

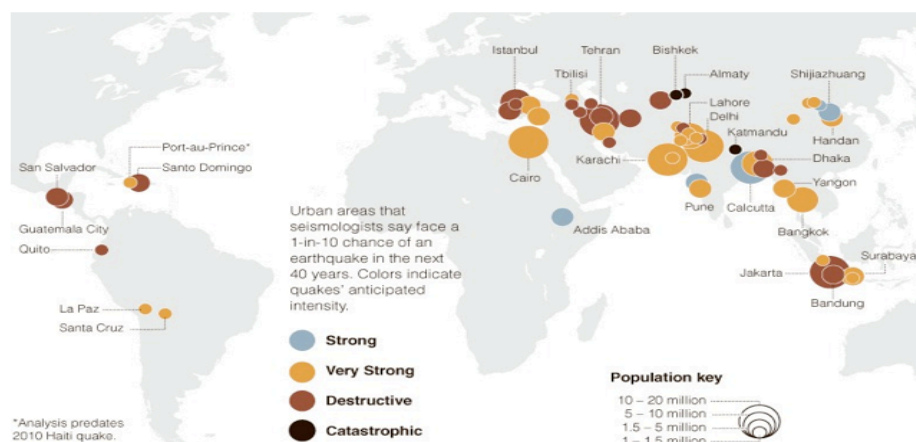
Dear friends,

On September 18th, a 6.9 earthquake hit Kathmandu. Although there were some fatalities in the Kathmandu Valley, all of Thrangu Rinpoche's nuns, monks and lay children were unhurt, and the building sustained no visible damage. At SMD Boarding School, thanks to years of emergency drills, the buildings were evacuated smoothly. The children spent the night in the monsoon rain sleeping on the soccer pitch and basketball court and the smaller children slept in the garage. Chaynga Sherpa B021 reported,

“ As soon as it happened, everyone gathered in the soccer field including our school principal Lama Sangye Tsering, managers, health workers, hostel teachers, seniors, support staff, volunteers, and all the students. The little kids were very scared but I think our joint efforts from the principal, hostel teachers, seniors and senior students made them feel safe. We said prayers together in the soccer field. We ate dinner outside the buildings. Eventually, it started raining so little kids from the annexe building slept in the garage which we found the most safe place. We brought tables from dining hall and thick mats and arranged it like bed in the garage. Intermediate students slept in front of the shrine hall and senior students slept in their own rooms. (Our Gardener) Dawa Norbu made hot milk tea for all which everybody enjoyed at the moment when we were feeling cold. Lama Sangye was there till the midnight. Seniors didn't sleep in the Seniors' flat. All the Seniors were guarding the kids.”

Kathmandu's Catastrophic Earthquake Risk

The Kathmandu valley is an ancient lakebed, it's land-locked, there is only one international airport and it has only one runway. There is no emergency plan or heavy rescue equipment. Building standards are nonexistent. Boarding schools are high risk, as demonstrated in Turkey, Pakistan and Haiti. Cholera and typhoid are endemic. Kathmandu is overdue for a magnitude 8 quake. For survivors it will be hell and help will be a long time coming.



Send Feedback

Sources: Koeri-Bogazici University, Istanbul (Istanbul analysis); Center for International Earth Science Information Network and Center for Hazards and Risk Research, Earth Institute at Columbia University

Rinpoche's idea is to house and teach the children in multiple one-story buildings which are safer in earthquakes because multi-storied buildings 'pancake' in earthquakes. We could accomplish our dream with land that looks like this.



We hope to buy the land, put in foundations and live onsite in tents while we build. We have been researching straw bale construction and have found a US-funded project in northern Pakistan, where the climate and elevation are similar. Their technicians say that we could do straw bale construction here. We've also been investigating hammered earth technology (hammered earth structures are stronger and last longer than concrete buildings. Examples can be seen in Ladakh and Bhutan.)

Large parcels of land are not easy to find in Nepal, and land is expensive, a result of the war. We anticipate the land cost to be in the range of 3,300,000 USD. While this is a substantial amount of money, when divided among our several hundred current sponsors and donors, it is manageable. We know that some sponsors already stretch their resources to help our children, for which we are thoroughly grateful but, if we look at land acquisition in this way the project seems less daunting. During the last fundraising trip, this idea immediately provoked a willingness in several donors to contribute a pro rata amount toward the building fund, \$2500.

Please consider helping us build a new school so we can move out of the danger zone. Donations can be made to SMD School Building Fund through any one of our non profit charities, or can be made directly to our Building Fund, details below.

Thank-you for reading this. If you cannot donate, please help by telling your friends and colleagues.

In gratitude,
Shirley Blair,
Director and fund raiser,
SMD School

SMD SCHOOL BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT

HIMALALAYAN BANK LTD.,
MAIN BRANCH,
KARMACHARI SANCHAYA KOSH BUILDING,
TRI DEVI MARG, THAMEL,

KATHMANDU NEPAL. PH: 00977-1-422-7749

TELEFAX: 00977-1-422-2800

TELEX: 2789 HIBA NP

SWIFT CODE: HIMANPKA

There is no institution number or code for the bank

EMAIL: hbl@hbl.com.np

ACCOUNT NAME: SMD BUILDING FUND

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 019 00160630021

SCHOOL NAME: SHREE MANGAL DVIP BOARDING SCHOOL

ADDRESS: PO BOX 1287, TINCHULI, BOUDHANATH

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

TEL: (977-1-) 491-5407

himalayanchildren@gmail.com

THRANGU RINPOCHE'S NON-PROFIT CHARITIES

Registered non-profit charities have been set up in Europe, Canada, the UK, Hong Kong and the US to help Rinpoche's projects. They can issue tax receipts. Please contact them for tax details.

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WHEN YOU DONATE PLEASE EMAIL THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO

himalayanchildren@gmail.com

**Your name and addresses (including email) *the amount * Building Fund *Where you sent it *the date*
PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH AT ANY TIME AND NEVER SEND ANYTHING YOU VALUE THROUGH THE MAIL