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## NEWSLETTER 2023



More interaction: The teachers training encouraged the staff to introduce new forms of teaching.



Well wrapped up, you can study outside even on cooler days. Fotos (unless mentioned otherwise) © Claudia Schmid

### Rain, robots, and a dedicated school manager

#### Der Tapriza NGO

Since 1998, the Tapriza NGO supports the running of the Tapriza School as well as health projects, the preservation of cultural assets, and the improvement of infrastructure in the remote district of Dolpo in north-west Nepal. Since the beginning, our local partner organization TASHI-D, in which parents and locals participate, has been responsible for the implementation. The school is recognized and supported by the Nepal government. More at [www.tapriza.org](http://www.tapriza.org).

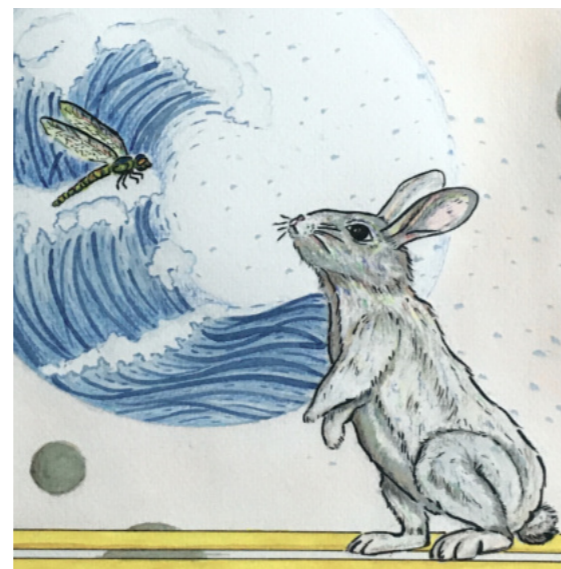
Your donation helps to shape the future of the children in Dolpo.

Credit Suisse: CH18 0483 5029 8535 9000 0

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#### BergFrau.ch

Our board member Claudia Schmid offers trips to Dolpo with a visit to the school.



## Happy Losar

We wish you all the best in the powerful  
Water Rabbit Year

*In October 2022, the Tapriza School received visitors from Switzerland. Our board member, Claudia Schmid, head of BergFrau Trekking, was able to go trekking in Dolpo for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. The small group encountered an unexpected amount of rain, a very dedicated school manager as well as innovations in the region and at the school.*

In October 2022 I travelled to Dolpo with a small trekking group. We started our journey with domestic flights via Nepalganj to Juphal, from where we reached the district capital Dunai in a short hike. From here we wanted to head up to the Tapriza School the next morning. However, during the night it began to rain heavily and for the next six days continued to do so. We battled falling rocks, floods, landslides, and raging rivers. None of the locals could remember ever having experienced such heavy rainfall in autumn before. We made our way anyway. Fortunately, there are now several tea stalls for stopovers on route to the

school. One of them is run by two former Tapriza students. Importantly, there are also several guesthouses where we could find a dry bed for the night.

#### New dining room will be ready soon

Due to the rain we had to prolongue our stay at the school and had three days to take part in the day-to-day activities. We experienced how the morning ritual with light gymnastics, a Tibetan prayer, and the Nepalese national anthem got the children in the right mood for the day – even in the rain! We marvelled the huge portions of rice and dhal the students ate for lunch. And we were impressed by how efficiently the building was constructed alongside the normal school routine. One of the two construction projects is a new dining room, which should finally provide the approximately 180 children enough covered space to eat. It was not quite finished when we visited. The children crouched with their filled plates on the gravel, which will soon be overlaid with wood. Nevertheless, the room already appeared very friendly and bright, thanks to many windows and the skylights in the roof.



The constant rain turned harmless streams into raging torrents.



The shell of the new dining room is already being used extensively.



Everyday school life: concentrated work.



The trekking team in Pugmo with Semduk's sister, son, and wife.

### Exceptionally motivated school manager

We were most impressed by Ramchandra Budha, the school manager. To us, it seemed that he was present 24 hours a day. During the daily routine, he was an important contact person for everyone. The children turned to him to share their sorrows and joys. He also monitored the construction progress with great commitment. In addition to the dining room, interior work was underway in a two-storey corner structure that will accommodate new class rooms and a staff room. The latter is equipped with many windows overlooking the courtyard.

The heavy rains cut off the supply of drinking water. Again, Ramchandra Budha took care of a solution. At his behest, buckets were placed everywhere to collect rainwater, and at the same time others made an emergency hose. Quick solutions were required because the around 210 people at the school need a lot of water every day, not only for cooking and drinking, but also for washing and flushing the toilets.

Even during the night Ramchandra Budha was alert. Luckily! Because on our second night, he heard a neighbour on the opposite side of the stream calling: „The water is rising! Danger! Everyone come out!“ Everyone was immediately called out of the dormitories and taken to a higher meadow next to the school building. Fortunately, the rain stopped and the water level of the

stream dropped a bit. After about an hour and a half we could crawl back into bed feeling a little calmer. However, the persistent rain caused a lot of damage to the school, which still has to be repaired.

### Didactic training motivates

A small but important innovation took place among the teachers. In previous years, they had gone to lower regions to receive further training. Last year, however, it was the other way round. For the first time, a specialist came to the school to give further teacher training. As a result the expert was able to give tips for improved quality teaching in a very practical way, adapted to the technical possibilities of the school. The aim of the training was to work on how to design modern, interactive lessons. The teachers enthusiastically created several dossiers with objects and documents for interactive teaching in various subjects. Such as robotics. All teachers agreed that this further training had been the most beneficial of all for them so far.

### The whole village of Pugmo thanks you

After three very rainy days, the sky finally cleared up a bit. We spontaneously decided to visit Pugmo village which is only about an hour and a half's walk away. It is the home village of our school president Semduk Lama. He himself was in Kathmandu at the time,

but his wife and son were in Pugmo. As the phone was not working that day, we surprised the villagers with our visit. Nevertheless, Semduk's son Tsultrim Gyaltzen received us warmly. We were spoiled with freshly harvested potatoes and butter tea. Rakshi, home-brewed liquor, was of course also offered. Suddenly we were asked to come to the monastery. In the meantime, the locals had prepared a big reception for us. Here we were requested to sit down at a table again – at the feet of the gods. Each villager poured us some of their home-made rakshi and gave a small thank you speech for our support of the Taprizia School. With a lot of khatas, the traditional white scarves given as blessings, around our necks, we left the monastery, a bit shaky from all the rakshi. I would like to pass on the thanks that I received as a representative of Taprizia Switzerland to all of you here.

### Better healthcare

Back at the school, we met Pasang Dolma, the nurse who has been working at the National Health Post for eight years now. She showed us the spacious building that was completed two years ago, located a little below the school. Somewhat more serious illnesses can be treated here. There are now two first-aid rooms in the school, where the school children can receive medical care at any time. The school bought medicine and bandages so that minor

injuries and common illnesses such as colds, coughs, or diarrhoea, can be treated efficiently.

After six eventful days, we said goodbye to the children and all the teachers in the best of weather. Our journey took us back to Dunai and from there up another valley to the village of Do. There we met some former students and many other people who know and praise the Taprizia School.



In the new section, there are classrooms and a staff room. © Taprizia



Large windows on both sides: view from the new staff room. © Taprizia



Neatly prepared school material for teaching robotics.



Morning assembly in the inner courtyard takes place in any weather.

### General Assembly 2023

Would you like to find out more about the past year at the school? Then come to the Annual Taprizia General Assembly.

It will take place on **Friday, June 2, 2023**, at 7 p.m. in the Quartiertreff Hirslanden, Forchstrasse 248, 8032 Zürich. We are looking forward to numerous guests!