

Presentation 2024 of the solidarity association « Au Népal, un village, une amitié en marche »

Over the past 28 years, the association "Au Népal, Un Village, une Amitié en Marche (ANUVAM)" is set up by a group of hikers, has established a relationship of friendship and solidarity with a community in a mid-mountain village in the Solu Khumbu, south of Mount Everest.

This Basa-Rapcha village, inhabited mainly by the Khaling Rai ethnic group and almost 20% by Magar, lies along the Dudh Khosi river and practises self-subsistence farming. Small farmers, they occasionally hire out their strength as porters to supply other villages or to lead trekking tours.

The village has only been accessible by jeep since the end of 2017. Until now, the small airport at Phaplu was a 2-day walk away, and the last access point by road was 7 days away.



Terraced farming near Rapcha above the Dudh Khosi



Descent to Rapcha via the new track

The village has undergone other important developments in the field of education and health, thanks to the contribution of our association, which has helped to **build schools and set up a dispensary**.



Basakhali secondary school (November 2017)

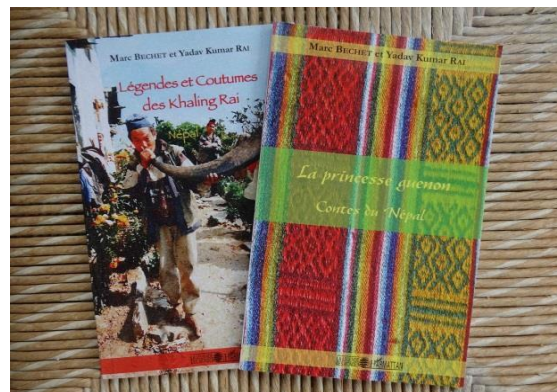


Inauguration of the dispensary (May 2013)

ANUVAM succeeded in having a bridge built over the river to open up the village. In addition to these concrete achievements cultural activities, publications on the traditions of the **Khaling Rai ethnic group** and the organisation of solidarity trekking tours.



The metal bridge built in 2009



Publications on Khaling Rai traditions

The ANUVAM association works closely with the local Nepalese FEILSS association, which is run by young people from the village who have a good command of English and new means of communication. They establish links with the villagers to relay their needs, organise workcamps with the locals and collect development requests from the elected representatives of the village and district.

Our strengths are friendship and consistency, and our assets are transparency and perseverance!

Following the **earthquakes in Nepal in 2015**, the association had to revise its projects to give priority to rebuilding damaged peasant houses. However, the association's regular support for the running of schools and the dispensary has been maintained.

With the help of ENSAL (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Lyon) and the IUT de La Rochelle (civil engineering), the association proposed rebuilding the stone and wood houses using an earthquake-resistant process that allows local materials to be used and reused. In 2017-2018, in conjunction with a technical partner CAPA (Construire et Agir par l'Architecture), a booklet with sketches was produced on this process incorporating traditional practices. Six parasitic houses have been rebuilt in Rapcha. The ANUVAM association provided financial assistance of €4,000 per house and the logistical support of a French building technician. ANUVAM is also continuing its preventive health work, providing €60 for the construction of an outdoor cooking stove for families living in the area, to prevent harmful lung problems.



Earthquake-proof house and toilet built in January 2019



Earthquake-resistant house built in December 2020

During the winters of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, eight other houses were built, with the help of Nepalese master builders, for families who had previously been living in huts. ANUVAM provided financial assistance of €6,000 per house in partnership with **the CDC développement solidaire ii** association, which made a contribution to the final constructions.

The association is responding to essential needs for decent housing and is also strengthening mutual aid between villagers, thereby reinforcing social cohesion. It also welcomes local initiatives to improve the project, such as drainage, access to electricity and sanitation. It supports the local economy by offering seasonal jobs to young people in the village and enhancing the skills of local craftsmen and technicians.

New development projects will be carried out in 2021 and 2022 in the fields of organic farming and livestock rearing. Firstly, the construction of a water mill to produce flour from locally-grown cereals (millet), and the creation of a chicken farm and a piglet farm to avoid having to bring in these animals via the airstrip (more expensive meat of poorer quality).

Another request concerns the **development of renewable energy sources**: micro hydroelectric power stations, solar electricity generation, etc.

ANUVAM is keen to see **how projects are progressing**. Our members travel to the site at their own expense. During the most recent trips (**spring 2022, autumn 2023**), they visited the earthquake-proof houses, the mill and the livestock, and discussed their next projects with the villagers: oil production, toilets for the school, agrotourism.

These trips were also an opportunity for the new members to discover the village and follow a **trekking itinerary** in the middle of the mountains.

The ANUVAM association relies on its contributors/members and transparently **solicits donations iii** or subsidies for each project and reports back to the donors.

Now that the village is accessible by track, ANUVAM supports local tourism development projects. To this end, it is involved in training young people in agrotourism and guiding mid-mountain hikes.

ⁱ Internet Site nepal-rapcha.fr et Group public Facebook : **Au Népal Un Village une Amitié en Marche**

ⁱⁱ See : https://www.cdcdeveloppementsolidaire.org/IMG/pdf/cdcds_projets_2019-2.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Subscriptions and appeals for donations on the website nepal-rapcha.fr