



PARTNERS
FOR SHARED
PROSPERITY
IN NEPAL

dZi FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

JULY 1ST, 2023 - JUNE 30TH, 2024



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DEAR PARTNERS,

As we reflect on dZi's 2023-2024 journey, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the transformative impact we've achieved together in rural Nepal. This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration, resilience, and community-driven development.

To the communities of Khotang, Bhojpur, and Solukhumbu: your determination and active participation have driven our success. From farmers embracing sustainable practices to students thriving in improved learning environments, you inspire us daily. Your engagement has turned plans into reality, creating lasting change.

To our government and non-government partners: your expertise has been invaluable, ensuring our initiatives are locally rooted and impactful. We appreciate the local government entities across our working rural municipalities. Your collaboration has aligned our projects with local needs, enabling significant progress in infrastructure, education, and livelihoods.

To our supporters: none of this would be possible without your dedication and commitment. Your generosity has transformed lives in tangible ways.

Our work is far from over. Climate change poses unprecedented challenges, particularly to our farming communities. And we're inspired by our farmers' resilience and our team's innovative responses.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our values of equity, integrity, and partnership, aligning our projects with local needs, increasing opportunities for all to thrive, and focusing on climate resilience and the empowerment of women entrepreneurs. Your continued support is crucial as we strive to create even greater impact in the years to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Together, we are not just building infrastructure or improving livelihoods; we are nurturing hope, dignity, and a brighter future for rural Nepal.

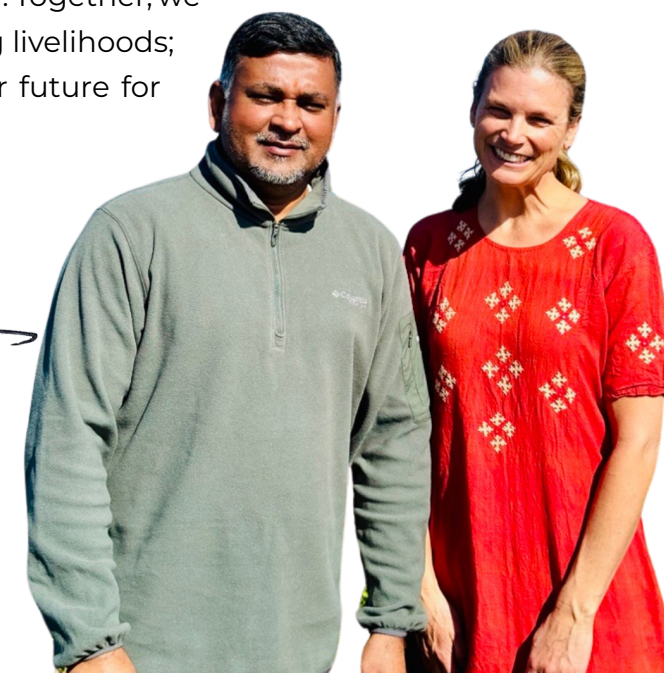
With our deepest gratitude,



Rakesh Karna
Nepal Country Director



Wende Valentine
Executive Director



For nearly two decades, dZi has embraced indigenous knowledge and formed strategic partnerships to empower citizen participation, foster livelihood opportunities, and build economic, environmental, and human resilience —

IMPACTING OVER 50,000 PEOPLE

OUR VISION

A world of inclusive, thriving, and resilient communities that have achieved shared prosperity on local terms.

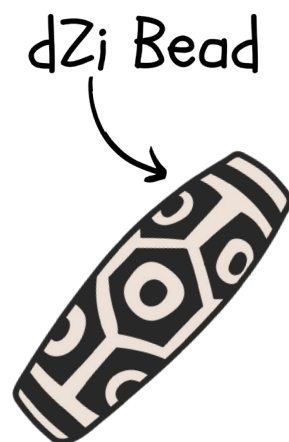
OUR MISSION

dZi partners with local communities in Nepal to achieve shared prosperity by ensuring access to basic needs, catalyzing inclusive economic growth, and creating an environment for lasting change.



OUR NAME

Our mission is embodied in our name. The name dZi (pronounced 'zee') comes from ancient Himalayan etched beads that bestow health and prosperity upon the wearer.



OUR VALUES



EQUITY

We strive to amplify everyone's voice, to make sure everyone is heard, and to honor each other's cultures and values in everything we do.



INTEGRITY

With openness and accountability, we are true to ourselves, to our partners, to our mission, and to our process.



PARTNERSHIP

Communication, connection, and collaboration are at our core to make a real difference in the places where we work with the people we care about.

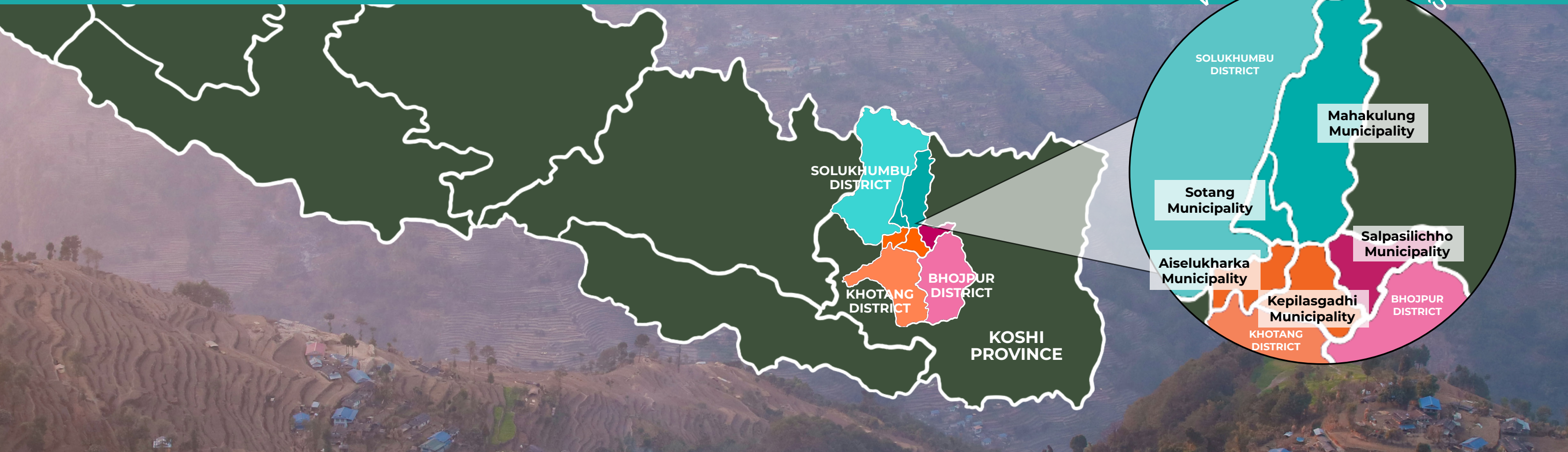
LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Nepal, a land of breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage, stands at the cusp of significant transformation. From the towering peaks of the Himalayas to the lush valleys and plains, Nepal's diverse topography is matched by its equally varied communities. The nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has seen a remarkable rise, reaching US\$40.8 billion in 2022, up from just US\$4.4 billion in 1995. With an ambitious goal to graduate from its status as a Least Developed Country (LDC) by 2026, Nepal's economic progress is evident. However, this macroeconomic growth masks the inequitable development and persistent disparities experienced by many of Nepal's citizens.

Despite periodic plans emphasizing poverty alleviation since 2002, the benefits of Nepal's recent economic expansion have not been equitably distributed. In 2022/23, a staggering 20% of the population still lived in absolute poverty. Challenges such as limited access to quality education and healthcare, pronounced gender disparities, and stark regional inequalities remain deeply entrenched. The looming LDC graduation does not fully account for the everyday realities of numerous Nepali people, particularly those in marginalized and remote communities like those where dZi works.

The eastern hill regions of Nepal have historically endured isolation, with scant government presence and few development initiatives. The nearby, wealthier Everest (Khumbu) valley naturally attracts attention and support, while the eastern hills remain deprived of necessities such as water, food, education, and essential infrastructure. These areas are home to diverse, historically marginalized ethnic groups who face multidimensional poverty and limited economic opportunities, leading to high poverty rates, vulnerability, and significant levels of out-migration.

Interventions that address immediate needs and target the structural roots of systemic poverty are critical. Inclusive and sustainable development in Nepal will only be realized when we embrace a holistic approach that includes all communities and ensures equitable access to resources and opportunities for every citizen. At dZi, we are committed to this vision, working closely with Nepal's most vulnerable populations to create lasting, transformative change.



PARTNERSHIP FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

POVERTY IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL. SO IS OUR APPROACH.

Building on decades of experience in locally led development, dZi is launching its Partnership for Shared Prosperity model. Our approach is grounded in the local expertise and learning we have had leading infrastructure, agriculture, and education activities in the areas where we work.

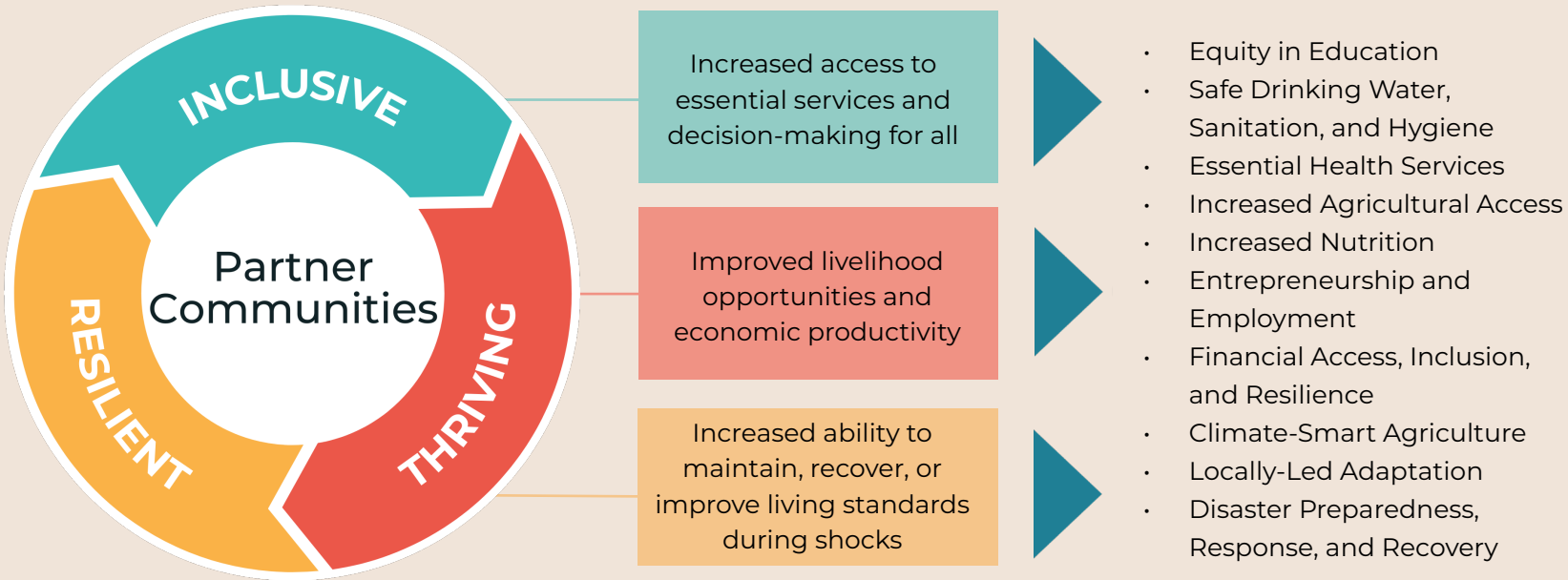
Our five-year goal – lift three ecologically diverse regions of 40,000 people each out of extreme poverty by 2029.

STRATEGIC LENSES:

Gender equity and social inclusion
Community voice in development and decision-making
Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

dZi INTERVENTIONS:

Technical assistance
Co-funding
Support for targeted audiences
Innovation and learning



“There has been a huge difference in my life before and after dZi’s support. Before, I used just traditional farming practices, but now I also use modern equipment, techniques, and practices. I didn’t use to sell my crops but now I earn \$448 per year through my agricultural production.”

Purna Maya Rai
Jaleswori, Khotang



OUR WORK IN ACTION



68

community school
groups involving
School Management
Committees and
Parent-Teacher
Associations

153

students studying
in earthquake safe
classrooms

772

community members
with access to safe
drinking water

\$126

additional per
capita annual
income earned by
2,176 farmers

445

geographically isolated
community members
with access beyond their
communities due to
truss bridge construction

\$138,637

in savings generated
by dZi-formed farmers'
groups

59

acres of land
with improved
agricultural
productivity due to
irrigation access

121 Farmers' Groups engaged to improve
agricultural productivity and nutrition

38 schools engaged in various capacity
building initiatives

6 infrastructure projects completed

2023/2024 IMPACT SUMMARY: INCLUSIVE



Access to and agency in services and decision-making, especially for marginalized groups.

In many rural communities in Nepal, access to basic services such as safe water, education, and government programs remains a significant challenge, particularly for marginalized groups. Traditional power structures often exclude women, indigenous people, and those living in extreme poverty from decision-making

processes that directly affect their lives - leaving the most vulnerable without avenues for change and advancement.

The dZi Foundation aims to improve access to critical services and partners with community members to actively participate in shaping their future.

LEADERSHIP ROLES HELD BY WOMEN

most of whom engaged in dZi's group management and empowerment trainings



67%

in Farmers' Groups



35%

in infrastructure
project construction
committees

489 rural community members gained **access to government services** due to mobile camps dZi organized

TWO water systems constructed to reach 772 community members with access to safe drinking water, reducing the time women and girls spend collecting water

40 classrooms transformed with child-friendly furniture and materials to **enhance student engagement**

140 new students enrolled in **public schools** through targeted campaigns



Feedback from local leaders underscores the importance of dZi's inclusive approach, indicating that community involvement in project planning, especially from women and marginalized groups, fosters greater ownership and long-term sustainability.

2023/2024 IMPACT SUMMARY: THRIVING



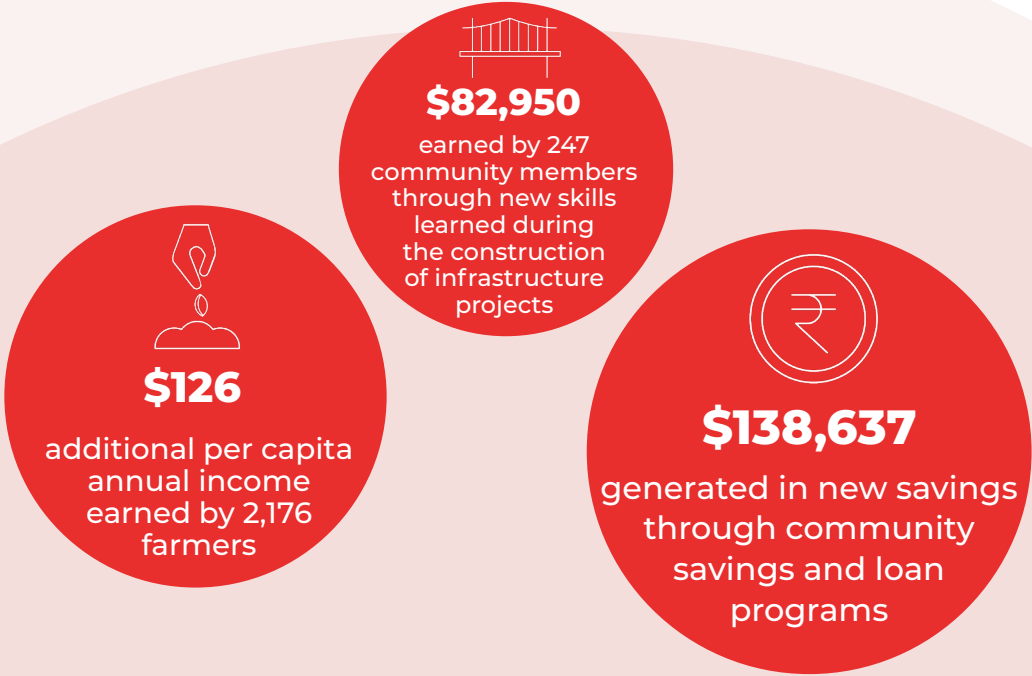
Access to livelihood opportunities and economic productivity, especially for marginalized groups.

In many rural communities in Nepal, limited economic opportunities and climate vulnerability often trap families in a cycle of poverty and leave them with a difficult choice - endure hardship at home or seek opportunities elsewhere and fracture generational communities.

The dZi Foundation equips farmers with tools and training in high-value crops and organic pest control techniques. dZi also establishes local savings groups and farming collectives to improve financial inclusion and ongoing resilience.

We also believe economic resilience is dependent on diversifying income sources and supporting women entrepreneurs specifically with comprehensive training and mentorship programs.

Building economic resilience for rural communities in Nepal enables future generations to thrive in the face of ongoing challenges.



2,937 farmers trained in focus crop production



FOUR agricultural fairs organized with local government participation, showcasing local products and awarding 512 dZi-supported farmers for the quality of their products and produce

Construction of **ONE** rustic store initiated to support storage and marketing of perishable agriculture products

dZi supported **4 RURAL MUNICIPALITIES** to endorse a resource plan to roll out a five-year development vision to **lift the living standard of over 12,500 households**



Increased support for participation in and access to climate change and disaster response measures and resources, especially for marginalized groups.



TWO earthquake-safe school buildings constructed, providing safe learning environments for **153 STUDENTS**



2023/2024 IMPACT SUMMARY: RESILIENT

Nepal's rural communities are on the front lines of climate change, facing increased risks from floods, landslides, and extreme temperatures (fact check this extreme temp addition). Traditional weather patterns have also been disrupted, and a prolonged summer monsoon season has caused damage to bridges, roads, and crops.

Traditional forms of climate adaptation often fall short against these growing threats, leaving communities vulnerable to disasters and long-term environmental changes.

The dZi Foundation focuses on building community resilience in the face of these challenges by prioritizing climate-resilient infrastructure projects and supporting climate-smart agricultural practices.

Climate-resilient approaches help communities adapt in the face of these challenges to protect infrastructure, livelihoods, and overall community well-being.



SEVEN public schools supported to incorporate comprehensive school safety plans into their strategic frameworks



100% of 2024 drinking water projects included integrated water safety plans, measures, and funds into project planning



11 public schools supported by dZi secured a \$1.53 million budget in 2024 (a 22% increase from 2023) to benefit 3,170 students thanks to investments in capacity building

817 FARMERS trained in organic farming methods, managing 126 acres of land without pesticides - utilizing organic techniques to prevent and control diseases and harmful pests and enhance resilience against biodiversity threats.

FROM SUBSISTENCE TO SUCCESS: TEJ KUMAR RAI'S AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

In the remote village of Jaleswori, located in the Khotang district of Nepal, 57-year-old Tej Kumar Rai has experienced a remarkable transformation in both his life and community, thanks to the dZi Foundation's agricultural program. Tej's journey from traditional subsistence farming to becoming a successful and knowledgeable farmer highlights the power of education, support, and community-driven development.

Tej reflects on his past, saying, "I have been a farmer for a long time. I used to farm according to the knowledge passed down by my father and forefathers." Like many in his village, Tej faced challenges with limited crop variety and persistent pest issues. "Potatoes used to be affected by insects every year, so we often had to buy potatoes," he recalls.

After spending six years abroad as a driver, Tej returned to Nepal with hopes of earning a living from his land, but he lacked the knowledge to begin. The arrival of the dZi Foundation in Jaleswori marked a turning point for him and his community.



Through dZi's comprehensive training programs, Tej gained valuable skills in modern agricultural practices. "dZi helped us learn the basics, such as how to prepare the land, plant seeds, apply water, and harvest," he explains. dZi's approach included nutrition education, organic pest management, and even public speaking skills.

The impact was profound. Tej's crop variety expanded dramatically, now including beans, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, onion, kiwi, and cardamom. "After testing the quality of our soil, dZi supported us with crops and vegetables suitable for our area," he notes. This tailored approach enabled farmers like Tej to maximize their land's potential.

The results of dZi's intervention are evident in Tej's achievements. "I have successfully grown cabbages weighing up to 5 kg," he proudly states. His success extends beyond production; he has received awards for his potatoes, cabbages, and onions at agricultural fairs organized by dZi.

Financially, Tej's transformation has been significant. "I earn approximately \$1,120 to \$1,500 annually," he reports, a substantial increase from his previous subsistence-level income. This newfound prosperity allows him to cover family expenses and support his children's education. While challenges remain, particularly due to climate change and irrigation issues, Tej faces them with newfound resilience and knowledge. He now uses modern farming equipment like sprinklers and plant cutters alongside traditional tools.

"Climate change is the main problem," Tej acknowledges. "Crops are affected by new diseases, water sources dry up, and we cannot irrigate." Despite these challenges, Tej's improved skills and diversified crop portfolio help him adapt and maintain his income. He is one of 817 farmers trained by dZi in organic farming methods, collectively managing over 51 hectares of pesticide-free land using innovative techniques to combat diseases and pests.

The effects of climate change are increasingly evident in Nepal's rural communities, with 30-35% of winter crops affected by disrupted weather patterns. However, Tej and his fellow farmers are building resilience through dZi's comprehensive approach to agricultural sustainability. dZi's work extends beyond individual farms, engaging with parliamentary committees and over 300 civil society organizations to advocate for inclusive approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness.

"Our community has changed with the help of the new knowledge provided by dZi," Tej reflects. This change extends to improved nutrition, sustainable farming practices, and increased economic stability for families throughout Jaleswori. dZi's commitment to climate-smart agriculture and community resilience is helping ensure that these gains persist even in the face of environmental challenges.

As he looks to the future, Tej's gratitude is evident:

"Thank you to the dZi Foundation for investing in agricultural programs in Jaleswori, even in such a remote place, and for helping farmers become entrepreneurs."

His journey from traditional subsistence farmer to award-winning agricultural entrepreneur illustrates the lasting impact of dZi's work in rural Nepal.

Through education, support, and community-driven initiatives, the dZi Foundation is not just changing individual lives; it is cultivating a sustainable and resilient future for entire communities in Nepal's remote regions, helping them adapt and thrive despite the growing challenges of climate change.

dZi IN THE WORLD

VAIL FUNDRAISER WITH EVEREST MOUNTAINEERS

"Inspiring adventures: Celebrating courage and resilience with five Everest mountaineers, united in the mission to uplift communities."

SKOLL WORLD FORUM

Wende Valentine, dZi Executive Director, was a delegate at the Skoll World Forum, a premier international event bringing together social entrepreneurs, thought leaders, and innovators to foster collaboration and drive impactful solutions to global challenges.

LOCAL INPUT ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS

dZi led initiatives to engage over 300 civil society organizations and parliamentary committees to provide input from local communities into the Nepal Government's preparation for COP 28 and the Sustainable Development Goals mid-point review.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Supporters and staff gathered to celebrate 25 years of dZi's impact at our [anniversary event](#) in Golden, CO.

CHAMONIX FUNDRAISER

dZi UK organized a fundraising event in Chamonix, France to engage current and new donors in the UK and Europe.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Rakesh Karna, Country Director, was elected to the steering committee of the Association of International NGOs, paving the way for impactful partnerships.

AVPN GLOBAL CONFERENCE

dZi was one of eight recipients for the Asia Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) Gender Pooled Fund. Wende Valentine and Kripa Dongol, Director of Impact, also attended the AVPN Global Conference, where they connected with grantmakers and implementers across Asia.

STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES

Engaging workshops with partners NGOs were held throughout the year, fostering collaboration and capacity building in dZi's partner areas.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

dZi’s financial snapshot from the 2024 Program Year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) can be found here, as well as comparison information from 2023.

All financials are in US dollars

Income Statement Comparison | June 30, 2023 and 2024

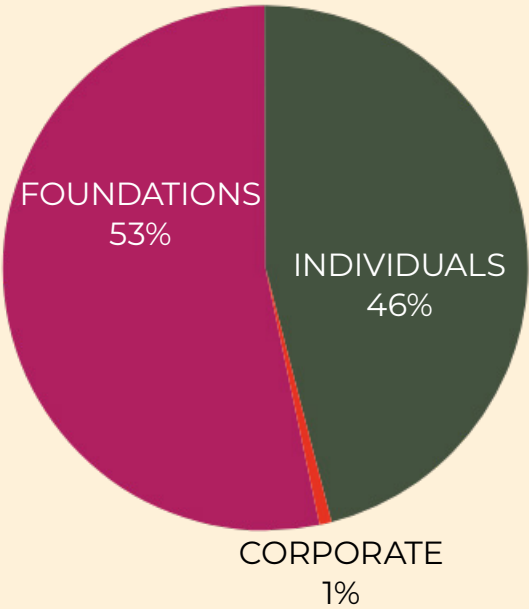
	2023	2024
REVENUE		
Contributions, Grants, and Sponsorships	\$ 1,524,942	\$ 1,995,820
Other	\$ 44,687	\$ 34,089
Total Revenue	\$ 1,569,629	\$ 2,029,909
EXPENSES		
Program	\$ 1,474,093	\$ 1,450,979
Management and General	\$ 273,822	\$ 212,399
Fundraising	\$ 247,365	\$ 264,695
Total Expenses	\$ 1,995,280	\$ 1,928,073
Change in Net Asset	\$ 425,651	\$ 101,836

Balance Sheet Comparison | June 30, 2023 and 2024

	2023	2024
ASSETS		
Current	\$ 520,449	\$ 596,377
Long-term	\$ 304,968	\$ 337,063
Total Current Assets	\$ 825,417	\$ 933,440
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	\$ 95,606	\$ 101,793
Total Net Assets	\$ 825,417	\$ 831,647
Without Donor Restriction	\$ 476,497	\$ 210,379
With Donor Restriction	\$ 253,314	\$ 621,268



dZi earns a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator year after year. Organizations with this rating rank in the top 1% of all charities. The Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency demonstrates our commitment to transparency.



DONATION SOURCES

Support for dZi’s work largely comes from individual supporters and private and family foundations.

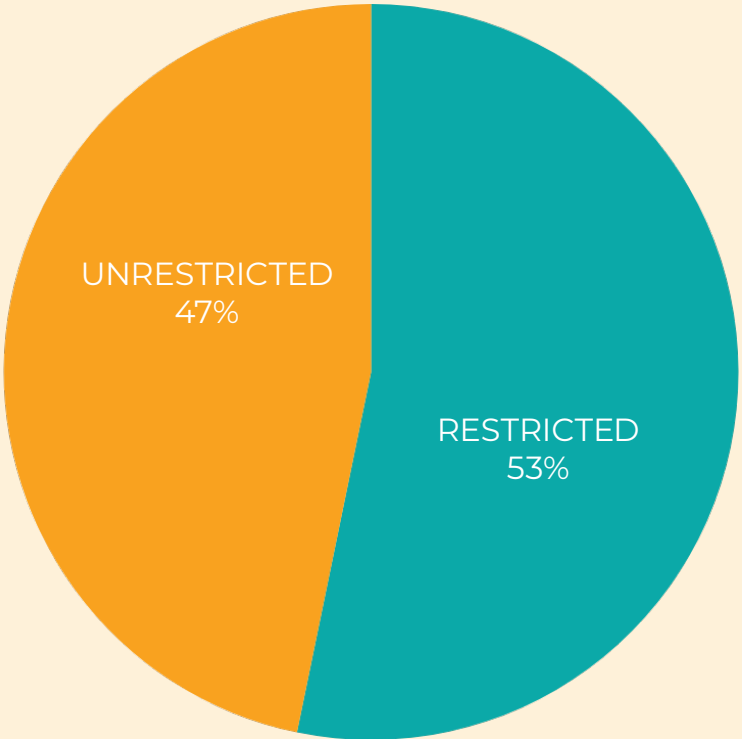
dZi has an incredibly supportive and loyal donor base with a

58%

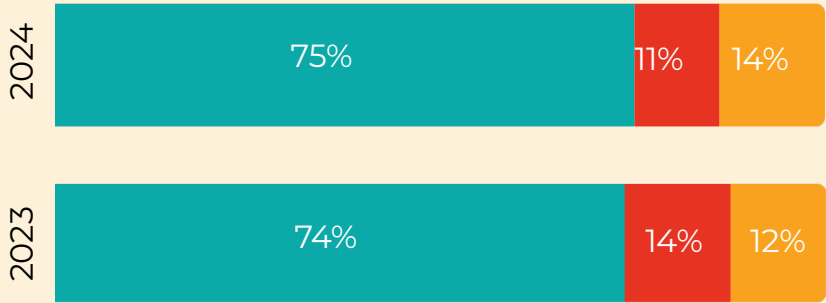
RETENTION RATE

DONATION RESTRICTIONS

dZi’s annual budget is comprised of both restricted and unrestricted contributions, both supporting key programmatic activities and operational costs.



EXPENSE RATIOS



PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

FUNDRAISING

TAKE ACTION WITH dZi TODAY!

The work continues! Join us today to support shared prosperity for communities in Nepal.

EXPLORE THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO GIVE



JOIN THE SAATHI CIRCLE

Become a monthly donor to support critical program efforts with reliable, ongoing support.



LEAVE A LEGACY WITH dZi

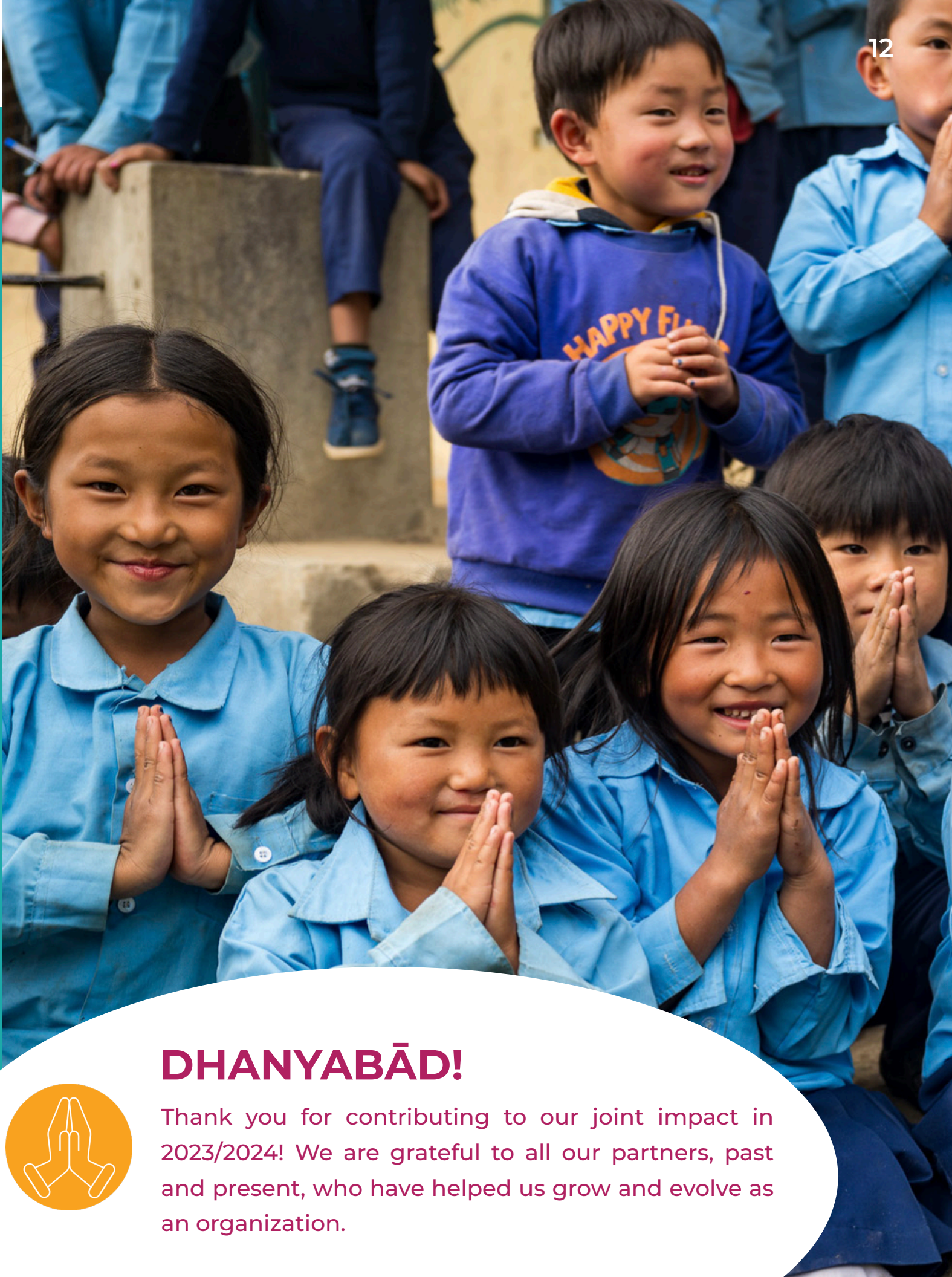
By including dZi in your estate plan or will, you can support opportunities for future generations.



STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for our regular emails and newsletters to hear updates on the impact of your support.

FOLLOW dZi ON SOCIAL MEDIA



DHANYABĀD!

Thank you for contributing to our joint impact in 2023/2024! We are grateful to all our partners, past and present, who have helped us grow and evolve as an organization.



U.S. CONTACT INFORMATION

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