

the 18th of April 2018

Hello, Namaste and Thashi Delek

In this newsletter we write a little about the situation at the school the home this spring. We also show map that can fresh up you knowledge about the part of Humla, where the school home is situated.

Those who have forgotten to watch Gustav Nord ´s video from our visit to the school home in October 2016 can easily do it by clicking on this link:

<https://vimeo.com/209726942>

Project "Second floor".

Now, the school has been running for a couple of months after the winter break. The children are back at the school home and study diligently as usual. At the school home the second floor at one of our houses, is now in principle ready. It remains to install beds and stoves etc. The images below show the house in three different stages. As we have reported in previous newsletters, the building material mainly stone and wood, are gathered in the neighborhood except for metal for the roof and nails that are bought in Tibet.



At the school home there are now 47 children as in the previous year. The three that graduated from class 10 last year have been replaced by three new children. We do not know yet when it may be possible to bring in about 20 new children to the school home. It is likely to be first next spring. Neither do we not know if and when any permit to teach until grade 11 or 12 in our children's school can be obtained. However, we know that the board of the school is working on this.



In late winter the weather quickly switch between snow and bare ground in Humla as well as in Sweden. One day it may be snowing when the children go to school in the morning and a few days later, they can play in the sun on bare soil (see pictures above). Note the wonderful view that the children have from their playground at the school home.

Planting of fruit trees.

During the early spring they have been working with planting fruit trees and to sow in the greenhouse and in our kitchen gardens. The plan to have goats for milk to the children's diet has been abandoned. The goats require much care and extra work, so in order to facilitate the protection of our kitchen gardens and our new fruit trees, they have chosen to sell the goats. I think it's a good decision because if the effect on the diet should be noticeable I think they must have many goats and it would require too much time.



A large hole is founded with mulch before it is filled with soil so that planting can take place. Here are some plants right in front of our House.

Chembal has told us that planting of Apple trees also have been done in six nearby villages. The planting equipment and the plants that KMCH bought last year have been used. We really hope that the plants will survive and that this will inspire the people of Humla to plant more trees in the coming years. If it will be like that our investment in education and in planting equipment would have had the effect that we have hoped. We would like to participate in additional initiatives like this, but then it must be in collaboration with and funding by the Government and/or other organizations.

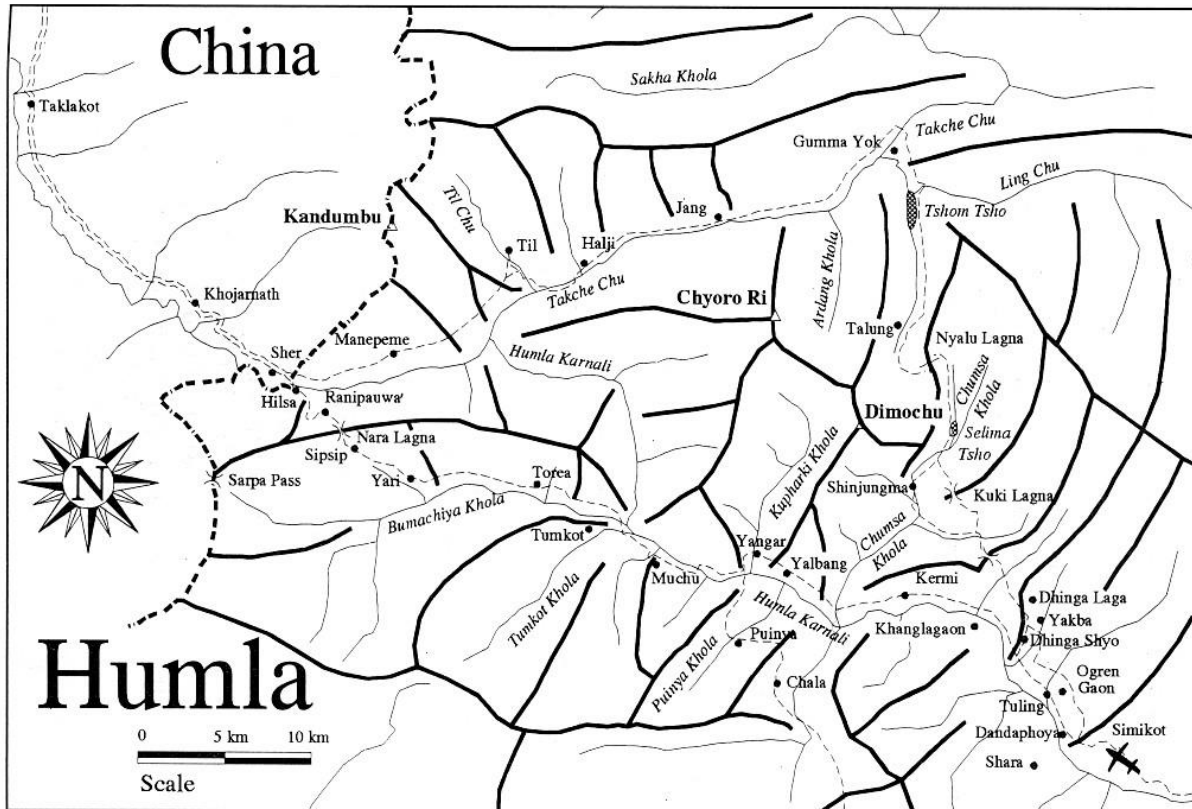
Water availability

We have told you that our spring no longer give a high and smooth flow of water as previous years. We have a plan and money to pull a pipe to a river in the mountains above the school home to secure the water supply. However, we are still waiting with that investment. As a temporary (?) solution we discuss to dig basins in order to store rain and meltwater. This water could be used for our cultivations. Then we could save the water from the spring to cooking and hygiene.

To store melting and rain water is a new idea for Humla, but Chembal has seen it practiced in other parts of Nepal where the water supply has been reduced. This may be a partial solution to compensate also for decreasing amounts of melting water and of uncertain rainfall during parts of the year. We are calculating on this project and will perhaps start a pilot plant at the school home.

Where can you find the school home?

Humla is situated in the northwest part of Nepal, bordering to China/Tibet. The easiest way to get there is to fly to the village of Simikot. There is no road to Simikot so you have to fly or walk. You find Simikot at the bottom right corner of the map below. Follow the broken line to the Northwest. After a while you come to the village of Yalbang. In that village our children go to school and there is also the monastery where Chembal has been a monk. From Yalbang it is not so far to Yangar where the school home is located. The hike from Simikot to Yangar takes us three days. It is pretty much up and down.



A road is under construction from the Tibetan border to Simikot. The road starts in the village of Hilsa, to which our former teacher Naki Lama has moved. The road reaches today the village of Kermi.

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Greetings
From the Board of
KMCH Support Group
and



... from the kids at the school home.

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