

COVID-19 MASK PRODUCTION (INCOME GENERATION)



Hoste Hainse Padariya School

Sarlahi, Janakpur, Province #2, Nepal

PROPOSAL

July 2020 - Hoste Hainse

1. INTRODUCTION

Who We Are & What We Do

Hoste Hainse is a non-profit non-governmental organization (NGO) that has been catering to sustainable community development through education for the last 30+ years. We build and run non-profit free-for-all community schools for underprivileged children across rural Nepal, where poverty levels are high and education penetration low. Our education programs are primarily funded via donations, but we also run sustainable fundraisers spanning both income generation programs as well as eco-friendly endeavors, which now cover about 15% of our budget. Our income generation programs are local and currently include fish farming as well as milk delivery, while our eco-friendly endeavors include fundraising through recycling (Recycle for Education – www.hostehainse.org/recycle), reusing (Reuse for Education – www.hostehainse.org/reuse), and tree planting (Plant for Education – www.hostehainse.org/plant) to name a few. Hoste Hainse is a member of both *UNGC (United Nations Global Compact)*, a voluntary non-binding United Nations pact to encourage organizations worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, as well as *IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)*, the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.



United Nations
Global Compact
Member



Related links:

- Hoste Hainse @ UNGC (United Nations Global Compact):
<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/participants/17930-Hoste-Hainse>
- Hoste Hainse @ IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature):
<https://www.iucn.org/about/members/iucn-members>

For more information on Hoste Hainse, please visit the “More Information” section of this document.

2. BACKGROUND

Sarlahi is a district in the south western region of Nepal in Province #2 that Hoste Hainse has been actively involved in since 1998. Sarlahi has a high proportion of Dalits (“untouchable caste”) and people of low-castes. Historically, different social and ethnic groups have had uneven access to basic services, resources as well as opportunities. With the belief that education is the path out of poverty, and that it is a fundamental right to all people, Hoste Hainse has built schools in Sarlahi and has been operating them since the turn of the millennium.



The Hoste Hainse Shreepur School 2019-20

Hoste Hainse is engaged in various educational programs in four localities, known as VDC's (Village Development Committees), of Sarlahi, namely Dhangada, Sahodwa, Shreepur and Padariya. These educational programs entail not only the operation of schools, but also income-generation programs in an attempt to make the schools self-sustainable, as well as increase the livelihood of the people from the localities. The schools are set up in a non-profit free-for-all manner for the education of marginalized and needy children, while the income-generation programs are run with the people of the localities in mind, with a preference to the parents of children enrolled in the Hoste Hainse schools.

The bulk of the expenses (about 80%) of running the Hoste Hainse schools is attributed to teacher salaries, which are, however, about 50% lower than government teacher salaries. Still, the teachers at the Hoste Hainse schools are content with their lower salaries, as they know their pupils are

matriculating at a rate of 90%+ (100% for the last five consecutive years) while the government students are at a rate much lower. In the future, once the Hoste Hainse schools become self-sustainable via their income-generation programs, Hoste Hainse plans to revisit teacher salary structure, viz-a-viz, raise them.

About 20% of the total expenses of operating the schools consists of books, stationary, and other supplies, inclusive of teaching aids. The Hoste Hainse central office charges a 0% overhead to keep expenses low.



Hoste Hainse firmly believes the education empowers people, and this is especially important when people are misrepresented in the decisions that affect them. In seeking to educate the underprivileged and low-caste students, Hoste Hainse hopes to ignite a social reform where people are recognized and given equal opportunities regardless of their caste. This has already started, which can be seen with the positive rate of development in the Sarlahi district.

3. PROJECT

The Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is taking its toll on the world. As of this writing, global infections are close to 12 million and cases in Nepal over 16,000. The national lockdown in Nepal was finally relaxed after 84 days, but as overall restrictions inch closer to 110 days, some parts of the country are seeing relaxed enforcement, while others more strict with cases spiking in pockets. Only time will tell if this extended lockdown has helped curb the spread of the virus, or whether this is the calm before the storm. Either way, one thing is for sure – just as the devastating earthquake of 2015 tested our national integrity, we are at it once again, this time pushing not only the entire country, but also individuals to their limits, both physically as well as mentally.

Many organizations, including Hoste Hainse, have been on the forefront of providing immediate relief during these uncertain times. Hoste Hainse has been doing this not only via its secretariat, but also through organizations that it is affiliated with, such as Global Compact Nepal (GCN), the local network of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). While immediate relief was the need of the hour at the early stages of the pandemic, it has now become apparent that this virus is here to stay and more long-term pandemic tackling measures are required. This is where the *COVID-19 Mask Production Income Generation Project* finds its calling.

Sarlahi-based local income generation projects are not new at Hoste Hainse. *Fish Farming* started in 2016 and *Milk Delivery* in 2018. About 15% of the total Sarlahi budget is currently serviced by funds generated by Fish Farming and Milk Delivery alone. Funds generated in Sarlahi stay in Sarlahi, while employment is created and avenues of commerce are etched. A win-win for all parties involved, income generation projects help us achieve our overall goal of self-sustainability.



Fish Farming



Milk Delivery

At the present, the we run two Fish Farming Income Generation projects in Sarlahi which generate proceeds of NPR 3,00,000 (about USD 3,000) each, and one Milk Delivery Income Generation project which generates proceeds of another NPR 3,00,000 (about USD 3,000). Total proceeds generated for our Hoste Hainse non-profit free-for-all community schools total NPR 9,00,000 (about USD 9,000) per annum.

Before Hoste Hainse started investing into local income generation projects, it has a decade-long history of running *Skill Development Training Projects* in Sarlahi. The idea was almost the same as the income generation projects that Hoste Hainse runs today, but the onus was put on the trainee at the end of skill development for him/her to use the gained skill towards his/her own socio-economic advancement. Income generation projects now provide not only skill development training, but also guaranteed job placement, which generate income not only for the trainee, but also the community as a whole.

Skill development training projects included Motorcycle Mechanic training, Mobile Technician training, Electrician training, Plumber training and last, but not least, Tailoring training. The last batch of tailoring training was held in 2018 with trainees receiving certificates in April 2018.



Tailoring Trainees



Certificate Distribution

We still have the equipment from the last tailoring training in 2018. This opens up an opportunity for the *COVID-19 Mask Production Income Generation Project*. Needless to say, whether we like it or not, COVID-19 is here to stay and the demand for masks will not go away any time soon. Single-use or use-and-throw COVID-19 protective equipment are a global disaster in the making as they fill up landfills, but warranted as loss of human life is at play. Still, perhaps we can attempt to make a difference by trying to produce safe, yet reusable environment friendly COVID-19 protective masks.

Since we already have the equipment that will be ready to use with some minimal setup, all we need is the raw materials and technical know-how on how to produce environment-friendly reusable COVID-19 safe protective masks. Training will require about three months whereas enough raw materials need to be purchased for mask production to reach critical mass, i.e., more raw materials can be purchased from the sale of the produced masks. We hope to reach critical mass within 2 years.

The project will be started with just 10 trainees, as we currently have only 10 sewing machines. We have experience with training groups of 10 at the location in Padariya and therefore are comfortable with this number. When the project gains momentum, we can look into expanding the training.

In addition to having a trainer, we will also need a coordinator who will be in charge of the entire project. Again, just like we did during our Skill Development Training projects in the past, we are confident that this coordinator will bring out the best in people.

No additional costs are required for inspection and monitoring, just like for our *Fish Farming* and *Milk Delivery* Income Generation projects, because inspection and monitoring trips for this project can be combined with regular trips to visit our non-profit free-for-all community schools for underprivileged children, which happen at least 4 times a year, but are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Masks will be sold via Hoste Hainse's networking channels which include both sustainable businesses as well as non-profit organizations. If this venture picks up momentum, we can also look into exporting masks for sustainable consumption outside of Nepal.

As a local income generation project based in Sarlahi, just like *Fish Farming* and *Milk Delivery*, the aim is to produce enough economic activity to generate funds for our non-profit free-for-all community schools for underprivileged children.

Please see Finances section for seed funding required to kick-start this income generation project.

Following are costs for the first **2 years**, after which we plan to be self-sufficient:

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5. TIMELINE

We expect training to take about 3 months from the date of funding being acquired. We hope to be fully self-sustainable within 24 months.

	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	.	.	.	24
Activity													
1. Funding Acquired													
2. Setup													
3. Training													
4. Production													
5. Self-Sustained													

6. CONCLUSION

The 3rd Hoste Hainse Income Generation Project, COVID-19 Mask Production can be started in Sarlahi with initial seed funding of NPR 9,25,000 (about USD 7,700). The project hopes to be self-sustainable within 2 years and generate funds for our schools by then.

Thank you for your support!



Shreepur Class 5 (December 2019)

7. CONTACT

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WebSite:	www.hostehainse.org
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/hostehainse
Twitter:	www.twitter.com/hostehainse
Instagram:	www.instagram.com/hostehainse

8. MORE INFORMATION

Hoste Hainse, a non-profit non-governmental organization (NGO), was founded in 1990 by Sulochana Shrestha-Shah, and had the initial purpose of ensuring sound working conditions for the employees of its sister concern, Formation Carpets, a for-profit hand-knotted rug exporting business. The efforts of Hoste Hainse included hygiene programs with complimentary health insurance, provident fund facilities, and paid maternity leave, to name a few, for a 100% female workforce advocating women empowerment. Programs like a day-care and pre-school facility for the children of the employees, to ensure the children would not end up playing on the streets (which was a problem that plagued Nepal then), were one of the first milestone efforts of Hoste Hainse. As the children grew up, Hoste Hainse started to become involved in obtaining full/partial scholarships for them to attend school with the proceeds of Formation Carpets business. This catapulted Hoste Hainse into the education sector.

In parallel, Sulochana Shrestha-Shah was at the forefront of battling child labor issues in Nepal, hand-in-hand with 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi, which led to the establishment of Goodweave (then known as Rugmark) in 1995. Goodweave is dedicated to ending illegal child labour primarily in the hand-knotted rug manufacturing industry, via a certification program that allows companies like Formation Carpets that pass inspection to attach a label certifying that their product is made without child labor. More importantly, Goodweave rescues children forced into child labor and has facilities for rehabilitation, which includes education and reunification with parents.



By 1997, Sulochana Shrestha-Shah was awarded the Advocates for Human Rights Award for her continuous spearheading of social issues from the business sector, her work at both Formation Carpets as well as Hoste Hainse, pushing her motto "business with ethics." The Human Rights Award yielded in multiple synergies with like-minded individuals and organizations, and launched the Hoste Hainse Schools across rural Nepal, primarily where poverty levels are high and education penetration low.

Hoste Hainse currently runs four schools, grades ECD (Early Childhood Development) through 10, across four villages in the district of Sarlahi, Province #2, which lies in the Terai, the plains in the south of Nepal. Sarlahi is considered a developing region which means that poverty-levels are very high, gender discrimination rampant, access to basic facilities difficult, and education penetration in the average household extremely low. Sarlahi, with a literacy rate below 50%, is one of the least educated districts in Nepal. Our programs in Sarlahi started in 1998, and 20+ years later we are proud to share that our high school matriculation rate (SLC/SEE) has always been over 90% (100% for the last five consecutive years) since inception, with the national averages being at about 40%, and the government school averages even lower than that. As of now, the number of girls in high school is climbing up to the same level as

boys. Because our schools are so high performing, even children not enrolled in our schools flock to our classrooms, and we do not have the heart to turn them away. Further, our education programs are complemented by Income Generation Programs, such as fish farming and milk delivery, which is indigenous to the region, and are run by parents and other members of our schools, which in turn generates funds to make our schools as self-sustaining as possible. At the present, about 15% of our total Sarlahi budget is covered by our income generation programs.

Hoste Hainse also provides educational support to schools in Jhapa, Nawalparasi and Bajura in conjunction with partner organizations, *Chance for Life Nepal*, *Nepalhilfe Bietigheim-Hersfeld*, and *Zukunft Entwickeln*, to name a few. Post-earthquake (2015), we started educational support programs in Sindhupalchowk and have re-built schools in the region.

A paragon in providing educational support to underprivileged children across Nepal, Hoste Hainse has more success stories than it has been able to tell, public relations being one of its weaknesses. To tackle this, we have recently started an informal blog, which aims to tell stories expediently as they happen, before they get lost: www.hostehainse.org/blog.

Hence, what started as a simple scholarship project for five underprivileged children at a carpet factory is now an organization that supports over 2,500 across Nepal.

In case you are wondering, the colloquial Nepalese expression "Hoste Hainse" can best be translated into English as "Heave Ho" which is the term most used in Nepal while collectively working on a challenging task. **So, let's Hoste Hainse!**



Related links:

- Formation Carpets: www.formationcarpets.com
- Goodweave: www.goodweave.org
- Advocates for Human Rights: www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org

9. DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

DATE	VER.	AUTHOR	COMMENTS
2020/07/08	0.1	Krishna B. Shah	1 st Draft.
2020/07/10	0.2	Krishna B. Shah	2 nd Draft.