



AUSTRALIAN
HIMALAYAN
FOUNDATION



PARTNERING WITH
THE HIMALAYA
SINCE 2002

Working in partnership with the people of the Himalaya

ANNUAL REPORT
2022/2023

Sustainable education, health and environmental projects

Contents

03	Our People + About Us	13	Partner Profile
04	Chair's review	14	On Top of the World
05	From the CEO	16	Financial Information
06	Delivering to Plan	18	Thank you
07	Story of Change	19	ACFID/DFAT/Complaints
08	Our Programs	20	How can you Help?

“

“Human life is far more important than just getting to the top of a mountain.”

- SIR EDMUND HILLARY

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.

OUR MISSION

Why we exist

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

Our people

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2023

JULIA BOOTH

Julia has 20 years' experience in development and management of projects in private, government and NGO sectors. She teaches at USYD Business School.

GARRY WEARE

Garry has organised and led treks in the Himalaya for nearly 50 years. He is a former director of World Expeditions and an acclaimed author.

SIMON BALDERSTONE AM

Simon, member of the First Australian Everest Expedition, former Himalayan trek guide, journalist, author, Ministerial and Prime Ministerial Senior Advisor.

CHRISTINE GEE AM

Christine is CEO of Bryce Courtenay International, co-founder of Australian Himalayan Expeditions, and served as Nepalese Honorary Consul-General (1987–2009).

PETER HILLARY

Philanthropic leader, adventurer and author, Peter has summited Everest twice, and achieved the first high-altitude traverse of the entire Himalayan range.

GREG MORTIMER

Greg is a member of the first Australian Everest Expedition and was the first Australian to summit K2, Annapurna II and Chongtar in the Himalaya.

TONY WHEELER AO

Trail-blazing patron saint of the world's adventure travellers, Tony is the co-founder of Lonely Planet and the Planet Wheeler Foundation.

AMBASSADORS

Joe Bonington, Jackson Bursill, Gabby Kanizay, Tenzin Choegyal, Michael Dillon AM, Richard I'Anson, Andrew Lock OAM, Heather McNeice, Jen Peedom.

ADVISERS

Ken Baldwin (Environment); Dr Christopher Birch SC (Legal); Nicole Brown (Fundraising and Communications); Nicola Dowsing (Programs); Neil Fergus (Risk); Scott Lucas (Finance and Governance); Mark Morrissey (Safeguarding); Roger O'Meagher (Teacher Training); Tom Singleton (Building); Kirsten Ridley (Programs); Eliza Thorn (Risk); Sinora Tamang, (Inclusion & Safeguarding).

CURRENT STAFF

Andrew Judge, CEO; Corinne Stroppolo, Head of Programs; Hannah Hempenstall, Acting Head of Fundraising and Communications; Rishi Dhillon, Fundraising Coordinator; Sharon Johnson, Finance Officer; Alina Clarke, Project Officer; Rajendra Manandhar, Program Manager Nepal; Carolyn Hamer-Smith, Program Manager Bhutan.

Like us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)



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

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

AHF is an Australian NGO with no political or religious affiliations. AHF prioritises high standards of governance, public accountability, transparency and financial management. We are signatories to the Australian Council for International Development and Fundraising Institute of Australia's Codes of Conduct. We are accredited with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program.

Chair's Review

In 2022 we marked two impressive decades working throughout the Himalaya, benefiting communities most in need. 2022-23 saw achievements, changes and opportunities for rejuvenation.

The Commonwealth Government has put their trust in AHF to deliver projects and create lasting impact by granting us full accreditation as an international development organisation. With this opportunity, in conjunction with our partners REED Nepal and Action for Nepal, we established the West Nepal *Sambridhi Pashim* project focusing on education and health in one of the most disadvantaged areas in the Himalaya.

Our environmental and conservation footprint continues to expand with our new climate change program in Bhutan and the scoping of a fire management project in Nepal.

After two decades, Simon Balderstone, our valiant Chair stepped down (read his farewell message p19). Simon's passion, leadership, and unrelenting

determination have driven AHF's success and we are so grateful for his dedication. Christine Gee stepped off the Board after two decades, acknowledging it was an enormous privilege to be on the Board. She recognises that the legacy of passion and commitment, shared by her and the other founding directors, is important to pass on as AHF goes through a process of rejuvenation. Greg Mortimer shared his commitment for the Himalaya in his time as Director and Chair, and fostered AHF's potential for growth. We applaud the work of these directors, they will always be part of AHF.

Karen Locke, our Head of Fundraising and Communications left us after six wonderful years. Karen's hard work and vision created and developed important individual and institutional relationships

to support AHF's work. Thank you Karen.

Our brilliant CEO, Angela Ford who led us to full accreditation and cemented AHF's status as a leading development organisation decided to hang up her spurs in 2023. We have been fortunate to have Angela's talent, leadership and skill. Thank you Angela.

We are very pleased to welcome Andrew Judge as our new CEO. Passionate about the Himalaya and a veteran international development specialist, we are honoured to have Andrew join our AHF family.

AHF's unwavering dedication to help communities in need throughout the Himalaya has enormous impact. None of this would be possible without our directors and staff, the commitment of our partners and the passion and support of our generous donors and volunteers.

Let me take this opportunity to thank my fellow directors and the volunteer members of our advisory groups who donate their invaluable advice to our AHF Board and staff.

We are excited for the future and thank you for your continued support and trust.

JULIA BOOTH
Chair

“The long term success and sustainability of AHF demonstrates that partnerships with organisations and individuals is our strength.”

- JULIA BOOTH



“Our new health and education project in Far West Nepal encapsulates Sir Ed's legacy of giving back and the friendship roots of our 20 year foundational story.”

ANGELA FORD

From the CEO

The heart of our work is compassion, friendship and a spirit of adventure. In this year of anniversaries and milestones all were evident in leaps and bounds.

In 2023, the world commemorated 70 years since Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary first summited Mt Everest, and our Australian Himalayan Foundation family united to celebrate decades of lives changed through friendship and compassion in action.

Following the pandemic it was a thrill that we could recommence travel and reconnect in-person with so many friends of the Foundation.

Highlights include:

- Joining our peer Himalayan donor agencies – Himalayan Trust UK and Himalayan Trust NZ – to meet our partners in Nepal and share strategies and future plans, whilst also joining the 70th anniversary celebrations (p14-15).
- Our popular fundraising treks led by adventurous friends of the Foundation proved very popular with three trips to the Solukhumbu and one to Bhutan raising an astonishing \$156,740.

- Seeing our compassionate Teacher Trainer volunteers from Australia and NZ in action again. These generous teaching professionals dedicated their April school holidays to work closely with the REED team to share their expertise and train local teachers in Far West Nepal.

Our new health and education project in Far West Nepal encapsulates Sir Ed's legacy of giving back, and the friendship anchoring our 20-year foundational story. This new project also exemplifies the financially strong and sustainable position our Foundation can deliver from, with program expenditure increasing from \$523,586 to \$1,030,877 (p16-17).

After years of improving healthcare and education in the Lower Solukhumbu, we've leveraged the expertise and knowledge of REED Nepal and Action for Nepal to design and deliver the new project which will vastly improve living standards in the Khaptad Chhanna Rural

Municipality (RM) in Bajhang District, Far West Nepal – the third poorest District in the country.

Of course, none of this work is possible without you – our dear donors, friends, partners, volunteers, advisors, directors and staff – and the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). On behalf of the Foundation I thank each of you for your friendship, compassion, generosity and partnership.

I have immensely enjoyed my adventure as CEO for the past 4.5 years. It is with great pride that I hand the role over to our new CEO, Andrew Judge. With over 15 years' experience leading For Purpose organisations in Australia, NZ and the US, I have every confidence that Andrew will continue to grow the friendships and sustainability of our Foundation, allowing us to help many more Himalayan women, children and men thrive and prosper.

With gratitude,

ANGELA FORD
Chief Executive Officer

Delivering to Plan



GOAL 1: Improve access to education and develop quality and inclusive education programs.

436 vulnerable children (**270** girls) in Bhutan and Nepal provided with support for their education.

747 teachers (**347** women) received professional development training.

5,049 parents (**3,431** women) attended parental education sessions.



GOAL 2: Ensure healthy lives and promote children's wellbeing.

8,265 people (**7,625** women) benefitted from improved health services focusing on maternal and reproductive health in Solukhumbu and West Nepal.

12 Health Facilities including **1** birthing centre received medical equipment and supplies.

275 people attended Primary Health Care Outreach Clinics, including for antenatal care.



GOAL 3: Support Climate Change adaptation, improve environmental and wildlife conservation.

Conservation project co-designed with the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust.

Evaluation completed of our Environment Youth Climate Initiative project in Nepal which benefitted **4,194** people (**1,637** women).



GOAL 4: Preserve and promote Himalayan cultural traditions.

Himalayan Art Award Exhibition profiling the work of local artists raised **\$3,000**.



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

1,527 children participated in child rights and child safeguarding workshops.

377 health/education representatives in Nepal and Bhutan provided with gender equality and/or child safeguarding training.



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

A combined health and education project established with AHF's partners REED Nepal and Action for Nepal in Far West Nepal.

All partners and AHF staff attended training on gender transformative approaches.

12 members of the RENEW management team in Bhutan received leadership management training.



GOAL 7: Grow and deepen our supporter base and funding partnerships.

A significant increase in government grant funding (\$150,000 in FY22 to **\$782,290** in FY23), from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australian NGO Cooperation Program.

Donations increased by **106%** (**+\$1,035,114**) on prior year.



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

Collaboration with Himalayan Trust NZ on Summit Challenge event in March, raising over **\$100,000** collectively.

5 Himalaya Day events across **4** cities.



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

Retained earnings increased by **109%**

Finance functions partially transferred to Indian and Nepalese organisations.



GOAL 10: Foster a strong team and workplace culture.

Offsite event in March for staff and volunteers to connect and reflect on the previous year, and plan the year ahead.

"Before [receiving the] training, I was having a very hard time teaching mathematics, especially algebra and arithmetic."

- SABEENA BASNET



BRINGING COLOUR TO THE CLASSROOM

Mrs Sabeena Basnet (pictured above) is a maths teacher at a primary school in the Solukhumbu district of Nepal. As a child Sabeena was known for her focused and studious nature. Her parents knew the value of education and encouraged her to become a teacher so she could empower others.

Sabeena was 19 when she began her career as a maths teacher but it was an uphill struggle. In rural Himalaya, education is not up to the standard of urban schools and many of her students lacked prior knowledge of maths. The teaching materials and style of teaching were outdated and Sabeena was desperate to engage her students and help them.

Fortunately, she enrolled in a 10-day teacher training module run by REED Nepal that was co-funded by AHF and the Nepal government. The sessions taught her how to prepare teaching materials and create lesson plans that were lively and child friendly.

Today, Sabeena's maths lessons are colourful and dynamic. Her students are engaged, and attendance and participation rates have soared. **"I have no words to express the gratitude I have for REED and AHF."**

Working in Partnerships for Positive Change

AHF works tirelessly with the people of the Himalaya. Read on for a snapshot of our programs and how they help provide opportunities in health, education and the environment

AHF has built strong partnerships with in-country organisations Action For Nepal, REED Nepal, RENEW in Bhutan and the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust with whom we implement our programs. We particularly pay close attention to the needs of women and girls, ensure they are involved in decisions affecting them, promote leadership opportunities and strive to eliminate all forms of violence against them.

HEALTH

Health is for All

Our Programs team regularly travel to the Himalaya to measure the impact of your support. Last October, we met Usha whilst visiting a remote village called Daru Guan in Far West Nepal, one of the sites of our new education and health program. Usha is a midwife with an infectious energy and an inspirational commitment to improving the lives of people she works with.

“

Working to achieve gender equality and empowering women and girls is central to our programs”

- CORINNE STROPPOLO
AHF Head of Programs

The health centre she worked in was very basic: it had extremely limited equipment and no electricity. As she showed us the rusty birthing table, we were shocked

to hear she had to hold a torch in her mouth when delivering the babies as there was no lighting.

In response, AHF was able to support the installation of solar panels to the health post, bringing much needed light and enabling Usha and her colleagues to boil water, sterilise medical instruments or use an electric heater to provide warmth for newborn babies.

In addition, medical equipment essential for maternal and child health was funded for six health centres (HCs) in Far West Nepal, and six in Solukhumbu. This support has greatly contributed to the improvement of the health services provided to the women and children, reflected in progression against the HC's Minimum Service Standards.

The Impact of Training

As part of our program assessment process we recognised that key people in the health system needed support. We helped to upskill 35 local government personnel on current health policy and and 117 health centre management committee members on their roles and responsibilities.

Health staff in Nepal have limited opportunities for much needed professional development. AHF was able to offer training so that health personnel in Solukhumbu and West Nepal could become Skilled Birth Attendants. Training was provided on birth control methods and in detecting cervical cancer. Eight people were recruited to ensure the centres are fully staffed and able to provide obstetric and women's health services.

Local is Best

In remote communities, health centres can be several hours away. We strive to make health services accessible by supporting primary health care



Above: A young mother and her baby attend a new health centre in Nepal

outreach clinics within 30 minutes walking distance for the people in each area. In 2022-23, these clinics provided services for approximately 300 people in Solukhumbu.

In Nepal, the majority of maternal deaths occur during the postnatal period but only 25% of Nepalese mothers receive adequate antenatal checks. Now, new mothers can receive home support. These vital checks can be life saving for women and their newborns.

We are proud to share that AHF and Action for Nepal enabled the training of 72 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) who are a vital link between the health centres and remote communities. They bring essential health knowledge and support to mothers and their



40%

Around 40% of women in Nepal deliver their babies without the assistance of a skilled birth attendant.

Above: Female health and medical staff are well equipped to provide women's health and antenatal support

families. They promote safe motherhood, child health, family planning and other community-based health issues. The FCHVs distribute oral rehydration salts and vitamin A capsules, as well as iron tablets to pregnant women and refer serious cases to the health centres.

EDUCATION

Classroom Support

In Far West Nepal, it is not just the health services that have poor facilities and equipment, a large number of schools are also in dire need of support. Landslides and earthquakes have impacted the

region destroying and damaging buildings. Children often learn in unsafe and dark classrooms sitting on concrete floors with scant learning material. Improving education outcomes for all students is critical. Working together as a consortium with health focused Action for Nepal, REED Nepal started to support 38 schools in the Rural Municipality of Khaptad Chhanna following similar interventions to those implemented in 100 schools in Solukhumbu.

In these remote areas the central government only supports a portion of teachers' salaries, weighing heavily on local government budgets or the goodwill of the community to cover the rest. A challenging economy has seen funding cuts for local government and our support is critical to meet education requirements.

There is limited funding for teacher or school development, or basic items such as stationery. In 2022-2023, we supported 29 schools with classroom furniture, furnishing or maintenance.

In addition, 39 schools were provided with early childhood education material, and 6 schools with children's books in both Far West Nepal and Solukhumbu. We also distributed 2,240 sets of Student Learning Evaluation forms, 300 logbooks and 200 teacher's guides.

Enhancing Teaching Skills

To improve teaching quality, we provided training to 295 teachers (124 women) in Far West Nepal and 452 teachers (223 women) in Solukhumbu. In April 2023, a small group of volunteer teachers from Australia and New Zealand joined the REED Nepal team to support the training of teachers in Far West Nepal.

During our recent visit in Solukhumbu, we received enthusiastic feedback from some of the local teachers about REED Nepal's training. They reported changing their teaching styles, from standing at the front of the classroom reading, to participatory approaches that encourage students to think and express themselves.

LEARN MORE



Watch the video of Usha holding a torch in her mouth so she could see when delivering babies.
<https://vimeo.com/830201144>

Above: Students are enjoying school more and have increased confidence in their learning abilities.



1 in 3

girls under the age of 18 in Nepal are married and 70% of them do not complete secondary education

Teachers have now developed their own teaching materials. They noted the improved confidence of the students and their increased desire to come to school. AHF continued funding the salaries of two teachers, including one who is deaf and teaching children who are hearing impaired in Garma School, Solukhumbu.

Promoting Inclusion

In remote Nepal, disability is often seen as a result of an individual's sinful past actions. While the Nepali government has acted to support people with disabilities, local attitudes and perceptions are yet to shift.

Girls and members of minority groups with disabilities often experience profound discrimination. So this year, we trained 97 Head Teachers in Solukhumbu on disability inclusion. Many of them rated this part of the training very highly. 240 health stakeholders also increased their knowledge of disability inclusion following training.

Supporting vulnerable children is an

important part of our work. In Nepal, 225 vulnerable children, including 137 girls, have been supported to access and remain in school. Five girls from very disadvantaged families completed their secondary schooling in agriculture, and another five girls have been selected for a similar career forming education.

In Bhutan, 211 children, including 133 girls, have received educational support. Of the children we help, 89% of them are survivors of violence and abuse, and we are seeing an increasing number of children with disabilities being referred to our Bhutanese partner RENEW (Respect, Education, Nurture and Empower Women) for assistance.

Including the Parents

REED Nepal held sessions for parents on the importance of education and the critical role parents play, reaching 5,049 parents (3,431 women).

We worked with 1,527 children's club members promoting children's rights and child safeguarding. In turn, the

participants will educate their peers and focus on giving children more agency. More activities are planned

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Reducing Gender Based Violence

Unfortunately, abuse and violence, mostly against girls and women, still exists in the communities and countries where we work. Much more can be done to achieve gender equality. These issues require focus, time and commitment. We are continuously providing mentoring support to our partners through our program team, child safeguarding pro bono adviser Mark Morrissey, and ACFID training. This strategy helps better equip our partners to safeguard vulnerable groups, assist them in reporting incidents when they arise and support survivors.

Some of our partners are now taking up this work internally, including RENEW who trained 36 staff on their Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct. This year, personnel from

Action for Nepal, REED Nepal, RENEW in Bhutan and Snow Leopard Conservancy in India participated in training delivered by AHF to address gender inequality.

Working with Local Leaders

Involving key local stakeholders is an important part of the International Development puzzle as it creates long-term results. Our gender equality and child safeguarding training was given to 108 focal teachers who have demonstrated increased understanding of these issues. 73 schools in Solukhumbu and 38 in Kaptad Chhanna, West Nepal, have developed School Implementation Plans integrating these areas. A 10-year

“

Parental involvement is proven to make a significant difference to a child's education.”

UNICEF

Data for Action 2020

Local Education Sector Plan which is inclusive of these issues has been introduced in West Nepal which means this important work is spreading.

Across our programs in Nepal, a total of 249 health stakeholders including local government staff, are now trained on child safeguarding and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH). Incident reporting processes have been developed in some communities and child rights committees have been established.

In Bhutan, a three-day program was held for 40 community leaders, teachers and students, raising awareness of domestic violence and abuse, how to report incidents and safeguard children. An additional 20 teachers across the country were also trained in these areas.

In Summary

Our partnerships are long-standing and the benefits of collaborating with our in-country partners are resonant. Each year, we review the results and work with our partners to refine our programs.

We strive to ensure every dollar we send to the Himalaya will positively impact current generations and into the future.

Below: A teacher training event in the Solukhumbu region of Nepal



Conserving the Environment

This year heralded a new phase for AHF working with locals to protect snow leopards and livestock

In addition to our health and education programs, we are also working to protect the environment. This year we began a new phase of our program in Ladakh, India.

Ladakh, home to 300 snow leopards, endures harsh winters and dry summers and has increasingly seen human-wildlife conflict.

AHF has had a long-standing relationship with Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust. Having collaborated on projects since 2011, this year we began the implementation of a three-year project to promote harmonious coexistence between snow leopards and the communities of Zaskar.

The main focus is support of local communities to construct to construct snow leopard proof livestock pens which have been proven to be very effective in preventing snow leopards from attacking livestock. People who received support in our previous project reported feeling happy that their livestock were secured from snow leopard attacks. As a result, other villagers were encouraged to start keeping livestock again, and were no longer afraid of losing their livelihoods through wildlife attacks.

This year, two villages have been selected to receive community corrals



Above: Ladakh is home to high altitude and an arid landscape.
Below: Snow leopards are coming closer to the villages.



which will protect the livestock of 115 people, 65 of whom are women.

The effect of snow leopard attacks largely impacts women who are traditionally designated to look after the goats, sheep and cattle. The women reported feeling better able to do their work without worrying. As always, ongoing engagement and training is a vital aspect of our work. Facilitated by AHF, some of our partners' staff participated in climate change workshops organised by the Australian Embassy in Kathmandu and in an online course delivered by Griffith University.

Your Support is Invaluable

They say it takes a village to raise a family, and the AHF family is no different. Our projects would not be possible without the generous donations from our supporters in Australia. That includes all our donors, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program; our in-country partners; our committed staff and loyal volunteers. And most importantly, our impact is built through the trust and contributions of the communities we work with.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN BHUTAN

We are excited to report that during this financial year we began the design of a new project with the National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology in Bhutan. We look forward to working with them to strengthen their capacity and support their efforts in Glacial Lake Outburst Flood monitoring. More on that next year!

Mountain life in Ladakh, India

AHF COULD NEVER ACHIEVE SUCH GREAT RESULTS WITHOUT OUR IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS.

**INTRODUCING JANGMOO SHERPA,
CO-FOUNDER OF ACTION FOR NEPAL**



Jangmoo and her partner, Lakpa, founded Action For Nepal (AFN) in 2016 after recognising how people in rural communities of Nepal were suffering due to lack of basic healthcare.

Already a qualified medical doctor, Jangmoo gave up her position at a medical practice in Kathmandu and headed to remote villages. "I was a doctor working at a local hospital as a Chief Medical Doctor In Charge and while working there I realised I wanted to go out into the community as I could see there were so many people coming to the hospital, walking for two to three days. People lacked health awareness. There was a need for basic health services in the remote communities."

One of AFN's first strategies was to empower women in the community. "Just improving health doesn't achieve all the things we need. It needs to be holistic." Jangmoo says that Nepal's social structure puts elders and men at the top of the hierarchy, an issue that is changing but nonetheless affects how effective women can be. "If you go into the villages it is either the mother-in-law, or the father-in-law or the husband who make the decisions."

When it comes to healthcare this reduces the amount of agency women have over their needs. "The mother-in-law would say 'I delivered 10 babies at home and never had any issues so why does this person need to go to the

hospital?'" Respect for elders in Nepal means women are hesitant to speak out, which can limit new opportunities for maternal health. But, says Jangmoo, thanks to the work of Action For Nepal and AHF, that is changing.

"Male participation is important because people don't know the reason we are doing the work we are doing. Attending health sessions or regular antenatal or pregnancy check ups helps [men] understand [the benefits]." She adds; "Male participation eases the life of women and helps them grow." That includes giving women a voice and helping them increase their earning potential, creating a feedback loop that improves women's health.

Jangmoo is happy to say the work is making a big difference. "In the past [women] delivered babies at home because there was no health centre, but it is not normal that a woman dies during childbirth. In developing countries people accept women dying during childbirth as a very normal thing but it should not be. Having a new life is something we should celebrate."

"Working in and supporting those communities has provided a lot of satisfaction as I have witnessed the impact that collaborative efforts can have on people's lives. I believe that together, we can make a significant difference and contribute to improve the maternal and child health in the remote communities."

In 2013 Jangmoo was the recipient of an Australia Awards scholarship at Sydney University where she gained a Masters in International Public Health.

On Top of the World

2023 was the 70th anniversary of the inaugural Everest summit by Sir Ed and Tenzing Norgay, and AHF couldn't be more proud. Nepal hosted the main festivities in May, but we celebrated with our incredible supporters all year round...



AHF VISIT TO NEPAL

Meeting our in-country partners and the Australian Ambassador for Nepal made 2023 a year to remember. Our trusted volunteers were there, as always, to help.

L-R: Emma Huffam and AHF CEO Angela Ford shared Anzac Day in Nepal with Australian Ambassador to Nepal, H. E. Felicity Volk.



Above (L-R): Corinne Stroppolo, Jangmoo Sherpa, Elka Wisch, Lisa Choegyul, H.E. Felicity Volk, Tashi Sherpa and Lakpa Sherpa attend the Everest70 celebrations in Nepal.



GALA DINNER

More than 100 guests came together at Sydney's Doltone House raising over \$120,000 for the people of the Himalaya.

Left (L-R): Jim Strang, Bhim Bogati, H.E. Kailash Pokharel and Basudha Pokharel. **Middle:** Neill Johanson and Nellie O'Keeffe. **Above:** Greg Mortimer and AHF Ambassador, Joe Bonington.

HIMALAYA DAY

Every year we celebrate 29 May as Himalaya Day, and this year we held five special events across four cities. We couldn't do this without you!



Above: Sydney's Grand Palace Indian Restaurant lit up for a wonderful evening of fun and presentations. Extraordinary nights like these humbly reconnect us with Sir Ed's legacy.



Above: At our intimate Sydney lunch event, guest of honour Aileen Davis shared many fabulous stories of her long friendship with Sir Ed.



Below: Brisbane's Punjabi Palace saw our Queensland crowd soak up AHF Founding Director, Simon Balderstone's incredible stories of how the Foundation began.



Above: Guests at 7 by the Lake in Canberra enjoyed a sumptuous buffet dinner, with stories from Jane and Gabby Kanizay, (middle) and MC by Zac Zaharias (2nd left).



Above: Our stalwart Melbourne supporters shared a banquet at the Nepal Dining Room and were captivated by Garry Weare's personal footage of snow leopards in Ladakh.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT AHF

Meeting amazing people who support the Foundation is one of the highlights of our work. Thank you so much!



Left: In March, AHF's Karen Locke met 91-year-old Aileen Davis who shared her photo album full of personal photos and messages from Sir Ed and George Lowe.



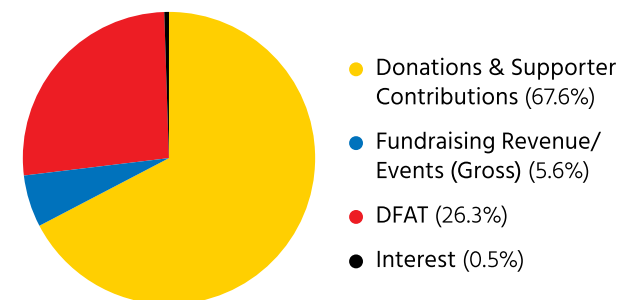
Above: In March 2023, Founding Director Greg Mortimer met with the Ambassador of Nepal, H.E. Kailash Pokharel and Mount Everest summiteer and AHF Ambassador, Gabby Kanizay, to talk about AHF's service to Nepal and the continuation of our strong relationship.

Financial Information

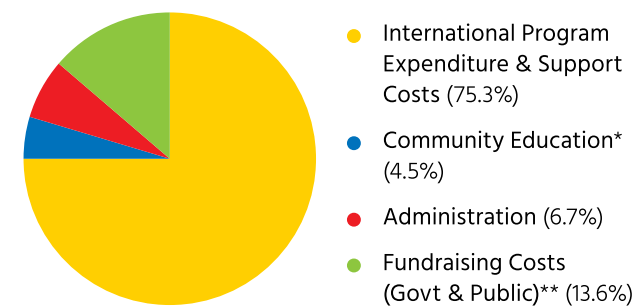
The past financial year was a landmark for AHF. Total revenue was significantly higher at \$2,979,840 (FY22 \$1,242,049). This reflected significant work to gain Full Accreditation with DFAT, resulting in grant income of \$782,290 (FY22 \$150,000), and the longstanding relationships with supporters who invested in AHF with total donations, including a \$1.2m bequest, of \$2,182,803 (FY22 \$1,044,980).

The revenue significantly enhanced AHF's financial stability. This is having a direct impact on our ability to commit funding to support our partners working with communities in the Himalaya, with program expenditure of \$1,441,970 (FY22 \$838,846). Retained earnings increased from FY22 \$976,127 to FY23 \$2,040,326.

How we raised our funds in 2022/2023



How we spent our funds in 2022/2023



*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.

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

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2023

	FY23 \$	FY22 \$
Assets		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,112,021	1,032,108
Trade and other receivables	7,049	3,355
Prepayments	7,878	
Total current assets	2,126,948	1,035,463
Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment	2,698	–
Intangible assets	26,078	26,177
Total non-current assets	28,776	–
Total assets	2,155,724	1,061,640
Liabilities		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade and other payables	39,898	31,051
Provision for employee entitlements	75,500	54,462
Total current liabilities	115,398	85,513
Total liabilities	115,398	85,513
Net assets	2,040,326	976,127
Equity		
Retained earnings	2,040,326	976,127
Total equity	2,040,326	976,127

Income statement

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	FY23 \$	FY22 \$
Revenue		
<i>Donations of gifts</i>		
Monetary	814,868	979,754
<i>Bequests and Legacies</i>	1,200,000	
<i>Grants</i>		
DFAT	782,290	150,000
<i>Investment income</i>	14,747	160
<i>Other income</i>		
COVID-19 Government Support		46,909
Fundraising revenue	167,935	65,226
Total revenue	2,979,840	1,242,049
Expenditure		
<i>International aid and development programs expenditure</i>		
<i>International programs</i>		
Funds to overseas programs	(1,030,877)	(523,586)
Program support costs	(411,093)	(315,260)
<i>Fundraising costs</i>		
Public	(225,726)	(132,813)
Government, multilateral and private	(34,472)	(30,401)
<i>Community education</i>	(85,475)	(83,790)
<i>Accountability and administration</i>	(127,998)	(101,652)
Total international aid and development expenditure	(1,915,641)	(1,187,502)
<i>Other expenditure</i>	–	–
Total expenditure	(1,915,641)	(1,187,502)
Profit from continuing operations	1,064,199	54,547
Surplus/(deficit) ordinary activities	1,064,199	54,547

Statement of changes in equity

As at 30 June 2023

	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2021	921,580	921,580
Surplus for the period	54,547	54,547
Balance at 30 June 2022	976,127	976,127
Balance at 1 July 2022	976,127	976,127
Surplus for the period	1,064,199	1,064,199
Balance at 30 June 2023	2,040,326	2,040,326

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 2022/2023 is available on request. A copy of the signed auditor's report can be found at www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au/2022_2023_auditor_report.

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 2022/2023. The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Thank you

Deepest thanks to our major donors, sponsors, supporters and volunteers who continue to make a difference in the Himalaya.

- Accor Hotels
- ACME Foundation
- Adventure+ Entertainment
- Anna Birch
- Anni McNiven
- Ava Lamond
- Barnaby Waights
- Bruce Estens
- Chairman's Trekkers Support Group
- Charles Deane
- Craig Rossiter
- Damien Butler
- Data4Good
- Davenport Campbell
- David and Lauren McGavin
- Dax Noakes
- Debbie Dukes
- David Nott
- Dick Estens and family
- Edwin Trevor-Roberts
- Eleanor Trinchera
- Emanate
- Emma Huffam
- Fanuli Furniture
- Fiene Olgers
- Footprints Network (World Nomads)
- Grace Rogerson
- H&K Johnston Family Foundation
- Hugo Carberry
- Intelligent Risks Pty Ltd
- Isabella Methven
- Jeanette and Peter Young
- Joe's Basecamp
- Judy Curtis
- Jim Strang
- Knocklofty Gin
- Lambourne Partners
- Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School
- Mark and Lucy Osborn
- Mark Carnegie
- Mary Hosford
- Mark Morrissey
- McNair Charitable Foundation
- Modular Lighting Partners
- Nick Hopwood
- Paul Rayner
- Peak Learning
- Pemba Capital Partners
- Peter Counsell
- Peter Lemon
- Ramona Codd-Miller
- Rebecca and Stefan Beaumont
- Roger Butler and family
- Ruth Luthi
- Sarah Bunting
- Sarah Johns
- Scott Lucas
- SeehoSu
- Solomon Gallate
- Start It Up Foundation
- Stella Yip
- Stellaboo
- Stobart Strauss Trust
- Stylecraft
- Sue Fagoaga
- Susan Tan
- Suzanne Thomas
- Suvani Lamsal
- Tappeti
- Ted Giam
- The Andrews Group
- The Dick and Pip Smith Foundation
- The Ian Watson Foundation
- The Sunrise Foundation
- Trevor Builder
- Trevor Harrison
- University of Sydney
- University of Technology Sydney
- Viv Dore
- Wild Magazine
- World Expeditions
- Ying Zhang
- Zac Zaharias
- Zenith Interiors

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible volunteers without whom none of this would be possible. This year they amassed 3,180 hours of time, to an equivalent value of \$155,738. In addition, we received in-kind assistance to the value of \$6,260.

Top left: Mark Morrissey **Above:** Trevor Builder, David Lindfield, Peter Counsell, Emma Huffam. **Left:** The AHF team with star volunteers: Fiene Olgers, Suzanne Thomas, Sue Fagoaga and Debbie Dukes.

“

As we honoured the legacy of Sir Ed's humanitarian footsteps this year, it is fitting that the Foundation received a generous bequest.

It is an extraordinary lasting gift that will touch countless lives and shines a light on the incredible loyalty and support people have for the people of the Himalaya.

- ANGELA FORD

Departing Message from our Founding Chair

SIMON BALDERSTONE

In February (2023) I stepped down after 21 years as Founding Chair of AHF. It's been a huge privilege and honour to serve the Foundation and our cause in that role. In the words of former PM Julia Gillard at the 2022 Gala Dinner, we are a "home-grown, Australian born and bred organisation which has built itself from the bootstraps up and has, over those two decades, raised about \$18.5 million to assist the people of the Himalaya."

So from me, thank you everyone for your support: thank you donors (without whom we would not be here); DFAT (for accreditation and financial support under the Australian Government NGO Cooperation Program); volunteers; Ambassadors; Members; and of course, AHF staff and Board, for your commitment and determination which has enabled us to succeed so mightily in "giving what is needed most to those who most need it" in the Himalaya.



L-R: AHF supporter John McGauran, Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Bhutan, AHF Former Chair, Simon Balderstone, and Carolyn Hamer-Smith

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'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-policy

Complaints related to AHF activities or any other matter can be emailed to complaints@ahf.org.au or directed to Andrew Judge (CEO) on 02 9438 1822 or email andrew@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

Make a Difference for Future Generations in the Himalaya

- Make a donation
- Fundraise
- Volunteer
- Become a regular giver
- Travel with AHF
- Connect your school

AHF has been serving the people of the Himalaya for more than 20 years and we intend to keep going for the next 20 and beyond. Leaving a bequest is a beautiful way to leave your own legacy as it contributes to the education, health and wellbeing of future generations in Nepal, Bhutan and Ladakh.

To find out more download our Bequest Booklet at
www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au/bequest

AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION

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

DESIGN

Amanda Magill Design.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Haakon Barry, Heather McNeice, Hugh Stewart, Corinne Stroppolo, Garry Weare, Steve Willems.