



Nepalmed e.V.

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Amppipal Hospital Timeline and Nepal Facts

- 1951 King Tribhuvan reestablishes monarchy
- 1955 8,5 million inhabitants in Nepal, 90% farming
- 1957 “Gorkha project” established by Jonathan Lindell from United Mission to Nepal (UMN).
A six days’ walk West from Kathmandu a dispensary and a school was approved in Amppipal village. Two nurses, Becky Grimsrud and Nora Vickers, work alone in a shed.
The literacy rate in the region was 2%.
- 1958 A dispensary made from stone is built.
- 1960 In November Dr. Helen Huston from Canada arrives to support the nurses until January 1961 and again after 1963 until 1992.
- 1965 2500 students were enrolled at Gorkha schools started by UMN.
- 1968 25308 patients were seen this year in the dispensary, 288 operations.
- 1969 March 25, move to the new hospital building at a resting place (chautara) 15 minutes’ walk below the village.
- 1971 Drs. Tom and Cynthia Hale join the Amppipal Hospital team.
- 1982 Book burning at the hospital by communist village youth amidst political unrest in Nepal, affecting the hospital until 1984.
- 1985 Canadian Dr. Del Haug is a senior member of the medical team. He is a primary care physician. The team also includes a specialist surgeon from Canada, a physician from the UK specializing in pediatrics, an Australian General Practitioner and Dr. Helen Huston.
- In 1985 Nepal has a population of 16 million people. It is one of the poorest countries on the planet. For the country as a whole, life expectancy at birth is 51 yrs, infant mortality is 12%, mortality for children under 5 is 17% and maternal mortality is 13%. At least 74% of the country’s population is illiterate. These percentages are higher in rural areas which have little access to health care and education.
- The vast majority of patients attending the Amppipal hospital are subsistence farmers who live in poverty.
- Ether anesthetics are used for major surgery. There are only 7 qualified anesthetists in Nepal – none work outside Kathmandu.
- 1990 Democratic parties start in the country
- 1992 23 million inhabitants in Nepal.



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- 2001 UMN leaves Amppipal hospital, one Nepali doctor left, working in part time. The hospital is run by a local board under authority of the Nepal government.
- 2003 Babu Ram Giri is hospital manager. Dr. Wolfhard Starke, surgeon from Germany, serves the hospital voluntarily until March 2012, becoming medical director. Nepalmed, a small German non-governmental charity organization, starts supporting the hospital with staff, funds and material. 28 employees at the hospital. Siemens x-ray installed.
- 2004 A modern dental chair unit is being installed and manned with support from Dentists Without Limits, Germany. Local personnel trained as assistants.
- 2005 December 25, the first road from the village to the hospital is built by funds from Dr. Starke and Nepalmed.
- 2006 August, Hospital receives a first Ambulance car from the Indian Embassy.
- 2007 The first of several medical studies by Nepalmed looks into maternal and child health care, followed by a study on respiratory diseases 2009 and allergic diseases 2011. Every year, a number of week-long camps in medical specialties by Nepalese and German doctors.
- 2008 A campaign to build smoke-free ovens starts in Amppipal Village Development Committee (VDC).
- 2011 Photovoltaic electricity and solar warm water for patient bath are installed at the hospital with support from the German embassy.
- 2012 March 2012 until December 2013 – interim period with no permanent doctor at the hospital. Multitudes of short term assignment doctors fill the gap, some with support from Senior Expert Service, until the new surgeon is found in Germany. Young Nepali doctors work on short term base, supported by Annapurna Neurological Institute Kathmandu.
- 2012 The new building for operation theatre, labour ward and gynaecology ward are opened, financed by Nepal government and Nepalmed. New laundry and the first canteen opened. Approx. 29 million people live in Nepal. In Amppipal Hospital 19175 patients were seen out-patient and 2126 on the wards, 144 normal deliveries, 42 cesarean sections, 1078 surgical procedures.
- 2012 September, Prime Minister Dr Babu Ram Bhattarai visited the Hospital and appreciated the service provided by the hospital.
- 2012 Smoke free ovens starts in neighbouring VDC Palungtar and Harmi.
- 2013 A waste incinerator is installed with support from the German embassy, Hein Stahl from Interplast and Nepalmed. Mobile x-ray installed in operation room. Medical school is revitalized, starting teaching local staff and surrounding health post workers as well as young nursing students. The hospital features 45 beds and revenue covers for the salary of the 51 employees.



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2013 October, Amppipal hospital has its own MBBS doctor, trained with support of Nepalmed. A total of 4 young Nepalese doctors work in the hospital together with two German doctors from Rotary and Nepalmed.

December, 3 personnel from the hospital take part in the world wide first European Spirometry Driving License course in Kathmandu, organized by Dr. Arne Drews with the European Respiratory Society. Plans to open a health post in Tati Pokhari lead to week-long turmoil resulting in plummeting patient numbers.

2014 A study with 200 patients shows a very low number of infections with stomach bacteria Helicobacter. Anesthetic nurse Ram Chandra Dhakal visits Germany for 6 weeks to learn how to handle a mechanical ventilator for the OT. The digital Siemens x-ray is put into operation. Sponsors are Rotary Clubs Korbach and Bad Arolsen (40%) as well as Nepalmed (60%). Eight accommodation buildings are extensively renovated including solar panels. November: gynecologist von Oertzen takes the three-year-post financed by AGEH and Nepalmed.