

Annual Review 2022

Current Projects & Future Plans







WHO WE ARE?

United Community Nepal (UniCoN), is a non-government, not-for-profit social justice organization, founded in March 2022. We are registered with the Nepal Government, District Administration Office in Kaski District, and we are affiliated with the Social Welfare Council in Kathmandu.







UniCoN is a unique organization which BRINGS WOMEN, CHILDREN, COMMUNITY & INNOVATION TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

OUR STAFF AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

We have a capable, young team of 10 staff. We also have an Executive Board of 7 members. 80% of our staff and board members are female and represent various castes, cultures, and religions. Not only do our staff and executive board come from the communities where UniCoN works, they also have a strong legacy of working in Nepal's humanitarian and development sectors.

HOW DO WE MEET THE SUSTAINABLE GOALS?

We meet the Sustainable Development Goals #3 Good Health & Wellbeing: #4 Quality Education and #5 Gender Equality. We do this by providing learning opportunities and resources to marginalized women, young girls, and children. Specifically, we lead **Community Education Projects** which promote gender equality, social mobility and strengthen wellness in families and communities. We are on track to supporting 10,000 people by 2030.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

Since our opening in 2022, we have hit the ground running! We started by leading some valuable research on community needs. This analysis has informed our **Thematic Interventions and Strategic Priorities.** To achieve our priorities, we have established a **Community Education Program** with several projects. Our **After School Support Project** is fast becoming an impactful, grassroots, community endeavor. We have also made huge strides in sourcing a building for the **Shree Ganesh Basic School Project.** We have completed a moving video documentary and led fundraising campaigns which are focused on rallying support for the project. We are excited to continue to invest in these projects and others over the next five years from 2023 to 2027.

Our Community Program Overview

So far, we have established four projects

- After School Support Project
- Aviation and STEM Education
- Community Computer Literacy Project
- Shree Ganesh Basic School Project

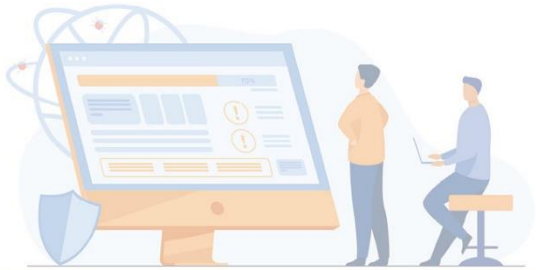
Where we work

- Pokhara, Kaski
- Fedikhola, Syangja
- Likhu Okhaldhunga
- Rupendehi
- Kapilbastu
- Kailali



Our beneficiaries/Stakeholders

- Women of all ages
- Children 3-15
- Youth 16-30
- Public schools
- Community centers
- CBOs, Health Centers
- Airport, Airlines
- Government agencies



Our thematic interventions & strategic priorities

- **Educate -** Increase access to learning, through community-based education
- **Advocate** for Unity and lead gender equality and social inclusion initiatives
- **Expose** Provide opportunities for youth and in particular young girls to be exposed to the digital world, STEM and Aviation
- **Empower** Provide life skills in formal and non-formal settings to empower women and young girls from marginalized communities and increase their health and wellness.

A Snapshot of our Community Education Programs:

After School

1. After-School Support Project

Goal: To promote healthy child development in marginalized communities

The After-School Project aims to provide learning support for children living in Pokhara's slum areas.

It is often the case for these children, that, due to daily work commitments, parents are unable to provide care for children after school. Even when parents can be there, they often do not have the literacy skills to support and share in their children's learning.

UniCoN is contributing to family life and supporting child development by providing after school activities such as- English skills, basic health care skills and healthy leisure alternatives. We also provide extra-curricular activities in the arts, music and sports.

Already, **UniCoN** is supporting 109 children (3 - 15 years) in four slum communities. We will continue to resource another seven communities. We are looking forward to working with new donors to make this vision a reality.

The monthly budget for one community is $235.



WHAT IS A TYPICAL AFTERNOON LIKE IN OUR AFTER-SCHOOL SUPPORT PROJECTS?

In a typical afternoon, there is a lot of business and children are flourishing. We provide:

Extracurricular activities: Our tutors work with children and provide a range of interactive and participatory activities such as leisure activities. This includes drawing, handicrafts and dancing. We show children how to take care of the environment in a caring and mindful way.



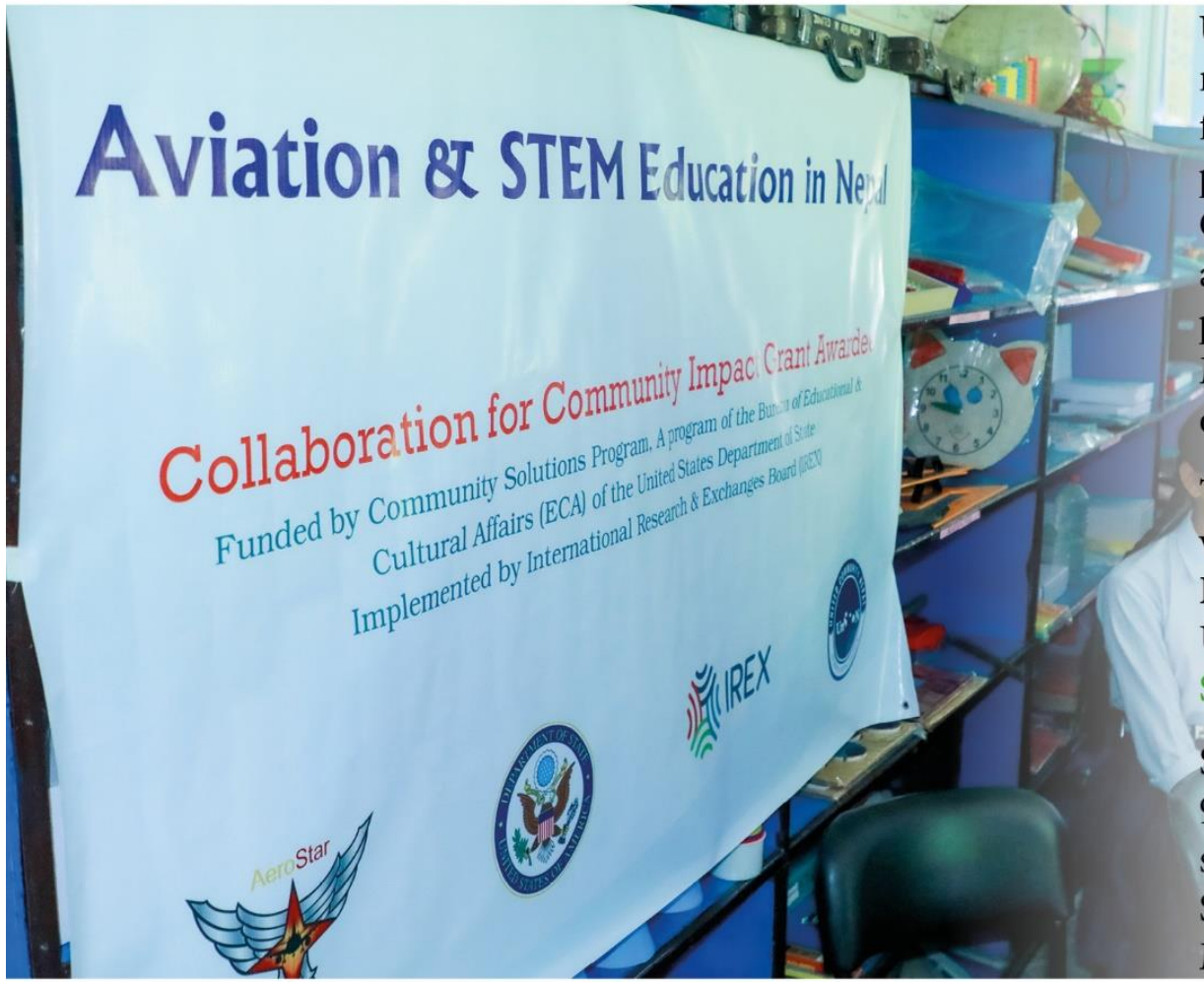
Time with parents and carers: Our volunteers facilitate awareness session with parents. We discuss topics such as the importance of attending school and how to motivate children's learning at home. We also distribute school materials like books, writing utensils and bags to families in need.

Basic hygienic workshops: We mobilize a professional nurse to interact with the children and talk with them on a variety of health topics.

Results: **UniCoN** has recently surveyed tutors, school-teachers and families and asked for their feedback. Results indicate our project is making a real impact on children's social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development. The project also helps to reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe and supportive environment for children. Children told us they feel more confident when they learn and they are reaching personal milestones in their reading, writing, speaking, and interacting with others. Families also tell us they have a better awareness of the importance of regular attendance at school.

2. Aviation and STEM Education

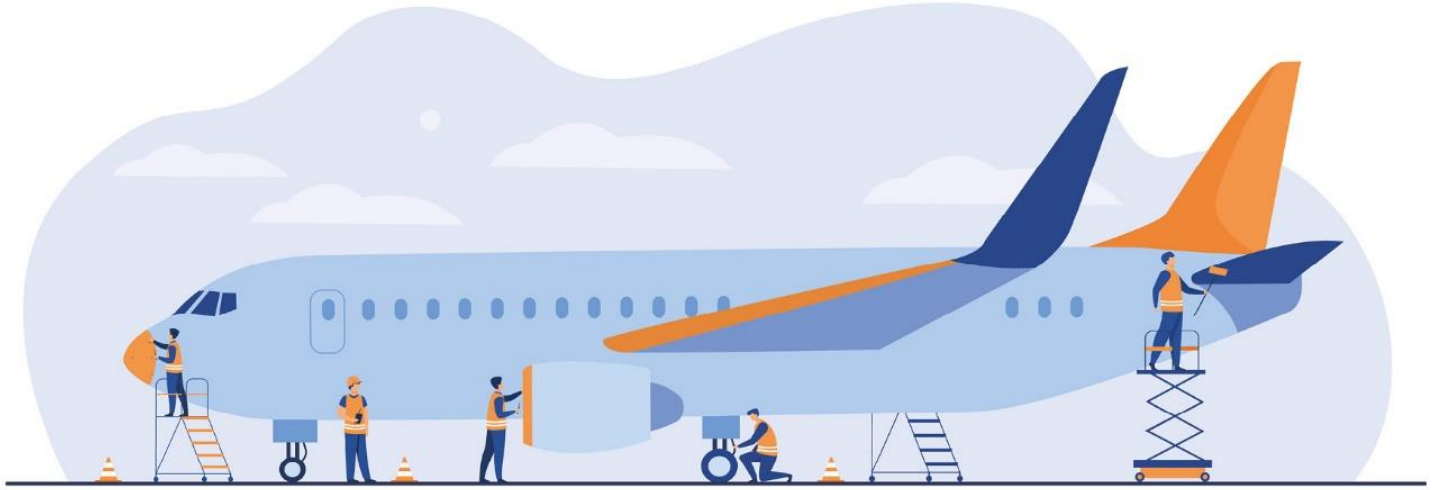
Goal: to inspire youth and in particular young girls to undertake an aviation career



UniCoN recognizes the global need for a more robust and diverse aviation workforce for the future. To achieve this vision we have been partnering with the **AeroStar Avion Institute** in Chicago, the **Pokhara International Airport,** and the **Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal** to provide Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and aviation career orientation sessions at public schools.

The work we are doing is a testament to the vision and commitment of the **International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)**, the US State Department, and the **Community Solutions Program**.

So far, we have facilitated productive sessions to 93 students from Grades 9 and 10 at two public schools- Shree Machhapuchhre and Barah Secondary Schools in Machhapuchhre Rural Municipality.



What are our next steps?

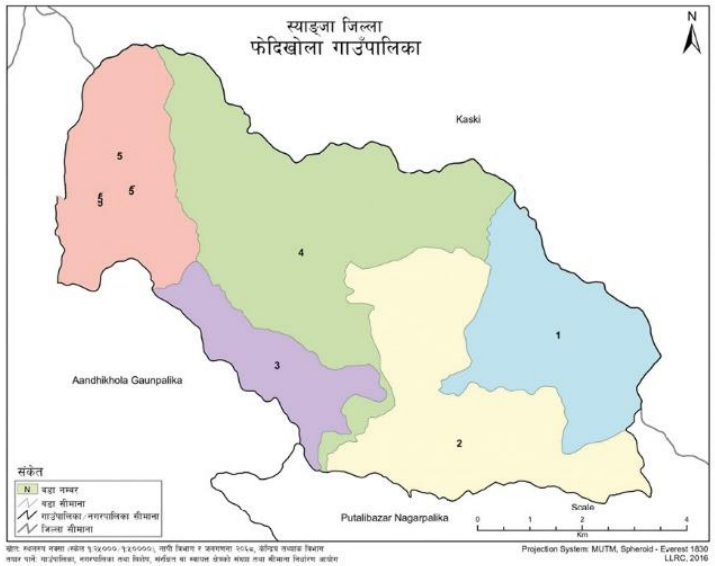
We will be facilitating workforce development sessions for women and girls to demonstrate the vast array of opportunities that that comes with pursuing an aviation career. UniCoN recognizes that Pokhara's new international airport will be one of the largest employment services of young people, getting young people of today ready for an exciting future.



3. Community Computer Literacy Project (CCLP)



Goal: to contribute to reducing the digital gap between rural and urban areas among women and children.



CCLP project works with people from rural and disadvantaged communities. We offer free access to computer education to help individuals to understand how technology works, and how best to harness its potential to improve lives. The benefits of computer literacy education extend beyond just economic motivations. Given the increasing integration of technology into many aspects of daily life in the 21st century, a functional knowledge of how computers work—beyond the simple use of applications—will help everyone. So far, 350 women and children of Sakura Tole and Salme, Ward 1 of Phedikhola Rural Municipality, are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Our donor support: UniCoN would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to **Sheila Parro Garcia** for leading a crowdfunding campaign and to Lakshyam NGO for their contributions.

Our venue: Not only have we sourced a building, but we are now renovating the building to become a functional, comfortable, and inviting learning space for the CCLP programs. We will also offer after-school support, and other workshops from this space in 2023.







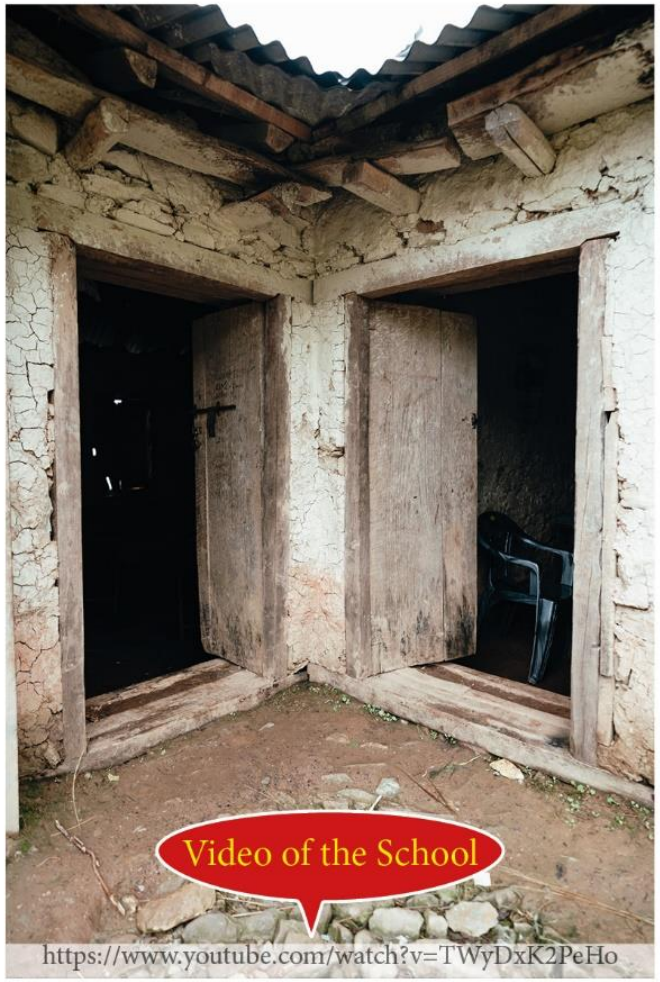
Community Learning Space at Fedikhola, Syangja

4. Shree Ganesh Basic School Project

Goal: to provide good quality access to basic education for marginalised children living in rural areas.

The Shree Ganesh Basic School building is very old and dangerously close to collapsing with roof issues, deteriorating walls, slippery floors, and poor hinging of doors. There is no electricity in the classrooms and natural light is very poor because windows are obstructed. Classes are flooded and full of humidity during the rainy seasons and are cold during the winter. Parents and school administrators are worried that such a structure could put children's health and safety at risk and cause an unanticipated catastrophe. Additionally, such setting is aesthetically demotivating for kids to learn without proper furniture, decoration, and materials to create a child-friendly space. There is not a clean, safe, or lively environment for children to pursue their education.





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWyDxK2PeHo





Our aim: **UniCoN** is working towards saving this school. We will reinforce the school structure and build an extra ward to allocate other grades and provide additional learning facilities.

Our expectations: We anticipate that every year, 70-100 children of ECD-5 will directly benefit from the project. The project is located in a remote rural area called Mojuwa in Likhu Rural Municipality in Okhaldunga district.

Our donor support: We aim to complete this project through fundraising activities.

Our activities: Our team have approached the community to assess their needs and this is informing our plan for the next two years. In September 2022, with the support of the professional movie maker and photographer **Diego Simón**, we have made a documentary to attract donations and support for this important and grassroots project.



Exciting New Directions For UniCoN For 2023

1. **Women on Wings-** This project aims to create employment for women in rural Nepal by using a network of financial experts to advise women-led social enterprises on how to grow their businesses, advocate for financial independence and property rights. UniCon will support 200 female young entrepreneurs from Pokhara and Butwal in growing and sustaining their businesses. We believe if you invest in women, you invest in the family and the community. If a woman has her own income, she spends it on the children, on education and food. With a job and an income, everyone benefits!

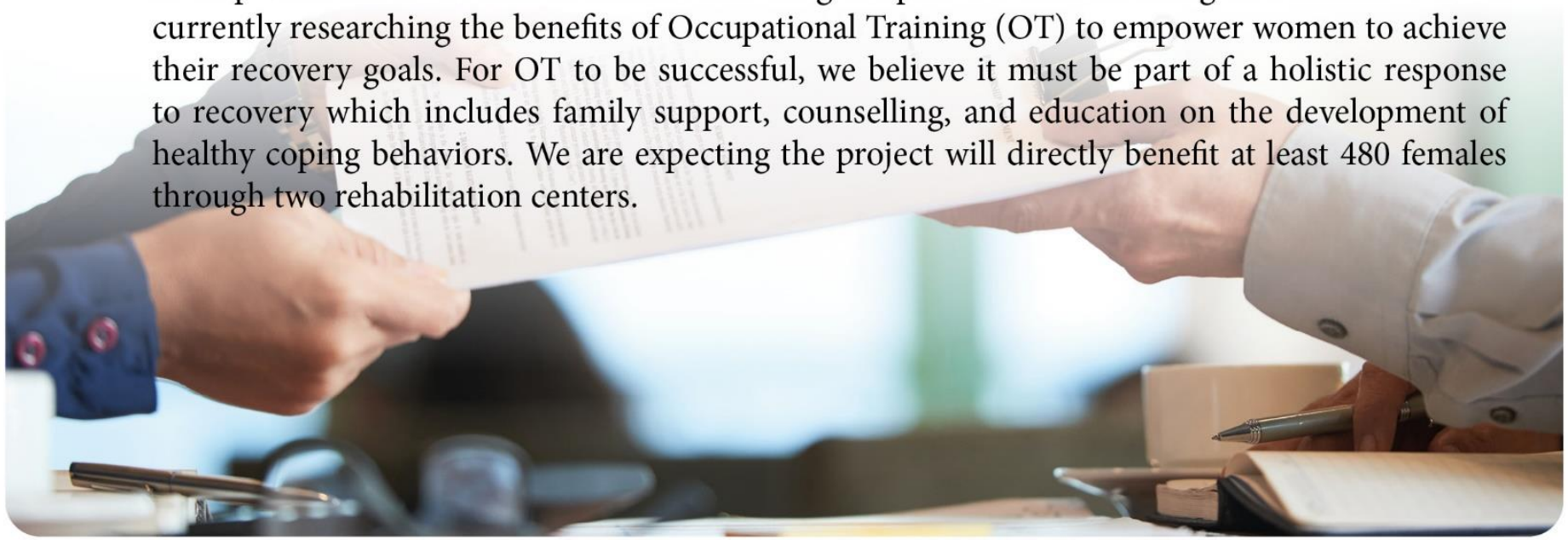
2. **Soar Into STEM- Wings of Hope-** There is enormous potential in strengthening the existing STEM curriculum in Nepal schools and universities to pave the way for the future of women and girls in STEM and to meet the demands of the future in Nepal's aviation industry.

Through our STEM and Aviation interdisciplinary workshops, training, and resources, UniCoN aims to challenge Nepal's existing stereotypes about STEM and open the doors for at least 2500 youth especially women and girls to work in the aviation industry.

3. CHANCE for A CHANGE- Recovering from a dependence on alcohol or another drug is a process that can take time. A relapse (or multiple relapses) is one part of recovering from alcohol and other drug dependence and can often be a feature of the recovery.

Many things can lead a person to relapse. There's a strong connection between dependent alcohol or other drug use and personal challenges. These can cause problems at work or home, ongoing emotional and psychological issues, and social or economic problems such as financial hardship, rejection by social support networks and challenges in personal relationships.

UniCoN is working to establish a program which will provide a model of hope and change to help with the reduction of alcohol and drug relapses for women living in Pokhara. We are currently researching the benefits of Occupational Training (OT) to empower women to achieve their recovery goals. For OT to be successful, we believe it must be part of a holistic response to recovery which includes family support, counselling, and education on the development of healthy coping behaviors. We are expecting the project will directly benefit at least 480 females through two rehabilitation centers.



5. EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN CHIRTUNG



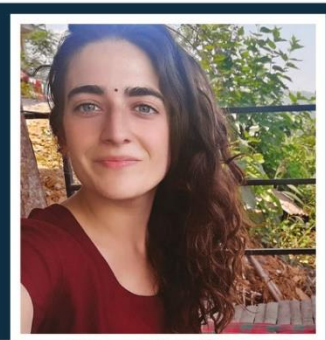
We worked alongside Chirtung village in Syangja and provided the financial resources to repair a pipeline and water tank which had been destroyed by a landslide in 2022. Our work has ensured the community of 217 people now have access to a healthy water supply. Our endeavors have helped to reduce the risk of water borne diseases in the community.

Our aim is to continue to fund raise to reach our goal of $2500 so we can complete the final stage of the project before the next rainy season.

Feel free to contact us if you would like to contribute to this important project.



Some Thoughts From Our Supporters



Deva Fernández González

"During the year 2022, I have been collaborating with UniCoN in technical areas such as proposal writing, fundraising, social media and volunteer coordination. It has been a wonderful time of knowledge exchange. I have learned about many technical aspects of Nepal's NGO system by the hand of great professionals and people. I really appreciate that each project is community based and focused on the specific necessities of the beneficiaries. Small and humble actions full of work and dedication for the well-being and development of Nepalese vulnerable groups."

"**AeroStar Avion Institute** has been privileged to partner with **UniCoN** on a special project, Aviation & STEM Education, through IREX, the Community Solutions Program, and the US Department of State. Our goal is to introduce young girls and women to STEM and aviation careers. This is just the beginning, therefore I urge you all to find a way to support **UniCoN** and collaborate with them, as well as to get involved in the development and expansion of underprivileged communities in order to aid in their transformation."



Tammera L. Holmes, CEO

"**Social Work International Nepal (SWIN)** works with universities across Australia and coordinates International Field Education for Master of Social Work Students. Over the coming years, **UniCoN** will host small groups of social work students from Australia. Students work closely with **UniCoN** staff and volunteers over a three-month period. They will work in the Community Education Program, facilitating workshops and awareness raising sessions for community members as well as undertaking, research and evaluation projects."

We would like to express our gratitude to our wonderful donors, partners supporters and stakeholders.

We appreciate your invaluable contributions.

- AeroStar Avion Institute, Chicago USA
- Sheila Parro Garcia from Spain
- People of Japan - Dr. Norimichi Toyomane, Michiko Tsurumine, Yoko Komatsubara
- Maxity.io
- IREX, Community Solutions Program, US Department of State
- BOSCH Primavera, Germany
- Engage Nepal with Science
- Lakshyam, India
- Public Development Concern Center (PDCC) - Okhaldhunga
- Local Government - Pokhara Metropolitan City, Machhapuchhre & Fedikhola Rural Municipalities
- Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal & Pokhara International Airport
- The Last Resort, Bungy Nepal
- Amrullah Amir, Pokhara
- Ms. Annie Townsend, LATROBE University, Australia
- Sheila, Borja, Ariadna, Claudia as Fedikhola's Community Sponsors

Thank You! for making a difference.

We'll keep you up to date on our progress and achievements. Please feel to reach out to us if have any suggestions, ideas, or questions for us?
We love to hear from you!



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