

2021

Annual Report



Empowering Marginalised Communities

स्वयंसेवी अभियान नेपाल
Volunteers Initiative Nepal

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BHUPENDRA GHIMIRE

Namaste!



We are delighted to share with you our achievements in 2021. The year brought significant challenges to our organization due to the pandemic and the continued closures. Despite the challenging pandemic situation, we continued our community empowerment projects.

In the field of child development, we started the construction works of the Narayansthan Secondary School's library with the help of the Tomorrow Foundation. The library provides extracurricular programs for approximately 100-120 children aged 4 to 17. With the support of Partners in Sustainable Learning, 26 Early Childhood Development Centers were renovated or refurbished in Taluwa, Thulachhap, and Bhadaure communities in Okhaldhunga, and we started the construction of the Dumbre ECD.

To empower youth in our communities, we provided 3 Months long Basic Computer Skills Training for 111 and regular English Learning Classes for 25 young people in the Okhaldhunga district.

To contribute to healthy communities and develop resilience, we continued our training activities with the involvement of 470 people. With the support of our volunteers, 237 people from Okhaldhunga took part in a medical care campaign.

Our women empowerment activities reached 675 women with workshops and training activities in 2021. The training focused on advanced handcrafting, computer skills, and entrepreneurship.

In the field of environmental conservation, we run a pilot project (Sustainable Livelihood & Food Production (SLFP), during which 20 Dalit families (106 family members) of Taluwa and Thaluchhap community of Siddhicharan Municipality, Okhaldhunga got support to build water collection chambers close to their houses where they can store 4000 liters water from multiple sources. The families who have been involved in the program took part in a five days long kitchen garden training following permaculture techniques. We provided beekeeping training and bee hives with equipment to make 20 Dalit honey entrepreneurs.

We strengthened our local corporations and organized a strategic planning workshop to develop a five years strategic plan with the municipalities and other stakeholders in Okhaldhunga. We worked with 11 local and 7 international volunteers in 2021.

We want to thank our dedicated staff who delivered projects in different communities. Also, we would like to thank our national and international volunteers who have supported our organization with their skills and knowledge. We want to thank our partners who put their tremendous efforts into carrying out research and providing hands-on support to the organization and our beneficiaries. We are indebted to our beneficiaries and local stakeholders. Lastly, we are very thankful and offer our sincere gratitude to the national and international donors and partners without whom we could not accomplish our programs. We look forward to working with you again and firmly believe that together we can reach more marginalized Nepalese in the future.

Thank you all - and please know that your support makes a difference.

Bhupendra Ghimire
The President Volunteers Initiative Nepal

THE COUNTRY CONTEXT

79% of the population lives in rural areas.

There is only one doctor for every 150,000 people in the rural areas, while in Kathmandu valley, there is one doctor for every 850 people.

38.4% of women got married before the age of 18, 7% before the age of 15.

40% of women are illiterate.

10% of the population still practices open defecation, despite the government declaring Nepal an open defecation-free country in 2019.

The youth unemployment rate is 19.2%, and 5 million Nepali youth live or study abroad.

By the end of 2021, 15% of private housing and 46% of cultural monuments haven't completed the reconstruction of the 2015 earthquake aftermath.

*Data based on the annual reports of Human Rights Watch (2021), Gender Gap Index Report (2021), World Bank/Who/Unicef (2020), UNFPA (2019), USDepartment of State (2021), Government of Nepal, National Reconstruction Agency, Rebuilding Nepal, December 2021

78.99%

Living in rural areas




2,729

Children
trafficked

 **38.4%**

Get married
before the age of
18, 7% before 15



19.2%

Youth 18-29
unemployed



Doctor for every
150.000 people in
rural areas



40%

Of women
are illiterate

1500



Young people
migrate internationally
every day

10%

Practice open
defecation



46%



Of cultural
monuments and 15% of
private houses are
under construction

WHO WE ARE?



Our story

Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN), established in 2005 by a diverse group drawn from development workers, educators, social activists, and other professionals, is a non-religious, non-political, non-for-profit, and non-governmental organization (NGO). VIN has been officially registered under the Society Act with the District Administration Office, Kathmandu (Reg. No. 147/062/63), and affiliated with the Social Welfare Council Nepal (SWC) (Affiliation No. 20910). VIN focuses on community-based projects involving local volunteers backed up by international volunteers in Nepal.

Our identity

Volunteers Initiative Nepal is a non-religious, non-political, non-governmental, and non-profit organization (NGO) with the primary purpose of supporting the development of marginalized people living in rural areas of Nepal.

Our vision for change

We aim to promote a peaceful, prosperous and equitable society where everybody has access to quality education and health, safe natural environment, basic infrastructures, and financial and economic sustainability.

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower marginalized communities through equitable, inclusive, and holistic/integrated development programs. We aim to enhance the livelihoods of poor and disadvantaged people, with a primary focus on vulnerable women and children living in rural areas of Nepal. To achieve this mission, we deliver community-based programs involving local and international volunteers.

Our Values

We are inclusive. Diversity empowers communities and deserves to be promoted and defended at all levels.

We believe that volunteering, solidarity and gratitude can make the world a better place.

Being strike for mutual cooperation and exchange of knowledge and skills.

We are accountable. Accountability and transparency are central to our actions and use of resources.

We focus on balancing and equalizing the opportunities of the most vulnerable people.

We are impartial-we serve marginalized and disadvantaged people solely based on need and without regard for their cultural, political, and social identity.

We believe in equality- everybody has the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

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WHERE DO WE WORK?

Since 2006, we have been working in disadvantaged rural areas of Nepal with a focus on community empowerment. VIN has mainly been working at Taluwa, Thulachhap, Narayansthan, and Bhadaure of Okhaldhunga; Tarekeshor municipality of Kathmandu and Kakani Municipality of Nuwakot.

200
schools

KATHMANDU DISTRICT

Tarekeshwor Municipality -
Kavresthali, Jitpurphedi, Goldhunga

NUWAKOT DISTRICT

Kakani Municipality

OKHALDHUNGA DISTRICT

Siddhicharan Municipality - Taluwa,
Thulachhap, Narayansthan & Chisankhu
Gadi Rural Municipality - Bhadaure

36,000
beneficiaries

15
monasteries

We also work in monasteries and nunneries within Kathmandu district around the areas of Boudhanath and Swambhunath stupas, and in Gokarneshwor and Nagarjun municipalities.

According to the new Constitution (2015), Nepal is divided into 7 provinces, 77 administrative districts, six metropolitan cities, and 11 sub-metropolitan cities, 276 municipalities (Nagar Palika), and 460 rural municipalities (gaon Palika). Cities and municipalities are divided into wards: the ward is Nepal's most minor administrative division. The total number of wards is 6684.

WHAT DO WE DO?



Women's empowerment

The Women's Empowerment Program is essential for the social and economic development of our organization's working areas. We have worked with and for the women of most marginalized communities to improve their quality of life and uplift their social and economic status through income generation activities, formal and informal education, and social awareness workshops.

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Children's development

The primary goal of the Children's Development Program is to enhance the holistic development (physical, cognitive, social, and psychological) of children aged 3 to 15 and to support the primary education of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It aims to promote children's rights of 6 to 15 years old through access to education and school- or community-based Children's Clubs.

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Youth empowerment

The Youth Empowerment Program aims to empower socially and economically youth aged 16 to 30 using educational, life skills, and entrepreneurship development projects and to involve them in community development initiatives through Youth Clubs' formation.

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Public health and medical care

The Public Health and Medical Care Program addresses rural communities' medical and health education needs. Our organization has been working with the Public Health Posts - to improve health indicators in the local context through public health initiatives, disease treatment and prevention, and research.

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Disaster response and relief

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program aims to minimize the risk of natural disasters and provide relief and safety to vulnerable communities. Since the devastating earthquake of 2015, we have been mobilizing volunteers and providing financial support and materials for reconstructing the houses, schools, community centers, libraries at our various project locations.

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Environment conservation

The Environment Conservation Program aims to conserve, promote and protect the natural environment and the indigenous knowledge and to prevent, abate and control water, land, and air pollution to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of this and future generations of Nepal.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

A new library in Okhldungha

The construction works of the Narayansthan Library at Narayansthan Secondary School, Asine, Okhaldhunga started in 2021. The facility, handed over in the spring of 2022, targets more than 500 children and young people with after-school and developmental activities.

WeTomorrow Foundation, Switzerland, has supported the project.



Sustainable Livelihood & Food Production

The project aims to ensure sustainable food production by installing a micro irrigation system with water resource management in Okhaldhunga. During the project's pilot phase, VIN supported the construction of 20 RCC water tanks for Dalit families and organized a five days long kitchen garden training after the completion of water tank construction for the participating families in March 2021. Daisy & George from Learning English with Laughter (LEL), Canada has supported the project.



Focus on women skills

To further support women's skills, self-esteem, and financial independence, VIN conducted a 10-day advanced handbag and scarf-making training for 29 young Dalit women of Taluwa and Thulachhap in Okhaldhunga. We involved 17 women in computer classes, We continued our entrepreneurship activities and the micro-credit system. We reached 675 women with our workshops and training activities in 2021.



Celebration of International Womens's day, NaraTike CLC, Okhalgungha

Plant distribution

As part of the **"Stop climate change"** campaign, VIN conducted a three days tree plantation program on 7th /8th /9th July 2021, where 2500 plants: 1,000 Chiuri, 350 Bay leaf (Tej Patta), 250 Mulberry (Kimbu), and 900 Badahawere got distributed among local people in Okhaldhunga District, in NTCLC for the areas of Bhadaure, Thulachhap, and Taluwa.



Computer and language skills trainings

We conducted regular computer and online English language classes for children of Grade 6 - 7 of Raktamala Basic School and Himalaya Secondary School Nisankhe and in NaraTika Community Learning Center in 2021. Thirty-two children have been participating in the language program, 24 in the computer classes—the programs run with the help of our volunteers & staff



Building a new ECD Center

As part of the reconstruction and sustainability project to help the victims of the 2015 earthquake, VIN has constructed 7 ECD centers in Okladhunga.

Besides the new facility, VIN renovated 26 ECDs in 2021. Over 239 children directly benefit from the program, which has been supported by Partners in Sustainable Learning (PiSL), USA.



VIN renovated 26 Early Childhood Development Centers in 2021

OUTPUT STATISTICS

The following table summarizes the outputs for each program included in the specific programs' reports.

Women's empowerment	
Women involved in micro-credit systems	1734
Participants of entrepreneurship trainings	20
Participants of workshops and classes	675
Classes delivered	65
Units of products (jewelry, bags, scarves)	470
Childrens development	
Participants of English classes	32
Participants of Computer classes	10
Children supported through sponsorship	48
Teachers participated in computer skills training	89
ECD'a equipped with learning materials	26
Youth empowerment	
Participants of English classes	25
Participants of Computer classes	111
Youth volunteers	11
Environment conservation	
Participants of kitchen garden training	20
Participants of permaculture training	27
Water tanks constructed	20
Trees planted	2500
Disaster reduction and relief	
Constructed library	1
Constructed Early Childhood Dev. Center	1
Constructed Toilet	1
Renovated Early Childhood Dev. Centers	26
Public health and medical care	
Partients visited health campaigns	237
Participants of workshops and trainings	470
Facemasks distributed	5000





WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The Women's Empowerment Program is essential for the social and economic development of our organization's working areas. We have worked with the women of the most marginalized communities to improve their quality of life and uplift their social and economic status through income generation activities, formal and informal education, and social awareness workshops.

BACKGROUND

Nepali women are born into a patriarchal society that considers Women's Rights secondary to men's. Married early, with little or no education, land rights, or independent income, women often remain voiceless in society. They are highly dependent on men for their welfare. They bear the continued weight of socio-cultural discrimination and violence against them.

PROGRAM'S OVERVIEW

The program aims to empower women socially and economically through education, life skills, and income generation initiatives. The program has been implemented for 15 years in Jitpurphedi, 12 years in Okhaldhunga, and four years in Kavresthali. During this time, we have worked with and for the most marginalized women to improve their quality of life and uplift their social and economic status through income generation activities, formal and informal education, and social awareness workshops.

This program aims at meeting three objectives, around which rotate the three main projects active in Jitpurphedi, Kavresthali, Taluwa, Thulachhap, and Bhadaure!

Ensure women's economic freedom

Through the establishment of a Micro Credit system. This system is run through cooperatives, registered and certified by the Nepal government. It provides saving opportunities and small loans to women who want to engage in business or start businesses. So far, three cooperatives sponsored by us are active on the territory: **Jitpurphedi Women Agriculture Co-operative Limited**, **Taluwa Women Multipurpose Cooperative Limited**, and **Saraswoti Women Agriculture Cooperative Limited**. There are over 2000 members in these cooperatives. Local women entirely run these cooperatives. The beneficiaries of this project are local women from 20 to 59 years old - most of them were married under legal age (20 years old). The cooperatives contribute to giving their members more control over their finances, thus uplifting their living standards and life possibilities. Besides, they promote cooperation among their members.

Develop women as entrepreneurs

through the Women Entrepreneurship Development project. The project includes agriculture and non-agriculture-related income-generation activities. The project enables women to become entrepreneurs, upgrade their living standards, and develop their communities. To meet the objective mentioned above and create a friendly marketing environment to start a business, we teach women to develop business plans, marketing strategies, product design, entrepreneurship workshops, vocational training, and motivational speeches.

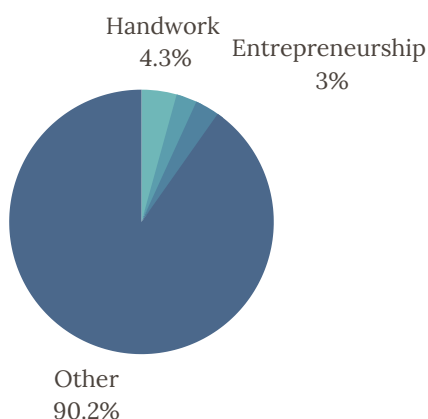
Educate women on their rights and empower them

Through the Education and Life Skills project. This project includes English, Math, and computer literacy classes, trafficking prevention, health and sanitation campaigns, and soft skills workshops. Workshops address helpful topics, such as awareness against domestic violence, self-identity and self-esteem, communication, leadership, and team building. Additionally, in the frame of this project, social events are organized for the women to get together, build stronger bonds, and improve their social skills. Overall, through the Education and Life Skills project, we aim to help women to adjust and adapt to the current environment and social changes and to make them aware of their active role in the community.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

VIN continued the already successful micro-credit system in collaboration with Saraswoti Women Agriculture Cooperative and Taluwa Women Multipurpose cooperative. **One thousand seven hundred thirty-four** women received microloans. **Six hundred seventy-five** women participated in our 65 different pieces of training and workshops; among them, we must mention our advanced-level sewing skills workshop, computer classes, and entrepreneurship training. A memorable event was the VIN 111th International Women's Day that we celebrated in coordination with Siddhicharan Municipality, Saraswoti Women Agriculture Cooperative, and Taluwa Women Multipurpose cooperative on 24 March 2021.

Training participation



Micro-credit



1734 women

RESULTS

Six hundred seventy-five women took part in our training activities in the fields of entrepreneurship (20), advanced handcrafting (29), and basic computer skills (17); besides the above mentioned, our training areas: health, hygiene and sanitation, kitchen garden, and permaculture, life skills, team management, and bookkeeping.

1734 women benefited from micro-credit loans in collaboration with cooperatives.

We celebrated the 111th women's day at NaraTika Community Learning Centre, Nisankhe, Okhaldhunga. with the title: "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world". The programme was organized in coordination with Siddhicharan Municipality, Taluwa Women's Cooperative, Taluwa and Saraswati Women's Multipurpose Cooperative, Thulachhap. ▼



Ambika Phuyal's journey to independence



When Ambika's husband suddenly passed away, she needed income quickly. Looking everywhere, she was ultimately encouraged by VIN to go to the Women's Business Centre in JitpurPhedi. At that quaint building nestled among the bustling sounds of local buses, she found many women like herself – all seeking independence for various reasons.

There, not only did she find community among the many bright young women committed to education, but also quickly developed concrete skills that enabled her to provide for her family. Ambika became an expert soap maker. Every morning, Ambika precisely mixes lye, oils, and sweet fragrances, creating several bottles of bright pink and purple soap. While the mixing process was nebulous at first for her, requiring careful and exacting measurements, her soaps quickly became popular at the schools and markets she sells them. Initially, she intended that the soaps would pay for her living expenses and keep her kids in school, but her business has confidently grown past this. Her sales generated an unexpected surplus of money that has done far more than secure her future; in fact, the company has been so successful that she can afford to begin building a second building (pictured) to expand her soap-making business – complete with a future soap making machine that will expedite the process and reduce her workload. With a bit of encouragement and knowledge, Ambika is well on the way to a secure future for herself and her children: and VIN is proud to call her an empowered woman.

Written by Luke Joufflas Interview translated by Nisha Phuyalt

CHALLENGES

Most of the challenges are mostly related to the COVID 19 pandemic, which caused uncertainty in the labor market and shifted women's work to agriculture. The situation made their participation more difficult in our training activities, due to extra workload around the households and agriculture.





CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

The primary goal of the Children's Development Program is to enhance the holistic development (physical, cognitive, social, and psychological) of children aged 3 to 15 and to support the primary education of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It aims then to promote children's rights of 6 to 15 years old through access to both teachings and school- or community-based Children's Clubs.



BACKGROUND

In Nepal, the education system mainly focuses on children obtaining good grades. Schools compete to get the highest number of passing students, which is why most prepare children for standardized tests, emphasizing numbers and literacy. The current trend in the country is that children are studying not to gain knowledge but to get a certificate. The effects are threefold: first, children do not get the opportunity to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills, which are crucial competencies to have when growing up; likewise, the fact that teachers do not encourage opinion sharing contributes to children's poor self-confidence and lack of satisfaction in the jobs they choose as adults; finally, as the Nepalese educational system is not conducive to creativity, children don't get many opportunities to socialize, exert their rights, and express themselves at an age that so easily molds them into the citizens they are becoming.

Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN) believes that the protection and promotion of children's rights and childhood development are vital to creating an empowered community. Early Childhood Education (ECE) is one of the successful projects under the Children's Development Program. VIN has been implementing this program not only in Okhaldhunga but also in Okharpauwa - Nuwakot, Jitpurphedi, and Kavresthali communities of Kathmandu.

Although all children develop at their own pace, they progress through a sequence of physical, cognitive, and emotional growth and change. Children who are nurtured and well cared for are more likely to develop their learning, language, and emotional and social skills.

PROGRAM'S OVERVIEW

The primary goal of the Children's Development Program is to enhance the holistic development (physical, cognitive, social, and psychological) of children aged 3 to 15 and to support the primary education of those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Our second goal is to promote children's rights of 6 to 15 years old through access to education and school- or community-based Children's Clubs.

To reach these goals, we run three main child-related projects:

Children's Club Project

This project aims to have all children aged 6 to 15 years exercise their fundamental rights through extracurricular activities, which teach them essential life skills and give them a platform to explore their talents and talk about child-related issues. Under this project, we are organizing summer and winter camps. Their objective is to involve children during their vacation to promote their innate talent and creativity for their overall physical, mental & socio-emotional development. Parents who are busy and cannot provide sufficient time for their children during vacation might send their children to such types of camps.

Early Childhood Development Project

The objective of the Early Childhood Development Education project is to increase access of 3 to 5 years old children to quality early education.

School Attendance Project

This project aims at increasing access of children aged 6 to 15 to quality education. Under this project, we run the following projects: teaching, teacher development, school infrastructure development, and sponsorship.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS IN 2021

Our main achievements in 2021 are related to the maintenance and development of our infrastructure/facilities. Among the highlights of the year, we have to mention the construction of the Narayansthan Library, funded by WeTomorrow Foundation, Switzerland, and the structure of the Dumbre Early Childhood Development Center, funded by Partners in Sustainable Learning (PiSL), USA.

With the support of Partners in Sustainable Learning (PiSL), the USA, 26 ECE Centers of Taluwa, Thulachhap, and Bhadaure community in Okhaldhunga got renovated or refurnished. The classrooms are equipped with comfortable flooring and carpets, decorated, and child-friendly. We provided teaching-learning materials. the ECD building of Karkala Devi is well plastered and painted. We constructed a toilet in Setidevi ECD in Bhadaure to ensure children's safety and sanitation.

We provided basic computer skills training for 24 and English language classes for 32 children. The number of teachers involved in computer skills training is 89.

We continued our sponsorship program, during which 48 children received support for their education.

CHALLENGES

- The pandemic brought severe challenges to the education sector, making it difficult for materials to supply and maintain COVID protocols during the program's implementation. COVID-19 has been an obstacle to the program's implementation. All schools were closed because of the lockdown.
- Transportation has been another challenge. We had to supply all materials from Kathmandu to the site, which is 250 km. It was challenging because of the distance and road. The centers are in different locations, and the transportation costs were higher than expected. The streets were blocked in some places. It caused further difficulties because we had to use an extra labor force.
- Following up on the program sites in Okhaldhunga from Kathmandu has been difficult.

Narayansthan Library



The library is built for Narayansthan Secondary School with the help of the Tomorrow Foundation. The children of the school, nearby students, and parents can use the resources in the library, but our priority is the students. Approximately 100-120 students are regular visitors of the library and its extracurricular programs from grades 1 to 10, ages 4 to 17. These students are very vulnerable because no facilities in the school that helps the students to develop their motoric, social, and soft skills. These children's reading, writing, and learning skills are very weak. Students often miss classes, and very few of them pass the final exams at the end of 10th grade. That is why this library is essential. It not only encourages students to read books but also conducts various kinds of training that would help children's learning process, which is crucial to support them through the public system.

Samita Rana Magar, a social worker at Narayansthan Library



In 2021 VIN started the construction works of one library and one ECD Center



48 children are involved in our sponsorship program



VIN renovated and refurbished 26 ECD's in 2021



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The Youth Empowerment Program aims to empower socially and economically youth aged 16 to 30 using educational, life skills, and entrepreneurship development projects and to involve them in community development initiatives through Youth Clubs' formation.

BACKGROUND

The Youth Empowerment Program aims to empower socially and economically youth aged 16 to 30 using educational, life skills, and entrepreneurship development projects and to involve them in community development initiatives.

The program includes a variety of projects having the following objectives:

- To educate youths on their rights and life skills through training workshops and campaigns.
- To develop youth-friendly societies through youth clubs, capacity development, and employment opportunities
- To ensure youth participation in community development activities.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

Basic Computer Skills Training: 111 youth from Okhaldhunga district have been trained in basic computer skills. This three-month basic computer class training covers a general introduction to computers, typing practice, operating systems, MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, e-mail, and the internet.

English Language Classes: 25 youth from Okhaldhunga district have been trained in language skills.

We had been working with 11 local volunteers in 2021.

A gateway to better opportunities

Every day at 1 PM, JitpurPhedi's Women's Business Centre erupts with boisterous laughter and excitement as computer class starts. Here, beginning skills range from "not so good" (Sneyha) to "I know how to turn the computer on"(Sitarani); yet, this doesn't stop the keen students from focusing their attention on their instructor for the week, Theo.



As Theo reads out trivia questions, the students dutifully record their answers on their Excel spreadsheet, later learning to organize them and use them in programs.

For these students, class is more than just a resume builder – it is a gateway to many better opportunities. Manita says, "if you want an office job, you need experience and skills." Getting these higher paying and more desirable jobs often requires a class barrier – such as private school – or the necessary training is entirely unavailable in their city. This is why these students have been so eager to take the opportunity.

Equally importantly, this information trickles down throughout their families. 2/3rds of the young women planned to teach their younger siblings the skills they had learned, resulting in an entire generation with more competent skills for the workforce. This ensures more equitable and secure futures for the women involved in this program and increases generational wealth and opportunities for all of their families.



5000

Face masks



470

People
trained



237

Patients

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

The Public Health and Medical Care Program is designed to address rural communities' health and health education needs. Our organization has been working with community health centers to improve health indicators in the local context. The goal of our program is to promote healthy communities.

BACKGROUND

In Nepal, the health indicators are still alarming. Under-five mortality is 32‰, 27% of children under five are malnourished, and maternal mortality is 258 per 100,000 live birth (Nepal Demographic Health Survey 2016). Access to proper health and sanitation facilities is often minimal, and awareness of correct hygiene practices is low. About 19% of the population is deprived of sanitation facilities, whereas 17% do not have access to clean drinking water in the communities (Millennium Development Goals, Final Status Report 2010-2015). As regards health facilities in Nepal, remoteness and poverty are linked. Medical care is urban-focused. The doctor-to-population ratio for the whole country is 1:1724. Like most developing nations, doctors are geographically maldistributed in Nepal. The Kathmandu valley has one doctor for 850 people, but in rural areas, there is one doctor for every 150,000 people (The Janaki Medical College Journal of Medical Sciences, 2017). Ensuring access to health care and public health initiatives are significant challenges in developing nations like Nepal. The leading institutions that delivered essential health services in 2017-18 were the 125 public hospitals, including other ministries, the 1,822 non-public health facilities, the 198 primary health care centers, and the 3,808 health posts (Annual Report Department of Health Services 2074/75).

PROGRAM'S OVERVIEW

Public Health and Medical Care Program aims to promote healthy communities. The Public Health and Medical Care Program addresses community health and health education needs. Our organization has been working with community health centers to improve health indicators in the local context. The program has two components: the Public Health Initiative and the Medical Care Initiative. The first aims to prevent disease and prolong life through a healthy lifestyle and promoting health, while the second aims to control and treat diseases. Each component has various projects (see the table below).

Public Health Initiative

It focuses on health, hygiene, and sanitation education, promotion of hand washing and toilet use, support for building hygienic toilets and trash collecting bins, organizing health clinics and outreach camps, conducting school health and community campaigns for a healthy lifestyle, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, provision of quality health services to senior citizens, physically and mentally impaired people, single women, and ensuring safe drinking water and institutional delivery. The initiative includes specific projects: health hygiene and sanitation education, school health education, first aid training, and health research.

Medical Care Initiative

It is an integrated program to prevent disease, improve life expectancy, treat conditions, and promote human health through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals. Ultimately, it aims to improve the quality of life through the prevention and treatment of disease, including mental health. This is done by monitoring cases and health indicators and promoting healthy behaviors.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

Research on Dalit communities in Okhaldungha.

We conducted the survey research of each Dalit family of Siddhicharan Municipality wards 1 and 2 (Taluwa and Thulachhap) community to identify their socio-economic status under Dalit Entrepreneurship Project. It was done by family survey and observation. The total households of Dalits in those two communities are 277, with 1306 population. The Dalit communities in (Taluwa and Thulachhap) are deprived of basic needs such as education, skills, health, and employment. A large number of the population is under the poverty line. Most Dalits work as laborers on construction sites, and some still follow their traditional professions of sewing and knitting, metalwork, and leather.

During our health training, 470 people got general public health training.

With the support of our volunteers, 237 people from Okhaldungha took part in a medical care campaign.

We continued our yoga sessions with the facilitation of a volunteer.





26
ECD's
renovated



1
Library



1
Sanitary
unit



1
ECD

DISASTER RESPONSE AND RELIEF

The Disaster Risk Reduction Program aims to minimize the risk of natural disasters and provide relief and safety to vulnerable communities. Since the devastating earthquake of 2015, we have been mobilizing volunteers and offered financial support and materials for the reconstruction of the houses at our various project locations.

BACKGROUND

The devastating earthquake of the 25th of April 2015 resulted in over 8,500 deaths and left thousands of people injured. Over 600,000 houses were destroyed. The places we worked - Kavresthali, Jitpurphedi, Okharpauwa, Bhadaure, Taluwa, and Thulachhap - were severely affected. According to the data collected by our organization after the earthquake, in Jitpurphedi, 900 households and six schools were affected, while nine people were killed and 15 were injured. In Okharpauwa, 1,500 houses and eight schools were damaged, ten people died, and more than 15 were wounded. Likewise, in Bhadaure, Taluwa, and Thulachhap, 553 homes and six schools were destroyed. There were no cases of casualties, and a few people were injured. In response, we initiated the Disaster Relief and Recovery Project to support the earthquake victims and provide emergency support. This later developed into the Disaster Risk Reduction Program with three project phases: Rapid rescue and Response, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, and Sustainability. We are now focused on implementing the third project phase, Reconstruction and Sustainability since 2017.

PROGRAM'S OVERVIEW

This program aims to minimize the risk of natural disasters and provide relief and safety to vulnerable communities. We have mobilized volunteers to reconstruct earthquake-hit houses at various project locations. In addition, we provide financial support and materials per the family's needs.

The objectives of this program are as follows:

- Educate Communities on Disaster Risk Reduction, Response, Mitigation, and Preparedness
- Promote and ensure disaster-resilient infrastructure
- Develop skills and involve affected people in entrepreneurship

We prioritized as beneficiaries the families with the following characteristics: financially in need, presence of a person with a disability, single woman, widow-headed, and lack of regular income. The following steps have been taken before starting the house reconstruction:

- Coordinate with the local government to get the list of families that meet our selection criteria.
- Survey every family from the list to identify their situation.
- Collect the required documents such as victim card, citizenship, land certificate, house design, application, and recommendation letter from the local government from the victim families.
- Conduct a meeting with the family to set a plan and determine the involvement of both our organization and the family in the project.





2500
Trees

20
Water tanks

47
Trainees

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

The Environment and Conservation Program aims to conserve, promote and protect the natural environment and the indigenous knowledge and to prevent, abate, and control water, land, and air pollution to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of this and future generations of Nepal.

PROGRAM'S OVERVIEW

The Environment and Conservation Program aims to conserve, promote and protect the natural environment and the local cultures, and to prevent, abate and control water, land, and air pollution to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of this and future generations of Nepal.

The program has the following objectives:

- Identify common environmental problems and climate change-associated factors
- Prevent and control water, land, and air pollution and develop best practices for environment conservation, protection, and promotion
- Educate on the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage sites.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

Within the framework of the sustainable food production among Dalits by managing local water resources for micro irrigation and kitchen garden development pilot project (Sustainable Livelihood & Food Production (SLFP) Project, 20 Dalit families (106 family members) of Taluwa and Thaluchhap community of Siddhicharan Municipality, Okhaldhunga got support to build water collection chambers close to their houses where they can store 4000 liters water from multiple sources. The families who have been involved in the program took part in a five days long kitchen garden training following permaculture techniques. The training was focused on soil quality improvement, seed germination, manure making, seasonal and off seasonal nursery bed preparation, methods to prepare natural pesticides at home, drip irrigation system, water resource management, water collection and techniques of optimum use of water, etc. Learning English supported the project with Laughter (LEL), Canada.

Permaculture training: 27 farmers have been trained on different techniques of farming. They have been trained on insecticides and pesticides, organic insecticides and pesticides techniques, interrelationship web of life, types of seeds, growing of microorganisms, composting, and use of human manure as a fertilizer.

Tree plant distribution: Vin conducted a three days tree plantation program on the 7th /8th /9th of July, where 2500 plants were distributed to the local people and women's group at Okhaldhunga District, in NTCLC for Bhadaure, Thulachhap, and Taluwa. We spread 1,000 Chiuri, 350 Bay leaves (Tej Patta), 250 Mulberry (Kimbu), and 900 Badahar plants

Bee keeping training and hive distribution:

A professional bee-keeping workshop was conducted for Dalit community of Siddhicharan Municipality ward 1 and 2 in Okhaldhunga. The five days' workshop focused on rendering specific skill sets to the participants with the aim of making them a professional bee-keeper. The goal of the workshop was to promote entrepreneurship among the marginalized communities in Okhaldhunga. The targeted 20 families were also provided bee with hive on the last day of the training.



CHALLENGES

During the micro-irrigation pilot project, it was challenging for us to select 20 households for water tank construction from 300+ families. Almost all families showed interest in constructing the water tank and were directly involved in the project.

Initially, we planned to construct the tank with 3000 liters of water, but later we decided to build the tank with 4000 liters capacity because of the need of the community y. We had to change some designs and add more materials than the estimation.

Transportation has been another challenge in the community to supply the materials. The families are not in the exact location and are scattered. This made the cost high and was more than our expectation n. The roads were blocked in some places. Some families were far from the road connecting. It made our difficulties, as we had to carry materials from a distance using the labor force.

COVID-19 became another problem for the project implementation n. It was sometimes hard as some places were under lockdown and block d. It made it difficult for materials to supply and maintain COVID protocols.

It is not easy to change the mindset of the people. In the case of Dalits, it is even hard to convince them and get involved in the projet. They are used to in their traditional way

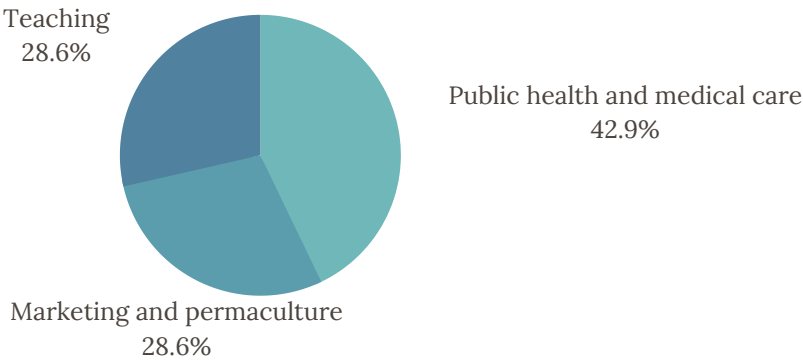


INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING



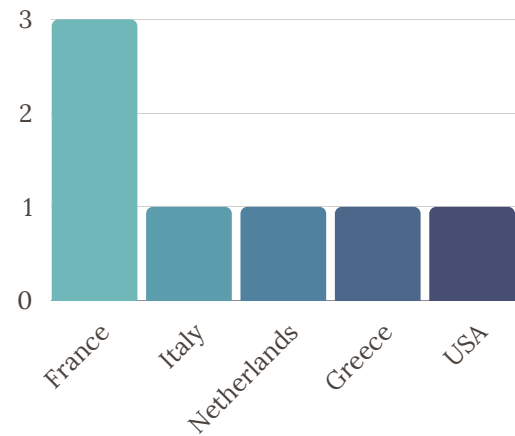
VIN hosted 7 (1 male, six female) international volunteers in 2021 for 12 days to 5 weeks.

Areas of volunteering



3 volunteers worked on projects related to public health and medical care, 2 volunteers in educational projects (one in a buddhist monastery, one in a work camp). We had 2 volunteers involved in marketing and permaculture projects. Our partner organizations in 2021 were: Conservation Volunteers, Greece Joint Association, France

Where did our volunteers come from?



Futher Actions

Clothes distribution for senior citizens in Okhaldungha



On 10th July, President Bhupendra Ghimire conducted a felicitation/honored program for senior citizens where clothes were distributed among 37 males and females.

The purpose of this program was to honor the senior citizens for not leaving the land of Okhaldhunga.

For Males, we provided: Dhaka Topi, Daura Suruwal, a Coat, and a pair of socks and shoes.

For Females: the set of Cholo and sari (red sari for married women and green /blue sari for widow), pair of socks and shoes, and shawl.

Recognition of VIN's work in Siddhicharan Municipality

In the felicitation program held in July 2021, the representatives of three different sectors were called for an award. From the Social Service Sector, President Bhupendra Ghimire was invited to represent the VIN, who worked for more than 15 years in the community.

This program was conducted under the chief guest of Siddhicharan Municipality Mayor Shree Mohan Kumar Shrestha. As a guest Executive Officer Prabin Kumar Koirala, Health Officer Pawan Kumar lama, Ward member, and VIN representatives were invited. In the end, all the work and activities the VIN has done were recognized and appreciated with Khada, certificates, and cash. The facilitation was delivered by Ward general secretary Anju Katwal.



Child Sponsorship Material Distribution

Under the proper precaution of Covid-19, This program was organized in the NaraTika Community Learning Center (NTCLC). On the 16th of July, in the presence of Ward No. 1 Chairperson Kedar Basnet, VIN distributed stationery materials, sports materials, and school uniforms to the sponsored children. There were 28 sponsored children in that program.

PLANS FOR 2022

DALIT – SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION (MICRO- IRRIGATION PROJECT)

Target population – 304 Dalit households in Taluwa, Thulachap, and Bhadaure of Okhaldhunga

This project ensures sustainable food production among Dalits by managing local water resources for micro irrigation projects. The project will support regular nutrition supply and increase the socio-economic status of Dalits in Okhaldhunga.

This project supports Dalits:

- To make a water collection chamber close to their houses where they can store water from multiple sources;
- Train farmers for the optimum use of water;
- Train techniques of the micro irrigation system;
- Establish a base for socio entrepreneurship and micro enterprises.

The project ensures water availability throughout the year and supports farmers growing vegetables. In addition, the project is linked up with permaculture and agroforestry projects to ensure sustainable food production. Our strategy to implement this project is in three phases over five years. In the first phase of one year, we did a pilot project with 20 beneficiaries. We will extend the project to 285 other beneficiaries yearly in the second three years. In the last or third phase, we will focus on follow-up, monitoring evaluation, and strengthening local groups' capacity for the project's sustainability. In this project, we constructed a reinforced RCC water storage tank of 4000 liters for micro irrigation. The tank is filled with water from different sources such as pond, river, stream, springs, and community tap that is available nearby. Also, there will be a rainwater harvesting system in place. In some drought areas, they can collect only rainwater. The storage tank's outlet is connected to a pipeline system linked with drip irrigation or sprinkles for the micro irrigation to the kitchen garden or through a watering can. This will support farmers in growing vegetables in the kitchen garden throughout the year with a small quantity of water. The project will be implemented in multiple phases with tracking of progress.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

We plan to orient the group about the importance of groups, and their responsibility, orient soft skills for their capacity build up, connect them through cooperatives, build up the capacity of cooperative staff, and conduct entrepreneurship training in Okhaldhunga. In 2022, we will be helping to establish cooperatives in Bhadaure and unite women from Taluwa, Thulachap, and Bhadaure through cooperatives.

Support women to develop their Computer skills.



CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

We have a plan to form 20 child clubs in schools at Okhaldhunga and reform clubs in Jitpurphedi. We will orient child club members about club management, child rights, and extracurricular activities. Children will be trained in computers and e-learning.

Conduct regular online English language development classes in NaraTika Community Learning Centre and Narayansthan Secondary School library Asine through International Volunteers.

Involve children to use the library regularly in the community.

Monitor and support ECD centers.

Organize training and workshops for the teachers and parents.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

We have a plan to do a youth need assessment. We will form youth clubs. We will orient youth about soft skills. We will support the youth to develop activities and collaborate on the plan with the local government. Train local youth for community development and involve them in development activities as a volunteer. We also plan to conduct regular computer and language classes for them.

DALIT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We will be supporting and mentoring beekeeping and handicraft production. Collaborate with local government for the entrepreneurship development project.

NARATIKA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

Promote the available services of NTCLC. Optimum utilization of the resource. Continue computer classes and e-learning. Continue library and children's center activities. Develop the plot as a vegetable teaching farm through permaculture technique.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

Regular support and education to community people. Support and awareness campaign on health, hygiene and sanitation.



ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Support and train farmers in kitchen gardens through permaculture techniques.
Follow up and new plantation in the community.
Encourage people to do organic farming and organize training on it.
Support and encouragement on agroforestry.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Preparedness training on disaster risk reduction in the community.
Coordinate with the like-minded organization for it.

VOLUNTEERING



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021

BALANCE

	CURRENCY (NRP)
TOTAL INCOME	11,576,710.21
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	11,721,666.68

The financial statement 2021 is based on the Nepalese fiscal year that follows the Nepali calendar going from the financial year from 1st Shrawan 2077 to 31st Ashadh 2078 (16th July 2020 to 15th July 2021).

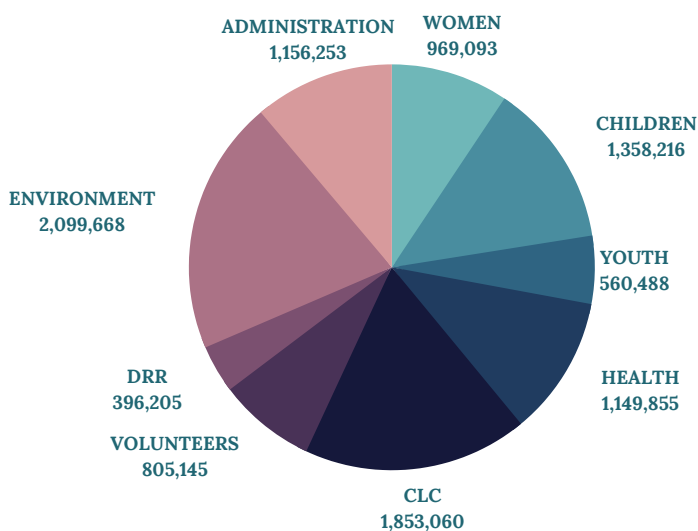
INCOME SOURCES

	AMOUNT (NRP)
EXTERNAL SOURCE	6,494,073.46
INTERNAL SOURCES	5,082,636.75
TOTAL	11,576,710.21

A total of 6,494,073.46 NRP was raised from the public in 2020-21 (fiscal Nepalese year) through donors, partner organizations, community fundraising and individual givings. At the same time, 5,082,636.75 NRP have been accumulated from internal sources

EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMS

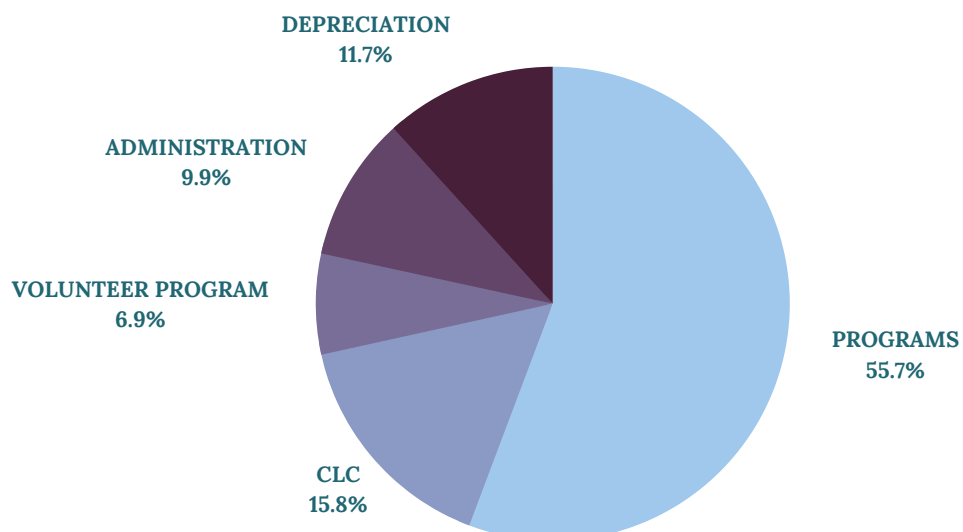
PROGRAM	AMOUNT (NRP)
WOMENS EMPOWERMENT	969,093
CHILDRENS DEVELOPMENT	1,358,216
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT	560,488
PUBLIC HEALTH, MEDICAL CARE	1,149,855
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER	1,853,060
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	805,145
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	396,205
ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION	2,099,668
ADMINISTRATION	1,156,253



EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

The major expenses in 2021 are related to our programs. In the 6 key areas of intervention, the total spending was 6,533,527.32 NRP. The Community Learning Center program's costs were: 1,853,060.50 NRP. The expenses of our volunteers programs were 805,145.1 NRP. The administrative cost was 1,156,253.09 NRP and we have to count with the depreciation in the value of 1,373,680.68 NRP.

	AMOUNT (NRP)
PROGRAMS	6,533,527.32
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER	1,853,060.50
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	805,145.1
ADMINISTRATION	1,156,253.09
DEPRECIATION	1,373,680.68
TOTAL	11,721,666.68



KEY PEOPLE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Board of Directors

Bhupendra Ghimire, Founder President

Shantiram Khatiwada, Vice President

Dinesh Khatiwada, Secretary General

Narayan Kaji Ghimire, Treasurer

Loknath Neupane, Member

Richa Ghimire, Member

Surendra Kumar Bogati, Member

Staff

Bhupendra Ghimire, Founder and President

Dinesh Khatiwada, Volunteer Manager

Titlana K.C., Communication Officer

Manita Basnet, Accountant

Uttar Kumar Shrestha, Program Officer

(Okhaldunga)

Sirjana Thapa Magar, Cooperative Manager

(Okhaldunga)

Sharmila Katwal, Cooperative Manager

(Okhaldunga)

Organization Registration Nr.

Charity Registration No: 147/062/63

Social Welfare Council Affiliation No:
20910

PAN No: 302408474

Registered address

NayaBazaar, Khusibu TownPlanning
Near Geetanjali School Kathmandu
44600, Nepal

Support Staff

Shantiram Khatiwada, Lawyer

Surendra Man Joshi, IT Consultant

Narayani Dongol, Office Assistant and Cook

Ramesh Shrestha, Gardener and caretaker

(Okhaldunga)

Auditors

M.K. & Associates

PAN No: 500096277

ICAN No: 26471 COP No 'B' 2267 120

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Kathmandu, Nepal

Correspondance address

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Metropolis – 16 Kathmandu, Nepal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our partners in 2021

Conservation Volunteers, Greece
Joint Association, France
Tarakeshwor Municipality Office, Ward No. 2 and 3 Offices
Siddhicharan Municipality Office, Ward No. 1 and 2 Offices
Chisankhugadi Rural Municipality Office, Ward No. 6
Office Kakani Rural Municipality Office, Ward No. 1 and 2
Offices Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office, Ward No. 16 Office

Our Donors in 2021

Friends of VIN, Netherlands
Friends of VIN, USA
Partners in Sustainable Learning (PiSL), USA
Learning English with Laughter, Canada
WeTomorrow, Switzerland





This annual report has been realized with the contribution of the EU Aid Volunteers sent by the international NGOs Mondo, and ADICE, to support our organization.

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Content: VIN

Photo Credits and cover: VIN

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