

**NGO:****Dolpo Tulku Charitable Foundation Nepal (DTCF )**

The NGO “Dolpo Tulku Charitable Foundation (DTCF)” exists since 2007. DTCF realizes projects in three areas: preservation of environment and culture, health care, education. Projects are proposed by the local population, thus the projects reflect the population’s needs. DTCF is financed by donations.

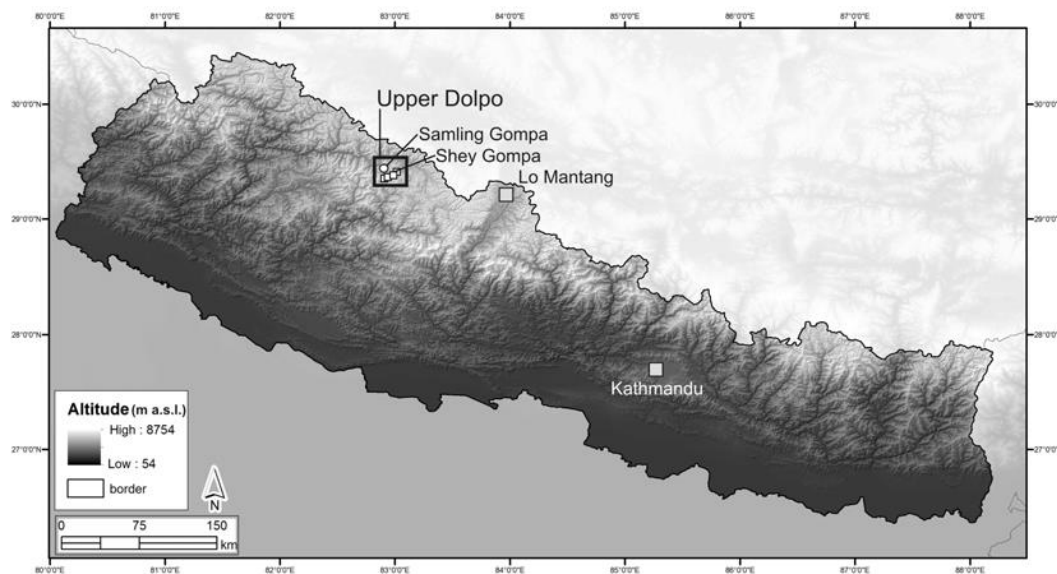
Dolpo (in the district Dolpa) is a high-altitude (2,300 to 4,300 meters) and secluded region in north-west Nepal. There is hardly any electricity or water. According to the information on the website [dolpotulku.org](http://dolpotulku.org), more than 90 per cent of the population live below the poverty level. Additionally, the level of education is very low. Most of Dolpo’s inhabitants (ca. 10,000) live from agriculture. The hard agricultural work leads to certain diseases.

As there is no hospital in Dolpo, patients need to go to Kathmandu to get medication. DTCF tries to improve the local situation by dispatching medical professionals to Dolpo.

Thus, DTCF could be considered as a NGO that combats push-factors by improving the local situation.

Source for information about DTCF: <https://www.dolpotulku.org/de/projekte/gesundheit/> (03.11.2019)

Source for information about the region: <https://www.dolpotulku.org/de/dolpo-tulku/region-dolpo/> (03.11.2019)

**Map of Nepal:**

Source: [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Nepal-with-sample-area-Upper-Dolpo-and-sites-of-historic-wood-collection-squares\\_fig3\\_291426288](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Nepal-with-sample-area-Upper-Dolpo-and-sites-of-historic-wood-collection-squares_fig3_291426288) (03.11.2019)

## Interview with Dr. med. Ulrich Pierow about his experiences of working for DTCF

**1. Can you shortly describe what you do?**

My current occupation is working as a General Practitioner at Lehrte Regional Hospital.

**2. Why do you engage socially? And why in this NGO?**

Being a “trained surgeon” my lifelong dream was working abroad. In 2009 I completed my Diploma in Tropical Medicine at Bernhard-Nocht-Institute Hamburg. Consequently, I started going abroad to use my qualification.

In 2015 I chose to work with DTCF (Dolpo Tulku Charitable Foundation) in Nepal.

**3. What does working for “DTCF” mean to you?**

My temporary engagement with DTCF gave the opportunity to contribute to a long scheduled program within already pre-existing structures.

**4. Do you think that this NGO is well organized?**

Unfortunately, like many NGOs in Nepal, DTCF was poorly financed. The program is well structured and efficient but lack of resources is a limitation to sustainable results of treatment.

**5. What methods do you depict as successful?**

You have to differentiate between well-structured large NGOs (with the size of big companies like MSF= Médecins Sans Frontières = Ärzte ohne Grenzen) and the uncountable number of rather small, locally acting NGOs. Being a regional NGO proves advantageous to secure involvement of local personnel. This in turn gives you the best approach and acceptance in the population.

**6. What did you already achieve? What were your experiences?**

My personal gain was primarily to apply my knowledge in continuing a large vaccination program mainly against hepatitis B, secondly cutting unnecessary expenses by advising which health procedures to use and which to omit.

**7. (How) does “DTCF” improve the local situation?**

DTCF is definitely improving the living conditions of a neglected ethnic minority of people living up in the Himalayan Mountains at altitudes of around 3500 to 4000 meters.

**8. Is there anything where you would wish for more support?**

Working in NGOs you very soon realize despite all your efforts you only soothe the damages done by politicians. My sincerest wish is getting more awareness of how disastrous present politics are at the fare end.

**9. How would you describe the cooperation with the local authorities (politicians)?**

Local politicians tend to abstain at NGOs activities as NGOs quite often engage in compensatory work for those who are not in focus. In Nepal we were lucky to be offered workspace within a large local hospital (which in return gave the hospital a further source of revenue).



**10. How do you get informed about local need of help in specific regions?**

The specific situation in Nepal is characterized by a strong competition to obtain donations (there are several thousand small and very small NGOs in Nepal). So the better local groups get their call for help out to the public the more likely it is to get a larger piece of the cake. Much of the information is through a personal channel at meetings with other NGOs.

**11. How would you rate the risk of working in a hazardous region?**

I was lucky to get out of Nepal only two month before the huge earthquake destroyed many parts of the country, a threat of nature the locals live with since generations. Politically we did not get between the lines of struggle.

**12. Who is qualified to volunteer for "DTCF"?**

To work in NGOs one thing you should not aim at is to merely have the urge to help. NGOs require professionals, as unemotional that might sound, it is a job. NGOs need fairly well paid professionals to secure the structure, the vast number of volunteers is often smiled at by well organized, and thus effective NGOs (like MSF).