

# VSN CHILDREN'S HOME MAINTENANCE PROJECTS LALITPUR, NR KATHMANDU

Feb 15

**VSN owns and manages two children's home, Brighter Future Children's Home (BFCH) and Shining Stars Children's Home (SSCH). As with all properties, from time to time both homes require ongoing maintenance / redecoration inside and out.**

## The Placement

This is a community maintenance placement,

### Maximum Number of Volunteers / Minimum Length of placement:

This placement can accommodate up to 1- 4 volunteers at any one time.

### Volunteer's Primary Responsibilities:

You will be working alongside Nepali workers, and/or homes staff using traditional tools and methods and could be involved in such projects as:

- Painting & decorating
- Building / mending chicken coops
- Making vegetable tunnels
- Repairing / building boundary walls
- Preparing and painting boundary fences
- Digging new vegetable patches
- Digging ditches to bury water pipes
- Cutting bamboo
- Clearing ditches / maintaining walkways

### Working Days / Hours:

Sunday – Friday

There are no set working hours, we allow you to set your own hours so that you are able to pace yourself and maintain a steady and productive work rate. However, we recommend working in the early morning and late afternoon, taking time out during the hottest hours of the day.

If you are required to be in a certain place at a certain time, you will be informed in advance.

### Resources / Funding:

VSN has limited funding for the upkeep of its homes, and all funds have to be found within the running costs of the homes.. If you are interested in this placement, you may wish to fundraise in advance of your arrival to help with project funding.

For help with your fundraising efforts please visit our website [www.vsnprojects.org](http://www.vsnprojects.org) or contact Kate at [kate@vsnprojects.org](mailto:kate@vsnprojects.org)



Bridge & steps for BFCH back gate



Edging the SSCH driveway



BFCH retaining front wall



Sandbagging BFC's back wall



Painting the SSCH gate

## Essential Volunteer Qualities for this Placement

This placement is for those who enjoy being outdoors, working with locals and sharing ideas and skills

To succeed in this placement it is essential that you come equipped with the following personality traits and skills sets:

- A sense of adventure
- A love the outdoors
- A strong work ethic
- A passion to pass on your own experience and skills to others, so they learn, grow and can share these skills
- Enjoy living in a rural setting with basic facilities
- An ability to work independently
- The ability to work with simple tools in what may seem old fashioned ways
- To be able to work with limited/minimal supplies
- The desire to succeed
- An ability to thrive in an environment where language differences will be an issue
- To embrace a new culture without judgment
- To make an effort with your Nepali in order to increase your communication abilities
- The ability to live and work with little or no privacy
- To be inventive, resourceful and creative
- Happy to do whatever is needed with a smile on your face
- Ability to ask for help or guidance

## Essential Equipment / Personal Effects

Below are some essential items you will need to bring with you should you consider this placement. This list is not exhaustive by any means, and please remember the more you bring, the more you will have to carry if on the short walk to your host family

- Sleeping bag (lightweight for summer months, warm for winter months)
- Warm jacket , hat, scarf etc. (winter months)
- A set or lightweight waterproofs and umbrella (summer months – umbrella all seasons)
- A set of sturdy well worn-in walking shoes or boots for working in
- A pair of wellies/gum boots for use during the monsoon season. Cheap and easily available in KTM
- A pair of sandals or flip flops
- A pair of good quality, durable work/gardening gloves
- Your favourite, small transportable hand tools if you have any (traditional Nepali tools will be provided where needed)
- Old, lightweight and ideally wicking clothes for working in
- Head torch and extra batteries
- Water bottle
- Mosquito net (for summer). Cheap and easily available in KTM
- Personal first aid kit
- Feminine hygiene products (girls only!)
- Cigarette lighter to burn your toilet paper with
- Camera
- Books, cards, games, IPod etc to keep you occupied during the evenings as it gets dark between 18:00hrs – 19:30hrs depending on the time of year
- An old mobile handset and charger if you wish to buy a local sim card

## BFCH Placement Location, Accommodation & Facilities etc.

**Village Name:**

Bistachhap

**No House Holds in Village:**

Approx 60

**Ethnic Mix:**

Chhetri, Dalit

**Elevation:**

Approx 1,350 metres

**Nearest Large Town/City:**

Lagenkhel – approx 9 km

**District:**

Lalitpur, Kathmandu

**Distance from KTM:**

Approx 17km

**Main Contact Person:**

Jaggu Bista (Home Manager) 9841245073

**Placement Location:**

A beautiful rural village location at the south east end of the Kathmandu Valley.

**Accommodation:**

Volunteers will live with a host family located in the village. All volunteers, unless they chose otherwise will have their own room. All homes will have a toilet (may be an outside squat toilet) and you will probably have to use an outside tap to shower and wash.

**Shops:**

There are several small shops in the village where volunteers can buy soap, washing powder, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, drinks, basic snacks such as biscuits, noodles, chocolate, toilet paper etc. For a greater variety, volunteers will need to visit Lagenkhel or Kathmandu.

**Health:**

The nearest health post is in a village called Mahdevdanda which is approximately a 15 minute walk. For more sophisticated medical treatment volunteers will need to go to Lagenkhel or Kathmandu. Please ensure you pack a comprehensive personal first aid kit, if you are interested in this placement.

**Communications & Banks:**

All Nepali mobile networks work in Bistachhap. The nearest internet access is in Taukhel, a 15 – 20 minute walk across the rice paddies, unless you chose to bring your own laptop and purchase a local sim-enable, plug-in data card. Some ATMS are available in Taukhel, however for banks and a larger range of ATMs you will have to travel to either Lagenkhel or Kathmandu.

**Transport:**

It is a two bus journey to get from Thamel (where VSN's office is) to Bistachhap and it can take up to anything over 2 hours, especially on Saturdays and holidays. First you catch a microbus (like a minibus) from Ratna Park in the centre of the city to Lagenkhel Bus Park. Then you catch the first bus/micro going to Bistachhap, also known as Kitachour. The current prices are approx 25 Rupees Ratna Park to Lagenkhel and 30 Rupees Lagenkhel to Bistachhap.

## SSCH Placement Location, Accommodation & Facilities etc.

**Village Name:**

Badikhel

**No House Holds in Village:**

Approx 200 (across all 3 sections)

**Ethnic Mix:**

Brahmin, Paharis

**Elevation:**

Approx 1,350 metres

**Nearest Large Town/City:**

Lagenkhel – approx 11 km

**District:**

Lalitpur, Kathmandu

**Distance from KTM:**

Approx 19km

**Main Contact Person:**

Hari Bhusal(Home Father/Manager) 9841683246

**Placement Location:**

A beautiful rural village location at the south east end of the Kathmandu Valley.

**Accommodation:**

Volunteers will live with a host family located in the village. All volunteers, unless they chose otherwise will have their own room. All homes will have a toilet (an outside squat toilet) and you will have to use an outside tap to shower and wash.

**Shops:**

There are several small shops in the village where volunteers can buy soap, washing powder, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, drinks, basic snacks such as biscuits, noodles, chocolate, toilet paper etc. For a greater variety, volunteers will need to visit Lagenkhel or Kathmandu.

**Health:**

The nearest health post is in the village near the bus park. For more sophisticated medical treatment volunteers will need to go to Lagenkhel or Kathmandu. Please ensure you pack a comprehensive personal first aid kit, if you are interested in this placement.

**Communications & Banks:**

All Nepali mobile networks work in Badikhel although reception is not always very good. The nearest internet access is in Taukhel, a 40 minute walk or a 15 minute bus ride, unless you chose to bring your own laptop and purchase a local sim-enable, plug-in data card. Some ATMS are available in Taukhel, however for banks and a larger range of ATMs you will have to travel to either Lagenkhel or Kathmandu.

**Transport:**

It is a two bus journey to get from Thamel (where VSN's office is) to Badikhel and it can take up to anything over 2 hours, especially on Saturdays and holidays. First you catch a microbus (like a minibus) from Ratna Park in the centre of the city to Lagenkhel Bus Park. Then you catch the first bus/micro going to Badikhel. The current prices are approx 25 Rupees Ratna Park to Lagenkhel and 35 Rupees Lagenkhel to Badikhel.