

ENDING RURAL ISOLATION

A call for cooperation and action

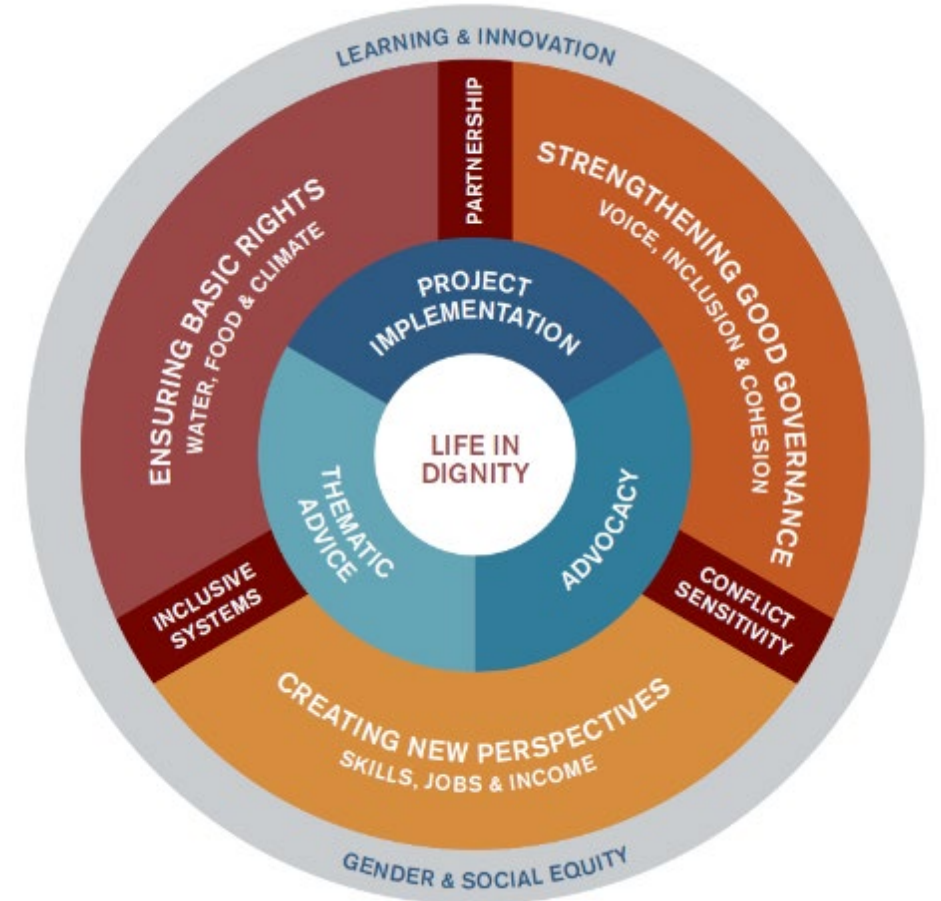
Agnes Montangero
Lead Strategic Partnerships for Rural Access

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About Helvetas

- **Independent development organization** based in Switzerland with affiliated organizations in Germany and the United States
- Project implementation, technical assistance, and policy development in about **30 partner countries** in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe
- Thematic focus on **market systems development, skills development, youth employment, climate resilience, governance, WASH, and rural access**
- Helvetas provides **project management services** and facilitates **multi-stakeholder partnerships and capacity building** by linking governments, private sector, and academia
- Helvetas works on and combines **long-term development programs** and **emergency / humanitarian response**





Celebrating 10,000 bridges in 2023

The Nepal Trail Bridge Sector:
Successful transition to a fully locally-led sector-wide approach

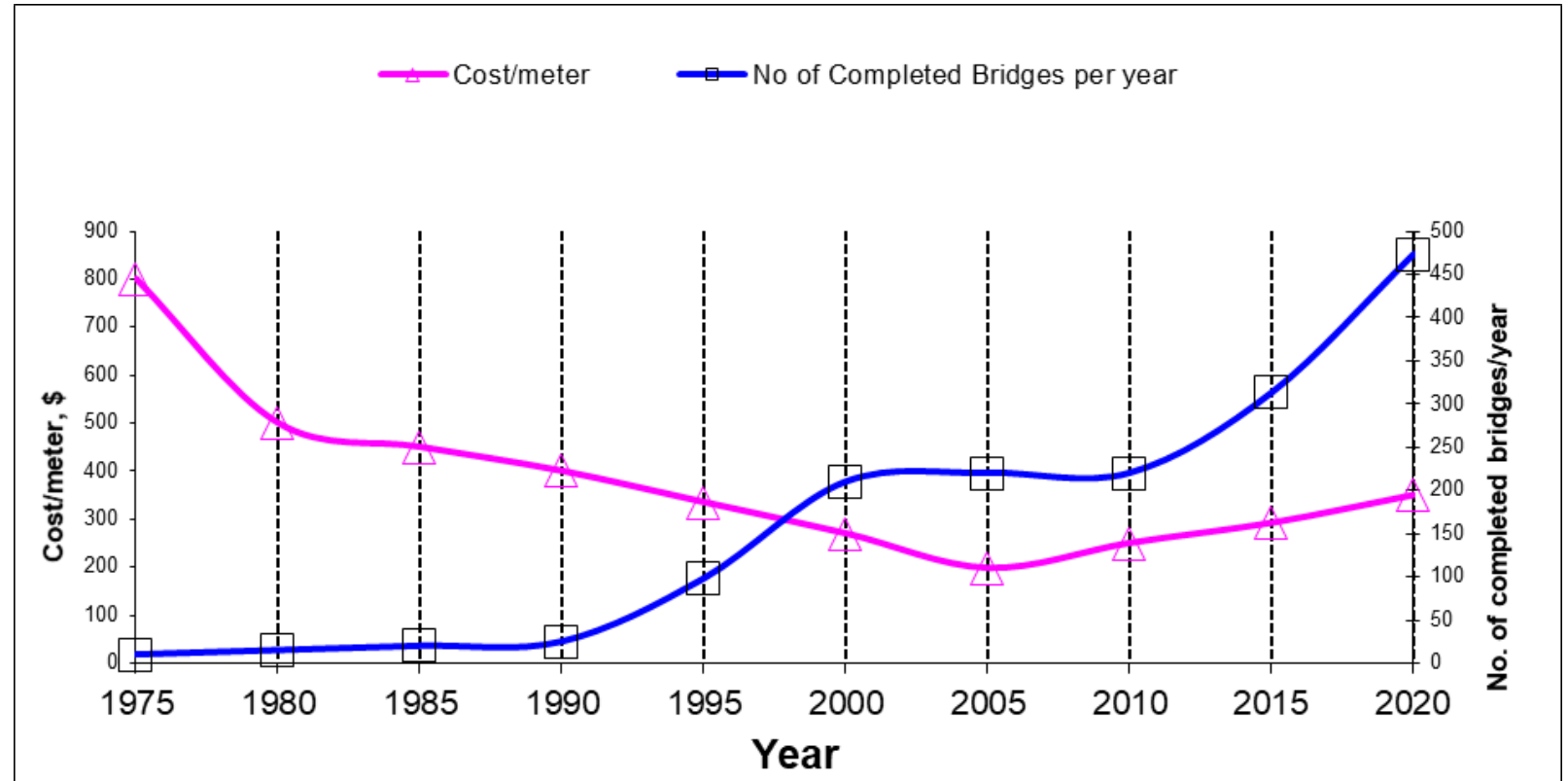


Nepal Trail Bridge sector

- 10,000 trail bridges (2023)
- Approx. 1 million people use a trail bridge each day

Impact

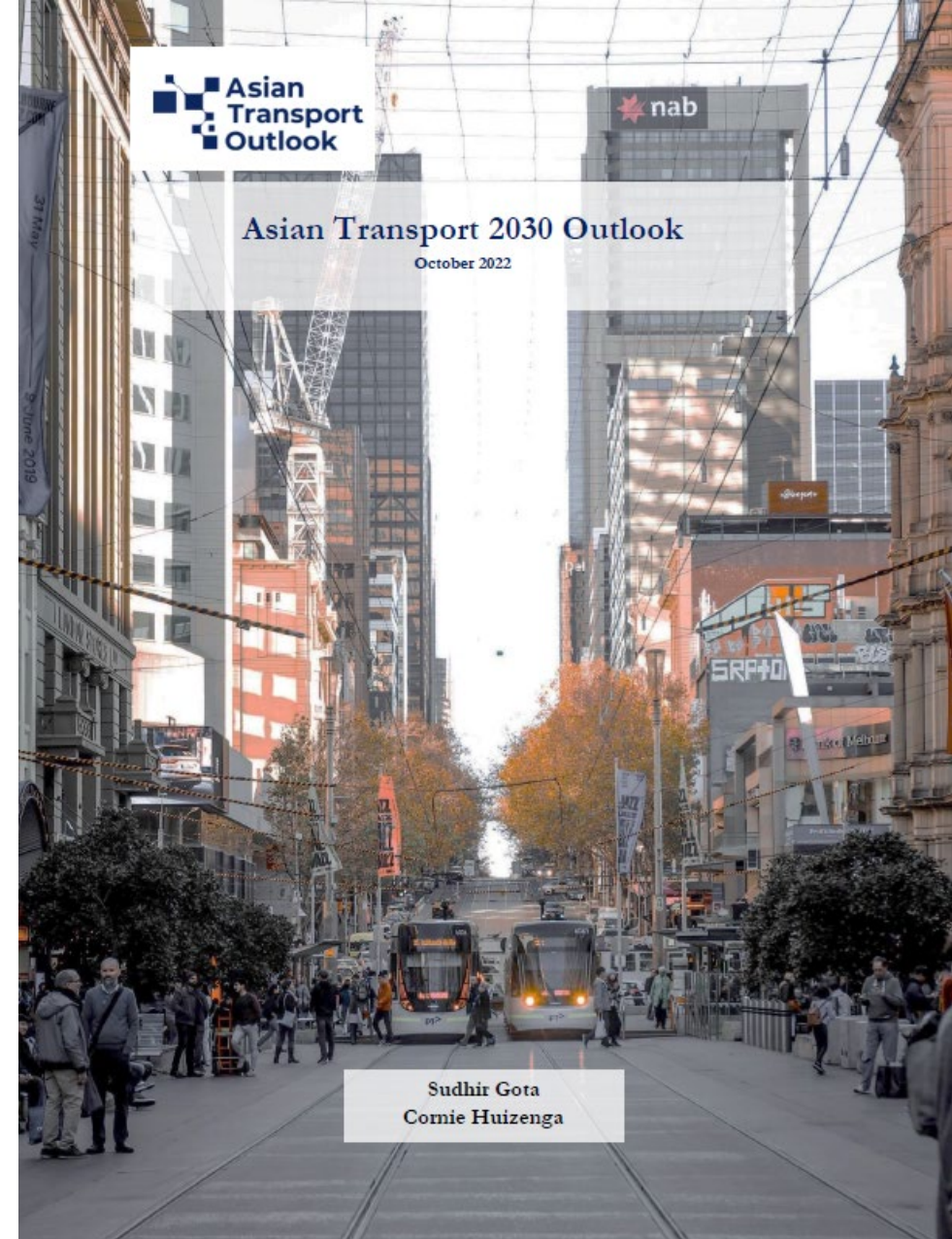
- Time saved: 3 hours (2-way journey)
- Increase in school attendance: 20%
- Increase in health center frequentation: 30%
- Nucleus of local governance



Helvetas is dedicated to share the Nepal Trail Bridge experience with other interested countries through its South-South Cooperation Unit

Rural access situation in Asia and Pacific

- In 2019, close to 75% of the rural population in Asia and Pacific lived close to 2 km from an all-season road
- Rural access varies significantly, from 23% to above 90%
- By 2030 the rural access index could increase from 75% to 76% by 2030 (very minor improvements)
- By 2030, close to 515 million rural inhabitants projected to be still without rural access in the Asia and Pacific region
- The region will not achieve universal access to all-season roads by 2030
- This confirms the need for targeted rural road investments to improve rural accessibility



Reflections on HOW to improve rural access (consultation of rural transport stakeholders)

- Focus on the most remote and those who need it most
- Stronger focus on first mile access, basic access and motorcycle trails (rather than feeder roads and high-quality infrastructure)
- Invest in systems rather than individual projects (e.g. combine investments in transport and agriculture)
- Create employment and income opportunities by building on labor-based infrastructure construction and promoting women participation
- Ensure it is demand-driven; decentralization of power; stronger voice for the communities



A call for cooperation and action!

If you also feel concerned for the millions of people trapped in poverty due to rural isolation and are interested to join hands to pursue the reflection on how to accelerate progress in rural accessibility, please contact us!

agnes.montangero@helvetas.org





**THANK
YOU!**