



Project Didi Australia Annual Report 2020-21

Project Didi
Australia
education | dignity | meaningful futures

Rama grew up in Dhunche, the capital of the mountainous Rasuwa district, set in the Himalayas north of Kathmandu. Rama is a shy, gentle person who was a quiet child.

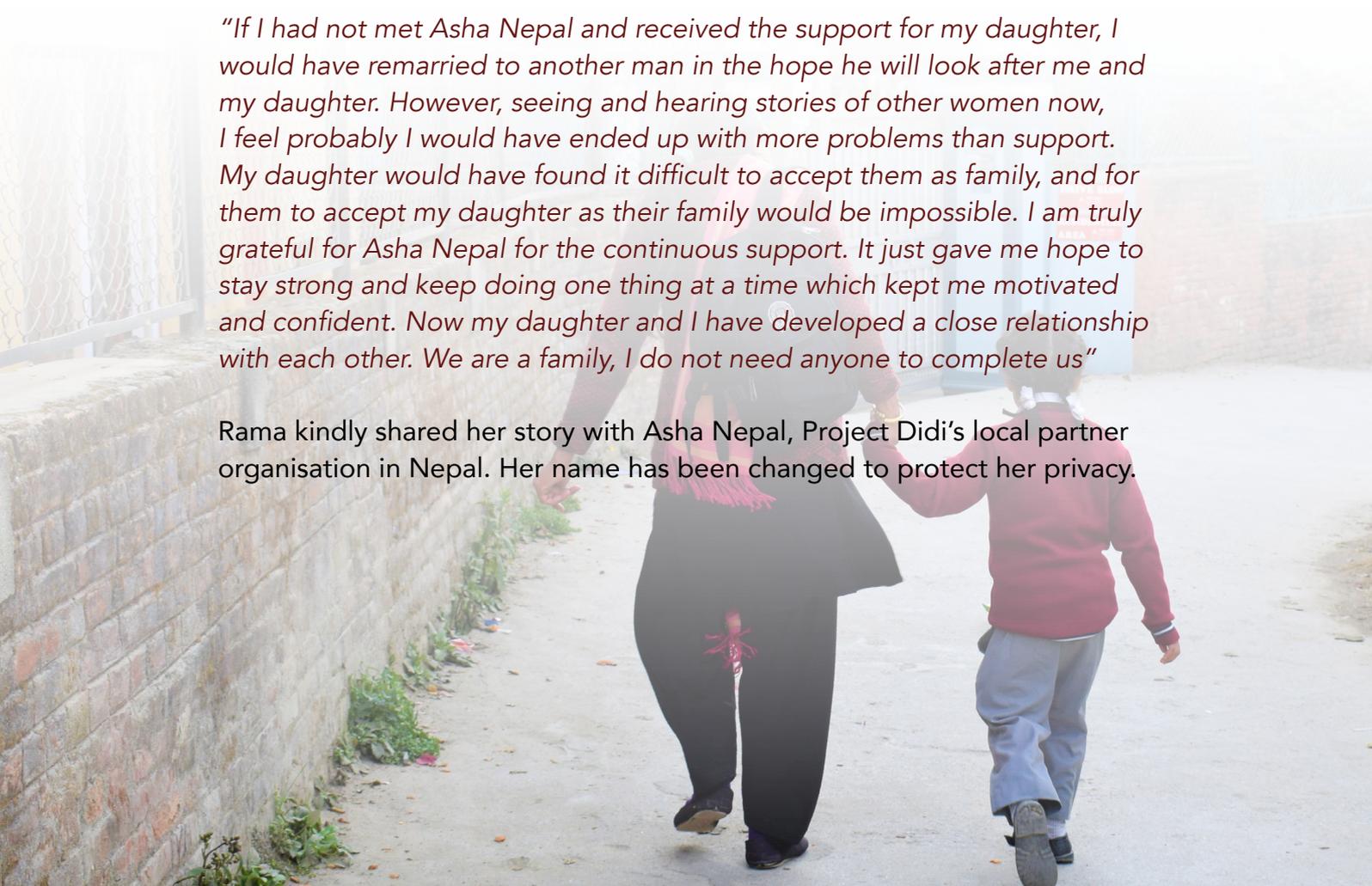
Rama's marriage was described as a nightmare. She suffered abuse from her husband and in-laws, who she lived with, as is common when a woman marries in Nepal. When Rama was seven months pregnant her husband went abroad for work. After two months he stopped contacting her. Her in-laws did not allow her to speak with him and subjected her to physical, verbal and mental abuse.

They seized her passport and other legal documents. Rama had no support network and very low self esteem. Rama reached a tipping point and decided to leave her husband's family home. She came to Kathmandu along with her 7 year old daughter and stayed with her aunt. Rama was scared about her future. She did not have enough money to send her daughter to school.

Her aunt knew of Asha Nepal and requested they help support Rama's daughter to continue her education. With Asha's support, Rama's daughter is flourishing at school. Asha also supports Rama with monthly parenting skills workshops, life skills training, food and rent support and counselling, which has helped her rebuild her wellbeing and confidence. Currently Rama is working in office administration and her daughter is in Grade 5. They are living together happily. They are excited for their future.

"If I had not met Asha Nepal and received the support for my daughter, I would have remarried to another man in the hope he will look after me and my daughter. However, seeing and hearing stories of other women now, I feel probably I would have ended up with more problems than support. My daughter would have found it difficult to accept them as family, and for them to accept my daughter as their family would be impossible. I am truly grateful for Asha Nepal for the continuous support. It just gave me hope to stay strong and keep doing one thing at a time which kept me motivated and confident. Now my daughter and I have developed a close relationship with each other. We are a family, I do not need anyone to complete us"

Rama kindly shared her story with Asha Nepal, Project Didi's local partner organisation in Nepal. Her name has been changed to protect her privacy.



Contents

Our mission	3
Who we are	4
Our Board	
Our Team	5
A message from our President	6
What we work on	8
How we work	10
Our partners and collaborators	11
Our impact in Nepal	13
Our advocacy and outreach	16
Our funding	17
Our organisational development	19
Report from the Treasurer	21
Financial Highlights	
Income	22
Expenditure	23
Our financial impact	24
Financial Statements	25
Thank you	29

Our Mission

Project Didi Australia (PDA) is an Australian charity, registered with the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission](#) since 2014. We strive for futures of **hope, dignity, and independence** for survivors of trafficking and abuse, particularly in Nepal.

We partner with locally led organisations in Nepal.

We work with well established, reputable organisations in Nepal, specialists in trauma-informed care with over 10 years of experience supporting women and girls.

We are powered by our didis, a respectful term for sister in Nepali.

We provide survivors of trafficking and violence with the support, tools and opportunities they need to lead self-determined lives.

We challenge the inequalities that hold women & girls back.

We raise awareness and advocate for action to end gender-based violence and modern slavery with our community in Australia.



Who We Are - Our board



Chloë Spackman (President): Chloë has a background in international development, higher education and global citizenship development, and is driven to better understand how we can all lead and contribute through the lens of values. Chloë is the Director of Programs and Engagement at Australian non-profit Next25, working to improve how Australia makes its future to share our successes across generations.



Alison Thornburn (Secretary): Alison previously worked in corporate banking and finance before shifting her professional direction to for-purpose organisations that align with her personal values. Alison has a Masters in Development Studies, and currently works for a Australian not-for-profit Good Return, supporting social microfinance in Cambodia.



Tania Davies (Treasurer): Tania joined PDA this year, bringing a professional background in finance, as a CPA with experience at CFO level. Tania developed a passion for empowering women through education after living in Africa, South East Asia and the Middle East, where she was exposed to the realities of slave labour, and the exploitation of women and children.



Clare Bartram (Board Member): Clare has a Masters in Slavery and Liberation and works in responsible investment, leading the development of research and corporate engagement on modern slavery for institutional investors. Clare inherited a long history with Nepal and a strong belief in the power of education for women from her mother, Sarah, Project Didi's co-founder.



Kira Osborne (Board Member): Kira has a Masters in International Development and has worked alongside marginalised communities, including women and girls across South Asia and the Pacific. Kira is passionate about social resilience and driven to challenge the stereotypes placed on survivors of gender-based violence and sex trafficking.



Bryce Morton (Board Member): Bryce is the Partner Development Manager for Sonder, a technology company reimaging organisational wellbeing and safety through innovation. Prior to this, Bryce coordinated international strategy and relationship management for the UTS Business School, including supporting Nepalese students and Universities projects, social initiatives, capacity development, and student/staff mobility.

Our Team

Project Didi is **100% volunteer-run**. We believe in responsible and sustainable volunteering. All our volunteers, including our Board, are recruited based on their professional skills and their ability to contribute to the needs of our organisation. All volunteers sign up to our Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy

This year has seen our volunteer numbers increase significantly. As always, we continue to be amazed and humbled by the expertise, commitment and passion of all of our volunteers.



"I value the strong connection Project Didi has with Asha Nepal. We have a direct insight into the realities on the ground, the day-to-day challenges and the impact of our contribution."

Alisha Filmer, Engagement and Policy Volunteer



"Through volunteering with Project Didi and as a result of their close relationship with Asha Nepal, I've developed a deeper understanding of the real issues faced by survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence in Nepal. In my role as Policy and Governance volunteer, I am committed to ensuring my work is impactful and fit for purpose."

Nurul Mahmudah, Policy and Governance Volunteer



A message from our president

In Nepal, COVID-19 has caused more deaths than the 2015 earthquake, with over 11,500 recorded and likely many more considering issues around reporting and testing. **The national, government-run domestic violence hotline has had more than double¹ the reports of domestic violence since 2019.** Of the families Asha Nepal supports, 90% have lost their main source of income and here in Australia, COVID-19 completely disrupted the funding model we relied on to support our partners, [Asha Nepal](#) and [Samunnat](#). The situation was, and in many ways remains dire and urgent.

But despite all the challenges of 2020/21, there have been many cracks where the light has shone through. The grit and practical optimism demonstrated by our partner didis (a respectful term for older sister in Nepali), in the face of incredible adversity has served as a lodestar for the Board and the wider Project Didi community. Our response was to focus our energy on adapting our funding approach to address the immediate needs of our partners in Nepal. Incredibly, our doubling down in efforts, coupled with our supporter's enormous generosity meant:

- We were able to increase our funding support from one Family Based Care home to two
- Six children graduated from Grade 12 and three children from Grade 10
- 18 tablets were provided to children to study remotely
- Six children were reintegrated with their biological families

Importantly, whilst dealing with the urgent and immediate situation in Nepal, we also embarked on an ambitious education and advocacy campaign at home. Our **#SomethingforSlavery** campaign to help end modern slavery in the Indian tea industry is a fundamental part of our approach to longer-term strategic change for women and girls. After 8 months of campaigning, 10+ virtual tea parties and over 200 emails sent to T2 and its parent company Unilever, the voices of the Project Didi community had an impact. **Unilever committed to ensuring that everyone who directly provides goods and services to the company earns at least a living wage or income by 2030.** With over 60,000 suppliers in over 160 countries the impact of this commitment for workers and their families could be wide reaching.

The beauty of the smaller scale, deep (rather than broad) work we do through Didi is the multiplier effect we know the work has. We know family strengthening, education and safe employment breaks intergenerational cycles of poverty and violence. We know that a child that grows up in a safe family has stronger health, wellbeing and resilience and has greater opportunity to make informed decisions about their future. We also know that a girl with an education has a decreased risk of domestic violence, greater decision-making power and is more likely to educate her own children.

¹Human Rights situation during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Brief Assessment, National Human Rights Commission Nepal, 2021
<https://nepalindata.com/resource/human-rights-situation-during-covid-19-pandemic-brief-assessment/>.

We are small and 100% volunteer run. We have considered our size, and what that means for what we can achieve and the best path to impact. We are ambitious, yet practical. Critical local organisations like Asha and Samunnat, working for sustainable change to complex challenges in Nepal, are often stifled by short-term funding cycles, poor collaboration between local and international NGOs with overlapping missions, deficit-based approaches and the constraints of programs designed to satisfy external and often misguided policy. **First and foremost, we are here to support the evidence-based work done by Nepali women with lived experience. We listen to and are guided by them. This is our greatest strength as an organisation.**

We are planting seeds for trees we ourselves may never sit in the shade of, and this is important work that requires patient, steady and sustained support. Congratulations and thank you to all our volunteers, donors, supporters and community members for everything you have contributed this year. Your time and energy have immense value and we're so grateful that you choose to share both with us.

In the last year we have made significant developments in capacity building, partnering with [Global Development Group](#) to leverage their resources and tax deductibility status, strengthening our governance frameworks and filling skills gaps with new board member appointees and new volunteers. In 2022 we will continue to strengthen the administrative backbone of Project Didi to act as a springboard for the impact we want to have, with a focus on:

- Diversifying our funding sources
- Deepening engagement with our community
- Strengthening our monitoring and evaluation

But perhaps even more fundamentally, we plan on evoking our imaginations. Global think tank, Demos Helsinki, recently released a paper on what they saw as the secondary crisis to the COVID pandemic: the crisis of imagination.

*"The world faces a deficit of social imagination. We find it easy to imagine apocalypse and disaster; or to imagine new generations of technology. But we find it much harder than in the past to imagine a better society a generation or more into the future."*²

Against the backdrop of all the challenges and hardship we are grappling with, our greatest weapon against despondency is our imagination. Early in 2022 our Board will meet for a strategy session and, buoyed by what we managed to achieve during one of the most challenging years to date, we will unearth new possibilities and potential for how we can be of service to our partner organisations in Nepal, and our community both in Australia, and around the world.

We look forward to having you involved in our community. Here's to a year of transformative imagination!

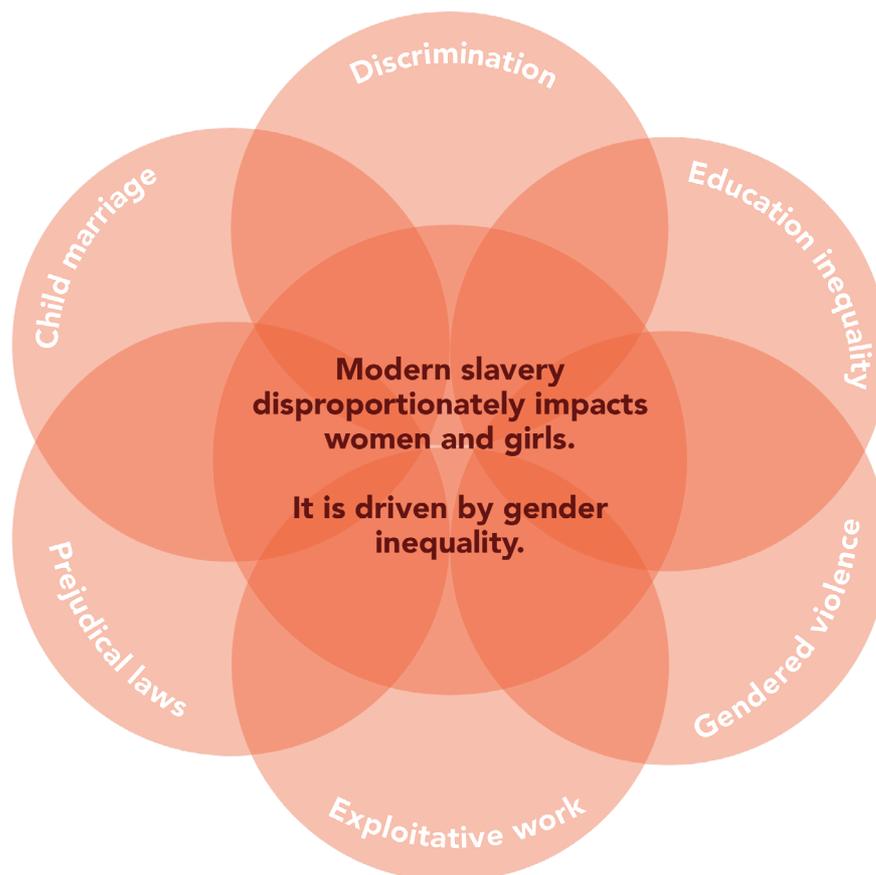
With gratitude,
Chloë Spackman.

²The Imaginary Crisis (and how we might quicken social and public imagination), Demos Helsinki, 2021, <https://demoshelsinki.fi/julkaisut/the-imaginary-crisis-and-how-we-might-quicken-social-and-public-imagination/>.

What we work on

When women and girls are denied their freedom and subjected to violence it is a drag on development for everyone. Gender-based violence, which impacts **one in three³ women in their lifetime**, creates intergenerational poverty, significant public health burdens, and drives women into situations of modern slavery, including human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour. Modern slavery not only takes choice and control from victims' lives but fuels social instability and economic inequality by creating immense profits for a select few while denying millions the opportunity to reach their full potential as productive and equal members of society.

Women and girls account for 71% - that's nearly 29 million⁴ - of all victims of modern slavery. One in 130⁵ females globally have been denied the freedom to make decisions about their own bodies, about when and who they'll marry and the type of work they'll do.



³Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, World Health Organization, 2013, https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85239/9789241564625_eng.pdf;jsessionid=2732366C3039.

⁴Global Slavery Index, Walk Free, 2018, <https://www.globalslaveryindex.org>.

⁵Stacked Odds, Walk Free, 2020, <https://www.walkfree.org/reports/stacked-odds>.

Deeply entrenched discriminatory beliefs about women and girls underpin their greater vulnerability to modern slavery and gender-based violence. These beliefs deny women and girls their autonomy and decision-making capacity, exclude them from positions of power and limit their education opportunities, leaving them without the protective skills to understand their rights and secure safe work.

Disrupting discriminatory beliefs, achieving education equity, enabling decent work, and strengthening families is critical to securing and maintaining freedom for women and girls. **Survivors often experience prolonged trauma, financial hardship and stigma from their families and communities, which if not addressed, can push them back into situations of exploitation.**

At Project Didi, our partners through **10+ years working with survivors of gender-based violence and modern slavery**, have found that recovery and community reintegration requires long-term, holistic care. Through funding and capacity-building, we support our partners to enable survivors to reclaim control over their lives and futures.



How we work

Nepal has a complex history of dependency on foreign aid. Short term funding cycles and duplication of work stretches limited funding and impedes local organisations from driving strategic priorities, stifling institutional development and sustainable change. PDA is committed to doing things differently:

- We work in direct partnership with local organisations in Nepal to develop deep and genuine relationships
- We apply a strengths-based lens to our projects, our communications and our funding
- We believe that local organisations are best placed to identify the needs of beneficiaries
- We understand that true impact requires long term commitments and reliable and flexible funding
- We value a holistic approach to programming and understand that complex issues cannot be addressed in isolation
- We know education and employment are human rights and believe that access to both will contribute to generational change.
- We acknowledge that global, systemic change is needed to tackle the inequalities holding women and girls back. We engage our community in Australia to understand and advocate to end modern slavery and gender-based violence.



Our partners and collaborators

We are continually motivated and inspired by the work of our incredible partners in Nepal.



[Asha Nepal](#) is a women-led, grassroots organisation, delivering trafficking prevention and trauma-informed care to survivors of trafficking and gender based violence. Their goal is to support survivors to rebuild their lives and reclaim their dignity. They do this through their Family Based Care model, counselling, education, vocational training and community outreach.



[Samunnat Nepal](#), a grassroots organisation based in eastern Nepal, empowers women who have experienced gender based violence and poverty through legal support, income generation training, counselling and mentoring. Some women are introduced to polymer clay and learn the art of jewellery making. Income from the sale of the jewellery has helped start several local initiatives: a tailor shop, pickle making, organic gardening and catering.



In May 2020, Project Didi and Asha Nepal entered partnership agreements with Global Development Group (GDG) to support the delivery of programs for survivors of trafficking and abuse in Nepal. GDG assumes governance responsibility for specified projects to be delivered by Asha Nepal, which helps ensure we meet both Australian and local compliance requirements, while Project Didi carries out fundraising and promotion.

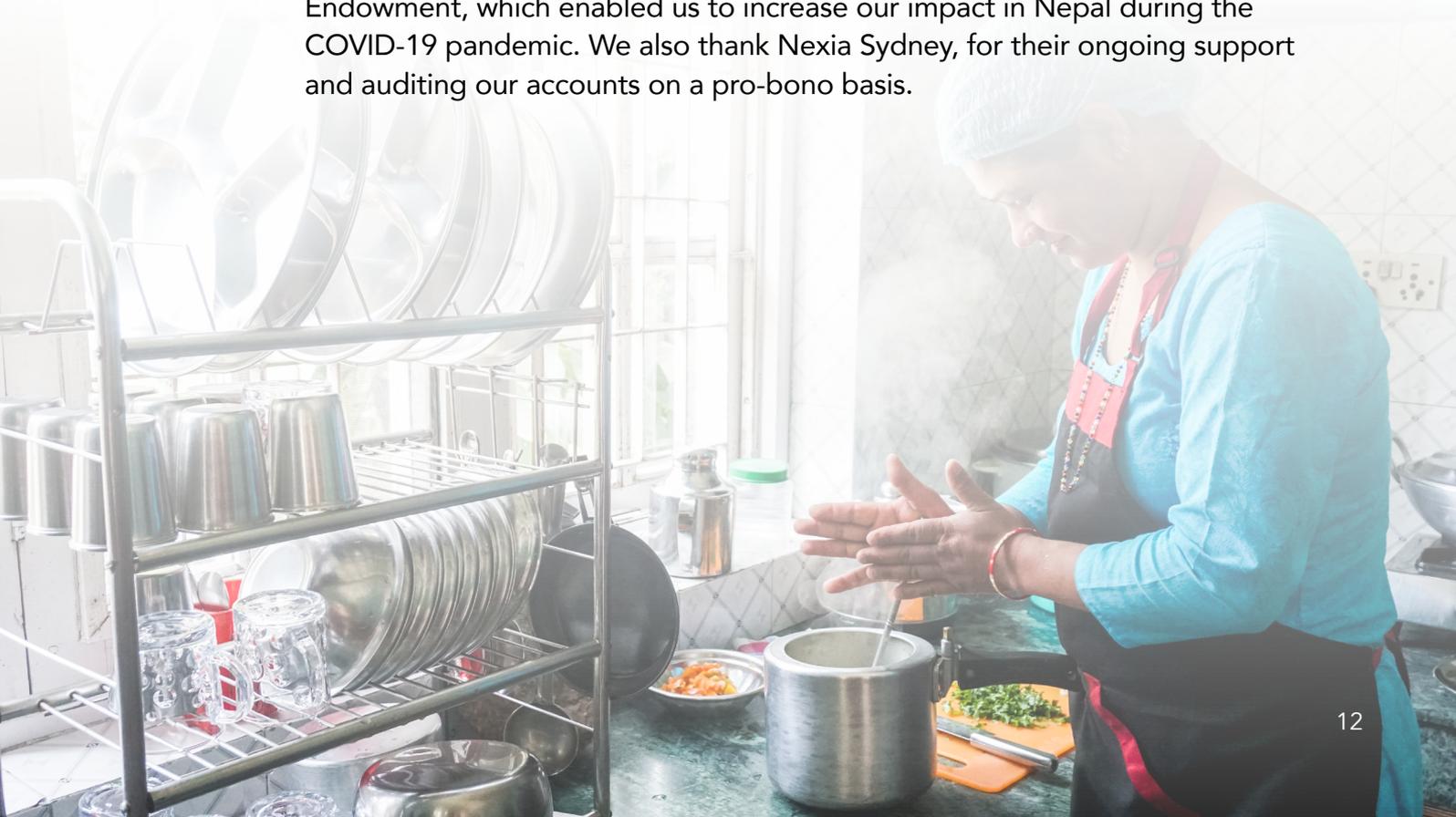


[Global Development Group](#) is an Australian-based NGO approved by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Taxation Office. GDG operates under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme classification to partner in aid and development activities in approved countries. This means donations over \$2 to GDG approved overseas projects are tax deductible in Australia. GDG is also a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

We are grateful to have collaborated with the following Australian organisations in our efforts to advocate to end modern slavery and build strong futures for women and girls.



In addition, we gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from The Tall Foundation, and Maggie Mackay on behalf of the Netta and Norman Niven Endowment, which enabled us to increase our impact in Nepal during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also thank Nexia Sydney, for their ongoing support and auditing our accounts on a pro-bono basis.



Our impact in Nepal

We focus on the type of deep impact that multiplies across generations. We work to break **intergenerational cycles of poverty and violence** through evidence based, survivor-centered care.

Despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, we're proud that we've been able to continue to provide vital funding to our partner, Asha Nepal. Asha's work addresses a significant unmet need for trauma-informed care for survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence in Nepal. Pre-pandemic, **Nepal's National Human Rights Council estimated that over 5,000 children⁶ were trafficked in 2019 and close to three times that number experienced domestic violence and sexual abuse⁷** - figures that are likely to be exacerbated with the pandemic's impact on livelihoods and women's safety at home.

In the past year, we doubled our support for Asha Nepal's Family Based Care, supporting 18 children. Family Based Care provides a home for survivors who cannot immediately return to their families, closely mirroring the family environment, with 5-6 children and a housemother in each home. The support of a consistent housemother and Asha's holistic care, including counselling, healthcare and a designated social worker for each home, were particularly critical in providing much-needed stability and safety during the pandemic.

"Since children were in small family group homes we were able to keep track of their health and provide proper care, preventing COVID-19 infections. Lockdown provided an opportunity for bonding for housemothers and children. Children got to learn about home management skills, spent time together playing indoor games and explored and prepared different food together, which created an opportunity to have quality time together."

- Kusum Pujari, Asha Nepal management team

⁶ Nearly 1.5 million Nepali at risk of human trafficking, report says, The Kathmandu Post, 2019, <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2019/08/06/nearly-1-5-million-nepali-at-risk-of-human-trafficking-while-35-000-trafficked-last-year-nhrc-report>.

⁷ Annual Report, National Human Rights Commission Nepal, 2020, https://www.nhrcnepal.org/uploads/publication/Annual_Report_FY_2019-20_compressed.pdf.

Why family based care?

- **There is a pressing need for trauma-informed care for survivors.** While the Government of Nepal has increased its anti-trafficking efforts in recent years, including developing national standards for survivor care, reintegration services remain inadequate. The government provides support for only 10 rehabilitation homes⁸ for trafficking survivors.

- **Where a child is unable to live at home, family based care is the best alternative.** Over eighty years of research⁹ has found that a high turnover of untrained, unvetted caregivers and overcrowding, well documented at institutional care facilities in Nepal, has a detrimental impact on children's wellbeing. In line with the United Nations Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children, care arrangements in family-like settings are considered best practice.

- **Children need family and community support to thrive.** Recognising the fundamental role of the family in building children's self-esteem and resilience, when a child enters Asha Nepal's care they work with their biological family to eventually reintegrate them. Through parenting skills development, emergency living and healthcare support and employment pathways for mothers, Asha strengthens children's families.

In the last year, six children were reintegrated with their biological families.

After reintegration, children and their families receive ongoing support from a social worker. Where family reintegration is not an option, Asha transitions young adults to community living, where they are supported to build their independence. Some young adults return to Asha as mentors and staff. Currently the library assistant, admin/finance assistant and tutors are alumnae.

⁸ Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Department of State, 2021, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-trafficking-in-persons-report>.

⁹ Lumos, Children in Institutions: The Global Picture, 2017, <https://www.wearelumos.org/resources/children-institutions-global-picture>.

Continuing education during COVID-19



In Nepal, schools have been closed since March 2019, with the exception of a few months. On average, only two out of 10 children we supported had access to the technology they needed for school when the pandemic started. **We provided 18 tablets to ensure children could continue their school remotely.** The impacts on children's learning and wellbeing were immediate. Children were able to:

- **Access personalised learning**, a significant improvement on the four laptops that were previously being shared among all the children, who were at different stages of their schooling.
- **Reduce COVID-19 risk** by learning from home rather than travelling to Asha's community centre to use the laptops.
- **Build their digital literacy**, developing employment skills and learning how to access technology safely with Asha's support.
- **Learn more independently**, reducing stress on the housemothers, who were attempting to make up for the lost schooling.

Despite the disruptions to schooling, six young people graduated from Year 12 and three from Year 10.

The impact of keeping girls in school during the pandemic will be long lasting. **We know that every additional year of school¹⁰ provides girls with greater opportunities, independence and freedom.** Girls with an education marry later, have fewer children and earn more. Educating women increases public spending on health and social welfare and increases economic growth for society as a whole.

In 2021-22, with the contribution of a grant by the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation, we will support four young people to complete 3-year engineering diplomas.

¹⁰ #HerEducationOurFuture: keeping girls in the picture during and after the COVID-19 crisis; the latest facts on gender equality in education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2021, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375707>.

Our advocacy and outreach

2020-2021 Advocacy

200+ emails sent to T2

10+ virtual tea parties hosted by campaign followers

2 virtual campaign tea parties hosted by PDA and Be Slavery Free for our combined communities

1 virtual workplace tea party hosted by Australian Ethical and presented by PDA and Be Slavery Free

70+ tea party attendees

404 followers of the @somethingforslavery Instagram account.

2020-2021 Outreach

7,400 Facebook followers

16,961 Facebook page reach

214 Twitter followers

291 LinkedIn followers

583 people on our PDA mailing list

28 newsletters sent to the PDA community

#SomethingForSlavery campaign to end modern slavery: Our advocacy campaign in collaboration with non-profit, [Be Slavery Free](#) contributed to Unilever's commitment to raise living standards for low-paid workers. **After 8 months of campaigning, Unilever (T2's parent) committed to providing a living wage by 2030!** We will continue to evolve this campaign in the coming year, including making a submission to the U.S. Department of Labor List of Goods Produced with Forced Labor or Child Labor.

The advocacy was mobilised through information sharing at tea parties with a key Call to Action (CTA) to pressure T2 and Unilever by sending them emails.

Coverage on the #SomethingForSlavery campaign:

Cuppa campaign to help Assam's tea workers, Indian Link News

<https://www.indianlink.com.au/features/cuppa-campaign-to-help-assams-tea-workers/>

Local tea drinkers called on to end industry slavery, Canberra Weekly

<https://canberraweekly.com.au/local-tea-drinkers-called-on-to-end-industry-slavery/>

Students design for global campaign against modern slavery, UTS

<https://www.uts.edu.au/partners-and-community/initiatives/social-justice-uts/news/students-design-global-campaign-against-modern-slavery>



Australian Ethical's Office Coordinator, Tommy St Jack and CFO, Mark Simons hosting a tea party to do #SomethingForSlavery.

"As Office Coordinator I want to provide the team here at Australian Ethical with easy-to-access, meaningful experiences that can keep them connected to each other and the wider issues that affect the ethical landscape. This half-hour virtual tea party with Project Didi and Be Slavery Free was perfect! They delivered a very interesting and relevant presentation with the right mix of stories, data and practical tips to empower us all with easy steps to take action on modern slavery ourselves."

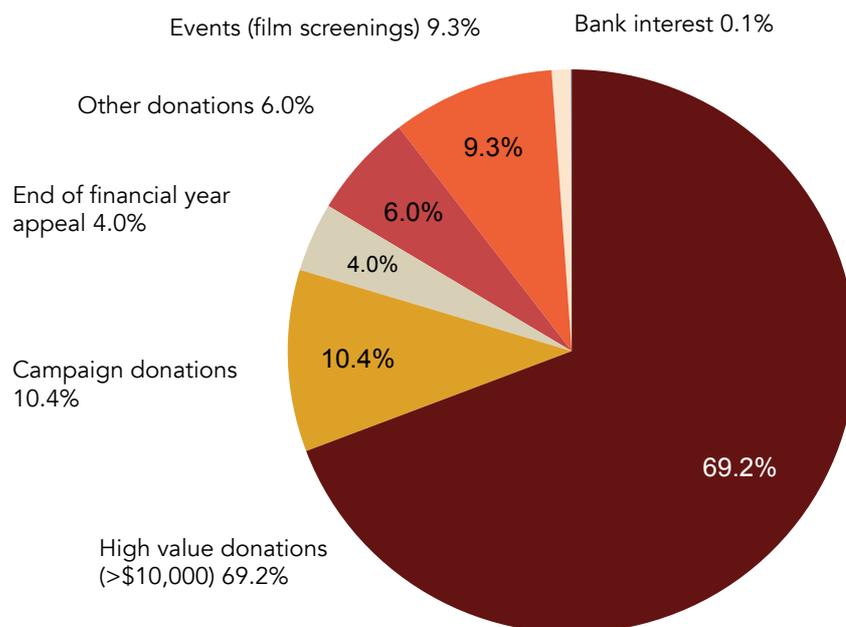
- Tommy St Jack, Australian Ethical

Our funding

"I have donated to charities all my life and it is daunting over the years that one has to commit to early subscriptions, their organisations get unwieldy and you question whether as a contributor the money gets to the needy. After having visited Asha Nepal through Project Didi's Women Empowering Women trip I got a great sense of the worthwhile and instant impact of my donation. Having been a victim of domestic violence myself, supporting disadvantaged girls and women is close to my heart. I like that Asha is mostly self directed and I'm impressed by the absolute integrity of Project Didi's board and volunteers, each person very qualified in the love of humanity and driven by altruistic purpose"

- Sue Barmos, Project Didi donor

In 2020-21, 100% of our funding came from the generous Project Didi community.



Like many in the not-for-profit community, COVID-19 has significantly challenged our funding model. Our Women Empowering Women and Youth 2 Youth Programs in Nepal were put on hold indefinitely. Lockdowns prevented in-person fundraising events. Yet, the needs in Nepal increased. Several of Asha Nepal's major donors withdrew funding and many of the women we support lost their only source of stable income.

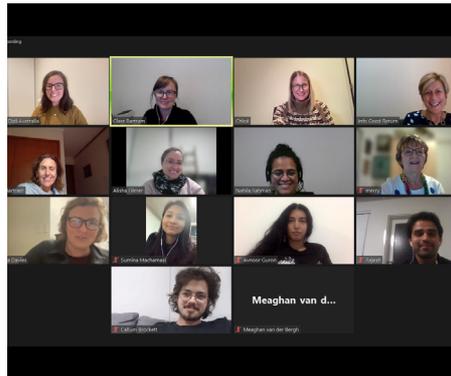
To use a COVID-19 truism - we pivoted our funding model to respond to the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic. Thanks to our dedicated community, by adapting our strategy, **we not only met our funding goals in Nepal, but increased our income by 70% compared to the previous year.**

Happy International Women's Day!

We're sending you this newsletter as you're already part of the Project Didi Community, who knows about the support we provide to Asha Nepal for Family Based Care. This holistic care is best practice in supporting and reintegrating girls who have experienced violence and are unable to return home.



Our community responded generously to appeals to support our local partners in Nepal.



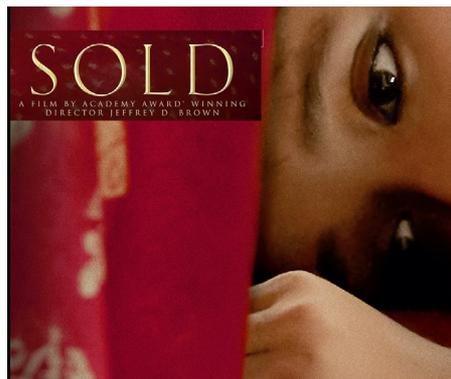
We connected our community directly with the impact of their donations in Nepal through virtual Q&As with the Asha Nepal team.



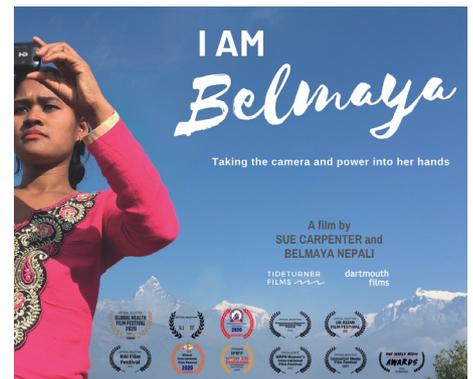
We added the beautiful polymer clay jewellery, made by the women at our partner Sammunat Nepal, to our online store.



Close to \$2,500 raised and 110 tickets sold for our World Day Against Trafficking virtual screening of Even When I Fall, the story of Nepal's first circus, set up by child trafficking survivors.



Our virtual screening of SOLD for International Day of the Girl Child was our fifth screening since we held the Australian premiere in 2017.



Over 70 tickets sold for the award-winning documentary and Q&A with the co-director, Sue Carpenter. A portion of funds raised went to Belmaya in Nepal, the subject and co-director of the film.

"This was a brilliant way to raise funds with many people watching a lot of films in lockdown, different from asking for donation, and promoted the cause as well as raising money. Easy to access and watch, film was high quality, very thought provoking as well as visually stunning, and conveyed the message well through personal testimonies, without being 'lectured to'."

- Even When I Fall screening attendee

Where does your donation go?

We are 100% volunteer-run and less than 10% of money raised by Project Didi, and in conjunction with Global Development Group, **goes towards vital administration costs, with the remaining 90% going to our beneficiaries.**

It is important that nonprofits are transparent about their overheads, but a lean overhead model isn't always the best model. It is most important that funds are used effectively and that nonprofits are able to invest adequately in the activities, people and infrastructure they need to have a positive and sustainable impact.

Strengthening our funding

Securing long-term, stable funding is a key challenge for us and our partners in Nepal. We recognise we need to diversify our funding and so in 2021-22, we are working to:

- **Explore options** for deductible gift recipient status to be able to keep offering tax deductibility to donors at the end of our 3-year partnership with Global Development Group.
- **Secure grant funding.** We have recruited two volunteer grant writers to monitor and respond to opportunities.
- **Increase our engagement** with our community through a series of events and interactive campaigns.



Our organisational development

Our continued growth as an organisation requires ongoing review and expansion of our policy and governance requirements. While we are still a small not-for-profit, we believe in developing evidence based, best practice policies to guide our work and underpin our processes and procedures.

In 2020/21, we developed **two comprehensive new policies** to guide our work:

PDA Partnership Policy: This policy guides all of our national and international partnerships and collaborations. It provides a framework for identifying and assessing new partnerships or collaborations, formalising agreements, and ongoing monitoring and review. This policy is aligned to the ACNC's newly-implemented External Conduct Standards, which govern how registered Australian charities must manage their activities and resources to ensure appropriate standards of behaviour, governance and oversight when undertaking activities or providing funding overseas.

PDA Safeguarding Policy: Replacing our previous child protection policy, this policy aligns with Australian best practice and considers relevant international standards and guidelines. While maintaining our commitment to the safety and protection of children and young people, the new safeguarding policy extends its provisions for the safety of vulnerable adults, including those in Nepal as well as children and young people in Australia that Project Didi may engage with.

In addition to our policy development, we generated numerous research, engagement and communications outputs through collaborative partnerships with multiple universities. These outputs significantly contributed to our work and will continue to guide our future planning.

The upcoming year will see the finalisation of our financial management policy and volunteer policies. We are also seeking to develop interactive onboarding training for our new volunteers, as well as safeguarding capacity development training for all our team.

Report from the Treasurer

Project Didi raised **\$50,558 in the financial year ended June 2021, a 70% increase on the prior year's income of \$29,732**. This increase was fuelled by Project Didi entering a 3-year partnership with Global Development Group, which allows donors to claim tax deductions for donations, as well as supporting Project Didi to meet its compliance requirements.

As of 30th June 2021, Project Didi is in a sound financial position to meet its upcoming disbursement requirements. The healthy cash balance held by Project Didi and on the projects in partnership with GDG will cover 50% of the future funding commitment to Asha Nepal for the coming year.

Financial Highlights

- Project Didi entered a 3-year partnership with GDG
- Including our projects in partnership with GDG, we raised funds of \$50,558, disbursed \$47,612 to Asha Nepal, and incurred \$5,032 operating expenses.
- At the end of the year Project Didi held sufficient funds to meet commitments to Asha Nepal until January 2022.

Financial Summary FY2020-21 (AUD)

	Project Didi Accounts	Projects in partnership with GDG	Total Project Didi + GDG partnership
Net income	\$ 7,071	\$ 43,487	\$ 50,558
Funds disbursed to Asha	\$ 21,725	\$ 25,887	\$ 47,612
Operating expenses	\$ 1,692	\$ 3,341	\$ 5,032
Net profit/(loss)	\$ (16,346)	\$ 14,260	\$ (2,086)

Income

In 2020/21 Project Didi raised a total of \$50,558, of which 86% was through projects in partnership with GDG, and 14% was raised by Project Didi through events (9.3%), campaigns and other donations (3.6%) and the sale of jewellery through the online shop (1.1%).

The partnership with GDG contributed significantly to Project Didi's ability to receive large value donations, which accounted for \$35,000 of the income raised, highlighting the credibility garnered by the ability to issue tax deductible receipts for donations.

Net income (AUD)	PDA Accounts	Partnership with GDG	Total	%
Projects in Partnership with GDG		\$ 43,487	\$ 43,487	86.0%
Campaign donations	\$ 560		\$ 560	1.1%
Other donations	\$ 1,251		\$ 1,251	2.5%
Events	\$ 4,687		\$ 4,687	9.3%
Shop sales	\$ 547		\$ 547	1.1%
Interest on bank accounts	\$ 26		\$ 26	0.1%
Total net income	\$ 7,071	\$ 43,487	\$ 43,487	100.0%

Expenditure

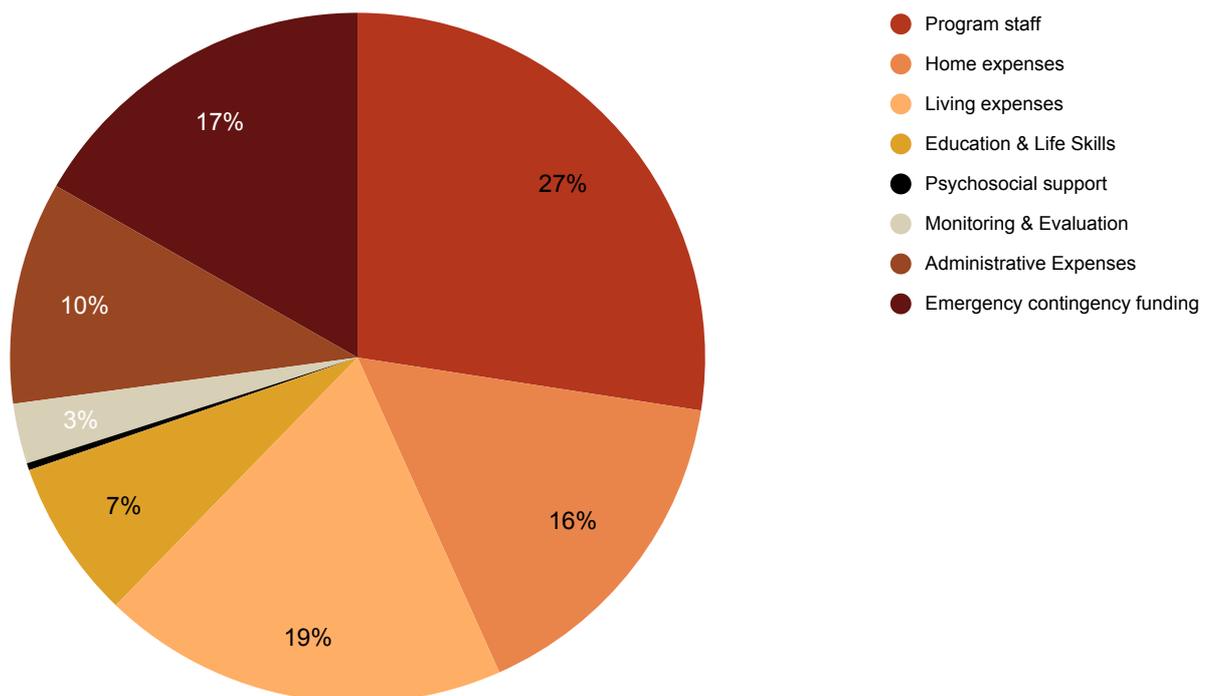
During the financial year a total of \$47,612 was dispersed to Asha Nepal, 45.6% directly from Project Didi, and 54.4% through projects in partnership with GDG.

Operating expenses of \$5,032 were contained to 10% of funds raised, including \$3,341 GDG project costs.

Operating expenses	PDA Accounts	Partnership with GDG	Total	%
GDG Fees		\$ 3,341	\$ 3,341	66.4%
Audit Fees	\$ 660		\$ 660	13.1%
Administrative Expenses	\$ 615		\$ 615	12.2%
Fundraising expenses	\$ 296		\$ 296	5.9%
Postage and Delivery	\$ 87		\$ 87	1.7%
International transfer fee	\$ 20		\$ 20	0.4%
Paypal fees	\$ 13		\$ 13	0.3%
Total operating expenses	\$ 1,692	\$ 3,341	\$ 5,032	100.0%

Our financial impact

Including our projects in partnership with GDG, we increased our financial support for Asha Nepal to \$47,612 (compared to \$9,969 last year), providing stable funding during the COVID-19 crisis. With these funds, Asha Nepal **Supported the recovery and reintegration of 16 survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence.**



Financial Statements

The following summary financial report is an extract from the full audited Annual Financial Report for Project Didi. It excludes the projects in partnership between Project Didi and GDG arrangements and related transactions. Nexia Sydney completed the independent audit report for financial statements for the year ended 31st June 2021. The full audited Annual Financial Report is available upon request and without charge, by emailing treasurypda@gmail.com

Statement of profit or loss for the year ended 30 June 2021

AUD	2021
Income	
Campaign donations	\$ 560
Donations to PDA	\$ 1,251
Events	\$ 5,740
Investments - Interest	\$ 26
Sales	\$ 1,233
Total Income	\$ 8,810
Cost of Good Sold	
Cost of shop stock	\$ 685
Global Development Group donor transfers	\$ 1,053
Total Cost of Good Sold	\$ 1,739
Accounting and Audit Fees	\$ 660
Administrative Expenses	\$ 615
Fundraising expenses	\$ 296
Grant disbursement	\$ 21,725
International Bank Transfer Fees	\$ 20
Paypal Fees	\$ 13
Postage & Delivery	\$ 87
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	\$ (16,346)

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2021

AUD	2021
Assets	
Total cash and cash equivalent	\$ 7,258
Total current assets	\$ 7,258
Total Assets	\$ 7,258
Liabilities	
Trade and other payables	\$ 200
Total current liabilities	\$ 200
Total liabilities	\$ 200
Net Assets	\$ 7,058
Equity	
Retained surplus	\$ 7,058
Total equity	\$ 7,058

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Project Didi Australia

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Project Didi Australia (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Committee Members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Entity is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

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 Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Committee Members' responsibility for the financial report

The Committee Members of the Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the Committee Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee Members are responsible for assessing the Entity'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 the Committee Members either intend to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

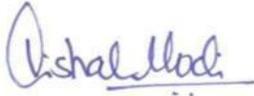
Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report

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 the 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 this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at The Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/admin/file/content102/c3/ar1_2020.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd



Vishal Modi
Director

Dated: 21st day of November 2021



Thank you

To all our donors, our dedicated volunteers, our partners and the wider Project Didi Australia community, who share our mission to empower women and girls to achieve their full potential, and helped us to continue to work towards this goal despite these challenging times.



Project Didi Australia is proud to be a partner for J1082N Futures of Dignity and Opportunity with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to carry out quality humanitarian projects with approved partners and provide aid to relieve poverty and ensure long term solutions.

Global Development Group takes responsibility of the project according to OAGDS guidelines providing a governance role and assisting in the areas of planning, monitoring and evaluating to ensure the projects are carried out to OAGDS requirements.



Project Didi Australia
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