



## Model Village Project, Nepal

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Prepared by: Pragya Gautam, Program and M&E Coordinator

Organization: Real Medicine Foundation Nepal ([www.realmedicinefoundation.org](http://www.realmedicinefoundation.org))

Project title: Model Village Project (MVP)

Project location: Arupokhari, Gorkha District, Nepal



*RMF Program Manager and Clinical Officer monitoring construction*

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Real Medicine Foundation  
11700 National Blvd., Suite 234  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
+1.310.820.4502

## Background

Gorkha District is one of the areas most heavily affected by the April 2015 earthquake; the epicenter was in Barpak, 15 km from the town of Gorkha. It destroyed the majority of health and educational facilities in the area and damaged about 60 percent of the birthing centers.

Three years later, and with limited resources, the people of Gorkha are still recovering. According to the 2011 National Population and Housing Census, there are 66,506 households and 271,061 people in Gorkha District. The female population is 150,020, and the male population is 121,041. The overall literacy rate is 66.34%, with the male literacy at 75.09% and female literacy rate at 59.44%.

## RMF's Presence

Soon after the earthquake, RMF began providing much-needed emergency support to the people of Arupokhari, a remote village in Gorkha District, and the RMF Health Clinic has been providing free health services to the people of Arupokhari and its neighboring villages since January 2016. In only two years, the clinic has become one of the most popular institutions in the area, as even the government health facility has been unable to provide such dignified, accessible, around-the-clock care to the locals, even during rainy season. With dedicated RMF staff, the clinic has been operating in a temporary structure in the rustic area of Arupokhari. The previous health clinic had been destroyed by the megaquake and aftershocks in April 2015, with the epicenter being nearby. The structure was rendered useful for the RMF Health Clinic by installing metal roofing sheets in place of the walls. The temporary, 2-room structure is still in use as RMF's clinic building.

## Construction of New Building for RMF Health Clinic

RMF has now started construction of a new, earthquake-resistant building for the RMF Health Clinic. The construction contract was mutually agreed upon with Global Engineering Consultants Private Limited in June 2018, and the construction is estimated to be completed by December 2018. The work is continuing at a good pace, and the construction process, quality of materials, and quality of work are being continuously monitored by RMF Clinical Officer Bishnu Sharma, as well as other members of the Clinic Management Committee. RMF Nepal's management team has also paid two monitoring visits to the site to ensure the quality of the construction materials and process. In the near future, the RMF Health Clinic in Gorkha will start providing services in the new building, with adequate space and running water.



*August 2018: Program Manager Ganesh Shrestha (right and center) assessing construction progress and clinic records*

As another step towards sustainability, cooperation with local government, and community ownership, the RMF Health Clinic has also been accredited by the local government of Arughat Rural Municipality, Gorkha, as an autonomous health center that will report to the health section of the municipality.

#### **Patients Served**

From May to July 2018, the RMF Health Clinic in Arupokhari, Gorkha has provided free, quality health services to 2,342 patients. Once the new building is completed, RMF's clinic will be expanding its services with much-needed medical laboratory facilities and the first birthing center in the area, which will provide access to dignified maternity care.