Our mission is to empower local changemakers in developing countries to reduce suffering and foster hope among marginalized populations.

PERU - JUAN

I’m ready for school.
Bring it on!

NEPAL - JWALANT

I’ll never again complain about a heavy pack.

HONDURAS - JAVIER

Ouch! Sometimes medical students are guinea pigs.

MOROCCO - NORA

Finally, back in business

CAMEROON - ETUGE

Excitement over lettuce?

INDIA - SONAM

No snowmen in Lingshed.
Here we make snow YAKS!

CAMEROON - ETUNG

A benefit of vocational training...
eating the assignments!

CAMEROON - NAKINTI

Proud of our cultural heritage
Dear Friends,

Global Pearls operates a little differently than most nonprofits because our focus is not on implementing a particular type of project but in choosing a particular type of partner. We select capable, resourceful, passionate local partners who know what their communities need and how to achieve success. Typically, they have served their communities sacrificially for years before receiving any financial help. Once we have chosen a partner, we don’t tell him/her what to do. We let them tell us how they want to help their communities.

As a result, our projects are incredibly diverse. They might address education, healthcare, agriculture, gender-based violence, income generation, or a myriad of other issues. That keeps things quite interesting for our U.S. team as we learn and respond to new projects and ideas that our partners propose.

Normally we organize our Annual Report by country, but to highlight the variety of projects our partners are working on, we decided to do it a little differently this year and organize the report topically. Your favorite partner/project will be a little harder to hunt down this way (and might appear on more than one page), but we are hoping you enjoy the search.

Everything you read about was made possible because you, our donors, have a heart for helping others and were generous in your gifts to fund the work. We humbly and gratefully thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Lisa Robinson-Spader
Lisa Robinson-Spader
President, Global Pearls, Inc.
**GUATEMALA – SANDRA**
- 119 students received scholarships for school.
- Our former street children, mining children, and those who work as street vendors were given monthly food distributions.

**HONDURAS – JAVIER**
- 211 IHER students were sponsored.
- 8 student-led projects were funded to help students develop project management and leadership skills.
- 3 university students received scholarships.

**MOROCCO – NORA**
- 700 food baskets were distributed for Ramadan.
- Training of marginalized women resumed at Amal.

**INDIA – MARTIN**
- 1146 students received school supplies and after-school tutoring 6 days a week.
- A second floor was added to the vocational training center, both floors were furnished with desks and equipment, and classes began in tailoring, computer application, beautician skills, and medical lab technician training.
- 65 bicycles were given to girls to begin secondary school without fear of sexual assault.
- Our maternal and infant health program was extended from 50 villages to 200 villages.
- Our anemia and intestinal worm program was also expanded from 50 villages to 200 villages.
- 20 young women and their families, who worked tirelessly as volunteers during our Covid education, testing, and vaccination campaign, received toilets so they no longer need to wait until nighttime to use a bush.

**UKRAINE – ALESSIA**
- Humanitarian aid (food, clothes, bedding, medicine and bandages) was given to a couple of hundred people per day during the first few months of the Russian invasion.
- Countless trips made into Mariupol, Kherson, and other hotspots to evacuate the most vulnerable.
- An agriculture program was initiated that gave 300 vegetable seedlings, a nanny goat and kid, plus 20 poultry (chickens, ducks, and/or geese) to 114 families (with a focus on widows and families caring for war orphans).
- An industrial chainsaw was funded to prepare firewood for the winter for our 100+ core families.

**CAMEROON – ETANG**
- 2 classrooms were constructed to alleviate severe overcrowding at the Debundscha school.
- Teacher training was conducted for two schools lacking trained teachers. Student pass rates on national exams increased from 49% to 83% as a result.
- The vocational training center graduated 29 computer students and 32 catering students.
- A regenerative agriculture program trained 50 women in organic agricultural techniques and provided them with needed tools, planted 40,000 cocoa trees and 58,000 bush mangos on deforested land, and increased incomes and ecological health in a forest community.

**HONDURAS – JEREMIAS**
- 14 mountain villages received Wifi and solar panels.
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**HONDURAS – JEREMIAS**
- 14 mountain villages received Wifi and solar panels.
CAMEROON – NAKINTI

- A 4-day rape conference was held for survivors who want to change the culture of rape in Cameroon.
- 4 anti-rape projects, designed and run by conference participants, were funded.
- 4 week-long child-rape camps were conducted reaching 200 children directly and many more indirectly through radio and television programs.
- 10 Girls-Against-Rape clubs were initiated in elementary and secondary schools in the Kumba area. 2,212 students attended the initial presentation, and 1,002 students registered to continue in the clubs.
- One-day workshops were conducted to train parents how to protect their children from rape. Our plan was to train 50 mothers in each of 7 workshops, but unregistered women begged to join. On the last day more than 110 women showed up, fighting for a chance to attend. 441 mothers were trained and more than 100 were turned away.
- Equipment was purchased and 24 women who are either working as prostitutes or at risk of prostitution are undergoing vocational training in tailoring and African hair braiding.
- A poultry facility was built to handle 1000 birds, and profits will fund administrative costs.

KENYA – ALICE

- Tuition support was given to 73 secondary school girls to help them avoid child marriage and continue with their studies.
- 7 exceptional students received scholarships for university studies.

NEPAL – JWALANT

- Food distributions were given to 500 families in the Khumbu region and 500 families in the Pokhara region to help them through the prolonged period of depressed tourism.
- 5 women received high-altitude guide training.

CAMEROON – ETUGE

- Scholarships were given to 50 elementary school girls and 6 secondary school children.
- A feeding program provided one nutritious meal each day for 152 children.
- We conducted a dance program and installed playground equipment to promote fun.
- A computer lab was created for students and the community.
- Land was purchased, a security wall built, and construction begun on a secondary school.
- 2 regenerative agriculture programs were conducted to train women in sustainable agriculture, improving food security and incomes.

PERU – JUAN

- 23 families in Willoq Alto developed cuy businesses and 15 greenhouses were constructed.
- 8 new hostels were built in Marampata and the equivalent of 4 hostels were added in Maisal.
- School supplies were given to 353 children in Marampata, Cachora, Willoq Alto, and Paru Paru.
A Door to a Better Life

Making it possible for impoverished children to attend school is probably the single most effective way to lift a family out of poverty. That is why we support education in almost all our project areas. Our educational support takes various forms depending on local needs: giving books, supplies, and uniforms to elementary and secondary school children (1,981 students), providing tutoring and after-school classes for at-risk students (1,186 students), paying university tuition for exceptional students (38 students), building schools and vocational training centers (1 each in Cameroon and India). Our local partners determine the most impactful ways we can help children achieve their dreams. We love hearing their success stories. One of our medical students, for example, won 1st place in a regional research contest with thousands of students participating!

Defying Cultural Norms

Our students desperately want an education. In order to get one, they might embark on dangerous journeys to reach a school, they forgo food and other necessities to prioritize uniforms and supplies, and, when they aren’t in school, they work difficult jobs to earn school fees. Sometimes their efforts are creative, and we admire their heroic determination. Fanilla, one of our Kenyan students, was a partial orphan after her father, a police officer, was killed in the post-election violence of 2006. Her widowed mother struggled to care for her four daughters. In 2019, Fanilla wanted to enter the International Camel Derby in her hometown of Maralal in hopes of winning the prize money to pay her school fees. Her uncle had won the Camel Derby two previous years (the trick, he told us, was never to beat your camel). He was already registered for the 2019 race when he tried to register Fanilla, but no woman had ever competed in the professional race before, and the race committee refused. In defiance of their wishes (and turning down bribe money to keep his niece out of the race), he gave her his place along with his camel. She came in second and won enough money to pay her school fees that term as well as helping pay for her siblings. Life has gotten tougher, however, as Fanilla’s mother died in 2021. Fanilla is now one of our sponsored university students, and we are also sponsoring two of her sisters. A girl with that much pluck will surely make an impact in this world!
Sadly, girls the world over still face terrible sexual violence. Three of our projects are designed to protect girls from some of the worst of these abuses.

**Child Rape Education Can Also be Fun**

In Cameroon, our partner Nakinti runs a program to stem child rape – a frequent event even among children as young as 4 and 5. This year Nakinti ran four anti-rape camps for 200 children to teach them how to avoid dangerous situations, protect themselves when threatened, and contend with the aftermath of rape. In addition, 7 parent workshops taught 441 mothers the same lessons so they can support and protect their children. To reach a wider audience, Nakinti’s organization spread the anti-rape message on radio and TV. Girls Against Rape clubs have been started in ten Kumba schools. Most of these clubs are in elementary schools, given the young ages that girls are threatened, and over 1,000 young girls signed up for the clubs. It is a difficult subject, but Nakinti manages to make it fun with traditional sports, silly games, and indigenous dances – so the girls not only learn and heal together, but laugh and celebrate too.

**School Helps with More than Education**

Sexual violence against young girls is also common in Kenya among remote tribes like the Samburu. Beading, female circumcision, and forced child marriage are heart-breaking practices. The longer girls can stay in school, however, the more they can develop the self-confidence and survival skills needed to resist these practices. Working with our partner Alice, this year we helped 73 vulnerable girls stay in school by paying part of their school fees, and 7 top students were rewarded with university scholarships. These dynamic young women want to use their education to change the abusive aspects of their culture while retaining their beautiful dress, dance, and strong community ties.

**The Power of a Bicycle**

In India, there is an elementary school in almost every village so children do not need to travel far to get to school. Secondary schools require a longer commute, however, and this exposes young girls to the dangers of sexual assault – a very real risk for low-caste girls. As a result, parents previously would not allow their daughters to continue their education past the 5th grade. Our partner Martin found a solution to this problem that is surprisingly simple: bicycles! Commuting by bicycle keeps girls safe and eases parents’ concerns. Now girls in these villages are as likely as the boys to pursue higher levels of education. This year we provided bicycles for 65 girls.
More of a Good Thing

Since we started funding Martin’s maternal & infant health program in 2017, there has been only one maternal death. He achieved this success by taking healthcare to the villagers via traveling nurses – a key step when villagers have little access to transportation. Our nurses are able to teach, monitor, and advise the pregnant women in their care as well as vaccinate and monitor the health of the children up to two-years-old. In order to address intestinal worms and anemia, we replicated this model of roaming nurses. Incidence of intestinal worms dropped from 63% to 0% and anemia dropped from 80% to 1%. Many new villages were clamoring to be included in the programs, so this year we expanded our reach from 50 to 200 villages.

Amchi Medicine

In the high Himalaya at the northern tip of India, our partner, Sonam, works with villagers whose ancestors came from Tibet. These villagers prefer traditional Tibetan medicine, Amchi medicine, which uses natural plants and minerals. In fact, Amchi medicine is growing in popularity even in the towns and cities of India as people appreciate its effectiveness and have grown increasingly wary of Western medicine’s undesirable side effects. Our Amchi practitioners completed 5 years of university studies to learn the trade, yet they charge nothing for their services. They do not want to monetize what traditionally has been a gift. Recently, some of the Amchi added basic dental care (teeth cleaning, fillings, and extractions) to their training. Our villagers have no other access to dental care, so this year we built a two-room dental clinic for the Amchi doctors to use.

Training New Health Workers

In India we are supporting the training of three students aspiring to learn Amchi medicine and nine young women who are training in Western medicine to be nursing aides. All of our sponsored students come from very poor backgrounds. This education will help these young people qualify for satisfying careers. It will also benefit their communities by providing additional healthcare workers. For example, Akmatha wants to follow in Mother Teresa’s footsteps by caring for the forgotten and homeless. Jansi Rani aspires to serve the elderly who are homebound. Jemi Anitha and Viji want to care for the poor and sick. They all are motivated by their desire to alleviate the suffering around them.
Reversing the Green Revolution

Improving the nutritional health of our program participants and increasing their income-earning capacity often depends on local agriculture. During the “Green Revolution”, Western agricultural techniques relying on chemical pesticides, fertilizers, high-yield seeds, and monoculture were exported around the world. Yields were terrific at first, and there was genuine optimism that this revolution in agriculture would reduce world hunger and increase the welfare of even the poorest farmers. But the inorganic chemicals killed the microbes in the soil that made it fertile. Yields eventually started dropping, and farmers had to spend an increasing share of their profits on imported chemicals just to match the yields they’d had before. In the end, the “Green Revolution” impoverished the small farmers we work with.

Two of our partners in Cameroon, Etuge and Etang, now run agricultural programs designed to return farmers to more sustainable techniques, including multi-cropping and the use of organic fertilizers and pesticides. This year, program participants planted tens of thousands of cocoa trees, bush mangos, and Inga trees along with roots and vegetables. Communal nurseries were established that are used as training centers, and the young plants are donated to the farmers. Both programs focus on helping vulnerable women, who also received basic farming tools and cassava grinders. The results have been very encouraging: after one year, yields have increased 40%.

Rebuilding Hope in the Middle of War

This had been a very tough year for Ukrainians. Our project base, southeast of Kyiv, is located at a major crossroads, so our partner Alessia has had people passing through from Kharkiv, Donetsk, Mariupol, Kherson, and Odessa, with some even relocating to the area. Initially, people were arriving scared and hungry – many not having eaten for days – often with only the clothes on their backs. Some had been dug out of the rubble of bombed buildings. Many were orphans whose parents had been killed or were missing. At first, we focused on feeding hundreds of refugees per day and providing clothing, bedding, medicine and bandages. But as summer approached, we shifted to a more sustainable effort – using agriculture to help relocated families provide food for themselves (our focus was on widows with children and families that had taken in war orphans). We provided 114 families with chickens, ducks, or geese for eggs, goats (a nanny and kid) for milk, and about 300 seedlings per family so they could grow the vegetables they need. The orphaned children adore the animals, especially the goats. One boy who was left without parents took a chick in his arms and said: "You are also without your mother. I will warm you up; do not be afraid." Caring for the animals is helping to heal the hidden scars these orphaned children carry. And it is giving adults a sense of purpose needed to ward off depression and foster hope.
**INCOME GENERATION**

**Teaching People How to Fish... AND Giving them the Fishing Pole**

When we work with young adults or whole families, often our key focus is helping them improve their ability to earn an income. This is an important component of our projects in Cameroon, Peru, and Morocco.

When the Anglophone crisis hit Cameroon, hundreds of thousands of people fled the war-torn forest communities and relocated to towns outside rebel-controlled areas. Previously their livelihood had depended on subsistence farming, so it has been a real struggle for them to survive in a town environment. ESARDEF, our partner Etang’s organization, has opened a vocational training center (VTC) in Limbe that teaches basic computer and catering skills. This year there were 61 students. Kelly was typical of these determined young people: she had lost hope of continuing her education when she was forced to leave her village. But when she arrived in Limbe and discovered Etang’s VTC, she found a ticket to a better life. She now has a job at Doby’s Bakery & Designs, and she says “ESARDEF is the best!”

In Peru, our partner Juan helped 8 more families along the Choquequirao Trail build and furnish hostels to house trekkers visiting the nearby archeological site. Over Easter week, every hostel was completely full! These hostels are providing a new income source for families, and we are especially excited that Maisal finally has a large hostel as well. Now tourists can trek on to Machu Picchu without a tent, stove, and other heavy gear. Besides the hostels, we have promoted agricultural enterprises that will give families a source of income independent of tourism, for example, a communal avocado farm in Marampata and cuy businesses for 23 families in Willoq Alto.

In Morocco, our partner Nora restarted her training program for marginalized women after a Covid-forced hiatus. The first batch of students received 8 months of in-depth training in food-industry skills and were then placed in permanent jobs. This enables them to lift themselves and their children out of poverty. Sometimes Nora also helps women secure housing – typically, a $1,000 deposit is required plus $700 for the first year’s rent, a sum impossible for her champions to gather on their own. Once they complete the program and are employed, they will be able to pay their own rent.
Child Labor: A Tricky Business
It is sad that children sometimes must work to survive, but that is the reality for many impoverished children – if they don’t work, they don’t eat. Laws that curtail a child’s ability to work may seem good at first glance, but a lack of legal options can push hungry children into illegal and more dangerous forms of labor, like drugs or sex trafficking. We prefer that children have safer options, like working side-by-side with a parent selling wares on the street, while we tackle the source of the problem – HUNGER.

Feeding the Hungry Without Fostering Dependence
Fighting hunger involves a delicate balance since we don’t want to foster long-term dependence. Our food aid takes two forms. First, we give food to families to help them through unusual (and temporary) circumstances. Our partner Jwalant, for example, distributed large bags of rice to 1000 families in the Khumbu and Pokhara regions this year as they struggled with the temporary loss of tourist income. Second, we provide food to many child laborers so they can cut back their hours and attend school. When they are done with school, they will be able to provide for themselves. For example, the displaced children in Etuge’s elementary school in Cameroon left parents behind rebel lines to seek an education. Without parents to care for and feed them, they cried from hunger as they tried to study. To keep the children in school, Etuge convinced us to provide a nutritious meal to 152 students daily. The children can now concentrate on their studies and are learning with joy and full bellies.

In Guatemala, a humanitarian organization forced the open-pit gravel mine that supported many of our families to close – they didn’t want children staying with their parents at the mines after school for fear the children would work there. With the mine closed, parents couldn’t earn enough to feed their children, and our kids might have been forced to drop out of school and go to work if not for our food aid. Our former street kids, too, could never have attended school without regular gifts of food. Sandra now provides nearly 80 children with a monthly distribution of beans, rice, pasta, oatmeal and other staples.

Extending Love During Ramadan
The most vulnerable always pay the highest price in times of crisis and hardship. After two years of pandemic, the harshest drought in 30 years, and dramatic increases to food prices due to the war in Ukraine, many families in the Marrakech community in Morocco needed help. During the month of Ramadan, Nora and her team were able to distribute a month’s supply of food staples to 700 of these families, thanks to the generosity, compassion and love of her many donors.
Global Pearls is a 501(c)3 and contributions are tax deductible.
100% of donations are used to fund the projects. Administrative costs are covered by the Board of Directors, and travel costs are funded by those travelling.

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**Expenditure Breakdown**

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Note: Administration expenses consist of PayPal processing fees and legally-required audit

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**Notes**

- 2022 figures shown are for 9 months – not a full year.
- We had a huge Covid response for Nepal and hurricane response for Honduras in 2021 which, thankfully, were not needed this year. We therefore expect our total 2022 expenses to be approximately $800K.
THE GLOBAL PEARLS U.S. TEAM

Christina Palastanga Gardiner, Board Member
Christina was born and raised in Europe, started and ran a successful business, and has worked in various capacities with non-profits for 3 decades.

Lynda Myers, Former Board Member; Current Consultant
With a PhD in Philosophy, Lynda taught at St. John’s College for 39 years fostering critical thinking skills and shared problem-solving. Her career took her to China where she taught as a senior visiting scholar.

LeeMin Chong, Vice-President
LeeMin wants to leverage her MBA and program management experience to come alongside those who strive to break the vicious cycle of poverty, helping them reach their dreams. LeeMin grew up in Malaysia.

Lisa Robinson-Spader, President
Lisa is a dreamer and visionary who is passionate about making a direct impact. She studied Economic Development at Harvard and thrills to see it take shape in real communities.

Kylie Palacios, Social Media Director
Kylie, a former Dartmouth student, loves using social media as a tool to help others. After an internship in Guatemala with Global Pearls, she decided to join the Global Pearls team.

Daniel Higbie, Board Member
Daniel has a Masters in International Relations and founded and runs an award-winning business in Albuquerque. He is committed to world-class excellence and pragmatism.

Katharina Root, Treasurer
Katharina grew up an Anglo minority on the Navajo and Sioux Reservations, and she still loves and values a diversity of cultures. For the past 25 years she has worked as an accountant specializing in non-profit accounting.

Arlene Say Soto, Secretary
Growing up in Manila, Arlene was exposed to the harsh realities of life because she shared the city with many people who lived in extreme poverty. She now uses her education to help others.

Lisa Robinson-Spader, President
Lisa is a dreamer and visionary who is passionate about making a direct impact. She studied Economic Development at Harvard and thrills to see it take shape in real communities.

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Patricia Erdmann, Editor
Patricia teaches Educational Leadership & Management to university students in Malawi each fall. She also runs a Girls Club for Malawian high school students.
MEET OUR LOCAL CHANGEMAKERS

Sandra Alonzo Pac - Guatemala

Driven by her passion to help women, children, and those suffering from great poverty in Guatemala, Sandra works tirelessly to help others. She doesn’t just provide scholarships, but creates a true community for participants – teaching them that they are valuable, monitoring their progress, providing emotional support and love, even planning dance lessons and pizza parties to bring joy into their lives. She is greatly loved by project participants.

Juan Covarrubias Ccaihuari – Peru

This gentle Quechua man with a great love for his community is a born leader with a keen business sense. He values Quechua traditions and the communal nature of his culture, which he is trying to preserve through this project. He is greatly trusted by his community and all those who have trekked with him through his beloved Andes, and that has allowed him to bring people together to achieve a path forward.

Etuge Sumbede Elvis – Cameroon

Etuge was born to a mother who was forced as a child to marry an old man. Due to poverty, 3 of his 6 siblings died. Fortunately, Etuge was sponsored for school and university studies. Having experienced both the suffering of abject poverty as well as the great benefits resulting from educational sponsorship, he has committed his life to helping others as a tangible demonstration of his gratitude.

Javier Diaz - Honduras

Javier worked by Sor Marta’s side for over 30 years to build IHER into a world-class alternative education system for tens of thousands of students across Honduras. He is constantly working to bring innovative changes to their program, and he loves to motivate the many impoverished students they serve to work hard and achieve their goals. He considers the work both a blessing and a great responsibility, and he pursues it with passion.

Nora Fitzgerald – Morocco

To sum up Nora in one word, I would say “compassionate.” She has a deep and tender love for the marginalized women of Marrakech. When you combine that love with her business acumen and the support of dedicated staff and friends, that compassion creates amazing results. Always seeking new ways to reach more women, she loves to dream forth new entrepreneurial ventures.

Nakinti Nofuru – Cameroon

Bold and fearless, Nakinti is creating a path for other women in Cameroon. Using her love of journalism, she is bringing attention to their plight and fighting for change. She has won numerous awards for her work improving conditions and opportunities for women and girls in Cameroon, and she is extending her impact by training and mentoring others.

Changemaker: A person who wants to bring positive change to the world and is capable of turning innovative ideas into action.
**Etang Mbeng – Cameroon**

Having grown up an orphan in an impoverished forest community of Western Cameroon, Etang knows first-hand the suffering that the people of his project area endure. With help from a distant relative, he was able to pursue an education and escape the poverty of his youth. Now he is using his education to help others. As he says, “Someone needs to sacrifice to help others achieve their dreams. I choose to be that person.”

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**Alice Gituru – Kenya**

Girls are not valued in the communities where Alice lives and works, and that has given her a soft spot for girls. She devotes her life to counseling, encouraging, teaching life-skills, and providing a formal education to girls because that empowers them, which, in turn, inspires others. She loves to see them happy and confident and is filled with joy when she sees them succeed in life.

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**Martin Richard Raju - India**

An outstanding administrator, Martin makes development success look easy. He pursues his projects with a quiet and measured determination, planning each step with great care. From education to healthcare to economic empowerment, he pursues a holistic approach with a talented team, and everything he touches turns to gold.

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**Sonam Dorje – India**

Sonam is full of energy, is incredibly hard-working, and is adept at mobilizing others. Desperate for an education, Sonam ran away from home at age 11, making a hazardous 4-day journey through the Himalayas to reach Leh where he secured a scholarship to study. He now devotes his life to helping other children receive a quality education while also striving to preserve traditional culture.

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**Jwalant Gurung – Nepal**

Jwalant is an incredibly generous man. He is very community driven, and he expends his time, energy and personal finances to help others in need. He is a strong athlete who is most at home in his majestic Himalayas and among their remote mountain villages. His passion is helping those village children receive an education.

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**Alessia - Ukraine**

Alessia is a woman with enormous compassion and love for those who are suffering around her. She constantly endangers her life to get aid to areas too difficult for others to reach. What we love most, however, is her sensitivity to emotional needs as she works to alleviate fear and foster hope among the orphans and families in her care.

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Our partners do not receive a salary from Global Pearls. They work out of love for their communities and earn a living through other means. We are honored to support and empower their efforts.
Front cover: A Nepalese student attends school.