

## Fun fundraising ideas

- > **Get quizzical...** hold a Nepal-themed quiz.
- > **Jenga!** Hold a giant Jenga competition.
- > **Get house-proud...** tidy up your house (for a fee).
- > **Car booty...** clear out your garage, wardrobes and cupboards.
- > **Climb every mountain...** organise a sponsored hill climb.
- > **Go online!** Set up a page on our fundraising website [www.myactionaid.org.uk](http://www.myactionaid.org.uk) where you can collect donations, share ideas and upload photos.



Photo:istock

## Real lives: Shiva's story

Shiva and Palti Tharu live with their four children in Kalika village, Nepal. Shiva is an ex-bonded labourer and because of his large family, the government gave him a quarter-acre of land to grow food. ActionAid Nepal's Kamaiya Housing Project is helping him build a brick home, replacing the mud and straw one they currently have.

"Life before was so miserable, now we have respect... we have hope," says Shiva. "We can save big money, because the constant repair needed was a great burden. I also felt scared to leave my family for work, as our home had no secure door and sometimes was unsafe when needing maintenance. I can now feel peace of mind when I leave them alone in the home."

Their new start in life will change things for good. "Before I could only dream of freedom, now I have it," adds Shiva. "My children will study and I hope they will be able to work using their mind instead of torturing their body with manual labour."



Shiva Tharu (left) works with his wife, Palti (centre), and his mother, Labhutti Tharu to make cement to build their new home.

Photo: Kari Collins/ActionAid



Two newly built concrete homes in Bardiya District, Nepal.

Photo: Kari Collins/ActionAid

## Priority Projects

actionaid

# Nepal: secure homes and livelihoods for freed bonded labourers

**Fact:** freed *Kamaiya* (bonded labourers) are Nepal's poorest people. Many became homeless when their landlords evicted them in 2000 after they were freed, and the government has done little to help.

**Aim:** to improve the lives of freed *Kamaiya* people by providing secure housing in western Nepal, and improving access to other government services, such as education for their children.



Former bonded labourer Shiva Tharu (far left) and his wife Palti stand with their children on the foundations of what will be their new brick home, built by ActionAid's Kamaiya Housing Project in Kalika village, Nepal.

Photo: Kari Collins/ActionAid

## Ex-bonded labourers without homes

Around a third of Nepal's people live below the poverty line, and the Kamaiya – former bonded labourers – are the poorest of all. Until they were freed 11 years ago, they were completely trapped by landlords in a cycle of debt passed from generation to generation. Once freed, the landlords evicted the Kamaiya from their land, leaving them homeless.

While the government provided land to some freed families, they did not provide shelter. More than a decade later, around 20,000 families are still waiting for land – those who have it live in temporary shelters made of plastic sheets, clothes and bamboo, open to the elements and lacking proper sanitation. Diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid are rampant, and hundreds of Kamaiya women and children have died.

### Nepal factfile



- > Population: 29 million.
- > Life expectancy: 66 (the UK's is 79).
- > Over 50% of Kamaiya adults are illiterate.
- > 77% of people live on under US\$2 a day.
- > ActionAid Nepal has been working with local organisations to help the Kamaiya since the 1990s, supporting a powerful liberation movement which, after a long and gruelling struggle, led the Nepalese government to declare the Kamaiya free on 17 July 2000.

### Real lives: Pradeshu's story

Pradeshu Tharu and his family live in a mud house in Kalika village, Bardiya, Nepal. Pradeshu was freed in 2001, and though he has received a government plot of land, he's yet to receive the materials to build a house.

**"Our [straw] roof is a big danger because of fire. It is very difficult to afford this house because of the constant repairs – it takes 35% of yearly income just for upkeep. When the monsoon season comes it washes the mud away, and the roof never lasts." A new brick home "will be a big financial relief... It will keep us warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer and healthier all the time."**



Pradeshu and Rima Tharu with two of their children inside their small straw hut. They hope for a brick-built house.  
Photo: Kari Collins/ActionAid

## How you can help

### The project

This project will provide 25 freed Kamaiya families with low-cost, secure housing, complete with sanitation, protecting them from severe weather and diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid. Once in permanent homes, the families will be able to access other government services.

### What this Priority Project will do:

- > Enable Kamaiya to rebuild their own lives, starting with the setting up of a Kamaiya management committee, especially involving women, to oversee the building process.
- > Enrol 80 children in school – children who had no educational opportunities before because many government services were available only to people in permanent homes.
- > Improve the living conditions for 25 families by reducing the threat of house fires (the old-style, thatched houses are at higher risk of fire) and increasing the security of homes (the new homes are made of materials to withstand the elements).
- > Help women become self-sufficient by selling vegetables, as they will no longer have to stay at home to guard their makeshift old houses.



Pradeshu's son Rabin Tharu (8) with his teacher in class 4 at Shreemukt Kamaiya primary school.  
Photo: Kari Collins/ActionAid

## What your money can buy

# £25

could provide hardware such as nuts and bolts for one house

# £40

could pay for a carpenter to construct one house

# £50

could provide the sand to construct one house

# £599

could provide livelihood training for one adult

# £1,274

could buy the bricks for two houses



Shreemukt Kamaiya primary school in Kalika Village, Nepal, in which the project will enrol 80 extra children.  
Photo: Kari Collins/ActionAid