

# 2022 SMOKELESS KITCHENS & HERITAGE PROJECT

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Awasuka, after the Nepali words: Aawaas Sudhar Karyakram, means Habitat Improvement Program. It promotes safe and healthy homes in the rural remote areas of Nepal.

## 2022 SMOKELESS KITCHENS & HERITAGE PROJECT

2022 has been fully operational and productive thanks to the lifting of all coronavirus lockdowns. Leaving the pandemic behind, Awasuka Program has been able to resume the manufacturing and installation of new Chimney-Hood-Stoves (CHS) that were held on a waiting list for more than one year. Therefore, we can finally say the Program is working in full swing.









## 1. ADMINISTRATION

In 2022 our regular schedule hasn't been interrupted by any unexpected restriction, that's why we have been able to start knowing our real capacities in the field and our project's real cost. Additionally, we have worked on improving our internal organization as well as incorporating new persons to support our different tasks.

One of the most important works in the program is controlling our finances. Raquel Masferrer has been with us for 2 years taking care of Nepal's accountancy and Ruping Yuan joined us in February 2022, being responsible for Barcelona's accountancy. Thanks to their work we've been able to prepare our forecast for 2023, after the financial statement of 2022:

## Barcelona balance

Donations 2022	8.054,76 €
Remaining from 2021	28.800,00 €
Total funds for 2022	36.854,76 €
Transferred to Nepal	- 21.000,00 €
Expenses in BCN	- 6.837,46 €
Remaining in BCN at the end of 2022	9.017,30 €



Nepal balance (Exchange Rate: 138,47) (\*)

Local Manager & Office Expenses	2.897,94 €	
CHS paid in 2022 (**)	16.440,38 €	
Interests	-42,93 €	
Total Expenses in Nepal	19.295,39 €	
Remaining in Nepal at the end of 2022	8.265,14 €	

(\*) In 2022 we must take into account that the year has only been fully operational after May, once the agreement with the new contractor was signed. Accordingly, 2022 expenses summary does not reflect the total expenses for one year. Moreover, the local manager's salary wasn't full in 2022, as he was still paying back an Awasuka credit, which had been granted to him during the previous stage of Awasuka's earthquake-resistant reconstruction project. (\*\*) Please note that the number of CHSs units paid in 2022 corresponds to 10 units from the 65 units batch completed in 2021 and 100 units from the 180 batch completed in 2022. The remaining 80 units completed in 2022 will be paid in 2023, once the completion verification process is completed, a necessary step to approve the payments.

#### **Yearly Forecast**

After 2022 calculations along with field work analysis, we have concluded that our program can cover an average of **360 CHS per year**, which means the annual cost for the CHSs is equal to 36.000 EUR, plus 5.000 EUR for local management and office expenses. Hence, the smokeless kitchen project in Nepal costs **41.000 EUR yearly**. Not included in this amount: Barcelona expenses and Nepal monitoring trips by the Program Director and the UPC students, mostly covered by CCD-UPC University.

#### Conclusion

This is a critical moment for the smokeless kitchens program: it needs to find secure ways to be financially sustainable. Up to the present, the program has been receiving funds from isolated sources: competition applications, private companies and individual donors. Despite being extremely grateful to all these contributors, it is necessary to concentrate our efforts and focus on only one or two single sources that can support the project consistently, so that the amount of energy required to prepare application forms and justifications is proportionate to the amounts received.

## 2. FIELD WORK

In order to improve our work and make it more effective, we have been monitoring our installation rate since May 2022, after we started working with a new manufacturer.

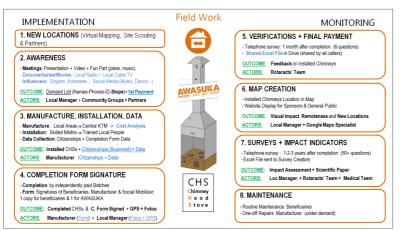
Field work in rural areas of Nepal is extremely challenging: all sorts of issues come up unexpectedly and have to be micromanaged from the site. Our local manager Hareram Pudassaini and our new manufacturer Sunil Gautam are very well coordinated in this regard, and have made many improvements in the process, along with the Rotaractors' team (phone verificators) and the Program Director, Monica Sans.

#### 1. CHS: a new name for a new field work procedure.

Our smokeless kitchens are far more than just a chimney, as many people refer to them. They are composed of three important parts: the Chimney itself, an inner Hood and an improved Stove, and it is only the combination of these 3 elements that provides a smokeless safe environment inside the house. That's why from 2022 onwards we decided to call them CHS, which stands for Chimney-Hood-Stove, as the name represents the project much better.

Besides the new name, the fieldwork procedure has also been renewed in order to organize and digitize the whole process: from the demand list, to the installations and the verifications, and finally the satisfaction surveys. Photos of each and every beneficiary are collected and a visual verification is also performed, to ensure the correct location and installation of every CHS. A new form in English and Nepali has been created for each beneficiary, with important information regarding the CHS maintenance tasks and the manufacturer's contact number, in case any problems arise. All this has been done thanks to the insights and suggestions collected by the whole team: the **local manager**, the **manufacturer**, the **phone verificators** (Rotaracts), the **visual verificator** and the **program director**.







Left: New field work procedure. Right: New CHS Form for beneficiaries and for Awasuka records.

#### 2. New Manufacturer

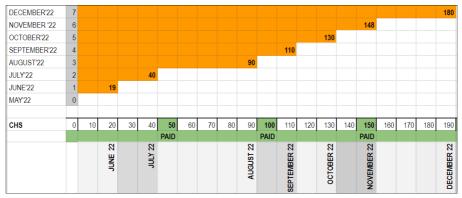
In May we signed an agreement with a new manufacturer to install Chimney-Hood-Stoves in two different municipalities: Bakaiya (200+) and Bhimphedi (100+). Before hiring him, we watched the construction and installation of our CHS model to analyze the whole process, update our drawings of the design and improve some details and pieces.

#### 3. Manufactured CHS in 2022

In 2022, **180 CHS** units have been completed and verified. They will benefit around **990 people**, as the average in this rural area is 5,5 people/house. The local people employed were: 4 field workers, 1 metal worker at the workshop and 1 contractor handling the whole process. Out of these 180 CHS, 34 units have been totally covered as they were vulnerable families who could not contribute the 10% corresponding to the beneficiaries (1.500 NRS).

## 4. Installation Rate

The CHS was started in June, two weeks after the agreement signature. The installation rate has been monitored and it yielded an average of 30 CHS per month, as seen in the following graph.



The CHS map from 2019 up to 2022, with the total CHS installed at the end of 2022: **580 units**.

Working in rural remote areas is very challenging: many unexpected things happen every now and then, as shown in this brief monthly summary:

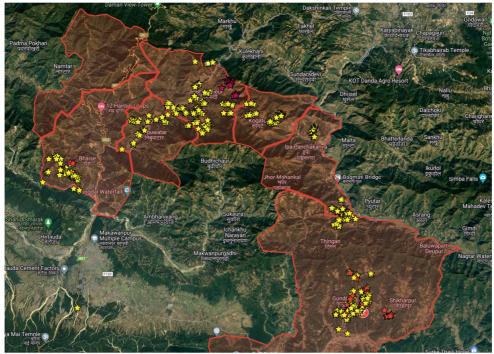
- May: signing the agreement with a new manufacturer, starting the materials purchase and the work organization, searching for workers and for a suitable workshop, and training of the workers.
- June: training of first installers and workshop setup in the first area: Chyau Chyau (Bakaiya).
- July & August: monsoons hit Nepal hard, very aggressive floods everywhere.
- **September**: monsoons were still hitting Nepal hard and remote areas remained with difficult access, some of them are close to the flooded rivers.



- October: Dashain & Tihar holidays, these are the most important yearly festivals in Nepal, like Western Xmas. Later on that time, there was a dengue outbreak (some workers, as well as beneficiaries, were affected and the work slowed down), and rectifications of some previous CHS due to installation flaws (units from 1 to 50).
- **November**: Local elections happened in mid-November: traffic was banned and work was stopped for some days. There were also some rectifications to be done in the next batch (50-100), but not as many as in the first one. Also, some CHS were relocated from the outdoor porch (pali) to the indoor space, and some meetings were held to clarify this end: no more outdoor CHS will be allowed. (This is a problem in rural areas: many houses have the kitchen outside, as they don't want the smoke inside the house. But when it comes to installing a smokeless kitchen, we have to do it inside, as the airflow conditions are the proper ones. If we install it outside, the CHS will not work properly and it will be damaged very soon.
- December: Second workshop setup in a different area: Kalidamar

#### 5. Website Map

The geolocation of the installed CHS is available on our website. At the end of 2022, we completed 580 CHS total, since the beginning of our smokeless kitchen project back in 2019. The pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 were not very productive, but in 2022 the project regained momentum.



The CHS map from 2019 up to 2022, with the total CHS installed at the end of 2022: **580 units**.

The map has been updated by Ruping Yuan and Carles Turró.

## 3. FUNDRAISING

## 1. El Camí de la Solidaritat. All year long.

El Camí de la Solidaritat has been our partner since 2020, it has been supporting the program by providing funds (applying for competitions, looking for institutional and private donors, etc..), but it also provides insights on organizational structure and social media management. During 2022, *El Camí* and *Awasuka* have partnered in contacting different Rotary Clubs in Catalonia willing to contribute to the Awasuka Program (an initiative led by RC Cambrils). Other donations generated through El Camí have been: 500 EUR by the German company Zeb Consulting and 1000 EUR by Solà Domingo, SA.

#### 2. Catalonia Rotary Clubs and District Grant. March-September 2022.

RC Cambrils, along with El Camí de la Solidaritat and Awasuka Program, contacted several Rotary Clubs from Catalonia and collected some funds. Additionally, they applied for the District Grant with a positive result. The total amount collected through this joint initiative was: 6.354,76 EUR. The participating Clubs



were: RC Cambrils, RC Tarragona Costa-Daurada, RC Tarragona Tarraco-August, RC Reus, RC Barcelona, RC Sant Cugat del Vallès and RC Vic-Osona.

## 3. CCD Application for 2022, UPC University. March 2022.

Awasuka has been benefiting from these university grants since 2015, which help cover the university members' travel expenses. Due to the international travel bans during the pandemic, the program couldn't benefit from these grants at that time, but once the international travel was open again, the program applied for the Spring trip 2022 expenses and the resolution was positive. Total amount approved for this call: 6000 EUR.

## 4. Financial justifications prepared during 2022.

## - Caldes Solidària & Fons Català de Cooperació, June-September 2022.

These two organizations had jointly donated 7.300 EUR to the smokeless kitchens project in 2020. Due to the coronavirus restrictions, the installations slowed down for almost two years, and eventually resumed at the beginning of 2022. By June 2022 all justification documents were started along with Caldes Solidària and after some months of joint work, all documents were submitted successfully.

## - CCD-UPC Grant for Cooperation Projects. November 2022.

The CCD grant covers travel expenses for University members participating in a cooperation project, as long as an academic output is released. In Spring 2022, Roger Solà (UPC student, El Camí de la Solidaritat) and Monica Sans (UPC Alumni, Awasuka Program Director), along with other two students from HEC Paris, travelled to Nepal for monitoring purposes, their expenses were justified in November, thanks to Elisa Solà's and Monica Sans' justification.

## - Rotary Club joint donation & District Grant. November 2022.

Rotary Club Cambrils was responsible for the justification to the different participant Clubs and to the District Foundation. Awasuka provided all justifying documents to RC Cambrils and they submitted all the documents on time.



Impact calculations from the SROI assessment prepared by El Camí de la Solidaritat and Awasuka Program (page 7).

With the aim of finding income-generating solutions for our program, apart from continuing the collaboration with former partners, we have also started networking with other NGOs and organizations. Getting to know each other helps us create meaningful bonds in the long term.

## 5. Rotary International Global Grant: Approved Proposal. May 2022.

A GG process was initiated by RC Cambrils (Tarragona, Catalonia) and was proposed to RC Kantipur, which accepted the challenge in May 2022. Unfortunately, this process is currently on standby due to RC Cambrils members' being overloaded by work. But hopefully, the process will be resumed in 2023. Besides RC Kantipur, our oldest collaborator in Nepal, other Rotary Clubs are also interested in collaborating with the program: RC Boudha and RC Himalayan Golfers. Generating income solutions from Nepal is also an important goal for the smokeless kitchens project.

## 6. Esade Social Alumni Giving Back Program Application. March and September 2022.

Following Ruping Yuan's advice, we had a first meeting with the responsible person for the Giving Back Program, to discuss if our project could be eligible for it or not. The meeting's conclusions were very positive and they lead us to start working on a wish-list report, analyzing our weaknesses and strengths. The report was sent in September, along with the registration form. In December we were informed that our project had been selected for the Giving Back Program and that our first formal meeting would be in January. We hope this initiative will help us achieve better funding and marketing strategies.



## 7. Fundació Vicenç Ferrer. September-October 2022.

FVF is one of the most important NGOs in our country, working for the improvement of the rural communities in Anantapur - India. Currently, it is slowly starting to support projects in Nepal. After our first meeting with them, they really liked our project, as the smoke in the kitchens is a major problem in India as well. We exchanged some contacts related to Nepal and also advised us to visit the NGO's headquarters in India, to be able to present our project to the NGO founders.

This year we have fulfilled a longtime dream: a new fundraising activity that also serves as an awareness-raising initiative:

#### 8. The Awasuka Charity Trip

After the Nepal trip, this idea began to take shape in the minds of Binay, Roger and Monica. A joint initiative by Sacred Himalaya, El Camí de la Solidaritat and Awasuka Program has finally given birth to two different trips to Nepal: a cultural tour and a mountain trekking. Both are intended for people who want to discover Nepal in a different way, through visiting the rural remote communities and our CHS beneficiaries. The dates were initially proposed for Fall 2022, later were postponed for Spring 2023, and finally, we are working on the possibility of adapting the dates to the travelers' availability, always bearing in mind minimum groups of people.







The two Charity trips created by Sacred Himalaya, El Camí de la Solidaritat and Awasuka Program to raise funds for the smokeless kitchens project.

## 4. IMPACT MEASUREMENT & MONITORING

## 1. Scientific Paper about Awasuka's Smokeless Kitchens Project

During 2022 Amaia Celaya, Roger Solà, PhD David Ferrándiz and Monica Sans have initiated discussions about the approach to the scientific paper they are planning to write. The Awasuka Program has been accumulating a lot of field experience and relevant data through its operational years, hence, its resilience is going to be one of the main article's topics. Throughout the year, two additional people have been invited to participate in the article: PhD Sergio Coll and Ignasi Merediz (PhD student).

## 2. Telephone and Visual Verifications

Besides the new fieldwork procedure and the new form, 2022 has also seen an improvement in the verifications methodology. Some house data are recorded in our new form: number of floors, roof slope and chimney location, so that they can be analyzed later on. All the form data -including geolocation- is transferred to a shared spreadsheet by the local manager. From the spreadsheet, the Rotaracts perform the phone verifications, asking the beneficiaries 5 questions concerning the CHS operation. All answers are recorded in the spreadsheet. In parallel with the phone verifications, also visual verifications are performed. In this case, technical topics are observed: straightness of the metal sheets, shape and



location of the ICS (improved cooking stove) and chimney location at the roof. Visual verifications have helped a lot to improve the CHSs installation, as some of them were not properly installed.

After both verifications are completed, the outcomes are communicated to the manufacturer, who rectifies the necessary CHS accordingly. Once everything is sorted out, the payment is released.

## 3. Monitoring trip to Bhimphedi. Spring 2022.

After two years without travelling to Nepal and managing all activities remotely, finally, the Program Director and some of El Camí's members could make it to Nepal. Their trip tasks included: carrying a new laptop for Hareram, attending meetings with our former and new manufacturers, with our partner Rotary Club of Kantipur, and also with other Rotary Clubs interested in the project.

The team also held meetings with **Practical Action** and **GIZ Endev** (German Development Agency), trying to get them onboard again with some financial assistance/incentives for the smokeless kitchens, as had previously happened in our former collaboration in 2019. The team also had a meeting with the Housing Recovery and Reconstruction Platform (**HRRP**) in Nepal, after Monika Sans' participation in the Asian Shelter Forum in 2021. HRRP is willing to collaborate with Awasuka on several initiatives, especially with coordinating with the government and different universities.

As for the **field trip** to Bhimphedi and Bakaiya, two Rotaractors (Nujala and Anusuya) joined the team and they participated in the awareness-raising activities led by Hareram. The Nepalese youth living in urban environments are always very interested in getting to know the rural life-style and living conditions, as it raises their global awareness.



Field trip to Bakaiya municipality, by members of El Camí de la Solidaritat, Rotaract Club Kantipur and Awasuka Program.

## 4. AWASUKA SROI - Social Return on Investment. July 2022.

El Camí de la Solidaritat members started this report back in 2020, during their Fact Impact Planet program in HEC Paris. Later on, some other authors contributed to it until it has finally been finished in Summer 2022. Amongst the many calculations and results of this study, it has provided some interesting visual information like the biomass map of Nepal (below) or the figures on the impacted SDGs (page 5).



Areas of Nepal still relying on firewood as main fuel for cooking, Awasuka SROI



## 5. Thesis on Indoor Air Pollution. September 2022.

Margot Lebourgeois, an HEC Paris student, member of El Camí de la Solidaritat who participated in the monitoring trip, has written her thesis on indoor air pollution. Her work, developed mainly during the Nepal trip, provided some networking opportunities with organizations like the Clean Cooking Alliance. Title of the thesis: *Mobilizing the public, private, and philanthropic sectors to tackle indoor air pollution - a contextual analysis of indoor air pollution in Nepal* 

#### 5. AWARENESS RAISING

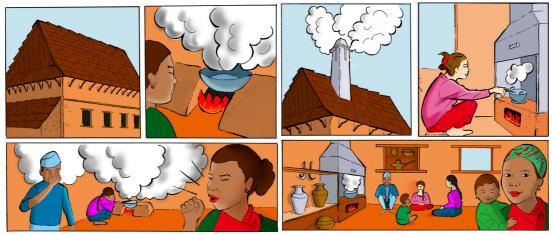
#### **BARCELONA**

## 1. Presentation at the Female Founders Night, Creapolis, Sant Cugat. February 2022.

Monica was invited to this event to explain the Awasuka Program and inspire students in new ways to create social change. After the talk, an ESADE student from China, Ruping Yuan, approached Monica to collaborate with Awasuka. She has been with us for one year now and we celebrate her collaboration.

#### 2. Artwork by Maria Ibarz. March 2022.

Maria's artwork was created to illustrate in a visual way the benefits of smokeless kitchens. The main idea was to feature a Nepali home with two situations: "before" and "after" the CHS. The Nepalese team (local manager, manufacturer and rotaractors) gave their feedback on cultural adaptation of the drawing details like domestic objects. These illustrations will be shown to the beneficiaries during the awareness sessions, as well as distributed to children for colouring the black and white drawings.



The two images prepared by Maria Ibarz show two situations: before (left hand side) and after (right hand side).

## 3. Rotary District Conference, Salou. May 2022.

Monica Sans, the program director, was invited by Rotary District Governor Jose Antonio Riquelme, to present the smokeless kitchen project at the District 2202 Conference. Her speech was very successful and the project was praised by many Rotary Clubs who expressed their interest in joining the Global Grant, once the process resumes.

#### 4. Presentation at COAC, Manresa. September 2022.

Awasuka Program's smokeless kitchens project was presented at the headquarters of the Architects' Association in Manresa, 70 km away from Barcelona. The COAC was one of Awasuka's former sponsors during the construction of earthquake-resistant houses. Currently, the COAC has not been giving support to the smokeless kitchens project, as it was not considered "as architectural" as the previous projects. However, this presentation served to raise a bit more awareness on this important topic, and relate our project to "health and architecture".



#### 5. Presentations at ETSAV, ETSAB and EPSEB schools, UPC University. September-October 2022.

The CCD-UPC, Center for Cooperation and Development at UPC University, celebrated its anniversary in 2022 and many events were organized in this regard. Different presentations were organized and Awasuka Program's director was invited to give talks at ETSAV, ETSAB and EPSEB schools. These talks were very helpful for the Program to get back in touch with the University community, something that hadn't been possible during the pandemic years 2020 and 2021.





Monica Sans, Awasuka Program Director, at ETSAV School of Architecture, during the CCD presentations.

#### 6. Exhibit: "The Silent Killer", Sant Quirze del Vallès Library. October 2022.

This is the first exhibit Awasuka Program has created to raise awareness about the smoke in the kitchens, aka the silent killer. It consists of 8 illustrative roll-ups created by El Camí de la Solidaritat members and the Awasuka Program Director. The exhibit opening and the presentation were a great success: many attendees were moved during Monica's speech, and committed verbally to make a donation. But later on, these donations did not happen: this is an issue that needs to be addressed, probably by diversifying our payment methods.

#### NEPAL

## 1. Smokeless Kitchens Awareness sessions in rural areas. Spring 2022.

Hareram Pudassaini, Awasuka's local manager and social mobilizer, covered several remote areas at the beginning of 2022, including two different municipalities. These visits took more than a month and yielded a waiting list of more than 200 people from Bakaiya and 100 from Bhimphedi.

## 2. Musical Awareness against IAP (Indoor Air Pollution). Proposal.

Awasuka Program has a long history back on providing awareness through music and songs. During the Spring trip, the Awasuka team met the lead guitarist of the popular band 1974AD, Manoj KC, to talk about using their hit song "Nepali Ho" to raise awareness of indoor air pollution by adapting the lyrics. The involvement of more artists and musicians is intended in this project, so the team also talked to Shivaraj Jung, a singer-songwriter who has experience in music projects in rural areas.

**GIZ-Endev** is open to collaborating with innovative awareness-raising campaigns, so they requested us to send them a budget proposal for this initiative.

## 6. HERITAGE PROJECT

Back in 2018, Awasuka Program started some awareness-raising actions about Bhimphedi Architectural and Historical Heritage. One of the outcomes was the preservation of the old Bhimphedi Hospital, which was saved from demolition after the program's collaboration with the Department of Archaeology. From that moment, conversations with UPC University PhD Professor Montserrat Bosch —who specialized in heritage conservation- were initiated. After the pandemic years, this collaboration started taking shape in 2022: two students were selected to elaborate their final project on the building catalogue in Bhimphedi, which will happen in February-March 2023.



#### **CONCLUSION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

2022 has been a year of learning: new procedures, new manufacturer, new collaborators... This experience has been enriching in all directions. We celebrate the young energy of our diversified team, as well as the motivation and commitment of our local manager and our manufacturer, who work hand in hand in perfect coordination and generate admiration in the local people.

Awasuka Program thanks profoundly all the individuals and organizations listed below.



## **AWASUKA TEAM 2022**

**EUROPE** 

Program Director: Mònica Sans, Architect-Musician

Accountancy: Raquel Masferrer, Accountant- Yoga Trainer and Ruping Yuan, Warwick University Business student

Barcelona Funds Management by *Petit Món*: Núria Carbó & Soumaya Hidalgo Fundraising by *El Camí de la Solidaritat*: Team leader: Roger Solà (President)

Funders Dossier & District Conference Presentation: Roger Solà, Margot Lebourgeois, Elena Pompilio and Monica

Sans, during Spring trip 2022.

Awasuka SROI: Christina Blanchard, Roger Solà, Monica Sans, Margot Lebourgeois, Sergi Gomez and Cristina Franco

Thesis on Indoor Air Pollution: Margot Lebourgeois Artwork design: Maria Ibarz, Architect & Artist

Exhibition Panels Design & Awasuka Logos: Chiara Fomia, Matylda Makowska, Elena Pompilio and Margot

Lebourgeois (El Camí de la Solidaritat members) and Monica Sans (Awasuka member)

CHS Map: Ruping Yuan & Carles Turró

IT Advisor: Carles Turró, Computer Scientist- Former Athlete

ISP/Web Cloutions: Sergi Navarro, Website Advisor Health Consultant: David Ferrándiz, Epidemiologist

**NEPAL** 

Social Mobilizer & Local Manager: Hareram Pudassaini

Smokeless Kitchens Manufacturer: Sunil Gautam, Guru Muktinath Construction

Nepal Funds Management by Rotary Club Kantipur: Pradeep Shrestha (President), Dhruba Thapa (Service Project

Director), Uttam Bhattarai (Treasurer), Bishnu Ghiraiya

Phone Verifications by Rotaract Club Kantipur: Verification leaders: Sadikshya Banjade (President) and Pratik Jung Karki (Secretary). Verification team: Nujala Shrestha (treasurer), Selina Adhikari, Anusuya Sharma, Anjal Raj Tiwari,

Manika Karki, Om Prakash Sharma, Samin Thapa

External Advisor: Min Malla (Practical Action – Kathmandu)



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**AWASUKA DONORS** since 2020















































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# Thank you! धन्यवाद