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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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# Friends of VIN is an SDO

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

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

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

# Happy 2081!

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FoVIN NL team would like to wish you all a Happy Nepalese New Year 2081 with the sincere hope that the world will be a safer place this year.

As we look back on 2024, I am proud of the incredible progress we have made at Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN). This year, we reached over 373,000 people, empowering women, children, and youth, improving healthcare, and promoting sustainable development.

We are grateful for the volunteers from 30 countries who joined us this year, along with our dedicated partners and donors. In 2025, VIN will celebrate 20 years of service, and we look forward to continuing our mission of empowering communities and creating lasting change. Thank you for your support and trust in our work. Together, we are making a difference.

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



# OUR APPROACH

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

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

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



## Women's Empowerment

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

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

## Public Health and Community Care

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

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

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





## **Youth Empowerment**

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



## **Children's Development**

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



## **Environment and Conservation**

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



## **Disaster Risk Reduction**

The goal of the Disaster Risk Reduction Program is to minimize the risk of natural disaster and provide relief and safety to vulnerable communities. After the devastating earthquake of 2015, we have been mobilizing volunteers and we have provided financial support and materials for the reconstruction of the houses at our various project locations.

# Program Updates



## Women's Empowerment:

- 2255 women involved in micro-credit cooperatives in Jitpur and Okhaldhunga
- 2034 women joined classes, workshops and other training
- 78 joined Entrepreneur training

## Children's Development:

- 256 children involved in ECD
- 5945 educated on children's rights
- 324 teachers trained
- 45 children supported through sponsorship



# Program Updates



## Youth Empowerment:

- 499 engaged in different life skills sessions
- 73 g in English language lessons and career development

## Public Health and Community Care:

- 575 children and adults educated about health care
- 1854 had their blood pressure and blood sugar check-up in Jitpurphedi and Okhaldhunga

## Disaster Risk Reducation:

- 1346 educated in disaster risk reduction and awareness
- 288 water tanks constructed



# Program Updates

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## Environment and Conservation:

- 2 research projects on Climate Change
- 62 farmers families trained on permaculture
- 54 benefited from irrigation water supply
- 1420 students educated on waste management



# From 2024

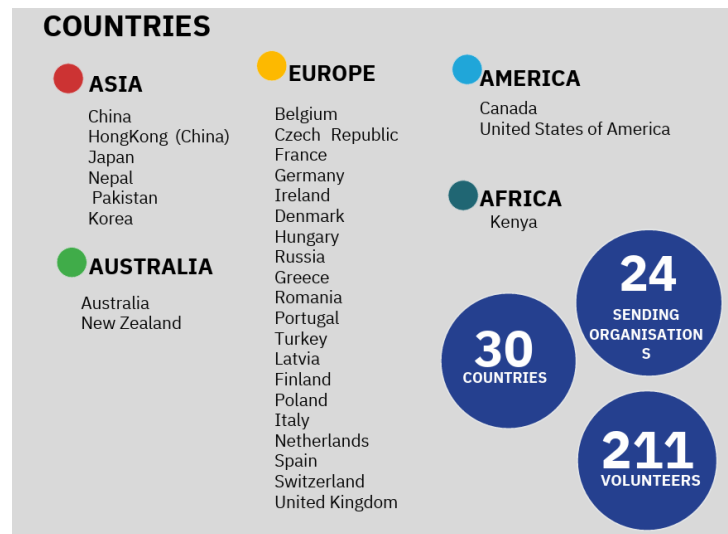
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## Empowering Farmers to Embrace Sustainable Food Production

From December 28, 2024, to January 6, 2025, VIN hosted a 10-day Permaculture Training in Okhaldhunga, empowering 62 farmers with eco-friendly farming techniques to improve soil health and crop yields. The training, led by Bibek Dhital with Hasera, was divided into two 5-day sessions for different groups. Funded by the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families, this initiative supports VIN's mission of "Empowering Vulnerable Families" through regenerative agriculture.

# Volunteers 2024



VIN received 252 international and national volunteers.

The number of LMTV volunteers is increased by 8% compared to last year and the number of workcamp volunteers was increased by 8%. And there was an increase in the total number of volunteers compared to 2023.

# An Overview

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# TNW and GA 2024 IN OKHALDHUNGA

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Kathmandu, May 2024 – The Training and Network Week (TNW) and General Assembly (GA) 2024 successfully brought together members of the Network for Voluntary Development in Asia (NVDA) to strengthen partnerships and set future goals. Hosted by Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN), the event took place from May 13-19 in Okhaldhunga, Nepal. The TNW began on May 13, with participants arriving and engaging in orientation activities. The following days focused on strategic planning, including NVDA's 2030 goals, NGO empowerment, and SWOT analyses. Discussions were complemented by hands-on activities, such as permaculture work in VIN's sustainable food project and community engagement in Bhadaure. The GA commenced on May 16, with sessions on decision-making, voluntary service movements, and decolonization. Member organizations collaborated on proposals for social change and NGO empowerment. The event concluded with the election of the new Executive Committee (EC) for 2023-2024, including Kai, Sophat, Baatar, and Richa.

Following the closing on May 17, participants returned to Kathmandu, where the newly elected EC met with the outgoing team to ensure a smooth transition. The event solidified NVDA's vision and strengthened global cooperation, paving the way for future initiatives.

Thank you for  
your continued  
support during  
2024!



We look  
forward to  
seeing you in  
2025.



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

**THANK YOU!**

Friends of VIN team NL

