

Vocational Training, Entrepreneurship and Intensive Agricultural Courses for Marginalised Adolescents and Young Adults in Nepal

(Status and progress report, January 2020)



Off-season vegetable farming course in Ramechhap, Nepal. (Photo: Abishek Thapa, Phurpu, 2019)

The vocational project in figures:

234 apprentices were successfully trained in 7 trades

324 farmers produce more efficiently and profitably

114 participants have completed courses in business planning

An innovative project is gaining momentum: Our vocational training project in the mountains of Ramechhap, Nepal, has already been running for 24 months. With BMZ support, we want to give more than 1,000 young people vocational qualifications and place them in local employment within four years.

Our innovative approach means that we go to the people with the trainings and trainers, thus flexibly meeting the demand for training and apprentices and operating without large fixed costs and investments - because the trainees can live at home.

This has proved to be a good idea. We have already achieved a lot. In 2019, we have added more professions to the project and restructured the assistance for placement in an employment or self-employment

Approx. 2,790 family members benefit indirectly

position in order to be able to respond even better to the needs of the target group. Below you will find an overview of the activities.

Multifaceted challenges



Successful as team.

Rural exodus: In rural parts of Nepal, most people still live from agriculture. Their size of land and its yields are barely sufficient to feed their own families. Otherwise, there are hardly any opportunities for unskilled workers to earn money. For this reason, more and more young people are migrating to Kathmandu, India or the Arab world, where they find unqualified work - but are often exploited. Conversely, qualified craftsmen move from the city to the region to carry out well-paid jobs, for example in the construction of dams or schools.



Budding seamstresses design their patterns for colourful fashion.

Uprooting in the cities: The rural exodus not only deprives the villages of important young leaders (and fathers). Torn out of their culture, homesickness and depression are common. If they lose their jobs, young people in the cities often fall into misery, have to accept exploitative jobs or are even forced into prostitution.

There is a lack of progress in agriculture: Most Nepalese use their land only for their own needs. Traditional methods of cultivation do not offer more, and therefore cheaper, but inferior quality products from Kathmandu fill the local markets, even in remote regions.

Creating mountain regions worth living in



The modern training occupations are popular with young men and women.

Our vision: Just as the Black Forest or South Tyrol developed from poorhouses into attractive and productive regions, we at Childaid Network believe that even from the remote mountainous regions of Nepal, economic growth can create flourishing landscapes with many future opportunities for young people. We want to contribute to this with our projects.

Demand-led VET: An investment in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and employment promotion must be tailored to local demand: On the one hand, people need local offers of the qualification they are interested in. At the same time, it must also meet local demand for services. Specifically, we have identified a great need in many places for trained mechanics, tailors, electricians and beauticians - and there is a lack of trained personnel in the construction industry.

Paths to independence: Some of our graduates can work as employees. Many try their hand at being small entrepreneurs. We offer training in business planning, help to realize business ideas and equip the young entrepreneurs with their first tools. In groups of young entrepreneurs, we encourage exchange and provide long-term support with further training.



During the tailor training.

Change in agriculture: What is new is that we offer intensive courses on advanced agricultural cultivation methods. The aim is to strengthen young farmers and enable them to grow crops beyond their own requirements. Courses such as vegetable growing in the off-season, poultry farming and growing kiwi seedlings open up new income options and strengthen the local market.

A success story: Yangze Sherpa has shown that the successful path to independence is possible. In 2018, the young woman completed one of the first professional training courses for beauticians and subsequently opened her own salon in Shivalaya with the help of the basic equipment we provided and some financial support by her family. Her sister is also employed in the shop. This is how they earn a living for their families.



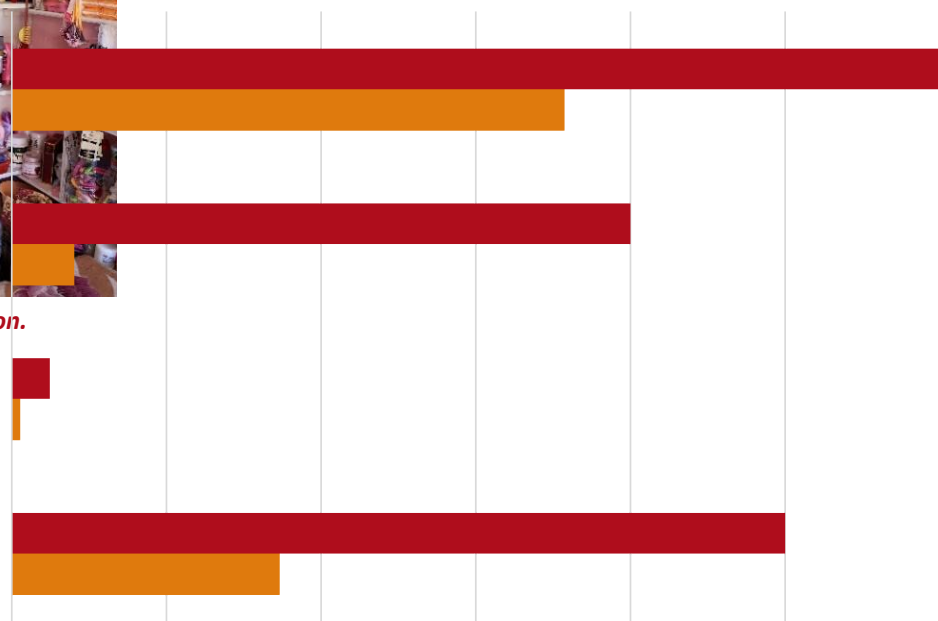
Practical experience is the best way to learn.

Outlook

The target in numbers: The BMZ project was extended until December 2021. A total of 600 young people are to be trained in vocational training courses by then. At the same time, 400 young people who want to set up their own business are learning basic business management skills to set up their own business and are being supported in 25 groups of young entrepreneurs for the following twelve months. In addition, 500 farmers will receive further training through intensive agricultural courses and their conversion to progressive farming methods will be accompanied by 20 experienced farmers in the final year of training.



Yangze Sherpa in her salon.

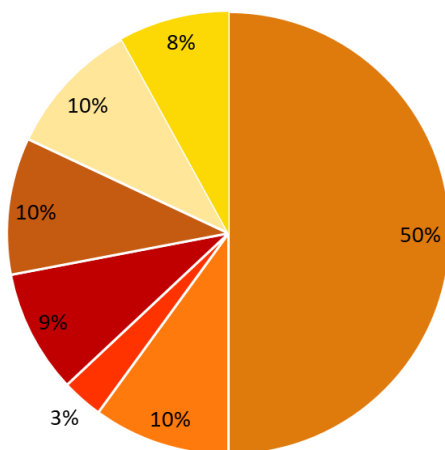


Mid-term review: The project got off to a delayed start due to the high coordination effort with the authorities, but 425 young people have already been trained.

As far as business planning courses are concerned, it is now necessary to catch up in order to equip the trainees with the necessary tools for successful self-employment. In the meantime, we have selected a second training partner to be able to offer more courses.

Although the intensive agricultural courses only started in 2019, the target of 500 has already been reached by almost two thirds. But in 2020 and 2021 we still have a lot of work to do!

Project expenditure for vocational training Nepal 2019: 188,673 €



- Vocational Courses
- Agricultural Trainings
- Business Management Courses
- Tools Trainees
- Entrepreneurship Groups
- Personnel
- Project Management



Traditional Dhaka weaving has to be learned.

School education alone does not fill the stomach. It is important that we motivate the young people to stay in the region, otherwise they will desert it. To do this, however, they must have the chance to support themselves and their families well. This is what this project is all about.

Thank you very much for supporting us in enabling marginalised young people in Nepal to get vocational and further training in agriculture and thus to find their way into a self-determined life.

