



AUSTRALIAN
HIMALAYAN
FOUNDATION

Working in partnership with the people of the Himalaya

ANNUAL REPORT
2019/2020

Sustainable education, health and environmental projects

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 local communities life is anything but easy – with access to basic health and education services often out of reach. In response to these needs, the Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF) was formed in 2002 and strives to ensure the long-term viability of sustainable health, education, conservation and climate adaptation programs across the Himalaya.

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.

Our cost-effective programs result in practical on-the-ground outcomes in some of the poorest, most under-resourced areas of the Himalaya across Nepal, Bhutan and Northern India. These programs also address human rights issues like gender equality and child rights in rural regions throughout the Himalaya, and they are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

AHF is a registered Australian NGO with no political or religious affiliations. We are members of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and have accreditation status with the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (DFAT).

ACFID

The AHF is a member of ACFID. We are a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, and are committed to adhering to its high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

DFAT

DFAT is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program.

DFAT's accreditation process provides both the federal government and the Australian public with confidence that where the Australian Government provides grants to Australian NGOs to implement aid and development programs, it is funding professional, well-managed, community-based organisations capable of delivering good development outcomes.

As an officially accredited aid agency, the AHF is required to demonstrate that all relevant financial and program policies and procedures are in place and adhered to when providing funds to our in-country partners.



Complaints

AHF has an open and transparent complaints policy that can be found at www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au. Complaints related to AHF activities or any other matter can be emailed to info@ahf.org.au or directed to Angela Ford (CEO) on 02 9438 1822 or email angela@ahf.org.au

Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints



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Our mission 'why we exist'

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

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.

See our
new AHF
Strategic Plan
2020–2025
on page 26

Delivering to plan

5 years of Himalayan highlights – our strategic achievements 2015–2020:

Since 2015, our superb donors, supporters and partners have donated a wonderful \$7 million – changing lives, transforming futures and creating generational hope.

- Following the devastating Nepali earthquakes in 2015, **we rebuilt 87 earthquake resistant classrooms** – and a new large multipurpose hall – in 26 schools in the Everest Region.
- **80 community members** were trained on the job for careers in masonry and building.
- **Over 29,000 students** in the Lower Solukhumbu have accessed one of 300 schools that we've strengthened with improved facilities, trained teachers, and child-friendly resources and materials.
- Averaged over 5 years, we **empowered more than 1,000 teachers a year** with knowledge, skills and strategies to include and engage students and improve learning outcomes in Nepali literacy, English, Maths and Science.
- **Each year, up to 750 vulnerable students** in Bhutan and Nepal were supported to attend school with uniforms, books, stationery and other educational materials, toiletries and meals.
- Over 90 young women in Bhutan and Nepal participated in training to help them **develop technical skills for employment**.
- **Traditional health healers and local health workers** developed their skills and understanding of modern medical care, especially for mothers and young children in remote Zanskar.
- **We constructed 41 corrals** to protect livestock and critical livelihoods by protecting the vulnerable snow leopard from community reprisals.
- More than 90 children in Kalimpong have gained **deeper knowledge and experience of their traditional Tibetan cultural heritage**.
- **Over 22,000 outpatient health services**, and thousands of immunisations for children and pregnant women, were provided in two remote communities in Nepal.
- **Over 1,500 children and close to 380 mothers** on average supported with health and hygiene education and information.
- **6 remote health centres were strengthened** with better Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and training to meet community health needs.
- We empowered and mobilised communities in Ladakh and the Solukhumbu in **conservation, wildlife preservation and climate change adaptation**.

Chairman's review

When COVID-19 hit the world in early 2020, it inevitably impacted our operations and programs, as it quickly forced major lockdowns of schools and communities across the Himalaya.

But I'm proud to report that out of that difficult situation grew a great initiative: with our marvellous Nepal NGO partner REED we were able to quickly pioneer a brilliant 'distance-learning' program of radio lessons – reaching more than 1.2 million primary school students, and involving nearly 14,000 students and 1,000 teachers from our flagship Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) program, in this vital continuation of schooling. A great success story. TTQE is supported by the Australian Government through their Australian-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

COVID-19 also affected our 2019/2020 fundraising capacities as we had to cancel, re-arrange or postpone various events. But we were able, through the great support of long-time and new donors and partners – thank you! – to still raise \$1.12 million, and maintain our strong level of support to the communities of the Himalaya.

And in early 2020 we worked hard to create a new five-year (2020–2025) Strategic Plan (see page 26) and a set of milestones to strive to achieve in 2020/2021. These milestones include the scoping of a future Himalayan Climate Change adaptation program; developing our plan to extend child-friendly education to other very poor districts of Nepal; and re-activating the AHF Schools for the Himalaya program.

Another of our aims is the establishment of closer ties and liaison with the Himalayan 'Diaspora' in Australia, helping us to further support communities in the Himalaya, and early in 2020 I attended celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of Nepal-Australia Diplomatic Relations, and also had the honour of speaking at the Sherpa Association of NSW (SANSW) event celebrating Sherpa Lhosar 2020.

During 2019/2020, two Directors Barbara Hall and Greg Mortimer left the Board. To them goes enormous thanks and gratitude for their major contributions to our development and programs. Barbara created, (with her husband Lincoln), the AHF Schools for the Himalaya program, and Greg was instrumental in improving our administrative practices.

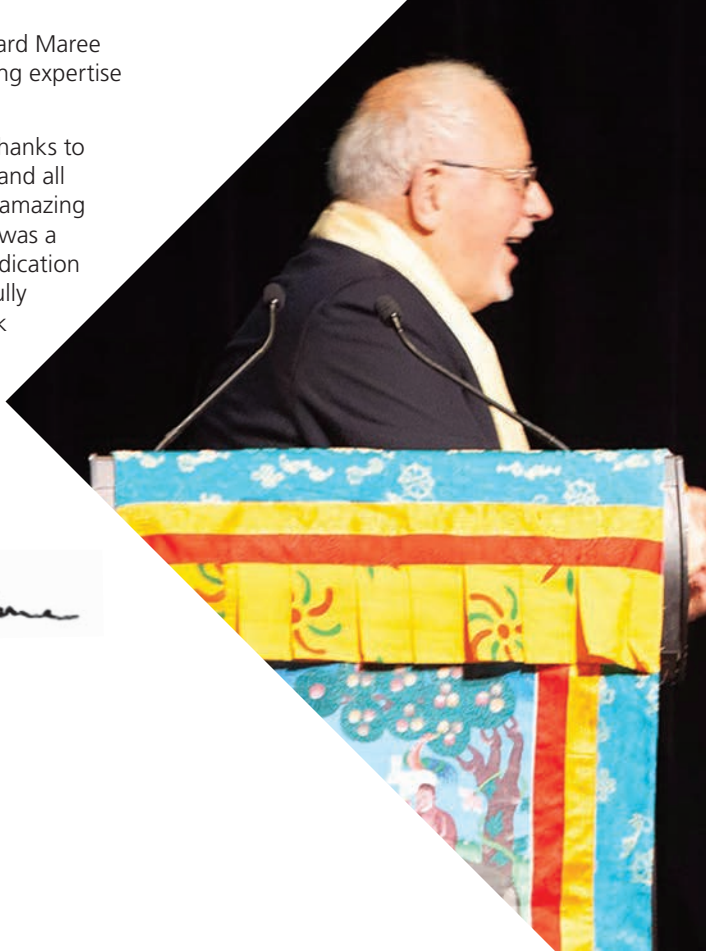
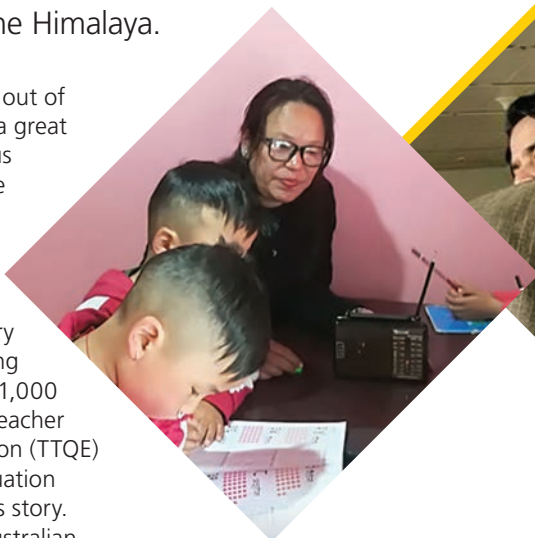
And we welcomed to the Board Maree Whybourne, whose fundraising expertise will be a great asset to us.

I also want to give heartfelt thanks to the Board, CEO Angela Ford and all the staff, volunteers and our amazing sponsors and supporters – it was a trying year but again your dedication to the cause saw us successfully through the challenges. I look forward to a fruitful year in 2020/2021, pushing through COVID-19 and out the other side.

Cheers,



Simon Balderstone AM
Chairman



From the CEO

This year our world was rocked by a pandemic that brought us closer as one global community, and one AHF family. Touched by tragedy and united through uncertainty, the vulnerability we experienced through COVID reminded most of us of the frailty of life and our human connectedness.

39

frontline health workers
are better prepared to support over

11,000

rural community
members through
COVID

There is nothing unprecedented about our AHF family's response at times of crisis. Just like the global financial crisis and the Nepal earthquakes, when COVID-19 disrupted life as we knew it – you immediately joined us in solidarity to prioritise the children, women and men who have lived in vulnerable situations their whole lives.

With help from supporters like you, we were able to respond to urgent needs in remote Himalayan communities.

We assisted our local partner, Action for Nepal, to procure and deliver Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including gloves, masks, sanitisers, thermometers and cleaning products to five remote health posts and a hospital. Coupled with a COVID-19 training manual and a COVID-19 hotline, 39 frontline health workers are better prepared to support over 11,000 rural community members through this and future health crises (see page 13).

For nearly two decades, our critical programs have helped to build resilience, capacity and opportunities for remote Himalayan families that help them to withstand serious challenges such as poverty, injustice and natural disasters. With tourism and schools closed, and communities in lockdown, we acted with speed to ensure vital education, health and environmental gains were protected. After all, when we know that just one additional year of secondary schooling can increase a woman's future earnings by 20% (GPE), and substantially decreases the chances of early marriage, child labour and human trafficking – how could we not? With you by our side, we worked closely with every partner ensuring they were able to adjust to new working arrangements and adapt programs – education by radio, school workbooks and learning materials sent to students' homes, and traditional Tibetan dance and song training performed online (see page 11).

Mobilised by your generosity, energy and love for the people of the Himalaya, we had a successful year of fundraising events and campaigns, and we adapted others such as our virtual curry night for Himalaya Day (see page 16). We are deeply grateful to every donor, fundraiser, trust, foundation, corporate organisation who has supported our work this year. Your donations not only immediately help to reduce vulnerability and grow opportunities, they cascade to build resilience, multiply outcomes and deliver lifelong impact. Thank you.

Throughout this Annual Report you can read stories and quotes from our partners on the frontline, and the people you've touched.

The year ahead will undoubtedly pose many challenges, but we have solid plans to reach our milestones and deliver. We are confident in our ability to adapt and act swiftly through the challenges. On top of our annual program commitments, we plan to formally evaluate our main education and health projects to apply learnings in designing the new phases.

Heartfelt thanks to our incredibly supportive Board, staff, volunteers, consultants, advisers. Alongside our inspiring partners, resilient communities and generous supporters, you make our AHF family remarkable. Though distant geographically, this year more than ever, has demonstrated how we are so deeply connected.

Dhanyabad,



Angela Ford
Chief Executive Officer



Our programs

Every year, our partners are on the frontline striving to improve the quality of life of the people most in need in remote areas of the Himalaya. In the second half of this year, when COVID-19 disrupted our world, we were once again amazed by their capacity to adapt and their swift response.

Despite successive waves of change, long and unpredictable lockdowns, travel restrictions, isolation from their own loved ones, and the uncertainty that has rocked us all, they effectively continued to prioritise the most vulnerable women, men and children in their communities.

Our programs during COVID-19

For remote and already vulnerable families in Bhutan, Nepal and the Indian Himalaya, the impact of COVID-19 will be profound and deep-seated. It threatens to undo some of the critical education, health and environmental gains achieved over the last two decades.

Our partners sprang into action

In Nepal, our Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) project (see page 11) was not able to continue as normal due to COVID-19 restrictions and school closures. With support from our Australian community, including the Australian Government's ANCP Program, our local partner Rural Education and Environment Development Centre (REED) Nepal quickly responded.

- Over 1.5 billion children are unable to attend school due to closures and lockdowns resulting from COVID-19 (UNICEF, 2020). It is unclear how many of them will be able to return and the quality of learning that schools will be able to provide to them if they do.
- UNESCO estimates at least \$210 billion will be cut from education budgets next year.

Nepal's School of the Air was born. The lessons produced in Nepali, English, Maths and Science were broadcast twice a day to over 23,000 households in the Solukhumbu (8,400 TTQE students), reaching an estimated 1.2 million school children in 25 districts. REED Nepal has also assisted schools to ensure children can return to school safely when they can reopen. REED Nepal's work is critical: it ensures children continue to access education; improves the quality of the teaching and of the schools themselves; and enables vulnerable children (who might otherwise fall through the cracks) to learn.

Our partner Action for Nepal (AF Nepal) responded promptly to the crisis assessing immediate health protection and service needs in remote communities in Solukhumbu.

With help from our supporters, AHF responded to AF Nepal's request to support a COVID Response Project. AF Nepal procured and delivered essential personal protective equipment (PPE) to six very remote health centres, and supported staff at the centres with training and accurate information on COVID-19 prevention and treatment.

Our Nurses for Nepal Project was disrupted by the pandemic, with one nurse visiting her home unable to return to the project community, and schools closed from March. AF Nepal adapted where possible and also started reviewing the Nurses for Nepal project planned to end in 2020/2021.

AHF and AF Nepal are planning the next phase of our collaboration so that women and children in Nepal can survive and thrive.

- The pandemic has dealt a blow to a number of health services in many low and middle-income countries.
- Core services such as childhood vaccinations, antenatal care, post-natal care and family planning have been disturbed, threatening progress toward reducing maternal and child mortality.

With a mission to empower women survivors of violence, our partner RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women) is well aware of the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) and continues to work to provide a wide range of care for women, men and children who survive it.

We are proud to have contributed to strengthening their organisation in the past year (see page 12). We also worked closely with RENEW to design and commence a three-year project to ensure vulnerable children, survivors of violence and abuse, can access school and counselling support.

- The pandemic is affecting the health, education and economies of all countries, exacerbating poverty further, and impacting the mental health of populations, especially women and girls.
- GBV (which has increased globally since the start of the lockdowns) is one of the main contributors to mental distress for women.





To strengthen resilience to the impact of climate change and find locally-led responses to conservation issues, AHF has environmental projects in partnership with REED Nepal and Snow Leopard Conservancy – India Trust (SLC-IT).

We are committed to working with those communities, who live in one of the world's most fragile regions, to find answers to the problems they face.

- Emissions of CO₂ plummeted during lockdown and the peaks of the Himalaya were visible from parts of India for the first time in decades, but this was short-lived.
- Climate change poses a growing threat to the Himalayan glaciers, which are a critical source of water for millions of people.

Manisha* is the youngest daughter in a family of four. She is 17 years old and from a remote district in Solukhumbu.

Her parents are farmers who have a small hut and some land in a remote village. They are kept busy for a couple of months farming and for the remainder of the time, they need to seek work away from home. The family struggles financially and educating their children is very tough and challenging for Manisha's parents.

Since 2013, Manisha has been part of the AHF-funded scholarship program and her hopes for her future grow every year. Manisha reflects on joining the program in Grade three: "This moment was one of the most precious for me because the scholarship became a strong foundation of support (to) continue my education as my parents were struggling for bearing education expenses."

Her father says: "If no scholarship, my daughter would have got marriage after five class study. We do not have school for higher study at our surrounding and I myself would not have capacity for sending her Salleri to further continue her grade six study."

Manisha has expressed interest in becoming a local entrepreneur after completing her higher study. And hopes that she can support her family and community as well in the future.

Manisha, TTQE Student Nepal
*Name changed to protect the identity

“
We praise
the resilience and
adaptability of our partners
in the wake of the COVID-19
pandemic and thank the wonderful
supporters who make our work possible.
The pandemic will have a long-term impact
which will only be alleviated with our
conjoint and continuous
commitment.

”
Corinne Stroppolo,
Head of
Programs

Our partners

A key area of AHF's work is strengthening partner capacity for sustainable development and safeguarding of the communities we work with.

Action for Nepal

Established in 2016, AF Nepal works in the sectors of health, education and community development across the rural, remote communities of Taplejung, Ramechhap and Solukhumbu districts of Nepal. AHF and AF Nepal have partnered since 2017 to improve the health of remote communities in two wards in Nepal through the Nurses for Nepal project (see page 12). We proudly expanded our partnership with AF Nepal this year by supporting the urgent [COVID Response Project](#), as well as working very closely together to develop the project plans for the construction of a new health post in Waku ward in 2020/2021.

This year, AHF supported AF Nepal to develop and strengthen their child protection policy and procedures, risk management, monitoring, reporting and activity management processes. AHF has also facilitated training on child safeguarding and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse with the Australian Government in Kathmandu.

Gangjong Doeghar (India)

In 2019/2020, we continued our partnership with [Gangjong Doeghar \(GD\) Tibetan Performing Arts Group](#) to support the promotion and preservation of Tibetan Performing Arts and Culture. With AHF mentoring support, GD has developed and adopted a child protection policy, increased skills and knowledge in risk management, and strengthened their capacity in project management.

REED Nepal

Since 2005, AHF and REED Nepal have been working steadfastly to deliver quality education programs that help children learn, get better marks and stay in school longer. Our programs are contributing to strengthen Nepal's education system, improve recognition of the value of education, and transform futures for vulnerable children. In 2019/2020, AHF and REED continued the Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) Project and implemented the first year of our new three-year environmental project – the [Everest Youth Climate Initiative \(EYCI\)](#). AHF also continued to provide support to the REED team to strengthen their skills and knowledge in areas such as child safeguarding, risk management, monitoring and social inclusion.

“

This partnership is helping both our organisations to build each other's strength. Regular communication, feedback, monitoring and evaluation, helping with effective planning and all the support in training and building our capacity are the examples of this positive relationship.

”

Dr Jangmoo Sherpa
Program Director
Action for Nepal

In December 2019, AHF's Disability Inclusion Adviser, Sinora Tamang, visited REED to provide training to REED staff. Our Child Safeguarding Adviser, Mark Morrissey, also provided advice and training to REED, which continued to work with AHF to strengthen their safeguarding procedures and shared their learnings with community members, teachers and students.

REED reports a “strong relationship between REED Nepal and AHF with mutual trust (and) regular communication, discussion and sharing between the two partners”.



“

It is only in the recent past that we felt the need to operate and present GD like a formal organisation to increase the scale of its operation and outreach, wherein we could create more opportunities for the artists and benefit an even larger number of people in our community. It is that we needed a partner like AHF guiding us to become a professional and sustainable organisation.

”

Samdup Tsering

“

The support of a project manager from AHF was timely... It gave a huge impetus to review and put systems in place for the project to strengthen and prioritise activities.

”

Tshering Dolkar
RENEW Executive
Director

RENEW (Bhutan)

Since 2011, AHF has supported RENEW in Bhutan to help vulnerable children access education and stay in school. Founded by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck in 2004, RENEW is the first and only NGO of its kind in Bhutan. It is committed to forging a better understanding of the circumstances causing domestic violence, sexual and gender-based violence and gender inequalities at all levels of society. It provides a range of care and support for women, men and children impacted by such violence.

This year we worked closely with RENEW to design and commence the new phase of our education project. In addition, at the request of RENEW and in order to strengthen their capacity in human resource (HR) management for better support to vulnerable groups, AHF contracted former CEO, Carolyn Hamer-Smith, as a consultant who provided training and guidance over several months. Carolyn helped RENEW with an organisational review, HR training, revision of HR policies and procedures and to draft a new HR Manual. AHF's pro-bono Child Safeguarding Adviser Mark Morrissey provided training to RENEW staff in January 2020. Stronger child safeguarding mechanisms were also included in the new HR Manual.

Finally, AHF supported the recruitment of a local Project Manager who is responsible for managing the new education project (see page 12) for RENEW with support from AHF.

“

“The mutual trust and understanding is the strength of this collaboration. Working in some of the remotest areas, dealing with tough physical and social conditions, sometimes things become excessively difficult to handle, and mutual trust and understanding can go a long way in pulling off the project successfully. Everyone at AHF, including the board, has been very supportive and understanding throughout the project. AHF has been quite generous and has helped SLC-IT not only financially but also in building the capacity of its staff members.

”

Tsewang Namgail (PhD)
Director and Senior Scientist
SLC-IT

Snow Leopard Conservancy – India Trust

SLC-IT is an NGO working in the Trans-Himalayan regions of Ladakh and Spiti and became an independent Indian non-profit organisation in 2003. SLC-IT is dedicated to conserving the mountain ecosystems and focuses primarily on building local stewardship through community-based tourism, education and research in Ladakh. Partners since 2015, we are currently supporting SLC-IT in a program building community harmonious coexistence with wildlife and adaptation to the impact of climate change (see page 15). In the past year, SLC-IT and AHF have worked together to develop project and risk management systems and draft a plan of action aimed at strengthening the capacity of SLC-IT.





Neelam* is in Year 9 at secondary school in rural Nepal and is 14 years of age. She lives with her older brother, two older sisters, father and stepmother.

Her mother passed away at a young age, and her father remarried, putting additional pressure on her siblings to support the family. Neelam's sister is responsible for growing the buckwheat, millet and barley crops, but with a tough landscape, the production is not enough to feed them. Neelam's older brother works as a tour guide for extra income.

Neelam said "... After passing away of my mother and father got married to step mother, I became helpless. It was difficult to continue further study... I was... (supported) with the guardianship of my brother.

"Regardless of family situation and mental shock, I am continuously focusing on education and school."

After reviewing Neelam's situation, REED Nepal and AHF now support Neelam with a scholarship. As she gets older, Neelam will be supported as a boarder at school, allowing her to pursue more technical agricultural studies and extra English classes.

Neelam enjoys school now that she doesn't have the worry of being a financial burden on her family, and aspires to be a biologist when she grows up so that she can give back to her country.

Neelam, TTQE student Nepal

*Name changed to protect identity

Your impact

Increase education levels

Nepal

Teacher Training and Quality Education Project

Children living in remote communities of the Himalaya face many obstacles to accessing education including poverty and pressure to work from a young age. The perceived lack of importance of education among poor families, and often long and difficult journeys to reach school present additional barriers. In 2019/2020, these obstacles were compounded by COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions during which schools were closed and children were limited to their local communities with no or limited access to the internet.

During its second year of a three year project phase, AHF's flagship Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) project continued to work with students, school management committees, parents and teachers in the Solukhumbu district of Nepal to help ensure that children living in one of the poorest regions have access to inclusive, high quality primary education. TTQE focuses on developing schools to become centres of excellence (Namuna schools) with quality teachers and educational resources which provide safe and supportive learning environments integrating schools and communities. TTQE is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), and by our community of AHF supporters.

With school closures from March, TTQE launched a distance learning radio program – a 'school of the air'. AHF's partner REED Nepal worked with radio stations to develop and broadcast radio lessons in Maths, Science, English, Nepali literacy and Social Studies for grades 1–8. Broadcasts also included social protection messages on COVID-19 prevention, child safeguarding, prevention of gender-based violence, and suicide prevention and counselling services. TTQE teachers and REED staff provided direct learning support to students in their local communities, and distributed homeschooling workbooks to younger students for better engagement with the radio lessons.

REED estimated that over 8,400 TTQE students accessed the radio lessons in Solukhumbu and the lessons reached a potential additional 1.2 million students across 25 districts.

Other activities during this period included: COVID-19 awareness and prevention sessions in schools before lockdown; remote distribution of 'Going to School Support' to particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged students for stationery and school materials, and distribution of radios to families who did not have one. Children who are deaf and their families received specific assistance from REED staff, and a teacher who herself is hearing impaired produced sign language material on COVID-19 prevention.

With the support of specialist technical advisers, AHF also trained and mentored REED staff on child safeguarding and disability inclusion.

In the coming year, as schools reopen in October 2020, the project will support schools to implement COVID-safe guidelines and a condensed school year curriculum. AHF and REED will continue to strengthen and grow the Namuna schools concept and literacy program in order to reach more students and communities with inclusive, quality education.

TTQE works towards key objectives:

- develop Namuna (model) schools that can serve as models to other schools across the district
- improve children's competency in Nepali literacy in early years
- improve learning outcomes in the three main foundational subjects of English, Maths and Science
- provide 'Going to School' support to very disadvantaged and marginalised children
- strengthen gender and social inclusion in education delivery.

Key achievements

1,750 children (**895** female) in **11** Namuna (model) schools accessed improved educational facilities, learning support and classroom resources

736 children (**349** female) in **14** schools received early grade literacy materials and support and **286** parent volunteers (**195** female) engaged in supporting their children's reading groups at school

189 teachers from across **100** schools trained in English, Maths, Science or Early Childhood Education

1,051 people accessed hygiene and COVID-19 information sessions

An estimated **8,453** TTQE students and **835** TTQE teachers accessed **89** radio lessons developed and broadcast in 2019/2020 alone

384 children (**243** girls) received full 'Going to School Support' for educational materials and an additional **7** female students engaged in higher-level technical training with TTQE support

153 children (**69** girls) accessed school meals support

132 school representatives and students received Gender and Social Inclusion training and **24** REED Nepal staff trained in disability inclusion and child safeguarding

REED
estimated that over

8,400

TTQE students accessed the radio lessons in Solukhumbu and the lessons reached a potential additional 1.2 million students across 25 districts.



Garma School Hall

Following the completion of the school hall construction in 2018/2019 in the final stage of AHF's response to the 2015 earthquake devastation, Garma Hall was officially opened on 29 August 2019 by the Australian Ambassador to Nepal, Mr Pete Budd. Garma School is also a participating school in AHF's TTQE project.

In this year, additional funds were secured to construct a stage and furniture to make the hall a multi-purpose and functional meeting place for the school and wider community. AHF, along with our corporate partner, Sydney-based architects Davenport Campbell and their supporters, constructed a small stage, lectern and seating which were completed at the end of 2019/2020 (following delays due to COVID-19 restrictions). For many years to come, this Hall will be an essential space for school and community gatherings.

Bhutan

Providing educational support to increase opportunities and improve well being of children and young people who have experienced violence, abuse or neglect

Our previous education project implemented with RENEW concluded in June 2019 and both organisations embarked on a review of the previous phase and the development of a new project design this year. The new three year project started officially in May 2020. Despite the significant progress Bhutan has made in expanding access to education, especially primary education, 21% of girls and 22% of boys in Bhutan are out of school by age 15.



Another major concern relates to the gender gap in the transition rate of girls from basic education (Class 10) to higher secondary education and, in particular, tertiary education. For this reason, whilst the new project will continue to support the vulnerable children currently being assisted with funding for uniforms, stationery, toiletries and other essential items, the new project will place a greater focus on the older children transitioning to older children, particularly girls, transitioning to higher secondary school.

A study conducted in 2017 by the National Commission of Women and Children on Violence against Women and Girls in Bhutan showed that out of the 2,200 respondents, more than two in every five women (44.6%) experienced one or more forms of partner violence in their lifetime be it physical, sexual, psychological or financial. On a yearly basis, more than 400 women seek help from RENEW and approximately 22% of them have experienced domestic violence and have little resources with which to meet their children's education requirements. Around 20–25 children are hosted in RENEW's shelter each year. This new project design will specifically target the children who are survivors of violence or abuse, abandoned, neglected or orphaned. The project aims to improve both education and protection indicators for those children. COVID-19 and lockdown of schools have impacted the partner's ability to reach all the children but 91 students have already been supported to date (period May–August 2020).

“

I am

now in heaven.

Nobody will torture me.

I can do what I want and follow my education. I am as free as a bird.

I can do everything.

”

Student supported by RENEW and AHF, survivor of sexual violence)

RENEW identified key areas they wanted to strengthen to increase their capacity to support vulnerable children and women. AHF supported RENEW with a consultant to assist in developing their Human Resources processes (see page 9).

Key achievements

91 vulnerable children supported with funding for uniforms, stationery, toiletries and other essential items

RENEW capacity strengthened in human resources and child safeguarding benefiting 25 staff and interns

Improve health outcomes

Nepal

Nurses for Nepal project

In 2019/2020, AHF continued our partnership with local organisation AF Nepal with the aim to improve the health of the people, particularly women and children, living in Waku and Chheskam wards in Solukhumbu. Due to COVID-19, one of the two trained nurses working in the community was unable to return to Waku after her holiday in March. The pandemic also impacted the ability of the other nurse to continue providing health education with mothers' groups and in schools. Prior to this though, both nurses supported and monitored the Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV) and participated in mothers' groups meetings delivering information on various topics around safe maternal and child healthcare practices.



The nurses also conducted health education sessions in the schools of Waku and Chheskam before their closure covering topics such as handwashing, oral hygiene, menstrual hygiene or changes in adolescence. Further training planned for the health post management committees to strengthen its capacity had to be postponed.

In its final year, a project evaluation is planned for 2020/2021 followed by the design of a new phase. Improving maternal and child health in remote communities remains a key objective of AHF and AF Nepal and both organisations are committed to continuing our partnership to work towards ensuring women and children can live healthy lives.

8,641
people
(3,857 in Chheskam;
4,784 in Waku)
provided with
outpatient
services

Key achievements

(at project year end – August 2020):

In year three:

8,641 people (**3,857** in Chheskam; **4,784** in Waku) provided with outpatient services

1,468 immunisations were provided to children (**862** in Waku and **606** in Chheskam)

117 children have completed required immunisations by 15 months (**53** in Waku and **64** in Chheskam)

57 women (**32** in Chheskam; **25** in Waku) attended all **4** ante-natal care checkups as per protocol

30 babies were delivered in Chheskam (Waku does not yet have a birthing centre, this is planned as part of the construction of the new building – see below)

3,941 (**3,065** in Chheskam; **876** in Waku) family planning services

Due to the absence of the nurse in Waku ward since March, school closures and restrictions on group gatherings, not all planned activities for this year could be completed. The following activities, however, were undertaken:

96 education sessions at schools were conducted (**74%** of planned sessions in Waku (**78** sessions) reaching **442** students; and **45%** in Chheskam (**18** sessions) reaching **376** students)

64 monthly mothers' groups meetings were held in Chheskam (**67%** of planned meetings) in **8** groups with an average of **97** people participating

59 monthly mothers' group meetings were held in Waku (**55%** of planned meetings) with an average of **91** people participating

COVID-19 Response project

Despite prevention efforts at national government level, remote health centres had no training and little protective equipment as the COVID-19 pandemic was unfolding. AF Nepal therefore approached AHF to seek support in distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to the hospital and five health centres in Mahakulung municipality and to train the health staff to prevent and respond to COVID-19.

By the end of the financial year, AF Nepal had delivered PPE sets, surgical gloves and masks, hand sanitisers, thermometers and cleaning products, and prepared a training package.

AF Nepal also developed a manual in Nepali which supports the remote health staff with information on appropriate use and disposal of PPE, screening of COVID-19 patients, referral process, infection prevention and control, patient care in isolation and waste management. The manual is based on WHO and Nepal Government guidelines and was sent to the health centres with the support of the rural municipality.

“
After getting
PPE set, we feel like
our life is safe. The equipment
and materials have made our work
easier and there is less fear among
the staff than before.
”

Health Assistant in charge
Gudel health post

Key achievements

PPE (**6,000** surgical masks, **8,000** surgical gloves, **65** litres of sanitisers and PPE-sets) distributed to **1** hospital and **5** health centres directly benefiting **39** health staff (**22** females); and indirectly benefiting **11,452** people (**5,833** females) living in Mahakulung municipality

COVID-19 manual in Nepali provided as reference for health staff

Training package developed

Waku Building Construction

With the generous commitment of our supporters, AF Nepal and AHF were thrilled to be able to advise the local community in Waku ward in Solukhumbu of the plans to rebuild their health post. The current health infrastructure in Waku was impacted by the 2015 earthquake and is extremely basic: a very old room used for all purposes (family planning, birthing, vaccination, consultation, medicine dispensing, etc.) without privacy and in unhygienic conditions. Medical equipment can't be stored in a safe way as rats are destroying it. It is therefore not only a poor facility for the people accessing it, but very uncomfortable for those working in it. The local community is delighted their dreams of a new health centre are being realised, and they've allocated a valuable and rare piece of flat land for this purpose.

AF Nepal and AHF are partnering for this project with the local government and One Heart Worldwide. An engineer was contracted in 2019/2020 to develop the plans for the building to start construction in the next financial year. The new health centre will benefit more than 4,844 people living in Waku including the 820 students of the 13 surrounding schools.

Key achievements

Co-support confirmed from local government and One Heart Worldwide for the construction of the building

Initial plans for the building were drafted and project design completed for a new health centre to benefit over **4,844** people

Improve environmental outcomes and adaptation to climate change

Nepal

Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI)

After a successful pilot project in 2018 we commenced a new phase of EYCI in August 2019 in the upper Khumbu region of Nepal. Working in partnership with REED Nepal, AHF has been supporting a range of activities to increase the awareness and capacity of students, teachers, local government and community groups to implement initiatives that reduce the impact of climate change and improve vulnerable communities' resilience to climate change.

In this first year of the project, REED have mobilised the school eco-clubs, conducted training on climate change and adaptation activities, and raised awareness through social media. The eco-clubs also prepared initial action plans to address climate change impacts at a local or school level. Two vulnerable families were selected to undertake home-based livelihood activities, in order to build their resilience to climate change impacts.

This provides them with a new and sustainable income stream, and other families will follow in the next year. A group of students and adults have also formed a Red Panda monitoring group to observe this endangered species in Sagarmatha National Park.

COVID-19 restrictions and school closures from March 2020 impacted direct project implementation, but also provided an opportunity for AHF to mentor REED Nepal staff on risk management and child safeguarding. As schools reopen this coming year, we will further develop the eco-clubs' capacity and prepare the Red Panda monitoring group to start their activities.



The new health centre will benefit more than
4,844
people living in Waku including the
820
students of the
13
surrounding schools

Key achievements

85 student eco-club members and **21** teachers and local government representatives trained in climate change adaptation and planning

Eco-clubs formed or re-mobilised in **14** schools, and a number of action plans developed for local climate adaptation initiatives

2 very vulnerable families supported to establish goat farming activities

10 eco-club members trained in social media and launched a Facebook page for raising awareness on environmental issues

Red Panda monitoring group of **11** members recruited and trained

India

Program for community harmonious coexistence with wildlife and adaptation to impact of climate change

This year, AHF has continued our partnership with SLC-IT. Despite lockdowns impacting the last part of the financial year, SLC-IT constructed 10 snow-leopard safe corrals in close collaboration with local communities across the remote Zaskar Valley of Ladakh in the Indian Himalaya. This simple wire roofing structure is an effective way of preventing the deaths of snow leopards at the hands of farmers wanting to protect their livestock.

Similarly, to deal with the growing conflict between humans and brown bears, a prototype of a locally made bear-proof container was set up in one village and, after assessing its effectiveness, further containers will be provided to villagers.

SLC-IT conducted workshops about avoiding human-bear interaction in two villages and on climate change and its impacts in four villages. To inspire and encourage local people to get involved in understanding the impact of climate change, community members in 10 villages participated in training on how to take and manage adequate photos to assess the extent of glacial melting and document patterns of visits by wildlife predators to the villages.

Villagers had also approached SLC-IT to help them solve the water shortage issues in their village. The feasibility of an artificial glacier was explored with the community and initial consultation with a hydrologist undertaken. Further consultations will be conducted during the next year.

Key achievements

10 livestock corrals built in **6** villages

1 prototype bear canister developed and installed

Workshops on avoiding human-bear interactions and climate change held in **6** villages

Community members trained to monitor glacier and wild predators in **10** villages

Initial consultations undertaken to assess feasibility of building an artificial glacier to address water shortage

Preserving arts and culture

India

Promotion of Tibetan Performing Arts and Careers

AHF supports Gangjong Doeghar (GD) Tibetan Performing Arts in Kalimpong, India, to help preserve and promote languages and traditional music and dances of various regions of Tibet. 65 children were provided with regular classes. GD also preserved Tibetan instruments and costumes for their own performances and other performers. They have successfully showcased Tibetan arts and culture across India for a wide audience and held a workshop on Tibetan dance, music and history for students and teachers of a US-based university.

GD celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 20 October 2019. Sadly, their Founder-Director, Mr Chime Dorjee – also known as ‘A Dogah’ – passed away in November 2019 at the age of 77 years. Mr Dorjee was highly esteemed for his strong passion to preserve Tibetan music, dance and craft in which he also exhibited great talent. He was a skilled craftsman in traditional dance costume-making. His son, Samdup Tsering, former Program Director, has recently been appointed GD Director continuing the legacy of his father.

Following strict lockdown restrictions imposed from March, GD focused efforts to bring their passion online and provide training to their students. They promoted Tibetan culture within India and internationally via their social media presence and international connections.

Key achievements

65 children trained in Tibetan language and performing arts, including **19** students in an orphanage

42 performances conducted to showcase Tibetan performing arts, celebrate festivals and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's birthday

1 workshop held for university students and teachers at US university



Our community

Throughout the year AHF has been supported by a generous community who share their passion for the Himalaya with their friends, family and colleagues, raising funds and awareness for our projects.

It really was a year in two parts. Before the pandemic brought a halt to our engagement activities from March 2020, we were well positioned for a year of growth in revenue. In November 2019, we held our Summit Gala Dinner, an opportunity to come together, share updates from our work, and to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Australia's first Everest ascent. During the event we proudly presented the Sir Edmund Hillary Memorial Award to Dick Estens and Roger Butler (the Chairman's Trekkers) for their years of dedicated support for the Foundation and the people of the Himalaya. Our Chair was honoured to receive the first Dorje Award from the Himalayan Trust NZ.

Our Kathmandu Christmas ornament appeal, now in its third year, featured the Red Panda, a cute tree ornament that raised over \$62,000 thanks to our incredible corporate partnership with Kathmandu.

We ran our first ever AHF Supporter Survey in February and gained many valuable insights from so many of our AHF family, which we continue to apply to our plans and activities to deepen our connections and engagement.

In April, we were so delighted to learn that the Australian Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet awarded both Geoff Bartram and Andrew Lock, AHF Ambassador, the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for their incredible work on behalf of AHF as first responders in Nepal following the 2015 earthquakes.

We count ourselves incredibly fortunate to have so many amazing fundraisers supporting us. Mark Morrissey and Toni Dalzell spent time trekking in Nepal, Tony Moran and family headed to Bhutan and Zac Zaharias took another group to the Snowy Mountains to take on Australia's Top Ten Peaks.

AHF's Schools for the Himalaya

is a fundraising initiative that provides an opportunity for cultural exchange fostering strong and lasting relationships between schools in Australia and those in the Himalaya. Schools in Australia are encouraged to raise funds to help improve basic facilities and educational opportunities. In some cases there may be opportunities for Australian students to visit these schools and gain first-hand experiences of the effectiveness of our educational programs in Bhutan and Nepal. In this year, we developed a Schools for the Himalaya partnership with Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar school in Victoria in support of our Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI) project. We look forward to growing our school partnerships.

The Bright Sherpas, a group from Victoria, trekked in Nepal in October and raised over \$25,000 as a team to contribute to our programs.

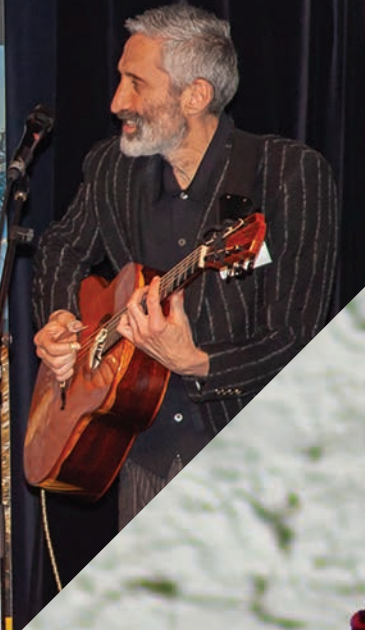
As COVID-19 unfolded, we had to revisit plans for the second half of the year and postpone an event in Perth as well as our popular Kathmandu Everest Challenge series in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra.

However, a team of our amazing volunteers (including our Ambassadors) swung into action and helped us create and hold our first ever virtual AHF event for Himalaya Day – otherwise known as Australia's Biggest Curry Night! We were thrilled by the participation of so many new supporters from right across Australia – folks were even 'dining-in' from Bhutan to Berlin!

We were grateful to leading outdoor media company [oOh!media](#)'s Community program for its incredible pro-bono support in promoting our work in May. It was wonderful to see AHF up in lights with the 'Education is her Everest – Help her conquer it today' campaign.

This year we also commenced our Sydney University internship program. Grace Lin, Yasmin Dowla and Bella De Groot joined us for roles in our Programs and Fundraising & Communications teams, and contributed immensely to our successful year.





We were very proud to have provided some fitness inspiration to residents at Moran Aged Care in Sylvania, during COVID-19 lockdown, for their 'Reach the Summit Challenge', where the residents did laps around the hallways of their residence to reach the height of Mt Everest, 8,848m.

We value all opportunities to engage with our diaspora communities. In January, our Head of Fundraising and Communications, Karen Locke attended the Visit Nepal 2020 Tourist Campaign launch and dinner at Parliament House in Sydney. AHF Chair, Simon Balderstone was a guest of the Nepali Ambassador to Australia when the Embassy hosted a reception at Parliament House in Canberra to mark the 60th year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Australia. Simon also attended as a guest speaker at the Sherpa Association of NSW dinner.



AHF's Himalayan Art Award (HAA)

provides support to young Himalayan artists who would otherwise struggle to find the resources to express their talent. Sangeeta Thapa, owner and curator of Siddhartha Gallery in Kathmandu, supports AHF in coordinating the Awards and hosts the HAA exhibitions. It has provided a launching pad for many successful careers. This year the second Kathmandu Triennale was due to be held in Kathmandu, but was postponed due to COVID-19. The latest awardee, Bidhyaman Tamang, is creating a body of work that was to be shown in the Triennale. In March, former Himalayan Art Award winner Hitman Gurung and the other Nepalese artists from Artree Collective visited Sydney exhibiting in Sydney Biennale NIRIN. We continued to identify artists from Nepal for the Kathmandu Artist series range to design concepts for a one-off design to appear on t-shirts, and for every t-shirt sold, a portion goes to AHF programs.



Our people

Board of Directors

Simon Balderstone AM (Chairman)

Founder, Director of consultancy company – issues management, communications, environment, events; Adviser to Olympic Movement; Member of the 1984 First Australian Everest Expedition; Former Himalayan trek guide, journalist, author, Ministerial and Prime Ministerial Senior Advisor; SOCOG Board member and General Manager; Elected to the UN Global 500 Environmental Roll of Honour.



Julia Booth

Julia has 20 years of experience in the development and management of projects in the private, government and NGO sectors, with a focus on livelihood and education programs for women and children. She has a long history of cultural exchange with the Himalayan region, in particular with Bhutan. Julia teaches at USYD Business School in Strategy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Media communications.



Christine Gee AM

Christine is CEO of Bryce Courtenay International, and responsible for managing the literary estate of her late husband, Bryce Courtenay. She was co-founder of Australian Himalayan Expeditions 1975-1988 (later World Expeditions), and served as Nepalese Honorary Consul-General (1987-2009). Attache to Sydney 2000 Nepal Olympic team, and is a Life Member of Chief Executive Women.



Barbara Hall (resigned May 2020)

Barbara is a long-time secondary school teacher. As a teacher at the International Australian School in Singapore she began, with husband Lincoln Hall, the AHF 'Schools for the Himalaya' program and has visited the region regularly, determining first-hand the needs of schools.



Peter Hillary

As the son of Sir Edmund Hillary, Peter is a life-long adventurer having summited Everest twice, traversed the South Pole overland via Shackleton Glacier and managed the first high-altitude traverse of the entire Himalayan range. Peter is an expedition leader, public speaker, leader of philanthropic missions, author and photographer.



Greg Mortimer OAM (resigned June 2020)

Greg successfully climbed Everest in 1984 as a member of the first Australian Everest Expedition and the first Australian to climb K2 and Mt Vinson. He has led over 80 expeditions to Antarctica and is the co-founder of Aurora Expeditions. Greg is a former Vice President of YHA and a Director of Mawson's Huts Foundation and he has received the Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to Australian mountaineering.



Amit J Thapa

Head founder/CEO of @The Talent Agency, an International Talent Acquisition firm, co-founder of The Migration Agency, a boutique Australian Immigration firm and Chairman /co-founder of FONA (Friends of Nepal Association, Australia). A passionate leader with proven success connecting business, people and performance across a complex international environment. Building upon a successful career across a breadth of industries, including the financial services, insurance, and retail sectors, in executive leadership positions.



Garry Weare (Deputy Chairman)

Garry is a veteran trekking guide with nearly 50 years' experience in the Himalaya, Garry is the Hon Secretary (Australia) for the Himalayan Club, Former Director and now Consultant to World Expeditions; author and photographer.



Maree Whybourne (appointed October 2019)

Maree has enjoyed a career in fundraising in the not-for-profit sector over almost three decades. She has held leadership positions in the arts, welfare, education and health. She also has extensive experience working with Australian international NGOs including the UN in Bhutan. Maree consults to a number of NFP Boards helping to build their fundraising capacity and build a culture of philanthropy.



“You can trust the Foundation to provide improved life opportunities for children and their families in this remote region.”

Maree Whybourne, AHF Director

“
...AHF helps give the
people of the Himalaya choices
and you can see the immediate
benefits of what this does...”

”
Joe Bonington
AHF Ambassador

Ambassadors

Alyssa Azar
Cheryl Bart
Joe Bonington
Jackson Bursill
Tenzin Choegyal
Michael Dillon AM
Dylan Hall
George Hillary
Alice l'Anson
Richard l'Anson
Andrew Lock OAM
Jen Peedom
Tom Singleton

Advisers

Dr Christopher Birch SC
Legal Adviser
Neil Fergus
Risk Adviser
Roger O'Meagher
TTQE Volunteer Manager
Jim Strang
Education Adviser
Mark Morrissey
Child Safeguarding Adviser
Sinora Tamang
Inclusive Education Adviser

Staff

Angela Ford
Chief Executive Officer
Corinne Stroppolo
Head of Programs (part-time)
Celia Paoloni Program Manager (part-time)
Karen Locke Head of Fundraising and Communications
Kerryn Plummer Operations Manager
(part-time)
Linda Jocelyn Finance Officer
(part-time/retired
June 2020)



Thank you

With heartfelt thanks to our major donors, sponsors and supporters who make this work possible:

- Accor Hotels
- ACME Foundation
- Adventure Associates
- Anni McNiven
- Anthony Wheeler
- Ascent Private Wealth
- Australian Aid Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ben Kassel (Haimat)
- Chairman's Trekkers Support Group
- Davenport Campbell
- David Nott
- Deborah and Patrick Lockie
- Dick Estens and family
- Edwin Trevor-Roberts
- Elite Travel
- Emma Huffam and Trevor Builder
- Footprints Network (World Nomads)
- Gary McCaw (One Man One Million)
- Georgina Mitchell and Rhiannon Bell
- Heather McNeice

- H&K Johnston Family Foundation
- Intelligent Risks Pty Ltd
- James Herschell
- Jeanette and Peter Young Foundation
- Joe's Basecamp
- Judy Curtis
- Karen Murray
- Kathmandu
- Kennards Storage
- Lambourne Partners
- Mark Baker and Michelle Lim
- Mark and Lucy Osborn
- Mark Morrissey
- McNair Charitable Foundation
- National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)
- Neil Fergus
- Neill Johanson
- Nellie O'Keeffe
- Nicola Heppell
- Nicole Browne (MediaOpps)
- Noosa Golf Club
- Norman Disney and Young
- oOh!media
- Pemba Capital
- Peter Lemon
- Peter Townsend (Zenith Interiors Pty Ltd)



- Roger Butler and family
- Ruth Fitzhardinge
- SallyAnn Hunting
- Sarah Sheridan
- Scott Lucas
- Simon Baggs
- Susie Pitts
- The Ian Watson Foundation
- The Sun Foundation
- The Sunrise Foundation
- World Expeditions

We would like to thank all individuals and groups who raised funds through treks and challenges in support of the AHF. Over the past year individuals have achieved this while trekking or climbing in Australia, Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian Himalaya and we are incredibly grateful to you for your support.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to our regular givers and individual donors who are the backbone of AHF and the work we do – we are incredibly grateful to you.

AHF has been so fortunate to once again have the support of our pro-bono consultants who generously share both their time and professional expertise with our team. These have included Ben Kassel, David Nott, Dr Christopher Birch (SC), Edwin Trevor-Roberts, Heather McNeice, Mark Morrissey, Neil Fergus, Nicole Browne, Roger O'Meagher, SallyAnn Hunting, Scott Lucas, Sinora Tamang and Tom Singleton. They continue to help both the AHF team and our partners in the Himalaya either through their contributions to the AHF Advisory Committees or with their in-kind support.

We are again grateful for the ongoing support of our state representatives, committees and the incredible team of Ambassadors. The Board and staff also recognise the unwavering support and dedication of our team of volunteers. In 2019/2020, this team continued to grow. Our volunteers form an invaluable extension of our operations, and our special thanks go to Bella de Groot, Debbie Dukes, Ellison Commodore, Emma Huffam, Grace Lin, Lindy Nisbett, Lisa Robinson, Manav Kholi, Manju Khadka, Mary Hosford, Pranita Nepal, Roman Rudiak, Sinora Tamang, Sue Fagoaga, Ted Giam, Trevor Builder, Trevor Harrison, Upala Sunthankar, Viv Dore, Yasmin Dowla and all of our Gala Dinner and Neverest volunteers. Special thanks to Linda Jocelyn for her many years as our volunteer events photographer. They all contributed their energy, time, ideas and expertise throughout the year and we consider them part of our team.



Financial information

Strategy

To assist in providing long-term financial sustainability and to enable full commitment to our long-term programs, and help expand current and future programs, we continue to build up our Financial Reserves.

Donations

Donations go into our Overseas Aid Account for program payments and associated program costs. The funds are held in a bank account with all interest credited for future program payments in line with our commitment to high standards of program delivery.

Directors' benefits

The Chairman and all other Directors did not receive payment or benefit of any kind.

“

...have visited the Himalaya four times with the AHF, and have seen first hand the work that is funded and supported... I was able to witness at close range the fundamental positive difference that the work of the AHF and its local partners has made to the lives of the inhabitants of the Himalaya...

”

Damien Butler
AHF Supporter and
Chairman's
Trekker

How we raised our funds in 2019/2020

Donations & Supporter Contributions
\$752,936 (66.74%)

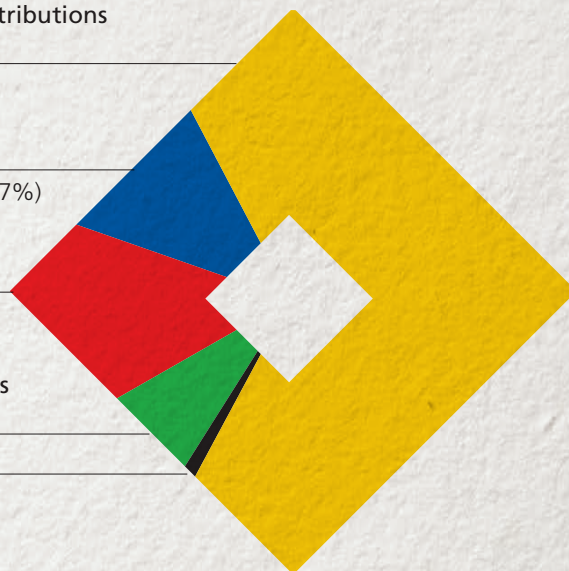
Events (Gross) \$137,294 (12.17%)

DFAT \$150,000 (13.30%)

Other Government Subsidies
\$85,821 (7.61%)

Interest \$2,046 (0.18%)

TOTAL \$1,128,097 (100%)



How we spent our funds in 2019/2020

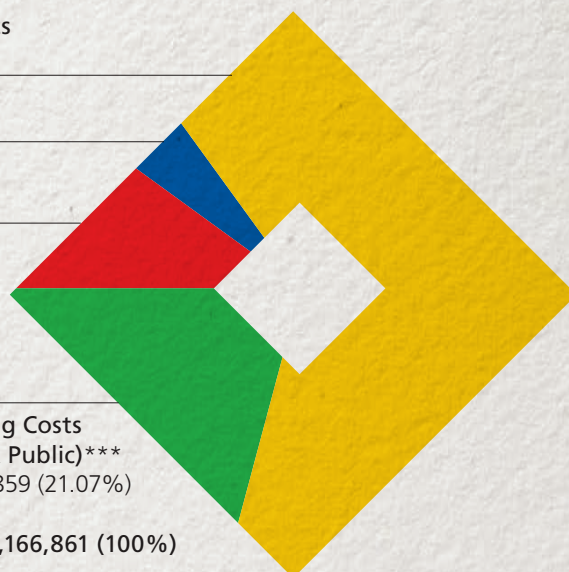
International Program Expenditure & Support Costs
\$751,232 (64.38%)

Community Education*
\$64,456 (5.52%)

Administration**
\$105,314 (9.03%)

Fundraising Costs (Govt & Public)***
\$245,859 (21.07%)

TOTAL \$1,166,861 (100%)



* Community Education includes costs related to informing and educating the Australian community of, and inviting their active involvement in, global justice, development and humanitarian issues. This includes the cost of producing and distributing materials, the cost of conducting educational and public policy campaigns, and the cost of personnel involved in these activities.

** The AHF commits to spend at least 80% of every donation on our programs, in 2019/2020 we achieved 81.89%. The AHF maintains non-programmatic costs (administration & fundraising) to no more than 20% of donations each year. This ensures the AHF maintains transparent and accountable processes and robust, professional standards consistent with industry practice.

*** Fundraising costs include all costs associated with events plus expenses integral to applications and reporting for government funding and other grants.

Income statement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

Income statement	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue		
<i>Donations of gifts</i>		
Monetary	752,936	939,364
<i>Bequests and legacies</i>	–	–
<i>Grants</i>		
DFAT	150,000	150,000
<i>Investment income</i>	2,046	5,024
<i>Other income</i>		
Fundraising revenue	137,294	219,331
Supporter contributions	–	1,075
Community education	–	9,294
Paid parental leave subsidy	–	12,948
COVID-19 government support	85,821	
Total revenue	1,128,097	1,337,036
Expenditure		
International aid and development programs expenditure		
<i>International programs</i>		
Funds to overseas programs	470,962	593,259
Program support costs	280,270	222,274
<i>Fundraising costs</i>		
Public	212,539	249,195
Government, multilateral and private	33,320	38,449
<i>Community education</i>	64,456	67,186
<i>Accountability and administration</i>	105,314	138,734
Total international aid and development expenditure	1,166,861	1,309,097
<i>Other expenditure</i>	–	–
Total expenditure	1,166,861	1,309,097
Surplus/(deficit) ordinary activities	(38,764)	27,939

Our Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au. A copy of the full statutory financial report for 2019/2020 is available on request.

Australian Himalayan Foundation Ltd's reserves are comprised entirely of retained earnings held for unrestricted purposes.

There were no adjustments, transfers or asset revaluations made in 2019/2020.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	840,253	918,695
Trade and other receivables	36,015	2,481
Total current assets	876,267	921,176
Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment	–	3,121
Total non-current assets	–	3,121
Total assets	876,267	924,297
Liabilities		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade and other payables	3,685	20,157
Provision for employee entitlements	20,827	13,621
Total current liabilities	24,512	33,778
Total liabilities	24,512	33,778
Net assets	851,755	890,519
Equity		
Retained earnings	851,755	890,519
Members' guarantee	–	–
Total equity	851,755	890,519

Statement of changes in equity

As at 30 June 2020

	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2018	862,580	862,580
Excess of revenue over expenses	27,939	27,939
Items of other comprehensive income	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2019	890,519	890,519
Excess of revenue over expenses	(38,764)	(38,764)
Items of other comprehensive income	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2020	851,755	851,755

Independent audit report (IAR)

AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION LIMITED
A.B.N 81 099 510 255

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**



Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Himalayan Foundation Limited (the Company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, the profit and loss, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and table of cash movements for designated purposes for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Directors Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at 30 June 2020, and its financial performance, changes in equity and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies outlined at Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Company to meet the requirements of the applicable legislation and codes of conduct. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Matter - Effects and Uncertainties of COVID-19

During March 2020, Australia was impacted by the worldwide pandemic COVID-19. The possible ongoing effects and uncertainties on the Company arising from the on-going issues associated with COVID-19 are unknown as at the date of this report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management and Those Charged With Governance are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Lambourne Partners

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



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Mr Scott Lucas
Registered Company Auditor (4384)
Lambourne Partners
Chartered Accountants
Level 1, 56 Hudson Street
HAMILTON NSW 2303

Dated: 20 October 2020

Lambourne Partners

AHF Strategic Plan 2020–2025



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

We will:

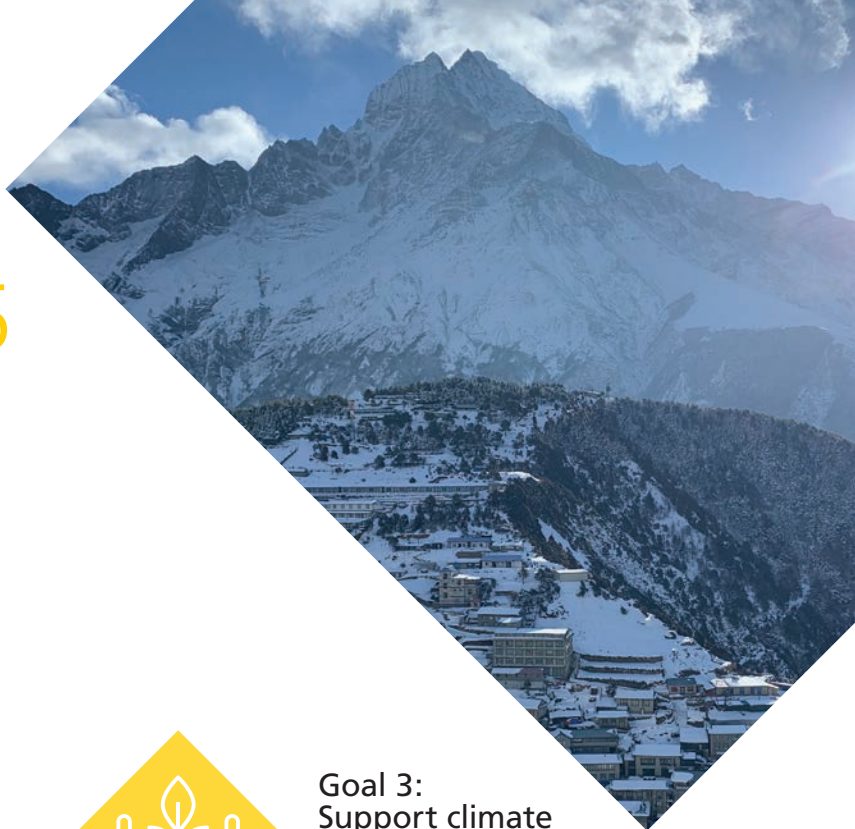
- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in selected communities of Nepal, Ladakh and Bhutan.
- Increase community awareness and capacity on climate change mitigation, ecosystem-based adaptation and impact reduction.
- Assist the conservation of mountain 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.





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 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 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 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.



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.

How can you help?

You can help to make a difference in the Himalaya in the following ways:

Stay informed

Our supporters are crucial to our development – we are a community-based organisation and rely on a pool of talented supporters to provide expertise, inspiration and assistance. We hold regular events and keep supporters informed through our Yakety Yak newsletter and updates to our website and social media.

Become a regular giver

By giving a regular monthly gift today, your tax deductible donation will help us to continue our vital work to help the most disadvantaged meet their priority needs through integrated improvements in education, health and the environment.

Make a donation

All donations to the AHF are greatly appreciated, and can be made [online](#), by phone or by post. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Fundraise

Help raise funds to improve the livelihoods of the people of the Himalaya. See our [website](#) for ideas on how.

Leave a gift in your will

Create a living legacy to assist future generations in the Himalaya by remembering the AHF in your Will.

Volunteer

Come and volunteer with us! We have a range of opportunities and would love to hear from you. Please email info@ahf.org.au or check the [AHF website](#) for more information.

Trek for the AHF

Trekking in the Himalaya, or closer to home, provides an ideal opportunity to raise funds for the AHF. Please contact AHF or check the [website](#) for the latest offers on treks.

Schools for the Himalaya

Raise funds through your school and foster cultural exchange with Himalayan schools. Please email info@ahf.org.au or contact the AHF office for more information.



**AUSTRALIAN
HIMALAYAN
FOUNDATION**

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