

All about Shiwam Kumar



Hello!

Welcome to this special introduction to Shiwam Kumar, where you'll get to learn a little more about his life, their family and community. Shiwam Kumar was born in 2019, and lives with his family in Adarsha Kotwal, Nepal. Shiwam Kumar speaks Bhojpari, which is spoken by over 98% of people living in Adarsha Kotwal. Other languages used include Nepali, Maithali, Urdu and Tharu.

Adarsha Kotwal is situated in the Bara district in the central Terai region, around a five hour drive south from the capital, Kathmandu. The majority of families living here rely on farming and rearing animals for food and to earn a living, but erratic weather patterns means farming is a challenge and the income unpredictable. Lying close to the border with India, migration from this area is high, with many families crossing the border to India in search of work. Women have very limited opportunities to engage with local governance, and child marriage continues to threaten the health, wellbeing and education of girls. Livelihoods, women's rights, food security and coping with the impact of natural disasters and climate change are all challenges faced by the families living in Adarsha Kotwal. Through child sponsorship, we are working in partnership with families like Shiwam Kumar's to tackle these issues and develop community-led solutions to overcome them.

Education

Shiwam Kumar currently goes to a local nursery. When he is old enough to enrol in primary school, they will face many challenges. Schools in rural areas like Adarsha Kotwal are basic, lacking desks, chairs, waterpoints and toilets. Classes are overcrowded with typically one teacher to 61 students. These issues, coupled with many parents unable to afford uniforms, books or stationery, means that dropout rates are high, particularly among girls whose education is not seen as a priority.



Earning a living

Like most families in the area, Shiwam Kumar's family have access to a small plot of land where they grow crops like rice and maize, this is grown to both feed the family and provide a source of income.

Shiwam Kumar's family own a few animals such as chickens, goats and cattle. Owning livestock is a vital source of income for the family, and also helps to supplement the family diet - especially eggs, milk and milk products.

Homelife

Shiwam Kumar's home is built using bricks, rendered in cement to form solid walls. The roof is covered with tin sheets. Homes like this are usually just one storey, with a kitchen and one or two bedrooms depending on the size of the family.

Hand pumps are the primary source of water for the majority of families living in Adarsha Kotwal. These are usually situated in the family compound and the water drawn from these pumps is used for drinking, cooking and cleaning.

Community led projects in Adarsha Kotwal

ActionAid is working in Adarsha Kotwal with families like Shiwam Kumars to improve farming skills, develop employment opportunities, and help ensure children, particularly girls, finish their education. The rights of women and girls are at the heart of everything we do, and our programmes ensure they have an active voice in their communities. By sponsoring Shiwam Kumar, you are standing with women and girls to change attitudes and improve lives for the whole community.

If you would like to write to Shiwam Kumar, they would love to hear from you. The address is:

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