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# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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# Friends of VIN is an SDO

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Ever since we entered the world of non-governmental, non-religious, non-profit organizations, we decided to not label ourselves with a negative pre-fix, so Friends of Volunteers Initiative Nepal (FoVIN), Netherlands, calls themselves an SDO – a **Social Development Organization**.

FoVIN was founded in March 2011 and our work centers on putting the efforts for change in the hands of local people and we actively encourage local people to volunteer within their communities, aiming to unite all sectors of society in working together to set up and run local projects. We run these programs with our Nepal-based partner, Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN) and once the community is self-sustainable we remove our active presence and move on to a new area. Our goal is to facilitate empowerment and improvement of basic living conditions and to make marginalized communities independent and self-sustainable.

We perform various fundraising activities in Europe, form partnership with private institutions and apart from providing financial support and sending volunteers to Nepal, Friends of VIN also acts as a sounding board for our partner organization in Nepal, VIN.

# Happy 2078!

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FoVIN NL team would like to wish you all a Happy Nepalese New Year 2078 with the sincere hope that the world will be a safer place this year.

The year just gone was unlike any other year... Due to the pandemic, VIN sent back the few volunteers who were already in Nepal and we saw cancelation after cancelation of volunteers.

This meant that almost all funding for VIN's activities ceased and the nature of their work turned to raising awareness about the Coronavirus – as well as teaching local women's groups how to make their own hand soap.

Towards the end of the year, VIN embarked on their next big project – Sustainable Livelihood and Food Production Project. During the Covid-lockdowns it became increasingly

**We thank you deeply for your continued support - without you, none of this would be possible.**



# OUR APPROACH

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Poverty is a complex phenomenon; its causes and symptoms are entangled and there is no one-fits-all solution. **FoVIN's mission is to empower marginalized communities** by holistically co-creating healthy, self-sustainable communities where people have access to adequate sanitation, health care, education and economic opportunity. After a period of several years when the community is self-sustainable, we remove our active presence and we move to the next community and repeat our process.

## **Our five focus areas are:**

- ❖ Women's Empowerment
- ❖ Community Health
- ❖ Youth Empowerment
- ❖ Children's Development
- ❖ Environment and conservation



## Women's Empowerment

The Women's Empowerment Program is essential for the social and economic development. We have been working with and for the most marginalised women to improve their quality of life and uplift their social and economic status, through income generation activities, formal and informal education, and social awareness workshops.

FoVIN is supporting the continued work of the microcredit cooperative and helps drive women toward autonomy.



## Community Health

Nepal has made impressive progress in health outcomes relative to its income level. Life expectancy has been steadily increasing and Nepal's progress in reducing maternal and child deaths has been lauded internationally, even though the maternal mortality remains the highest in the South-East Asia Region. But challenges remain.

Healthcare is not yet universal: access to quality services at an affordable cost remains a goal rather than an achievement for several groups of Nepalis. The rise in non communicable diseases and the constant threat of natural disasters require new approaches.

FoVIN is striving to build a healthier and more sustainable future for Nepal.



## **Youth Empowerment**

The Youth Empowerment Program aims to empower socially and economically youth aged 16 to 30 by means of educational, life skills and entrepreneurship development projects, and to involve them in community development initiatives through Youth Clubs' formation. We aim to reverse this trend by developing and retaining community youth. We want to inspire and encourage Nepal's youth. Engage them in community development or give them vital social and professional skills.



## **Children's Development**

The primary goal of the Children's Development Program is to enhance the holistic development (physical, cognitive, social and psychological) of children aged 3 to 15 and to support the basic education of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. It aims to promote children's rights through access to both education, and school- or community-based Children's Clubs.



## **Environment and Conservation**

The Environment and Conservation Program aims to conserve, promote and protect the natural environment and the indigenous knowledge, and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution in order to enhance health, safety and welfare of this and future generations of Nepal.

# Program Updates



Unfortunately, we don't have program updates from 2020 as the activities we did were largely concerned with COVID-19; such as awareness campaigns, hand soap making and a first step of the grand sustainable livelihood and food production project in Okhaldhunga.



Beehives from the beekeeping training in Okhaldhunga

The CLC also saw various other activities towards the end of the year when the lockdown measures were relaxed; such as bead making, online English class with volunteers from Mahrberg Library, computer training, sewing class and more.

# Activities at CLC



Computer Training



Bead making



Yoga class

# Liquid Hand-Wash Making Training



Women in Siddhicharan Municipality of Okhaldhunga and Tarakeshwor Municipality of Kathmandu district were provided with skill-based training on preparing liquid hand-wash. The training focused the members of women groups and from Dalit communities. A total of twenty-seven women received liquid hand wash making training.

Women from [Jitpurphedi](#) produced 1000 litres liquid hand wash to supply in public hand wash stations of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. They used sodium laurel sulphate (SLS) 200 litres, glycerol 40 litres, gypsum salt 50 kg, neem powder 500 gm, sky blue colour 5 gm, rose sent 1000 ml and water about 750 litres to produce 1000 litres of liquid hand wash.

The liquid hand-wash produced by these women would be sold commercially. Additionally, it would be made available for the community people at a very low cost. Women engaging in this venture would be able to produce the product and earn some amount of money. This would in turn empower the women by giving them an additional skill as well as financial independence.



# Beekeeping Workshop for Dalit Community in Okhaldhunga



Professional bee-keeping workshop was conducted for Dalit community of Siddhicharan Municipality ward 1 and 2 in Okhaldhunga, Everest Region of Nepal.

The five days' workshop focused on rendering specific skill sets to the participants with the aim of making them a professional bee-keeper. The goal of the workshop was to promote entrepreneurship among the marginalized communities in Okhaldhunga.



# Computer Class for Training



Volunteers Initiative Nepal has been conducting computer training for school-going children in Okhaldhunga. Okhaldhunga is an under-developed remote area in Nepal untouched by information and technology. Therefore, children and youth in Okhaldhunga are not familiar with computer and its uses. Henceforth, to address this gap between the children and youths of Okhaldhunga, VIN organised computer training workshop for children.

Under basic computer training, children are made familiar with the most commonly used programs in a computer such as MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. As most of them have never seen or used a computer before, they are also given typing practise and creative activities such as paint. After they have successfully completed basic-level training, a certification is provided. Thereafter, they can also get involved in intermediate/ advanced level training.



# Volunteers 2020



As 2020 was marked by the terrible pandemic, it meant that no new volunteers arrived after March.

Our goal is to increase the volunteer workforce by 15% annually and, at the same time, we focus on professional volunteers who can share their knowledge and expertise.

Compared to previous years, VIN was able to host very limited number of volunteers in 2020. We were able to welcome volunteers to Nepal only in the months of January, February and March as COVID-19 became very rampant from April 2020 along with travel restrictions. VIN hosted a total of 75 international volunteers and 28 local volunteers in the year 2020.

	Male	Female	Total
LMTV	14	16	30
Work Camp	4	6	10
Group Camp	13	22	35
Limited Resource Teacher's Training (LRTT)			18

# VIN and Friends of VIN Global Meeting



In late 2020, Friends of VIN, Canada was set up and we did a global Zoom conference which spanned across 20 time zones from Hawaii in the US to Melbourne in Australia.

This was the first time all FoVIN's were able to connect and we have since then started working together as a global unit and are in the process of designing a global web portal which will make it easier for potential supporters and volunteers from all over the world to know who to get in touch with.



# International School Dusseldorf



Unfortunately, the pandemic also put a stop for what would have been the 7th year that students from the International School Dusseldorf travelled to Nepal.

They would normally do a trek through the beautiful Himalayan villages in the Annapurna Foothills, experiencing life on the same trails travelled by local people between villages and schools.

They would have returned to Kathmandu for a community service project; painting the inside walls of a local school to make three rooms more child-friendly.

The group raised money for child-friendly furniture for the ECD – Early Childhood Development – classroom, and was donated despite not being able to do the project.

We thank all the students for their generous contribution.



Previous ISD students in one of the classrooms they painted

Learning to Be a World Citizen



Thank you for  
your continued  
support during  
2020!



We look forward  
to seeing you in  
2021.



Student who participated in the computer class – we love the text on his shirt and would like to end our report with this...

THANK YOU!

Friends of VIN team NL

