



Dear members and friends!

Fifteen years Nepalmed, a reason to celebrate! But this year turned out to be the year of the great catastrophe.



Nepalmed Germany - Report 2015

Ampipal Hospital: in **January** the personnel took part in a first aid course under supervision of Ulrich Heidecke from Switzerland. From the revenue of the calendar sale from **24GuteTaten (24 good deeds)** the treatment of poor patients is secured for the next two years. In **April** first steps have been taken towards a new sewage plant for the entire hospital. The need is calculated and the site chosen. For developing a new trekking path linking Ampipal, Ligligkot, Thalajung, Surkate to Gorkha, Dr. Birgit Kirsch, Ole Hensel and Dawa Sherpa explore the region in search of paths and accommodation. Next year, the first group will be able to walk along the path, project name **„Gorkha Heritage Trail“**. The time needed to make the trip is 4-5 days if you always walk for half the day, max altitude is 1430 m. Dr. Sybille Keller and the **„Freundeskreis Gries“** financed a new dental chair and instruments. **June**, Andreas Otto installed a device for external saving of the digital X-ray pictures. **August**, Herbert Hillebrandt, like every year, checks up on all the devices.

In **October**, foundation for the new apartment building for nurses was set, a new ambulance was ordered and reconstructions were planned, which was all financed by the saxonian student initiative „Genialsozial“. Additionally, a new 4-wheel-drive for the transportation of patients was donated. Desinfection was sponsored by Prof. Wilker. A ventilation unit for the Septic Tank was implemented. The planning for a **retirement home** in Tati Pokhari in the vicinity of Ampipal has started and a building site is already found. Ole Hensel set up a software for the data management of patients. During a short visit, the former director of the United Mission to Nepal, Howard Barclay (94) and his family inspected the hospital. Arne Drews presented him our short story book. The guests were impressed by the development of the hospital after UMN withdrew in 2001. They are proud, that their seeds grow on fertile soil. The gynaecologist C. von Oertzen ended her activity in Ampipal after a year of service. **Patan Academy of Health Sciences, PAHS** The local doctors in Ampipal are sent by PAHS since

To continue our work for the people of Nepal we need your donations.

Volks- und Raiffeisenbank Muldental eG, Germany
IBAN: DE67 8609 5484 5000 1667 76
BIC: GENODEF1 GMV

The series of earth quakes in April and May 2015 in the districts of Gorkha and Sindhupalchok with thousands of injured and dead and extensive devastation of villages and towns did not leave our partners in Nepal unharmed. Ampipal Hospital has to rebuild the pharmacy, storage rooms and living quarters. The district hospital in Gorkha works out of tents, only. Out of 88 health posts in the Gorkha district only 9 are left undamaged.

The overwhelming wave of donations enabled us to send immediate, extensive disaster relief in terms of food, finance, specialists and material for several hospitals. Our surgical team treated more than five hundred patients in just four days in forgotten remote villages.

Kathmandu Model Hospital needs major repair work. In Kirtipur Hospital we established a completely new radiology department with mobile and stationary x-ray as well as a Siemens computertomography.

The Nepali decided on their new constitution after 7 years of discussion. Largely unnoticed in the outside world the country is now hit by a deadly border blockade by India. No petrol or other goods can enter Nepal. The economy broke down, no taxis run, no flights, no motorcycles, no cooking in the households of the cities, restaurants are closed, hospitals work without emergency electricity. Let us hope that the politicians solve this issue soon.

In the mean time we prepare the future tasks with our partners and are happy about the founding of our sister organization Nepalmed Nepal.

I wish You a peaceful New Year 2016!

Yours,

Arne Drews

December 2013 for 5 years. Dr. Kshitz Paudel, general practitioner with very good surgical capabilities is now a permanent member of the hospital staff. We are still sending trauma surgeons. Nepali medical students are coming regularly from Patan. They are co-tutored by Canadian doctors from „Academics without Borders“. Nepalmed is handing out partial scholarships for medical students which will then work in Ampipal. Nursing students are coming in from Gorkha and Damauli. Arne Drews did a lung function workshop with the medical students from Patan .

In 2015, many specialized workers, doctors and nurses supported the staff at Ampipal. Thanks to everyone.

Kirtipur Hospital:

In February / March a healthcamp „Ultrasound“ and a workshop „Cleaning and disinfection of the endoscopy“ was held. Both activities received many visitors.

The endoscopy wing will be improved and extended. Doctors and nurses of Kirtipur took part in training sessions (e.g. colonoscopy). The company **Karl Storz** has promised future support. This way, more devices can be obtained and thus the medical scope of the hospital will be extended. The **study to look at helicobacter-**

pylori prevalence by Dr. Nijina Tamrakar will be continued. For the emergency department, a cooperation with **Rescue Care Worldwide** was agreed to. Dr. Jörg Homann taught colleagues in joint surgeries in October.

Kirtipur Hospital Radiology after the destruction of the old x-ray during the earthquake we donated new equipment. Besides a mobile x-ray from GE we bought a big Siemens x-ray and a Siemens 16-slices computed tomography, cosponsored by action Medeor, total investment 250.000.- €. Due to the border blockade by India the CT scanner still is in India in the traffic jam at the border. Director Bharat Pradhan emphasized the great achievement. Well equipped radiology is a gate opener to running a full scale hospital.

The **Kuratorium „Tuberkulosis in the World“** agreed to open a first lab in Kirtipur Hospital. The Kuratorium is the partner for GENETUP, the only Nepalese lab capable of reliable drug resistance testing for tuberculosis.

Dhulikel Hospital Dr. Birgit Kirsch held courses for vascular surgery. Ole Hensel plans a neurological conference and other educational courses.

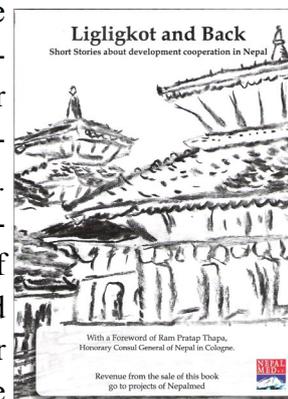
Thanks to all students (41 went to Nepal in 2015), who took donations

and send us reports about their **elective period**. Thank you: Burga Marx! work.nepal@gmx.de

Nepalmed Nepal founded Under guidance of consul Ram Thapa and lawyer Raj Kumar Shrestha our sister organization Nepalmed Nepal is formed and registered with the District Health Office and Social Welfare Council. Chairman is Babu Ram Giri. Three members each come from Ampipal and Kathmandu.

Germany: 15 years Nepalmed. For our anniversary we published a book with short stories about our voluntary work, called „Ligligkot and back“.

Ligligkot is the mountain, where our partner Ampipal Hospital is situated. The first German edition of 1000 pc. sold out in just four months. The



second edition contains additional material from our work during the earthquake. The English edition is available, Nepalese edition is in print.

Calender Nepal 2016: Dr. Rüdiger Wenzel produced our calender, this time in German and English, 10 €. You may purchase it via email nepalmed@gmx.de and at Amazon. Mrs. Diana Schackow produced an art-



Ultrasound camp in Kirtipur



New dental unit in Ampipal



Vascular workshop in Dhulikel

ful calendar for charity benefitting our projects, too. It costs 15 € and is available at nepalmed@gmx.de.

Arne and Silke Drews have been invited to the **citizen's festival of the German Federal President**, honouring voluntary work in Castle Bellevue in Berlin on 11. September 2015. We handed over our short story book to Mr. Gauck and Mrs. Schadt.

We have been present at several film festivals like **Mountain film night** at Gaudlitzberg and **Mountain view — film festival Dresden** and presented Nepalmed at a booth at many more

occasions. Our new documentary movie „**In the Land of Tents**“ has been shown at the film festivals Tegernsee and subsequently in Salzburg, Austria as well as the Lions Cinema Night in Grimma. The DVD is available for 10 € at nepalmed@gmx.de. Film duration 20 min., languages: english, german, nepali.

Many colleagues and friends gave talks about Nepalmed and collected donations. Thank you so much, all of you! Also, a great thanks to all unnamed supporters of our voluntary work!



29. April 2015 - Earthquakes - 12. May 2015

The epicenter of the severe earthquake of the 25th April lay just a few kilometers northeast of Ampipal. The pharmacy, storage rooms, the office building and a residential building were damaged. Luckily, only a few people have been hurt and sought treatment at the hospital, despite many of the farmers' houses in the surrounding villages were destroyed or damaged. Immediately after the earthquake we supplied first aid from the donations we gave in April. With tents, quilts, filters and food we could relieve the first need quickly and uncomplicated. The goods were distributed to the villages around Ampipal from 28th April until mid of May. At „Action Medeor“ we extensively bought medication, material and devices for Ampipal, Kirtipur and Model Hospitals and Annapurna Neurological Institute. Action Medeor even supplied a second order for every of our four partners and covered the costs. Within four weeks we transferred goods worth more than 100000 Euro. For reconstruction of the destroyed buildings in Ampipal there are already sponsors at hand. 2016 will be a year of construction work.

Sybille Keller and Birgit Kirsch both were in Nepal and gave immediate help in Sankhu and Bodnath. Disaster relief team: In May a surgical and technical team from Nepalmed travelled to the districts of Gorkha and Sindhupalchok. They treated several hundred patients. Some of them suffered bone fractures weeks ago. A number of hospitals were supplied with expensive orthopedic surgical materials. The team built big tents for shelter and schools. Thank you very much to firms like Rhoen Klinikum, pharmacists without borders, Braun Aesculap, Aktion Medeor, Smith & Nephew and to the team: Dr. Ruediger Wenzel, Dr. Joerg Homann, Dr. Aeilke Brenner, Claudia Imbery, Susanne Falch, Katrin und Olaf Stoeckel. They were accompanied by the German film team Dr. Peter-Hugo Scholz and Olaf Kreiß who shot the documentary movie „**In the Land of Tents**“. Arne Drews reported about the projects at the German embassy in Kathmandu in October.



New projects after the earthquake: only 9 out of 88 health posts still work in the Gorkha district!

Gorkha Hospital: The hospital was severely damaged during the earthquake and works out of tents only. The German Bank for Reconstruction KfW agreed to finance a new building as well as the equipment. Babu Ram Giri and Arne Drews reported in Gorkha about the capacity of Amppipal Hospital and offered cooperation. The Chief District Officer is interested because there are only these two hospitals in the district: Gorkha und Amppipal. Medical aid will otherwise be given by health assistants in Health Posts only.

Namjung Health Post: With nepalese honorary consul Ram Thapa and the District Health Officer more topics have been discussed at Gorkha Hospital by Babu Ram Giri and Arne Drews. Afterwards we visited the well equipped and functioning health post in Bunkhot. From there we drove to the destroyed **Namjung Health Post**, one and a half hours by four-wheel-drive away from Gorkha. Nepalmed will finance reconstruction and equipment of this health post. The personnel is not harmed and willing to continue work.

Sindhupalchok Health Post: In the severely hit region of Sindhupalchok northeast of Kathmandu, Nepalmed supports the reconstruction and technical equipment for the health post in **Sipaghat**. Dr. Komal Thapa is the permanent general practitioner and works in cooperation with Dhulikel Hospital. He dug out farmers from under their collapsed houses just by his hands. The health post building is in use again, but a generator for electricity and medical instruments and devices are needed.



Benefizwalk, Auckland, NZ



Handing over a four-wheel-drive and foundation stone for nurses quarter, Amppipal



Inauguration of Radiology, Kirtipur

Earthquake help for the villagers: Several initiatives collected great amounts of donations to rebuild destroyed villages. Until October we handed these funds over to village development committees around Amppipal. In the **Sindhupalchok region** thanks to a **Greifswalder Initiative** immediate aid with food and necessities like quilts, blankets, tarps and construction material were given to the farmers.

One main project is the village of **Phera in Solu district**. Here Dawa Sherpa coordinates reconstruction. The village development committee chose 25 especially needy households. Thanks to the sponsoring group around **Fabien Matthias** the households will receive support. The people will get new hope and a future to look forward to.

In 2015 there were so many charity events around the globe like never before: bake sales, charity runs, concerts, photo exhibitions, vernissages, charity boxes, presentations, newspaper articles, radio and tv interviews, launch reading, collections in churches and at birthday parties and even weddings. It is impossible to list all here in this letter. Thank you all for your support!

We wish you a peaceful and happy New Year 2016 !



Arne Drews



Birgit Kirsch



Rüdiger Wenzel



Gerda Matzel



Ole Hensel



Florian Drews



Alena Kuhlmann



Christine Drews