



The construction at Laxmi Secondary School which is now underway.

Though detailed planning for Laxmi School started in August, we only moved the Project Supervisor, Indra Bahadur Denga, to site in mid-November, from Gorkha district where he had been finishing the reconstruction of the last earthquake houses for Gurkha pensioners there. He has been working with our Earthquake Reconstruction Team since we started two years ago and, despite his youth, is very experienced and resourceful; we are in good hands.

He has now completed the move of about 30% of construction stores to site and these are being stored safely, though the next three weeks will consist largely of digging the foundations, lining the base with closely packed stone (a process called 'soling') then building the base plinth, bringing it back to ground level. At this point it will be capped off with the first of four reinforced concrete tie beams, an essential component for earthquake resilience. We are building two double classroom blocks but have decided that these will be covered by a single roof so the final appearance will be of a continuous four classroom building.

Despite excavating being into only its fourth day when we visited, progress is excellent and Indra happy that at this rate, and with the degree of cooperation we have from the community, we will easily finish by June 2018. It is the villagers who are now doing all the heavy. It is a mark however of their eagerness for this project that this work is being undertaken voluntarily and is probably much in excess of what we normally ask of the villagers by way of their community contribution. By the middle of January, we will welcome a team of local masons (known as 'mistris') who will start the bricklaying at which point the somewhat ill-defined hole in the ground will start to take shape

You may recall that there were some temporary classrooms on the site; these were taken down by the villagers before we marked out. As a result, many classes are being taken out doors though a government of Nepal project to rebuild an additional six classrooms should be finished in the next few weeks.