



Year 2023 in review

Looking ahead to

2024



United Community Nepal (UniCoN)

 info@unitedcommunitynepal.org  977-61-590090

 Zero K.M., Pokhara-5, Kaski, Nepal  www.unitedcommunitynepal.org

CONTENTS



- Who we are? 04
- Our Strategic Priorities 05
- Where we work? Our target groups... 06
- Cross-cutting impacts - Micro, Meso, & Macro levels 07
- Programs 2023 & 2024 08
- Community Learning Program 09
- Aviation & STEM Education 10
- Digital Literacy & Cyber Security 13
- Women’s Economic Empowerment 14
- Disaster Response 15
- Eco-conscious Activities... 16
- Partnering with La Trobe University Australia 17
- In their own words... 18
- Winner-2023 Pratt & Whitney Global E-STEM Awards 20
- How can you collaborate? 21
- Partnerships 23



*We are young,
we are professional
&
we love what we do!*





MESSAGE to our readers ...

Dear Well-Wishers,

The year 2023 was truly incredible and remarkable for us. Understanding the unique challenges and opportunities in diverse communities, we successfully executed meaningful programs and provided powerful services to those in need, reaching 1767 people across Syangja, Kaski, Okhaldhunga, and Jajarkot in Gandaki, Koshi, and Karnali Provinces.

We made history by establishing the 'Aviation Education' project for the first time in Nepal, which was one of the milestones in our journey. Recognizing our efforts and accomplishments, it was further authorized when we received the 2023 Pratt and Whitney Global E-STEM Award, which fueled our commitment. Our accomplishments were recognized both locally and globally.

We tried our best to foster community engagement, promote resilience, and provide resources and opportunities to our communities' most vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and persons with disabilities, contributing to the achievement of various Sustainable Development Goals.

Looking ahead to 2024, I am filled with optimism for the continued impact we will create together. We will continue and expand our ongoing programs. Our strategic priorities will guide us toward a brighter and more sustainable future, uniting people and engaging communities for development.

On behalf of UniCoN, I extend my deepest gratitude to each one of you—our partners, beneficiaries, stakeholders, volunteers, and supporters. You have been the pillars of support in our mission. Your commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in our successes, and we are excited about the journey ahead.

Thank you for being an integral part of our family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Binod Neupane'.

Binod Neupane
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

To make a meaningful impact in the lives of disadvantaged and stigmatized women and children by increasing access to healthcare, civil rights advocacy, quality education, and employment opportunities.



MISSION

To strengthen our community's most disadvantaged and underserved populations (women & children) through powerful programming that brings culture and innovation together to enrich learning opportunities creating a brighter tomorrow.



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.



WHAT ARE OUR CORE BELIEFS?

Participatory community engagement leads to long-term successful outcomes.

Community engagement is primarily part of a dialogue where we can create social capital by making decisions alongside communities we work with

WE BELIEVE

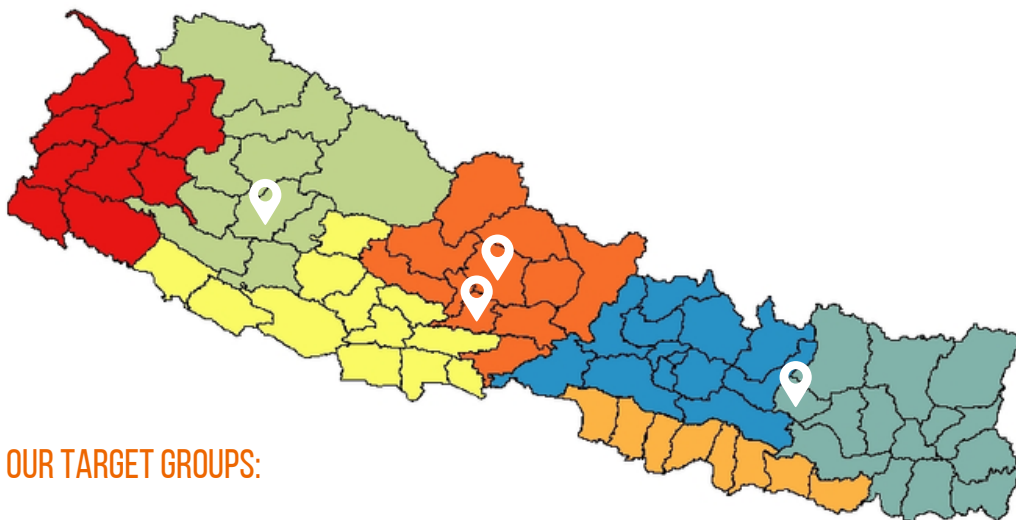
Meaningful, inclusive community engagement is critical to community health and well-being.

A holistic and trauma informed approach is instrumental in building trusting, healthy, and safe relationships with the communities we work with.



WHERE WE WORK?

Currently, we operate in four districts (Kaski, Syangja, Okhaldhunga, and Jajarkot) within Gandaki, Koshi, and Karnali Provinces of Nepal.



OUR TARGET GROUPS:

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

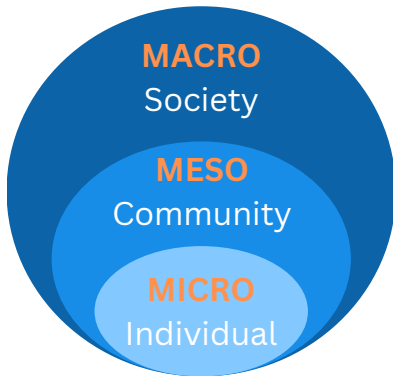
We prioritize three population groups:

Women & Girls, Children & Youth, and Persons with Disabilities.

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



CROSS-CUTTING IMPACTS AT MICRO, MESO, & MACRO LEVEL



beyond the community contributing to the broader societal development

community engagement, fostering a shared commitment to sustainability.

individuals within the community experience changes in their daily lives and perspectives.

Community Empowerment	Our holistic approach empowers individuals at the <i>micro-level</i> and fosters community participation at the <i>meso-level</i> , addressing education, economics, & the environment concurrently.
Resilience Building	Integrating disaster response, education, and economic empowerment enhances community resilience, influencing both <i>meso</i> and <i>macro levels</i> .
Gender Equality	Efforts in women's economic empowerment, education, and community engagement address gender equality at the <i>micro</i> and <i>meso levels</i> , contributing to societal change at the <i>macro level</i> .
Innovation & Career Pathways	Introduction of STEM and Aviation Education impacts individuals at the <i>micro-level</i> , but the diversification of economic opportunities has <i>meso</i> and <i>macro-level</i> implications.
Digital Resilience	The Digital Literacy and Cyber Security program impacts individuals at the <i>micro-level</i> , but the broader access to resources and information affects the community at the <i>meso-level</i> .
Environmental Stewardship	Activities and education on environmental stewardship impact individuals and communities at the <i>micro</i> and <i>meso levels</i> , fostering a long-term commitment to sustainability.
Empowering Sustainable Communities	Our commitment to providing tools and resources for sustainable development addresses all levels, emphasizing long-term resilience and inclusivity.

IN 2023

WE WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT

1767 women and children directly benefited

3208 indirectly benefited

3 public schools

5 communities

2024

WE PLAN TO SUPPORT

at least **2500** women and children will be benefited

2 In two more districts: Kailali and Rupendehi

8 new public schools

7 more communities

Through our diverse programs, we contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





OUR PROGRAMS 2023/024

1 Community Learning Program

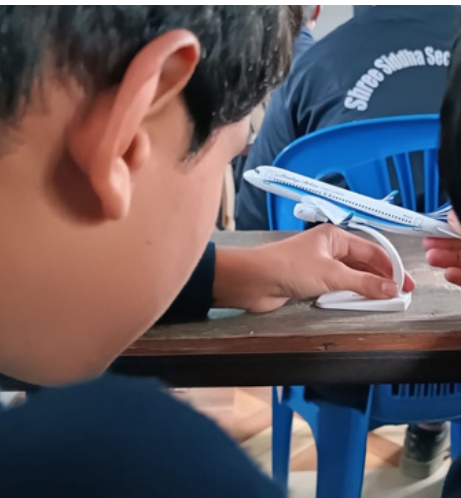
Increase access to learning (both formal and non-formal settings) through community based education.



Our 3 community learning centers in Kaski and Syangja provide before-after school sessions for 145 children. Focused on holistic child development, the initiative includes arts, music, dance, sports, and extracurricular activities, along with homework and learning support.



2 Aviation and STEM Education








A ground-breaking project since 2022 to introduce ‘Aviation and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education’ for the first time in Nepal. This program aims to inspire and educate the younger generation in these fields emphasizing new opportunities and career paths.

We are implementing this program with financial and technical support from the Aerostar Avion Institute, USA, replicating their successful and proven model. Currently, the project is focused on secondary-level students (grades 8 and 9) at Shree Siddha and Kalika Secondary School in Pokhara, with approvals from both the Pokhara Metropolitan Office and Kaski Education Offices. We appreciate the collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority of Pokhara and Pokhara International Airport in implementing this initiative.

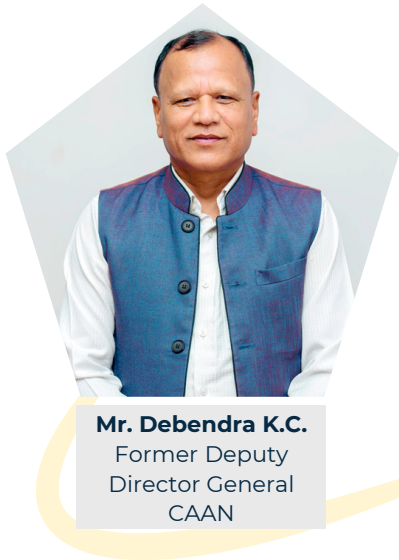
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Program started: June 2023

-  After-school sessions: Thursdays and Fridays, catering to 60 students
-  Project orientation for 445 students (grades 8 and 9), involving school management committees, ward representatives, parent-teacher associations, and teachers
-  Comprehensive curriculum developed for effective aviation education delivery
-  Exposure visit to Pokhara International Airport for 60 students
-  Positive response from everyone involved; the project is praised by all stakeholders.

OUR RESOURCE PERSON & EXPERT FACILITATOR SAYS...



Mr. Debendra K.C.
Former Deputy
Director General
CAAN

"Life is a journey with different roles. After 34 years of my service to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), I retired as a General Manager at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. After my retirement I was looking for the opportunity to share the knowledge and experiences and fortunately, I was introduced to the young and energetic team of UniCoN where our passion and vision met. Together, we initiated Nepal's first Aviation Education project for high school students in Pokhara, fostering collaboration for such a promising educational subject."

Future: the next chapter

Expanding the program to four additional schools in Kaski. The invaluable support from Aerostar Avion USA for the initial phase has been crucial. To ensure sustained success, we are actively seeking government support.



3 Digital Literacy & Cyber Security

Educating communities about digital literacy, proper use of digital devices, cybersecurity to ensure safe and secure online practices.

Our learning center, now equipped with internet access, has empowered 178 individuals—children, youth, and mothers—to navigate the digital world, access online education and employment opportunities, and connect globally.

We conducted sessions on internet usage and cyber security with the support from the Nepal U.S. Alumni Network (NUSAN) and the U.S. Embassy Nepal.



4 Women's Economic Empowerment



Empowering young mothers by providing necessary skills and vocational training, we aim to enhance their economic independence to promote sustainable livelihoods within the community.

A two-month skill-building training program in eco-friendly bag production was conducted for 27 mothers who had dropped out of schools or colleges. This sustainable endeavor not only enhances their skills but also contributes to their livelihoods. The project receives crucial support from Hope4Children, Switzerland.



5 Disaster Response

In response to natural disasters, UniCoN swiftly provides humanitarian assistance, offering immediate relief to affected communities. Actively involved in post-disaster recovery, UniCoN focuses on rebuilding schools in Okhaldhunga and Jajarkot, embodying a commitment to not just reconstruction but to fostering resilience and a brighter future for these communities.

Aftermath of the earthquake 2023

626 schools were damaged, including **1,818** classrooms.

Around **125,209** school-age children, of whom **49%** are girls, are directly affected.

153 people died, with **78** of them being children.

About **62,000** homes were affected, and **250,000** people are in urgent need.

Source: As of 16 November 2023, UN, Nepal



Photos credit: Online Source



6 Eco-conscious Activities ...

UniCoN champions eco-conscious activities and environmental education through engaging workshops in schools. These sessions delve into crucial topics like conservation, sustainable practices, and environmental awareness.



Partnering with La Trobe University Australia

From September 2023 UniCoN hosted Master of social work students from La Trobe University Australia. Over a three-month period, the students- Zoe, Chelsea and Zaf, completed a range of tasks that gave them important insights into the practice of social work in Nepal.



Highlights included facilitating a series of community consultations over three days in Ramkot; running scenario based group work for university students from Lake City and Pokhara Universities and contributing to donor applications and program proposals.

Annie Townsend, the academic supervisor for students said three month placement experiences not only provide some excellent practice into doing social work in Nepal, but also some important cross cultural experiences- *“Students and UniCoN staff have a wonderful opportunity to learn about the dynamic and complex nature of culture. This means a placement experience is exciting for everyone- not just the students!*



For a placement to be successful, students require regular support from a task supervisor. La Trobe University greatly appreciates the support from Binod. Binod welcomed the students to UniNoN, shaped and designed some wonderful learning opportunities for them and made himself available for questions and engaging conversations.

We are all looking forward to working together again in the coming years.”

In their own words ...

"Throughout our placement, we have been exposed to a variety of different programs. UniCoN's focus on empowerment through education was evident and aligned well with our own social work values. We attended the project activities that enabled us to connect theory with practice.



Zoe, Zaf & Chelsea

At the conclusion of our placement, we are leaving Nepal with new knowledge and skills. This placement was incredibly meaningful to us, and we are returning home more confident in our ability to do this sort of work. We know about building rapport and connection in a cross-cultural context and will treasure the connections we have made.

Our sincerest thanks to UniCoN and the team. Until next time!"

...we can recommend support for UniCoN

"The association HOPE-Hoffnung für Kinder in Nepal (HOPE4children) carries out its own aid projects and supports other institutions if their activities convince us and correspond to the purpose of our association. We have therefore supported a women's empowerment project in Nepal for the benefit of UniCoN for the following reasons:

- **Meaningful Project Goal:** *The training brings real added value for the women. It enables them to earn an income, promotes their independence and thus gives them a fair chance of a future without poverty.*
- *UniCoN is transparent in its communication, reporting and allocation of donations.*
- *The Board of Directors and the operational management are staffed with reliable and well-trained people.*

I was able to see for myself on site the competence of the people involved and the implementation of the ideas.

We can recommend support for UniCoN."



Barbara Roniger

President
HOPE-Hoffnung für
Kinder in Nepal

"I got a chance to be a part of the eco-friendly bag-production training at our village. This was great because we were able to learn and make 10-bag items. The practical sessions with expert guidance, made it fun and educational.

This program not only helped me to become creative and skillful but also united our mothers. We worked together, shared ideas, and all helped each other in making these bags.

I want to say a big thank you to UniCoN for giving me this chance to learn and grow. Now, I have a new skill that I can use to support my livelihood. I appreciate the opportunity a lot."



Saraswoti Kaucha Magar
Ramkot, Fedikhola-1, Syangja



Shristi Nepali
Grade 9

Kalika Sec. School
Pokhara-10, Kaski

As a part of our Aviation program, We are the student of from Kalika secondary school had the incredible opportunity to visit the Pokhara International Airport. The airport tour, the inspiring and insightful briefing by the Airport General manager Mr. Deo Chandra Lal Karnal, Mrs. Jasoda Subedi and traffic controller Mrs. Semma Wagle and the encouragement and motivation from airport personnel fueled our dreams. This was a eye-opening experience that ignited our passion. We carry these aspirations with them, fueling our journey towards a future in aviation. They gives us a grand opportunity for that "A heart felt thank you. We will remember that for our whole life. We learn many new things



“Winner of the 2023 Pratt & Whitney Global E-STEM Awards”



UniCoN was selected by Pratt & Whitney and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) as a winner of the 2023 Pratt and Whitney Global E-STEM Awards. This recognition, accompanied by a generous grant of \$15,000, underscores UniCoN's exceptional dedication to advancing environmental science, technology, engineering, and math (E-STEM) education for underrepresented students aged 11–22.

The award not only serves as a testament to our commitment to educational excellence but also as an inspiration to continue empowering students from diverse backgrounds. UniCoN expresses sincere gratitude to Pratt & Whitney and NAAEE for this esteemed honor, and we eagerly anticipate furthering our impact in E-STEM education. This achievement solidifies our position as a leader in fostering inclusive educational initiatives that contribute to a brighter future for all.

HOW CAN YOU COLLABORATE?



Do you have an IDEA?

We can assist you to organize and coordinate fundraising campaigns according to the concrete necessities detected by our team.

Volunteer with us

Contact us to know about the volunteer opportunities and inform us about your skills and interests.

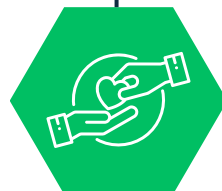


Partnership

We strongly believe that united we achieve more. We are looking for other I/NGO's with similar vision to collaborate with us!

Donate

We will be happy to receive your kind donations that will be entirely destined to our projects. Check our website for more details.



We love to hear from you  *Thank you!*

PARTNERSHIPS

We were able to collaborate with and we hope to continue ...



Pokhara Metropolitan City
Pokhara, Kaski



Fedikhola Rural Municipality
Syangja



Likhu Rural Municipality
Okhaldhunga



Pokhara University
Pokhara



Lake City College &
Research Centre, Pokhara



Kalika Secondary School
Pokhara



Siddha Secondary
School, Pokhara



Civil Aviation Authority
of Nepal & International
Airport, Pokhara, Nepal

Our wonderful partners and supporters ...



Sheila and the
Company, Spain
and
Friends of Japan,
Japan





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

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UNITED COMMUNITY NEPAL
Terminal : 2222410010502770
Address : Pokhara Lekhnath MP



"EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: A
HOLISTIC APPROACH TO EDUCATION,
UNITY, AND INCLUSION"