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Remote Villages Trust

Changing Lives through Practical Aid

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Working in some of the most deprived areas through trusted Nepali intermediaries, Nepalrvt aims to improve education and increase food security in Khotang, eastern Nepal.



Villagers in Dolpu, Jaleshwori, Khotang, with Nepalrvt trustees

Trees for Change
*offset your Carbon Footprint,
help a Nepali family & improve the
environment*



Trees for change

<http://www.nepalrvt.org/trees-for-change.html>

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Trees for Change

You may have already seen on social media feeds that on Friday, 5th June, World Environment Day, we officially launched our **Trees for Change** initiative. This project has been months in the planning and runs alongside the Jaleshwori Community Farm. Both are long term projects which will offer lasting benefits to Jaleshwori and neighbouring communities.

The current pandemic is putting increased strain on the food resources of the mountain villages as migrant workers return home and the opportunities to earn money abroad disappear. This means the Community Farm will be needed more than ever to introduce new farming techniques designed to generate increased food security and potential cash crops. We hope to finalise the purchase of the land for the farm as soon as lockdown in Nepal is over.

How does Trees for Change work?

We are now all aware of the climate catastrophe and how our daily interaction with the planet is impacting the environment. Planting trees which sequester carbon from the atmosphere is one way you can leave a more positive legacy for your children and grandchildren. Trees for Change enables you to do this. It offers the opportunity to offset some of your carbon footprint, assist a family in need and help maintain the fragile environment of the Himalayas.

Purchase a fruit or nut tree through Trees for Change and NRVT will donate this to a Nepali subsistence farming family on your behalf.

The trees offer fantastic potential for the farmers. They take a couple of years to establish and bear fruit but from then on there is little maintenance needed and the new produce will help with food security and offer a cash crop for sale at market. The tree roots will also help to stabilise the land and prevent landslides, while organic matter from leaves enriches the soil.

You can buy either a voucher which will be emailed to your inbox (or that of a chosen recipient), or choose a gift card.

The Trees for Change gift card is a unique design created for NRVT by *Papeterie Designs* and printed on high quality recycled paper. We send this



Trees for Change make great gifts for Father's Day



Pasang Tamang, Chairman of NRVT, Nepal with Sushila and Manju at home in April this year



Pasang's mother with other villagers in Jaleshwori

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directly to the recipient together with a hand written message and a fact sheet on how the program works.

Vouchers and gift cards can be purchased direct from our website <http://www.nepalrvt.org/trees-for-change.html> Easy to follow instructions allow you to purchase trees with a gift card or with a voucher, you can add more tree vouchers in the payment section.

In Nepal the trees will be ordered from official government nurseries or private establishments then transported to Jaleshwori where they will be matured. They will then be taken and planted on farms. Farmers receiving trees will be given basic training on caring for them.

Trees for Change is a new way to offset some of your carbon footprint, improve the environment and help a family in need. It's a great personal gesture or the ideal gift for someone special. Click on the link now and find out more: <http://www.nepalrvt.org/trees-for-change.html>

Over the coming weeks and months we will be using social media to post more information about Trees for Change. Please feel free to share on your own social media to your family and friend groups.

Kathmandu, Jaleshwori, Nepal; update on the Covid-19 situation

Our Nepali Trustees Pasang and Ful Kumar are finding lockdown very hard. Along with thousands of others in Kathmandu they have no income and have been confined to their homes with their families. Their homes are very small – in Ful Kumar's case just one room. They have only been allowed to go out between 5 am and 8am to buy food and the police have been brutal in enforcing this.

Since June 2nd the lockdown has eased slightly and people are allowed to exercise a bit more. Long trips are still not possible so Pasang will not be able to make the usual trip to Jaleshwori to help his parents with planting during the monsoon season.

Thousands of people in the Kathmandu valley rely on daily wages and during lockdown their income has stopped. Most have no savings and have never had the possibility of saving. They were living literally from hand to mouth - collecting wages every day and using it to buy food. Suicides have increased as many people can't pay rent and some face starvation. Pasang has told us the government is now distributing rice and lentils but the price of cooking gas has rocketed so it's difficult to know how people will be able to eat it. Vegetables are also very expensive and in short supply.

Schools and administrative buildings in Kathmandu and throughout rural Nepal remain closed.

Testing for Covid-19 in Nepal has been haphazard so it's hard to obtain accurate figures. However, in some places, including Jaleshwori, there have been no known cases of the virus.

Unfortunately, In Nepal as elsewhere in the world, the pandemic is preventing people from receiving other health care treatments so the effects of Covid-19 goes far beyond the suffering of those who have actually contracted it.

We have just seen a report that Kathmandu Tribhuvan airport is being smartened up and social distancing markers being put in place in preparation for the autumn trekking season. We are still hoping to be able to visit in October.