

Gurkha Welfare Trust

Project	Contribution to a major school construction
Location	Nepal – Gandaki Province
Dates	15 th – 29 th March 2026
Group size	12-15



Aim and Context of the Project

Since 1969, the Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT), through its in-country field arm the Gurkha Welfare Scheme (GWS), has been working in Nepal to provide aid for Gurkha ex-servicemen, their dependents and their communities. Through a network of 21 Area Welfare Centres in the traditional Gurkha recruiting areas, each of which is manned for 365 days of the year by former Gurkha officers and soldiers, GWS staff deliver financial, medical and development assistance to pensioners and the wider community.

Since 1969, the Gurkha Welfare Trust has built 130 schools and repaired a further 1,800, installed water systems in over 1,400 remote villages, and provided a monthly pension to retired Gurkha soldiers or their widows who have no other income or means of support.

Many men in Nepali villages have departed to find employment as migrant workers. In their absence, women's groups, known as Aama Samuha, have often taken on a more prominent role in village life.

Project Details

The project will take place in Gandaki Province, around 45 miles from Pokhara (a 2-3 hour journey by road), within a Dalit community. Dalits make up around 13% of Nepal's population and continue to face widespread discrimination, including barriers to education and employment, lower wages, and limited political representation. The school build aims to create secondary school places for over 600 pupils in a region that was badly affected by flooding in 2020. It will be hard work, but there is a job to suit every ability. Participation on this project will enable volunteers to work with an iconic organisation, learn about beneficiaries' daily lives and the central role community plays in an ever-changing social landscape. Volunteers will learn about the importance of the work of the GWT in these rural communities, as well as learning more about sustainable development with JOA.

Responsibilities/activities: With support from local project partners, the JOA volunteers will assist in the construction of a major school building project for a rural community. Volunteers will work alongside GWT builders, primarily helping with non-skilled work, e.g. digging, moving bricks, mixing cement and carrying water.

Accommodation: Volunteers will be staying in the community, in either basic hotel accommodation or camping in tents close to the village. Camp beds will be provided and rooms will be shared amongst the team.