on 17th May 2018 when members of the Rotary club of Korea visited Nepal.

The third, and final visit took place on 30th March 2019, when the project was completed and handed over to the local community. An event was organized at Gaurigaon, when the local community thanked the Rotary Club and WFP Alumni Network for their assistance. The consumer group also gave a letter of Appreciation to the WFP Alumni Network.

Suresh Raj Sharma, President, WFP-AN Steering Committee
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