



AUSTRALIAN
HIMALAYAN
FOUNDATION

Working in partnership with the people of the Himalaya

STRATEGIC PLAN
2020–2025

Sustainable education, health and environmental projects

AHF Strategic Plan 2020–2025



Our mission 'why we exist'

To improve the quality of life of the people most in need in remote areas of the Himalaya.



Goal 3: Support climate change adaptation, improve environmental and wildlife conservation

We will:

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in selected communities of Nepal, Ladakh and Bhutan.
- Increase community awareness and capacity on climate change mitigation, ecosystem-based adaptation and impact reduction.
- Assist the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits essential for sustainable livelihoods and development.
- Australian operations: Reduce our carbon footprint and introduce further green office practices.



Goal 4: Preserve and promote Himalayan cultural traditions

We will:

- Provide education on Himalayan arts, languages and culture.
- Grow and promote support for Himalayan arts and culture.

Our vision 'what we will help to change'

We work in partnership with the people of the Himalaya to help the most disadvantaged meet their priority needs through integrated improvements in education, health and the environment.



Goal 1: Improve access to education and develop quality and inclusive education programs

We will:

- Ensure disadvantaged children in Bhutan and Nepal access early childhood education and complete primary and secondary education.
- Increase children's levels of learning achievements and literacy in Nepal and Bhutan and improve parental participation.
- Empower teachers with child-friendly and effective teaching strategies.
- Support disadvantaged youth to access technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
- Strengthen schools and education activities to be child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.
- Improve the quality of child-friendly education in the poorest districts of Nepal.



Goal 2: Ensure healthy lives and promote children's wellbeing

We will:

- Improve access to essential healthcare services and information, including sexual and reproductive healthcare services, in selected districts of Nepal.
- Improve maternal and child health.
- Develop health facilities and strengthen capacity of local health services.
- Support recruitment, training and retention of health workforce.
- Promote mental health and wellbeing.



Goal 5: Intensify our work to safeguard vulnerable groups and promote inclusion and gender equality

We will:

- Promote equitable access to education and health care for girls, children with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations.
- Take action to end discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- Strengthen women's leadership and participation in governance and decision making.
- Include and safeguard children, women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in projects, partner organisations and AHF.



Goal 6: Deepen partnerships and strengthen capacity of our development partners to implement best practice and sustainable development programs, and to respond to crises

We will:

- Strengthen partners' governance and management.
- Develop key partnerships with stakeholders in Australia and in the countries we work to support AHF operations, projects and partners.
- Support partners to ensure the sustainability of their operations.
- Strengthen partner capacity to respond to crises, including COVID.



Goal 7: Grow and deepen our supporter base and funding partnerships

We will:

- Secure new and diverse funding from government, university, private and corporate partnerships.
- Strengthen relationship management and donor care.
- Develop new channels and creative ways to generate income and embrace innovation.



Goal 8: Increase awareness and recognition of AHF and community engagement to generate revenue

We will:

- Increase volunteer support and pro-bono support.
- Enhance and raise our visibility and profile.
- Improve and increase storytelling, content and external communications, including media exposure.
- Develop more opportunities for our supporters and target markets (including with schools, adventure travellers and the Himalayan diaspora) to engage with our work.



Goal 9: Sustain our organisational capacity, strong financial management and accountability

We will:

- Develop clear objectives, strategies, policies, processes and reporting and review regularly.
- Work to implement rigorous compliance, accountability, and transparency standards to address risks and ensure strong management of our financial resources.
- Ensure we have an effective reserves strategy and resources to sustain the foundation's mission, including through crises.
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of our operations and programs, and apply learnings.
- Increase use of information and communication technology across all areas of our work.



Goal 10: Foster a strong team and workplace culture

We will:

- Ensure that AHF is an inclusive and safe organisation where every person is valued and respected.
- Ensure directors, staff and volunteers have the skills, competencies and clear roles to achieve our plans and develop their expertise.
- Build a strong, united and committed team that works collaboratively and effectively.

About us

Over the years, thousands of Australians have visited the Himalaya. For many it is an opportunity to trek beneath the world's highest peaks and to appreciate some of the world's most hospitable cultures. Yet the Himalaya is not just a vast adventure playground.

For the remote communities in Nepal, Bhutan and Northern India life is anything but easy. Access to basic health and education services is often out of reach and climate change poses a growing threat to Himalayan communities, livelihoods and the glaciers, which are a critical source of water for millions of people.

Since 2002, the Australian Himalayan Foundation has worked in partnership with local organisations to design and deliver cost-effective and practical programs that tackle these challenges and help remote Himalayan families to withstand serious challenges such as poverty, injustice and natural disasters.

We strive to ensure the long-term viability of sustainable health, education, conservation and climate adaptation programs across the Himalaya.

Our critical programs help to build resilience, capacity and opportunities for our development partners and the children, women and men we serve. We work hard to safeguard vulnerable groups and promote inclusion and gender equality in everything we do.

AHF is a registered Australian NGO with no political or religious affiliations.

AHF prioritises high standards of governance, public accountability, transparency and financial management. We are members of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), and signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. We are accredited with the Australian Government's Overseas Aid Program (DFAT). And we are an organisational member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia and code compliant.

Our work is made possible by our community of generous supporters, including the Australian Government, Corporate partners, Trusts and Foundations and thousands of families and individuals.

If you are interested in joining our AHF family or learning more, see our website, email info@ahf.org.au or contact the AHF office for more information.



AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION

2/105 Alexander Street, Crows Nest
PO Box 553, Crows Nest NSW 1585
Phone: +61 2 9438 1822 | ABN: 81 099 510 255
Email: info@australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au
www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au

How you can help

You can help make a difference in the Himalaya in many ways. Visit the AHF [website](http://www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au) for more information.

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