



PARTNERS
FOR SHARED
PROSPERITY
IN NEPAL

dZi FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

JULY 1ST, 2024 - JUNE 30TH, 2025

DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

On behalf of everyone at the dZi Foundation, we are honored to share our 2025 Annual Report - a story of impact made possible through your vision, generosity, and belief in lasting change.

This year in Nepal has been defined by resilience and ingenuity amid global challenges that echo across the globe: economic uncertainty, climate shocks, and persistent inequalities. In communities throughout the Himalayas, your support is powering innovative solutions - driving prosperity, advancing equity, and helping unlock human potential.

Because of your partnership, over two decades we have reached more than 61,000 people in regions often overlooked by other aid efforts. This year, farmers in our programs increased their annual incomes by an average of \$568 - a 351% jump over last year - with practical training, access to technology, and development of local businesses. Women have emerged as leaders, now owning 61% of dZi-supported enterprises and transforming their families and communities.

We know that sustainable progress means investing in local knowledge and leadership. Our results show that when communities set priorities, steward resources, and build new opportunities, lasting change follows. Together, we are delivering more than just solutions; we are creating the conditions for Nepali families to thrive and for the next generation to dream bigger.

Your commitment as individuals, companies, and foundations - whether through expertise, resources, or advocacy - is creating ripple effects far beyond Nepal's borders. You are helping build more resilient food systems, empower women entrepreneurs, and prepare communities to adapt to a changing climate. These outcomes reflect not only smart investment, but the power of partnership to advance global goals.

As we look to the future, our work is more vital than ever. With new government transitions, ongoing social and environmental shifts, and rapidly evolving needs, your engagement remains at the heart of our ability to deliver value, accountability, and hope.

Thank you for standing with us. We invite you to continue this journey - a movement where compassion, innovation, and shared commitment turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunity.

With gratitude,



Rakesh Karna
Nepal Country Director



Wende Valentine
Executive Director



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For over 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 61,000 PEOPLE



OUR VISION

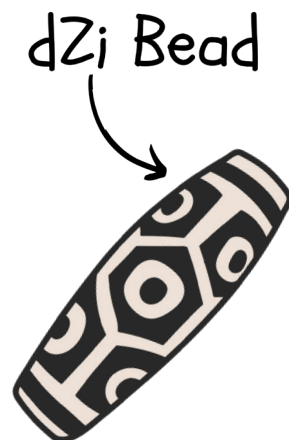
A world of inclusive, thriving, and resilient communities that have achieved shared prosperity on local terms.

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, is also a country of stark contrasts. While its economy has grown rapidly over the past three decades and the government is preparing for graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, these milestones mask deep inequities. Roughly one in five Nepalis still lives in poverty, and those in remote and historically marginalized communities face the steepest barriers to opportunity.

These decades of growth have been fueled more by migration rather than local opportunities. Today, the majority of rural households depend on remittances, which account for nearly a third of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This dependence underscores the lack of dignified livelihoods at home, leaving families and entire communities vulnerable and weakening Nepal's long-term economic independence.

Nepal's future depends on creating sustainable opportunities at home, particularly for those who have been left behind by national progress. True resilience and equitable development will only take hold when solutions are rooted in local leadership. National policies and international investments can set the stage, but it is at the community and municipal level, where trust, accountability, and local knowledge are strongest, that lasting change is built.

When communities lack local economic opportunities, the challenges are compounded even further in rural areas. The eastern hill regions, where dZi has traditionally worked, have historically endured isolation, limited government presence, and minimal investment. Unlike the nearby Everest (Khumbu) valley, which attracts global attention and resources, these areas, which are home to historically marginalized ethnic groups, experience multidimensional poverty, limited economic opportunities, and high rates of out-migration.

Climate change further compounds these challenges. Unpredictable rainfall, biodiversity loss, and increasingly frequent climate disasters threaten already fragile livelihoods. Unequal access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure, alongside entrenched gender disparities, continues to shape the daily lives of millions across the country.



EXPANSION AND TRANSITION

For more than two decades, dZi has partnered with some of the most geographically remote and underserved communities in Nepal's eastern hills. Together, we have improved food and water security, expanded access to education, strengthened infrastructure, and fostered long-term resilience for over 61,000 people across 13 communities in five rural municipalities.

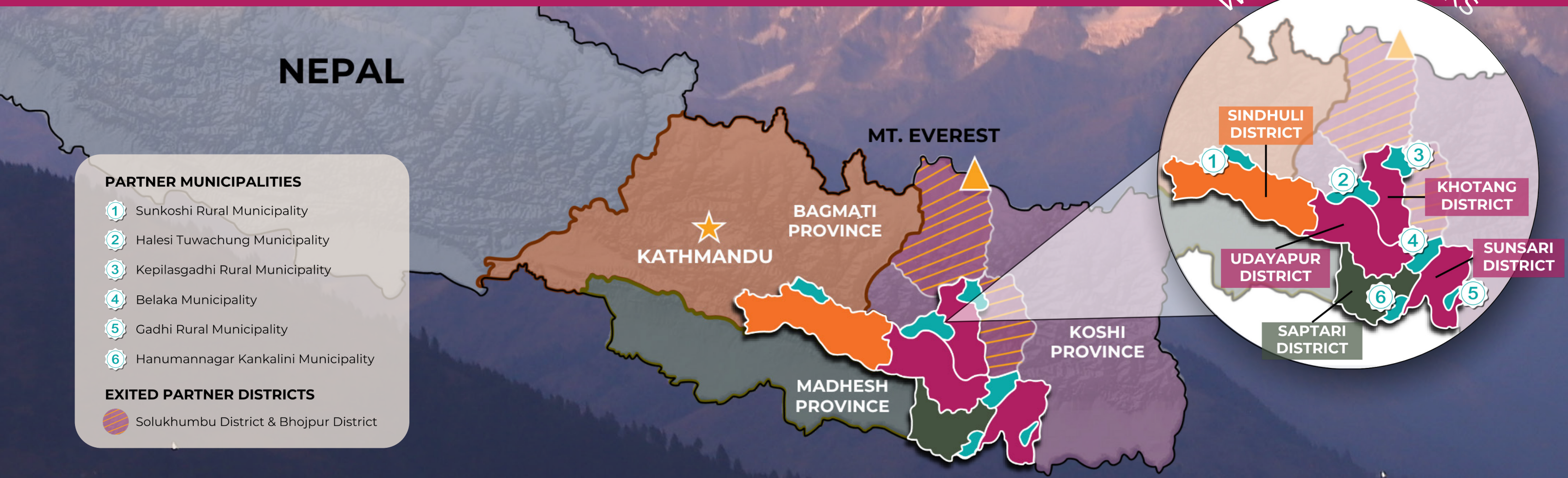
Building on this foundation, dZi is now expanding its work across the Koshi River Basin, which is home to more than 11.5 million people and a critical agricultural region vulnerable to climate change. Our partnerships now extend beyond our long-term base in the Kepilasghadi Rural Municipality in the Khotang District, in total working with six partner municipalities across four districts.

Our expansion will include new partnerships in the Sunkoshi, Halesi Tuwachung, Belaka, Gadhi, and Hanumannagar Municipalities. These municipalities represent both the rugged hill districts and the fertile Terai plains, allowing for a more comprehensive approach to watershed management, sustainable agriculture, and regional cooperation.

This expansion also reflects a strategic shift in how we work. dZi's work has been grounded in deep engagement at the community level for over 20 years. Our partnerships have grown from the ground up, and we are ready to continue testing and providing our model at the municipality level, embedding our approach directly within local governance structures.

This strategic shift also marks a time of intentional transition, winding down direct programming in areas where we've met our impact targets. Our goal was never to foster dependence but rather to strengthen an ecosystem of support that enables communities to drive their own development. We helped to build the foundation on which communities can chart their own path forward.

Our vision is clear – a world of inclusive, thriving, and resilient communities is possible when communities have the right tools to achieve shared prosperity on local terms. We don't just deliver services - we help ensure communities are seen, heard, and served by their own systems of governance.

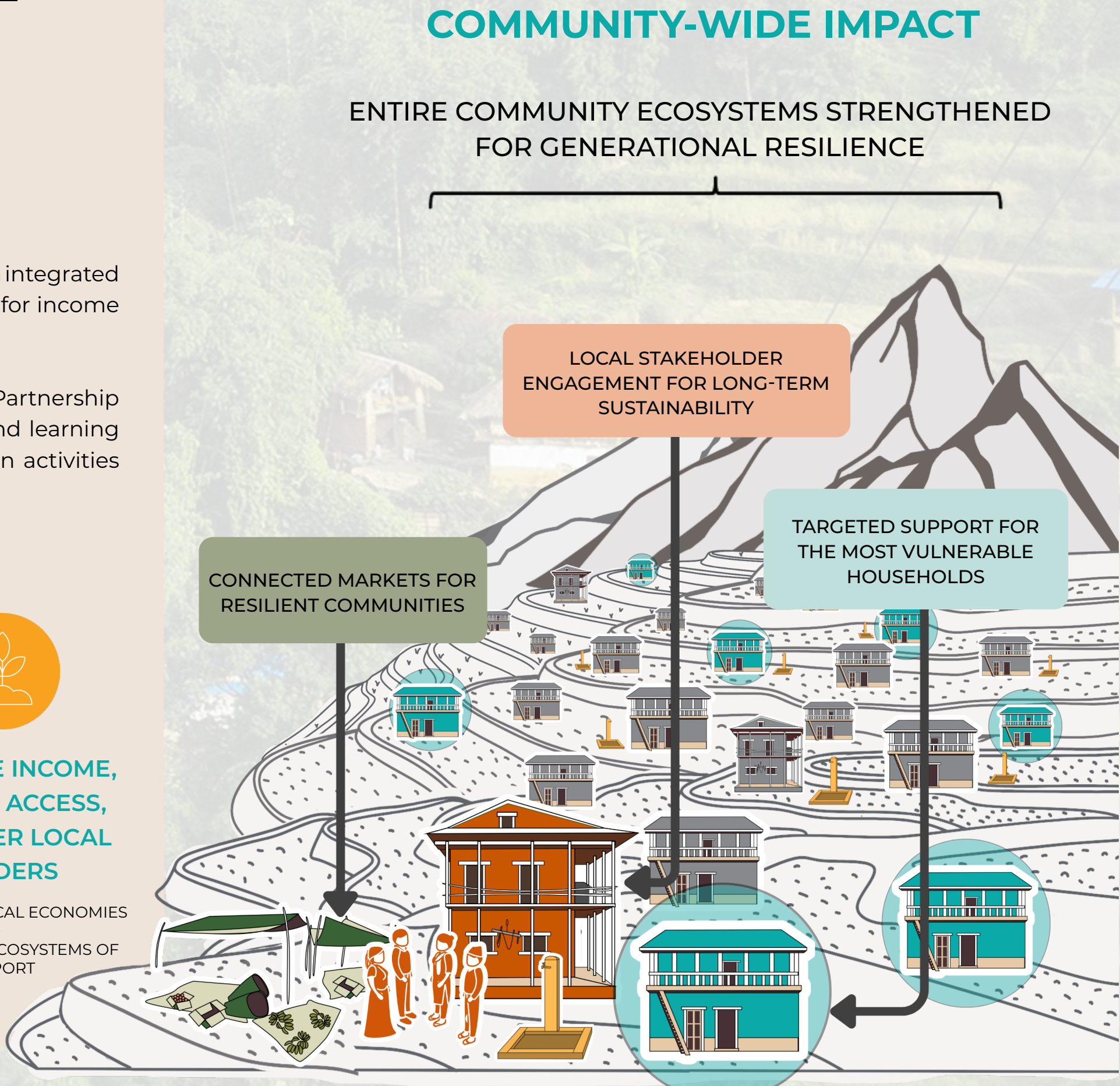
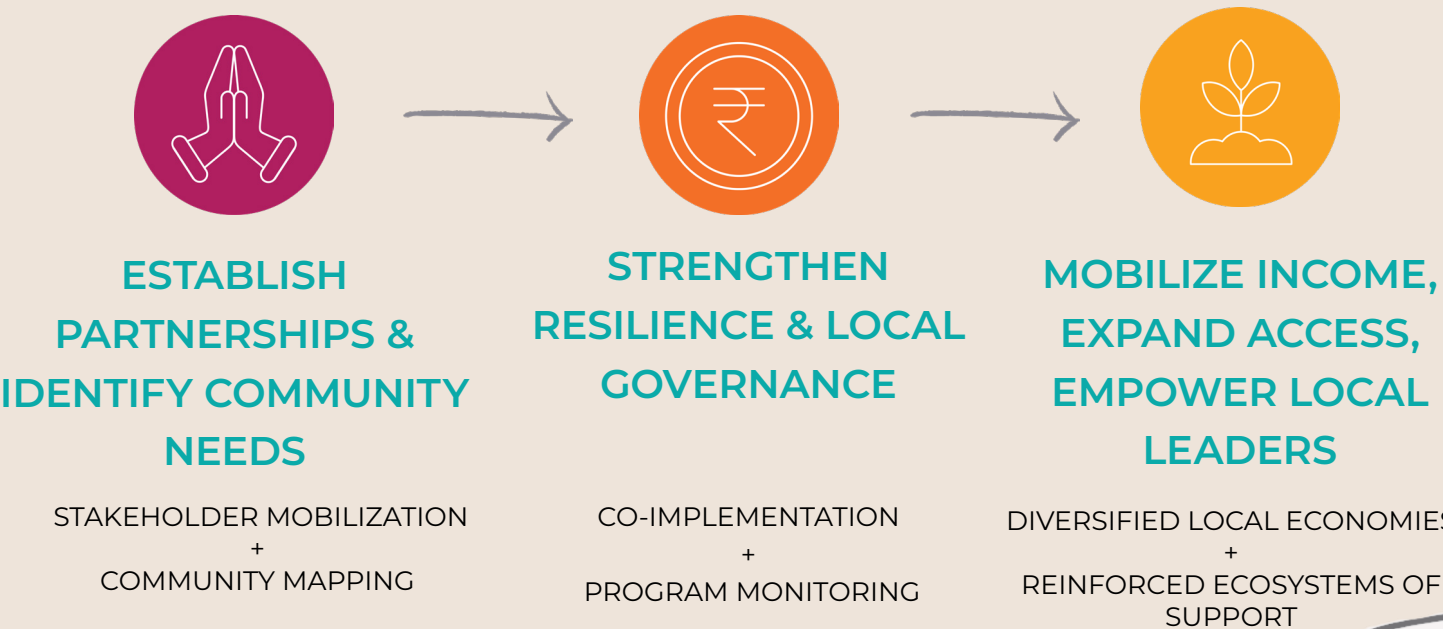


PARTNERSHIP FOR SHARED PROSPERITY - OUR PROCESS

POVERTY IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL. SO IS OUR APPROACH.

We engage with each municipality for at least three years through an integrated model that strengthens essential services, expands opportunities for income generation, and builds local leadership and resilience.

Building on decades of experience in locally led development, dZi's Partnership for Shared Prosperity model is grounded in the local expertise and learning we have gained leading infrastructure, agriculture, and education activities over the last two decades.



PARTNERSHIP FOR SHARED PROSPERITY - OUR MODEL

Our Partnership for Shared Prosperity Model creates community-centered approaches to economic independence and community resilience.

Our goal is to address the complex web of multidimensional poverty by creating an ecosystem for communities to thrive. When communities have equitable access to basic services and pathways to economic prosperity that are rooted in the local fabric of their community, they create thriving and prosperous futures at home.

STRATEGIC LENSES:

- Community voice in decision-making
- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change adaptation
- Gender equity
- Government alignment and influence

dZi INTERVENTIONS:

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

"After receiving agriculture training from dZi my income has increased. Now, I am able to feed my children fresh, green vegetables and manage my household more efficiently."

Bala Laxmi
Maheswori, Khotang District

Over the next three years, we aim to ignite lasting change by uniting with local partners to improve foundational services, economic opportunities, and community resilience - directly improving lives, livelihoods, and local leadership for 31,000 people.



GROW

Boost economic opportunities by helping local actors diversify and increase household incomes through training, micro-enterprise support, and better access to finance.



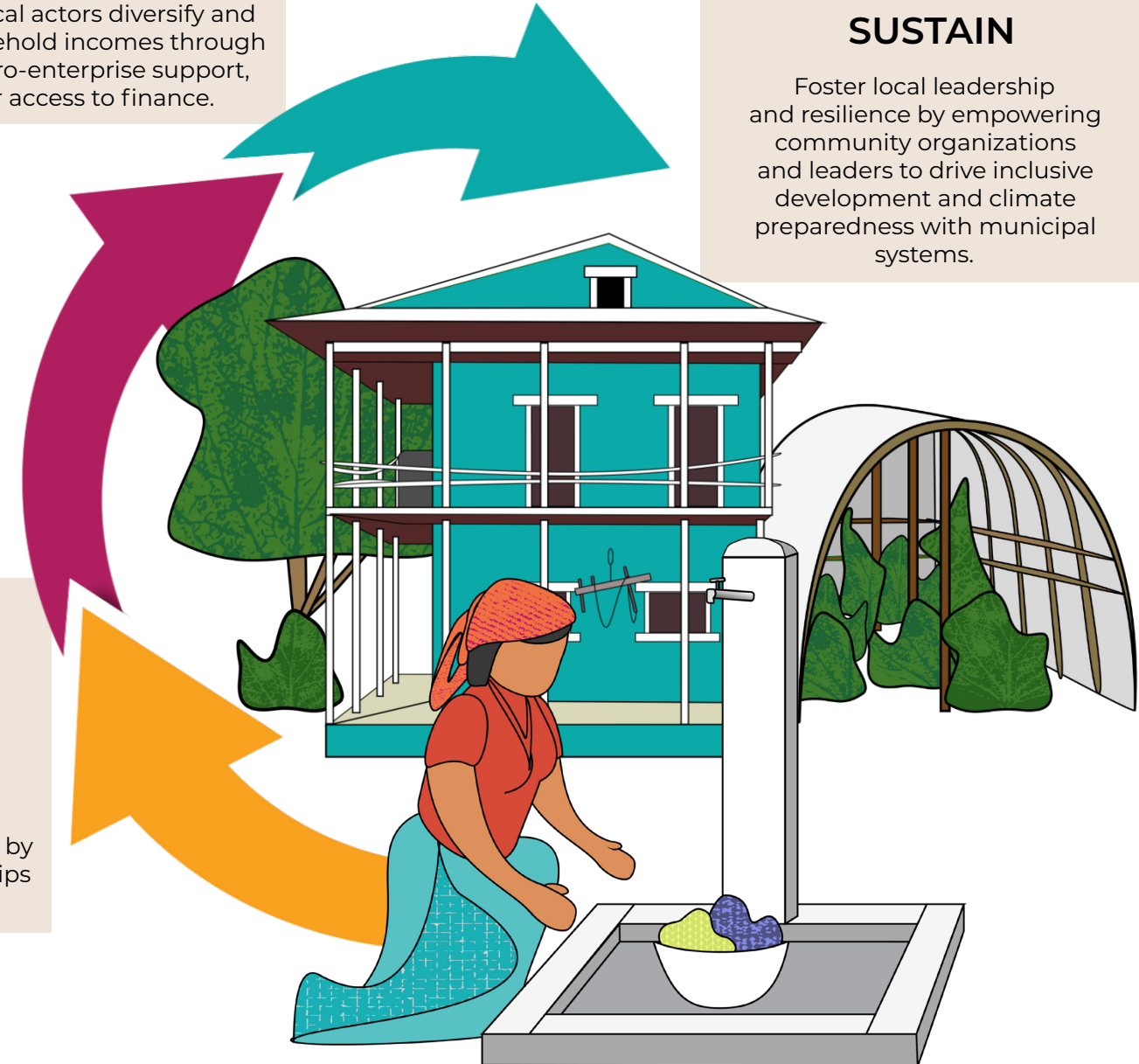
SUSTAIN

Foster local leadership and resilience by empowering community organizations and leaders to drive inclusive development and climate preparedness with municipal systems.



SEED

Expand access to essential services for marginalized communities by supporting local partnerships and infrastructure.





OUR 2025 WORK IN ACTION

725

people with renewed mobility and access after two major truss bridge repairs

240

students in grades 1-5 with improved access to reading spaces and age-appropriate books

190

students studying in earthquake safe classrooms

708

community members with access to safe drinking water

\$568

per capita annual income earned by 1,215 farmers

2,037

farmers and local stakeholders attended six dZi-hosted agriculture fairs

\$125,410

in community savings generated

3,008

farmers with improved local food security

\$159,810 in co-investment from local partner municipalities

5,501 students, teachers, and parents benefitted from dZi's Education Program

3,300 farmers graduated from dZi's program in the last three years

INCLUSIVE SERVICES & LEADERSHIP

EQUITABLE DECISION-MAKING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ARE AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING WE DO.



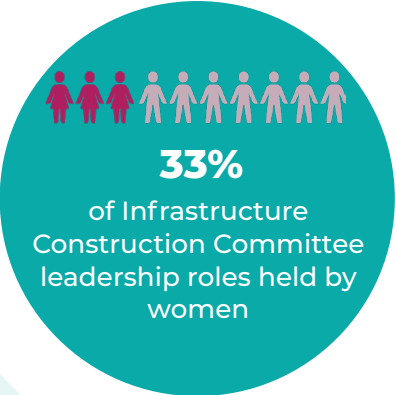
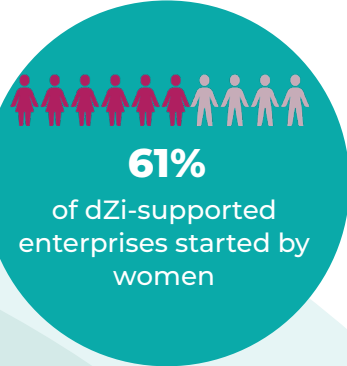
In many rural communities in Nepal, access to basic services such as safe water, education, and government programs remains a significant challenge, particularly for marginalized groups. Traditional power structures often exclude women, indigenous people, and those living in extreme poverty from decision-making

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

dZi works to improve equitable access to critical services and supports community members to actively participate in shaping their futures.

WOMEN AT THE CENTER

Through dZi's programs, we believe services are more equitable when women are part of the solution.



137 water taps constructed to reach 708 community members with access to safe drinking water, reducing the time women and children spend collecting water

3,170 students reached through training and material support across 13 schools

1,152 parents engaged in community awareness programs



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.

THRIVING LIVELIHOODS & GROWING ECONOMIES

WHEN SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT HOME, FAMILIES CAN STAY TOGETHER, INCREASE THEIR INCOMES, AND CHOOSE THEIR OWN PATHS FORWARD.



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 to build livelihoods that can withstand the threats of climate change and market volatility. dZi provides trainings in cash crop production, irrigation systems, organic pest control, and financial inclusion.

As a result, first-time entrepreneurs are starting their own businesses with dZi start-up grants, families have access to local savings and community safety nets of support, and future generations see opportunities for themselves.

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



collectively, they are projected to earn over **\$15,000** this year

projected to create **66**
new jobs



up from \$141 in 2024, a
351% increase

2,652 farmers attended training courses on crop production and management skills, supporting the successful cultivation of up to 14 types of cash crops using modern and climate-friendly farming methods

4,042 pieces of agricultural equipment distributed, including sprinklers, pruning saws, greenhouse materials, and packing machines

ONE mustard seed oil processing center that will benefit over 200 farmers



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

dZi HELPS TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR SHARED PROSPERITY FROM WHICH COMMUNITIES SHAPE THEIR OWN FUTURES.

Nepal's cultural fabric and environmental resources are at risk as climate change and outmigration impact daily life in rural communities. Flash floods, landslides, and extreme temperatures threaten crops, and traditional weather patterns are continually shifting.

The impacts of climate change are compounded as the workforce and younger generations seek opportunities outside of their own communities. As communities' family structures and environmental stability shift, so does our approach.

dZi focuses on building community capacity, a local web of support, autonomy, and resilience from the start, so the local resources and knowledge are available to continue community development beyond our involvement.

We recognize that community resilience requires an ecosystem approach where families, teachers, business owners, students, and local officials have access to the tools and resources to build a better future, together.

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

dZi fosters community resilience in the face of these challenges by prioritizing climate-resilient infrastructure projects and supporting climate-smart agricultural practices.



100%

of 2025 drinking water projects included integrated water safety plans, measures, and operation and maintenance funds into project planning



1,075 FARMERS

trained in organic farming methods, managing their land without pesticides



13

public schools implemented comprehensive equity-focused School Improvement Plans



25%-30%

decreased farmer reliance on commercial seeds through local seed production

A NEW BEGINNING ROOTED IN HOPE

SANGITA TAMANG’S AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

In the steep, terraced hills of Laharetol, Khotang, 38-year-old Sangita Tamang begins each day before sunrise. She cooks for her children, tends to her small plot of land, and cares for the animals that now represent her family’s future. For Sangita, life has never been easy, but it is changing.

Two years ago, her husband left, and she suddenly became the sole provider for her three children. Her eldest daughter had just completed grade ten, another daughter was still in school, and her youngest had only begun second grade. “It was difficult to take on all the responsibilities alone,” Sangita recalls. “But I have to keep going for my children.”



Before joining dZi’s Mauka Program, Sangita relied entirely on subsistence farming. She planted traditional crops like millet and maize, but her yields were small and unpredictable. “Our production was never enough to last through the year,” she says. “Sometimes I had to buy food, and sometimes I went for labor work in other people’s fields to earn a little extra.” With no savings and no support from her husband, she lived day to day, stretching what little she had to feed her family.

When dZi brought the Mauka (“Opportunity”) Program to her community, Sangita saw a rare chance. Through business training, mentorship, and financial support, women like her were encouraged to turn their hard work into enterprise. Sangita decided to start pig and chicken farming, a business she could manage from home while caring for her children.

With a total grant of NPR 92,800 (about \$650 USD) from dZi, she registered her business for the first time in her life. “I never thought that I could or would register a business someday,” she says with pride. “Now, I feel I have a purpose.” She has already built a sturdy pigsty and started raising eleven pigs, with four more on the way. A chicken coop is under construction, and she plans to bring her first flock home soon.

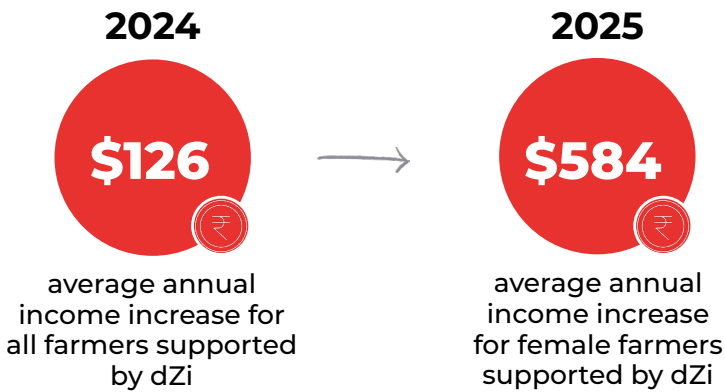
Her path to this point has not been easy. Without someone who can help with labor in the household, Sangita has often struggled to find help for construction or heavy work.

“Sometimes people are not available when I need them,” she explains. “But I do what I can, slowly and steadily.” Her perseverance has become a source of quiet inspiration for other women in her village.

Through the Mauka Program, Sangita has found not only financial opportunity but also renewed confidence and solidarity.

“All the women involved are hopeful for the future,” she says. “We feel stronger. This has helped us believe that we can do business and earn for ourselves.”

The network of women entrepreneurs in her community now share advice, encourage one another, and celebrate their progress together.



Sangita dreams of using her business income to provide her children the life she never had. “I never went to school,” she says. “My parents didn’t send me. But I’ll do anything to make sure my children study and find good jobs.” As her pigs grow and her business begins to generate profit, she plans to reinvest her earnings, expand her enterprise, and secure her children’s education.

Through dZi’s support, Sangita’s story is no longer one of survival but of transformation. What began as a small opportunity has become a turning point, proof that with the right support, belief, and resilience, women like Sangita can create lasting change for themselves, their families, and their communities.

“I feel hopeful now,” she says with a quiet smile. “With this work, I can earn enough to support my family, pay for my children’s schooling, and live with more peace. I no longer have to go to others’ homes to work. I can stand on my own.”

dZi IN THE WORLD

GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY FORUM

Julia Correia, dZi Director of Partnerships and Growth, attended the Global Philanthropy Forum, an event bringing together leaders from both nonprofit implementers and funders to discuss philanthropy in the wake of funding cuts and shifting landscapes.

SKOLL WORLD FORUM

Wende Valentine, dZi Executive Director, along with dZi Board Members Anna Kotenko (dZi UK), Bhumika Piya, and Kimberly Lemme, attended 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.

GRAVITY HAUS EVENT IN VAIL

dZi Ambassador, Tracee Metcalfe, hosted Going Higher, a fundraiser for dZi, where she shared her journey becoming the first US woman to summit all 14 of the world's highest peaks.

SHREVEPORT PRESENTATIONS

In partnership with and support from the Beaird Family Foundation, Wende Valentine was invited to present non-profit best practices to 63 local leaders in Shreveport, Louisiana.

LOCAL INPUT ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS

Rakesh Karna, Nepal Country Director, co-created and supported the organization of the National Governance Summit in Kathmandu to bring together legislators, experts, academia practitioners, civil society, and media.

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Civil society is key to Nepal's 2026 LDC graduation by bringing local knowledge, easing resource gaps, and boosting public ownership. Nepal Country Director, Rakesh Karna, reinforced this role by leading policy dialogue, preparing key guidance, and orienting CSO networks to engage effectively in the process.

MOBILIZING A COMMUNITY FOR IMPACT

Led by Tash Pow in Australia, 377 supporters across the globe joined together to raise \$32,500 for dZi in honor of Sam Heughan's birthday and his first climbing trip to Nepal with dZi Ambassador, Jake Norton.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

dZi’s fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30. Comparative financial snapshots from FY 2024 and FY 2025 are below.

All financials are in US dollars

Year-End Income Statement Comparison | June 30, 2024 and 2025

	2024	
REVENUE		
Contributions, Grants, and Sponsorships	\$ 1,995,820	
Other	\$ 34,089	
Total Revenue	\$ 2,029,909	
EXPENSES		
Program	\$ 1,450,979	
Management and General	\$ 212,399	
Fundraising	\$ 264,695	
Total Expenses	\$ 1,928,073	
Change in Net Asset	\$ 101,836	

	2025	
	\$ 2,092,043	
	\$ 41,178	
	\$ 2,133,221	
	\$ 1,465,159	
	\$ 191,616	
	\$ 225,008	
	\$ 1,881,783	
	\$ 251,438	

Year-End Balance Sheet Comparison | June 30, 2024 and 2025

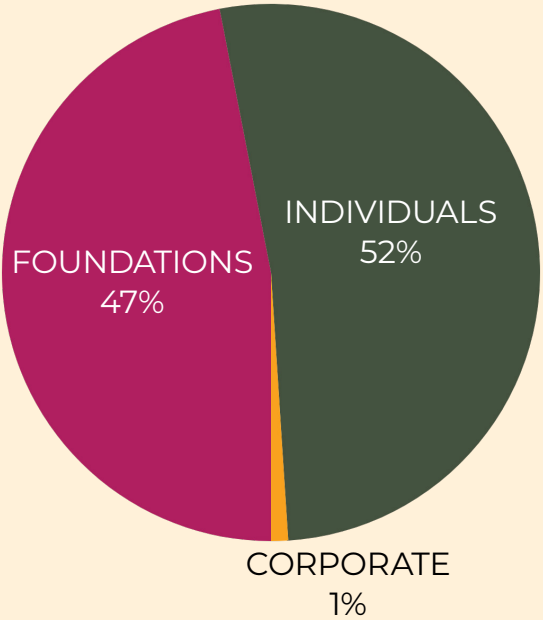
	2024	
ASSETS		
Current	\$ 525,742	
Long-term	\$ 337,063	
Total Current Assets	\$ 862,805	
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	\$ 101,793	
Total Net Assets	\$ 831,647	
Without Donor Restriction	\$ 210,379	
With Donor Restriction	\$ 621,268	

	2025	
	\$ 713,249	
	\$ 369,805	
	\$ 1,083,054	
	\$ 56,477	
	\$ 1,083,085	
	\$ 491,773	
	\$ 591,312	

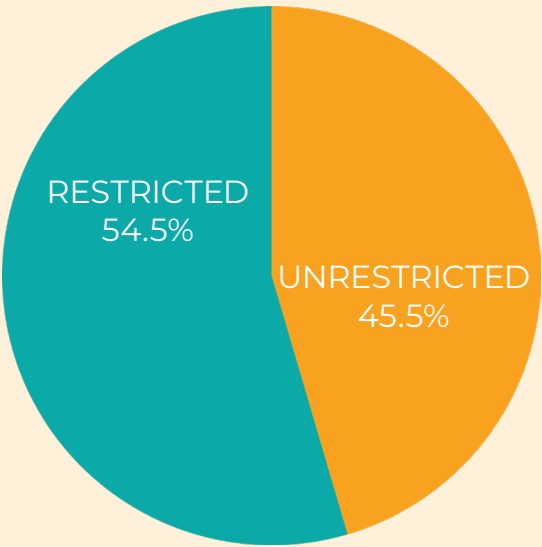


dZi earns a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator year after year. Organizations with this rating rank in the top 1% of all charities. The Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency demonstrates our commitment to transparency.

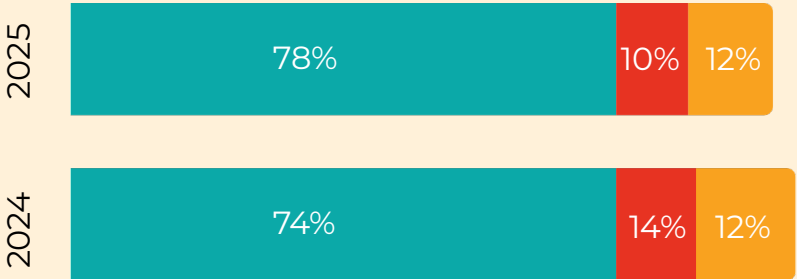
DONATION SOURCES



DONATION RESTRICTIONS



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.

www.dzi.org/donate

EXPLORE 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 2025! 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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