



End of year report

2016 Project

LOTUS FLOWER TRUST UK

NALANDA RESIDENTIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL,

GIRLS' ACCOMMODATION

The funds provided to your organisation for the current year by TFWA Care were donated following the approval of the TFWA Management Committee and Board. Among the prerequisites for funding by TFWA Care are transparency and accountability. We would be grateful if you could send us a brief summary of the project, the objectives achieved, problems encountered, impact on the local community and indicators of the project's success. We will share the report with the Management Committee at the end of year meeting.

Please do not hesitate to report on the project's successes as well as any aspects that did not go according to plan. This serves to provide a greater understanding of the challenges and issues encountered by the communities on whose behalf your organisation is working. Any quantifiable indicators will also be helpful in your report.

Thank you.

Project details: Name: Nalanda Residential Primary School, Girls' Accommodation, Leh, Ladakh, India

- 1. Please summarise in a few words the project supported by TFWA Care, including the principle objectives and duration.**

In 2013 Lotus Flower Trust was approached by His Holiness Togdan Rinpoche, one of the most senior Buddhist monks in Ladakh, to ask if we could fund the construction of **Nalanda Residential Primary School** (Phase 1). The school is for children who live in very remote areas of the country and as a result do not receive a good education. It is an accepted principle that children who live in remote areas must travel to the capital town, Leh, to receive their education. TFWA Care agreed to fund the original school which was opened by President of TFWA Care Erik Juul-Mortensen and other Lotus Flower Trustees in August 2014.

The traditions of the All Buddhist Gonpa Association in Ladakh, Nalanda School, Phase 1, mean that girls cannot be accommodated in the same building as boys, so it is only being used by boys at present. Last year Lotus Flower Trust approached TFWA Care for funding to build the girls' accommodation. TFWA Care agreed to support this project and donated 40,000 Euros/£30,490.97 (the exchange rate at the time the funds were received).

- 2. What activities were carried out within the scope of the project over the course of the year?**

The Ladakh building season runs between mid March and mid September. During this time in 2016, the construction of the girls' accommodation has been completed (see photographs below). The rammed earth construction method follows an environmental design using compacted mud for the walls, which mitigates the temperature extremes of strong sun during summer, and the harsh winter temperatures which regularly drop to below -20C. Using this method of construction, temperatures inside the building, even in the extreme cold, remain at about 14C. This design has been resurrected over the past few years but is thought to be 8,000 years old. The girls look forward to moving into the school in March 2017 when recruitment for the new year begins. We will supply photographs to show them in their new accommodation.

Evaluation

- 3. Has the project been successful? Please outline the success factors for each objective as well as the challenges encountered and solutions adopted to overcome them.**

The building was constructed very quickly without compromising the quality or design; it was not expected to be complete until mid 2017. It is expected that all places will be taken up – in fact demand is likely to exceed the capacity available.

Whilst constructing the roof to a local Tibetan design, it was hoped to use hard wood purchased from Srinagar, near the border between India and Pakistan. Due to the current border conflicts between the Indian and Pakistani armies, these supplies have been affected. Therefore traditional poplar poles have been used in the construction.



The overall project costs were within budget.

The Trust will visit the school next year and submit a written report on progress.

4. Did the work accomplished this year help you learn lessons that will benefit future work?

The rammed earth construction method, used also on three other projects this year, has proved to be very successful. Where appropriate, the Trust will use this method for all future projects in Ladakh.

Sustainability

5. How has the project had a positive impact on the community/ies at the core of the project and what will be the long term benefits? Please explain if the project has helped empower the beneficiaries by providing greater autonomy.

It will be some time before we are able to give you a full and detailed response to this question. However, based on the current feedback received from the school, with just boys living on site, we know the girls have an amazing opportunity ahead of them that they would not have received should they have remained in their remote villages. It is anticipated approximately 50 children, including boys and girls, will eventually attend the school. These numbers will continue to grow as the school develops.

The children come from small villages in remote valleys high in the Indian Himalayas. Schools are scarce, as are teachers. Their scant education is interrupted by chores necessary to put food on the table. At Nalanda, they will receive an excellent education that will give them real opportunities for the future, in Ladakh itself, or further afield. Currently, the job opportunities within Ladakh confine most children to a life of basic subsistence or poverty. A burgeoning tourism industry offers hope, and there is a need for well-educated Government officials, doctors and teachers – but a certain level of education is required for all these professions.

6. Will the project continue in the future or is it now complete?

This phase, the construction of the Girls' Accommodation at Nalanda School, is now complete. A new dining facility as well as washing and toilet facilities will be built in 2017, funded by Gebr. Heinemann and Estee Lauder.

Should the school need further capacity, Lotus Flower Trust would most likely be approached to fund further work, but there is none planned at the moment.

Finance

7. Please provide a summarised breakdown of how TFWA Care funds were utilised for the project.

The TFWA Care funds enabled the project to be delivered from start to finish. The funds were used to employ local labour, purchase raw materials and for transport. The materials consist of mud bricks as well



as compacted mud, granite rocks for earthquake proof foundations, poplar poles and willow sticks for the roof, doors and windows. Only 10% was used to cover administration, which includes planning, managing of project and site inspections. Land was not purchased as it was already available within the extensive site of the school.

Please attach your latest annual report as well as any pictures you would like to use to illustrate this report.

We would be grateful if you could send this to John Rimmer (j.rimmer@tfwa.com) by **November 11 2016 at the latest.**

** If you would like to submit a request for further funding for a **new project** to be funded by TFWA Care in 2017, please complete the form on the following page. **Please note that all projects must be sponsored by a TFWA member, or they will not be accepted for funding.**

Photographs below show:

Nalanda Phase 1 completed
View from school buildings of the Himalayas
Opening Ceremony
3 pictures of Phase 2 construction in process

Nalanda School, Girls' Accommodation, Sabu Ayu, Ladakh, 2016

