

## Why we care - the scarcity of resources in rural Nepal

# Nepal



In the minds of most people, Nepal means the Himalayas.

But it also means about 30 million people with one of the lowest per-capita incomes in the world.

How big is Nepal? Here is Nepal superimposed on the map of Ontario:



In this area lives a population equal to most of Canada, almost entirely in rural villages. (the Kathmandu Valley, with Kathmandu the only truly large city, has population of over 3 million)

As in most every country, those with the means choose not to live in very poor areas, so doctors are few and far between in most of the country, leaving a large population with no medical care available.



We looked for alternatives, to provide healthcare. There are “paramedics” trained in Nepal to staff rural health posts and provide at least rudimentary care. Programs also exist to upgrade some of these providers to more advanced skills, including some basic surgery.

**Our vision:** We think something is better than nothing. CNMS has chosen to support the training of these paramedics, taking candidates from villages who are willing to provide local support. We expect our trainees to return home and work, thus providing at least some care where none was present. The village must commit to some support upon return to help these trained individuals work for the population.

**Our partner:** PHeCT, the “Public Health Concern Trust”, is our Nepali partner. PHeCT is a Nepali NGO with strong rural connections, and a high level of social responsibility. They founded and own the Kathmandu Model Hospital. They also run training programs for nurses and are starting a program for paramedics. Working with the recommendations of other local organizations, they will be our local eyes and ears to choose village trainees, and arrange the training. Their ethic is a good match for ours.