

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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Published by Heifer International Nepal

This report is printed on wood-free paper (except for the cover and back page)





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(Cover Photo: Manju Karki on her tomato farm in Dhekuldanda, Palpa)

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Dr. Tirtha Raj Regmi

Country Director, Heifer International Nepal



Dear Supporters,

As I reflect on 2024, I'm filled with gratitude and hope for what we've achieved together. This year has been a reminder of why we do what we do; to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. What began as a simple idea, "Not a cup, but a cow", has grown into a movement that empowers communities to create lasting change for themselves.

This year, we supported 55,529 families in 2024 alone, bringing our total impact to more than 400,000 households. We continue to strengthen smallholder farmers, working with 17,345 self-help groups, 293 cooperatives, and 3 District Cooperative Unions, helping farmers access critical resources like savings, credit, insurance, marketing, and enterprise support. Around 900 local entrepreneurs have been trained as Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs, improving animal welfare and creating income opportunities.

One of the most inspiring moments this year was the celebration of Heifer International's 80th anniversary and our "Passing on the Gift" ceremony. I had the privilege of witnessing families pass on first-born purebred Holstein Friesian calves to 11 new families, a powerful symbol of solidarity and self-sufficiency. This simple act born from years of collaboration and shared vision marks a critical step toward long-term community growth.

Our 10-year plan aims to lift 670,500 families out of poverty, and we are making great strides through close collaboration with government, academic, and private sector partners. We also made incredible strides in building relationships with the government and key partners, working closely with leaders like Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister. Together, we are creating policies that promote sustainable farming, empower women, and ensure that communities have the support they need to thrive.

Our partnerships have had real impact, such as the export of goats from Rambha Rural Municipality, generating over NPR 3 crore (USD 226,000) annually, and the success of Palpa's ginger farmers, who exported over five thousand kg of processed ginger to the European market lifting women and families out of poverty.

This year also saw the introduction of Sustainable Locally Led Development (SLLD) and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) principles, which are at the heart of our mission. These efforts ensure that everyone, especially women, youths and vulnerable populations have the chance to lead, grow, and succeed.

None of this would be possible without the incredible partnerships we've built with the government, local communities, donors, and supporters like you. Your belief in this work, even during tough times, has allowed us to make a lasting impact. I'm also deeply grateful to my colleagues at Heifer, whose dedication through another challenging year has been crucial to our mission's success.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about our continued focus on equity, inclusion, and climate resilience. By providing targeted training and leadership development for women, youth, and marginalized groups in agriculture, we're helping farmers build sustainable businesses, access markets, and strengthen their communities. Guided by the 12 Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development and our climate-smart agricultural practices, we're empowering communities to embrace Locally Led Development, address climate challenges, and drive lasting impact. This approach is fostering sustainable livelihoods and achieving key milestones in economic and climate resilience for future generations.

Thank you for being part of this journey!

With heartfelt gratitude,



Dr. Tirtha Raj Regmi

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL NEPAL

While distributing meager rations of powdered milk to children, Indiana farmer Dan West was distraught when the supply ran out and children were still waiting. He realized they needed "not a cup, but a cow." This simple realization led to the birth of Heifer International, and for 80 years, the organization has worked tirelessly to provide families with a hand up, not just a handout.

Heifer's work in Nepal began in 1957, providing improved livestock breeds at the government's request. Since signing an agreement with Nepal's Social Welfare Council in 1997, Heifer has reached more than 400,000 families, transforming livelihoods through agriculture and livestock programs. These families are organized into Self-Help Groups, Social Entrepreneur Women's Cooperatives (SEWCs), and district cooperative unions, with 99% of members being rural women.



Heifer-supported cooperative members celebrating the 80th anniversary and Passing on the Gift ceremony in Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli.

Heifer Nepal promotes resilience through the Social Entrepreneur Women's Alliance (SEWA), a network of women-led cooperatives that boosts livelihoods by enhancing technical, governance, and financial skills. By collaborating with local governments and NGOs, Heifer connects self-help groups and cooperatives to strengthen community development and economic empowerment.

Heifer's approach also includes market system development, helping farmers access markets and create economic opportunities. By providing livestock, seeds, training, and gender equity initiatives, Heifer enhances agricultural productivity and market access. The organization also works on disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure to protect communities from climate challenges. Through its programs, Heifer helps farmers build sustainable businesses, access markets, and train the next generation of agricultural leaders.

To date, Heifer has supported 17,345 self-help groups, 293 cooperatives, and 3 district cooperative unions, providing farmers with critical resources like savings, credit, insurance, marketing, and

enterprise support. Around 900 local entrepreneurs have been trained as Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs, improving animal welfare and creating income opportunities.

With a focus on sustainable and inclusive agriculture and livestock value chains, Heifer Nepal uses the Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) approach to help families rise from poverty to resiliency. Heifer has worked in 53 districts till date, with 34 partners including the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, provincial governments, and local NGOs to create lasting change.

Heifer's primary objective is to help families achieve a sustainable living income, ensuring access to safe shelter, nutritious food, education, and healthcare while also building resilience to economic and climate challenges.



HEIFER PROJECT NEPAL

Heifer Project Nepal, a legally separate entity from Heifer International Nepal, was established in 1996 with the mission of ending hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. The organization works in partnership with local, national, and international stakeholders to empower communities by promoting food security and improving the quality of life through sustainable livelihoods in agriculture and livestock farming. This initiative focuses on engaging women and youth as catalysts for change, with households acting as economic hubs. By prioritizing sustainable development, job creation, food security, income generation, and employment opportunities, Heifer Project Nepal aims to create lasting, positive change in the country.

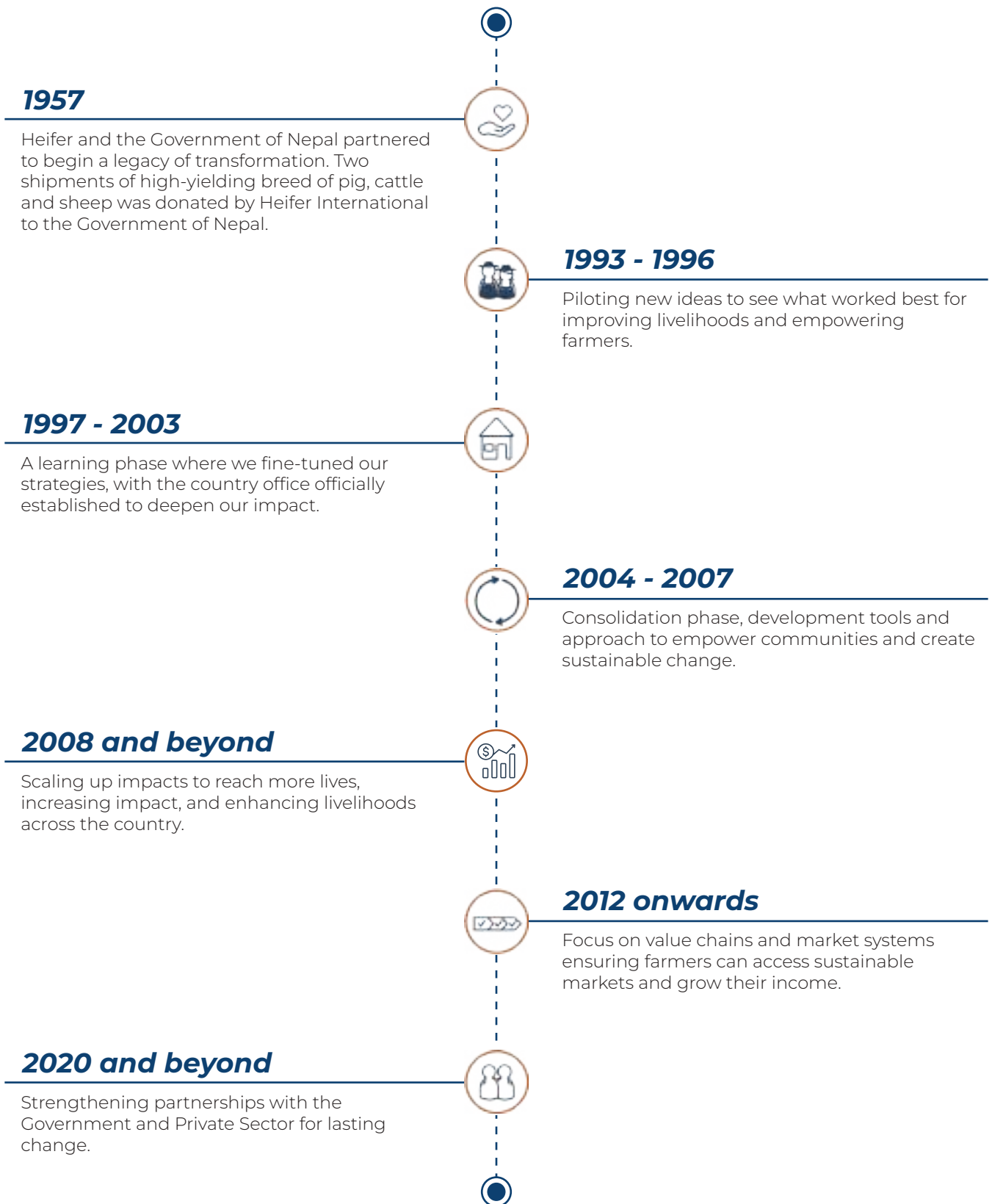
OUR MISSION



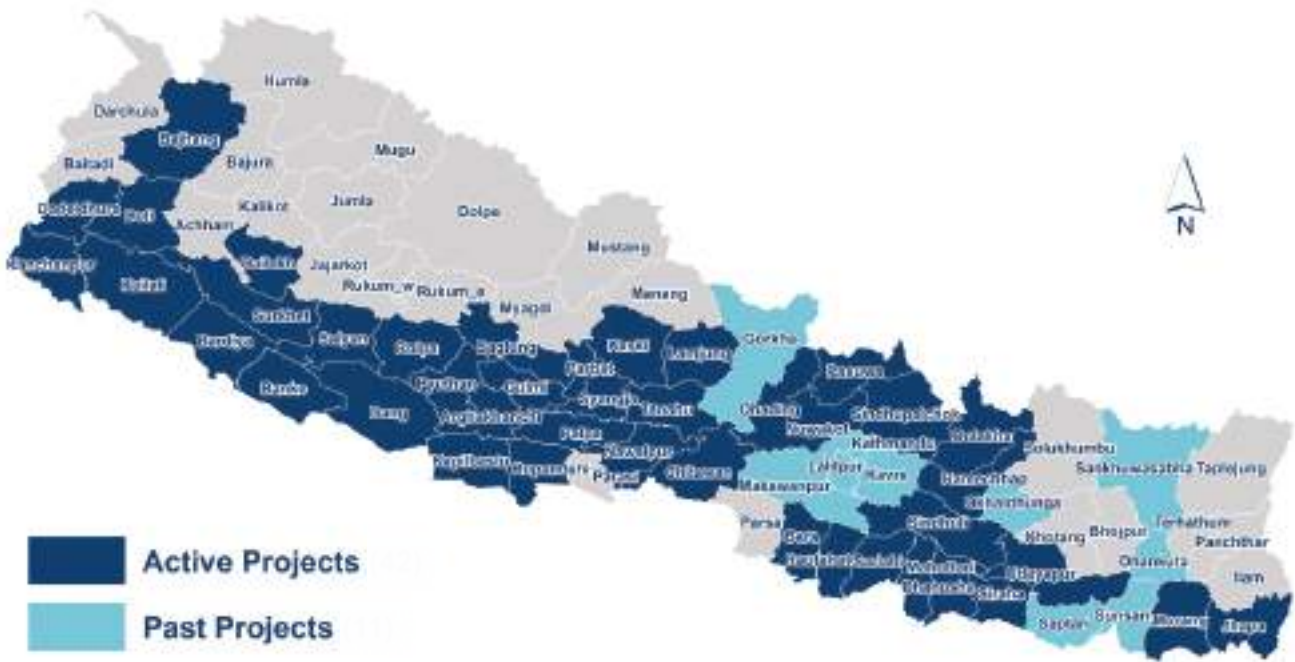
Ending Hunger and Poverty While Caring for the Earth"

- We work in partnership with the communities to end hunger and poverty.
- Our programs support entrepreneurs, creating lasting change from the ground up.
- It begins with a seed investment in livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build businesses, and gain access to the supply chain and markets.
- These families can earn a living income and can continuously lift the communities, as they train the next generation of leaders.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL NEPAL TIMELINE



OUR IMPACT FY24



433,281.7
Milk sales (ltr per day)



585,526
Goat sales



28
Active districts



894
Number of CAVEs trained



293
SEWCs



53
Districts reached



401,954
Families impacted



719
Number of collection centers



17,345
Self-help Groups



20,992.3 ha
Fodder Plantation

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Heifer International's work is organized at the country level into Signature Programs focused on large-scale, measurable and sustainable impact achieved by building partnerships at all levels. Each program supports farmers through time-bound projects designed to increase their household income.



Farmers Business School session in Tansen-7, Palpa, focused on building a resilient and sustainable market system.

Value Chains for Inclusive Transformation of Agriculture (VITA)

Program Period: June 2022 - June 2028

The Value Chains for Inclusive Transformation of Agriculture Program (VITA), co-designed with IFAD and supported by the Government of Nepal and the Ministry of Finance, aims to bridge the gap between small-scale producers and profitable market opportunities. Implemented by the Agricultural Development Bank Ltd., VITA empowers Nepali farmers by improving agricultural businesses, promoting financial inclusion, and driving sustainable economic growth.

The program strengthens farmers' capacities through social capital building, climate-smart agriculture and livestock production technologies, using innovative concepts like "Bank Sathi" to enhance financial access. Local facilitators help farmers access loans and other financial services, improving their financial capabilities. VITA focuses on seven high-potential value chains such as vegetables, goats, fish, cereals, potatoes, dairy, and bananas.

Operating across 28 districts, VITA will scale nationwide, with intensive activities in 9 target districts to improve market linkages and build social capital. The program integrates advanced agricultural technologies like drip irrigation and mulching, along with gender-sensitive tools like GALS-lite to empower women, enhance nutrition, and build business skills. It also focuses on youth inclusion, targeting young adults under 25, and promotes climate resilience digital financial services and sustainable investment practices.



VITA project participants proudly collecting their homegrown tomatoes, ready to hit the market!

By directly benefiting 70,000 families, including landowners, landless laborers, and vulnerable communities, VITA improves local food security, reduces reliance on imports, and supports MSMEs through enhanced infrastructure. With 60% of beneficiaries being women and 30% youth, the program ensures its benefits reach marginalized groups such as Dalits and Janajatis. VITA is committed to gender-transformative outcomes, empowering women to lead in supply chains and creating better opportunities for young adults. By integrating climate resilience and accelerating digital rural financial services, VITA is shaping the future of inclusive and sustainable agriculture in Nepal.

Strengthening Smallholder Livestock Value Chains (SLVC)

SLVC Program Period: 2011 - 2030

Heifer Nepal's Strengthening Smallholder Livestock Value Chains (SLVC) Signature Program is transforming the agricultural ecosystem for smallholder farmers in Nepal. The program aims to scale up the enterprises of 125,000 directly participating families and an additional 350,000 families across 29 districts. It strengthens the institutional, governance, and financial management capacity of cooperatives, linking them with appropriate markets and consumer bases, while also building infrastructure to support these markets. By enhancing access to business development services such as insurance, finance, and input supply, the program improves the overall enabling environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and private sector partners, focusing on the goat, dairy, vegetable, and local poultry value chains.

From traditional to improved, there has been a notable change in the farming practices of the small holder. SLVC has made a lasting improvement in animal housing, attention is also provided to the animal's health with regular checkups, deworming and vaccination of animals. SLVC has put an end to the traditional practice of haphazard grazing of animals in the jungles and has encouraged planting of nutritious fodder and forage in barren lands, reducing land degradation and carbon footprint.

The cooperative has become a business hub for the smallholder farming families, bringing much needed services to the rural community. The services range from marketing to access to final to animal insurance. The SLVC project helped establish collection centers in the villages. These centers play a vital role in aggregation and collection marketing, reduced transaction costs and improved trading efficiency.

SLVC has undertaken a significant initiative to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of animal health services. For this, numerous individuals in project sites are trained to become Community Agrovet Entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs play a crucial role in not only offering essential animal health services to farmers but also in elevating the status of agro-vet entrepreneurship within the community. Serving as vital pillars for farmers in building resilience against diseases affecting livestock, they actively motivate and guide farmers to embrace entrepreneurship, assisting them in establishing their own ventures within the community. In doing so, they not only address the immediate health needs of animals but also contribute to the empowerment and economic development of the local farming community.

With the help of the Agri transport vehicles, the cooperatives provide door-to-door collection service which reduces the hassle farmers face to arrange delivery vehicle for their produce. With the regular availability of Agri-transport, post-harvest loss is reduced which is a severe problem for perishable products. Moreover, the placement of agri-transport vehicles has started to increase members, business as well as coverage for the cooperatives, which is a milestone for expanding services of the cooperatives.



SLVC project participants happily working at a tomato distribution center.



The first purebred Holstein calf in Sindhuli, with the family beaming proudly around it.

Milky Way

Program Period: March 2022 - June 2027

Nepal's dairy sector faces significant challenges, with low milk yields due to poor genetics, inadequate feeding practices, and a weak healthcare system for livestock. Government efforts to improve breeds have been hampered by a lack of systemic approach and limited access to quality genetic resources, compounded by export restrictions from other countries. A 2020 study highlighted that Nepali consumption of milk and dairy products stands at 72 liters annually, below the recommended 91 liters.

To address these challenges, Heifer International, in collaboration with the governments of Nepal and South Korea, launched the Milky Way project. This initiative aims to transform Nepal's dairy sector by improving cattle genetics, creating a vertically integrated dairy value chain, and improving local milk production. The Milky Way Signature Program targets the livelihood improvement of over 500,000 smallholder dairy farmers and aims to reduce dairy product imports by 50%, while doubling milk production by 2030.

The program focuses on increasing milk quality and productivity, reducing production costs, and creating job opportunities for local dairy farmers. By working closely with government bodies, development banks, private sector actors, and Korean partners, Milky Way addresses key systemic barriers across the dairy value chain. Its goal is to establish sustainable institutions and structures that will ensure lasting impact, reforming policies and practices to strengthen rural economies and ensure the sector's long-term success.

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Climate-Smart Dairy Farming in Nepal

Project Period: October 2022 - September 2024

Dairy farming is a key livelihood for rural communities in Nepal, but it also contributes significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions, including 37% of methane and 65% of nitrous oxide. With 13 million low-productive cattle and buffaloes, Nepal's dairy sector is worsening climate change, especially for women-led households affected by erratic weather and limited market access.

This project aims to create a climate-smart dairy model that reduces GHG emissions and enhances sustainability. By promoting community-led innovations, organic manure use, and efficient waste recycling, the project will improve resilience, soil fertility, and productivity. Initially targeting 100 families, the project is designed for nationwide replication through Heifer Nepal's Milky Way Signature Program. This initiative is a collaboration between Heifer Nepal, Heifer Netherlands, the International Livestock Research Institute, and the National Agriculture Research Center.



Kabita Adhikari, member of the Shree Kamalamai Social Entrepreneur Women's Dairy Cooperative, Sindhuli producing biogas from cow waste as a climate-smart dairy farmer.

Innovations in Agriculture and Livestock Value Chains Development in Nepal (IALVC)

Project Period: April 2023 - March 2027

The Innovations in Agriculture and Livestock Value Chains Development (IALVC) project aims to improve goat, vegetable, and dairy farming in Nepal, helping 163,418 smallholder farmers increase productivity and connect to markets for sustainable living incomes.

Nepal's agriculture, which accounts for 23% of GDP, is primarily driven by smallholder farmers who lack proper organization and facilities, leading to an undersupply in domestic markets. The IALVC project addresses these challenges by enhancing agricultural productivity, market linkages, and livelihoods through innovative and sustainable methods. The goal is to support 60,000 participants, reaching 60,000 direct and 300,000 indirect families, contributing to the program's target of impacting 1.57 million families in 10 years. This project is a collaboration between Heifer International USA, Local Governments, Bank and Financial Companies, and Private Sectors.



Agri transport collecting vegetables from IALVC project participants' farms.

Digital Mentoring and Continuing Education for Improved Service and Market Linkages among Community Animal Health Workers in Nepal

Project Period: December 2023 - June 2026

Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) play a key role in improving livestock productivity and nutrition in rural areas but often face challenges due to their remote locations. To address this, a new project will launch a Digital Mentoring and Continuing Education (DMCE) platform and a Virtual Collection Center (VCC) tool for goat marketing. The DMCE platform will provide training and support, with top performing CAHWs eligible for promotion to Junior Technicians, improving their income and service quality. The VCC app will help CAHWs organize collective sales and secure better prices for livestock, ultimately increasing farmers' income and strengthening cooperative goat marketing. The project aims to reach 400 CAHWs, 50,000 farming families, and 116 Social Entrepreneurial Women Cooperatives. The project is a collaboration between Heifer Project Nepal, University of Florida, and University of California Davis.



Farmers receiving training on how to use the GeoKrishi App.

Girl Child Education (GCE)

Project Period: 2022 - 2026

According to the 2021 National Population and Housing Census, Nepal's female literacy rate is 69.4%, compared to 83.6% for males. While 75% of children attend lower basic education, attendance drops to 50% at upper basic and 48% at secondary levels, with girls, especially from rural and impoverished families, facing greater challenges. This lack of education increases the risk of trafficking, abuse, early marriage, and limited potential for girls. Recognizing these barriers, Heifer Nepal launched the Girl Child Education (GCE) project in 2000 to empower girls through education and address gender disparities. However, it was officially registered with the Social Welfare Council only in 2022. The Girl Child Education (GCE) project has benefited 2,851 girls to date. In 2024, the program provided scholarships and essential school supplies to 210 girls across Nepal. The project aims to educate and support 1,000 girls by 2026, ensuring they have access to essential educational resources.



GCE Scholarship recipients happily pose at Shree Jana Jyoti Secondary School, Sindhuli, as they receive their scholarship materials.

Modeling Community-led Goat Genetic Improvement Program into Sustainable and Profitable Business (CIGIG)

Project Period: January 2024 - June 2025

Despite a goat population exceeding 12 million, Nepal has only recently achieved self-sufficiency in goat meat production. With rising demand, efficient production and marketing systems are crucial. Recognizing the scarcity of high-quality breeding goats, Heifer Project International (HPI) launched the Community Initiated Genetic Improvement Program in Goat (CIGIG) in 2014 to produce genetically superior goats along with Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM), and Rural Economic Development Association (REDA). However, the project has struggled to establish a profitable business model. To address this, HPI aims to create a technical database of high-quality breeds and develop viable business models, incorporating QR codes and digital tracking to highlight goat quality. This will inform buyers and help establish breeding goat centers that sell certified goats at premium prices, ensuring sustainable profitability for the community. The project will also collaborate with the public and private sectors to influence policy and strengthen the value chain.



CIGIG project participants pose with their goats in front of the shed.

Integrated Dairy Productivity Improvement Project for smallholder farmers in Kamalamai Municipality, Nepal

Project Period: April 2023 - December 2024

Nepal is an agrarian country where over half of households' own cattle, primarily cows and buffaloes, which are essential for nutrition and income. However, milk productivity is low, averaging one-third of neighboring countries. To address this, Heifer Korea, in collaboration with Nepal's government, has selected a Model Dairy Village (MDV) to improve milk productivity and create sustainable living incomes for smallholder farmers. The initiative focuses on improving livestock management, particularly for women, through targeted training and improved infrastructure, including water tanks and equipment. Mobile apps will facilitate efficient data collection and knowledge sharing. Additionally, biogas systems will be developed to convert manure into energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and boost crop and feed productivity, ultimately increasing farmers' income.



Integrated Dairy Productivity Improvement project participant poses with her calves.

Integrated Approach to Enhance Milk Quality, Dairy Animal Productivity and Milk Consumption by Vulnerable Household Members in Rural Nepal (LSIL/REACH)

Project Period: September 2023 - September 2025

Dairy is Nepal's second-largest agricultural sub-sector, contributing 63% to livestock GDP. However, productivity is low, with milk production far below global averages. Nepal imports around NPR 2 billion (US\$ 17 million) in dairy products annually due to poor genetics, inadequate feeding, limited healthcare, and technology access. Additionally, the agricultural extension system struggles with poor information flow and an undertrained workforce. This project aims to boost dairy productivity and quality by providing farmers with decision-support tools, improving fodder access, and offering price incentives for high-quality milk. It aims to enhance milk quality, improve access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), and strengthen nutrition, particularly for women and children. This project is a collaboration between Heifer Project Nepal (HPN), Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), and University of Florida. Some expected outcomes include better fodder supply, higher milk production, increased farmer incomes, and improved nutrition and health, especially for vulnerable groups.



REACH Project participant happily feeding milk to her calf.



Dr. Tirtha Raj Regmi, Country Director of Heifer Nepal signing an agreement with the mayor of Bardibas Municipality.

Nepal Government Partnership for Economic Growth (NGP)

Project Period: February 2021 - June 2026

The Nepal Government Partnership for Economic Growth project collaborates with multiple local governments to leverage resources such as funding, infrastructure and expertise to implement Heifer’s model, which cultivates local ownership and ensures continuous investment for sustainable development. The initiative is designed to help 75,000 families close the living income gap by improving access to financial services and market linkages through innovative technologies like a virtual collection center app for goat sales.

The project collaborates with local governments, leveraging resources from the local governments to implement Heifer’s model which cultivates local ownership and ensures continuous investment and engagement even after the project phases out. It also demonstrates confidence in Heifer’s systems, ability to manage funds, understanding of participant needs, and ability to partner with local government in the project implementation. The project’s goal is to enable 65,200 families to close the living income.

Building Resilience through Climate-Resilient Livestock Farming in Western Nepal (GRAPE)

Project Period: April 2023 - October 2024



GRAPE project participants from Naumule, Dailekh posing with their breeding bucks

The GRAPE Project is dedicated to empowering smallholder livestock farmers in Nepal’s Karnali and Sudurpaschim regions by promoting sustainable and climate-friendly farming practices. As climate change brings more extreme weather and unpredictable rainfall, the project focuses on helping goat and dairy farmers adapt to these challenges, improving productivity and long-term resilience.

Co-funded by the European Union and the Embassy of Finland and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the project aims to support 1,750 farmers in adopting climate-resilient farming methods. Through hands-on training and continuous guidance, the initiative ensures farmers can improve their methods, strengthen their businesses, and enhance their income while facing a changing climate.

By fostering resilience, the GRAPE Project is not only helping farmers thrive in the face of climate uncertainty but also building a more secure and sustainable future for their families and communities.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

A New Era in Nepal's Dairy Industry

Nepal celebrated a historic milestone with the birth of its first pure-bred Holstein calf, Gamsa, on February 6, 2024. This achievement is part of the Milky Way Initiative, a transformative collaboration between South Korea and Nepal, led by Heifer International. Gamsa, meaning "thank you" in Korean, symbolizes the success of the partnership, which includes the donation of 100 Holstein heifers, 8 breeding bulls, and high-quality frozen semen from Korea.

To commemorate this milestone, the **Korea-Nepal Model Dairy Village** was inaugurated on February 13, 2024, in Kamalamai Municipality-5, Sindhuli, alongside the Passing on the Gift® ceremony. This marks South Korea's first overseas dairy village, aimed at modernizing Nepal's dairy sector through improved genetics and advanced technology. Key attendees included South Korean Ambassador Park Tae Yong, Nepal's Agriculture Secretary Dr. Rewati Raman Poudel, and Kamalamai Municipality Mayor Upendra Kumar Pokhrel.

The initiative has already impacted 51 families raising Holstein heifers, with 71 more pregnancies underway. As part of Heifer's community-driven development model, families will pass on the firstborn female calves to others in need, fostering a sustainable cycle of growth and empowerment.

The Korea-Nepal Model Dairy Village is set to transform Sindhuli into a thriving dairy hub, inspiring nationwide replication. With dairy contributing 8% to Nepal's GDP, this initiative promises to increase milk production, strengthen food security, and drive agricultural growth, solidifying a half-century of diplomatic ties between Nepal and South Korea.



Launch of the Korea-Nepal Model Dairy Village.



A farming couple working together to harvest fresh ginger from their farm.

Palpa to Europe!

The Galdha Social Entrepreneur Women's Cooperative (SEWC) of Nisdi, Palpa, has achieved a milestone by exporting 4,460 kg of processed ginger rice to Europe this May, following a successful trial export of 850 kg ginger samples last year. This year's shipment to Germany was facilitated by aQysta Nepal and marks a major leap in diversifying Nepal's ginger market. Heifer Nepal supported Galdha SEWC by providing equipment for washing, grinding, drying, and packaging ginger, alongside assistance in production, promotion, and processing. The cooperative, comprising 272 women, has set ambitious goals to export 20,000 kg of raw ginger and 10,000 kg of dried ginger rice next year, with plans to expand organic certification to nearby areas like Jamire and Mityal.

Historically dependent on the Indian market, farmers in Nisdi faced instability and waste during surplus years. Entering the European market has opened new opportunities, reducing reliance on India and offering stability. Although challenges like market fluctuations and a lack of tools have slowed progress, recent investments in processing facilities and coordinated efforts by the government and Heifer Nepal aim to boost production, improve market access, and enhance the livelihoods of local ginger producers.

DIGITAL INNOVATIONS:

Heifer International Nepal, in partnership with Pathway Technologies and SEWA-Nepal, is driving the development of GeoKrishi SEWA (GKS), a digital platform that digitizes farm advisory and cooperative business processes. Tailored for farmers, cooperative staff, and extension workers, GKS improves productivity, streamlines operations, and strengthens market linkages through mobile and web-based applications. Piloted in two western Nepal cooperatives; Milansar and Prativa Social Entrepreneur Women's Cooperatives, the platform is set to expand to 300 cooperatives by 2027.

Supported under Heifer's Innovation in Agriculture and Livestock Value Chain Development (IALVC) Project, GKS operates on a revenue-sharing model among Pathway, SEWA-Nepal, and the cooperatives, ensuring sustainability beyond Heifer's support. The platform was officially launched on the Play Store on December 16 2024, embodying a scalable, locally led approach to transforming agriculture and empowering smallholder farmers.

Heifer Nepal and SEWA-Nepal will implement GKS in 70 cooperatives this year and an additional 230 by 2027. Workshops conducted during the pilot phase trained cooperative staff and farmers on the platform's features and explored its potential to bridge information gaps, enhance productivity, and streamline vegetable and milk production, collection, and marketing.

Heifer is also building partnerships with farmer organizations, the private sector, development partners, and national and international companies to strengthen GKS's financial models and scalability, establishing it as a sustainable, locally led solution for smallholder farmers.

Additionally, the Digital Mentoring and Continuing Education (DMCE) platform and the Virtual Collection Center (VCC) goat marketing tool are enhancing collective goat marketing through cooperatives. These tools have strengthened relationships between community animal health workers and production material providers while increasing farmers' income from goat sales through cooperative marketing and the use of appropriate technology.

The project aims to engage 400 Community Animal Health Workers, 50,000 farming families, and 116 Social Entrepreneur Women's Cooperatives. By increasing the volume of goat sales and boosting revenue for both individual farmers and cooperatives, it ensures long-term benefits. The VCC app has been fully launched in approximately 50 cooperatives, further supporting the initiative's goals.



Heifer-supported cooperative members pose with the GeoKrishi app on the farm.



Cooperative members from diverse backgrounds unite for a photo in front of the farm.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING (DEIB)

At Heifer, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) aren't just values; they're the heart and soul of who we are. For us, DEIB is about more than checking boxes; it's about celebrating the rich tapestry of who we are; our backgrounds, experiences, and identities. It's about making sure everyone feels seen, heard, and respected.

When we say DEIB, we mean creating a space where everyone can truly belong, where your unique voice adds to the strength of our collective mission. It's about ensuring that whether you're working alongside colleagues, collaborating with partners, or standing with smallholder farmers, you feel a deep sense of belonging, a place where you can bring your authentic self to the table every day.

This is more than just a goal for us, it's the spirit that guides every decision, interaction, and step we take. Together, we're building a world where authenticity fuels ambition, where our diversity is our greatest strength, and where every person's uniqueness powers our journey towards ending hunger and poverty. At Heifer, we walk this path hand in hand, committed to making sure that everyone feels included, valued, and inspired to thrive!



Sangeeta and Chandramaya Hiski communicating with a sign language interpreter at their home.

Chup Chap Farm: A Story of Silent Strength and Resilient Dreams

In the quiet, peaceful outskirts of Purbakhola, Palpa, Chup Chap farm prospers, quietly, just as its name suggests. The farm, run by the Hiski family, is not just a place where vegetables grow and goats roam. It's a symbol of perseverance, hope, and the unbreakable bond of family. The family consists of Khumi Devi Hiski, her husband Khem Bahadur Hiski, and their children: daughters Chandramaya, Sangeeta, and Hema, along with their younger son Bishnu. The name "Chup Chap" meaning quietly or secretly, reflects the serene surroundings that have shaped the lives of this resilient family.

The name of the farm holds a special place in the Hiski family's hearts. It is inspired by their three children; Chandramaya, Sangeeta, and their brother who face the daily challenges of being unable to hear and speak. Despite this, the family works together to make the farm a thriving source of livelihood, showing that communication doesn't always have to be verbal to be meaningful.

Hiski Family's Journey to Farming and Heifer's Intervention

Khem Bahadur's journey to farming wasn't an easy one. He once left Nepal in search of better opportunities, hoping to find success in Qatar. But the harsh conditions there, coupled with low wages, took a toll on him. After struggling to make ends meet and feeling lost in debt, Khem decided to return to his village, determined to make a better life for his family. He started vegetable farming, but the road to stability was anything but smooth.

That's when Heifer entered their lives offering 10 goats and better-quality seeds, helping them begin a new chapter in their farming journey. The beginning was tough; sales were slow, and the goats were only bought during special occasions. But, with time, the Hiski family developed a loyal customer base, and their farm slowly grew into a steady source of income. Their annual income from selling goats and vegetables is around NPR 3.5-5 lakhs (USD 2575- 3678), with each goat selling for about NPR 16,000 to 20,000 (USD 118-148). In 2021 A.D., Khem became a Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneur (CAVE) with Heifer's guidance. Now, he supports around 300-400 local households, providing them with animal food and medicines, and passing on the knowledge that helped transform his own life.

Challenges Along the Way

The Hiski family has faced significant challenges, including communication barriers stemming from their lack of knowledge of sign language. This has made public life in Palpa difficult for Sangeeta and Chandramaya who often feel disconnected from their community and even their family members. It's a painful gap that leaves them isolated in public spaces, where their attempts to communicate are often misunderstood.

Sangeeta's dream of moving to Kathmandu stems from a sense of frustration with limited opportunities in Palpa. She wants to pursue higher education; learn sign language, English, Science, and other subjects and build a future where she can stand on her own two feet. She often feels the weight of her financial dependence on her family, which leads to arguments and only fuels her desire to leave. Yet, she dreams of coming back one day, having achieved success, to help her parents live a better life. Chandramaya, though she doesn't share the same ambition to leave, understands the struggles of her sister.

Despite their best efforts, the family has struggled to access education and resources for their daughters, with financial constraints further compounding their hardships.



Sangeeta and Chandramaya pose for the camera.

The Sisters: Dreams and Aspirations

Chandramaya and Sangeeta, though united by blood and farm life, are two very different souls with distinct dreams. Sangeeta, full of ambition and curiosity, longs for something more than what Palpa can offer. Her dreams are big; she wants to move to Kathmandu, pursue higher education, and immerse herself in a world of opportunities. Despite the challenges, Sangeeta's hunger for knowledge and independence is unrelenting. She hopes to break free from the financial constraints that bind her to her family and create a future where she can support them in return.

Chandramaya, on the other hand, is content with her life in the village. She finds peace in the simplicity of farm life and has a deep, almost spiritual connection to the goats she cares for. Though she can't communicate with them through words, she speaks to them through gentle claps, forming a bond that goes beyond language. Her heart is calm, and her contentment is a reminder that happiness isn't always found in big dreams but in appreciating the small, everyday moments that make life meaningful.

Future Aspirations:

As Khem looks ahead, he dreams of turning Chup Chap Farm into a commercial success. He also wants to empower other farmers, showing them that with hard work, patience, and the right support, they too can build a better life for themselves. He often tells the youth not to follow the crowd and migrate abroad blindly, but to put in the effort and find success right where they are.

For Sangeeta, the future holds possibilities; education, independence, and the chance to create something greater than what she knows now. She is determined to leave Palpa, but her longing for a better life isn't just for herself. It's for her parents too. She dreams of supporting them, of giving them a life where they don't have to struggle financially. And in her heart, there's always a sense of hope that one day, she'll return and help her family in ways they never thought possible.

Chandramaya's future, however, is tied to the land. She dreams of continuing to help her family with the farm, nurturing it to success, and finding peace in the simplicity of rural life. Her calm presence on the farm is a reminder that happiness is found in gratitude and acceptance, even when the world around us seems to be moving at a faster pace.



Sangeeta and Chandramaya Hiski with a sign language interpreter.

Final Thoughts:

Chup Chap Farm isn't just a farm, it's a symbol of resilience, dreams, and the strength of family. Despite the communication barriers, financial struggles, and differing dreams, the Hiski family remains united in their commitment to each other and their future. Sangeeta's big dreams of higher education and a better life show us the power of ambition, while Chandramaya's quiet gratitude reminds us that contentment is just as valuable. Together, they embody the spirit of perseverance, showing us that no matter where we are or what we face, we all have the power to shape our own destiny.

SUSTAINABLE LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT (SLLD)

For Heifer, Locally Led Development (LLD) is about empowering local communities to carve out their own paths to progress. We trust in their ability to know what's best for themselves, and in return, they trust us to help build their confidence in their own judgment, abilities, and collective strength. We consider LLD becomes SLLD when communities are enabled to strengthen their social, economic and environmental resilience, such that gains made through locally led development are sustainable over the long term. Heifer is relatively early in a learning process about the full dynamics of SLLD and how to fully implement it. As such, we will continue to refine and update our definition as we progress in our learning!



Farmers engaged and learning during their training session.

12 Cornerstones: Forming the foundation of our work

The essential values we apply to our projects are called the Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development. A set of 12 core values form the foundation of our work. All project participants take part in training around the Cornerstones, establishing a set of common values between them at the beginning of the partnership.

Cornerstones stimulate group wisdom, and personal insights and keep people's hearts, minds, and actions balanced, focused, and productive. Using the cornerstone as a framework, project participants develop the attitudes, behaviors, and skills necessary to improve their own lives and gradually transform their communities. Together, these values form the acronym **PASSING GIFTS**, echoing the quintessential trademark practice which is unique to Heifer. The combination of personal leadership and cornerstone allows participants to see how their values connect to the project.



Passing on the Gift



Accountability



Sharing & Caring



Sustainability & Self Reliance



Improved Animal & Resource Management



Nutrition, Health and Income



Gender and Social Inclusion



Genuine Need & Justice



Improving the Environment



Full Participation



Training Education & Communication



Spirituality

TESTIMONIALS



Receiving a Holstein cow from Heifer that produces 29-31.5 liters of milk daily truly changed my life. I now earn a profit of USD 182-189 after expenses, which has freed me from depending on others for household needs, personal expenses, or even my children's education. The confidence and independence I've gained are priceless. I encourage other women to get involved in agriculture because financial independence brings not only satisfaction and happiness but also the power to support your family, creating a deep sense of fulfillment in your life.

Samjhana Dahal,
Milky Way Program Participant



After my husband's death, managing our goat farm on my own has been incredibly challenging. As a woman, I often face judgment, and living near the border adds to the struggle, we graze our goats in India and constantly deal with remarks from the locals. Heifer has been a lifeline for me. Their representatives are always there when we need training, teaching us effective goat-rearing techniques and proper care. They helped us build sturdy goat sheds, significantly improving the well-being of our goats, and provided us with seeds for nutritious grasses like Napier and Ipil Ipil. Heifer also bridged the market gap by providing delivery vehicles for goat transportation, offering clear guidance, assisting with weighing, and ensuring prompt payment of our earnings. Most importantly, their cornerstone training taught us the value of sharing, caring, and collaboration, empowering us not just as farmers, but as a community.



Bhimkala Rokka,
VITA Program Participant



Enrolling in the Farmers Business School (FBS) training, part of the IALVC project, was a life-changer for me. It introduced me to organic farming and methods like Jholmal bio-fertilizers, which have transformed my farm. I've seen improvements in soil fertility, healthier crops, and better yields. My organic vegetables now sell for higher prices, and I expect to earn NRS 3,50,000 this year, an incredible improvement.

Beyond the financial gain, switching to organic farming has greatly improved my family's health. We feel healthier without the chemicals, and I no longer worry about our health or the environment. The Jholmal method has been a true blessing for my farm and my family's future.

Kajiman Shrestha,
IALVC Project Participant



Cooperative members collecting fodder for their cattle.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL NEPAL & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Heifer's programs and projects in Nepal help in achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL NEPAL
Hattiban, Lalitpur

Statement of Financial Position

As of July 15, 2024 (Ashad 31, 2081)

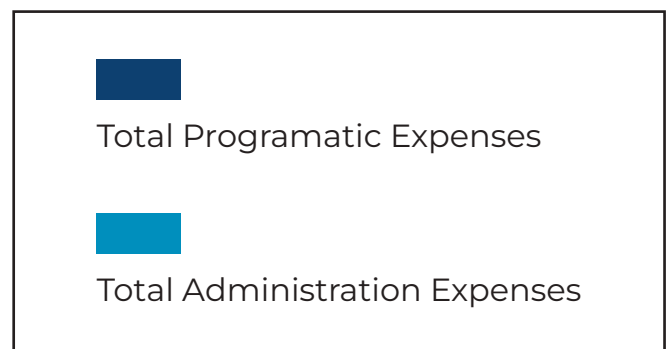
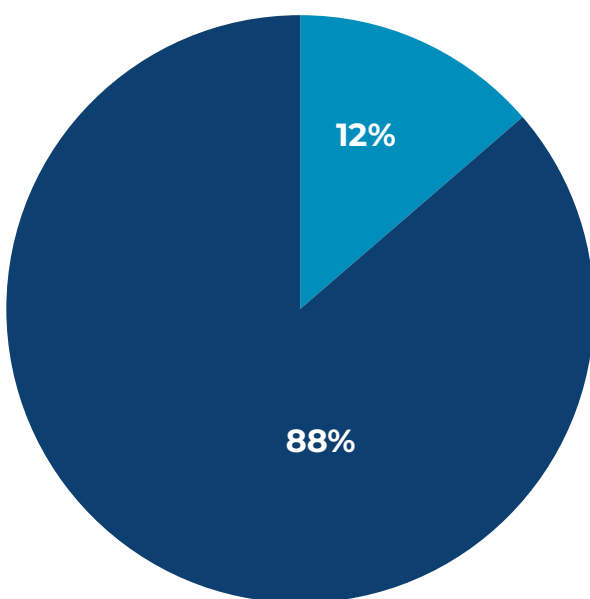
Particulars	FY 2024
Assets	
Non- Current Assets	50,935,057
Property and Equipments	50,935,057
Current Assets	189,916,628
Cash and Cash Equivalents	181,666,152
Accounts Receivable and Other Advance	1,843,271
Advance to Projects	5,664,939
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	742,266
Total Assets	240,851,685
Liabilities and Reserves	
Accumulated Reserve	(12,671,972)
Unrestricted Funds/Accumulated surplus	5,287,520
Restricited Funds	(17,959,492)
Non Current Liabilities	97,259,069
Refundable Advances	97,259,069
Current Liabilities	156,264,588
Accounts Payable	101,008,334
Provisions	55,256,254
Total Liabilities and Reserves	240,851,685

Statement of Income & Expenditure

As of July 15, 2024 (Ashad 31, 2081)

Particulars	FY 2024
Incomes	
Revenue-Related Party	644,698,191
Other Revenue	4,695,042
Foreign Exchange Translation Gain	37,535
Total Incomes	649,430,767
Expenditure	
Project Expenses	
Program Expenses	571,400,887
Organizational Expenses	
Staff/ Other cost Expenses	41,723,678
General Administration Expenses	23,683,748
Depereciation Expenses	12,622,455
Total Expenditures	649,430,767
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-
Provision For Income Tax	-
Deferred Tax Expenses/Income	-
Appropriation/Transfer of Surplus/(Deficit):	
Surplus/(Deficit) during the year	-
Surplus/(Deficit) Transferred to Unrestricted Reserves	-

Expenses Based Functional Allocation



ACRONYMS

- **ASDP:** Agriculture Sector Development Program
- **BFI:** Banks and Financial Institutions
- **C4E:** Caring for the Earth
- **CLA:** Collaborating, Learning and Adapting
- **CAVE:** Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneur
- **CSA:** Climate Smart Agriculture
- **DEIB:** Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- **FOAB:** Farmer-owned Agricultural Business
- **GHG:** Green House Gases
- **GALS:** Gender Action Learning Action
- **GHP:** Good Hygienic Practices
- **HIC:** Heifer Impact Capital
- **ICA:** Independent Contractor Agreement
- **IP:** Implementing Partner
- **IFAD:** International Funds for Agricultural Development
- **LASER:** Long-term Assistance and Services for Research
- **LR:** Leveraged Resources
- **MSMEs:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- **MoU:** Memorandum of Understanding
- **NPR:** Nepalese Rupees
- **POG:** Passing on the Gift
- **PSRP:** Participatory Self-Review and Planning Process
- **4P:** Public-Private-Producer-Partnership
- **RMDC:** Rural Microfinance Development Centre
- **RERP:** Rural Enterprises and Remittances Project
- **RMDC:** Rural Microfinance Development Centre
- **SLLD:** Sustainable Locally Led Development
- **SDG:** Sustainable Development Goal
- **SEWCS:** Social Entrepreneur Women's Cooperatives
- **USD:** United States Dollar
- **VBHCD:** Values-Based Holistic Community Development



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating Partners

- Agriculture and Forestry University
- Everest Bank Ltd.
- FNCCI/Agro Enterprise Center
- Government of Nepal
- Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- Himalayan Bank Limited
- Himalayan General Insurance
- Machhapuchchhre Bank
- National Cooperative Bank Limited
- National Dairy Development Board
- Nepal Agricultural Research Council
- NLG Insurance Company Limited
- NMB Bank Limited
- RSDC Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited
- Sana Kisan Bikas Bank Limited
- Shikhar Insurance Limited
- Siddhartha Insurance Limited
- Tufts University
- Department of Livestock Services
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Department
- International Fund for Agriculture Development
- Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)
- Little Angels College of Management (LACM)
- Department of Livestock Services (DLS)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Alliance Bioversity International (CIAT-Bioversity)
- aQysta
- Pathway Technologies
- Agriculture Development Bank
- National Dairy Development Board
- Nepal Dairy
- Pawan Dairy
- Sujal Dairy
- Dairy Development Corporation (DDC)
- Central Dairy Cooperatives Association Nepal (CDCAN)
- Nepal Dairy Association (NDA)
- Dairy Industries Association (DIA)
- Nepal Dietetics Association
- Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Health Services, Family Welfare Division

Project Partners

- Abhiyan Nepal
- Action Nepal (AN)
- Batabaran tatha Grameen Bikash Kendra (ENRUDEC)
- Bheri Batabaraniya Bisistata samuha (BEEGroup)
- Bhimpokhara Youth Club (BYC)
- Bright Nepal (BN)
- Collective Concern Society (CCS)
- Community development and Environment Conservation forum (CDECF)
- Community Development Forum (CDF)
- Community Improvement Centre (CIC)
- Dalit Help Society (DHS)
- Dalit Utthan Jana Chetana Karyakram (DUAO)
- Development Facilitation Network (DEFAN)
- District Micro Entrepreneurs' Group Association (D-MEGA)
- Diyalo
- Environmental Preservation Services for Development (ENPRED)
- Forum for Community Upliftment System-Nepal (FOCUS)
- Fulbari Integrated Rural Development Organization (FIRDO)
- Good Governance Coordination Committee (GGCC)
- Grahmin Aapasi Bikash (RMD)
- Gramin Bikash Samaj Nepal (SORD Nepal)
- Hamro Prayas Nepal, Sindhuli (HPNS)
- Heifer Project Nepal (HPN)
- Human And National Development Society (HANDS)
- Indreni Samaj Kendra (ISK)
- Integrated Community Development Campaign (ICDC)
- Janakalyan Yuwa Samitee (JKYS)
- Mahila Upakar Manch (MUM)
- Mallarani Rural Development Concern Center (MRDCC)
- Mithila Jagaran Samaj (MJS)
- Mountain Social Welfare Center (MSWC)
- National Environment and Equity Development Society Nepal (NEEDS)
- Nawa Prabhat Yuwa Sangh (NPYS)
- Naya Goreto
- Nepal Gaja Development Foundation (NGDF)
- Nepal Integrated Development Society (NIDS)
- Nepal Women Community Service Center (NWCSC)
- Oppressed Community Development Center (OCCDC)
- Pachhautepan Unmulan Samaj (BES)
- People Community Development Center (PDC)
- People Development Mobilization Centre (PDMC)





- Pragatishil Yuwa Samaj (PYS)
- Rastriya Manav Suchana tatha Sanchar Kendra (NHICC)
- Ratauli Yuwa Club (RYC)
- Resource Identification and Management Society Nepal (RIMS)
- Rural and Community Health Development Center (RCHDC)
- Rural Development and Awareness Society (RUDAS)
- Rural Economic Development Association Nepal (REDA)
- Rural Women Development Center (RWDC)
- Sahakarya Nepal
- Sahayatri Samaj Nepal (SSN)
- Sahid Pariwar Samaj Nepal (SPSN)
- Samaj Bikas Janachetana Kendra (SODEC)
- Samajma Batabaraniya Sikshyako Bikash (SEED)
- Samriddha Nepal (Samriddha)
- Samriddhiko Lagi Tripakshya Aayam Nepal (Samriddhi-Nepal)
- Shree Village Development Center (VDC)
- Shrijanshil Yuba samaj (SYS)
- Sindhuli Inregrated Development Services (SIDS)
- Social Awareness and Development Campaign (SADEC)
- Social Entrepreneurs Women's Alliance (SEWA) Nepal
- Social Resource Development Center (SRDCN)
- Social Rise Help Center Nepal (SRHC)
- Society Upliftment Welfare Association (SUWA)
- Sundar Nepal Sanstha (SNS)
- Sustainable Enterprise and Environment Development Society (SEEDS)
- Tharu Women Upliftment Center (TWUC)
- Women Group Coordination Committee (WGCC)

Donors

- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
- AGCO Agriculture Foundation
- Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)
- European Union (EU)
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Government of Nepal
- Heifer International
- Heifer Korea
- Heifer Netherlands
- Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- SUOMI Finland
- University of California Davis (UC Davis)
- University of Florida
- USAID/FtF LSIL
- USAID/LASERPULSE
- USAID/Women Connect



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