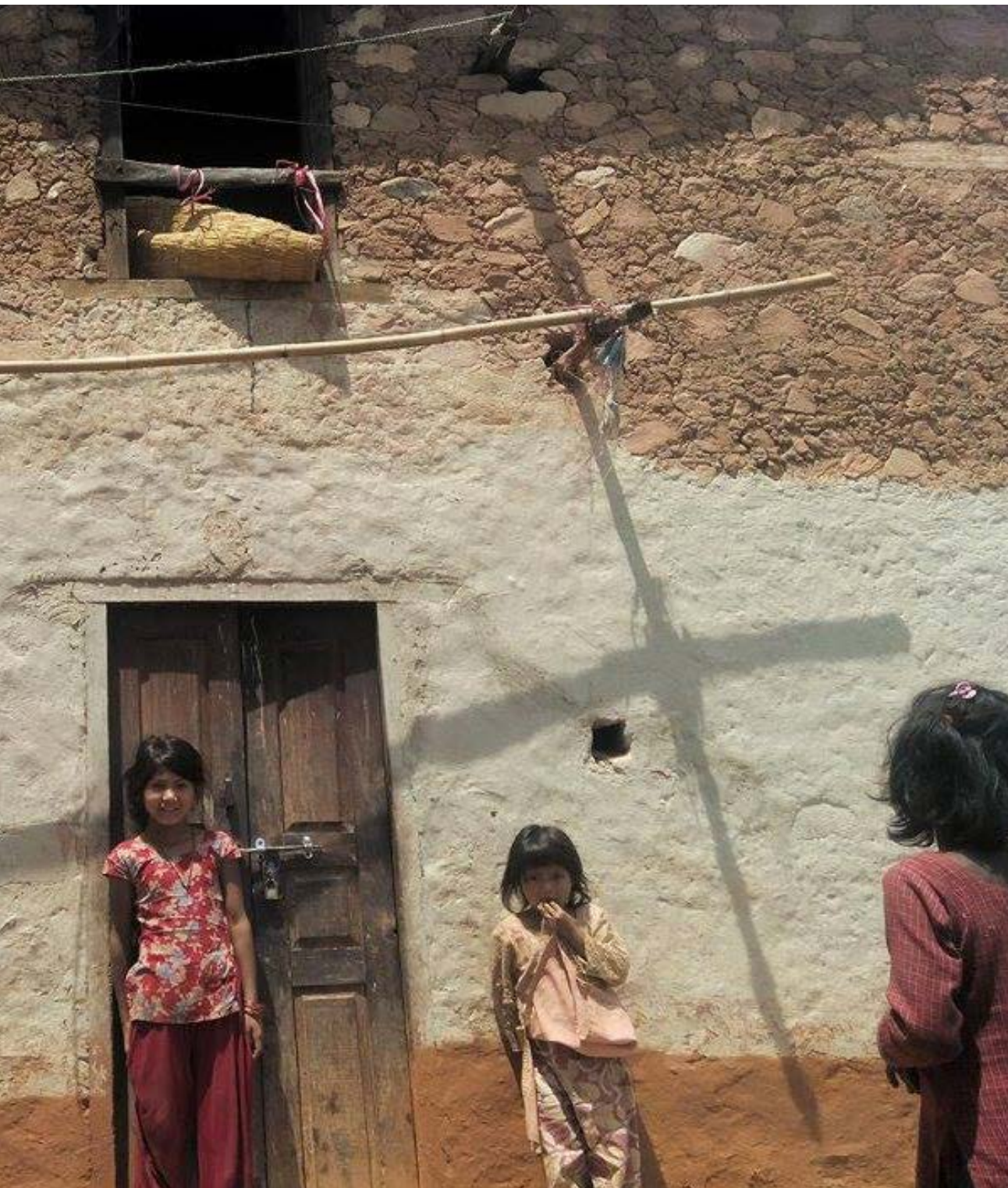


Educate To Lead: **Nepal**
December 10th President's Appeal 2015 - 2017

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist  International



This December 10th the International President would like, once again, to harness the collective power and generosity of all four Federations of Soroptimist International, in support of women and girls in Nepal, as they take steps to rebuild their lives, following the devastating earthquakes of April 25 and May 12, 2015. The focus within Nepal will be on education and leadership, agreed as the theme by SI's members until 2021.

Historically, the President's Appeal has supported those women and girls most in need around the world and this year the goal remains the same. Nepal is amongst the poorest and least developed countries in the world, with approximately one-quarter of its population living below the poverty line. Heavily dependent on remittances, amounting to as much as 22-25 percent of GDP, Nepal's agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for more than 70 percent of the population. Of course, as in every country in the world, women and girls bear the brunt of the poverty. Reports found that female literacy (those over the age of 15 years able to read and write), is just 44.5%, with male literacy at 71%. **The Nepal Living Standards Survey 2010-2011 (NLSS- III).*

In Nepal girls tend to be enrolled in public school, whilst boys are more likely to be enrolled in private school, where they achieve much higher educational outcomes. In the workplace the average participation of women in executive committees is just 12% **Un Women*. 40% of all girls under the age of 18 are married and statistics show that one in fourteen girls under the age of 18 has given birth and there are an estimated 577,000 child brides living in Nepal.

Growth for Nepal is an uphill climb. With a landlocked geographical location, persistent power shortages, underdeveloped transportation & infrastructure, civil strife and labor unrest; such challenges are heightened by Nepal's susceptibility to natural disaster. Whilst disasters create hardships for all, women and girls suffer disproportionately. No matter the country in which a disaster strikes, more women are at risk both during and following the disaster period due to existing gender inequities.

Women are amongst the poorest, with increased caregiving responsibilities, they lack mobility, and access to available resources. Add to this their vulnerability to violence, rape and sexual exploitation, all of which greatly increase following disasters, it is clear that these women and girls need our help. Women with particular needs such as pregnant and lactating women, disabled women, elderly women and those from female-headed households, often find themselves the last to receive aid. Social norms, lack of information, long walking hours and the burden of household chores often affect their access to aid.

However there is much hope. Women are often found to be remarkable change agents and leaders, both within their own households and at community-level. The change that subsequently follows disaster, can open up new 'space' for women and girls, new opportunities to expand their roles within society, creating the possibility for growth and development. Rather than remain solely passive victims of disasters, women need to be provided with opportunities to take up these roles as change agents, to gain personal self-confidence, learn leadership skills and emerge from the crisis as community leaders.



Disaster relief and recovery is a topic that has brought the Federations together time and again to support those in great need, from Haiti to Japan, to Nepal. Recently, a review of the Beijing Platform for Action was undertaken at its 20th anniversary. UN Women released research findings that concluded that *Education* serves to help lift women and girls out of poverty. Education impacts on overall health including the avoidance of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/Aids and unwanted pregnancies. Mortality rates and incidences of violence decrease, including trafficking. Children of educated mothers are more likely to experience their own educational and occupational successes.

There is general agreement in the global development community that *Education* is the most important tool in assisting women and girls in achieving economic and social empowerment. Educating a girl or woman can benefit not only their own lives, but those of their family, community and country.

For the 2015-17 President's Appeal, the aim is to focus on helping to rebuild lives in Nepal, whilst providing educational opportunities which may not have existed prior to the earthquakes of 2015. Following disaster, the immediate needs are great and include water, shelter, healthcare and safety. Women and girls have specific needs and of course these need to be addressed during the current relief phase. However once we move into the rebuilding phase, it is vital to ensure that women and girls have access to the one thing we all agree can lift them out of poverty and transform their lives: Education.





2015-2017 President's Appeal Goal and Objectives

The 2015-2017 President's Appeal will fund projects that support the outlined goals and objectives. It is expected to fund several projects, addressing the specific educational needs of women and girls in Nepal. Eligible projects will include building schools, providing scholarships, teaching income-generating skills, educating girls and women to prevent trafficking etc.

Organizations seeking funding are required to submit a proposal, sign an agreement and measure and report the impact of their project. The SI Programme Team will be responsible for managing the overall project with the support and guidance of the SI staff. The programme team will maintain responsibility until the final funds have been distributed and all the projects have reported their impact.

Goal: Women and girls will have the education they need to rebuild their lives following the Nepali earthquakes.

Objectives:

- To Increase educational resources for girls.
- To Increase educational resources for women.
- To Increase the number of women and girls accessing educational resources.
- To Increase opportunities for leadership development for women and girls.
- To Increase the number of projects meeting their objectives.

In Summary

The December 10th President's Appeal 2015-2017, will include measurable, sustainable projects that transform the lives of women and girls. Focusing on the SI theme of Education and Leadership the appeal will assist women and girls in rebuilding their lives, following the April and May earthquakes in Nepal. Building partnerships with leading educational organizations working in Nepal the Appeal will create public awareness opportunities for SI and the Federations.

Fundraising Goal over two years

<i>Goal Total</i>	<i>Per Soroptimist</i>
US \$ 500,000	US \$ 6.00
Euros 450,000	E 5.50
GPD £ 320,000	£ 4.00
AUD \$ 655,000	AUD\$ 8.00

I look forward to your support in making a difference

Yvonne Simpson
President 2015 - 2017

