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DAISY CHAINS - Empowering Nepal's Women

2008



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2008 Investing in Women and Girls

*Achieving gender equality and empowering women is a goal in itself. It is also a condition for building healthier, better educated, more peaceful and more prosperous societies. **When women are fully empowered and engaged, all of society benefits.** Only in this way can we successfully take on the enormous challenges confronting our world ... and reaching all the other Millennium Development Goals.*

- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



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Women in Nepal

- Women in Nepal are still generally considered inferior by society
- Violence against women is rampant
- The literacy and economic status of most women is so poor that they are constantly at a disadvantage in most aspects of daily life
- Approx 60% of women in Nepal are illiterate



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- Women from lower castes living in urban 'poor communities' face the struggle of having left their families in remote areas with the dream of working and making more money in Kathmandu
- These women often work as domestic labourers in extremely poor conditions with little or no access to basic amenities such as clean water, medical care and adequate food
- Their life continues to be a struggle and in many cases is worse than the life they left behind in the village



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“Efforts focusing on the empowerment of women and girls must be geared up by investing more in the provision of education and skills training opportunities . . .”

Nepal Millennium Development Goals – Progress Report 2005



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What we are going to do

- In conjunction with CWISH, one of our main partners in Nepal, we will run a project to empower 500 of these women to help them improve their situations through their own work and initiatives: **DAISY CHAINS - empowering Nepal's women.**
- Why **“Daisy Chains”** - a daisy chain is a garland or chain made of linked, interconnected daisies.
- This initiative is about empowering women to empower each other through an interconnected network – like a daisy chain!



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How will it work?

- 500 women will be selected from various poor urban communities in and around Kathmandu
- They will be divided into groups of 20
- They will each attend a 6 month long Business Based Literacy class
- In each class, a savings program will be run amongst participants
- During the course a business plan will be developed with the women for a sustainable microbusiness
- Once the course is complete, the project will match the funds raised by the women in their savings program





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And then the fun really begins...

- The women will be given mentoring support to develop and run their business
- The women will save enough money to pay back the contribution from the project, **BUT** they will pay this money to the next group of women - "Pay it Forward"
- A Federation of these microbusinesses will be established so they can provide a support network for each other
- After 12 months, a conference of all 500 women will be held to celebrate the program



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How much does it cost?

- The cost of supporting one group of 20 women costs only A\$1,000 – that's only A\$50 per woman to change the life of an entire family.
- This is a one-off cost that provides the group with their education program, business mentoring, and savings match plan to get their businesses started



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How YOU Can Help

- Why not get a group of friends together and contribute a Daisy Chain to a group of women in Nepal
 - If you get together a group of 10 friends, it's only \$100 each
 - Or you could hold a fundraising event to raise the money
 - It would be a wonderful project for a group of friends, a networking group, a social club etc
- You will receive a Daisy Chain Certificate as well as details of the group of women you support and updates on their progress as they begin their life changing journey
- Of course we are happy to receive contributions of any amount – every donation will make an enormous difference to the lives of women and their children in Nepal!
- If you have other ideas on how you'd like to get involved, please let us know!



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