"He will judge the world with justice, and peoples with equity"

Psalms 98
Dear Friends,

This spring (2018), I sat in Kathmandu listening to our group of 15 “Fellows”, Israeli, American, Australian and Nepali young professionals. The group was towards the end of their 6 month stay in Ramechhap, a remote rural region in Nepal where Tevel has been working for close to five years.

When I first arrived in Hildevi, Ramechhap on an exploratory visit, together with Dr. Bishnu Chapagain, our Nepal Country director, the only vegetables sold in the makeshift marketplace were onions and potatoes. These have a long shelf life, and can thus be brought from afar and won’t spoil while the shopkeeper waits for someone to buy it.

Today, as we edge towards the end of our work with its farmers, mostly women, Hildevi’s marketplace is filled with cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, tomatoes, cabbage and more. After five years of in depth work with farmers on agricultural methods, water conservation, and cooperative means of connecting to market, Hildevi is now exporting mountains of vegetables to Kathmandu--12 tons a month during high season. That means more nutrition in the village, less migration to city slums, and more money for health and education.

That’s not the only yield. We work with women and young people on a number of levels—including leadership development. So when, for the first time in twenty years elections were held on a local level (the Maoist civil war and the country’s transition from monarchy held things up for a long time) our women were ready--and a critical mass now have a prominent role in the newly empowered regional government, in which the presence of women leaders is a
new phenomenon. We will leave Hildevi and environs at the end of November, and begin new projects with a sense of confidence and of mission accomplished.

And still, when our Nepali and International Fellows presented their probing questions, it was apparent how much there is still left to do and learn—and how sensitive and penetrating are our next generation of development activists and practitioners. “How does the absence of fathers who have migrated for work affect teenage boys and their conception of masculinity and fatherhood?” “What are the strengths and weaknesses of local versus hybrid seeds in the community’s perception?” “How does the possession of a land right’s certificate affect a woman’s perception of her own power?” And much more.

According to Jewish mysticism, before S/He created this world, God created worlds which could not hold the divine light, and thus shattered. Their problem: the shattered worlds could not expand to hold the light because they were single-mindedly focused on the one unique quality that defined their world. Our world, according to the Kabbalists (and I hope to God they are right!) is the “Olam HaTikkun” the world of repair, of fixing. Here it is possible to integrate opposing qualities and thus create a flexible, expanding vessel that can hold God’s infinite, dynamic light.

In our work, this expanding vessel is the community. Many organizations focus on one thing, a technology or treatment or issue of one kind. We also have a major focus: building agricultural capacity in rural villages so as to prevent vulnerable migration. But without a holistic approach towards engaging the whole community—intellectually and emotionally as well as practically and financially—technologies and methodologies will die on the vine.

As you can read in our deputy director’s message, Tevel continues to broaden our horizons and our reach—to new continents, programs, populations, and foci. As we grow the capacity of others, our own capacity is growing. Only with your support can we continue to expand, to learn, to ask probing questions—and to truly help make this world the “Olam HaTikkun”—a world, not of destruction, but of repair.

Rabbi Micha Odenheimer
Founding Director - Tevel b’Tzedek
Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you Yonatan Bram, our new deputy director, who has been with us since July 2017.

We first got to know Yonatan when he came to Nepal as the husband of Gili Thorn, a veteran of our sixth cohort in Nepal, who was the guide for our first cohort of Fellows. Yonatan spent a year in the field in Nepal, as the director of our Israeli staff. He then returned to the prestigious “Lautman Interdisciplinary program for Excellent Students” at Tel Aviv University, where he completed an MA in Anthropology—writing about the ethical discourse of Tevel b’Tzedek.

Yonatan is that rare person who is able to combine a soaring vision with an attention to detail, a confident touch in human relations, and the patience and determination to get the job done. All of this adds up to real leadership skills that Tevel is lucky to have. I am fortunate to be able to introduce him as the person who will take over for me as the next director of Tevel b’Tzedek.

Not that I am going anywhere (at least I hope not!). Yonatan will take over the Director’s position by the beginning of 2019, but I will stay involved in Tevel on many different levels. At this stage in Tevel’s history, though, I can say with confidence that Yonatan is the right person to take the organization to the new phase of maturity and growth that we are entering.

I hope that over the next year, those of you who have not yet met Yonatan will get to meet him and know him. It is with a feeling of gratitude to God that I introduce him to you.

Micha

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

This past year marked 10 years for Tevel b’Tzedek, in which we did a lot and learned even more. We’ve grown from a small program dedicated to creating a bridge between Jewish and Israeli young people and the challenges of the developing world, to a professional development organization. We have been involved in projects spread between Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, and have facilitated over a thousand volunteers’ first encounter with a rural life and the practice of sustainable community development. We are still growing and developing, and aim to expand our work with vulnerable communities, while engaging a broader public of volunteers and action learners.
Here are some of the innovations we are introducing in the upcoming months:

- We have recently launched a pilot of entrepreneurship training for women across our work areas, supported by facilitation of credit from local financial institutions for their enterprises. We intend to expand this project to include more participants, and broaden its audience to include more sectors and professions.

- We are now in the planning phase of a new project in Africa, in partnership with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s non-sectarian international relief and development department, GRID. We intend to launch a joint project focused on agriculture and livelihood that uses our holistic model and incorporates service learning volunteers in 2019.

- As we have recently registered as an INGO in Nepal, we are now in a position to work with multiple local partners, and thus to increase our reach and cultivate local professional capacity.

- We are expanding our variety of Service Learning opportunities, including:

  - An academic program in partnership with the Rothberg International School, of Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Students will take a fully credited semester in Jerusalem and Nepal, with courses like Introduction to International Development, Religion and Ethics in Development, Environment and Climate Change and Contemporary Nepal in the South Asia Context. In addition, students will experience village life, and take on field research in a rural setting.

  - Short educational trips for schools, alternative spring breaks and gap year programs that will focus on introducing students to life in vulnerable communities through a combination of direct encounters and historical and sociological context.

We are truly excited to keep Tevel b’Tzedek growing and developing, and hope you will join us in making sure vulnerable communities flourish and prosper.

Yonatan Bram,
Chief Operations Officer
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TEVEL B’TZEDEK
We believe

Tevel was established out of the belief that it is spiritually and ethically unacceptable that millions of people do not have access to sufficient nutrition, clean water, housing, basic health or education.

We are convinced that by working together, we can overcome poverty and environmental devastation, and, in partnership with people all over the world, face and overcome the great challenges to humankind’s future.

We believe that it is the Jewish people’s right and duty to participate in creating a new vision for rebuilding the world, by means of thought, words and action; for the purpose of shaping a more just and beautiful future for all of humanity.
What's the BIG IDEA?! 

Global South in Crisis

70% of the world's population live in rural areas, heavily impacted by climate change.

Most small farmers don’t produce enough food even to feed their families the whole year.

They lack access to healthcare, education and local markets.

Leave the villages.

Lose land, culture and community.

Settle in slums, vulnerable to exploitation.

Village food production decreases.
Villages have resources that can make them a place of hope and opportunity.

Social support systems  
Land  
Rich culture and heritage

Our final goal is to strengthen the community in a way that will help lift the villages out of poverty and vulnerability. By the end of the intervention process, villages have the means to continue to develop and flourish on their own; and the knowledge and connections to draw new resources into their community.

How do we do it?

- 3-5 years embedded in the community
- Economic growth based on agricultural entrepreneurship and small businesses
- Holistic work with groups of farmers, women and youth while building strong leadership structures
- Creating sustainable local institutions
- Influence attitudes in the village and inspire leadership for change
OUR MISSION

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT WILL PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROSPERITY AND RESILIENCE, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

CREATING A GENERATION OF YOUNG JEWS ENGAGED WITH ISSUES OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – WITH A LOCAL HANDS-ON APPROACH TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS.

OUR GOALS

To grow a sustainable village economy, through cooperation, innovation and entrepreneurship in order to improve nutrition, infrastructures, education and health services, using innovative and sustainable agricultural practices.

To reduce unsafe migration by cultivating viable alternatives for individual and communal prosperity, thus transforming the village as place of opportunity and possibility.

To cultivate participation and inclusion of disenfranchised and marginalized groups in local decision making and governance.

To develop sustainable inclusive institutions and leadership based on mutual trust and reciprocity – and their capacity to advance the common good while supporting individual’s needs economically and socially.

To increase the agency of marginalized groups such as youth and women and their integration into community leadership.
WHERE WE WORK

NEPAL

6

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES VDCS (SUB-DISTRICTS)

30,000

VILLAGERS AND SLUM RESIDENTS
OUR INTERVENTION MODEL: AGRICULTURE BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Small farmers have important resources that they lose in migration: their land, their forests, their indigenous culture and their knowledge of agriculture. But in order to stay on the land, they must move beyond subsistence farming to production with more variety, higher yield, more value added, and the skills and connections to market their goods. The world needs them too. The struggle to produce enough high quality, environmentally safe food all across the globe is only going to intensify in the coming decades. The young generation of small farmers all over the world—often the first generation to go to school—are unwilling to eke out a subsistence living in a losing battle to sustain themselves. We have found that many in this generation would love to remain in their home communities, and develop them. To do this they need new farming techniques, new knowledge, better social organization and an understanding of entrepreneurship. Here is how we help them do this.

Continuous engagement with the community

We work in each community for a 3-5 year cycle. During the main period of intervention, program staff and volunteers live in the village, in similar conditions to the local population. This facilitates trust and assimilation of
new ideas and practices. At the end of the project cycle, Tevel’s staff phase out of the village, leaving behind community based organizations that carry on the work and maintain a relationship between the community and local government.

**Holistic approach with emphasis on agriculture based community development**

Our approach is based on a combination of tools and knowledge necessary for agriculture-based economic development, with an investment in leadership development in different sectors and populations. We engage with an array of community institutions and assist in the establishment of new ones. We understand that agricultural development, livelihood, the status of women, education systems, health, and community participation are fields of life that influence and affect each other, and therefore it is necessary to engage all of them in order to bring about sustainable change in a community.

**Community Building**

The intervention cultivates institutions and networks of community belonging and leadership, and trains local leaders who will eventually take responsibility over the activities. The goal is to create sustainable local structures that the community owns and trusts, and to improve their access to local government and resources. For example, farmer groups that we’ve helped establish can now pool their resources and marketing costs - an invaluable asset in and of itself - but moreover, can then proceed to register in local government to receive ongoing support.
THE YEAR IN BRIEF

During the last quarter of 2017, we entered the closing chapter of our five-year Community Development Project (CDP) in the Ramechhap District of Nepal. The emphasis of this final year is on strengthening local leadership and passing on responsibilities to key persons in the community to keep the agriculture, women, youth, and education groups running after Tevel phases out.

During the end of 2017, Tevel phased out of the two areas of the Community Recovery Project (CRP). After the earthquake, Tevel re-entered two work areas from which it had previously phased out in order to provide recovery support. At the behest of the Nepali government and in light of the tremendous and urgent needs post-earthquake, Tevel expanded, working with 5 times the population we had previously covered. Over the two years of work, we created new groups and helped build the capacity of the community leaders to take over the projects.

In the first half of 2017 Tevel b’Tzedek completed a 3-year long project in the village of Manegau, Kavre, where our exchange for change tourism project takes place. In the second half of 2017, Tevel has entered a new area in Dhungkharka, Kavre.

Although our main emphasis is preventing migration, Tevel also works with migrants in Kalimati, an underserved neighborhood of Kathmandu. Our day care center, which targets destitute migrant mothers and their children, keeps on growing and now has 50 toddlers aged 1 to 3, whose mothers work as domestics or street vendors. We also continued working with child clubs in the local schools, created a network of early childhood education teachers, conducted professional teacher training for primary teachers and much more. We continued with theater projects for youth and women’s empowerment program; we started a new tailoring workshop as income generation for local women; and continued our women’s health and rights awareness program.
Our aim is to work with selected farmers to maximize their land resources by growing high value crops that are easily sold in local and national markets. We work on building local capacity through creating cooperative vegetable collection centers. Here, the commercial farmers can safely store their harvest, market the produce collectively at local markets, and transport produce to Kathmandu, a day’s drive away. The collection centers have radically changed the reality of small farmers, providing them with a direct link to markets.

The farmers who participate in the program receive training, materials to build greenhouses, irrigation systems, seeds and access to small loans. They also receive training in business and financial management, post-production techniques and marketing. We also facilitate the farmers’ organization into agricultural cooperatives, and subsequent registration with the local government - establishing a vital link between government and the community.
“We were in trouble after the earthquake; we lost both our shelter as well as the stored grain inside the house. Tevel & Nyayik Sansar encouraged me to begin commercial farming and motivated me to overcome the problems I faced after the earthquake. I am very happy to finally generate income from selling tomatoes and cauliflower. I have saved some money to reconstruct my house and I am committed to continuing to expand my commercial vegetable farm”.

- Kamala Thami, 48, Dolkha district

Before the project intervention, Kamala was only cultivating grains for her own family’s use. With the help of our program, Kamala began to cultivate tomatoes, cucumbers and cabbage in greenhouses. She was able to produce 1670 kg of tomatoes, 60 kg of cucumbers and over 1200 kg of cabbage and cauliflower. She earned $1,000 in two crop cycles. She sold most of what she grew in the new established collection center. According to Kamala, this was the biggest sum of money she has ever earned.
Beekeeping has the potential to provide an important supplement to cereal and vegetable production for income generation, especially in an area that has limited water resources. Creating a thriving apiculture industry producing honey and other bee products addresses the three greatest challenges of farmers in our working areas—small plots of land, dwindling water resources and limited access to markets. An added value of beekeeping is increased pollination of surrounding plant life, which significantly helps agricultural production.

Identifying this opportunity, Tevel provided 10 days of intensive modern apiculture training to 71 selected farmers. The farmers received a total of 141 beehives and colonies to start their practice, as well as the necessary training. Tevel also hired staff with years of experience in beekeeping projects to provide ongoing support.

Within two years, the beekeeping farmers were able to generate $14,000 from the sales of honey, beehives and apiculture products. Many of these farmers have been able to reinvest their income and grow their practices.
Krishna Bahadur Khadka is an active farmer in Ramechhap and a beneficiary of Tevel’s agriculture program. Last year, he participated in the 10 day intensive modern apiculture training organized by Tevel. He received 3 beehives with colonies and subsequently purchased two more of his own. Last year he sold 200 Kg of honey and earned $2,000. Krishna has recently invested in 14 additional hives after learning how to build them on his own, and is planning to expand his new business to 50 hives within this year.

Chiuri trees, also known as butter trees, are common in Nepal and India and are an excellent source of nectar and pollen for bees. Due to deforestation, their numbers have dwindled in central Nepal. Tevel distributed 5,000 Chiuri trees, and 1450 fruit trees -- citrus, guava, mango, pomegranate, banana and kiwi -- to 200 farmers. A total of 15,000 fruit trees have been distributed to over 500 farmers since the initiation of the project. The trees, planted by the community, will also help prevent soil erosion and replenish the natural environment.
Over recent years, farmers in our working areas have experienced drastic changes in climate. These changes include irregular rainfall, diminishing water sources, and landslides, which in turn have resulted in a shortage of water for irrigation. Lack of water has severely limited agricultural production and many plots of land are now barren. Tevel has been providing tools and techniques for farmers to maximize water use efficiency.

Our four main water focused interventions are:

- **Drip and sprinkle irrigation systems** - Water is dripped to individual plant roots at a slow rate. This is the most cost-effective way of making the best use of the limited available water.

- **Zero water waste technique** - small ponds are used to conserve grey water left over from household use, to be used for kitchen gardens.

- **Rain Water Harvesting Technology** - Plastic-lined conservation ponds store water for irrigation more efficiently than the traditional earthen ponds which lose much water to seepage.

- **Water Reservoir Enlargement and Concretization** - This system intakes spring water that runs all year round and saves it for later use.
“Due to the climate change and the massive earthquake in 2015, most of our water resources dried out, and it is has become increasingly difficult to access water. Tevel & Nyayik Sansar supported us with tools and techniques for rainwater harvesting. Now I can collect and harvest large amounts of water to irrigate my fruits and vegetables. This idea was very new to me... I am happy that now I have enough water to grow my crops.”

- Krishna Maya Tamang, Ramechhap District

This year in numbers:

45 low-cost drip irrigation systems were installed.

15 rainwater-harvesting pools were constructed.

350 plastic-lined conservation ponds were constructed in order to increase water use efficiency in homestead gardens.

55 large water ponds were built.

An estimated 800 households now have increased access to irrigation facilities through the adoption of micro-irrigation technologies.

35% increase in income among beneficiary households.
Ginger is a high value crop that can be grown on small plots of land. During 2017, Tevel distributed 5000 kgs of ginger rhizomes to 568 farmers. Tevel also provided the training needed and $4,000 in seed money to get businesses up and running.

With the income earned from this project, women are able to invest in their children’s education and other income generating activities such as: establishing small grocery shops, building goat and poultry farms, cottage industry, and more.

The women successfully harvested 43,500 kg of ginger earning collectively $23,730
TEVEL’S AGRICULTURE PROGRAM IN 2017

FAST FACTS

We worked with **2,448 farmers**, in **64 farmers groups**.

128 lead farmers attended workshops on leadership skills, networking, drip irrigation techniques and financial literacy. These farmers will pass on the knowledge to farmers in their groups.

We operate **5 demonstration farms** and **27 satellite farms**.

405 farmers have transitioned into commercial farming practices.

**5000 CHIURI TREES** planted

**1450 FRUIT TREES** planted

**141 BEEHIVES** distributed

**2017 YIELDS**

757 metric tons total production from kitchen gardens, worth $211,000

50 metric tons of commercial tomato production, yielding $33,000

1 metric ton mushroom production

278 metric tons maize production

245 metric tons rice production

Total value for farmers $754,041
We believe in the power of women to change their lives, their communities and the world. Tevel works with women to provide them with economic opportunities and vital knowledge about healthcare and rights, but more importantly we help them create change in their own communities and families.

**Group Strengthening and Leadership Enhancement**

Our programs support women from poor and marginalized communities with a framework through which they can build their self confidence and gain knowledge and skills. Weekly meetings focus on group bonding, women’s rights, environmental awareness, health and hygiene (with a focus on women’s and children’s health), budget and savings and income generation.

We encourage women to take an active role in the public sphere, specifically cultivating informed participation in local politics and government.
Kamala Majhi, an active member of Tevel’s Jagarilo Health Mother’s Group in Ramechhap district has recently been elected as a ward council member in the local 2017 election. She attributes her success to skills she acquired through engaging her peers in our groups. Her experience in the group taught Kamala that women in her community lack awareness to their social and economic rights, and suggested that we provide support with the matter.

As a newly elected ward council member she intends to help her fellow women receive all the support and benefits they are entitled to by law, and help them stand up for their rights.

Kamala’s journey and story inspires women to stand up for their rights.
Access to proper healthcare and medical knowledge is low in rural areas. This results in an array of medical conditions that basic access to healthcare would solve. For example, many women in rural Nepal go back to work in the field only days after giving birth, which in many cases results in uterine prolapse. We work on raising awareness about reproductive health issues and training local health volunteers with proper tools to support their fellow women.

- 82 local community health volunteers and women leaders were trained in basic public health, breast and cervical cancer awareness, and leadership in times of crisis.
- We supported 3 remote health posts with necessary birthing equipment.
- We supported 383 households, who previously had no sanitation, to build toilets, which benefitted over 1900 people.
This year, Tevel opened the Sara Tailoring Shop and Training Center in Kalimati, Kathmandu. Women in Tevel’s ongoing groups in the neighborhood, together with Tevel staff, identified tailoring as an accessible and potentially lucrative small business. The center provides tailoring training as well as access to quality sewing machines.

So far, 35 trainees completed the basic and advanced tailoring course (each 3-months long and can now open their own tailoring shops). 10 women who completed the program are now working in local factories and shops. A group of 5 women are now receiving small business management and entrepreneurship training as preparation to start their own tailoring shops.

The tailoring training project has been effective in teaching women practical sewing skills and has inspired many marginalized women to seek better vocational opportunities for themselves.

“After receiving the basic tailoring training, I opened my own shop. The tailoring training enhanced my skills and I was able to teach my coworkers what I learned. We are now a group of women working together and thinking of how to take the training we received to a new level.”

- Nabina Shrestha
TEVEL’S WOMEN’S PROGRAM IN 2017

FAST FACTS

We work with 68 women groups with 1819 members.

35 women were trained in tailoring.

We work with 9 girls groups with 152 members.

82 women leaders including 45 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) received capacity development training focused on Leadership and Psycho-Social support.
It is well established that early childhood is a critical phase of development where a large impact is made on future capabilities. Unfortunately, it is at this tender age that impoverished children are often neglected. Tevel works with the local education systems on ECD classroom management, infrastructure development, teacher training and local community participation and awareness.

Tevel has helped to create daycare centers and school classrooms that provide a stimulating, colorful, loving educational environment. Tevel staff and volunteers also provide training to the staff in early childhood development and educational methods.

Young children in our programs show a significant leap in their development as the result of being in an age-appropriate framework.

“Our early childhood development class is now well equipped and the facilitators are motivated and active in the classroom; engaging all students in teaching-learning activities”.

- Bal Bahadur Ghising, Principal, Kalidevi Primary School, Ramechhap
Migrant women living in Kathmandu and working as street vendors or domestic house help cannot afford day care centers for their children. Their young children under the age of 3 are either left alone or come to work with their mothers in unsafe conditions. Tevel opened a local daycare for such women which now provides services to 50 children, ages 1-3.

The center uses early childhood education techniques to develop the children’s social, physical, emotional, cognitive and linguistic abilities. The center provides training, exposure visits and awareness activities on child development to the parents of the daycare children on a monthly basis, as well a health check ups and nourishing meals.

“These days I have enough time to focus on my business and as a result I am earning more than before; and on the other hand I am happy about the care and protection of my son while I am at my work”.

– Mrs. Sumitra Gautam (name changed), 32, street vendor in Kathmandu whose son, Kabin, is enrolled in our daycare.
Tevel developed networks of Early Childhood Development (ECD) facilitators in each work area to provide support and an exchange of knowledge between the young facilitators. The purpose of the network is to provide support and exchange of knowledge between the young facilitators. Additionally, we work on capacity building by providing educational materials, mentorship through model classes, workshops and ongoing professional guidance.

The ECD facilitators of 25 community schools participated in as many as 35 capacity building meetings in 2017. The facilitators were introduced to topics such as development psychology, teaching methodology, the production of educational materials from local resources, and parental counseling.
TEVEL’S EDUCATION PROGRAM IN 2017

FAST FACTS

80 primary school teachers from 25 schools participated in our professional teachers training that focused on enhancing children’s learning skills.

78 students from vulnerable communities are attending school daily thanks to our scholarship program.

102 children in Kathmandu receive a mid-day meal at school.

Over 250 workshops, campaigns and social theatre shows were conducted on personal hygiene and sanitation, art and creativity, adolescence, early childhood marriage and other social issues.

We are running homework classes in 10 schools where over 200 students with poor learning achievements are receiving support with their homework assignments.
Tevel inspires and encourages youth to participate in socio-economic transformation in their communities. Our interventions work through education, life skills and leadership development activities aimed at developing the social and professional skills of youth. We help build their confidence and ensure that they become active in the community affairs and are able to lead change. The youth work closely with professional staff members of Tevel who serve as mentors for their personal and professional development throughout the program.

Youth Service Program (YSP)

Tevel, in partnership with JDC, continued to run the YSP during 2017. Forty Youth Community Mobilizers (YCM) were deployed in three separate districts. Through the program, community youth were trained to engage in Tevel’s projects through field work with other youth, women and in our agriculture program. The program empowered youth to take on leadership roles in their communities and to become local change agents and entrepreneurs.
Highlights

- In total, 43 YCMs served their communities.
- YCMs facilitated 40 youth/child clubs, 60 women groups & 64 farmer groups, engaging over 5000 individuals.
- 7 YCMs started their own small scale business in the local community following their period of service.
- All YCMs learned disaster risk reduction skills and received first aid training.
- YCMs received various levels of agriculture and beekeeping training, supported by on-the-job training of social mobilization skills.

“It was a very emotional- but at the same time a very inspiring moment, saying goodbye to the Rai community as a YCM. I never realized that they love me so much. Women were wishing me well in my future endeavors. I am now more motivated to continue social work.”

– Ritika Bidari, served for two years in her community in Dhading District

Community Social Leadership Projects

41 community centers, 1 drinking water facility, 6 classrooms and a fence in 3 schools were built as part of YCM’s community rehabilitation project. All community centers are being used for community meetings, events as well as a space to run our group programming. The YCMs were able to raise $45,000 from the community, different institutions and local governments to complete the project. 4172 families benefit from the centers.
In our project in Dhungkharka, Kavre, we were invited by the village leadership to replicate a project we had concluded in the neighbouring village of Manegau, a rural tourism and entrepreneurship development program. The purpose of the program is to develop the community’s capacity to host national and international tourists in their homes for a unique traditional village experience. This provides the community with another income source using their existing local resources (land, home, culture). Community based tourism is a growing market and many travelers seek a more meaningful local experience while visiting Nepal.

We support the local villagers in registering as a Home Stay Village and help form Village Coordination Committees, a local institution that will carry on the management of Home Stay operations. The committees guarantee that part of the funds raised are allocated to a community fund used for development projects. This program is highly valued by the community and the local government, and we have received invitations from nearby local authorities to implement this program in their villages.

So far we have developed and registered 10 homestays. We plan to grow the project in the coming year with the help of our Israeli volunteers in our Exchange for Change program.
In August 2017, continuous rainfall resulted in floods throughout a stretch of southern Nepal. In particular, the Saptari District was severely affected, with nearly 650,000 people directly impacted with loss of property, livelihood, and access to water and basic sanitation.

Tevel and IsraAid formed a partnership with the aid and support of the Israeli embassy, to target the water and sanitation needs of communities hit hard by the floods. There was a dire need for pure drinking water to prevent further spread of diseases and sufficient healthcare and sanitation. Tevel, IsraAid and the Israeli embassy provided water filters, and conducted sanitation and hygiene awareness training, along with building new toilets and maintenance. The interventions took place in 20 different schools and health posts in the district.

“As I am from Terai region originally, I am proud that I was able to serve the population in dire need in the aftermath of Terai Flood. Thanks to Tevel b’Tzedek for giving me this opportunity, and for providing critical WASH facilities to the affected people in the time of difficulties.”

- Prakash Dhimal, Nyayik Sansar staff
DOLAKA AND DHADING DISTRICTS IN NUMBERS

1321 farmers, mostly women, received training and support to increase their agricultural yield, who earned a combined $120,000 from selling their products.

33 farmers groups established.

250 small-scale farmers became commercial farmers.

27 women leadership groups established, with over 1000 members. They help build resilience in their families and community.

2 remote health posts received support to establish birthing centers.

840 students received tuition fees and stationary support.

40 students received college scholarships.

15 schools received infrastructure support.

40 youth community mobilizers underwent capacity building training and learned to become leaders in recovery in their communities. Combined, these youth raised $100,000 within their villages to build 38 community centers and 1 drinking water system.
We transform communities with the help of international and national volunteers who serve as catalysts for change. The volunteers enter the heart of communities and undergo a meaningful and powerful experience. Our service learning programs serve two main goals. First, volunteers support our community development programs as implementers in the field and are significant change agents in the communities in which they are placed. Second, through this meaningful experience our volunteers gain and develop valuable tools helping to form a network of change agents focused on global social justice with a local hands-on approach they can employ back home.

We believe that when different cultures and backgrounds come together for a joint mission, we not only work better with communities, combining local and external knowledge, but also give our volunteers an opportunity to push themselves and grow. We introduce them to social justice issues through a local community lens. We study issues such as ethnic based inequalities and traditional gender politics while facilitating planning of complex interventions across a sensitive cultural divide.
Whether a 10 day alternative spring break or a 7 month fellowship, we believe our programs transform young people’s perspective, providing them with the necessary tools, experience and the ability to ask questions, to then go back to their homes and create change they want to see. Over the years, Tevel offered a variety of programs, always adjusting and building new programs according to the communities’ needs. In 2017 we introduced two new programs, one of them in Israel. An overall of four different programs and more than 100 volunteers participated in our programs in Nepal and 19 in our course in Israel during 2017.
Tourism is Nepal’s largest industry, however the majority of Nepal’s villagers do not benefit from this potential source of income. Tevel has been running the Exchange for Change homestay and volunteering program for backpackers in remote villages since 2008, teaching villagers how to attract tourism, while giving the backpackers a meaningful immersion experience.

The unique program welcomes volunteers to their hosting families’ homes, creating a unique cultural exchange experience that is meaningful both for the volunteers and for the community. “The most special experience in the program for me was the relationship I nurtured with my host family and the community. Beyond how fun it is to spend time with them, living with them was a reflection of my own life back home and I felt privileged to be a part of this ongoing process with the community” (Lilach, a former volunteer). The volunteers pay for their stay in the village, part of the payment goes to the host family and part of the payment goes to a community fund. The villagers decide democratically how to allocate the funds and have used them to cover projects such as digging wells, building community showers and school improvements.
In the first half 2017, Tevel b’tzedek completed a 3-year long project in the village of Manegau, in the Kavre district. Our final cohorts, supported by our staff, completed our project in the village, transforming the community to a registered Homestay Village, providing the community with another source of income through hosting tourists for a traditional village experience. In the second half of 2017, Tevel has entered a new area in Dhungkharka, Kavre, for a 2-year long project and ran 6 cohorts over 2017.
The Tevel Fellowship is a 7-month service program in rural villages for young professionals, made possible with the support of the Pears Foundation and the Schusterman Foundation-Israel. Half of the participants are from Israel and Jewish communities worldwide, and the other half are young Nepalese, all university graduates. The Tevel Fellows work in pairs, one international and one Nepalese, on common projects throughout the program. In 2017, out fellowship program was an integral part of our final year in Ramechhap. As part of the program, our fellows conducted personal research that focused on our ongoing evaluation of programs, which resulted in a professionally enriching and engaging process.

Hannah Busis, 22, (USA)

“I joined the Tevel fellowship because I wanted on-the-ground experience. I loved learning about international development in college, but I felt that I was lacking the human connection element that I feel I have gained through the relationships I’ve built in the village as a Tevel fellow. The experience of being an international fellow paired
with a national fellow played a large role in making the fellowship experience as effective and meaningful as it is.

There are also challenges being in this program, most notably the challenge of working in a community in which I’m an outsider. I have struggled with my identity as a white, American fellow working in Ramechhap during the fellowship, but I believe that grappling with what my identity means when working with the village community doesn’t detract from the work I have done and the relationships I’ve built in my time here.

By working with individual entrepreneurs in the village, my national partner and I have been able to form extremely strong connections with our entrepreneurs. These relationships have made me feel connected to my new community in the village in a way I could have never anticipated – sitting and chatting with our entrepreneurs over tea and biscuits has created real friendships, ones that often can transcend the language barrier.”
Shilpa Portel, 20 (Nepal)

“I came for this program for my personal and professional growth and discovered that the program has helped me to explore myself. I have been able to experience many new things while working with youth, which is what I enjoy the most. Working in the village and with an international partner was all a new experience for me. Most of all, I’ve learned the importance and impact of passion, hard work and the ability to adjust. Working with my partner Ayal is so much fun. More than planning and working together, we help each other to improve ourselves.”

Ayal Ben-Or, 24 (Israel)

“The Fellowship Program taught me what it means to live immersed in a different culture, it’s the first time that as an international I’m not in the spotlight and that required a lot of patience to sometimes be on the side but still feel a part of something. Knowing your place is so important when doing this type of work. Working with my national partner, Shilpa, with youth is fascinating, they are so eager and willing to learn and be a part of this program, this is obviously a process, but I can see how much they have grown. Conducting my own research with the guidance of the organization was a way to break barriers by asking a single question, hearing stories from the families I interviewed really made me feel more connected to the community.

Working with Shilpa has shown me that I can feel included in a partnership, we really work as one. Her approach to life, education, and her belief in the youth is an inspiration.”
In partnership with Aardvark Israel, in March 2017, Tevel launched our first short term educational program. Aardvark is a gap year program in Israel that aims to bring together a diverse group of students, from all over the world, for a meaningful experience. The program aims to strengthen their Jewish identity and foster their personal growth. Six students from the USA, UK and South Africa came for a 14 day experience where they visited our work areas, interacted with village youth and took part in the village life and activities. The group was able to learn first hand about poverty, ‘Tikkun Olam’ and how and why to volunteer. This was the first experience for the young participants in a developing country and Tevel recognizes these type of programs as a valuable opportunity to broaden our reach and share our message with a larger and younger Jewish audience.
In 2017 Tevel celebrated 10 years of work in Nepal, Burundi, Haiti and Israel. We decided to celebrate this occasion with all of our 1000+ alumni from the past 10 years as we couldn’t have done it without them. Partnering with SID Israel, we created a week long series of events in Tel Aviv, bringing in Tevel’s values and goals into the Israeli discussion. The events included panels and discussions on ‘Judaism as a force for social justice’, globalization, poverty and the environment, an activist fair and a special talk by the renowned author A.B Yehoshua who spoke about “Is the concept if ‘light onto the nations’ still relevant?”, and participation of other luminaries such as MP Dov Henin and Rabbi Yuval Cherlow.

We finished with a special alumni-only event, celebrating not only Tevel’s work over the years but encouraging our own alumni to share innovative projects they have been leading and taking part in since their time with Tevel. Over 200 alumni came to the main event, and over 500 people participated in the events throughout the week.
In partnership with the Israeli School for Humanitarian Aid, we launched an academic credit course for those who are interested in the development and humanitarian aid sector. The idea came from a joint understanding that, providing aid during times of disaster can have many implications on the ability of a country to recover in the long run. Bringing together Humanitarian Aid and Community Development theories and practices is crucial for ensuring responsible and sustainable work as aid and development workers. Tevel's unique experience after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal created an integrated model of aid and development. 19 students participated in the first cohort, and more courses are planned for 2018.
Tevel Staff

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Micha Odenheimer - Founding Director
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Tal Cohen - Service Learning Programs Coordinator
Avigayil Heimowitz - Community Development Coordinator
Dalia Desiatnik - Resource Development Coordinator
Aviela Weltman - Community Relations and social media
Inbar Irron - Volunteer recruitment coordinator
Dorin Turgeman - Office administration
Michal Gasner - Climb for Justice coordinator

Nepal

Dr. Bishnu Chapagain - Nepal Country Director
Jonathan Tomkins - Israeli Staff Coordinator
Bimal Sundas - Finance Officer
Sultana Banu - Human Resources and Administration
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Hasana Maharjan - Fellowship Facilitator
Kritika Dawadi - Fellowship Facilitator
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