

earaidnepal



Life in Nepal

From the lush tropical lowlands to the towering Himalayas, Nepal is a country of contrasting landscapes and diverse cultures.

The beauty of Nepal is, however, contrasted by widespread poverty and poor access to medical care, especially among the more remote communities.

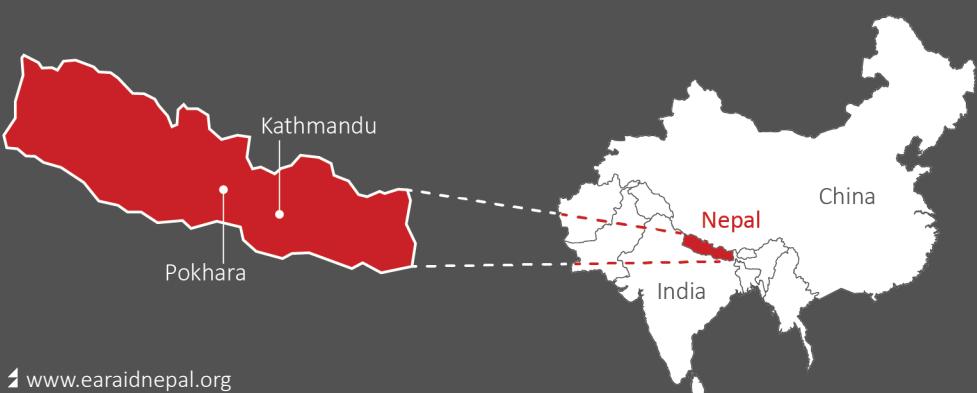
The hearing disabled are the largest group of people with a sensory disability and in the most isolated regions, the deaf are frequently unable to benefit from education, resulting in very poor employment and social prospects.

Home to over 27 million people, Nepal's population is concentrated around the capital of Kathmandu. Many others live in villages in the remote western regions, farming the steep sided valleys to provide food for their families. Limited infrastructure isolates whole communities from accessing medical care, especially during the monsoon rains when roads are routinely washed away.

Life expectancy is low at around 55 years and child mortality is devastatingly high at 1 in 10.

Until recently, Nepal was a parliamentary monarchy. Following the King's retirement from government office in 2006, efforts have been made to reorganise the country's political structure. This has been a turbulent process for the people of Nepal who have endured civil-war for a number of years.

Ear Aid Nepal and International Nepal Fellowship are focusing their efforts in the poorest and most remote regions in the west of Nepal. INF has many years' experience with medical and development work in Nepal, working mainly with the marginalised and the poor.





Ear Camps

Since 1993, International Nepal Fellowship has run over 50 ear camps in remote and inaccessible regions of Nepal.

Our teams of medical experts from Nepal and abroad have taken the highest quality, specialist care to communities which have in the past had very limited access to even the most basic of medical treatments.

Whilst continuing to run these essential camps up to twice a year, we now recognise the opportunity for a permanent hospital which will also function as an excellent training facility, establishing a base for the long term treatment of ear disease in Nepal.

We have many stories of people who have suffered for many years with treatable or preventable illnesses. Thousands of patients have been diagnosed received advice and treatment, including medicines, life changing surgery, hearing tests and hearing aids.

Over the years volunteers from different backgrounds have worked with us on ear camps. They have all played a vital role in taking treatment to those in need.

As these ear camps continue to reach remote communities, we now have the opportunity to develop a new hospital and training centre for those affected by hearing loss and ear disease in and around the city of Pokhara. The hospital will provide affordable, sustainable and appropriate care, maintaining a poor fund to support those unable to cover the costs themselves.

Ear Aid Nepal has worked intensively with INF in the development of the new hospital, providing specialist advice, expert support, professional contacts and assistance in fundraising for both the ear camps and the INF Ear Hospital and Training Centre. (IEHTC)

Through our established worldwide network of volunteers Ear Aid Nepal will help to provide a platform for training and links with experienced professionals. The original team is now expanding as we bring in new skills to meet the needs of the Ear Hospital.

Our volunteers all offer their time freely, receiving no financial incentive. Their role is highly valued and critical to the ongoing ear camps and the future of the Ear Hospital.



Ear Aid Nepal

Building on 20 years of experience with ear camps we are now developing the INF Ear Hospital and Training Centre in Pokhara.

Located in the heart of the western region of Nepal and surrounded by remote mountainous areas, the new hospital will treat many who suffer the lifelong effects of infection in their ears.

Deafness in young children prevents the development of normal speech and language; we aim to provide family and educational support, speech therapy, hearing aids and whenever possible surgical intervention and aftercare.

Ear Aid Nepal exists to support those who have conditions affecting the ear in Nepal. Ear disease and deafness are the country's most common disability, yet they often go untreated. For the sufferer, ear disease can cause problems ranging from episodes of severe pain through to life threatening infection resulting in diminished relationships in society. Why ear disease should be so common in Nepal is unknown, but is probably due to a combination of many factors including living conditions, frequent upper respiratory infections in childhood, smoke and dust in the home, nutritional deficiencies and lack of adequate knowledge about care and treatment of the early stages of infection. The lack of medical facilities in many of the remote parts of this mountainous country and the costs involved must also play a part.

International Nepal Fellowship has conducted many medical relief programmes in Nepal over the last 60 years. Growing out of the ear camps project was born a desire to create a small, efficient and first rate facility to treat people with ear disease and deafness and, very importantly, to play a part in the training and education of local medical staff and the general population. Ear Aid Nepal's principal aim is to support this work with professional expertise, publicity and fund raising. Currently under construction, the Ear Hospital is due for completion in 2015 and will be known as the 'INF Ear Hospital and Training Centre' (IEHTC).

The ear camps will continue, using the new hospital as a base. Over time, it is hoped that much will be added, including more specialist services, primary health for nearby populations, health education and training courses.



Get involved

If you would like to be involved with the work of Ear Aid Nepal, there are a number of ways you can help...

1 Volunteer

We would like to hear from qualified medical professionals who can offer their skills on a two-week ear camp, or for a longer period in the new Ear Hospital. For more information, email us at: info@earaidnepal.org

2 Fund-raise

Support ear camps and the ear hospital by organising a fund-raising event or a sponsored challenge.

3 Spread the word

Share the vision of Ear Aid Nepal and help raise awareness about the issue of ear disease in Nepal. Please contact us for publicity material.

4 Give

We gratefully receive any donations, all of which will have a direct impact on the lives of Nepalese people suffering with ear disease. You can donate in the following ways:

Online:

www.earaidnepal.org/donate.html

Cheques can be sent to:

Ear Aid Nepal
Jalna
Chapel Lane
Bodenham Moor
Herefordshire
HR1 3HR

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www.earaidnepal.org

For the last 20 years, specialist doctors and medical staff have generously offered their time and skills on ear camps in some of the most remote regions of Nepal.

On every camp we see many hundreds of outpatients and commonly perform up to 150 microsurgery operations, restoring and improving the hearing of many.

Our highly qualified and experienced volunteers work for free and at their own expense. Each camp typically costs between £4,000 and £10,000 - the price of just two or three ear operations in the UK!

If you would like more information and the latest news about the work of Ear Aid Nepal, please visit www.earaidnepal.org and sign up for our newsletter, or contact us to volunteer.

Thank you very much for your support.

