

UMNHET newsletter, August 2021



Dear Friends of UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust,

This year, perhaps more than any other we have realised what an interconnected world we live in. The pandemic has affected every country and we have all experienced restrictions on our lives, worries for our health and that of our loved ones, and a sense of powerlessness. We have all suffered, but wealthier nations have more layers of protection for their citizens than countries like Nepal.

In April 2021 a huge second wave of Covid swept over Nepal. The new variant meant that cases this time were more severe and needed more oxygen.



Staff from Okhaldunga hospital in PPE

In Nepal, for many years people have struggled with limited access to essentials like water, electricity and food – but now even the oxygen to breathe has become rationed. The UMN founded hospitals of Tansen and

Okhaldunga have oxygen regeneration plants, but even these were not enough to meet the demands.



Oxygen compressor in Okhaldunga (repaired in October 2020)

Amp Pipal and Patan had them on order, but there were constant delays in the delivery. Like the other hospitals across Nepal, they were queuing up for oxygen cylinders with patients literally gasping for their next breath.

For a short period of time Patan and Tansen hospitals had to turn patients away even though they had beds, because they didn't have enough oxygen. Adding another patient would have crashed the precarious supply for the patients already in intensive care. Such terrible choices to have to make.

A new lockdown was reimposed towards the end of April 2021, essential to try and prevent further spread, but bringing its own misery for those unable to work and earn money to pay

for food, rent and essential medical care. The UMNHET fund is more important than ever as patients are unable to pay for their care and are turning for help to the hospital medical assistance funds (MAF).

As many of our long term supporters know, the UMN endowment fund is invested and the income generated each year is given in full to the four UMN founded hospitals to provide a sustainable income for the MAF. In 2020 we were able to give £30,206.

We were also able to act as a channel for you to give an extra £27,353 for the "Save Our Hospitals" appeal. This was to keep the hospitals going at a time when lockdowns had severely limited hospital income and ability to pay staff wages. As a result of your generosity, staff were ready and eager to serve when the second wave struck.



Staff from Tansen UMH hospital

As of 11th June 2021, only 2.4% of Nepalis had been fully vaccinated. This does though include most health care workers and we are thankful that they are protected.

Unfortunately, whilst so many vulnerable people remain unvaccinated, there are bound to be further devastating waves of infection in the coming months.

Although our primary aim is to provide long term sustainable support for the hospitals, some of our donors have asked if they can give extra money which can be used immediately to help in the current Covid 19 crisis. This is possible now, if you go to the front page of our website:
<http://www.umnhet.org.uk>

We are so grateful for the support you give the Trust, enabling the four UMN affiliated hospitals in Nepal to serve the poor in need of medical care, regardless of caste, religion or resources. Please continue to pray for these hospitals, their staff and patients.

Could we ask you, too, to share this newsletter with one other person to see if we can extend the support we give in the coming years? If you shop with Amazon, you can also sign up to smile.amazon.co.uk and nominate United Mission to Nepal Hospitals Endowment Trust to receive a small donation every time you order something, at no extra cost to you.

We wish you every blessing in the coming year

The Trustees:

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