

## UMNHET newsletter, September 2022



Dear Friends of UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust,

Another year, another set of challenges. The Covid pandemic trundles on but seems to be causing less deaths, and the vaccination rate in Nepal is steadily increasing (40% of the population fully vaccinated by January 2022). A more pressing challenge is the global cost of living crisis. Food prices rose by 7.5% in June 2022, this in a country where people were already struggling to feed their families.

Now more than ever, for many Nepalis falling sick brings a decision of whether to pay for health care or have enough money to eat; to pay for an operation, or for the education of your children. As supporters of UMN Hospitals' Endowment Trust you are protecting families from having to make those tough choices, by allowing the hospitals to identify those most in need and paying for their care through the Medical Assistance Fund (MAF).

One such family have a little girl called Rita (name changed). Rita's family look after cattle in their village and get a daily wage. When she fell very ill, a neighbour lent them money to bring her to Tansen UMN hospital. Rita was diagnosed to have a very serious infection in her bone. During her time in hospital she had to be operated on three times, needed a blood transfusion and 26 days of continuous oxygen. During her 6 week stay in the hospital her medical costs were met by the MAF, and she and her parents were also supported with food. Being

unable to work, they didn't even have enough money to buy food.



The UMN endowment fund is invested and the income generated each year is given in full to the four UMN founded hospitals to provide a sustainable income for the MAF and to help buy key capital items. In 2021 we were able to give £31,960 in total.

In light of the huge increase in pressure on families at the moment, we agreed in our most recent Trustee meeting that all the income generated from Jan 2022 onwards will go exclusively to the MAF at each of the hospitals, rather than going to capital items as well.

Extra donations during the year are added to the Endowment fund so that it doesn't lose its value over time.

The more eagle eyed of you may have noticed that Dr Olak Jirel's name is no longer on our list of Trustees. Olak has just retired after 40 years of service to UMN, first as a junior doctor and then as a leader in the hospitals and Head of UMN's medical work. He has been an inspiration to many hundreds of health professionals in Nepal as well as the expatriates who have had the honour of working alongside him. We will all miss Olak's gentle, humble and incredibly dedicated service; but in true Olak fashion, he has mentored an able successor in Dr Yub Raj Acharya, who was previously Hospital Director in Okhaldunga.



Please join us in wishing Olak and his wife Jasmine all the best in this next phase of their lives, as well as praying for Yub Raj in his new role.

We are so grateful for the support you give the Trust, enabling the four UMN affiliated hospitals in Nepal to serve the poor in need of medical care, regardless of caste, religion or resources. Please continue to pray for these hospitals, their staff and patients.

Could we ask you, too, to share this newsletter with one other person to see if we can extend the support we give in the coming years? If you shop with Amazon, you can also sign up to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and nominate United Mission to Nepal Hospitals Endowment Trust to receive a small donation every time you order something, at no extra cost to you.

We wish you every blessing in the coming year

The Trustees:

Cleve Chevassut (Chair), Tim Trimble (Treasurer), Gary Parkes, Alison Chevassut, Katrina Butterworth, Ian Chadwell, David Rodgers