HIMALAYAN TRUST NEPAL

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

INTRODUCTION

Himalayan Trust Nepal's five-year strategic plan outlines the major strategy of the organization that provides guidelines for the period of 2024-2029. HTN's strategy is based on the success and strengths of past and present work to continue the legacy of Sir Edmund Hillary towards the people of Solukhumbu and neighbouring districts. This strategic plan aims to contribute to fulfilling the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aligning with the government of Nepal's policies and plans, and implementing best practices of its work.

BACKGROUND

Sir Edmund Hillary's enduring commitment to the Sherpa people and the Nepalese communities was sparked by his historic ascent of Mt. Everest in 1953. His deep connection to the region led him to ask, "What can I do for the Sherpa people?" In response, a Sherpa friend suggested building a school to educate their children. Taking this to heart, Sir Edmund established the first school in Khumjung in 1961. The success of this initiative led to numerous requests for additional schools, hospitals, and other services. In response, he founded the Himalayan Trust in the 1960s, with support from global partners. Over the years, Sir Edmund's efforts resulted in the establishment of schools, hospitals, clinics, infrastructure, and environmental projects. In 2007, the advisory committee that he formed had evolved into Himalayan Trust Nepal, which now focuses on health, education, environment, culture, and livelihood in the Solukhumbu and peripheral districts.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Vision:
Himalayan Trust Nepal aspires to be a community-led, independent, and exemplary organization dedicated to sustainable and holistic development in mountainous regions. This vision is inspired by Sir Edmund Hillary's commitment to and collaboration with the Sherpa community.

Mission:
HTN is dedicated to fostering health, education, culture, environment, and livelihood programmes in Solukhumbu district through an inclusive, innovative, and locally-driven approach. Our mission is to uplift and empower communities by addressing their unique needs and leveraging local knowledge and resources.

OUR VALUES AND APPROACHES

Our values and approaches focus on sustainability and empowerment, engaging and empowering communities for lasting change. We emphasize partnership and friendship through a participatory and inclusive development approach to understand and address the challenges of mountain communities. As a small organization, we support creativity, innovation, continuous monitoring, evaluation, and learning. We value transparency by maintaining robust internal processes and governance. We are committed to respect and integrity, honouring the perspectives of the communities we serve. We continue to follow the strategy

of Sir Ed that the local people get quality education at the local, national or international levels and return to their home village to serve their own communities.

We focus on retaining successful past initiatives and replicating them in new areas. We respect local values, reviving traditional systems, culture, and economies in a modern context. Our research-based programmes emphasize piloting, monitoring, and documentation to ensure effectiveness. We prioritize building strong relationships with local communities, partners, donors, and government institutions for successful programme implementation.

HTN's Approach (5R):

- **Retain**: Maintain past projects' successes.
- **Replicate**: Apply successes to new contexts.
- **Revive**: Enhance local systems, culture, and economies.
- **Research**: Pilot, monitor, and document for effective programming.
- **Restructure**: Strengthen stakeholder relationships.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Himalayan Trust Nepal aims to foster sustainable and holistic development in the mountain region of Nepal through our 5R approach, which builds on past successes while implementing plans and programmes. Himalayan Trust Nepal will focus on the following thematic areas to achieve its goals:

- Education
- Health
- Environment
- Culture
- Livelihood
- Institutional Development

These thematic areas align with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **SDG 1: No Poverty** – By promoting diverse livelihoods and economic opportunities.
- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being** – Through improved healthcare services, researches and initiatives.
- **SDG 4: Quality Education** – By enhancing educational infrastructure, skill enhancement and opportunities.
- **SDG 13: Climate Action** – Through environmental sustainability and climate-resilient practices.

The priorities of Himalayan Trust Nepal are outlined below:

GOAL 1: ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND ACCESS IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BY EMPLOYING CHILD-FRIENDLY AND MODERN PRACTICES.

To achieve the goal of enhancing educational quality and access, a comprehensive set of strategies has been designed. These strategies focus on various aspects of the educational ecosystem, ensuring a holistic approach to improvement. By addressing infrastructure, staffing, higher education opportunities, technology integration, early childhood education, and community involvement, we aim to create a conducive learning environment for all students.

STRATEGIES:

- **Infrastructure:** Improve school facilities, including classrooms, libraries, and water & sanitation.
- **Staffing:** Ensure that schools have qualified, skilled, motivated teachers and provide ongoing training.
- **Higher Education:** Increase opportunities for students to pursue higher education and vocational training.
- **Technology Integration:** Incorporate technology to improve teaching methods and learning outcomes.
- **Early Childhood Education:** Effectively manage ECED classrooms to foster early learning.
- **Community Involvement:** Strengthen the capacity of school management committees to engage in decision-making and school governance.

Expected Outcomes: Enhanced educational standards, higher literacy rates, and increased community participation in education.

GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND HEALTH SERVICES TO IMPROVE OVERALL COMMUNITY HEALTH.

Achieving optimal community health requires a multifaceted approach aimed at strengthening and expanding existing health services. By focusing on enhancing service quality, providing professional training, conducting research, and implementing outreach programmes, we aim to ensure comprehensive healthcare coverage and improved health outcomes for all community members.

STRATEGIES:

- **Service Enhancement:** Upgrade healthcare facilities and services.
- **Professional Training:** Provide continuous training for healthcare workers to improve service quality.
- **Research:** Conduct health research to identify and address prevalent public health issues.
- **Outreach Programmes:** Implement health outreach programmes to reach remote and underserved populations.

Expected Outcomes: Improved access to healthcare, decreased rates of illness and death, and increased community health awareness.

GOAL 3: IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

To build a climate-resilient society, we need a comprehensive approach that includes environmental education, effective waste management, and sustainable forestry practices. By equipping communities with the knowledge and resources to address environmental challenges, we aim to foster a sustainable and resilient future.

STRATEGIES:

- **Awareness:** Educate students and communities about climate change, adaptation and environmental conservation.

- **Waste Management:** Explore and implement innovative waste management solutions to minimize environmental impact.
- **Forestry:** Develop forestry programmes for carbon sequestration, drawing on the Himalayan Trust's successful initiatives in the Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone.

Expected Outcomes: Enhanced environmental sustainability, reduced waste, and increased community engagement in climate change, adaptation and ecological conservation.

GOAL 4: PRESERVE LOCAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

To safeguard cultural identity and heritage, we must implement targeted strategies that promote the use of local languages and preserve significant cultural assets.

STRATEGIES:

- **Language Promotion:** Support the use of local languages in education and media.
- **Heritage Conservation:** Help conserve and restore significant cultural heritage sites.
- **Cultural Initiatives:** Facilitate projects and activities that promote and preserve local cultural traditions.

Expected Outcomes: Strengthened cultural heritage, revived local languages, and increased community pride in cultural identity.

GOAL 5: EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS

To enhance and broaden economic prospects, we must adopt strategies that support sustainable agriculture, tourism, create job opportunities, and promote traditional and emerging industries.

STRATEGIES:

- **Agriculture:** Encourage climate-resilient agricultural practices to ensure food security and promote sustainable farming.
- **Employment:** Generate job opportunities through local and regional initiatives.
- **Traditional Livelihoods:** Support and enhance traditional livelihoods and crafts.
- **Infrastructure:** Provide support to build community facilities, ensure access to clean drinking water, and implement fire hydrant systems.
- **Sustainable Tourism:** Develop and promote sustainable tourism practices that benefit local communities.

Expected Outcomes: Increased household income, reduced poverty levels, and diversified economic opportunities.

GOAL 6: ENHANCE HTN'S INTERNAL CAPACITY TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE AND EXECUTE PROGRAMMES

To improve our effectiveness in managing and executing programmes, we must strengthen internal processes, develop leadership skills, and foster inclusive participation.

STRATEGIES:

- **Policies:** Develop and implement comprehensive internal policies and procedures.
- **Leadership:** Foster leadership skills and project management capabilities among staff.
- **Participation:** Engage staff and community members in planning and evaluating projects to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness.

Expected Outcomes: Improved programme management, enhanced staff capabilities, and greater inclusivity in project planning and evaluation.

FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

To ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of our programmes, securing diverse funding sources and establishing strong partnerships are essential.

- **Funding Sources:** HTN will sustain its programmes through international donors, including HTNZ, AHF, SEHS, HTUK, L4Ks, and other organisations, and individual contributors.
- **Partnerships:** Forge strong collaborations with government agencies, local institutions, and community groups to maximize the impact and efficiency of programmes.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To effectively assess progress and impact, we will develop and implement a comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluation during this strategic plan period.

- **Regular Monitoring and Evaluation:** Develop metrics and indicators to track progress against goals, conduct regular evaluations, and adapt strategies based on findings.
- **Quarterly Newsletters and Reports:** Publish progress updates and share them with stakeholders.
- **Half-Yearly Progress Reviews:** Conduct sharing sessions to provide updates on progress.
- **Annual Reports and Financial Statements:** Prepare an annual report, including a financial audit, to be endorsed at the Annual General Meeting.

COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

To maintain transparency and keep all parties informed, we will implement a robust communication and reporting strategy.

- **Transparent Communication:** Ensure clear and open communication with donors, stakeholders, and the community.
- **Regular Reporting:** Provide detailed and regular reports on progress, achievements, and challenges.

SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure the long-term viability of our programmes, we will explore and implement strategies for both programme and financial sustainability.

- **Develop strategies to retain the younger generation:** Encourage, motivate and promote graduates to serve their own communities, fostering a sense of giving back.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Develop and implement strategies for financial sustainability, including income-generating activities and strategic partnerships, to reduce dependency on donor funding.

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Himalayan Trust Nepal is registered with the District Administration Office, Solukhumbu (Reg. No. 87/2007) and affiliated with the Social Welfare Council (SWC) Nepal (Affiliation No. 21991/2007).