



AUSTRALIAN  
HIMALAYAN  
FOUNDATION

Working  
in partnership  
with the people  
of the Himalaya

ANNUAL REPORT  
2020/2021

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 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 (AHF) 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.

Alpana Rai is currently studying a Bachelor of Education and has taught at Bashuki Basic School for four years. She has also participated in REED Teacher Training for the last three years.

One of Alpana's teaching colleagues said:

“

*...if Alpana along with other teachers had not visited, children would have missed radio lessons and COVID safety and protective messages. Potentially a few of the senior level students might have dropped out or been engaged in anti-social activities.*

”

Over  
**14,000**  
students received remedial material in English, Maths and Science

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## Chairman's review

Every morning – first thing – I check the updated WHO COVID figures for Nepal and Bhutan, and when possible, the COVID situation in Ladakh, AHF's other area of program assistance.

During 2020/2021, that was my daily routine, also regularly checking with partners and friends in those regions on how their communities and medical systems were coping.

In Nepal (population 29 million – little more than ours), cases peaked at around 26,000 (and 150 deaths) a week later in 2020 then dropped away significantly, only to surge again by the end of May 2021 – to 62,000 cases and over 1,300 deaths a week.

Thanks to the generous support from donors, we were able to respond to the beginning of the second wave in May by providing more protection equipment, testing kits, and oxygen concentrators and cylinders to five remote health centres, and one rural hospital in the Solukhumbu, through our partner Action for Nepal.

And weeks later, as the situation worsened, we funded more oxygen concentrators.

In Bhutan, with its population of 770,000, strict controls and then a rapid, successful vaccination campaign, cases remained very low and only one COVID death was recorded to June 2021. But the economic effects on the country were, nevertheless, dramatic.

The COVID situation in our program countries reminded us – appropriately – how relatively well-off we are, and of our *raison d'être* – to help the people of the Himalaya who need it most.

Some elements of our programs were curtailed by the pandemic, and so were our fundraising opportunities in Australia. However, with good support from donors, and a significant income boost from 'Jobkeeper', for which we were very grateful, we were able to make ends meet and, as ever, meet our commitments to the people of the Himalaya.

We were also able to achieve solid progress on our 2021 Milestones, including developing the new phase of our flagship program, the Teacher Training and Quality Inclusive Education Program (TTQIE); scoping of a project extending AHF/ REED education support to Western Nepal, another extremely poor area of Nepal; and the scoping of a new Climate Change adaptation program.

In the second half of 2020/2021, we concentrated heavily on preparing our submission for Full Accreditation with the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Thank you so much to everyone for their sustained efforts on this, particularly our Program staff, and volunteer extraordinaire Debbie Dukes. We look forward to that coming to fruition in 2021/2022.

During the year, we farewelled Maree Whybourne and Amit Thapa from the Board, and appointed Tony Wheeler, esteemed co-founder, with his wife Maureen, of the Lonely Planet travel guides. Thank you to Maree and Amit for your terrific contributions, and a hearty welcome to Tony.

Again, we face a challenging fundraising year in 2021/2022, but again I am confident we can meet that challenge – through the support and efforts of our wonderful donors, supporters, volunteers, staff and the Board.

Dhanyabad!

*S R Ballerstone*

Simon Balderstone AM  
Chairman





# From the CEO

*"Give the ones you love wings to fly, roots to come back, and reasons to stay,"* the Dalai Lama. This quote from His Holiness the Dalai Lama encapsulates everything about the life-changes that our AHF family helps to effect.

In a year of increasing restrictions and uncertainty, our AHF family has once again delivered on mission and helped to improve the quality of life for the women, men and children in the Himalaya who need it most.

The Himalayan communities we work with have faced unimaginable challenges their whole lives, and in the face of COVID-19 the complexities and challenges seemed mountainous. In 2020/2021, every AHF partner and project was impacted by the COVID pandemic and lockdowns. Although the challenges were unimaginable, the solutions were not. We implemented Year 1 of our [Strategic Plan 2020–2025](#), and listened to our AHF community, especially our partners, to adapt where necessary.

With help from supporters like you, we responded in Nepal's time of need by working with local partner, Action for Nepal, to procure and distribute urgent medical equipment, COVID testing kits and protective gear (see page 13).

With REED Nepal, we continued the School of the Air project ensuring vital education could continue by radio while Nepal's schools were closed for over half of the year (see page 11). And we worked with partners to adapt every project to minimise set-backs so that critical education, health and environmental gains were protected and continued (see pages 6–15).

A highlight for many of us this year was witnessing the community resilience that shone through as the local community labourers in Waku constructed their new health post which is scheduled for completion in October 2021 (see page 14).

This year, we conducted external evaluations of our Teacher Training and Quality Education Project, and the Nurses for Nepal Project. The learnings and recommendations from both evaluations were incorporated in the new design of the next phases of these important projects, which we developed collaboratively with our local partners, and which commence early next year.

I must acknowledge and commend our partners who are on the frontline serving their country's most vulnerable and often putting themselves at risk in doing so. In times of crisis such as COVID, this risk was ever more evident as many partners had staff and family members ill or impacted by COVID.

**100%**  
of partners have capacity strengthening plans that will enable them to have greater impact

It is only through their leadership, tenacity and gifts that we have achieved the project outcomes and stories of change we proudly share in this Annual Report.

Similarly, without the generosity and commitment of our AHF family of donors, fundraisers, volunteers and corporate partners we simply could not deliver this high-impact life-changing work. You can read some of the immediate impact your support has made on the following page, and the deeper lifelong impact you enable is threaded through this report in stories of change and hope.

We were thrilled with the groundswell of community support for our first ever national Himalaya Day. And humbled by our committed donors whose unwavering support resulted in a 9.4% growth in donations on the prior year. Thank you.

I extend the deepest gratitude to every donor, supporter, fundraiser, volunteer, employee, Ambassador, Member and Director for your gifts, time, expertise and solidarity over this year. In working together, we give more wings, establish deeper roots, and increase reasons to stay – not only for those we serve, but for each other.

Jullay,



**Angela Ford**  
Chief Executive Officer

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 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.

# Delivering to plan



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

More than **11,000** children accessed critical education (early childhood to tertiary) in Bhutan and Nepal (the majority through School of the Air)

Children in AHF supported schools (Grades 1–8) **exceeded** prescribed government benchmark in English, Maths and Science

**14,089** students received remedial material in English, Maths and Science

**124** teachers empowered with knowledge, skills and strategies to include and engage students and improve learning outcomes



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

**168** health workers in **4** Rural Municipalities better prepared and protected against COVID-19, indirectly benefiting more than **54,000** people in Nepal

**22** local labourers are close to completing a new health post to serve nearly **5,000** people in Waku

**104** teachers in Nepal benefited from training in mental health and wellbeing

**15** counsellors and staff in Bhutan trained to respond to and support vulnerable children using post-traumatic therapy

**100** remote schools in Nepal provided with masks, soap, sanitiser and COVID-19 information



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

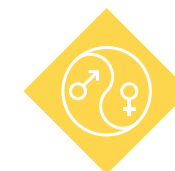
More than **240** people participated in climate change and environmental conservation training and workshops in Solukhumbu (Nepal) and Ladakh (India)



## Goal 4: Preserve and promote Himalayan cultural traditions

**113** children (**47** females; **66** males; including **15** orphaned boys) trained in Tibetan language, dance and music

**11** Tibetan performances and online streaming reaching an estimated audience of **4,000**



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

**289** participants (**139** females; **166** teachers, school leaders and parents) trained in strategies to better include women and girls in education, community and society

**289** key partner staff, community and school leaders trained in strategies to better protect and safeguard children and promote their rights



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

**100%** of partners have capacity strengthening plans that will enable them to have greater impact

**100%** of partners have undertaken training in Safeguarding



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

Donations increased by **9.4%** on prior year

More than **1,240** new supporters joined our AHF family, with 1057 donating for the first time



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

**51** trekkers participated in **10** Aussie Peaks treks raising **>\$22k**

Over **34** volunteers generously gave **1,972** hours of valuable time to help AHF achieve goals and plans



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

External evaluations of **2** AHF projects and learnings applied to **2** new project designs



## Goal 10: Foster a strong team and workplace culture

A united and committed team that works collaboratively and effectively



# Our programs

In 2020/2021, our projects, partners and the communities they serve continued to be severely impacted by COVID-19. As much as possible during this time, we adapted our interventions to maximise the support we could provide to people in the Himalayas.

Informed by the lessons learned from the previous year, we continued our 'School of the Air' distance learning program with our partner REED Nepal. Engaging and structured lessons and awareness messages were broadcast and, as our normal Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) program resumed for its final year, remedial learning material was provided.

During this year, we undertook an external evaluation at the completion of the three year phase of TTQE. The evaluation found that this project effectively contributed to important local, government and global priorities. It also responded to communities' needs by increasing knowledge, skills and responsibilities to enhance child-friendly learning, strengthen quality education and teaching strategies, and improve students' learning results.

Overall, the evaluation reported that children in Grades 1–8 exceeded the prescribed government competency benchmarks in English, Maths and Science after participating in the project.

The Child Clubs, Disaster Risk Reduction training (which is crucial given the inherent environmental risks in a location like Solukhumbu) and Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) components of the project were identified as particularly effective. It was also found that the engagement of parents in learning was innovative and encouraged student reading and enjoyment. The evaluation also provided a number of recommendations for the next project phase, which have been incorporated into our new five-year Teacher Training and Quality Inclusive Education (TTQIE) project starting in 2021/2022.

## Safeguarding, gender equality and inclusion

We have intensified our work on addressing gender equality, disability inclusion and child safeguarding in our work in the Himalaya.

All our partners attended Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Introduction to Safeguarding and we continued to work alongside them to ensure children, women and other vulnerable groups are protected from abuse and exploitation. We also advocated for greater participation of women and girls, for example by ensuring this forms part of the student selection criteria in our education support projects. Funding for livelihood assistance in the Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI) also prioritises girls and women.

Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) focal teachers were appointed in schools in our TTQE project, and equal participation of girls and boys at school and child clubs was advocated. Parent engagement activities targeted mothers' groups. The membership of Senior Management Committees also met Nepalese government standards of 33% female membership.

However, the TTQE evaluators noted that GEDSI requires engagement and empowerment of women and girls in decision-making and leadership roles and this remained an issue in many schools within the project location.

The new education project in Nepal (TTQIE) will pay particular attention to these findings and promote gender equality and equity, as well as improve child safeguarding, and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and youth suicide.

Promoting gender equality and equity and protecting women and survivors of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence are the reasons our Bhutanese partner RENEW exists. This year, we continued to provide education support to the children survivors of violence and assisted RENEW in developing enhanced policies and processes for their safeguarding.

We worked with partners to strengthen their project monitoring and ensure data is disaggregated by gender in all projects so that we could better track and plan for gender equality. We also promoted opportunities for women's empowerment by appointing women in management committees, such as for the construction of the Waku Health Post.

*“As a partner, AHF has not only provided funding support to run the project but has also helped us to grow as an organisation by helping us upgrade our organisation through training on good governance, strategic planning, child protection and more. Today we see the difference it has made in our organisation.”*

Dr Jangmoo Sherpa,  
Director AF Nepal

In partnership with Action for Nepal (AF Nepal), we listened to the voice and experiences of women, particularly when we conducted the evaluation of our Nurses for Nepal project and designed a new project aiming to increase the health of women in the Solukhumbu region. Whilst significant progress has been made in the past few years, key targets of reproductive and sexual health still need to be met to reduce women's mortality and ensure healthy lives.

Due to their high vulnerability, women in remote areas and women with disabilities will be particularly targeted in this new Women's Health Project. The project will engage and strengthen the capacity of local government, health personnel and female community health volunteers, who are critical for changing mothers' health care behaviours.

*“It was in the year 2011 when I decided to run away from my abusive grandparents and look for a better life. I was brought to the shelter home of RENEW by one of the RENEW volunteers at Bumthang. Then, I started receiving support from the scholarship program since 2012. Being one of the survivors of physical, psychological and emotional abuse, I was placed in the Gawaling Happy Home shelter and was immediately enrolled in the Scholarship program.*

*Being part of this program, I found out that the program reaches out to children who have experienced different forms of violence and to provide them with educational support. The ... scholarship program has made great impact on everyone's life. The best part here is being able to continue our education and fulfill our dreams.*

*Life is much better now as I am no longer being abused and I am free to make choices for myself. The scholarship not only lifted me out of poverty and abuse but enabled me to pursue my dreams.*

*Presently, I am helping RENEW as a trainer in one of the programs funded by UNDP to train women affected by COVID-19 in different area such as baking, tailoring, recycling and floriculture to make them financially independent. In addition, I help the children at the shelter home with their studies (E-learning) and other extra-curricular activities.*

*For now, I would like to gain some work experience and would like to pursue Masters in Food Nutrition in future. I also want to become a social worker for life and help children in need.*

Takara\*, RENEW Scholarship student

\*Name changed to protect the identity

*“We have intensified our work on addressing gender equality, disability inclusion and child safeguarding in our work in the Himalaya. All our partners attended ACFID Introduction to Safeguarding and we continued to work alongside them to ensure children, women and other vulnerable groups are protected from abuse and exploitation.”*

Corinne Stroppolo,  
Head of Programs



# Our partners

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

## Action for Nepal

Established in 2016, Action for Nepal works in the sectors of health, education and community development. 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 13) and COVID Response Projects (see page 13). We also worked very closely to construct a new health post in Waku ward (see page 14). This year, AHF continued to support AF Nepal in strengthening their child safeguarding and risk processes. Following an external evaluation of our Nurses for Nepal project, AF Nepal and AHF worked together to thoroughly analyse the results and apply learnings to design our new four year Solukhumbu Women's Health Project.

## Gangjong Doeghar, India

In 2020/2021, we continued our partnership with Gangjong Doeghar (GD) Himalayan Tibetan Performing Arts Group to support the promotion and preservation of Tibetan Performing Arts and Careers (see page 15). A capacity strengthening plan has been developed with GD and AHF provided support and advice to improve GD's HR practices, governance and development of organisational policies and procedures during the year. Other planned activities were delayed due to COVID. We look forward to supporting GD to design the next project phase.



*“ REED Nepal is continuously strengthening our partnership with AHF to contribute quality education for vulnerable people living in the Himalaya and (building on the) strong bond between AHF and REED Nepal.*

”

REED Nepal Team

## Rural Education and Environment Development Centre (REED) Nepal

Since 2005, AHF and REED have partnered to strengthen and improve access to quality education for children in Nepal to help them transform their futures.

In 2020/2021, AHF and REED implemented the third year of the Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) project (see page 11) and undertook an external project evaluation. Based on the findings, we designed a new five-year project phase: Teacher Training and Quality Inclusive Education (TTQIE).

This program is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), and our community of AHF supporters. We also worked with REED to implement the second year of the Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI) (see page 14). AHF has worked closely with REED to provide support in project design, program implementation, governance, policy development and program evaluation.

We have also provided REED staff with critical training in GEDSI, a remedial teaching course in Maths and English, and training of trainers on mental health issues. AHF assisted REED in revising its child safeguarding policy and reporting procedures.

## Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women (RENEW), Bhutan

Since 2011, AHF has supported RENEW in Bhutan to help educate vulnerable children. RENEW is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the empowerment of women and children and the promotion of sexual reproductive health and rights, with specific attention given to the survivors of domestic violence, and sexual and gender-based violence.

This year we worked closely with RENEW to implement our education support project (see page 12). Following the consultancy support provided last year to improve HR management, RENEW developed a number of key policies and processes.

*“ GD appreciates all the support AHF provides to them. We also appreciate the type of AHF support provided in strengthening the organisation. Due to AHF support, the organisation's project management capacity has increased tremendously.*

”

Samdup Tshering,  
Director and Trainer,  
Gangjong  
Doeghar



*“ AHF has been forthcoming and helpful in setting direction for every project. AHF extended support in building the capacity of the staff through training. Furthermore, we benefited from AHF policy documents in terms of developing policies for ourselves.*

”

Tsewang Namgail PhD,  
Director and Senior Scientist  
SLC-IT

AHF also assisted with project management and monitoring. Workshops and discussions were held to review and finalise the RENEW Child Safeguarding Policy and related processes.

As reported earlier, all AHF partners undertook ACFID Safeguarding Training, and RENEW have now made it mandatory training for all staff. AHF also supported training on child safeguarding to staff, project focal teachers and RENEW volunteers. In addition, counsellors and other personnel were provided with training on trauma counselling.

## Snow Leopard Conservancy – India Trust (SLC-IT)

Partners since 2015, this year AHF supported SLC-IT in the final year of our project to improve community coexistence with wildlife and assist adaptation to the impacts of climate change (see page 15).

SLC-IT works in the TransHimalayan regions of Ladakh and Spiti and is dedicated to conserving the mountain ecosystems.

They focus primarily on building local stewardship through community-based tourism, education and research in Ladakh. In 2020/2021, SLC-IT and AHF have continued working together to develop project and risk management systems as well as to strengthen safeguarding processes.

A capacity strengthening plan has been developed with SLC-IT with related activities started.



*“ RENEW's organisational strengthening and capacity development has improved positively with full support from AHF. It helped develop RENEW's and its employees' competency of knowledge and skills through mentorship, training and guidance.*

”

Mr. Sonam Penjore and  
Ms. Yangchi Pema,  
RENEW





Muna\* was born in January 2004 and moved with her family to work in the trekking business and operate a Tea House.

Muna is one of three children. Born with a physical disability, from an early age Muna showed great interest in learning; she entered competitions, read poetry and stories, and studied history. Muna studied at a school in Solukhumbu until she passed her Grade 8 exams. This school was located near her home.

Muna faced many challenges during her study but in 2016 she was provided with educational support from REED.

She said "I have felt that I have received more energy for my study due to the financial and stationery support given from time to time by this organisation and continuous counselling and support offered from sirs and madams... if this organisation had not helped me, I would not have been able to reach at this stage... I would have been forced to drop out of school; hence, it is the support of this organisation which made me able to reach here today."

Muna moved to a different school to undertake her secondary education and is currently studying in Grade 10.

\*Name changed to protect the identity

## Your impact

### Improve access to education and develop quality and inclusive education programs

#### Nepal

##### *Project: Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) Project*

Children face many challenges in accessing basic, quality education in Nepal, particularly in the remote mountain areas of the country such as Solukhumbu. For these children, even to complete primary school is a significant achievement. Every year of schooling has a tangible and measurable academic outcome, influences future earnings, and also offers protection from child labour, early marriage and human trafficking.

The challenges faced by children were further exacerbated in 2020/2021 with the closure of schools due to COVID-19. Drawing from the success of the previous year, AHF and our partner REED Nepal continued to implement 'School of the Air', a distance education program broadcasting essential radio lessons in Nepali, English, Maths, Science and Social Studies. Radios were distributed to many of the poorest children so they could access the radio lessons, workbooks were provided, and local teachers were mobilised where possible to support students.

With cases of suicide, domestic violence and mental health issues on the rise during the lockdown, broadcasted radio messages raised awareness on these issues.

As schools reopened, safety briefings were delivered and COVID-19 safety materials (soap, hand sanitisers and masks) were provided to 100 schools.

Our TTQE project had three main pillars: strengthening school resources and governance; training teachers with skills and strategies to improve learning outcomes and engage students; and supporting more students with 'going to school' support.

The teacher training component of the project, REED's signature activity, was impacted by the pandemic. Nonetheless, 46 teachers were trained in key strategies and skills to engage students in English, Maths and Science (EMS). Another group of teachers from 28 schools participated in Nepali literacy training, literacy materials were provided to the children and reading groups were established with parents strongly involved.

To promote early childhood development, REED conducted specialised training for 19 other teachers as well as training in child-friendly education and positive teaching practices. 11 Namuna (model) schools developed codes of conduct and enforced a zero tolerance for corporal punishment. Child and youth clubs were supported and strengthened.

11 schools were supported to strengthen governance and management and showed positive results. Each school has now developed a school action plan with parental involvement. Each Namuna school has appointed a GEDSI focal teacher.

To make learning accessible for children with disabilities, REED provided tailored learning materials to a small group of hearing impaired students so that they could continue their education during COVID. The project also targeted very vulnerable students (63% girls, 7% children with disabilities, 21% Dalit children, 65% Janajati children) and provided them with school stationery, books and other items so that they could access and stay in school.

An estimated  
**11,412**  
children listened regularly to the radio program providing distance education during school closures

A school meal program was implemented in four schools to ensure vulnerable children could have at least one meal a day and to promote regular attendance.

This year we conducted an external evaluation of TTQE (see page 6), which is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), and we designed a new five-year project with REED.

#### Key achievements

**1,750** children (**895** girls) in **11** Namuna (model) schools continued to access improved educational facilities, learning support and classroom resources

**46** teachers from **15** schools trained in English, Maths and Science

**19** teachers from **11** Namuna Schools trained in Early Childhood Education

**40** teachers (**29** female) from **28** schools trained in Nepali literacy

An estimated **81%** of children (**11,412**) listened regularly to the radio program providing distance education during school closures

**28** reading groups across **28** schools established with **562** community members (**140** parents and **422** children)

**11** child clubs were strengthened with **218** child club members (**135** girls)

**289** people (**146** female; **6** children with disabilities) oriented in GEDSI and child protection and reporting mechanisms

**82** very vulnerable children received a radio so they could join 'School of the Air'

**328** children (**208** girls) received full 'Going to School Support' for educational materials and an additional **5** female students engaged in higher-level technical training

**171** children (**89** girls) were provided with a nutritious meal at school



## Bhutan

*Project: Providing educational support to increase opportunities and improve wellbeing of children and young people who have experienced violence, abuse or neglect*

In our second project year, AHF and our local partner RENEW provided educational support and counselling to 174 children who are (in majority) survivors of domestic violence (62% girls, 1% children with disabilities). Children were assisted with funding for uniforms, stationery, toiletries and other essential items. While school education is free until Grade 10 in Bhutan, providing for those items is often out of reach for vulnerable students, such as survivors of domestic violence or abuse, which may result in an interruption or end of their education. During the period, four students completed higher secondary education and a remarkably high number of students transitioned successfully to the next year of schooling.

With the assistance of RENEW counsellors, all the students and their families were assessed to ensure effective support and identify at-risk children who need particular follow up. Counselling sessions were provided to the students and 15 counsellors and staff who work closely with children were trained in post-traumatic therapy, child safety and protection. This training built their capacity in mitigating and addressing risks to children in difficult circumstances.

We worked with RENEW to appoint focal teachers in schools to be an accessible first point of call for the children and to help RENEW implement the project.



*“My father was an alcoholic and a violent man who always mistreated the whole family. I am happy that I do not have to discontinue my studies and it has lifted a certain financial burden off my mother. I wonder what would have happened to my sister and me, if I was not part of the program and it scares me to think about it. I am so grateful for the program for enabling me to continue to go to school and make a better future for my family.”*

Pema\* RENEW recipient of educational support program, Bhutan

We supported training to RENEW's volunteers and focal teachers so they better understand child safeguarding requirements and RENEW's related Policy and Code of Conduct, and in order to increase their confidence in identifying and reporting child abuse and violence against children. Pre- and post-training surveys indicated a 31% improvement in understanding of child safeguarding and a 97% overall satisfaction with the training program, trainers and logistics. Participants suggested that this training be expanded to all the school counsellors/teachers.

### Key achievements

- 174 vulnerable children (38 new including 24 girls) supported to attend school and with counselling support
- 15 counsellors and staff working closely with children trained in post-traumatic therapy, child care and protection
- 20 volunteers and project focal teachers trained in child safeguarding, and identifying and reporting child abuse
- 20 volunteer focal teachers appointed



The results informed the design of our new four-year project (commencing in 2021/2022), which will focus on women's health in Waku, Chheskam and Taksindo.

Ensure healthy lives and promote children's wellbeing

## Nepal

*Project: Nurses for Nepal*

In 2020/2021, we extended our Nurses for Nepal project to complete activities impacted by COVID in the previous year, such as training to mothers' groups for maternal and child health. We were still unable to undertake some planned components during the extension, like training for the local Health Facility Operation Management Committee (HFOMC) to strengthen management, and these will be undertaken as part of a new project from next year.

AF Nepal and AHF worked with the external evaluators of the project to broaden the focus of the evaluation. In addition to the project wards of Waku and Chheskam, two new wards were included as a point of comparison and for possible future programming. 395 women, boys and girls were interviewed, and 25 key informant interviews and 22 focus group discussions were conducted.

### Key achievements:

Improvements in the health of women and children

Project nurses delivered vital health services and filled staffing gaps.

Competence of Female Community Health Volunteers improved

The health facility management reported effective training of HFOMC members

School health program increased knowledge and practice of students in hygiene, sanitation and adolescent sexual health

Mothers' groups effectively provided mothers with knowledge and motivation to learn and practice healthy behaviours

Designed new Solukhumbu Women's Health Project (implementation to start 2021/2022)

*“Behavioural changes have been observed among the people. Utilisation of the Antenatal/Postnatal services, increase in institutional delivery, increased immunisation coverage has [seen] the changes among the community people.”*

Health Post Manager, Waku

54,068 people from the four Rural Municipalities (Nepal) indirectly benefiting from the equipment provided to diagnose, treat and manage COVID-19

## COVID-19 response projects

The year was book-ended with two emergency response projects to support AF Nepal's critical responses to the COVID pandemic which posed unimaginable challenges to the very remote communities in the Solukhumbu. Where we work, basic health services can be more than a day's walk away, many communities do not have power, or access to accurate information and news. Early in 2020/2021, AHF assisted AF Nepal to complete the first COVID emergency response with distribution of PPE materials including surgical gloves, surgical masks, hand sanitisers, thermometers and cleaning products to the hospital and five health centres in Mahakulung municipality. This also involved training 30 health staff on topics including COVID-19 transmission and characteristics; infection prevention and control; use, care and disposal of PPE; occupational health and staff safety roles and responsibilities of healthcare providers in COVID-19 outbreak.

12 staff were interviewed to gather feedback on the training and to assess whether they reported an increase in capacity to handle COVID-19. All the respondents said that the equipment, manual and training received had strengthened their capacity to respond to COVID-19, helping them to keep safe and work without fear. They reported that the patients also felt safe and that they were less at risk of infection.

Later in the year, we witnessed Nepal in crisis as the Delta variant of COVID saw a surge of more than 150 deaths and 8,000 new cases per day – alarming in a country of similar size to Australia, and with very low testing rates. With the generous help of our Australian community, we supported AF Nepal's emergency response to get critical medical equipment and supplies to the remote health posts in Mahakulung RM.

This included 450 testing kits, more protective equipment such as PPE and full body protection kits, oxygen concentrators and nebulizer machines to help protect health workers and diagnose, treat and manage COVID in the most challenging of contexts.

### Key achievements

30 health staff (22 female) trained in COVID-19 prevention and treatment

168 health staff from four Rural Municipalities benefiting from improved protection

54,068 people indirectly benefiting from the equipment provided to diagnose, treat and manage COVID-19

All health centre staff interviewed reported that their capacity had been strengthened

Watch AF Nepal Director, Dr Jangmo Sherpa explain our response projects and the situation in Nepal (from July 2021): <https://vimeo.com/637362200>





## Nepal

Project: *Waku Health Post Construction Project*

Families in Waku have dreamed of their own health post for years. With incredible generosity from our Australian supporters, this year the community witnessed their dreams come true. The new building design was finalised following community consultations and the construction will incorporate a new birthing facility, vastly improved health infrastructure, more privacy and room for treatment and care. With AF Nepal's leadership, we ensured the local community remained at the heart of the project: a Health Post Construction Committee (HCC) and a Health Post Management Committee (HMC) were formed with representatives selected by the local people. Local labourers were recruited, providing much needed employment opportunities. The project is a joint partnership between AHF, AF Nepal, One Heart Worldwide and the local government. Despite COVID-19, the construction progressed smoothly and is due to be completed towards the end of 2021.

Hear a special message of thanks from HE Australian Ambassador to Nepal, Felicity Volk when she visited the Waku Health Post construction site (May 2021): <https://vimeo.com/648420832>

### Key achievements

13 HCC and HMC representatives selected from local community

23 laborers employed

Completed construction plans and costing for the new health post to benefit over **4,844** people

## Support climate change adaptation, improve environmental and wildlife conservation

### Nepal

Project: *Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI)*

The Himalaya is one of the world's most fragile and sensitive hotspots to climate change. In its second year, this project is equipping the youth of the fragile upper Solukhumbu with knowledge, skills and strategies to help reduce their vulnerabilities to the impact of climate change.

Despite challenges to the project due to COVID-19 restrictions and school closures, we still achieved a lot in the year. Our implementing partner, REED Nepal, undertook activities with 156 students, teachers, local government and community groups/youth club members to implement local initiatives. Student eco-clubs were mobilised and their memberships increased. As a result, 14 eco-clubs developed plans of actions which include waste management, school environmental enhancements and social media campaigns.

Two monitoring groups were established to observe the endangered red panda in Sagarmatha National Park. Together with the community forest user group, they have planted 1,200 trees.

To mitigate the impact of climate change on vulnerable families, four families were selected to undertake goat farming (six in total). Five female farmers were trained in sustainable agriculture and supported in organic farming.

### Key achievements

156 school children, teachers, local community/youth club members (62 females) trained in climate change and adaptation planning

14 school eco-clubs established by year 2

All school eco-clubs developed action plans and 5 of them started planting seedlings and flowers, and digging pits for compost

2 Red Panda groups conducted monitoring

1,200 pine trees planted

6 vulnerable families supported for goat farming and 5 female farmers trained in organic farming

Watch our AHF video to learn more about this program: <https://vimeo.com/554601307>



“...Nowadays the community is being so aware that they are planning to make the area a red panda zone so that other people can focus on that and then be more responsible for the conservation of the red panda.”

Narayan Gyawali,  
REED EYCI Program  
Manager

## India

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

Snow Leopard Conservancy-India Trust (SLC-IT) operations also continued to be impacted by COVID-19 and lockdowns this year. Four individual snow-leopard safe corrals were built with local communities across the remote Zaskar Valley of Ladakh in the Indian Himalaya. Each household was selected based on livestock depredation reported in the last year, including one family that had faced snow leopard attacks twice in one year. Previous beneficiaries of corrals reported zero attacks demonstrating the effectiveness of the simple wire-mesh structure to keep snow leopards from attacking livestock.

Similarly, to deal with the growing conflict between humans and brown bears, food storage containers were built and distributed to 10 households that had reported high losses due to house break-ins. These food containers prevent bears from attacking essential food items. SLC-IT field staff conducted workshops focusing on conservation, use of bear-proof food storage containers, bear monitoring, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change and its impact.

To inspire and encourage local people to get involved in understanding the impact of climate change, two new volunteers were provided with cameras.

They were instructed on how to take and manage photos to capture and assess the extent of glacial melting, and to document patterns of visits by wildlife predators to the villages. Photographs taken last year by volunteers were reviewed and it was decided that participants would benefit from further training.

Due to travel restrictions, the planned consultation with an expert hydrologist to help solve one community's water shortage had to be cancelled. With travel movement easing, we hope that a suitable solution will be found next financial year.

### Key achievements

4 livestock corrals built in 3 villages

10 bear-proof food storage containers developed and installed in 3 villages

86 people participated in workshops on conservation, bear-proofing homes, avoiding human-bear interactions, and climate change and its impact (participant numbers reduced due to COVID).

2 additional volunteer community members (total of 12) trained to monitor glaciers and wild predators in 11 villages

## Preserve and promote Himalayan Cultural Traditions

### India

Project: *Promotion of Tibetan Performing Arts and Careers (PTPAC)*

Through the PTPAC project, Gangjong Doeghar (GD) Tibetan Performing Arts in Kalimpong, India, teaches Tibetan dance, music and language to children and young adults as a way of promoting and preserving Tibetan heritage. They also participate in cultural performances.

Although the project was also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, small group classes could be conducted from August to October. When restrictions relaxed, regular training resumed. 113 children and youth were trained in Tibetan dance, music and language. The number of students attending the GD training centre has increased greatly with more than double the number of students compared to the first year. This is due to GD's sustained and recognised contributions to the preservation of Tibetan Art and Culture and its reputation in the community as a high quality training provider and performance group.

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This project provides a platform for GD trainees to perform locally, in different parts of India and at times internationally. Although this activity was also affected by COVID-19 pandemic, GD still managed to participate in performances and conducted a workshop on acting, Tibetan dance, music and opera for their students. It is estimated that over 4,000 audience members were reached via GD performances including through online streaming.

This year, AHF also assisted GD to repair the ceiling of their training hall, which had collapsed and impacted their ability to provide training.

### Key achievements

113 children trained in Tibetan language and performing arts: 46 junior students (under 17 years old), 52 senior students (17 years old and above), 15 boys from an orphanage

11 performances showcasing Tibetan performing arts

6-day workshop held for GD students



# Our community

The passionate and generous support of our AHF family was very evident throughout this year, with so many people, companies and organisations coming together to help the Himalaya during the pandemic.

AHF's Sydney office (like so many communities around the world) continued to operate remotely as we went in and out of lockdowns. Many of our planned fundraising events and treks were cancelled. In the midst of these local concerns, we remained very aware that the people of Nepal, Bhutan and India were incredibly vulnerable not only to COVID but also to the economic hardship of lockdown.

We were humbled that our AHF community kept the people of the Himalaya in their hearts and minds, and so generously expressed their solidarity in actions. In December, our annual Kathmandu Christmas ornament campaign featured an elephant, and raised over \$51,000 thanks to our incredible partnership with Kathmandu and their generous customers.

With international travel cancelled, many planned fundraising treks could not go ahead so a number of intrepid Aussies undertook treks and trips within Australia to fundraise for the people they hold so dear. Mark Morrissey cycled solo from Albany to Perth, raising over \$8,000 for AHF's health programs in Nepal. AHF ACT representative and renowned mountain guide Zac Zaharias took three groups to Kosciuszko in November, December and February, raising over \$21,000 while having a blast trekking through the Snowy Mountains!

In March and April, the twice-postponed Kathmandu Everest Challenge was finally held in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra, attracting over 350 die hard runners, walkers and fundraisers to 'the hill'.

We also held the inaugural Everest Virtual Challenge, with participants from all over heading to their steepest local roads and tracks.

It was particularly exciting to see Blue Mountains local Allie Pepper hit her stride with nine trips up and down Perry's Lookdown, one of the toughest tracks out there.

## AHF's Schools for the Himalaya

Our Schools for the Himalaya program gives school communities in Australia and other countries a wonderful opportunity to discover and learn about student life in remote and mountainous Himalayan communities, whilst also providing practical support for a school in the region. Under the program, Australian schools raise funds to provide vitally needed basic facilities and educational resources to a school in this remote and under-resourced part of the world. We have enjoyed our ongoing partnership with Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School in Melbourne and their fundraising efforts during COVID. We were also delighted to support The Forest High School in Sydney in their work with their Tibetan Refugee student population and look forward to exploring future opportunities to work together.

May brought with it our annual Himalaya Day (which commemorates the day in 1953 on which Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay achieved the first ascent of Mt. Everest) and Australia's Biggest Curry Night! For the first time AHF held a 'National Himalaya Day' – *Taking the Heat off the Himalaya* and running five concurrent events on 27 May.

With massive logistical and leadership support from our state representatives, Ambassadors and local volunteers, we were able to hold dinners in Hobart, Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney.

A late snap lockdown in Melbourne saw most diners collecting their curry to dine at home, along with many others from around Australia who joined the evening online. We are so grateful to all who made this night such a success!

With many events sold out, Australia's Biggest Curry Night raised over \$60,000. This great result was also made possible with the support of many restaurants and amazing gourmet food companies who both promoted our event and provided great items for prizes! The flagship Sydney dinner featured AHF Ambassador, and Grammy award nominee Tenzin Choegyal, whose moving performance was also streamed live on Facebook.

Amongst our guests at the Canberra Dinner, hosted by AHF Chair Simon Balderstone, we were delighted to have the Nepalese Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Mr. Mahesh Raj attend along with other leaders from the Nepali diaspora.

In June, with the second serious wave of COVID (the Delta strain) sweeping across Nepal, we launched our COVID emergency appeal and our AHF family once again stepped forward and responded generously.

These vital funds helped purchase and send critical oxygen concentrators, PPE, full protection gear and testing kits to communities in the Solukhumbu. This enormous effort once again proved how generous and active our supporters are in their care for the people of the Himalaya.

## AHF's Himalayan Art Award (HAA)

Established in 2008 by Margie Thomas, this award was created in memory of Murray Zanoni to honour Murray's wish to support young Himalayan artists. To date, 14 artists have been provided with financial support to develop a body of work. The artists have exhibited this work at the Siddhartha Art Gallery in Nepal and in return have donated a major and a minor artwork to AHF to be used to raise funds for future awardees. Many of the former winners have gone on to enjoy successful careers, including exhibiting their works internationally. Whilst COVID has interrupted travel and the exhibition schedule, the current winner, Bidhyaman Tamang is currently completing his work, supported by Kathmandu, which we look forward to seeing soon. Preserving and promoting Himalayan cultural traditions is a key goal in our Strategic Plan.





- 4 Pines Brewing
- Accor Hotels
- ACME Foundation
- Adventure+ Entertainment
- Andrew Neimeyer
- Annapurna Salamanca
- Anni McNiven
- Anthony and Maureen Wheeler
- Ascent Private Wealth
- Australian Aid Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Bhodro
- Chairman's Trekkers Support Group
- Data4Good
- Davenport Campbell
- Dell Technologies
- Dick Estens and family
- Edmund Hillary Clothing
- Elite Travel
- Everest Curry House
- Footprints Network (World Nomads)
- Funky Momo
- Grace of India
- Greg Mortimer
- Gur Taj
- Haimat
- Herbie's Spices
- H&K Johnston Family Foundation
- Intelligent Risks Pty Ltd
- Jeanette and Peter Young
- Joe's Basecamp

## Thank you

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

- John Byrne
- Judy Curtis
- Kashi Indian
- Kathmandu
- Katoomba Foods
- Kennards Storage
- Lambourne Partners
- Levendra
- Mandala Living
- Manjits
- Mari and Paul Notaras
- Mark and Lucy Osborn
- Mark Morrissey
- McNair Charitable Foundation
- Michelle Lim and Mark Baker
- Neil Fergus
- Neill Johanson
- Nellie O'Keeffe
- Nepal Dining Room
- Newa Chhe'n
- Norton Rose Fullbright
- Pemba Capital Partners
- Pennicott Wilderness Journeys
- Peter Lemon
- Roger Butler and family
- Ruth Fitzhardinge
- Samsara Tea House
- Saravanaa Bhavan

- Stobart Strauss Trust
- Surtaj Indian Restaurant
- The Hungry Buddha
- The Ian Watson Foundation
- The Royal Turban
- The Spice Tailor
- The Sunrise Foundation
- University of Sydney
- WaazWaan
- Wild Magazine
- World Expeditions
- W Short Hospitality
- Zaffran



We would like to thank all our supporters, from individuals and groups, to sponsors and trekkers who have helped raise vital funds to make an impact in the Himalaya this year.

Over the past year, with COVID preventing international travel, inspiring individuals have achieved great feats locally while trekking or riding in Australia. Special thanks to all our AHF Ten Peaks trekkers, participants of our Kathmandu Neverest Challenge & Neverest Virtual Challenge, and Ali Pepper and Mark Morrissey for their individual accomplishments with Virtual Neverest and a 1,000km bike ride respectively!

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.

We extend enormous thanks to the organising committees who supported us and made our inaugural 'National' Himalaya Day a great success! Thanks go to Heather McNeice, Edwin Trevor-Roberts, Damien Butler, Zac Zaharias, Pam Sherpa, Susan Tan, Dawn Roberts, Hannah Price, Roger O'Meagher, Anne Briggs, Gay Lynch, Mike Dillon, George Hillary, Doug Grant and Freya Powell for managing the interstate dinners.



*"AHF is an organisation that I find very easy to support. I am delighted to be able to support their programs in healthcare, education and the environment, through my fundraising."*

Mark Morrissey  
AHF Supporter

In Sydney we thank Upala Sunthakar, Sue Fagoaga, Sinora Tamang, Trevor Harrison, Sarah Bunting, Solomon Gallate, Hugo Carberry, Kaia Taikato and Luna Ligertwood, our MC Richard l'Anson, and fellow AHF Ambassadors Jen Peedom, Tenzin Choegyal and Joe Bonington. We also thank all the restaurants, businesses and people who supported Australia's Biggest Curry Night (#ABCN) by either hosting or promoting our events, or through their generous contributions for the online auction, prizes and gifts.

The Kathmandu Neverest Challenge could not go ahead without a long list of volunteers in each city. Our enormous thanks for their support each year, particularly Sue Fagoaga who worked closely with the team in every event this year.

We are again grateful for the ongoing support of our state representatives, committees, members and the incredible team of AHF Ambassadors.

Our pro-bono consultants continue to support AHF through extending their valuable and professional expertise with our team. AHF has been so fortunate to once again have the support of Ben Kassel, Nicole Browne, David Nott, Dr Christopher Birch (SC), Edwin Trevor-Roberts, Heather McNeice, Mark Morrissey, Debbie Dukes, Emma Huffam, Neil Fergus, Eliza Thorn, Roger O'Meagher, SallyAnn Hunting, Kirsten Ridley, Nicola Dowsing, Scott Lucas, Sinora Tamang, George Hillary, Tom Singleton Kimberley McLean and Manju Khadka. They continue to help the AHF team and our partners in the Himalaya either through their contributions to the AHF Advisory Committees or with their in-kind support.

The Board and staff also pay tribute to and recognise the absolute dedication of our team of volunteers and interns who provide an extension of our team. In 2020/2021 our special thanks go to Debbie Ooi for her role as Volunteer Coordinator, Debbie Dukes, Sue Fagoaga, Trevor Harrison, Margot Stuart, Viv Dore, Trevor Builder, Ted Giam, Lindy Nisbett, Mary Hosford, Zac Zaharias, Pam Sherpa, Susan Tan, Pranita Nepal, Abhash Shrestha, Barnaby Waights, Giselle Manalo, Grace Lin, Krishmalie Perera, Laura De Feyter, Natalie Shand, Sachin Dahal, Thanh Nguyen, Freya Powell, Bruno Andrade, Veronica Coyle and Virginia Dixon. Special thanks to our volunteer events photographer Ramona Codd-Miller. Volunteers are at the heart of what we do and together help us to help the people of the Himalaya.

*"We are thrilled to be supporters of the amazing work that is done by AHF and their local Nepalese partners and are particularly proud to support the Waku Health Clinic project. We look forward to seeing improved health facilities in this remote and beautiful part of the world."*

Michelle Lim and  
Mark Baker,  
AHF Supporters





# 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.



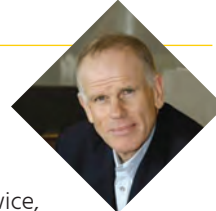
### Christine Gee AM

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.



### 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.



### Amit J Thapa (resigned June 2021)

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.



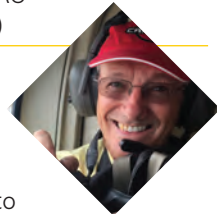
### Garry Weare (Deputy Chairman)

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.



### Tony Wheeler AO (appointed May 2021)

An Asia 'hippie trail' trek in 1972 led to the creation of Lonely Planet and the *New York Times* to describe Tony as 'the trail-blazing patron saint of the world's backpackers and adventure travelers.' The guidebooks he helped write include India and Nepal. Since Tony departed Lonely Planet there's been the Planet Wheeler Foundation's education and health projects in the developing world, Global Heritage Fund's archaeology sites and, until the coronavirus pandemic interrupted things, lots of travel to keep him busy.



### Maree Whybourne (resigned February 2021)

Maree has enjoyed a career in fund-raising 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.



*“AHF creates lasting impact and change in the lives of children and their families in the remote regions of the Himalaya. We work closely with communities to develop skills, deliver opportunities and support the futures of children in the Himalaya.”*

Julia Booth, AHF Director

## Ambassadors

Alyssa Azar (resigned May 2021)

Cheryl Bart (resigned June 2021)

Joe Bonington

Jackson Bursill

Tenzin Choegyal

Michael Dillon AM

Dylan Hall (resigned May 2021)

George Hillary

Alice l'Anson

Richard l'Anson

Andrew Lock OAM

Jen Peedom

Tom Singleton

*“The AHF creates a lasting impact to the beautiful communities in the Himalayas... For me, it's a pleasure to continue my family's commitment to the region, and I love seeing the life-changing work every time I visit.”*

George Hillary, AHF Ambassador

## 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

Debbie Ooi  
Volunteer Coordinator

## 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 Digital Manager  
(part-time)

Rishi Dhillon  
Finance Officer  
(part-time)



# 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.

## How we raised our funds in 2020/2021

Donations & Supporter Contributions  
\$823,538 (68.91%)

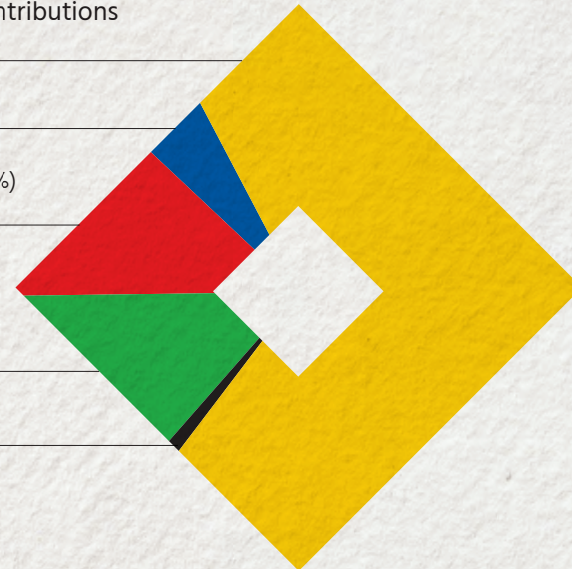
Fundraising Revenue/  
Events (Gross) \$60,370 (5.05%)

DFAT \$150,000 (12.55%)

Other Government  
Subsidies \$160,807 (13.46%)

Interest \$388 (0.03%)

TOTAL \$1,195,103 (100%)



## How we spent our funds in 2020/2021

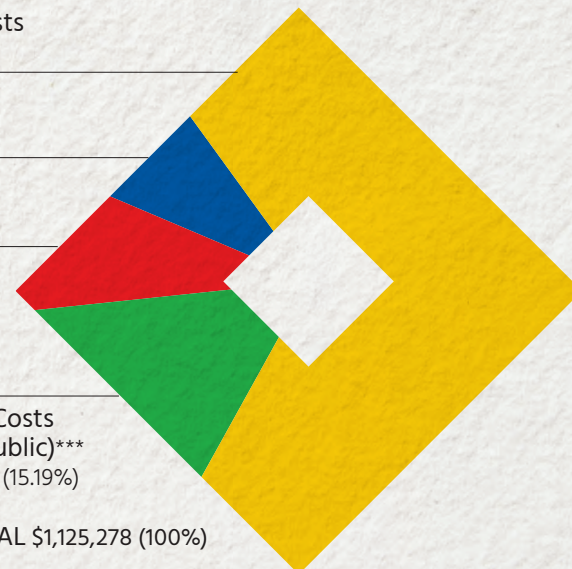
International Program  
Expenditure & Support Costs  
\$767,900 (68.24%)

Community Education\*  
\$95,961 (8.53%)

Administration\*\*  
\$90,495 (8.04%)

Fundraising Costs  
(Govt & Public)\*\*\*  
\$170,922 (15.19%)

TOTAL \$1,125,278 (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. 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 2021

Income statement	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
<i>Donations of gifts</i>		
Monetary	823,538	752,936
<i>Bequests and legacies</i>	–	–
<i>Grants</i>		
DFAT	150,000	150,000
<i>Investment income</i>	388	2,046
<i>Other income</i>		
Fundraising revenue	60,370	137,294
Supporter contributions	–	–
Community education	–	–
Paid parental leave subsidy	–	–
COVID-19 government support	160,807	85,821
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,195,103</b>	<b>1,128,097</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>		
International aid and development programs expenditure		
<i>International programs</i>		
Funds to overseas programs	(477,718)	(470,962)
Program support costs	(290,182)	(280,270)
<i>Fundraising costs</i>		
Public	(140,125)	(212,539)
Government, multilateral and private	(30,797)	(33,320)
<i>Community education</i>	(95,961)	(64,456)
<i>Accountability and administration</i>	(90,495)	(105,314)
<b>Total international aid and development expenditure</b>	<b>(1,125,278)</b>	<b>(1,166,861)</b>
<i>Other expenditure</i>	–	–
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(1,125,278)</b>	<b>(1,166,861)</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) ordinary activities</b>	<b>69,825</b>	<b>(38,764)</b>

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](http://www.acfid.asn.au). A copy of the full statutory financial report for 2020/2021 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 2020/2021.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

“  
I've seen  
firsthand just what a  
highly-courageous and  
motivated team can achieve  
and the measurable difference that  
has made to school kids and teachers  
of the upper Solukhumbu region.  
As someone who has climbed to the  
highest point on earth I know the  
importance of trust and trust is  
something I have in the AHF.”

Neill Johanson,  
AHF Supporter



# Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	983,638	840,252
Trade and other receivables	27,801	36,007
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,011,439</b>	<b>876,259</b>
Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment	–	–
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,011,439</b>	<b>876,259</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade and other payables	45,603	3,677
Provision for employee entitlements	44,256	20,827
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>89,859</b>	<b>24,504</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>89,859</b>	<b>24,504</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>921,580</b>	<b>851,755</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings	921,580	851,755
Members' guarantee	–	–
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>921,580</b>	<b>851,755</b>

# Statement of changes in equity

As at 30 June 2021

	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2019	890,519	890,519
Profit/(loss) for the period	(38,764)	(38,764)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>851,755</b>	<b>851,755</b>
Balance at 1 July 2020	851,755	851,755
Profit/(loss) for the period	69,825	69,825
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>921,580</b>	<b>921,580</b>

# Independent audit report (IAR)

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

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021



## Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Himalayan Foundation Limited (the Company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2021, 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 2021, 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. Significant financial support was provided by the State and Federal Governments during the 2020 and 2021 financial years. This support is currently being unwound. Additionally, the Company was forced to amend its operations on 26 June 2021 due to a NSW Government Public Health Order. The possible ongoing effects and uncertainties on the Company arising from ongoing 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.

Lambourne Partners

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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.

#### 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.

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

Dated: 22 October 2021

## ACFID

The AHF is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (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](http://www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au/complaints). Complaints related to AHF activities or any other matter can be emailed to [complaints@ahf.org.au](mailto:complaints@ahf.org.au) or directed to Angela Ford (CEO) on 02 9438 1822 or email [angela@ahf.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints)



Ang Dandi Sherpa was born in Salleri Solukhumbu where he graduated from school. He was keen to undertake tertiary studies, but tragically he became very ill and lost his sight in both eyes. Ang only regained partial sight, but was motivated when he learned that he had successfully graduated from school and worked hard to overcome the stigma of vision impairment.

Ang "decided to have strong commitment for himself and decided to be a primary level teacher at any cost". He learned Braille in Kathmandu with support from Nepal Blind Association. Ang eventually got a teaching job in 2017.

Through support of the TTQE project and encouragement from REED Nepal's dedicated staff, he has developed professionally and personally. In 2020 Ang was transferred to his local school in his nearby home of Salleri to an AHF-funded Namuna School.

Ang said that "...It is easier for people to express when people understand me from blind perspective. I started to share about my personal and professional problems and issues with the REED team. REED has provided me the opportunity to attend [training]... where I have opportunity for inclusion with teachers from different schools where we could exchange tips for my professional growth."

Ang has been provided with different teaching materials (stylus, board, hard paper, readable charts and other materials). He recently was provided with a set curriculum, text books and other reference materials in Braille script (published by National Blind Associated and Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD)).

Ang told REED that "... those materials have added value to my profession and now I can do better preparation of my class in more effective way. My children feel proud when they see me with Braille script materials and others materials taking for their classes. I am sure these are another milestone for my professional growth".

This work is supported by the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



# 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 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](mailto:info@ahf.org.au) or check the [AHF website](#) for more information.

## Travel with 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](mailto:info@ahf.org.au) or contact the AHF office for more information.



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HIMALAYAN  
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