



## The B Project, Nepal

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Seven Summits Women ([www.sevensummitwomen.org](http://www.sevensummitwomen.org))

Project title: The B Project

Project location: Bhotenamlang, Sindhupalchok district, Nepal



*Children in class at Bhotenamlang Secondary School*

### **May–December 2017**

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## Background

The district of Sindhupalchok, Nepal was one of the areas hit hardest by the April 2015 earthquake: more than 2,000 people died, many were injured, and the vast majority of houses, schools, and medical facilities were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. In Bhotenamlang, the hometown of Maya Gurung (one of the founders of Seven Summits Women), there was not 1 house left intact. Sindhupalchok district was already known for sex-trafficking, lack of education, and discrimination against women, and the earthquake's destruction meant that these problems would only grow worse.

## RMF's Presence

Soon after the earthquake, Real Medicine Foundation partnered with Seven Summits Women to rebuild schools, health posts, and other damaged public structures in the village of Bhotenamlang, Sindhupalchok, and to provide immediate relief and long-term support to the people of Sindhupalchok district. Currently, RMF, through Seven Summits Women:

- Improves WASH conditions in Bhotenamlang VDC
- Supports tailoring and English classes for local women
- Supports teachers at local schools
- Is working to build Bhotenamlang Community Center
- Is working to rebuild Balsudhar Primary School
- Pursues new programs with additional partners

## Maintaining and Building Partnerships

During the reporting period, the local team held meetings with government agencies, school management committees, rural municipalities, district-level government agencies, and other authorities. These visits were carried out for organizational renewal, permission from government agencies for the program, and consultations with different stakeholders and specialists.

## Construction Projects

### Bhotenamlang Community Center

The transfer of ownership of land to Seven Summits Women was completed in coordination with the Land Revenue Office for Bhotenamlang Community Center. Land designated for the community center measures 5 ropanis, or 27,380 square feet. For several months of monsoon season, progress on the Bhotenamlang Community Center was slow due to obstructed roads. However, by September, landscaping and building temporary shelters for workers had begun. On November 17, 2017, the building site was visited by Operation Manager and Lead Engineer Kulendra Neupane from Build Up Nepal (BUN) and the Seven Summits Women team, and on December 11, 2017, the land for the community center had been completely cleared.



*Excavator clearing the construction site for Bhotenamlang Community Center*

### Balsudhar Primary School, Kafle

President of Balsudhar Primary School, Mr. Chegel Tamang, has provided 1 ropani, or 5,476 square feet of land for the reconstruction of the school, and Seven Summits Women purchased an additional ropani, or 5,476 square

feet of land for the school, for USD 500/-. On November 17, 2017, the building site was visited by Operation Manager and Lead Engineer Kulendra Neupane from Build Up Nepal (BUN) and the Seven Summits Women team, and on December 16, 2017, the land for the school had been completely cleared.



*Inspecting the school's building site on November 17, 2017*



*Land fully cleared for school building on December 16, 2017*

### **MOU Signed with Build Up Nepal**

On December 14, 2017, Seven Summits Women signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Build Up Nepal (BUN) for the construction of the community center in Bhotenamlang and Balsudhar Primary School in Kafle. BUN is a nonprofit company that specializes in compressed stabilized earth block (CSEB) brickbuilding technology, commonly referred as earth brick. Through this technology, brick is locally manufactured instead of being acquired elsewhere and then transported. Local soil is mixed with sand and cement in a machine that produces bricks.

According to our agreement, BUN will provide brickmaking training for a week, and Seven Summits Women will hire local men and women for the training. In four different phases, BUN will then provide construction training while their engineer leads the entire construction process. BUN will provide Seven Summits Women with modern, earthquake resistant, government approved designs for the community center and school. Mr. Kaji Gurung has been appointed as the Field Officer from Seven Summits Women to lead and monitor the construction of both the community center and school.

### **Approval Granted**

On December 20, 2017, we met with President of Paanchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, Mr. Tashi Lama, for approval of our construction plan for the community center in Bhotenamlang and Balsudhar Primary School in Kafle. Approval was granted, and we hope to start construction of both the community center and school in early January 2018. The design for the school is already approved, and the design for the community center will be completed by BUN and forwarded by end of December 2017, and approval from the Nepal government will then be coordinated.



*Meeting with President of Paanchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality, Mr. Tashi Lama*



*Mr. Jha, a local engineer, and BUN Operation Manager and Lead Engineer Kulendra Neupane discussing the design prior to approval from the municipality.*

## School Support

### Teachers

Continuation of teaching support has been a necessity, as the two primary (or basic) schools did not have teachers at all. At Bhotenamlang Secondary School, we support one teacher, who promotes student hygiene, conducts early childhood development (ECD) classes, and monitors the water filtration system at each of the schools on alternating Sundays. At Shree Chilaune Secondary School, we have just started to support one computer teacher, meeting a fundamental need observed at the school. Currently, we are supporting a total of **6 teachers** at the following schools:

- Balsudhar Primary School – 2 teachers
- Shree Bachalamai Basic School – 2 teachers
- Bhotenamlang Secondary School – 1 teacher
- Shree Chilaune Secondary School – 1 teacher



*RMF/Seven Summits Women-supported teacher Sunita leading a hygiene class*



*Arithmetic class at Shree Bachhalamai Basic School*



*View of Balsudhar Primary School*



*Students gather around their teacher at Balsudhar Primary School*

### **School Uniforms to Benefit Local Children and Women**

We have begun preparations to provide school uniforms for 432 students at 4 schools in the remote villages of The B Project's target area, Sindhupalchok district. The schools were chosen based on income level of the villages and students from minority castes:

- Balsudhar Primary School, Kafle – 45 students
- Shree Bachalamai Basic School, Lekharka – 119 students
- Panch Pokhari Basic School, Gobre – 16 students
- Golmeshwari Basic School, Tar – 252 students



*Balsudhar Primary School, Kafle*



*Shree Bachalamai Basic School, Lekharka*



*Panch Pokhari Basic School, Gobre*



*Golmeshwari Basic School, Tar*

In 2016, we provided a 3-month tailoring training program to 10 women from the village of Bhotenamlang. With the aim to further empower local women, we decided to hire 4 of these former trainees to work as assistant seamstress, led by the professional village tailor, to sew the children's school uniforms. This will provide the women with the opportunity to hone their skills by getting additional, first-hand experience and working with the professional tailor.

The team that will sew the uniforms for the children includes:

- Mrs. Sushila Gurung
- Mrs. Gita Gurung
- Mr. Ram Nepali, the village tailor
- Mrs. Kabita Gurung
- Mrs. Uma Gurung



*Tailoring team for the school uniform project*

On December 18, 2017, materials were purchased for the children's uniforms, and they were delivered to the tailor, Mr. Ram Nepali, in Bhotenamlang on December 20, 2017. The tailoring team will begin sewing the school uniforms in the coming weeks.



*Material delivered to Bhotenamlang*



*Children being measured for their uniforms*



*Seven Summits Women Leader Maya Gurung with some of the schoolchildren*