

JOA – Gurkha Welfare Trust 2023



Project	Construction of School/ Community Centres
Location	Nepal
Dates	October/November 2023 (TBC)
Group size	10-12 volunteers from Jersey

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 1800, installed water systems in over 1400 remote villages, and provided a monthly pension to retired Gurkha soldiers or their widows who have no other income or means of support.

These centres will serve a variety of vital community purposes, including medical outreach facilities, shelter and communication during times of emergency, and village assembly for community decision-making, as well as a setting for social events and celebrations such as Tihar and family weddings.

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 – these centres will also provide a place for them to operate. With many rural communities suffering the draining effects of urban migration, villages will benefit hugely from a central focus for communal activities

Project Details

Responsibilities: With support from local project partners, the JOA CWP volunteers will assist in the construction of a community facility. 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.

Accommodation - large tents for living /sleeping, with beds and foam mattresses, and sleeping bags with liners.