Year 2024 in review

Looking ahead to 2025





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Dear friends,



2024 has been our year of steps and efforts where challenges turned into opportunities, and our dreams took shape. Overall, we have successfully built connections with children, women, schools and communities in Kaski and Syangja districts.

Our Community Learning Program, along with Aviation and STEM Education, touched 180 lives. This year, we also launched the Gender Equity and Social Action (GESA) program, which brought together 5 NGOs and 30 social workers through our Mentor Development Training.

One of the highlights of the year was our Football4Future project. By breaking barriers and empowering 160 girls, we proved that football is for everyone.

Another milestone was our community engagement and exchange, which allowed us to build global connections while representing UniCoN in some communities of Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, and the USA.

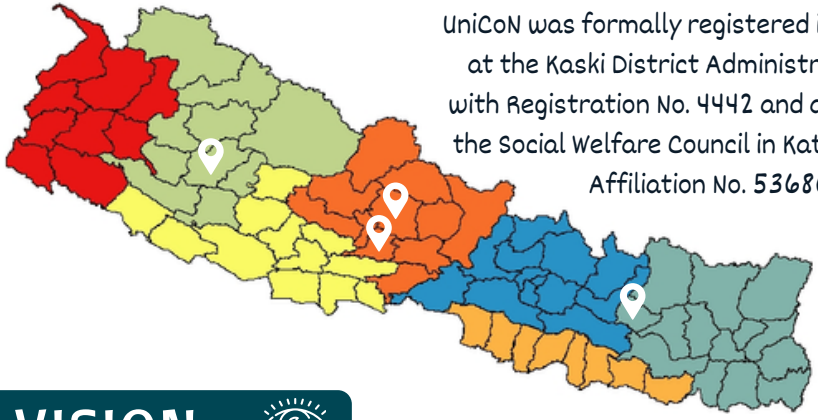
As we move into 2025, we aim to broaden our reach, enhance program quality, and build new partnerships to create deeper, more impactful change, with a focus on Green Social Work to address pressing community needs.

Thank you all for believing in us and being with us every step of the way. We couldn't have come this far without you. I am deeply honored to work with a team that shares my vision to empower women and children, to prepare them for a brighter future.

Mr. Binod Neupane
Founder and Executive Director

WHO WE ARE?

United Community Nepal (UniCoN) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit social organization founded by a group of young professionals during COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 as a response to the inadequate social protections for vulnerable population groups.



UniCoN was formally registered in March 2022 at the Kaski District Administration Office with Registration No. 4442 and affiliated with the Social Welfare Council in Kathmandu with Affiliation No. 53686.

VISION

UniCoN envisions a society where every individual, regardless of their background, has access to opportunities that empower them to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities. It aims to create transformative change for disadvantaged and stigmatized communities by expanding access to employment, civil rights, quality education, and sustainable livelihoods.

MISSION

To strengthen the capacity of the most disadvantaged, underserved, and vulnerable populations, especially women, children, dalits, and people living in remote geographic areas, through learning opportunities that integrate culture, innovation, and economy for a brighter and sustainable future.

GOAL

By 2030, we aim to improve living conditions and create opportunities for at least 10,000 marginalized and stigmatized women and children through our powerful programs and services.



Our target groups:



We primarily work with economically, socially, politically, and culturally marginalized communities in Nepal.

We prioritize three population groups:
Women & Girls, Children & Youth, and Persons with Disabilities.

We recognize that within these key groups, people are further disadvantaged if they are Dalits or are Indigenous.

Highlights of 2024

7 schools
(6 public and 1 private)
in Kaski and Syangja

479 children
directly benefited from our projects and programs



81 mothers
directly benefited

157 people
through our Biodiversity & Environmental Project



Our Projects



Community Learning Program



Aviation & STEM Education



Football4Future



Gender Equity and Social Action



Community Exchange Program



Conservation & Community

1 Community Learning Program

Empowering Children
through After-School Support



Children aged
3 to 15 years

33 children are
benefitting

Ramkot Village
Syangja

This project is providing children with educational resources & support, developmental opportunities, and a safe learning environment.

Currently, we have an active learning center in Ramkot, Syangja, where 33 children receive facilitated learning sessions tailored to their needs. Our two facilitators work closely with these children, particularly those whose parents are unable to provide educational support due to financial or social constraints.

The program bridges learning gaps, builds confidence, and empowers children to achieve personal and academic growth.



2 Aviation Education

Introducing Aviation Concepts and Awareness about Aerospace Careers

This program brings the program model of the AeroStar Avion Institute from Chicago, USA, to Pokhara, Nepal, for the very first time.

Since 2023, we have been working with four schools (Siddha, Kalika, Amar Singh, and Pokhara Public Secondary School) directly impacting over 140 students from Grades 8 and 9 through engaging weekly after-school sessions.



Our program is a blend of:

- Theoretical Knowledge and Practical Learning: Equipping students with aviation concepts.
- Providing exposure to Pokhara International Airport operations through airport visits.
- Motivational Sessions with Aviation Role Models: Inspiring students to dream big and explore careers in the aviation industry.

Giving Wings to Dreams

We believe in unlocking their potential and introducing them to the opportunities in the world of aviation and aerospace.

Theory 30%	Practical 40%	Exposure 20%	Guest Speakers 10%
Classroom Based Sessions	**Engaging Activities/ Sessions Outside Classroom**	**Exposure Visit (Industrial Visits)**	**Industry Expert, Guest Speakers, Motivational Sessions**
• Sessions about Aviation history, concepts, resources	• Aviation Art/Speech /Debate • Craft making workshop • Trainings, Games etc.	4 field trips (Airport, Paragliding, Ultra Light Spots, Flight Academy)	• Pilot • Airhostess • Managers



3 E-STEM

E-STEM, integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education with environmental awareness to inspire students to develop innovative solutions for sustainable development.

The main highlights of this project are:



The project is currently implementing in four public schools in Pokhara benefiting 120 secondary level students.

Teacher Training and Professional Development to enhance teachers' skills in delivering innovative, student-centered STEM lessons.

Robotics trainings, STEM clubs formation and after-school sessions.

STEM Competitions and Camps

Mentorship and Industry Exposure to expose students to real-world applications of STEM and inspire them to pursue careers in these fields.



4 Football4Future

Soar into Sports with Wings of Hope

This project empowers youth, especially girls, fostering their holistic development, self-confidence, and life skills through football.

Directly benefiting 146 students of 5 secondary schools—Shree Amar Singh, Barahi, Kanya, Shiva Shakti, and Sitaladevi through various skill development sessions.



Key Highlights

Football Training

Weekly sessions with licensed coaches integrating teamwork, leadership, and communication.



Competitions

Inter/intra-school competition & Saturday gatherings.



Story Telling:

Promoting creativity and self-reflection.

Mentorship

Addressing time management, goal setting, and resilience for academic & personal growth.



5 Gender Equity and Social Action (GESA)

- a transformative community-based education initiative.

Through our Gender Equity Social Action (GESA) program, we equip adolescents with knowledge, skills, peer support and mentoring to challenge harmful gender norms.



The GESA program was launched in September 2024. With financial and technical support from the I Am Women Project (IAW), a 5-day 'Action for Equality' (AfE) Mentor Development Training Program was run for 28 participants. Using an experiential learning model of facilitation led by Pune-based NGO the Equal Community Foundation (ECF), we learned how to equip young people with the tools to bring about gender equity in families and communities.

Participants attending the training came from five NGOs (Karma Flights, Kopila Nepal, CWSN, GONESA, and UniCoN), as well as social work students from Pokhara University and Lake City College in Pokhara.

Currently we are rolling out the 15-session ECF AfE curriculum in rural communities of Kaski and Syangja districts for young people aged from 13 to 17 years of age.



The long term goal of our GESA program is to tackle the root causes of gender inequality by addressing power imbalances between genders, thereby challenging restrictive gender roles which damage both boys and girls.

UniCoN applauds IAW for this important collaboration. Together we are working to create impactful learning opportunities for marginalized groups which aligns with our vision of holistic and inclusive community empowerment.

6 Bio-diversity

UniCoN and Mitra Samaj Nepal partnered on USAID-Supported project to Advance Environmental Conservation in Pokhara.



5 Roundtable Discussion sessions were conducted in Pokhara, Syangja and Parbat, with a major focus on five key thematic areas related to eco-system health, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. These dialogues brought together diverse stakeholders, including local governments, civil society organizations, and community members, to discuss critical environmental challenges and to explore sustainable solutions.

Creative Writing Training for Local Journalists

UniCoN also organized a Creative Writing Training on Environmental Conservation for 20 local journalists in Pokhara. This training aimed to enhance the participants' skills in crafting impactful content to raise awareness about pressing environmental issues and advocate for sustainable practices.



Green Social Work (GSW)



UniCoN applies the GSW framework across all its programs and services, an innovative approach that integrates environmental and social justice. This framework addresses the interconnected challenges of climate change, inequality, and community well-being.

GSW highlights social workers' vital role in fostering resilience and promoting eco-friendly practices. By connecting environmental and social issues, GSW empowers our communities to co-create inclusive, sustainable solutions to climate challenges, ensuring that vulnerable populations, particularly women and marginalized groups, take the lead in climate action.

7 University Collaboration:

Field Education Opportunities

Since 2023, UniCoN has been offering valuable field education placements to social work students, both locally and internationally.

In 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Chloe Dhillon from La Trobe University, Australia, for a three-month field placement.
As part of La Trobes' International Social Work Stream, students can undertake placement in Nepal in order to learn more about the role of social workers in an international context.

Local Internships

UniCoN partnered with Lake City College and Research Center in Pokhara to offer internship opportunities to Bachelor Level social work students. This year, Ms. Martha Hitang and Mr. Basanta Karki were placed with UniCoN for three months, gaining hands-on experience in social work focused on education, women's empowerment, and livelihood support programs.



Mr. Basanta Karki


Ms. Martha Hitang

Following their internships, Martha and Basanta's contributions were recognized by UniCoN. Martha was appointed Project Officer for the Gender Equity and Social Action program, while Basanta took on the role of Field Coordinator for the Football4Future project.

We are happy to offer internship opportunities to more students in 2025, supporting their development into skilled social work professionals.



Ms. Chloe Dhillon
Bachelor of Social Work student
La Trobe University, Australia

INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT

In my time with UniCoN, I supported the creation of the Gender Equity and Social Action (GESA) program, which involved undertaking five days of training with many other wonderful NGOs and community workers from around Pokhara. Those who completed the training have been certified as GESA mentors, and it was wonderful to watch the transformation of their knowledge and skills into actionable programs.

I was also lucky enough to work alongside Australian volunteer Emily on the creation of a Green Social Work framework for UniCoN, which embeds the inherent connection between social and environmental issues as a key part of supporting communities.

As part of this project, we had the honour of co-chairing a workshop with Professor Lena Domienlli, the creator of Green Social Work, to educate a range of other NGO's and community service professionals.

One of the highlights of my placement was the opportunity to see the work of UniCoNs programs up close during a field visit to monitor programs in Ramkot Village. It gave me a better perspective of the importance of UniCoNs' work, and was a very special opportunity to connect, dance and share a meal with the community.

I want to especially thank the wonderful team at UniCoN for all of their support and wish next year's students the best of luck.

8 Community Exchange Program

Building Global Connections

UniCoN participated in community exchange programs in Vietnam, Indonesia, and USA, supported by the Community Solutions Program and the Community Engagement and Exchange Program that are part of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State.

UniCoN partnered with international fellows from those countries engaging in cross-cultural dialogue, sharing best practices, and exploring innovative solutions for community development. The programs provided invaluable insights into community engagement strategies, further strengthening UniCoN's mission to empower marginalized communities in Nepal.

The knowledge and connections gained will continue to contribute our ongoing efforts to drive positive change and development in the communities we serve.

Thank you to Mr. Hironimus Gesu (Indonesia), Ms. Ly Tran (Vietnam), Ms. Miruna Ranjan and Yoke (Singapore), Emily A. Fano and Justin Harris (USA), Rebecca Winthrop, Grace Cannon from the Brookings Institution (USA), and Cindy Eggleton, Director of Brilliant Detroit (USA), for your support in our exchange efforts.





Emily McDonnell
Social Worker, Australia

> I had a wonderful opportunity to volunteer at UniCoN for a month. I had many opportunities to gain insight, develop skills, to learn, listen and share.

In early October, I attended the Annual General Assembly meeting which was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the achievements, plan for the future and meet UniCoN board members, volunteers and other invited guests. It is clear that there is a dedicated team who are engaged, committed and persistent and each bring with them unique skills and expertise to their role.

After this, I had the wonderful opportunity to accompany UniCoN staff for an overnight community visit to Ramkot Village to partake in a focus group discussion. What I observed in particular was the strong rapport and connections the UniCoN volunteers had with the participants and I noted that the participants were not only engaged throughout the sessions but were eager to be involved in programs in the future.

I was a part of Green Social Work Forum where Professor Lena Dominelli, the founder of the Green Social Work theory, attended and shared her insights and offered guidance and direction.

I will always cherish the times I had sitting around the main table in the communal room, often looking around in discussions and seeing such passion, strength and optimism whether that be sharing insight, experiences and expertise, planning for new developments in programs or invited guests sharing their knowledge and advice.

I want to thank the UniCoN team and congratulate them on their success thus far and look forward to what is ahead. All the very best for 2025 and beyond.

Women Empowerment

The Success of the Eco-Bag Program



In 2023, UniCoN initiated an eco-friendly bag production training program for 27 mothers in Ramkot village. This small yet impactful initiative has now transformed into a sustainable livelihood opportunity for these women. After completing the 2-month training, the participants not only honed their skills but also took an important step forward by forming a registered micro-enterprise with the support of Fedikhola Rural Municipality. The municipality provided the group with 12 sewing machines to scale up their production. Today, these women are actively producing eco-bags and selling them in local markets in Pokhara, generating income to support their families.

What makes this initiative truly impactful is the way it seamlessly integrates with their daily lives. The women utilize their time efficiently, working in groups at the community learning center from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM while their children are at school.

UniCoN has been able to empower women with the means to be self-sufficient, reinforcing the belief that economic independence is a key driver of social change. This journey from training to entrepreneurship is a testament to what can be achieved when communities, organizations, and local authorities come together to support meaningful initiatives.

As we look ahead, we expect to expanding such programs, ensuring more women have access to opportunities that enhance their livelihoods and contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.

Note from our Supporter



Ms. Sheila Parro Garcia
Spain

"I went to Nepal 3 years ago and it was one of the best experiences of my life. The humility and warmth of its people, their philosophy of life and the hospitality and peace that is breathed is unmatched, apart from having amazing landscapes. I returned to Spain with a mixture of feelings but with the great luck of meeting the UniCoN team.

I was in contact with Deva and Binod, they told me about one of the projects they wanted to start in Phedikhola and I did not hesitate to collaborate by creating a crowdfunding.

3 years ago it was just ideas, now it's a reality and today the community uses that space to carry out workshops and other activities with women and children.
I am very proud all of them and all the work done and it makes me very happy that they continue to grow.

I hope to return soon to see it with my own eyes and continue collaborating.
Congratulations everyone!"

Insights from an Airport Professional



Mr. Surya Bahadur Khatri
Manager
CAAN
Pokhara International Airport

"On my 26 years of career in the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, I had the opportunity to serve at 13 airports, including international, STOL, and hub airports. I always wondered why aviation was not included in the school curriculum, despite its immense potential to offer individuals career opportunities and contribute to the country's identity in the global aviation sector.

I am very happy that UniCoN has launched an aviation education program, providing valuable insights into the golden opportunities and future prospects within Nepal's aviation industry. This initiative has effectively raised awareness about the sector. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the UniCoN family for giving me the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences in aviation.

The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Safety and security first—always the top priority."

Before I joined the Aviation Education program, I only thought about becoming an air hostess. But after visiting Pokhara International Airport, I realized there are so many jobs in aviation I never knew about. It made me see how wide the aviation field really is, and now I'm even more excited to explore the different careers in it. I feel like there's so much more for me to learn.



Suchana Magar, Grade 8

"I used to think football was only for boys, but now I am representing my school in tournaments. When I first joined, I was nervous. I had never played football before, and I was scared people would laugh at me. But with the support of the Football4Future project, I gained confidence. Now, I feel powerful on the field. Football has taught me that I'm stronger than I ever imagined. Thanks to Football4Future, I play without fear."



Tirtha Tamang, Grade 9

GOALS FOR 2025

Our goals for the upcoming year reflect our vision to expand impactful initiatives, strengthen community resilience, and create opportunities for growth and empowerment

Expand Access to Community-Based Education by establishing three new community learning centers benefit 200 more students

Strengthen STEM and E-STEM Education by facilitating hands-on STEM activities, weekly sessions, and competitions to inspire interest in STEM careers, especially among girls.

Empower Women and Girls by providing skill-based livelihood training to 100 women.

Gender Equity and Social Action

Deliver digital literacy and cybersecurity workshops in five rural municipalities, helping bridge the digital gender gap and equip participants with critical online safety skills.



Advance Environmental Conservation Efforts Host community workshops on Green Social Work to raise awareness about climate change and mobilize local action.

Grow the **Football4Future program** to reach 5 additional schools, empowering 300 more students through football skill development, life skills training, and gender equality advocacy.

Enhance Organizational Capacity and Partnerships: Strengthen partnerships with local governments, private organizations, and international stakeholders.

Improve Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems to ensure transparency and measurable impact.

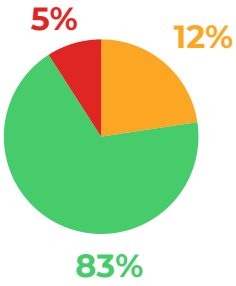
FINANCIAL STATUS 2024

Total Income: $64,459.01

Administrative Expenses

Human Resource Expenses

Program Expenses



BUDGET PLAN-2025

Total Budget: $1,50,935.00

Funding Status of the Projects:

Secured Fund
Required Fund

Community Learning Program



Digital Exposure, Aviation & STEM Education



Women Economic Empowerment



Sports for Development



Gender Equity and Social Action



Eco-conscious Activities





For 2025, we are still facing a shortfall of 37.50%. We are actively seeking your support to bridge this gap and make our project a complete success.

OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

गण्डकी प्रदेश सरकार
सामाजिक विकास, युवा तथा खेलकुद मन्त्रालय
गण्डकी प्रदेश, पोखरा, नेपाल

Ms. Sheila Parro Garcia, Spain

We are grateful to our Expert Advisors

for contributing
their expertise, insights, and guidance throughout the year which has strengthened our initiatives, enhanced our impact, and empowered the communities we serve.

- **Dr. Tammera L. Holmes**, Founder/CEO, AeroStar Avion Institute, USA
- **Ms. Annie Townsend**, Social Work Practitioner, La Trobe University, Australia. Director of the I Am Women Project
- **Ms. Deva Fernandez**, Social Work Expert/Advisor, Spain
- **Mr. Debendra KC**, Former Deputy Director General, Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal
- **Mr. Gehendra B. Gurung**, Climate and Disaster Resilience Professional
- **Dr. Bhawana Pokharel**, Asst. Professor at PN Campus (TU), Pokhara
- **Dr. Norimichi Toyomane**, **Ms. Yoko Komatsubara**, and **Ms. Michiko Tsurumine**, Development Experts of Japan

Thank you

"Bringing Women, Children, Communities, Culture & Innovations Together for a Brighter Tomorrow."

977-61-590090 977-9856071501

info@unitedcommunitynepal.org OR
unitedcommunitynepal@gmail.com

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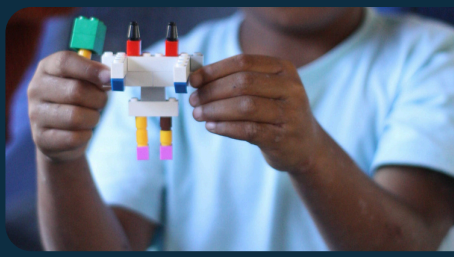
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