

Mille Zola Association Women's skill for women's health

Mille Zola (one thousand bags), Franco-Nepalese NGO (non-governmental Organization) or co-operative association based in rural region south of the Annapurna region, Myagdi district, (central Nepal) was established in January 2012. The goal of the association is:

- To use the skills of village women to weave **traditional bags** in order to raise funds for the community
- To help the women in rural areas during **pregnancy and childbirth at home**

The two main villages Nangi and Histan Tikot have been chosen to begin the project. A community group has been created in each village to collect fund by manufacturing and selling bags and make a proper use of the fund. Therefore the project is run by the committees of a dozen women in each of two villages. The women of these villages have an ancestral knowledge in weaving of high quality wool bags. The sales of these bags in Nepal, France, and elsewhere enable the implementation of fair and sustainable economic activities in these remote villages.

The association works co-operatively with the health workers in the villages including the ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) providing funds to improve villager's access to basic health care.

MilleZola association is also helping other women's community projects like "Lokta

Paper Making Group" & "Natural Jam Making Group". MilleZola is working in partnership with "The Annapuran Dhaulagiri Eco-community Trail" which passes through the villages.

The Project

- Promote primarily the health of women in remote Himalayan villages
- Escort and assist the women during pregnancy
- Check up every 3 months with at least one ultrasound during pregnancy
- Free transportation by jeep to the nearest hospital (Beni Hospital) in case of complication (the transportation cost is refunded after the decision of the health worker if paid in advance by the patient's family)
- Provide a free complete medical kit for delivery case at home through health workers with an aim to minimize the risk of infection and the problems connected to delivery, mother and baby care packs
- Provide an ultrasound machine to each clinic of Nangi and Tikot
- Train health workers including ANM to check up pregnant women and monitor the ultrasound machine.
- Secure funds for poor families for any emergency cases besides maternity cases.

Future Plan

- Provide medicine to the patients if not provided by the government
- Assist elderly people living alone (visit them regularly, take reports of their needs, present reports to be evaluated the committee) by hiring someone
- Provide regular up-to-date training to the local health workers

Other women's community groups we support

Nangi Lokta Paper Group: This group of 12 women makes paper from Lokta plant. Their products are notebooks and paper bags.

Nangi Jam Making Group: This group of 5 women makes organic plum jam.

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How you can help

- Promoting Mahabir's Center for Nepal Connection, Annapurna Dhaulagiri Eco-community Trek
- Buying local products (bags, notebooks, jam, etc.)
- Selling bags in your country
- Donating the Mille Zola Association

For more information about our goals and activities, and to learn how you can help, please contact one of the following persons:

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