



# WORKING WITH STREET CHILDREN

Help VIN and their partner organizations make a difference in the lives of children on Kathmandu's streets. These children, victims of poverty, neglect and abuse, have nowhere to turn. VIN needs volunteers or interns to work for street children on the street, at drop-in centers and to perform research in pursuit of solutions.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty is a national concern and a daily reality. A 2001 study estimated that around 1200 children lived on the streets of Kathmandu, and more recent studies argue that there are approximately 5000 street children throughout Nepal. Some children were born on the streets to rickshaw pullers and rag-pickers. Others, thrown from their homes, the victims of physical and mental abuse, simply arrive there with nowhere else to go.

Once in the city, the children, often uneducated, become part of its margins, collecting rags, shining shoes, begging and cleaning dishes in hotels. They are constantly vulnerable to disease, malnutrition, abuse by their employers, and are the helpless victims of pedophiles and the sex industry. Street children are a global phenomenon yet as a group they are significantly marginalized by the Development sector. The task of uplifting the lives of street children thus falls to private organizations, and the involvement of international volunteers is crucial.

These children need nutrition, health care, guidance on sanitation, education and most of all, your time. VIN is looking for international volunteers with the energy, time and interest in working for street children. You will work in Kathmandu, in the city's drop-in centers, spending time with the children, teaching them about health and sanitation, creating makeshift recreational activities and most importantly, simply being with them. VIN knows there is more that can be done to help these children and we invite you to conduct your own research, presenting your own considered solutions for the children.

During your volunteer placement you will be based in Kathmandu. You will live with a Nepali host-family, allowing you an insight into Nepali culture and helping you to become immersed in day to day Kathmandu life.

## Teaching deaf children

15/01/2017 to 04/02/2017

Volunteer Testimonial: Laura Manzone

"My days spent in Sindhuli will stay in my heart forever. This is due to the kindness of the people I meet once there. When I get them, I can say it was a small "shock" because the gap between the lifestyle in Kathmandu and in Sindhuli is pretty big; I was ready to have basic facilities, a lot of Dal Bhat and a different kind of life, but living the situation is different from just knowing about that. What I want to say is that maybe this experience could be challenging at first, but then it'll be very rewarding. Once I get to the deaf school, seeing people using sign language to communicate and big smiles on everybody's faces, I realized I was in the right place where I should be. Everybody was super kind with me and we all know that people can make the difference. I'm happy to have had this opportunity to volunteer there, because what I've back is something that is not possible to find in any books. It's just the big book about my life that's been enriched a lot by this experience".

