

2018 presentation of the humanitarian association "Au Népal, un village, une amitié en marche"

For more than 20 years, the association "Au Népal, Un Village, une Amitié en Marche (ANUVAM) "1, founded by a group of trekkers, has been forging a friendly and supportive relationship with a mid-mountain village community in the Solukhumbu region, south of Everest.

Rapcha Basa, a village primarily made up of the Khaling Rai people and almost 20% Magar, is located alongside the banks of the Dudh Khosi river, and practices self-sustaining terraced farming. As small farmers, they occasionally use their strength as carriers to supply provisions to other villages or to lead treks.

Since the end of 2017, the village has been accessible via a Jeep track. Until now, the little Phaplu airport was two days' walk away, and the closest access point by road was 7 days away.



Terraced crops near Rapcha above the Dudh Khosi



Descent towards Rapcha via the new track

The village has seen major advances in education and healthcare, with the association contributing to the **construction of schools** and the creation of a **dispensary**.



Basakhali secondary school (November 2017)



Inauguration of the dispensary (May 2013)

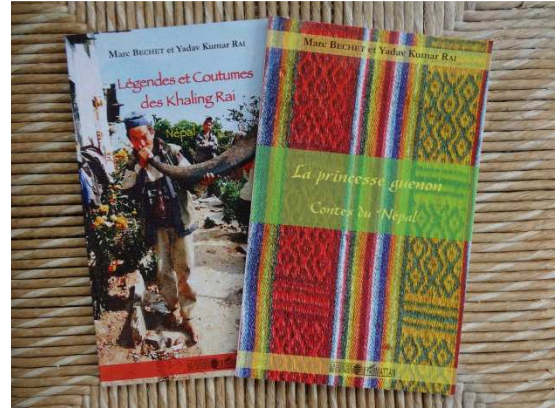
The association has also constructed a **metal bridge** over the river, helping to facilitate access to the village. There have also been cultural achievements in addition to these concrete actions, including publications on **the traditions of the Khaling Rai** and organising treks to help promote solidarity.

ANUVAM is in close contact with the local Nepalese association FEILSS, run by young people in the village who are well-versed in English and the latest methods of communication. They establish connections with the villagers in order to relay their needs, organise projects with locals and gather development requests from elected representatives of the village and the region.

Our greatest strengths are friendship and stability, and our most valuable assets are transparency and perseverance!



The metallic bridge, built in 2009



Publications on the traditions of the Khaling Rai

After the **earthquakes that hit Nepal in 2015**, the association re-prioritised its projects, in order to devote itself to the reconstruction of damaged houses. Nevertheless, the association's ongoing support for the running of schools and the dispensary has been maintained.

With the help of a school of architecture in Lyon and the IUT technical institute in La Rochelle, the association offered to **rebuild houses in stone and wood, using an earthquake-resistant process** enabling builders to use and recycle local materials. In 2017, the first test house was completed with the support of a CAPA technical partner (*Construire et Agir par l'Architecture*) and a booklet was prepared on this process, including a diagram and traditional practices. ANUVAM provided €4,000 in funding for each house, and the logistical assistance of a French building technician.

In March 2018, in addition to the test house, five other earthquake-resistant houses were rebuilt in Rapcha.



First earthquake-resistant house rebuilt (spring 2017)



Third earthquake-resistant house rebuilt (November 2017)

In addition to its efforts to support reconstruction, ANUVAM is continuing its healthcare prevention initiatives by providing €60 to volunteer families for the construction of an **outdoor kitchen fireplace**, in order to avoid harmful pulmonary issues.

In order to be able to continue the earthquake-resistant construction in 2018/2019, the association is calling for donations to:

- **Support the local economy** by publishing the methodology handbook, in English and Nepali, on earthquake-resistant construction using local materials, and support provided to Nepalese technicians on work sites,
- **Construction of three new houses for disadvantaged families** in accordance with the local community's request for social housing for an amount of €6,000,
- **Continue the professional training of young people** in building techniques with CAPA, in order to offer work opportunities to the village's younger generations.
- **Carry out a study to extend the water supply** to two hamlets not yet connected, and provide **medicines** to the dispensary.

ANUVAM relies on the support of its contributors/members, requests donations or grants for each project in a completely transparent manner, and provides reports to its donors.