



# Bringing Smiles Back To LADAKH



LIVE TO  
LOVE





**Ladakh Hit By Disaster**

## Loss of Lives



A series of cloudbursts occurring between 11:30pm on 5th August and 1:00am on 6th August rocked the peace of Ladakh and brought a state of devastation never before experienced by anyone in this remote Himalayan region. The unexpected cloudbursts (torrential rain) triggered mudslides and flash floods, bringing a great loss in lives, massive physical destruction and emotional distress to this beautiful Himalayan region and its people.

More than 200 people were killed and more than 600 are still missing, with a very slim chance of survival.

## Loss of Homes



Most people are unwilling to move back to their homes even though some were not affected. They are so emotionally distraught that they have moved to makeshift tents or their own cars, with some even preferring to sleep in the open on high grounds, for fear that another calamity of this magnitude may take place anytime. "Home" is very important to Ladakhi people. They work very hard and put their entire life savings into building comfortable and secure homes for their families. In Ladakh, "family" comes first.

Many people have also lost all their belongings and are living on aid provided by government and NGOs.

## About Ladakh

Ladakh, the highest plateau of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir (with much of it over 3,000m/9,800ft), spans the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges and the upper Indus River valley. It was the connection point between Central Asia and South Asia when the Silk Road was in use. Contemporary Ladakh borders Tibet to the east, the Lahaul and Spiti to the south, the Vale of Kashmir, Jammu and Baltiyul regions to the west, and the trans-Kunlun territory of Xinjiang to the far north. Sometimes called "Little Tibet", Ladakh is renowned for its remote mountain beauty and culture.



Ladakh remains one of the few surviving nomadic civilizations in the world and it is gradually transforming due to modernization and the economic pressure to conform. However, Ladakhis are basically very down to earth and full of contentment and

happiness despite the harsh living conditions and the pressure of modernization. About 70 percent of the 250,000 who live in Ladakh still live in traditional villages, but the capital city of Leh has been transformed. Once a small town with two paved streets and cow jams downtown, Leh survived on the natural wealth of nearby farms. But now one sees fresh asphalt highways and diesel trucks groaning over the Himalayan passes polluting the thin air to deliver cheap government-subsidized grain. Leh has become an outpost in the global economy, complete with rubbish dumps, bazaars full of sneakers and watches, and food shortages when the passes close with snow. The self-sufficiency so important to Ladakhi culture has been undercut by economic powers beyond their control.

Although most nomadic Ladakhis live with almost no money, their devotion to Buddhism has given them a firm foundation in living holistically within nature. And, even more appealing than this ecological balance evident in the villages, is the emotional balance within the people themselves.



## Loss of Livelihood



Besides losing their only homes, many families lost their farmlands which provide crops for their own consumption and sale. Some also lost their livestock which provided much needed milk, butter and cheese. Many of the farmlands have taken more than 80 years to be turned into lands suitable for agricultural use. With the mudslides laying sedimentary deposits over cultivated areas many crops have been lost and it will take time before the land settles down and can be used again for agricultural purposes. In the foreseeable future, livelihood may be an issue. These families will have to rely on aid provided by government and NGOs.

## Living in Fear



People are still in a state of shock. Traumatized by the recent event, even the smallest sign of dark clouds and rainfall has many gathering their belongings and running for high ground. There are no early warning systems in place or detailed weather reports to tell people if the disaster could be happening again. There are also no structures or mechanisms erected to deflect further floods or mudslides away from inhabited areas. Ladakhis have lived with nature and the elements for centuries having to accept each blow that is delivered and then try hard to pick up the pieces afterwards.

## Immediate Relief and Aid

Besides the Indian government's announcement of a relief and aid package of Rs 1.25billion (Rs1billion for building of new homes), many NGOs, like ourselves, are also involved in the relief and aid effort. At the time of this report almost all the relief camps have requested provision of gas tanks. Those who are staying in the camps right now are using the portable kerosene stoves (see photograph on the right) for cooking. However it is highly inflammable and extremely dangerous. If a tent caught fire, the entire relief camp site could be burned down. As it is also quite windy in Ladakh, with very low humidity, fire could spread very fast.



Therefore the Live to Love Ladakh Disaster Relief Committee will provide for 265 units of LPG gas tanks and cooking stoves for all the affected families living in the various relief camps in Ladakh. This will be a part of the total Rs5million budget to be used for immediate relief and aid efforts. The balance will be composed of other vital items and cash.



NAME: RIGZIN DOLMA (NERTSE)  
LOST OF LIFE - 2 & 2 SERIOUSLY  
INJURED, ADMITTED  
IN G.H.  
PROPERTY: TOTALLY LOST







# **Druk White Lotus School Worst Hit**

## One of the Worst Hit Schools



Rushing water and thick mud raged through the school buildings breaking down doors, smashing windows, and filling the classrooms with more than a meter of mud. Only the Nursery classroom was spared.

Around 200 hostel children also had to be evacuated taking three hours to carry each one to safety through the a torrent of water that flowed past their door.

Engineered to withstand earth tremours the buildings stood firm but the books, computers, furniture and equipment were either destroyed or ruined. Trees were flattened and walkways blocked by mud and debris.

## Classes Held In Tents



Three upper -level classrooms were still usable along with the dining hall and within days classes began again thanks to the strength and focus of the school Principal, Prasad Eledath. Tents were also erected for the displaced children and their teachers and the school is now back to full running order. Many volunteers, tourists, local people, the Hindustan Construction Company (HCC) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have come to the school to help clear clear the rooms of mud and restored them to their former condition. Despite the difficult conditions the children continue to smile, play and engage with their learning.



## Taking In Homeless Children

The school is prepared to take in up to 100 homeless children. Most of them have lost their parents or their homes due to the recent calamity. Some of homeless are children of migrant workers from Bihar, Chattisgarh and Jarkhand, who lost their lives.

The children will be accommodated in the existing residences as a temporary measure, although conditions will be cramped. As winter is fast coming, construction of further accommodation cannot start until March 2011.

Right now, we need to procure the construction materials before the main road in and out of Ladakh closes in October.

With the increase in the number of students, more house-mothers are needed for the residences and teachers for the school.









# Committed to Offering Opportunities In Education





## Reaching Out to Remote Himalayas

Most parts of Ladakh lie high on inaccessible Himalayan plateau. Life is very harsh and it is very difficult for children to obtain a good education. Moreover, as the nomadic way of life has been under threat, it has become very important to ensure that children from the remote corners of Ladakh receive sufficient and appropriate education to cope with the impending changes.

Every September, Mdm. Sarla Chhewang who is also princess of Ladakh, visits these remote areas with international volunteers from the Druk White Lotus School, to pick up children in need of education and take them to the school. There are presently around 200 of such children staying at the residential blocks at Druk White Lotus School, and they are sponsored through an international funding program promoted through various charitable foundations, such as those under the umbrella of Live To Love .

# Planting Trees to Heal the Earth





## Limited Vegetation

Only 0.0006% of Ladakh's 92,000 sq km of total land area is covered by vegetation. According to the Department of Conservation and Forestry in Ladakh, the impact of the recent calamity that took many lives and affected the livelihood of many families could have been reduced had there been more vegetation. There is a lot of room to grow vegetation such as trees and shrubs to help the local environment. Flash floods and mudslides as a result of cloudbursts or torrential pourings would have been slowed down or stopped by vegetation which could provide some time for escape as well as buffer to protect homes.

Most of the worst hit areas did not have any vegetation and some areas were too crowded with buildings, without any space for escape.



## Trees Give Life & Protection

The impact of global climate change is now witnessed in the Himalayan belt. Cloudbursts and unusual climate conditions which were unheard of are now putting lives of humans and other living beings as well as their livelihood at risk.

Ladakh is a high altitude desert as the Himalayas create a rain shadow, denying entry to monsoon clouds. The main source of water is the winter snowfall on the mountains. Recent flooding of the Indus River and rapid changes in weather conditions in the region have been attributed either to abnormal rain patterns or the retreating of glaciers, both of which might be linked to global warming.

Tree planting will give life and protection to the vulnerable environment and the people here in Ladakh.

# Harsh Winter Around the Corner





## Bitter Winter in the Himalayas

Winter will start to set in by mid-October, and last till March next year. If unprepared, many more people will suffer and die, especially old folks and children who are more vulnerable will suffer most in harsh weather conditions. This leaves less than 8 weeks to get the victims and survivors prepared for the difficult conditions ahead. We therefore need immediate assistance from everyone, from everywhere, to help us achieve this near-impossible mission. Roads will be closed for winter and it will be too costly to transport materials up to Ladakh by air, so any required relief and aid items will have to be sent to Delhi for further transportation to Ladakh within the month of August and September 2010.



## Preparing for Winter

Around 10,000 people will be affected in this forthcoming harsh winter, that sometimes sees temperatures drop to as low as -37 degree celcius. Live To Love Worldwide is collecting clean and untorn warm clothings, blankets and mattresses to give away in Ladakh.

We request you to donate only the things that you yourself would wear. We should treat victims and survivors of any natural disaster with love, care and understanding. Though affected by natural disaster, Ladakhis have a strong sense of pride, we should try our best to provide them with moral encouragement and any material support that would help them pull through this difficult period of their life.

# BRINGING SMILES BACK TO LADAKH

Help us restore Ladakh, one of the last remaining havens of Himalayan culture. Help Live to Love raise US\$3,000,000 to give the people of Ladakh a hope for tomorrow. They need our love — our action — to survive.

## Phases of Funding Need & Execution (August 2010-August 2011)

		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
A.	Immediate Relief	Red	Black	Black	Grey	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
B.	Rebuilding & Repairing Druk White Lotus School	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black	Black
C.	Continuing Efforts in Edu- cation	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
D.	Tree Planting	Black	Green	Green	Grey	Green	Green	Black	Black	Black	Black

See next page for description and funding requirements.



## TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

“Bringing Smiles Back To Ladakh” is an important commitment that can only be achieved with your support and involvement. The natural calamity, never before experienced, has taken Ladakh at least 5 years backward. Reconstruction of buildings, and more so, reinstalling confidence, will take many years. We invite you to join all of us at Live To Love to bring back lots of smiles, happiness, joy and confidence to Ladakh, one of the last remaining havens of Himalayan culture.



### IMMEDIATE RELIEF (US\$200,000)

Providing LPG gas cylinders and cooking stoves to affected families, preparing temporary shelters and education facilities for 100 displaced children to be taken in by Druk White Lotus School (DWLS).



### CONTINUING EDUCATION NEEDS (US\$1,300,000)

Constructing residential blocks for newly accepted displaced children and children from remote areas of Ladakh. Building new classrooms, dining room and common assembly hall for continuing and new students. Developing sports complex, security and landscaping for the school. Preparing a long-term educational fund for the school children.



### REBUILDING DWLS (US\$500,000)

Repairing and purchasing the furnitures and fixtures in the classrooms, offices, IT room, art room, library, staff quarters and residential blocks. Reconstructing infrastructures (roads, pipes, wirings, etc.) and building structures. Building boundary walls for protection.



### TREE PLANTING (US\$1,000,000)

Planting a million in strategic locations in Ladakh where landslides and erosion can be arrested, and where livelihood can be immediately restored through employment at the various plantation sites. Planting will take place in October/November 2010 and March/April 2011, the 2 immediate planting seasons.



For domestic donations from within India by Indian nationalities, please send to:

## **PEL DRUKPA CHARITABLE TRUST**

D301 Sushant Arcade, Sushant Lok-1, Gurgaon 122001, Haryana, India

Tel: 91 (0) 124 411 5234 Fax: 91 (0) 124 411 5235 Email: admin@drukpa.org

Name of Bank : CITIBANK N.A.

Branch : 3rd floor Jeevan Bharati Building, 124 Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001, India

Indian Rupees Account No.: 0029172226

SWIFT CODE: CITIINBX

PLEASE SPECIFY DONATION AS: LADAKH DISASTER RELIEF & REBUILDING FUND



[www.Live2Love.org](http://www.Live2Love.org)

For international donations from outside of India, please send to:

## **LIVE TO LOVE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION LTD.**

2002 Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: 852-8206-8886 Fax: 852-8206-8883 Email: info@Live2Love.org

Name of Bank : The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Branch : No. 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong

Multi-Currency Bank Account: 808-806350-838

Swift code: HSBCHKHCHK

PLEASE SPECIFY DONATION AS: LADAKH DISASTER RELIEF & REBUILDING FUND

## **LIVE TO LOVE SOCIETY (UK)**

55 Regent's Park Road, Primrose Hill, London NW1 8XD, United Kingdom

Email: info@L2Love.org

Name of Bank : The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Branch : Mayfair Branch, 18A Curzon Street, London W1J 7LA, United Kingdom

Account No.: 91608126 Sort Code: 40-05-22

PLEASE SPECIFY DONATION AS: LADAKH DISASTER RELIEF & REBUILDING FUND

## **LIVE TO LOVE USA**

PO Box 492358, Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA

FOR US CITIZENS, PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE ABOVE AND SPECIFY DONATION AS:

LADAKH DISASTER RELIEF & REBUILDING FUND