



TAKSINDU REPORT

NIVAS

TAKSINDU VILLAGE DISTRICT SANITATION PROJECT

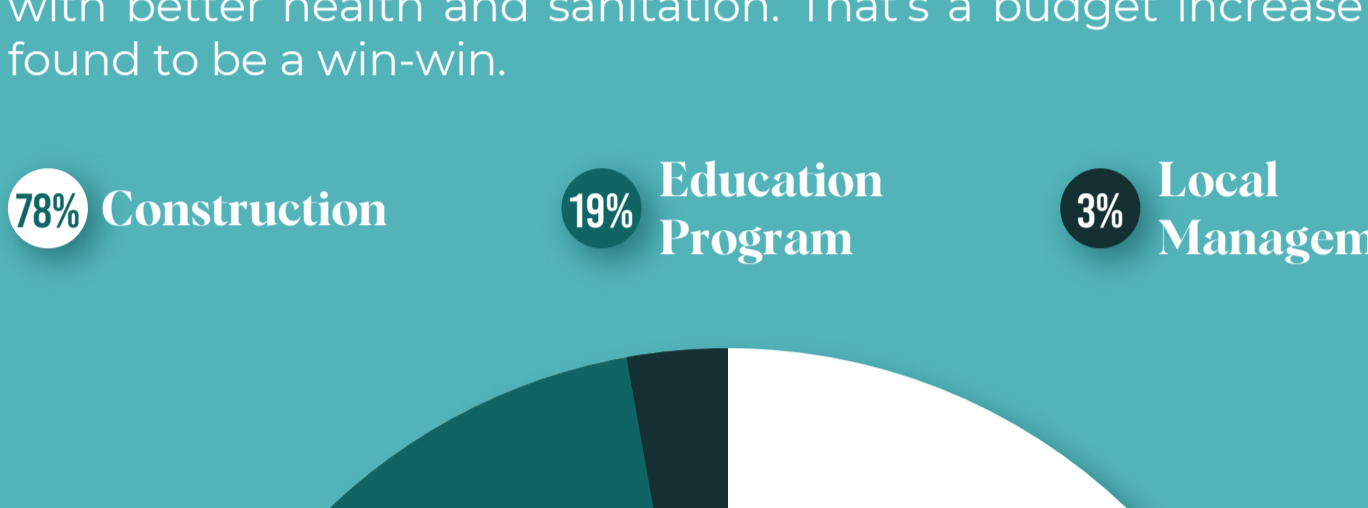
Status: Completed April 1, 2015

In early 2013 leaders from the villages of Taksindu in rural Nepal brought to our attention that the lack of sanitation in their region was creating big health problems for their community. Nivas teamed up with our local partner NGO and community groups to confront the issue. After many discussions, community meetings and cups of tea a plan was born.

First things first: share knowledge about the importance of healthy sanitation. The kind folks of this region have lived for centuries without the use of indoor sanitation, so as can be imagined, some would take a bit of convincing. Plus building a sanitary out-house isn't cheap. It takes both a mental and a financial commitment. So a multi faceted education program was set in motion to help everyone understand the benefits of sanitary toilets. Plays were performed by teenagers. Children brought home lessons they learned in school. Hand painted signs placed along the main trails leading in and out of the villages illustrated each of the main reasons sanitation is good for every one. Women's and men's groups spread the message. And our social mobilizers went door to door week after week to discuss people's concerns and apprehensions.

All of this worked so well, Phase 1 of construction turned out to be a much bigger percentage of the community than we had planned. Phase 2, started before Phase 1 had finished and the entire district had sanitary toilets in just over 6 months after the education program began. The 9 villages of Taksindu were declared Open Defecation Free, by an official survey determining that each and every home and school has a sanitary restroom on April 1st, 2015. We couldn't be more proud of this accomplishment that took the dedication of so many people. And we look forward to future reports of the enduring impact of this project on it's community.

Plaster drying on a new sanitary toilet + shower building.



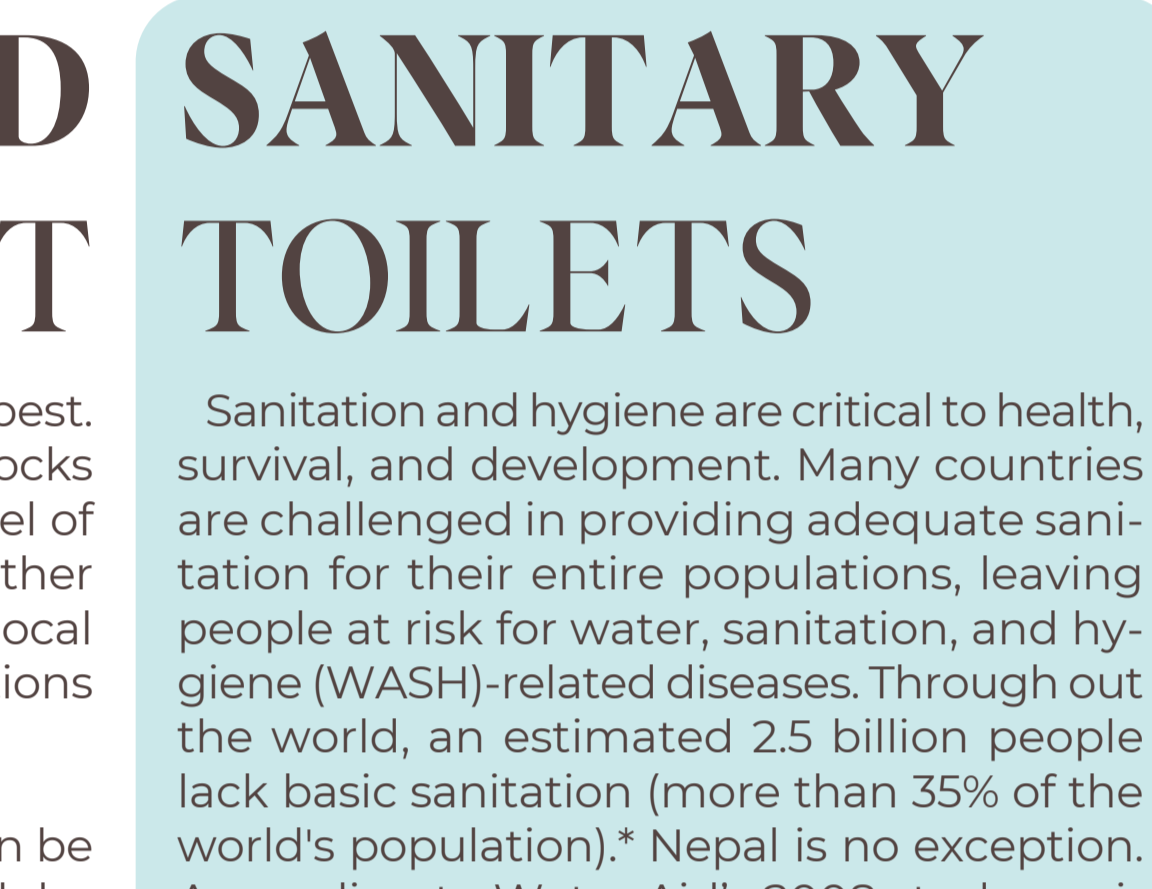
PROJECT BUDGET

In order to achieve maximum community ownership of the project, the partnership was set up with community members providing 60% of the overall cost and Nivas providing 40%. This was achieved by giving a dollar amount to the materials and labor that low income families could provide by gathering the materials themselves and building all the parts of the project that didn't require skilled craftsmen. This number was then weighed against the cost of materials and skilled craftsmanship that required funding to source. In the end it was determined that 180 of the 500 families would not be able to finance the construction of their sanitary toilet without help. The remaining 320 were able to commit both financially and with their labor to building their sanitary toilet along with the support of our education program, construction guidance and sourcing of fixtures.

Overall we exceeded our original budget by approximately \$4,000 but we were able to reach an additional 60 families beyond what was originally projected. 60 more toilets, 270 more people with better health and sanitation. That's a budget increase we found to be a win-win.



2,177 People now have healthy sanitation



COMMUNITY-BASED SANITARY DEVELOPMENT TOILETS

We find that the communities we work with know what they need best. Just like in each of our own communities, we know where the road blocks are in achieving success. This community based approach brings a level of ownership and dignity around the work that couldn't be achieved any other way. It also provides a stronger boost to the local economy because local leaders, artisans and craftspeople are using their own skills and connections to get the work done.

Often in large-scale development projects the materials and labor can be gifted upon the community which doesn't allow leaders to emerge and develop their skills in growing the local economy and network. Empowering the members of Taksindu Village District to design and initiate a project that improves the health conditions of all its inhabitants created a successful end result and a strong partnership between Nivas and the community.

Sanitation and hygiene are critical to health, survival, and development. Many countries are challenged in providing adequate sanitation for their entire populations, leaving people at risk for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)-related diseases. Through out the world, an estimated 2.5 billion people lack basic sanitation (more than 35% of the world's population).¹ Nepal is no exception. According to Water Aid's 2008 study, sanitation coverage in Nepal was only at about 46%. Unfortunately, due to slow growth it is unlikely that number has increased much in the years since.

Not only does a major lack of good sanitation effect a community's illness and mortality rate, it also effects women and girls safety. Without private restroom facilities women and girls often have to enter the woods or fields after nightfall making them more susceptible to harassment and assault.

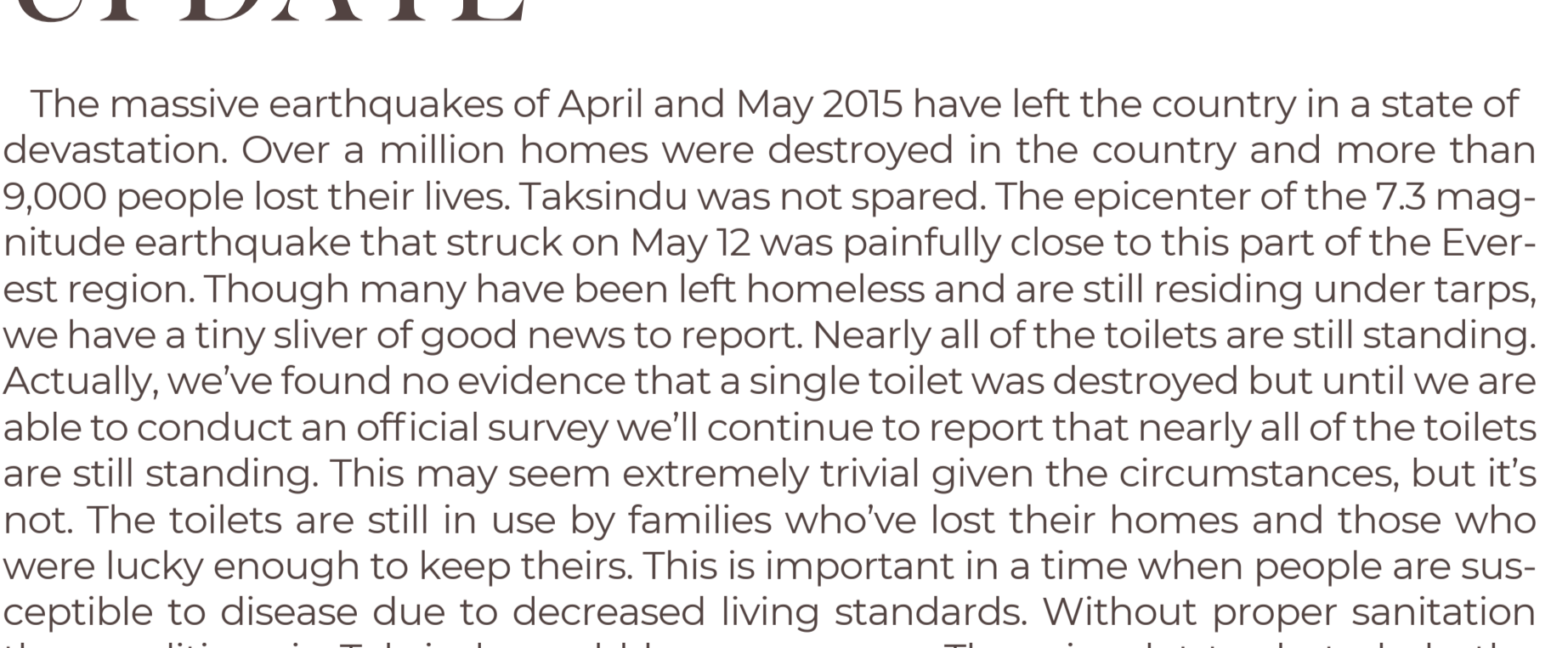
The benefits of good sanitation reach far. So if you're not already, get excited about toilets! We are!



- People effected: **500 families**
- Job Creation: **807 days**
- Fair Wages
- Itemized Costs:
- Field Coordinator \$ 612
 - Social Mobilizer \$ 612
 - Concrete \$ 2,755
 - Toilet Pans \$ 2,388
 - Drainage Pipe \$ 1,469
 - Corrugated Tin \$ 5,786
 - Porter Wages \$ 1,378
 - Unskilled Labor \$ 918
 - Craftsman Wages \$ 1,837
 - Informational Banners \$ 653
 - Educational Posters Pamphlets \$ 118
 - On-site Trainer \$ 612
 - School Program \$ 816
 - Completion Certificates \$ 46
 - Project Total \$ 20,592**

TAKSINDU CELEBRATION

The community members of Taksindu Village District threw a big party in early April to commemorate the completion of this great project and you should too! Everyone involved knows we couldn't have done it without you, our very generous supporters. You saw the importance of this project from thousands of miles away and had the faith to give your passion, time and financial contributions to see it through. The residents of Taksindu thank you for your generosity and we at Nivas do too! Let's all do a little boogie together.



THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.



LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

Working in a developing country partnering with communities to get past the road blocks of poverty has it's challenges. We believe in sharing these challenges with our support base rather than hiding behind the mask of perfection. That's why we intend to share all the joys as well as the difficulties along the way.

In this particular project the one area we saw that we really want to improve on during our up coming projects relates to varying income levels and different needs associated with the different groups. It became evident that certain regions have varying construction styles and skills. Some villages and neighborhoods could have benefited from extended construction support to ensure that all participants feel confident and proud of the end product. Though pride in the project did not appear to be lacking, we want to ensure that everyone involved is benefiting to the fullest extent possible. In our current and future projects we intend to dive further into the varying and intricate needs that will be present in the communities we're working in.



POST-EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

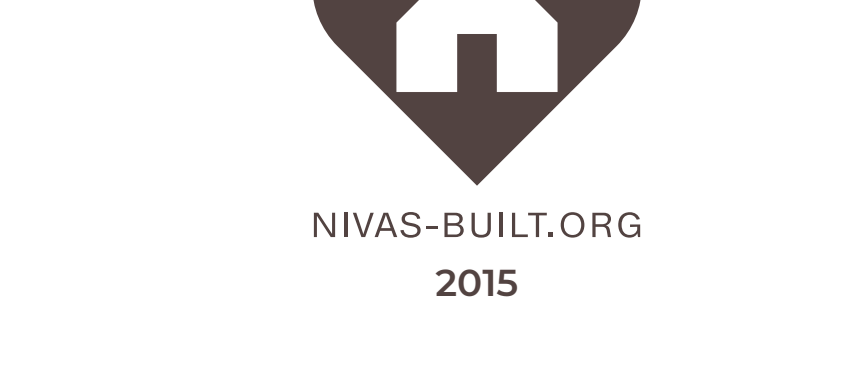
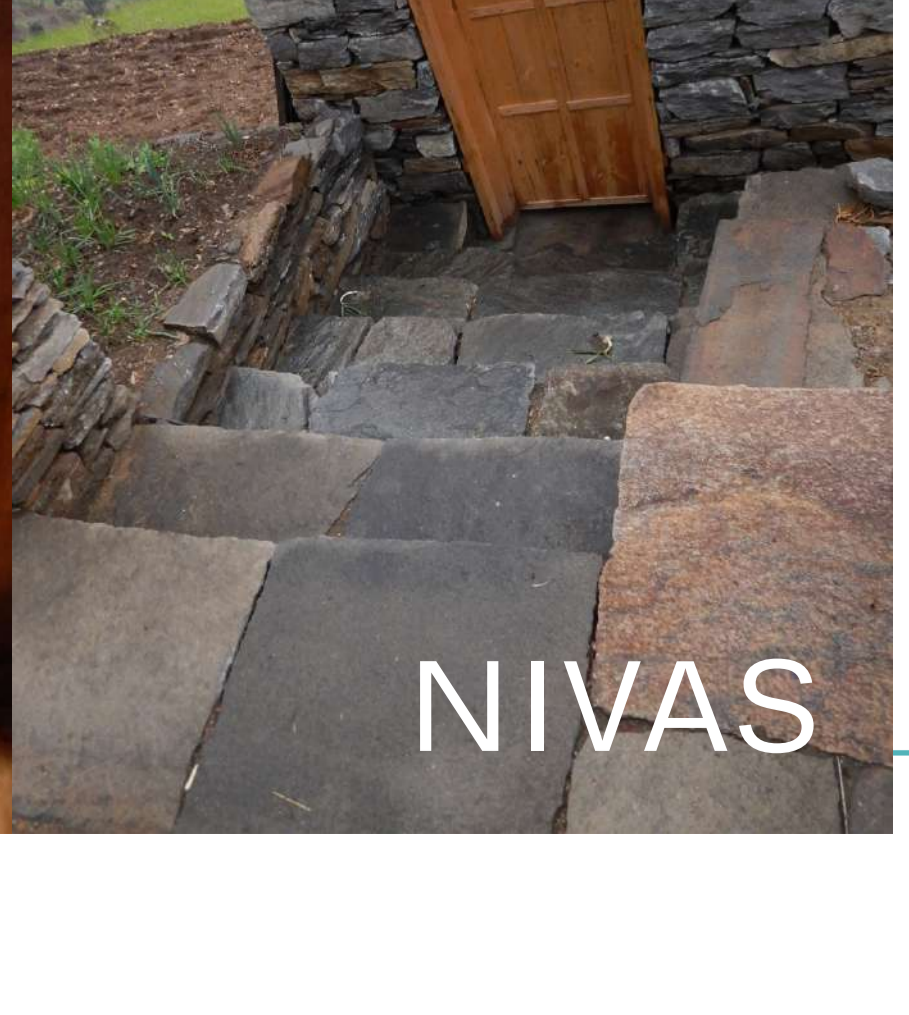
The massive earthquakes of April and May 2015 have left the country in a state of devastation. Over a million homes were destroyed in the country and more than 9,000 people lost their lives. Taksindu was not spared. The epicenter of the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck on May 12 was painfully close to this part of the Everest region. Though many have been left homeless and are still residing under tarps, we have a tiny sliver of good news to report. Nearly all of the toilets are still standing. Actually, we've found no evidence that a single toilet was destroyed but until we are able to conduct an official survey we'll continue to report that nearly all of the toilets are still standing. This may seem extremely trivial given the circumstances, but it's not. The toilets are still in use by families who've lost their homes and those who were lucky enough to keep theirs. This is important in a time when people are susceptible to disease due to decreased living standards. Without proper sanitation the conditions in Taksindu could be even worse. There is a lot to do to help the members of this village district get back on their feet after this devastating natural disaster, but at least one small but important piece of infrastructure is in place.

CONTINUED MONITORING+EVALUATION

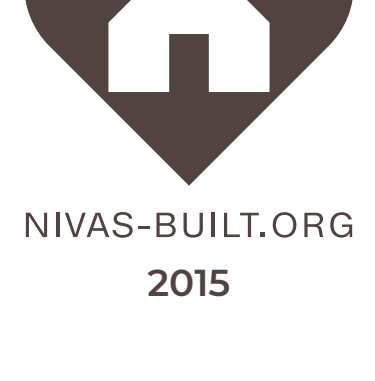
In order to ensure that the work conducted during this project continues to provide lasting tangible benefits to the people of Taksindu Village District, Nivas will be monitoring key indicators of the project's success as well as organic results that will appear over time. The importance of this project reaches far beyond the joys of partnering with a community to build something beautiful. It stretches in to the future of this region, it's economy and the health of all its people, men, women and children alike. Our continued evaluation of the project will allow us to learn and grow and to ensure that all our work is good work.

"The people are so happy. They have wanted to make their surrounding environment clean, but because of a lack of resources they have been unable to. In some places the people didn't know about sanitation. They were just busy with their work. Now they have the knowledge and feel the importance of good sanitation. With these new toilets the environment is clean and we are far from many diseases. Everyone is happy."

Pema Rinji Sherpa



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