



Annual Report

2017-2018





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FACTS ABOUT NEPAL



Nepal is a small landlocked country sandwiched between China to the north and India to the south. It is one of the poorest countries in Asia with a population of just over 30 million, a life expectancy of 67 years and a literacy rate of 57%. The main religion is Hindu (83%) followed by Buddhist (9%), Muslim (4%), then Christian and others.

The capital is Kathmandu situated in the Kathmandu Valley and home to many UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Nepal is home to 8 of the 10 highest mountains in the world, Mt Everest being the highest. These mountains are a magnet to climbers and adventurers making tourism one of Nepal's main incomes.

Nepal is truly a 3rd world country with a large percentage of the population without direct access to water, electricity and medical services.

PRESIDENTS REPORT



The past twelve months has seen the completion of the Shree Radha Krishna School, 2.5 hours drive east of Kathmandu. This is the third school The Asha Foundation has constructed since the devastating earthquake of 2015. I am so proud that our small volunteer organisation has been able to provide financial assistance in helping to rebuild these schools.

Our Asha children continue to do well at school with four of our older children now enrolled in tertiary education courses.

For Asha to be able to financially support their chosen career paths certainly puts weight behind our Mission Statement *“Improving the lives of underprivileged children in Nepal through education”*.

Our feminine hygiene programme has extended east to the Shree Radha Krishna female students. Not only is Asha addressing the problem of absenteeism amongst menstruating students, we are also addressing the loss of dignity during the menstruation cycle when there is no access to sanitary pads for these females.

Our Sai Home children will soon be moving into a new house which is currently being constructed. After years of paying rent and leases not being renewed, the children and their carers will have a house of their own. More about this further on in this report.

One of the many highlights for the year was the issuance from the Australian Charities and Non-Profit Commission of their tick of acknowledgement for Asha’s transparency and accountability, this was an incredible honour.

Our sponsorship programme is the backbone of our work in Nepal and I am happy to say that during the past year we have gained new sponsors.

In closing I would like to say a huge thank you to my hardworking Australian committee, our Nepal Manager Satish Tamang, Nepal President & Cultural Advisor Narayan Shrestha, wonderful sponsors and donors, and lastly a huge thank you to Phil and the team at Vincents Canberra for their pro-bono audit.

Pauline Gleeson

President

OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION



*“A child without an education, is like a bird
without wings”*

Tibetan proverb

OUR MISSION

**To improve the lives of disadvantaged children in
Nepal through education**

ABOUT US

The Asha Foundation is a not for profit, non-political and non-religious Australian registered charity.

We are dedicated to helping disadvantaged Nepalese children improve their life through quality education and safe environments in which to live.

All our Australian committee members volunteer their time and expertise. Committee members travel to Nepal at their own expense. We pride ourselves on sending 100% of donor funds to Nepal.

OUR VALUES

- Operating with honesty & integrity
- Highest standards of governance, management, financial reporting
- Reporting in accordance to Department of Fair Trading, Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing and the Australian Charities & Not for Profit Commission
- Working alongside local Nepal NGOs so they are continuously improving governance processes
- Fostering social responsibility, equality and independence
- Ensuring female voices are heard
- Helping disadvantaged children and women by creating genuine links between our generous donor community and cost effective programs in Nepal
- Zero tolerance approach to child abuse and child pornography in accordance with our protection policy

THE ASHA TEAM IN AUSTRALIA



President

Pauline Gleeson joined the Asha team in April 2008 after visiting Nepal for the first time with co-founder Mary-Louise Parkinson. Pauline became President in November 2010 and has held that position ever since. She travels to Nepal regularly to visit our staff, Asha children and projects. A Rotarian, Pauline has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship for her work in Nepal.



Vice President & Good Oil Project Co-ordinator

Kelly Sullivan is our Good Oil Project Co-ordinator and joined Asha in 2013. Kelly has travelled to Nepal on a number of occasions and has visited our Good Oil Project school. Her reporting skills have been an incredible asset to Asha.



Secretary

Karen Soresen is Asha's secretary and has been part of the team since 2010. Karen has a background in nursing and counselling and is a much valued member.



Treasurer

Rohan Gleeson is Asha's Treasurer and like Karen has held that position since 2010. Rohan has a background in I.T. and accounting. He travels regularly to Nepal with his wife Pauline and along with Satish Tamang maintains the strict budgeting required. Like Pauline, Rohan is a proud Rotarian.



Public Officer

Ken McLeod is our Public Officer and has held that role since 2011. Ken is a retired Air Traffic Control, Search & Rescue Manager and was the Australian delegate to 2 United Nations committees. Ken's knowledge of good governance and transparency is a huge benefit to our organisation.



Sponsorship Coordinator

Bridie Young is our Sponsorship Co-ordinator and joined Asha in 2014. She did a Bachelor of Arts majoring in French and Anthropology as well as a Bachelor of Graphic Design. Bridie has a strong interest in social justice.



Fundraising Co-ordinator

Pat Reid is our Fundraising Co-ordinator and joined Asha after her first visit to Nepal in November 2014. Her role has been a baptism of fire after the devastating earthquakes and Pat has stepped up to the mark with incredible enthusiasm.



Web Developer

Phil Gleeson is Asha's web developer and hosts our website free of charge. Phil has been part of Asha since 2011 and has travelled to Nepal and visited our projects. He was the first member of Asha to travel to our Good Oil Village project and the first westerner to go to the school.

THE NEPAL TEAM



Narayan Shrestha is our Nepal President & Cultural Advisor and has been with Asha since the organisation began in 2007. Narayan gives his time and advice freely and guides us in all aspects of Nepali life. His association with The Asha Foundation is invaluable.



Nepal Manager

Satish Tamang is The Asha Foundation's Nepal Manager and Finance & Project Manager and has been with our organisation since 2010. He is responsible for strict budgeting and financial reporting each month.

CONTINUING OUR EARTHQUAKE REBUILD PROJECTS



Since the 2015 earthquake The Asha Foundation has rebuilt three schools outside of the Kathmandu Valley.

Shree Bachala School – Completed February 2016 – click on link to read report

<https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/rebuilding-good-oil-school.html>

Shree Samundra Devi School - Completed November 2016 – click on link to read report

<https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/rebuilding-shree-samundra-secondary-school.html>

Shree Radhakrishna School Mahadevsthan - Kavre District



This was the third and largest rebuild project The Asha Foundation had undertaken and is one we are enormously proud of.

The official opening was held in October and it was a great honour for President Pauline and Treasurer Rohan to be part of the days festivities.

To read the full story, follow the link - <https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/rebuilding-radha-krishna-school.html>



OUR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Sponsorship



The welfare of our children is of the utmost importance to The Asha Foundation. In 2007 we were supporting 16 children in a small dwelling in the northern area of Kathmandu, today our sponsorship programme supports 36 children.

All our children receive private school education which is preferable to the government schools where teaching quality is poor and classrooms overcrowded.

We now have four of our oldest children enrolled in tertiary colleges, two completing a four year degree in Business Administration and two completing a four year degree in Applied Science - Biology. Prior to 2007 none of these children would have believed they would be able to go to college, but thanks to Asha and our wonderful sponsors and donors, we have made this dream a reality.

Transparency to our sponsors and donors is of utmost importance to us and we can proudly say that 100% of sponsorship funds go towards our sponsorship programmes.

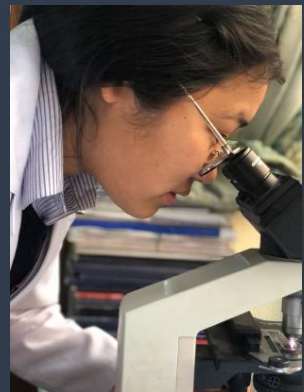
Transforming Lives Through Education



Bishnu always aimed to have a career in the medical field, through his hard work and our sponsorship programme he is now in his 3rd year of Applied Science - Microbiology



Sumina like Bishnu always hoped of working in the field of medicine and she is also in her 3rd year of Applied Science – Microbiology



Kriti is in her 2nd year of Business Administration



Feminine Hygiene Kits



Since February 2016 The Asha Foundation has distributed 460 washable sanitary kits with our main focus was the village of Bhadratar 4.5 hours north of Kathmandu.

In October of this year 100 kits were delivered to the medical outpost near the Shree Radha Krishna School. The visiting medical officer will hand out the kits to the female students as well as discuss menstruation, personal hygiene and answer any questions concerning the girls and their mothers.

Our Feminine Hygiene Programme is something we are extremely proud of as not only is it enabling girls to go to school during their period, it is also providing them with dignity and an understanding of their body.



To learn more about this programme, click on the link
<https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/feminine-hygiene-kits.html>

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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The Asha Foundation

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Income and Expense Statement for the period ended 30-Jun-2018

2017		2018
	Income	
7871.44	Donations	6707.59
	Donations - Good Oil Project	5000.00
	Earthquake Appeal	
	Earthquake Income	
120.00	Female Hygiene Kits	
28573.00	Sponsorships	25397.41
36564.44	Income	37105.00
	Other Income	
1456.02	Interest Received	1444.25
1456.02	Other Income	1444.25
38020.46	Total Income	38549.25
	Less Outgoings	
873.48	Bank Charges	939.11
77500.00	Funds Transferred to Nepal	53934.00
78373.48	Total Outgoings	54873.11
-40353.02	Surplus (Defecit) for the Period	-16323.86

Balance Sheet as at 30-Jun-2018

2017		2018
	Assets	
52612.96	ASHA - Bendigo Bank	36119.83
1433.01	DHARMIK - Bendigo Bank	1841.01
25.00	Card Account - Bendigo Bank	25.00
29244.95	Safety Net No.1: 134053073	30019.18
26588.82	Safety Net No.3: 139974141	27258.84
456.52	PayPal - Dharmik	0.43
1497.17	PayPal - ASHA	270.28
111858.43	Total Assets	95534.57
	Less Liabilities	
	Total Liabilities	
111858.43	Net Assets	95534.57
	Equity	
152211.45	Retained Earnings	111858.43
-40353.02	Surplus (Defecit) For the Year	-16323.86
111858.43	Total Equity	95534.57



27 November 2018

The Committee
The ASHA Foundation Inc
PO Box 300
MORUYA NSW 2537

Dear Sir/Madam,

Independence Discussions

We confirm that during the audit of the financial report of The ASHA Foundation Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2018, we have maintained our independence in accordance with the requirements of Professional Statement APES 110.

In the spirit of this confirmation, we have prepared the following comments to facilitate discussion and enable you to have a clear understanding of the issue.

Other Services

We have not carried out any other engagements for The ASHA Foundation Incorporated that would impair our firm's professional independence as auditor.

Any services provided are subject to our own and the profession's strict rules and policies regarding auditor independence. We enforce these rules and policies in order to maintain objectivity and to be free of interest when discharging our professional responsibilities.

Our appointment as service provider for these engagements has been subject to The ASHA Foundation Incorporated's corporate governance procedures encompassing the selection of service providers and the setting of their remuneration.

Some of the safeguards we follow with regard to auditor independence in relation to the provision of these services include ensuring:

- The services have not involved partners or staff acting in a managerial or decision-making capacity, or being involved in the processing or originating of transactions;
- The services have only been provided where we are satisfied that the related function or process will not have a material bearing on our planned audit procedures and would not involve us auditing our own work;
- The partners and staff involved in the provision of non-auditing services have not participated in The ASHA Foundation Incorporated's associated or authorisation processes.

Based on the above safeguards, we are satisfied that the provision of other services has not in any way compromised our independence as external auditor of The ASHA Foundation Incorporated.

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**Financial Interests**

As your auditor, direct and material indirect investments in any shares of The ASHA Foundation Incorporated are prohibited to us. In summary this prohibition extends to:

- All partners and professional staff; and
- The families of these partners and professional staff; and
- The firm's partner and staff superannuation funds.

We seek annual confirmation from partners and staff that they have complied with this requirement. Based on the results of this process, we are not aware of any instances where partners or staff are not in compliance with this requirement in relation to this engagement.

Other Relationships

We are not aware of any situations where a spouse or close relative of a partner or staff members involved in the audit occupies a position as a director or executive at The ASHA Foundation Incorporated that is significant to the audit.

We are not aware of any situations where a partner or staff member has accepted a position of employment with The ASHA Foundation Incorporated in a senior executive or managerial capacity during or since the end of the financial year.

This report is intended solely for The ASHA Foundation Incorporated and should not be used for any other purpose.

Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours faithfully,

Vincent's Assurance & Risk Advisory
Authorised Audit Company

Phillip W Miller CA
Director



27 November 2018

The Committee
The ASHA Foundation
PO Box 300
MORUYA NSW 2537

Email via: president@ashafoundation.org.au

Dear Committee Members,

The matters raised in this letter arise from our audit of your financial report and relate to matters that we believe need to be brought to your attention.

We completed our audit of the ASHA Foundation Incorporated ("ASHA") financial report for the year ending 30 June 2018 in accordance with Auditing Standards.

Our audit was performed to provide reasonable assurance regarding whether the financial report is free of material misstatements. Absolute assurance is not possible because of the inherent limitations of internal control, the fact that we do not test 100% of transactions and that much of the audit evidence available to us is persuasive rather than conclusive.

In planning our audit we consider internal control over financial reporting to determine the nature, extent and timing of audit procedures. However, a financial report audit does not provide assurance on the effective operation of internal control at ASHA. Because fraud is always deliberately concealed there are always risks that material misstatements, fraud and other illegal acts may exist and not be detected by our audit of the financial report.

The following is a summary of our audit findings.

1. We did not identify in the course of our financial report audit:

- Any accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas.
- Any material changes in selection of application of accounting policies.
- Any evidence of fraud or misappropriation of funds.

We did not identify any material weaknesses in the design, implementation or operating effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, however we would like to draw your attention to the following:

2. Results on Operations:

We note that ASHA recorded a deficit of \$16,324 (2017 deficit: \$40,353) in its financial report and note that the deficit was funded from cash reserves held by the foundation. We are aware that ASHA regularly forecasts its future expenditure commitments in order to maintain reserves to meet future commitments

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3. The financial report contains a number of significant estimates/judgements, which include:

- Expense allocations.

No misstatements in the financial report were identified during the audit. Therefore no adjustment journals are required.

Management and employees were very cooperative during our audit. To the best of our knowledge we also had complete access to the accounting records and other documents that we needed in order to carry out our audit. We did not have any disagreements with management and we have resolved all auditing, accounting and presentation issues to our satisfaction.

We would also like to draw the following matters to your attention:

Please note that the objective of an audit is to obtain reasonable assurances whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. It is not specifically designed to identify matters that may be of interest to management. Accordingly, an audit would not usually identify all such matters.

This communication is prepared solely for the information of management and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

Would you please sign a copy of this letter as evidence that it has been read by the committee and return the copy to us in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Phillip Miller
Director
Vincents Assurance & Risk Advisory



PO Box 300
Moruya NSW 2537

ABN 19 235 956 280

www.ashafoundation.org.au
president@ashafoundation.org.au