



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Sunrise Children's Association Incorporated

Bringing a brighter future to the children of Nepal

A message from our CEO

Like many of you, 2019-20 has been a challenging year for us with the outbreak of Covid-19 impacting the daily lives of our donors, our teams in Australia and Nepal, and the hundreds of children and families we support. Despite the challenges, we are very happy to share that with the ongoing generosity of our donors, we have been able to maintain our support of those we are committed to in Nepal. For that we are deeply grateful.

In line with our 5-year plan, we continued to focus on Prevention, Rescue and Reintegration. Through our education scholarship and livelihood development programs, we helped prevent hundreds of children potentially being trafficked, enticed, or willingly sent from their homes in the hope of a better life and education elsewhere, into early marriage or child labour. We continued to provide nurturing, family-based care for children who had been rescued from orphanages or children's home or other situations of abuse or neglect at Sunrise Home. We traced, reconnected, and reintegrated many of the children from Sunrise Home back into their biological families and continued supporting them there.

Whilst none of the children or families we support have been directly impacted by Covid-19 from a health perspective, they have been heavily impacted by schools being closed since late March when the academic year ended, and lengthy periods of lockdown and restricted movement. Most of the children we support live in rural areas with limited access to internet and telecommunications, so have been unable to undertake online learning. Most children received their new textbooks however, and with the support of siblings and our dedicated team, have been studying to the best of their ability at home. Directly prior to the initial lockdown, most children were able to sit their end of year exams, with 95% passing! We also saw positive progress made by their families through new or expanded income generation activities.

Over the next 12 months, we will continue to focus on protecting, educating, and empowering children and their families, so they can improve their lives in ways that are meaningful and economically sustainable. We will continue to help strengthen family unity and the capacity to provide the children with safe, nurturing homes. We will continue to put in place safety measures and adapt the way we work, to help ensure that the children and families that rely on our support stay positive, active and on their paths to much brighter futures.

I continue to be amazed at how resilient our team and the people of Nepal are, and how much we and they have achieved through the ups and downs. We remain inspired and committed to our vision, and we hope you will continue on this journey with us. Heartfelt thanks again to every one that has supported us in some way over this past 12 months and to those that continue to do so. Without your generous support, none of this would be possible.

Sincerely.

Emma Taylor President/CEO

SCAI Australia



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Why we support the children of Nepal



Nepal is the 3rd poorest countries in Asia¹. Thousands of children in Nepal continue to be unnecessarily separated from their families due to trafficking or being enticed away to an orphanage or similar with a promise of a better life and education. Thousands of children still do not have proper access to education, are married early or forced into child labour.

- 63% of girls are married before 18 years, 40% before 15 years and 7% between 6-8 years²
 - 1.6 million children 5-17 years are engaged in child labour³
 - Almost 15,000⁴ children reside in orphanages or other similar institutions, of which it is estimated around 85%⁵ are not orphans.

Our programs provide an alternative path for some of these vulnerable children.

Our Vision

To see all children to grow up in a safe, nurturing family environment, where they are loved, valued and respected and have an opportunity to reach their full potential, free from poverty, abuse and neglect.

Our Mission

We prevent trafficking and unnecessary separation of vulnerable children from their families, through empowering them with education, training and livelihood development support.



Our Programs

Education Scholarship Programs
Sunrise Home
Reintegration Program
Community School Development

Our Values

The principles that guide everything we do:

Non-discrimination – We do not discriminate against children or their families based on religion, gender, physical characteristics, language, culture, political preference, opinion, ethnic group, background or any other factor.

Child focused – All our programs have the best interest of the children at heart and aim to ensure their rights are realised and they are given the chance to develop according to their individual capacity.

Active participation – We encourage youth and their families to participate in decisions that affect them and take on active roles within their communities to help bring about positive change.

Empowerment – We help children and their families build confidence, skills and resources to help them take control of their lives, develop independence and long-term economic security.

Partnership – We take a community led approach and work collaboratively with the children, families and community members to minimise risk and maximise resources, accountability, inclusiveness, efficiencies, effectiveness and impact.

Sustainability – We provide training and support to help families develop the skills needed to strengthen their economic situation and bring positive change to their families and communities, which will be ongoing after our involvement has ended



Summary of our Impact 2019-20

\$321,818 Income

\$312,701 Expenditure

429 Education scholarships provided

33 Children cared for at Sunrise Home

21 Children reintegrated back into their biological families

20 Savings groups operated with 320 members making regular deposits

32 Child/youth clubs

1690 Beanies distributed

19+ More entered the workforce



52 Children supported in the Reintegration Program

19 More youth completed their final Secondary Education Exam

16+ Youth studying self-funded bachelor's degrees

1st University graduate continued a master's degree in Australia

3 More youth finished diplomas and 2 completed bachelor's degrees

Our Approach

Education and Empowerment are at the heart of everything we do.







SCAI recognizes that every child and family are unique and have different needs and hopes for the future. Over this past year, our dedicated team continued to take the time to listen, observe and understand each child and family's needs and desires, to ensure our support continues to be effective and meaningful. Again, this year our dedicated team:

- Spent time with every child in our program individually through home and school visits, monitoring their family, school and social environments, and providing them with relevant physical and emotional support.
- Continued to empower children and their families with formal and informal education, knowledge, skills, resources and links to social support networks, to help them take control of their lives and create more sustainable futures.
- Continued to take a participatory, community led approach. This means we encourage the children and families to identify the root causes of their issues, their needs and pathways to brighter futures, structuring our support to help them address these effectively.

Our team conducted 947 home visits and 509 school/college visits in 2019/20.

Our Programs in Action

Education Scholarship Programs

Giving children access to education while simultaneously helping build their families' capacity to improve their livelihoods





Whilst our focus remained on access to education, our holistic approach continued to include other physical, psychological, and social support that help improve the children's environment and their families' ability to provide them with proper care.

Our support for the children/youth

- ✓ School uniforms, supplies and fees
- ✓ Clothing, hygiene kits, medical and rent assistance
- ✓ Regular visits to the children's schools and colleges
- ✓ Regular home visits and counselling
- ✓ Career guidance and life skills training.
- ✓ Youth club and awareness building activities

429 Children had access to an education, school materials, and other vital support which provided greater equality and enabled them to stay with their families.



"My mother left and is not in contact since 2007, leaving me, my younger brother and father. My father has had hearing problems since his childhood. After SCAI supported me and my younger brother to go to school, along with continuous monitoring visits, our father understood the importance of education. Now we are going school regularly. We are thankful for SCAL support and guidance that always encourages us to be regular at school and participate in extra-curricular activities."

- Debika Tamang

"My mother eloped when I was just an infant and my father re-married in the same year. I am living with my father, stepmother, and my younger half-brother. Because of SCAI's support, I got an opportunity to continue my study. Along with the study, I am being encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. I got 1st position in my class in my final exam. Thank you so much SCAI for supporting me."

- Bisaya Guragain





"My family rely on agriculture and labour work for our livelihood and managing our day-to-day meals. We are from so called 'lower caste'. As we don't own our own land or property, my elder sister and I were fortunate enough to get a scholarship from Sunrise since 2015. The support and monitoring visits by the SCAI team gives hope to us and encourages me to follow my dream. I am also a child club member of my school. I participate in various activities organized by our school. I am really thankful for SCAI's support and guidance."

- Manisha BK

Livelihood Development







Our support for student's families

- ✓ Facilitation and monitoring of guardian's savings and loans groups
- ✓ Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training
- ✓ Skill Development Training; Tunnel (greenhouse) farming and Livestock Farming
- ✓ Home visits and counselling
- ✓ Parent-teacher meetings

320 Guardians made regular deposits through the community led savings groups, enabling several families to take loans to start or improve their livelihoods.



Goats galore!

Many of the families of the children SCAI supports were struggling to provide 2 proper meals a day.

Parbati Budhatoki's mother is just one example of many, who have insufficient land for agriculture, but was able to buy 2 goats using a loan from the parent/guardian saving groups that SCAI facilitated the formation of. Now she has successfully bred two more goats, so now has 4 to continuing breeding and sell.



From local farmers with limited income to a small business entrepreneur!

Being from so called 'low caste' and marginalized in their community, the mother of Sharmila BK took a loan from their local savings group and bought a buffalo, reared it and it's now ready for breeding. In addition, they also started a blacksmith business and have been able to slowly improve their standard of living.



Sewing centre opening

To overcome their economic hardship, Prabin's mother took a loan and started a small tailoring business, which is bringing her new motivation and independence.

Others have been improving their livelihoods through buffalo and ox rearing, poultry farming, vegetable/tunnel farming, litchifarming, tailoring and operating small grocery stores.

SCAI has provided a total of 1301 children with education scholarships who are now much less likely to be trafficked, married, forced into child labour, sent away from home or drop out of school.

A total of 258 youth have finished school and 92 have finished college or a 3-year diploma through SCAI's sponsorship so far.

320 guardians have had the opportunity to take loans to start or improve their livelihood through the SCAI initiated savings groups.

Sunrise Home

Providing a temporary home for children rescued from orphanages or other high-risk or abusive situations until they can be safely reintegrated back into their families



A safe, nurturing, home environment is vital for the physical, mental and emotional well-being and development of a child. When this is not possible in a child's own family, we continued to provide full time care at Sunrise Home, with a range of activities for their personal development.

In 2019-20 our support included:

- ✓ Basic physiological and safety needs, such as food, shelter, clothing and medical care.
- ✓ Education at our local community school and extra-curricular activities
- ✓ Counselling and various activities to help the children develop self-esteem, confidence and daily life skills to equip them for life back in their communities
- ✓ Tracing families who have lost contact and reconnecting children with their families
- ✓ Regular assessment of options within the children's immediate or extended family to determine the best option for permanent care

33 children were provided full care at Sunrise Home. 21 children were reintegrated back into their biological families.

Returning rescued children to their families where they belong









After providing an emergency home for 19 children rescued from an illegal orphanage in Kathmandu in May 2019 along with 103 other children, SCAI traced the families of 17 of the children within 3 weeks.

The children had been sent away from home in the hope of a better life and education – their dreams shattered when things didn't turn out as they had hoped.

After necessary assessments, most of the rescued children were safely re-united with their families in mid-far western Nepal, along with 5 other children from Sunrise Home.

"My family sent me and my younger sisters to Kathmandu, far from our village, to get a better life and education. We didn't get proper food or care there. We were so happy to come to Sunrise Home as they cared for us and contacted our family. We are so excited to go home to our village as the love we can get from our own family is the most important thing in the world". – Sapura

Reintegration Program

Tracing, re-connecting and reintegrating children back into their biological families and communities



In most cases the children are reintegrated back into the families of older siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents as they often do not have parents that can care for them. For these extended family members to be able to provide adequate care for the children, our ongoing support is usually needed.

In 2019-20 our support included:

- ✓ School uniforms, supplies and fees
- ✓ Clothing, toiletries, food and rent assistance
- ✓ Regular visits to the children's schools and colleges
- ✓ Regular home visits and counselling
- ✓ Career guidance and life skills training for graduates
- ✓ Extra-curricular and personal development activities
- ✓ Sunrise Youth Club activities

52 children and youth received ongoing support, enabling them to live with their own immediate or extended families



"My father had been living with mental illness for decades and staying with my grandparents in his village. My mother left home when I and my younger brother were very small and is not in contact. Sunrise has been supporting me since 2006. After completion of school (year 10), I started living with my aunt and cousins, and due to their poor financial situation SCAI continued supporting us there. Because of SCAI support, I was able to complete a 3-year Diploma in Electrical Engineering with **Distinction (82%).** I am now looking forward to working as an engineer."

-Deewaker Bhandari

"My father went to Malaysia to work when I was young and was not contact with our family for many years. My elder sister Chirring and I were lucky enough to be supported by Sunrise since 2006. After some time at Sunrise Home, we were reintegrated to live with our mother and supported there by Sunrise. Because of SCAI support, I was able to complete a 3-year Diploma in Nursing in high 1st division (77%). I am now also a licensed and registered Staff nurse."

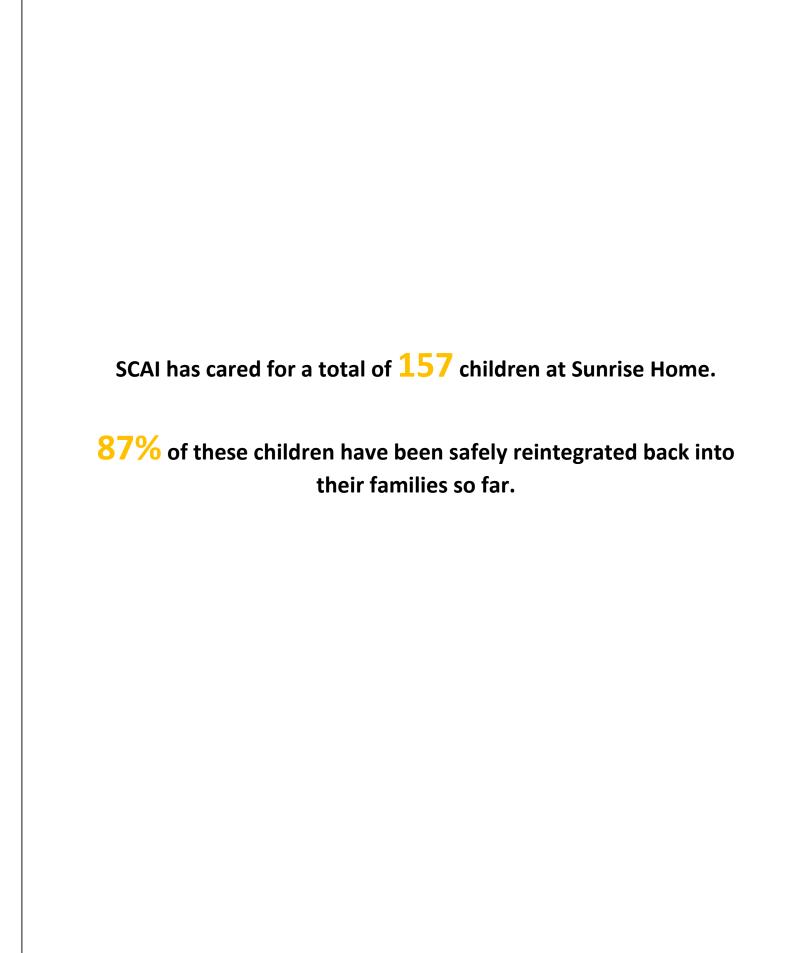
-Anita Lama





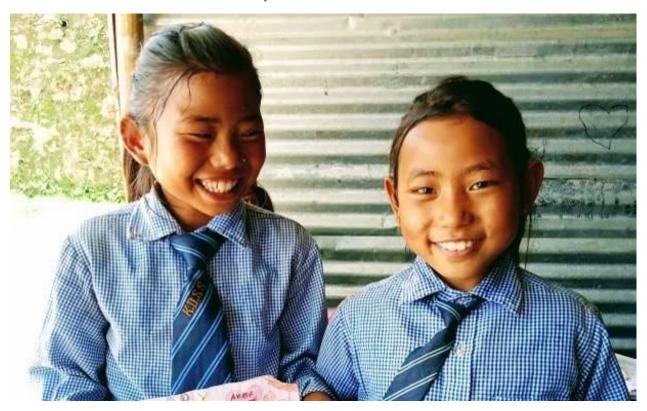
"My father passed away due to cancer when I was very small. My single mother raised me despite hardships and struggles. My mother worked at Sunrise Home for many years, so I had the opportunity to stay with her. Through SCAI support, I was able to complete school (year 10) and then enrol in a 3-year Diploma in Nursing which I completed earlier this year. I am so indebted to SCAI for their support, which has enabled me to become a registered staff nurse."

- Nikita Thapa



Community School Development

Helping keep youth with their families by expanding and improving the quality of education in our local community



Pre-school, secondary school, English medium and modern, interactive teaching methods and facilities continue to draw children and youth away from their rural families to school in Kathmandu and other urban areas. Often children are sent to orphanages or to work as part-time house helpers in the city in pursuit of these facilities.

In 2012-13 SCAI bought land and constructed a double storey school building of 14 rooms to accommodate the local community school and supported the extension of Nepali medium through to the end of secondary school, and the addition of English medium from Pre-school through to secondary school. Since then, SCAI has continued with range of operational support.

In 2019-20 our support included:

- ✓ Funding 4 qualified, English speaking, secondary level teachers
- ✓ Providing a light, spacious, school building and grounds
- ✓ Sports field and children's playground
- ✓ Interactive learning software
- ✓ Regular monitoring and guidance

7th group of students has now been able to complete their Secondary Education Exams at our local community school, saving them from having to go to Kathmandu

Where Are They Now?

Year after year we are delighted to see so many youth continue on their positive journeys after our financial support ends. With a solid foundation of college (year 12) or a diploma and a positive attitude, several more of the youth have taken further steps towards bright, independent futures.



Anita Moktan, now 25, successfully completed year 12 in mid-2015 then got a job as a teacher at a private school, where she worked while studying a Bachelor of Social Work. She is now undertaking a Master of Counselling in Australia and plans to return to Nepal to become a trauma counsellor.



Manmaya Tamang, now 20, passed secondary school in 2017, then college (year 12 equivalent) in mid-2019. She has now joined a Bachelor of Management and has been working actively as a Program Field Coordinator in one of SCAI's education scholarship programs since January 2019. With local knowledge and first-hand experience with the issues in the local area, she is an asset to the team!



Sadumaya Budha, now 20, completed Humanities at college (year 12 equivalent) in mid-2019. Since then she has been working as a sales assistant an upmarket outdoor clothing and equipment store in Kathmandu, and in 2019 commenced studying a Bachelor of Social work.



Arun Tamang, now 19, completed college (year 12) in Education in mid-2019. He joined a Bachelor of Education in Kathmandu soon after and is also working in an automobile company to fund his way through university. He wants to be a teacher when he has successfully graduated.



Dev Tamang, now 20, completed college (year 12) in Education in mid-2019. He is now teaching in a secondary school as an English Teacher while he is studying a Bachelor of Education, which will no doubt further his teaching career.



Shankerman Shrestha, now 21, completed Management in college (year 12) in 2019. Since graduation, he has been teaching in private school in Kathmandu and is planning to commence a bachelor's degree this year.

Our SCAI Community

The SCAI community is made up of sponsors, donors, volunteers, event supporters and committee members, each of whom contribute to the success of SCAI and our programs in Nepal. We are extremely grateful for every bit of support – it is only through this ongoing collaboration that we continue to achieve so much!

Our Staff

Our small but amazing SCAI team continued to put their heart and soul into everything we do. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions and cases rapidly increasing by the day in Nepal, they rose to the additional challenges presented by COVID-19, and have continued to work tirelessly to implement our plans, adapt as needed, continue monitoring and evaluating our program and impact at field level, to inspire our children, youth, families, stakeholders and NGO partners.

SCAI Team

Emma Taylor, President/CEO Raj Kumar Lama Tamang, Country Manager (Nepal) Mansingh Aidee, Program Coordinator (Nepal) Kusum Tamang, Finance Officer (Nepal)

Our NGO Partners

In addition to our SCAI team, our thirteen staff from our local NGO teams that work closely with SCAI to implement our projects, from RUDEC Nepal, SO Nepal and CSN Nepal have continued to show their commitment, hard work, resilience and dedication to the children and families we support. We simply could not achieve what we do without our strong local partnerships.

Meet Raj, Country Manager SCAI in Nepal

Raj joined the SCAI Nepal team 4 years ago as Program Manager and was promoted to Country Manager at the end of 2019-20. With over 10 years' experience working with INGO's in the protection of women, children, and other vulnerable groups before joining SCAI, two master's degree and a genuine commitment to our cause, Raj has contributed a huge amount to the SCAI Team.

"We work for extremely vulnerable children, mainly in remote areas, to help them to enjoy their basic rights of access to education and basic needs. Nepal is still struggling to improve its education, health and social security services, so our collaboration with the government is much appreciated. The people we work with have low level of awareness in terms of various social issues. Still parents organize marriage of their children at early ages so they can increase the work force for their farms and can take care of their animals. Through the sensitization from us and our NGO partners, more children are staying in school and their parents are improving their lives through participation in the local savings groups, where they can take loans and develop their livelihoods.



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone at SCAI Australia for your ongoing support which enables us to continue serving these highly vulnerable children and help bring positive change to their lives."

Our Sponsors and Donors

We continue to be extremely grateful to our very dedicated supporters, who have remained committed despite the financial challenges COVID-19 has presented. Without them, we simply could not do what we do!

6 Major Project Sponsors

Kathmandu Kids, Australia Geoff Sam, Australia Paul Hameister, Australia Paul and Rose Cody, UK Große für Kleine Kinderfonds Foundation, Germany

Funds from these incredibly generous sponsors who have each donated **over \$50,000** to date, continued to go towards the education scholarship/livelihood development programs and community school.

Special thanks to **Kathmandu Kids** who have supported us for over 11 years and raised around **\$500,000** so far and remain committed to our cause!



"After extensive research, I chose Sunrise as the organisation through which to give something back to the people of Nepal. Sunrise stood out because it is not about hand-outs — Sunrise is committed to creating meaningful and long-term positive impact through keeping children with their families, empowering those families by utilising close coordination with local communities and grass roots expertise...and doing so with a high degree of transparency and accountability based on many years of proven experience."

- Paul Hameister, major project sponsor since 2011

Over 130 Individual Monthly Sponsors

Funds from our monthly sponsors continued to go towards Sunrise Home and the Reintegration Program.

Over **70** sponsors have been donating on a monthly basis for over 10 years now, and many more that come close to that. Special thanks to **Angus Sobels** and **Santosh and Anju Verghese** who have donated **over \$50,000** each so far.



"The SCAI team is the real deal. SCAI is committed to tackling intergenerational poverty through programs that educate and empower whole families. I had the benefit of seeing it for myself when I visited Nepal 10 years ago and spent a month with the SCAI family. I was connected to SCAI as a sponsor of a child and trusted that the team were taking great care of him at a time when there were no other safe options. I could quickly see the power of SCAI's work, and that appreciation only deepened after spending time with the women in the skills-based training program and meeting various kids who benefited from the education scholarships. Seeing my sponsor child grow, develop, be educated, become independent, go on to help support his family and find meaningful work, has been a very rewarding experience. That's why, 10 years on, my family and I are committed to supporting SCAI's work. "

- Emilia Michael, monthly sponsor since 2010

128 One off donations

One-off donations were used to support the annual 'Winter warmth and smiles' beanies initiative and other program activities not supported by our regular sponsors.

Our Fundraising Challengers

Meet some of the wonderful people took on challenges to help raise funds for SCAI in 2019-20:



Sam and Andy cycle 'The Tour Divide' on a tandem bike (August 2019), \$2700

Friends Sam and Andy embarked on the challenging annual mountain bike challenge traversing the length of the Rocky Mountains – on a tandem bike! The route took them from the Mexican border to Canada following the 2,745-mile (4,418 km) Great Divide Mountain Bike Route. Unfortunately, due to irreparable damage to the bike, they had to pull out with less than a week to go. Thank you for this mammoth effort!



Jessica Deboever - Running for a better life for children, Sydney, \$500

In September 2019, Jess made a commitment to herself and her children that she will start running and incorporate it into her daily life, to show her kids that with commitment, focus and the right amount of work, you can achieve your goals whatever they are and whichever the circumstances. She completed the City to Surf, her first ever race, followed by the Sydney running festival 10km run, to help raise funds. **Thank you Jess!**



Rebecca Hunt – Ran the Heysen 105 ultra-marathon, Adelaide, \$550

On the 26th October 2019, Beck, a long-term supporter of SCAI, successfully completed the incredible Heysen 105 ultra-marathon, which traversed 105km of the 1,200km long Heysen Trail. In support of her mammoth effort, Beck kindly called out for donations to support one of SCAI's education scholarship and income generation programs in Nuwakot District Nepal.

A huge congratulations on this amazing feat and thank you!



Forte School of Music Wantirna, Victoria - Gold coin donation from concert goers, \$310

In September 2019, SCAI sponsor, Forte School of Music Wantirna, run by the lovely Kia Leong, held their annual Forte Festival with more than 500 children performing. Kia and Wantirna School of Music very kindly received gold coin donations to help support the children in one of our SCAI's education scholarship and income generation programs in Nepal. **Thank you Kia and children!**

Thank you also to those who organized workplace giving and who continued to help us raise funds both directly and indirectly through helping spread awareness about our valuable work.

Sunrise Mountain Challenge

We have all heard the saying 'Charity begins at home'. In late September 2019, a group of 9 very enthusiastic graduates from SCAI's Education Scholarships programs and Reintegration Program in Nepal took on the "Sunrise Mountain Challenge" to help raise funds to help keep 81 children from one of SCAI's scholarship programs in school and with their families.

The 9 inspiring youth know what it is like to struggle for their basic needs, so they were determined to not let these 81 children lose the opportunity to get an education and risk being separated from their families due to their poor economic situation.

The trek was possibly even more challenging than anticipated, with unexpected rains, mud, leeches, strong winds and blisters, not to mention the very steep and challenging terrain. They reached an altitude of **4,380m** in the Langtang mountain range, with some days taking up to 11 hours.

\$13,776! Naturally, the youth (and our staff who accompanied them) were thrilled to be able to give back to the next generation. Not only did the youth trek, but they stopped along the way to conduct awareness programs to help prevent child marriage, delivering powerful speeches and street dramas, along with some of the local youth club members in the local villages.









SCAI Events

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, our fundraising events planned for May 2020 were postponed. We look forward to re-scheduling them again as soon as it is safe to do so and look forward to enjoying evenings of fun and entertainment with our valued guests, volunteers, and donors!

Our Governance and Management Teams

SCAI Australia Management Committee

Geoff Sam, OAM

Emma Taylor, OAM

Kate White

Laura Mistruzzi

Treasurer

Sarah Thom General Committee Member
Angela Trowbridge General Committee Member











Public Fund Committee

Ian Martens/ Paul Hameister, OAMChairpersonPaul LeadbeterCommittee memberAngus SobelsCommittee member

SCAI is an incorporated association, incorporated under the South Australia Association Incorporations Act 1985, and registered as a charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

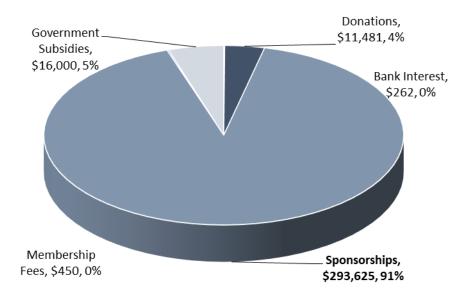
SCAI was endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) in 2010, enabling donations \$2 and over to be tax deductible in Australia. All gifts and deductible contributions made for our charitable purpose are held in a separate Public Fund, administered by the three Public Fund Trustees.

Financials

We are proud to maintain our high level of transparency and accountability and deliver our programs in an effective and efficient manner again in 2019-20.

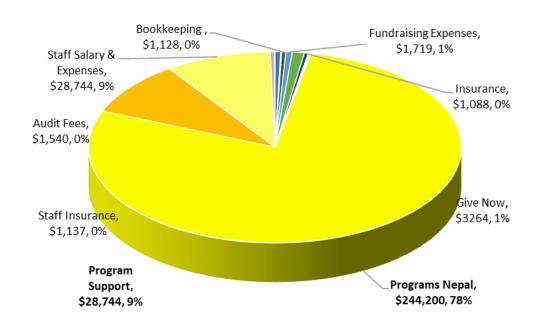
Income \$321,818

91% came from project sponsorships, up from 87% in 2019.

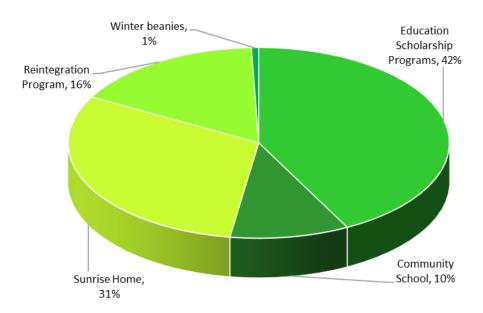


Expenses \$312,701

87% was spent on programs in Nepal and program support, up from 86% in 2019.



Program Activites in Nepal



SCAI finished the 2019-20 year with an **Accumulated Surplus of \$235,762**, most of which is committed to existing activities.

Further details can be found in our SCAI Audited Financial Statements 2020 at www.scai.org.au and in our regualr project Newletters.



Thank you

If you have any queries about this report, our audited financial statements or our work,

Please do not hesitate to contact us.

SCAI Australia

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