

Annual Report

2022-2023



This report contains stories from survivors who have experienced modern slavery and gender-based violence. We are grateful to those who have shared their story but also respect their privacy – as such all names have been changed.

We recognise that these stories may cause distress or discomfort. We strongly encourage you to read this report in a safe and supportive environment and seek additional support and self-care should you need.

A NOTE ON LANGUAGE

We recognise people with lived experience of trafficking and abuse identify themselves in many ways. We choose to use the term 'survivor', rather than 'victim', to reflect the challenging, long-term work that survivors do to rebuild their lives after violence.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Project Didi Australia wishes to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the various lands where we live, work, rest and gather. We acknowledge all First Nations people's continued connection to land, sea, sky and community and pay our respects and gratitude to elders past and present.

We acknowledge we live on stolen, unceded ground and that this always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Yasmi's story

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

Yasmi came to Asha Nepal in 2015. She grew up in the Parbat district, not far from Pokhara. When she was 18 months old her mother passed away. Yasmi was looked after by her older sister, who was only 8 years old at the time. When Yasmi reached school age, a village uncle brought her to an orphanage in Kathmandu.

In Nepal, it is common for parents struggling to support their families, to send their child to an orphanage, often on false promises of care and education. Exploitative conditions have been well documented at Nepali orphanages, including abuse and neglect of children to attract foreign donations. The government estimates at least one-third of registered orphanages do not meet government standards.¹

Yasmi was rescued from the orphanage by a community organisation and referred to Asha Nepal.

Yasmi went on to live in Asha's Family Based Care for two years and was supported to complete high school. When she finished Year 12, she was reintegrated into the community in an independent living unit with another girl from Asha. Yasmi is bright and hard working, and she soon got a job as an accounts assistant in a law firm. While this gave her the financial independence to support herself, she was unable to afford further study. Asha Nepal supported her tuition fees for a 4-year Bachelor in Business Studies.

In 2019, Yasmi joined the Asha Nepal team as an Admin and Finance Assistant. The Asha team are so proud to see her excel academically and professionally in her area of interest. She has grown up to be a confident, happy and independent woman. Yasmi recently graduated from her undergraduate degree and has her sights set on an MBA.

¹ [U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report](#), U.S. Department of State, 2022.



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education
dignity
meaningful
futures

ABOUT US

Our mission

We empower women and girls to live with hope, dignity and independence after trafficking and violence.

Our story

Project Didi Australia (PDA) was founded by Fiona Toll, Leonie Keogh and Sarah Bartram, who met while working on women and children's literacy and business development programs in Nepal.

Working closely with local organisations, they saw how challenging it was for survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence to access holistic care, complete their education and find safe employment. Survivors, unable to return home due to community stigma or safety concerns, have few options for long-term, whole-of-person support.

Project Didi Australia was registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) in 2014 to meet this need.

Recognising the strong link between education and safe futures for women and their children, we initially funded scholarships for survivors to return to school. As we learnt more about survivors' needs for individualised, trauma-informed support, we expanded our focus to Family Based Care, which provides a safe home, closely mirroring the family environment, with a full time housemother and holistic care, including counselling, healthcare and life skills training.

How we work

We partner with locally-led 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 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 within our community in Australia and advocate for action to end gender-based violence and modern slavery.



Our name

Our name, Didi, which is a respectful term for older sister in Nepal, was an intentional choice, reflective of our collaborative and locally-led approach. We believe that local communities are best placed to understand their needs and direct change. We provide funding for locally designed and delivered programs, determined by the needs of the women and girls we support.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Amidst great personal, local, and global challenges, I hope the last year brought you moments of joy, triumph, and good humour. These are three things I receive from my connection to Project Didi and working with the outstanding board members and wider volunteer community, and for that interaction alone, I am buoyed and grateful.

This last year also reminded me of one of the core elements of Project Didi that resonates strongly with me and has kept me passionate and connected for so many years: our relationship-based approach and the agility we have committed to as part of this. As many of you know, we have a long, trusting, and deep relationship with Asha Nepal, our key partner organisation in Nepal. One thing we have kept a longstanding commitment to funding is their family-based care. In the last year, Asha Nepal's work was unexpectedly disrupted by government, and they had to drop everything and pivot on a moment's notice. As we have in the past, and in line with our core values as an organisation, we hustled alongside them and demonstrated as much agility as possible to make sure they were supported in maintaining their family-based care.

This is important to emphasise. Our ongoing funding commitment to Asha Nepal, directed to their needs, is a crucial and proud point of difference for Project Didi. [A survey of 80 anti-trafficking organisations across 28 countries found that only 6% of grant funding is more than three years.](#) Close to one-third (29%) is one year or less. This makes Project Didi's commitment and approach not only rare but also a great example to others of how funding and aid can be done differently.

After all, the complex issues that fuel the challenges faced by those we support in Nepal will not be solved overnight. The Global Slavery Index, released in May 2023, sadly demonstrates the ongoing need for Project Didi's work:

- An estimated 50 million people are living in modern slavery globally, an increase of 10 million since the last index in 2018.

- This is based on surveys with thousands of survivors and household surveys across 75 countries.
- Women and girls account for more than half (54%) of people in slavery.
- The latest Index called out orphanage trafficking, where parents struggling to support their families put their children into institutional care, often on false promises of care and education. Children are kept in poor conditions to attract funding from well-meaning foreign donors and volunteers.
- A positive side effect of COVID-19 was that authorities in some countries directed orphanages to reintegrate children with their families during lockdowns. In Nepal, this resulted in nearly 10% of the country's institutionalised children returning to their communities in the early stages of the pandemic.
- However, there are concerns that children in some cases may have been sent home without the necessary preparation, support or safety.

This is where Asha Nepal and Project Didi Australia come in.

Please read on for a comprehensive view of Didi's activities and impact over the last year or so, including highlights and progress towards our strategic goals.

In 2024, we need donations, collaborators, and sponsors – people willing to help spread our message, grow our community, and continue towards the long-term impacts we hold as a North Star.

We hope you will join us in any capacity that makes sense to you in 2024.

With gratitude,

Chloë Spackman and the Project Didi Australia Board.



WHAT WE DO

Family Based Care

Best practice in care for children who cannot live with their families, providing a safe home that closely mirrors the family environment

- Consistent, nurturing housemother
- Healthcare
- Counselling
- Designated social worker
- Meditation, dance and yoga for stress management
- Celebration of cultural festivals and birthdays



Education

Whole-of-person education to set up young people for bright futures

- Life skills programs
- Support to complete school
- Homework assistance
- Vocational and technical education qualifications
- University degrees

Economic independence

Pathways to safe, fulfilling employment and income generation opportunities

- Career guidance
- Skill development
- Employment opportunities at our partner organisations
- Seed funding for small businesses

Community reintegration

Family strengthening and support for children to reintegrate safely with their family or in independent living in the community

- Family counselling
- Parenting workshops
- Short term funding to manage emergencies
- Post-reintegration social worker support

OUR PEOPLE

We are a 100% volunteer run organisation, powered by a team of volunteers with expertise in governance and policy, social media and marketing, funding and grants, and research.



Our Board



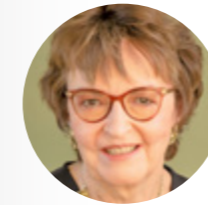
Chloë Spackman (President): Chloë has a background in international development, higher education and global citizenship development, and is driven to better understand how we can all lead and contribute through the lens of values. As CEO of think tank Next25, Chloë is working to improve how Australia makes its future to share our successes across generations.



Clare Bartram (Vice President): Clare's strong belief in the power of community action in driving change has led her to a career in business and human rights, international education and youth engagement. Clare is the University of Sydney's Senior Anti-Slavery Manager and holds a Masters in Slavery and Liberation from the University of Nottingham.



Alison Thornburn (Secretary): After 15 years in banking, Alison moved to the international development sector to align her career with her personal values. She has worked for several years in Cambodia, focusing on financial inclusion of marginalised groups, gender equality and disability inclusion. She is a CPA and holds a Master in Development Studies.



Merry Cloutier (Treasurer): Merry has a background in global consulting and extensive experience working at executive level. Her goal is to help Project Didi expand capacity to provide even more support for our Nepal partners, as well as contribute to the efforts to break the cycle of modern slavery.



Kira Osborne (Board Member): Kira is passionate about shifting stereotypes placed on survivors of gender-based violence through challenging social norms and collective advocacy for deeper social impact. Kira has a Masters in International Development and has worked alongside marginalised communities, including women and girls in all their diversity across Asia and the Pacific.

Our volunteers

Thank you to our 2022-2023 volunteers for your energy, time and hard work:

Anna Patterson Ross, Avnoor Guron, Bryce Morton, Callum Brockett, Januka Gunasena, Leo Leng, Maria Kelly, Marie Dagher, Nahila Rahman, Rajesh Bhusal, Sally Larner, Sumina Machamasi.

OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Our partners



ASHA NEPAL is a women-led, grassroots organisation, delivering 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 is a grassroots organisation based in eastern Nepal, empowering 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 modelling 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.

Our collaborators



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

Through our partners in Nepal we support survivor-centred care and education with deep and sustainable impact



15 children benefited from continued care and development in 2 Family Based Care homes



2 additional girls were supported in Family Based Care homes



200+ individual and group counselling sessions were provided to survivors of trafficking and violence



10 young people, with the support of education scholarships, pursued Year 11 & 12, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and technical and vocational training qualifications



3 children reintegrated with their families in the community



4 life skills programs delivered, including 5 day Life Skills Workshop, 3 day Women's Wellness Workshop, 3 day Study Skills Workshop and 2 day Self Defence, Fire Control, Medical and Basic Life Support Training

We raised awareness and advocated for action to end modern slavery and gender-based violence, and provided opportunities for Australians to engage meaningfully and responsibly with our communities in Nepal.



12 travellers joined a 14-day trip to Nepal, our first since the COVID-19 pandemic



95+ engagements with our community, through events, newsletters and social media campaigns.

We continued to implement our 3-year strategy to strengthen our organisational capacities in order to provide committed, sustainable funding to our partners in Nepal.

- A key milestone this year was obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, which means Australian taxpayers can continue to deduct donations from their taxable income.
- Previously, our partner Global Development Group (GDG) assumed governance responsibility for specified projects delivered by Asha Nepal, which meant that donations to these projects could be tax-deductible. Project Didi has strengthened our governance frameworks so we can fulfil these responsibilities ourselves.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Our 2022-2025 Strategy

	Funding	Communication & education	Organisation
Strategic goal	To deepen our relationship with Asha Nepal to provide long term committed funding for their identified strategic priorities, aligned to our mission.	To expand & strengthen communications to equip our community to effect change using a positive, strengths-based approach informed by those with lived experience.	To strengthen and operationalise our governance, risk, financial & HR frameworks to enhance our strategic capability, diversity and long term sustainability.
Achievements in FY2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfilled our commitment to fund 2 Family Based Care (FBC) Homes. Secured full 3-4 year funding for 6 education scholarships. Strengthened relationships with high value donors. 85% of our funds came from stable sources, exceeding our target of 80%. Held sufficient reserves at year end to meet upcoming commitments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced monthly update meetings with Asha Nepal. Resumed Women Empowering Women (WEW) trips. Strengthened our advocacy through our membership of Be Slavery Free (BSF). Participated in BSF campaigns for a Modern Slavery Act in Canberra and an ethically-produced chocolate scorecard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtained Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from the Australian Tax Office (ATO), in advance of our target date of FY24-25. Appointed a Volunteer Coordinator as part of our long term organisational design strategy. Strong progress towards updating and fully operationalising our safeguarding, partnership and financial management policies.
Strategic goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to fund 2 Family Based Care (FBC) Homes. Increase the number of educational scholarships funded, based on Asha Nepal's needs. Allocate funding to support Asha Nepal's capacity for monitoring and evaluation. Identify new sources of stable funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Asha Nepal to meaningfully incorporate the voices of women and girls in our comms. Provide opportunities for our community to better understand systemic issues such as modern slavery. Implement mechanisms to measure the impact of our communication and education efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen our volunteer recruitment and retention. Identify and secure pro-bono legal support. Appoint at least one Board member or advisor(s) with Nepali expertise. Strengthen financial management and volunteer policies. Investigate options for incorporation.

OUR IMPACT

Our deep, long-term relationships with our partners and committed funding, directed to their needs, is a proud point of difference for Project Didi. In FY 2022-2023, we continued our support for critical care for children who have experienced trafficking and gender-based violence, through Asha Nepal's best practice Family Based Care model. We also increased our focus on challenging the cycles of poverty and violence that hold women and girls back, through education scholarships, advocacy and collaborative impact.



Transformative Care

Wrap around support

Alongside safe accommodation, counselling, healthcare and support to attend school, children in Family Based Care participate in a holistic life skills program. This wrap-around support builds children's confidence, emotional wellbeing and provides an opportunity for creativity and fun! Asha Nepal also celebrates and teaches children about Nepal's diverse cultural festivals. They've seen that these bring joy to the children, support bonding among the family and help children become active members of their community.

In 2022-2023, Asha Nepal was able to restart many programs that were put on hold due to COVID-19. Alongside reading circles in their library, taekwondo self defence, fire safety, and computer classes, they introduced yoga classes three days a week and homework assistance every evening. They also delivered tailored programs, including:

- 4-day wellness program for young women, focused on understanding menstruation and practising self-care
- A UNICEF-developed life skills training for young people during their school break
- A 3-day study skills workshop
- Self defence, fire control and medical knowledge workshop.

Role models for transformative care

Housemothers are central to Asha Nepal's Family Based Care model.

Their consistent love, compassion and patience - and the individualised care they provide - are transformative for children's wellbeing, resilience and recovery from trauma.

In institutional care, often the only option for children in Nepal who cannot live at home, there is a high turnover of short-term, unqualified caregivers, whereas Family Based Care housemothers are hired for a minimum of two years and trained in parenting skills, open communication, anger management, health and safety and child protection.

In 2022-2023, Asha Nepal had to hire two new housemothers, causing some disruption for children in their care. Given housemothers need a child-centric and trauma-informed approach to parenting and need to commit to live in the home, recruitment was challenging.

To ensure a smooth transition for the children, Asha Nepal provided tailored support for the housemothers, including:

- Psychosocial training for the new housemothers, focused on approaching challenges with care and understanding
- Weekly parenting workshops over 12 weeks
- A session for all housemothers on Asha's Child Protection Policy
- Ongoing support through house meetings weekly with the House Manager, access to a psychosocial counsellor, whenever needed, and group psychosocial counselling sessions monthly.

Education & Pathways to Safe Employment

Goals for higher education

In Nepal, expectations that girls should marry early and work to support their family prevent many from completing their education, critical to securing decent work, understanding their rights and building strong futures for their children.

Often survivors' only options are NGO-run, short vocational courses, primarily in fields that reinforce gender roles, such as cooking, tailoring and hairdressing. Without recognised qualifications, survivors find it challenging to secure stable income and, faced with few alternatives, may return to unsafe work, where the risk of exploitation and re-trafficking is high.

Case study: Simi

Simi is studying in grade 12 majoring in Accounting, with a dream to pursue a government service career. She is a bright student, who got A in her Secondary Education Examination (SEE), and decided to take a management degree to fulfil her dream.

Simi is the daughter of Mahi who is living with HIV. Mahi was forced into marriage at an early age by her father. She was not ready for marriage because she wanted to finish high school but the family did not have a good financial status that would let her continue her studies. Nevertheless, her father forced her to marry. After a few months of marriage her husband went to India for work and returned with HIV /AIDS. He was very sick, so the family invested a lot of their money into his treatment. Eventually, he died. Mahi's life became very difficult as she was pregnant at that time with Simi. In the end, not seeing any options, she decided to go to her maternal home. She gave birth to a girl two months after her husband's death.

After some time, due to societal pressure, Mahi's father was reluctant to keep her there,

In 2023, with the support of the Tall Foundation, we provided education scholarships for six young people to complete Year 11 and 12 and pursue undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, based on their interests and market needs in Nepal. These included a Bachelor of Computer Science, Master of Social Work and Master of Business Administration.

In one of the best examples of the long-term, transformative impact of our partner's work, some of these young people have been supported by Asha since 2013. With Asha's support, they have graduated from school, reintegrated with their families and are now pursuing higher education! Asha's social worker continues to support them throughout their degrees.

and he advised Mahi to return to her in-laws, saying that if she stayed with her parents it would make the marriages of her younger brothers difficult because she was HIV affected. So she decided to leave her maternal house and came to Kathmandu with her nine-month old daughter.

She came to Kathmandu in search of a better life and worked at whatever type of work she could get. She worked as a dish-washer in a hotel, and when fired after being sick, she worked as a domestic helper. These jobs were very difficult. While visiting hospitals for her HIV medicine she heard about an organisation which was providing residential service for people with HIV and AIDS.

She went there in search of help and, luckily, she found it. The organisation placed Mahi and her daughter in a hostel. Mahi sent her daughter, Simi, to an English middle school. However, after four years the project was phased out and Mahi was forced to leave with her daughter. She looked for a room in that area and found a place for her and Simi to live. But without a job, life was very difficult. Eventually Mahi came to Asha Nepal asking for educational support for her daughter.

After rigorous assessment, Asha decided to support her and paid Simi's education fees for the whole year. When Mahi came to Asha for educational support, and decided to visit her home. Asha helped Mahi find a job again as a domestic helper. Asha's social worker kept track of both mother and daughter.

After the earthquake, when she had no job and Asha had a vacancy, they employed her as a foster mother.

Case study: Kunal

Kunal is the only son of Tika and the youngest child in the family. Tika comes from Gulmi; and their life was ok till their father died seven years ago, and it got worse with the death of their grandfather. The family is now very poor. Their father even went to India to work there and make their life good.

Eight years ago Kunal's father got sick and died. After his death Tika's in-laws started to behave differently with Tika and her children. The only person who was nice to her was her father-in-law. Two years after Tika's husband's death, her father-in-law died too, and then life became worse. Her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law were very abusive towards Tika and her children. They were not given enough food to eat and nobody took care of them when they were unwell. Seeing this, a villager advised Tika to send her kids to an orphanage in Kathmandu where they said they would be fed well and would gain a good education. Initially, Tika was reluctant but due to the situation she made up her mind and sent her kids with this person to Kathmandu. Two months later, she also left home in search of work in Kathmandu. She got work as a domestic worker and stayed there. From there, with the help of her mother and brothers, she tried to go abroad to work in the Middle East. While applying she had to go through a medical examination, and found out that she is infected with HIV and that her husband died of AIDS. She was devastated and was depressed for 8 months. With the help of a counsellor she came to an organization working for the rights of women living with HIV.

After working with Asha for few years she left due to personal issues, but with her savings, seed money support from Asha and contribution from her partner she bought a grocery shop, which she is still running and making a living from.

Asha is still providing Mahi with emotional support through a social worker and counsellor, and Simi is still getting educational support from Asha. The team at Asha feel happy to support such a good and focused student.

For the last 12 years she has worked with Asha as a house mother. She is a very sincere and hard working woman. When Asha decided to move to their new model of raising children in small family units, they identified Tika as a strong candidate for a house mother.

This was not the end of the story. Kunal had been sent to the orphanage at the age of three with his sister, Mita. Mita refused to leave the orphanage initially, but after ten months of efforts by Asha, they came out of the orphanage to be with their mother, Tika, and lived with her along with three other children in Asha's first family-based care unit.

They lived with the other children in the family-based care unit from 2013 till 2020, then after Kunal finished grade 10 they were reintegrated into the community. Tika left her job as a house mother and started to live in the community. Kunal was a bright child, he got straight A grades in his Secondary Education Examination (SEE) and an A in his grade 11 and 12. He then passed the entrance exam and was shortlisted for a Bachelor in Information Technology (BIT) at Tribhuvan University, which meant he was eligible for the minimum fees. He recently joined the BIT course and is studying hard to fulfil his dream to become a qualified computer engineer.

Breaking cycles of poverty and violence through engineering diplomas

In 2021, with the support of the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation, we provided scholarships for four young people to study vocational and technical education diplomas in Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering. These young people are primarily from single-mother households and have faced significant challenges, including family breakdown, domestic violence, income insecurity and substance abuse.

In 2022-023, all four young people continued their studies, with three acquiring part time employment as tutors and computer teachers. Asha continues to support these young people as they adjust to the balance of full-time study combined with the demands of family responsibilities and general life skills.

All the young people are excited at the prospect of future employment in engineering, recognising the opportunities it offers them and their families.

Income generation through polymer clay jewellery

In 2022-2023 we stepped up our work with our partner, Samunnat Nepal launching a new Women Empowering Women trip to Eastern Nepal to connect with the women of Samunnat and learn the art of polymer clay jewellery making. The first trip travels to Nepal in early 2024.

We continue to sell Samunnat's beautiful jewellery in our online store, with the proceeds directed to our local partners. Samunnat trains women in jewellery making, reinvesting the sales back into their counselling, legal representation and education programs for women who experience violence and poverty.

The polymer artists continue to have stimulating Zoom sessions with Samunnat co-founder, Wendy Moore, and her two international collaborators, Christine Dumont and Kathleen Dustin. In these sessions they develop their design expertise and work on new pieces that can be sold internationally. In March 2023 several polymer artists from the USA, who were involved in the early days of developing the polymer program, visited Birtamod and worked with the Samunnat women. All of these contacts are helping the group to become more confident and independent in their work.



Income from sales of the Samunnat jewellery has recovered post COVID. This has ensured the continued operation and further development of Samunnat's programs, including a sewing program, with great input from Janice Laurent, a member of Samunnat Inc. in Australia. Janice has run regular virtual training programs and has also resumed face-to-face training visits post pandemic. Several graduates of this program have returned to their home towns and set up tailoring businesses that help them towards financial independence. Samunnat's aim is to develop and employ a local woman to manage this training program in Nepal.

Collaboration & advocacy to end gender-based violence and modern slavery

Travel to Nepal

In May 2023, we restarted our trips to Nepal after a 3-year pause during the pandemic. Fernwood Fitness Tuggeranong gym members and friends participated in a 14-day trip to Nepal, including a trek in the spectacular Everest region.

Our trips celebrate the strength and resilience of Nepali people. Through visits, workshops and connections, travellers gain a unique insight into the challenges facing Nepali women and the resourceful ways they are building brighter futures.

Fernwood Fitness Tuggeranong spent a day at Asha Nepal learning about the impact of their work and participating in a cooking class with the housemothers of Asha's Family Based Care homes. The housemothers have established a small hospitality business to earn some extra income while the children are at school, providing catering for events at the Asha community centre.

Our trips also provide critical funding for our partner organisations, with Fernwood raising \$6,000 for Asha Nepal!

"The trip was so memorable. Firstly, the trek in the Himalayan region of Nepal was 100% the best scenery and experience of my life when it comes to outdoor adventure activities and I have done a lot in my 50 years! Secondly, the education and awareness of sex trafficking in Nepal and the amazing support Asha Nepal offers to the girls was another life changing moment. We can make a difference and it was great to see how our donation was making a positive change in girls' lives."

Donna Lee, Fernwood Fitness Tuggeranong owner and trip participant.



Tackling slavery through collaboration

In early 2023 Project Didi Australia became a member of Be Slavery Free, an Australian coalition of civil society organisations working to tackle modern slavery. We previously joined forces with Be Slavery Free to advocate to T2 and its parent company, Unilever to address the link between poverty and trafficking in their tea supply chain. Your voices had an impact! After 8 months of campaigning, 10 virtual tea parties and over 200 emails to T2, Unilever committed to a living wage for everyone that directly supplies goods or services to the company by 2030.

In 2022-2023, we supported several of Be Slavery Free's campaigns.

Chocolate that's good for people and the planet

At Easter, we encouraged our community to choose ethically made chocolate using Be Slavery Free's Chocolate Scorecard.

Hazardous child labour is prevalent in cocoa production, particularly in West Africa, where approximately 75% of the world's cocoa is grown. Be Slavery Free ranked 72 of the world's biggest chocolate companies and retailers on their practices on child labour, along with living income for farmers, deforestation and the use of chemicals.

The Scorecard has had 195+ pieces of media coverage, reaching a combined audience of 900 million! Encouragingly, more brands are expressing interest in being assessed, with over 90 brands opting to participate in 2024.

A Modern Slavery Act for the ACT

We welcomed ACT Greens MLA for Ginninderra, Jo Clay's proposed bill to hold business and government to account in addressing modern slavery.

[Read our statement of support for the bill.](#)

While a Parliamentary Committee recommended against passing the Bill in its current form, the ACT Government committed to strengthening its approach to addressing modern slavery in the goods and services the Territory procures.

We will continue to support Be Slavery Free's campaigns on anti-slavery legislation, including an upcoming submission on the establishment of a federal Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Innovative communications through university collaborative projects

As a volunteer-run organisation, collaborative projects with Australian university students provide an opportunity for us to incorporate innovative ideas and emerging skills in marketing, communications and design into our work. In 2022-2023, we continued our long-standing relationships with UTS and Macquarie University, providing students with experience of working in the not-for-profit sector as part of their coursework, and worked on a new project with Deakin University.

UTS - fundraising guide for our Women Empowering Women trips to Nepal

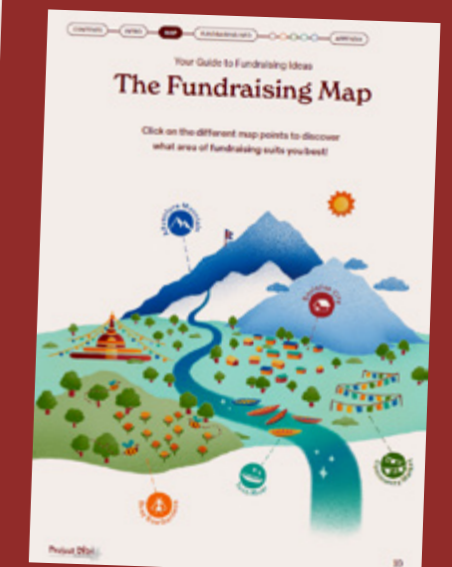
Design students, as part of the UTS ShopFront Community Program, developed an interactive fundraising guide for our Women Empowering Women trips. The pack provides creative ideas to fundraise for our partner organisations and helps participants communicate our work with survivors in a respectful and dignified way. The guide will be used for our November 2024 trip to Nepal.

Macquarie University - social media campaigns to support the skilled jewellery makers of Samunnat

Public relations and marketing students worked on social media campaigns to promote sales in our online store of the jewellery made by the women of Samunnat Nepal. The students developed engaging campaigns for Christmas and Mother's Day. The sales of the jewellery are reinvested into Samunnat's programs, supporting women who have experienced violence with legal representation, income generation opportunities and counselling.

Deakin University - safeguarding training for our volunteers and partners

A multidisciplinary team of undergraduate and postgraduate students developed an engaging and user-friendly onboarding training pack for Project Didi volunteers to support adherence to our Safeguarding Policy.



UTS Fundraising Guide excerpts

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Project Didi raised \$63,178 in the financial year ending June 2023, a 6% increase on the prior year's income of \$59,454.

As of 30 June 2023, Project Didi Australia is again in a sound financial position to meet its upcoming financial commitments to June 2024.

Financial Highlights

- Including our partnership with Global Development Group, in FY 2022-23 we raised funds of \$63,178, disbursed \$48,720 to Asha Nepal, and incurred \$8,429 in operating expenses.
- Project Didi held \$17,786 cash, and projects with Global Development Group had \$32,300 funds remaining at the end of the 2022-23 Financial Year. This will cover our next commitment to Asha Nepal, with funds remaining after that.
- In May 2023, we achieved DGR (Deductible Gift Recipients) status, which allows donors to make a tax deductible donation directly to Project Didi. This increases the funds available to support Asha Nepal.

Income

- In 2022-23 Project Didi raised a total of \$63,178 of which 61% was through projects in partnership with Global Development Group, and 39% raised directly by Project Didi through donations (32%), grants (6%), and shop sales (1%)
- Sustained relationships with several large donors contributed significantly to this income, accounting for 74% of the total net income, with \$30,000 (47%) raised through funds raised for projects managed by Global Development Group, and \$16,500 (26%) through donations to Project Didi directly, which are now tax-deductible due to our recent DGR status.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY FY22-23 AUD

	PDA Accounts	Projects in partnership with GDG	Total PDA + GDG partnership
Total income	\$24,661	\$38,517	\$63,178
Funds disbursed to Asha	\$13,690	\$35,030	\$48,720
Operating expenses	\$5,189	\$3,240	\$8,429
Cost of good sold	\$587	-	\$587
Net profit / (loss)	\$5,195	\$247	\$5,442
Cash opening balance	\$14,155	\$32,053	\$46,208
Cash closing balance	\$17,786	\$32,300	\$50,086

Net Income (AUD)	Project Didi accounts	Partnership with GDG	Total	%
Project in partnership with GDG		\$8,517	\$8,517	13%
Donations large donors	\$16,500	\$30,000	\$46,500	74%
Other donations	\$3,406		\$3,406	5%
Grants	\$3,894		\$3,894	6%
Shop sales	\$825		\$825	1%
Interest on bank accounts	\$35		\$35	0%
Total net income	\$24,661	\$38,517	\$63,178	100%

Expenses

- During the financial year a total of \$48,720 was disbursed to Asha Nepal.
- Other expenses (including Global Development Group Project Costs but excluding grant disbursements) were \$4,489, only 8% of income.

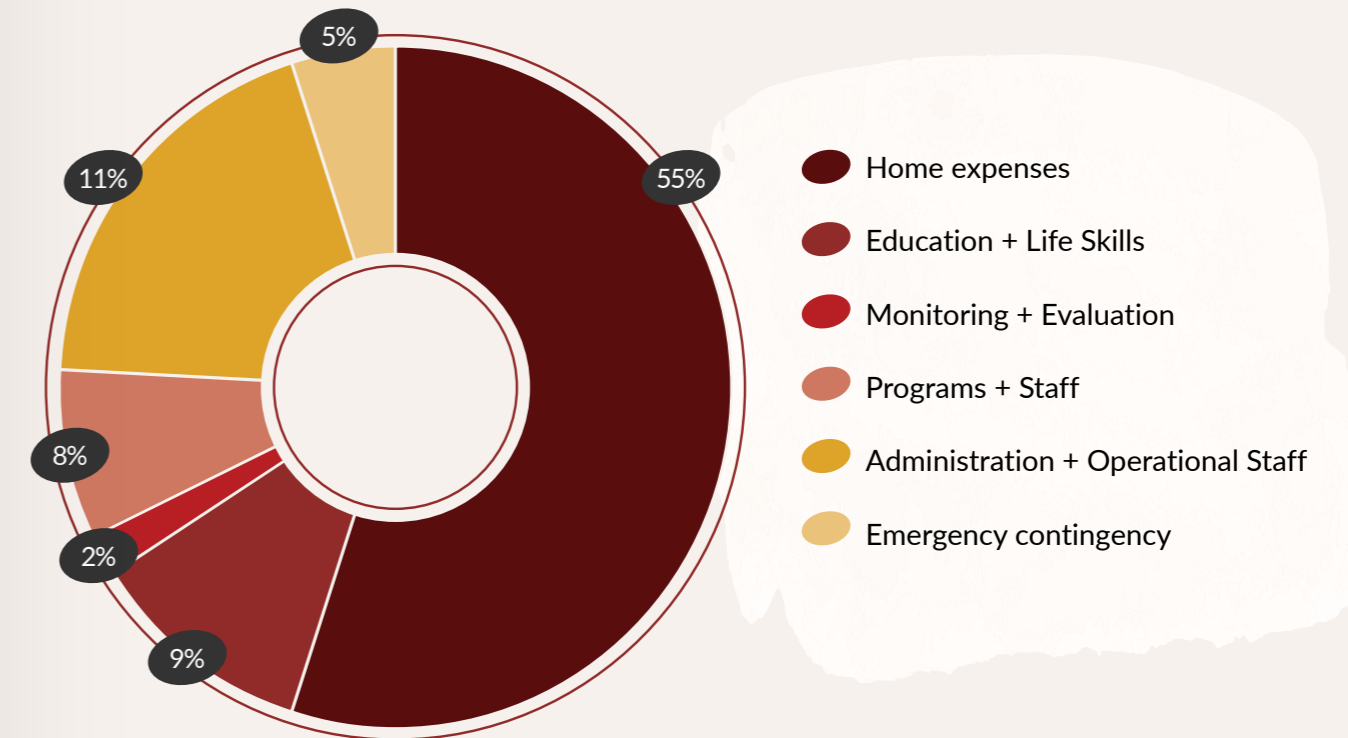
Expenses	PDA	Partnership with GDG	Total	%
Administrative expenses	\$1,285	\$3,204	\$4,489	8%
Fundraising expenses				0%
International transfer fee	\$10		\$10	0%
Grant disbursements	\$3,894		\$3,894	7%
Partner Disbursements FBC	\$13,690	\$35,030	\$48,720	85%
Total operating expenses	\$18,879	\$38,234	\$57,113	100%

OUR FINANCIAL IMPACT

- In this financial year we disbursed a total of \$48,720 to Asha Nepal for Family Based Care. An analysis of the costs of the two Family Based Care homes supported by our funding is shown in the chart below.
- The home expenses include regular housing expenditure for rent, food, utilities and maintenance, along with medicine, clothing and celebrations/ outings for the children, plus the house mother expenses.
- Administration expenses cover a share of Asha Nepal's running costs: salaries, utilities, phone/internet, stationary, audit, transport, and government fees.



Asha Nepal Family Based Care



PDA Financial Statements

The following summary financial report is an extract from the full audited Annual Financial Report for Project Didi Australia. It excludes the projects in partnership between Project Didi and Global Development Group and related transactions.

Nexia Sydney completed the independent audit report for financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2023. The full audited Annual Financial Report is available upon request and without charge, by emailing treasury@pda.com.au.



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS & OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
For the year ended 30 June 2023		
Income	2022-23	2021-22
Donations	\$19,907	\$9,350
Events		\$109
Investments-Interest	\$35	\$7
Shop sales	\$825	\$918
Grants income	\$3,895	\$2,272
Total income	24,662	\$12,656
Cost of good sold		
Cost of shop stock	\$587	\$564
Gross profit	\$24,074	\$12,092
Operating expenses		
Administrative expenses	\$1,285	\$831
Fundraising expenses		\$856
Grants disbursements	\$3,894	\$2,272
International bank fees	\$10	\$20
Postage		\$67
Volunteer & Board reimbursements		\$63
Partner disbursements	\$13,690	
Total operating costs	\$18,979	\$4,109
Surplus for the year	\$5,195	\$7,983
Total comprehensive income for the year	\$5,195	\$7,983

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
As at 30 June 2023		
Assets	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$17,786	\$14,155
Trade and other receivables	\$1,690	
Inventories	\$545	\$545
Prepayments	\$5,516	\$9,411
Total assets	\$25,537	\$24,111
Liability		
Trade and other payables	\$126	
Contract liabilities	\$5,516	\$9,411
Total liabilities	\$5,642	\$9,411
Total retained earnings	\$19,895	\$14,700
Total equity	\$19,895	\$14,700

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 2023, 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 Division 60 of 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 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

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 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 Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to Project Didi Australia

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd



Vishal Modi
Director

Dated this 13th day of January 2024

**To our donors, our dedicated
volunteers, our partners
and the wider Project Didi
Australia community, thank
you for generously gifting
your funding, time and
expertise. You make the
critical work of our partners
in Nepal possible.**

Maggie Mackay on behalf of the Netta and
Norman Niven Endowment

The Tall Foundation

The Rellim Foundation

The Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation

Nexia Sydney

Fernwood Fitness Tuggeranong and friends

Student teams from:

University of Technology Sydney (UTS),
Macquarie University and
Deakin University

thank you
dhan'yavāda
धन्यवाद

Project Didi

Australia

education | dignity | meaningful futures

Project Didi Australia

ABN 68 320 267 277

projectdidaustralia@gmail.com

www.projectdidaustralia.org

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