

EQUALITY DURING THE CRISIS

A STATEMENT FROM MIKE SMITH, CHAIRMAN OF CHILDREN OF THE MOUNTAIN

In the past decade Children of the Mountain has overcome civil and political unrest, an earthquake and all manner of challenges. We have overcome and today support 30 schools and 5,000 children. We now face our latest challenge.

In Nepal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all schools are current closed. With so many children out of school, there has never been a more urgent need to support their education.

I appreciate your focus is on supporting our efforts here at home, and our front line responders are indeed heroes, but we are one world and the most vulnerable are now suffering with little support available locally.

During this global crisis inequality will grow, the most vulnerable and their children will suffer most as poor families simply do not have the means to provide adequate alternative education from home. Post crisis it is inevitable that many children will not return to school and child labor and child marriage rates will once again soar. We risk losing all we have gained. There has never been a more urgent need to support the children.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Children of the Mountain, is facing significant loss of income due to canceled fundraising events. However we are not giving up on our small team of dedicated educators, who themselves are from marginalized communities, the teachers or the students. I am asking our friends and supporters and everyone who shares in our mantra that Equal Education Changes Lives and that children regardless of their economic background deserve equal treatment during this crisis and beyond, to help.

We will not react without planning. We are in regular contact with the local school authorities and in the coming months we will work in genuine partnership to bring our programs to students in the communities we support as effectively as we can.

If you can, please make a donation now or start your own fundraiser to ensure that this crisis doesn't result in a generation of children who lack basic literacy skills or who drop out of school and become lost. As always 100% of your donation will reach children.

Thank you,

