



# HAUS DER HOFFNUNG - HILFE FÜR NEPAL e.V.

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## Newsletter No. 41

Dear Friends,

In the Newsletter Nr. 39 we mentioned that we took in about 20 new children in Spring 2017. Because of many other recent events we have not yet introduced them to you – which we want to do in this Newsletter. Most of the new children did not come alone but with their siblings who we did not want to split up. It is painful enough to overcome the death of one parent or their separation. The family shall not be separated further and the children in question and their siblings should not be ripped apart from each other. And together, everything is easier. They will have somebody at their side when overcoming their grief, when coping with the pain of being separated from their loved-ones, and when adapting to life in our large family. Our family includes children from all parts of the country, and different castes and ethnicities. The new children came to us via our current and former home members, teachers of the children's school, neighbors or the "Social Welfare Council" (SWC)--- the Nepali youth welfare office.



**Unisha & Unish**

The majority of the new children have lost one parent. The father of Unish (9) and Unisha (6) worked as a truck driver and died in an accident near the Indian border – sadly, this is not uncommon due to the narrow and winding streets, irresponsible driving and the government not enforcing traffic rules. Their mother works on construction sites and due to her long working hours; she is financially, and emotionally not able to care for her children.

In the hilly rural areas where the grass for the cattle has to be cut by hand on a daily basis, a family member wearing plastic sandals often slips down the slope and, in the worst case, dies. That's how 13-year old Manisha and her 11-year old brother Manoj came from Lamjung district which was heavily affected by the earthquake of 2015. After their father died, their mother remarried soon after and left the children with the sister of her deceased husband, the so called "big-mother." According to the Nepali tradition, she is the one in this case who has to take the responsibility for the children of the deceased person, even if she has her own family.



**Manisha & Manoj**

Neither the children's mother, nor their aunt was financially capable to care for them. That's why a neighbor from the same village brought them to us.



The mother of Imit (9) and his sister Smriti (6) died of the same cause in Dhading. In the beginning the two children could not deal with their mother's death and frequently cried, especially Smriti missed her mother a lot. The father has remarried and lives with his new family.

It is very uncommon to be a single father in the rural society of Nepal. In the beginning, the grandparents took care of their grandchildren, but due to their age they were not able to do so any longer. Because in rural areas people marry already at the age of 15 or 16 years and have children soon afterwards, the grandparents are often only between the age of 40 or 50. They seem old, mentally and physically, because they have worn themselves out doing exhausting physical work under extreme weather conditions, had to endure very strenuous living conditions, and ate too little food and had a very simple diet. Think about their daily task of fetching the water from the next well which can be located a great distance away. They are worn out and emaciated and a lot less dynamic than people of the same age in our home country.

Diseases which are often not even diagnosed are another cause of death, especially in areas far from Kathmandu where there is a lack of roads. The villagers first go to a trusted local medicine man or witchdoctor and only pay a visit to an educated doctor when the treatment of the former was not fruitful. At that point of time the disease has reached a state in which even a doctor cannot help anymore. Another possibility is that there is no staff in the health post and there is no doctor present, because nobody wants to work in so remote areas such as the far North-West and very underdeveloped region of Humla.



Others cannot even afford medical treatment, because Nepal does not have health insurance. That's how the father of the two brothers Prakash (11) and Rajan (7) passed away due to a disease – maybe a heart attack. Because several children from this area live here with us, their older brothers got to know about our organization and brought their younger brothers to Kathmandu, locked them in a room and contacted us. Could we have said no?



A disease also led to the death of the very poor parents of Sarap Narayan (6) and his sister Sanju (8) from the Southern Terai region of Nepal. Their grandmother brought the children to us. When their 14 year old brother – who is earning his living in a shoe factory in Kathmandu – heard that his siblings were living with us, he wanted to bring them back to the village immediately as he didn't want his younger siblings living with strangers. He found out our address and came together with two friends to us - who had already tried to convince him, that the children are in better hands with us rather than with their grandmother in the village. Impressed with what he saw, he left again without taking his siblings back.

Why the father of the brothers Sabin (12) and Sandip (14) from Nuwakot committed suicide, we do not know. They, like the former mentioned children, are from a family with a large number of children.



**Sabin & Sandip**



**Sangam**

**Lalit**

In April 2018 Lalit (about 7 years old) from Rukum joined our home – his fate is especially grave. His mother committed suicide, and we do not know whether his father is also dead or whether he has disappeared. The boy ended up as a child laborer in a brick factory in India. Luckily he was rescued and now lives with us. If Sabin Kuhlal's grandfather wouldn't have been there, this boy might have suffered from the same fate – he came to us also this April from Banepa. When his mother was diagnosed with a kidney disease, the father abandoned his family. The mother died of her disease; the grandfather took charge of the child. The father has not reappeared which means a lot of suffering for the grandfather. Finally, Sangam (10) is worth mentioning who comes from the central district of Dolakha. Her father died from rabies.

Separation and divorce also bring many children to us. In the case of two brothers Akash (10) and Bigyan (7,) the father left the family years ago. Their deaf-mute mother works on a chicken farm and can barely earn her living with her wages. Due to her disability she is not able to support her sons.

Living in desperate poverty, the parents of Santram (12) and his sister Menuka (8) from the Southern region of Bardiya divorced. Neither of them could have started a new life with one, let alone with both children. How good, that a former member of our home brought them to us.



**Bigyan & Akash**



**Sabin**



**Menuka & Santram**



**Niruta & Niraj**

Less common in the Nepali society is the case of Niruta (6) and her brother Niraj (4) from Ramechhap – their mother had a relationship with another man while her husband worked in Malaysia. The parents divorced and are by now both remarried. The children from the first marriage are seen as an

unfortunate burden which would hamper the beginning of a new life.

Extreme poverty also brings children to us. This was the case for Sunil (7) and his brother Subendra (6) from Remechhap whose father doesn't earn enough money to support the family. For a better future the parents want to secure a better education for their children possible and therefore accept the separation.



This also applies to Binod (15) whose sister grew up in an establishment for girls. She wanted to enable her brother similar chances in life and therefore contacted us.

The other six children belong to our domestic workers, because we believe that they should also receive a good education. They also come from poor families and some of the mothers are also single mothers. The association covers all costs for food and school for them. They spend the day with our children, take part in all activities and go home just to sleep. They are fully integrated.

Many very motivated volunteers came and still come to us this year— sometimes for the second or even third time, during a practical semester, during their semester holidays, their vacation, or while waiting for the beginning of their studies. Some of these volunteers constructed our new website in German and English, are actively posting on Instagram and gave life to our Facebook page. We encourage you to check out our websites, Instagram and Facebook to find up-to-date information. It is also now possible to donate money online through the website. New sponsors for our children as well as volunteers are very welcome.

If you live in the U.S. and want to support this organization you can do so by sending a check to the following American organization that is kind enough to transfer your contribution to our account in Nepal and to issue a tax refund slip to you.  
Nepal Hope 38112 Young Drive, Fremont, CA 94536

Don't forget to state „SHN“. “SHN” stands for Self Help Nepal, the name of our organization in Nepal.

Many thanks for your support and please stay loyal to us, because we urgently need your help for our big family.

Warm regards,

*Ellen Dietrich*

