



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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OUR MISSION

Changing the world by empowering Nepal's children. We do this by providing quality education, a safe environment, and through inspiring others.

OUR VISION

A world where every child is safe, educated, and loved.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that if given the proper tools and initiatives, people and communities anywhere in the world can be raised out of poverty.



A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Maggie Doyne & Tope Malla

Dear Friends of BlinkNow,

You helped make 2022 a year full of impact. In the quiet, early mornings while drinking our coffee and tea—before the onset of chaos which comes from daily life with over 40 children and 400 students—we're able to appreciate the impact you've helped create over the past 15 years. Thank you for believing in us, for taking this journey with us, and for the incredible impact you've made.

Through your support, our family includes over 60 young adults and children who call Kopila Valley their forever home. Your loyalty helped open the doors of our beautiful, green campus, more than doubling the student capacity of our original bamboo school. Looking back at 2022, your donations allowed our programs to reach thousands of children, women, and families through our home, school, empowerment, and community support programs. We've built a long-lasting and open-source learning center model that will create a broad-reaching impact regionally—and around the world—for the most vulnerable women and children. We cannot thank you enough for your support.

All of our work is infused with our core organizational values; gender equality, economic empowerment, and environmental sustainability. We continually work to improve our model and follow the best practices established globally to serve children and women. Throughout this report, you'll see how our work aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals put forth by the United Nations to create a better and more prosperous future worldwide. Thank you for being a part of this future.

All our best,
Maggie & Tope



THE GLOBAL GOALS

OUR HOME

Kopila Valley Children's Home provides a safe and loving home for 40+ children who have no other family support or care options. We also run a special Transition to Adulthood program to support children from our home who are reaching adulthood and preparing to move out on their own.



With pandemic scares and restrictions finally easing, our family at the Kopila Valley Children's Home enjoyed the freedom of being loved, safe, healthy, and attending school in person. The home bustled with excitement and change as we saw several older children transitioning onward and 12 new kids joining our family this year. In December, with so many young ones running about, we turned a little-used space into a brand-new playroom!

100%

of our children who have matured out of our home have reintegrated successfully and are studying or working, and living independently.



A Mended Heart

S. joined the Children's Home in 2021 after having lost both her parents. At a KVS health camp the following November, a doctor discovered her irregular heartbeat; she had two very serious holes in her heart. After months of planning and meetings with doctors both in Nepal and internationally, in July S. successfully underwent major, high-risk corrective surgery in Kerala, India. We are thrilled to report that she is doing very well. Thank you to all her supporters!



Time for Fun

Once it was determined safe, our family was on track to let loose and enjoy a break after two long years of lockdowns. During the annual school holiday in April, all the kids and caregivers went on a day excursion to a water park in Nepalgunj. Everyone had so much fun, spending the day outdoors in the pools and water slides.



Three Sisters

In rural Nepal, life is often much harder for girls. K., R., and G., three orphaned sisters, joined our family in August. They were living with their aunt, a single mother who was already supporting 4 daughters. The eldest sister had stopped going to school and was working to help support the others. Now settled in our family, all three girls are excellent students at KVS and doing well at the Children's Home.

BIG SISTERS' HOME

Our Big Sisters' Home is a live-in program that safeguards KVS youth girls who are specifically at risk of child marriage, trafficking, mental health issues, and physical or sexual abuse at home. Big sisters have access to a supportive community, life skills training, and special psycho-social support at the home. Where possible and appropriate, we follow a reunification process to integrate girls back into their families.

Our sisters this year continued to receive regular counseling and life skill lessons while working on positive mental health, building a sisterhood community, and achieving their academic goals. A tutor was hired to help the girls with math and to catch up on work missed due to the pandemic.



9

Girls currently live in the Big Sisters' Home

19

life skills development workshops hosted in 2022

3

new computers were added to the Big Sisters' Home



R's Story

A few years ago, KVS student R stopped coming to school. She had been struggling academically and had persistent low attendance. Her family relationships were strained and her father struggled with alcoholism. Many of the girls in her community had dropped out of school and several had child marriages. After trying other interventions, we finally brought her to the Big Sisters' Home. Now, two-and-a-half years later, R is still with us and in grade 9. Her grades have improved. She has even been made "captain" of BSH and ensures all the girls are following the rules, safe, and studying. Her relationship with her extended family is better, she is able to express herself, her communication skills are flourishing, and she is happy.

"When I wasn't at Big Sisters' Home, I thought deciding not to come to school and roaming around was the best thing. I had no worries about my future. Today, I realize how wrong I was. Working hard, building roads toward my future, and dreaming makes me happier."

-R, BSH resident

QUALITY EDUCATION

Kopila Valley School offers free high-quality education to students from the region, many of whom would not be able to attend school otherwise. Distinct from many schools in Nepal, KVS focuses on ongoing training of local teachers, a commitment to literacy, an innovative place-based active learning program, and a leading-edge, sustainable “green” school campus. There are currently 422 students, 52 full-time staff, 9 part-time staff, and 6 trainees/teacher assistants.

As pandemic closures eased this year, students and teachers at KVS worked hard to catch up and adjust to being back in school full-time. In April, the school year ended and despite the closures and interruptions from the previous 2 years, all classes completed 100% of the set curriculum, with a student graduation rate of nearly 98%. The school also performed excellently in grade 12 board exams, among the top-performing schools in the country. Way to go KVS!

KVS continues to focus on place-based learning, an approach that involves students in local heritage, cultures, landscapes, and experiences, tying into our sustainability goals and values. Place-based learning is becoming the foundation of KVS pedagogy and is interwoven into all our new educational programs and teacher training.

Despite the good news, there are still challenges ahead. This year we saw some of our established teachers moving on to new opportunities. We continue to find ways in which we can retain our beloved staff, including improving teacher feedback and developing a teacher mentorship program.



636
students have
attended KVS under
full scholarship

193
have graduated
from grade 10



"I love to read in the library and use the computer to do research. I also love spending time in the science lab.

For the science fair, I made different layers of the atmosphere using cardboard, cotton, and colors. I did research on computers and in the library. After that, I gathered information about my topic and did even more research with the help of my mentor.

It's the most memorable moment in my life."

-Sabitra Tarami Magar, Grade 4



Clubs are Back

With pandemic restrictions easing, this year blossomed with extracurricular clubs that range from chess to birdwatching, dance, yoga, computers and even haircutting! We had 20+ clubs in 2022 and 10 extra-special events organized at KVS; among them were art competitions, gender awareness programs, sports day, and the very popular science fair.

Students to Teachers

Our New Teacher Induction Program, which ran for the first time in January, helps integrate new teachers and specialists into KVS through professional support and mentoring. Former students are encouraged as well; we currently have five Kopila graduates working at KVS as teachers or teaching assistants!

"I am so grateful that I have the chance to work here as a TA. For me, teaching is facilitating learning, where teachers and students can develop their beliefs and knowledge. At first, it was really arduous for me to control students and manage the classroom, but all the teachers are so helpful and I luckily got the opportunity to attain training where I learned a lot of skills, strategies, techniques, and management skills. I would like to thank all the Kopila families for giving us graduate students such a wonderful opportunity."

- Kusum, KVS Teaching Assistant and former student



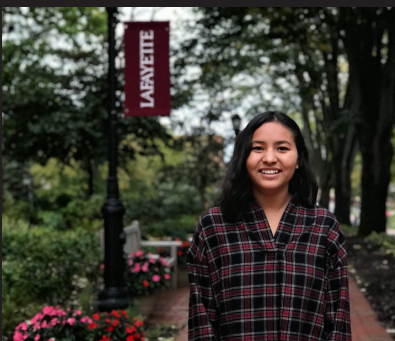
BRIGHT FUTURES

Our Futures Program supports young adults from near graduation until beyond post-secondary studies, helping them determine their onward path, further studies, career choices, and next life steps.



A Noble Cause

Lokmaya is a second-year student studying to earn her Diploma of Pharmacy in Butwal. Having been orphaned, she hopes to be able to care for her ailing elder sister and a younger brother, a KVS student, once she graduates from University. According to her, she doesn't dream big but dreams only to be able to earn and provide for her siblings so they will not have to ask for any help or support from others.



Growing Forward

Shova, a Kopila Valley Home and school graduate, has been a participant in the Futures Program since its inception. In 2017, she received a higher-education loan in order to pursue her studies at Lafayette University in Pennsylvania. She graduated last year with a BA and is now working as a Research Analyst in a Centre of Excellence Program at a firm in Dallas. We are so proud of her!

241

students studying at the post-secondary level through Kopila Valley loans or scholarships

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



15

professional development workshops hosted at our Futures Center

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



32

new students entered the Kopila Valley +2 Management Program

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Ayush's Story, The Pizza Hut

Ayush, a KVS student from our +2 Management program, was keen to start his own local business. With the idea of an ice cream parlor, he was a recipient of our loan for young entrepreneurs.

As he learned more about the market and the business, he eventually moved into fast food and pizza, calling his business "The Pizza Hut." He began supplying to Kopila Valley as needed and has since expanded to selling at the market. He repaid his loan after 6 months and is excited about his burgeoning business. His customer base is flourishing!



2,855
in-person clinic visits



116,545
*healthy meals served
in 2022*



749
*community members
reached through 24
outreach workshops*

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Our health and wellness clinic provides basic health education and preventive and primary care to the students and community. The clinic offers immunizations, proper nutrition, clean water stations, dental hygiene, vitamins, and regular de-parasitizing, as well as mental health support and counseling.

While the team sighed with relief as the pandemic eased and vaccinations swept the community, 2022 was still a busy year. We put extra special attention on mental health, well-being, and strengthening the community and families, all of whom were seeing lasting impacts of the pandemic.

Girl's Club

Operating since 2015, the KVS Girl's Club is a non-formal way of building skills, knowledge, self-confidence, and social networks, while also encouraging gender awareness and equity in the community. This year the club was busy! Our girls organized a 5k run and a menstrual hygiene awareness program (for boys, too!), distributed handmade sustainable menstrual kits, and led a breast health awareness information session for the school.



Big Brother Project

All children need a mentor, someone to encourage their passions and help guide them in a positive way. Our brand new Big Brother project helps young at-risk boys, particularly those who show signs of behavioral issues, to connect with an older boy whom they can confide in, look up to, and respect. The program is just getting started, but so far we are proud of our wonderful Big Brother volunteers who are actively helping out.



Strengthening Communities

Post-pandemic, the health team jumped back into organizing community outreach events and workshops, knowing how valuable they are for the health and well-being of community members. Not only do these programs spread important information and dispel harmful myths, but they provide a social support and gathering system that people rely on. Some of the workshops we offered this year included stress management, care for pregnant and breastfeeding women, good parenting, substance abuse, and more.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Our Family Development Program helps identified families establish more positive roots. We assess family needs, create action plans, and find the right interventions to help the family thrive. Since its inception in 2021, 21 of these families have graduated to the monitoring phase and 22 have phased out completely. This year, 23 new families enrolled in the first stage of the program.

FDP Impact

KVS student K lives with his father, G, who is disabled and has epilepsy. In 2022, we enrolled this family in FDP. G was struggling with depression, low self-esteem, and guilt, having trouble accepting his disability, and struggling financially as he could not work. We made an action plan for the family and conducted home visits, brought in a family counselor, set up and assisted with medical treatments and tests, and provided food support. Now, G has started accepting his current situation and is motivated to save and restart his small shop business. He now laughs and lives more happily. He says,

"There are people who do not have eyes, hands, or limbs, who have to beg in the streets to live. They have a lot more struggles than I have. At least I have my hands, legs, I can see and most importantly I have a family, I have a son, a daughter. I have so many reasons to live happily."

Health Insurance Helps

J is a student at Kopila Valley School. His family was enrolled in the Family Development Program (FDP) and via the program, we enrolled his family in the government health policy. When J developed an eye infection, he was treated in the province hospital and all costs were covered by the insurance. This was a huge help to the family! In 2022, our FDP helped enroll 11 people in the health policy!



FOOD AND FARMING

Children can't learn, and women and communities can't be empowered, when they are hungry or malnourished. In the 2022 post-pandemic climate change context, food security is quickly gaining priority in our programming.

Our school feeding program ensures that no student will be unable to learn because of hunger. We offer a hot lunch of fresh-cooked local, nutritious food and one healthy snack for students and staff, 6 days a week. Lunch usually includes rice, daal, vegetable curry, and cucumber, while the snack is often fresh fruit. We feed more than 500 people a day, 400+ of whom are school students. The best part? Over half of the food used in the meals is sourced from the Participatory Guarantee System farmer's groups and our own organic farms!

We also run initiatives to deliver food to women and families in times of need and are developing partnerships with local farmers and expanding our organic food production.



33

*emergency food deliveries
made to KVS families*



12,867

*liters of milk collected
from our animals*

Growing and Farming

In addition to our operational farm on campus, this year we expanded our organic farming to almost 4500 sq meters of rented land to spearhead our new sustainable food and farming program. We have hired staff and interns and cultivated several organic crops of grain and vegetables, which are being used in our school lunch program. We also began tunnel farming with the 3 greenhouse tunnels we constructed on the land.

Hungry Worms

Using recycled materials our sustainability team created three 5x20-foot plots for vermicomposting. Cow manure was used as the primary food for almost 30kg of earthworms, who then break down the waste and produce a nutrient-rich, biologically beneficial soil product. The result was more than 5000 kg of organic vermicompost! We now have more than 80kg of earthworms and several manure bulks.



SUSTAINABILITY



7,850+ kg
*of food produced on our
organic farms in 2022*

The future of our children and our community depends on a healthy planet. As such, environmental sustainability is interwoven into all our programming and values. Some of our initiatives include a place-based science and environmental learning program at KVS, an organic garden and farm, a rainwater harvesting and recycling program, a PGS farmers group, and our solar-powered, state-of-the-art “green” school campus.

Our Sustainability Program grew and thrived this year! Highlights of 2022 include growing our sustainability team, expanding our space for additional organic farming, running hands-on gardening lessons for KVS classes, starting a birdwatching club, working with the municipality on waste management, leading our 20-member PGS farmers’ group, and being selected a finalist for the Zayed Sustainability Prize. And these are just the highlights!

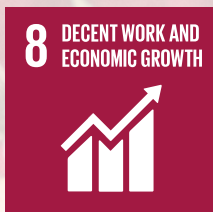


Environmental Education

Our gardening classes really flourished this year and continue to be a priority for Kopila Valley, giving kindergarten to grade 10 students hands-on opportunities to connect with nature and learn the importance of environmental protection. We also expanded our offerings this year for curious kids with an extracurricular birdwatching club and a nature club. Overall, 37 students participated in the clubs!

"Growing branches into a huge fruit-giving plant through vegetative propagation is like a miracle! I learned basic survival skills of growing food; the way to grow different crops in the garden and even in small buckets. We are able to learn about growing food for our life."

Pabitra S., Grade 7



EMPOWERMENT

Kopila Valley Women's Center uplifts community members through adult education, empowerment sessions, counseling, vocational skills, entrepreneurial training, and business start-up funds.

This year, in the Women's Center we took advantage of the eased restrictions to focus on programming while continuing to develop in new key areas and networking with the wider community.

We launched our first entrepreneurial business start-up fund just over a year ago and have awarded funds to 17 recipients total, including 9 women in 2022. From salon services to weaving businesses to fast food and local shops, the start-up fund has helped women find a route to a decent monthly income.

299

women trained in vocational skills since the Women's Center opened, including 88 in 2022 alone!

126

new women reached through community outreach programs in 4 local communities

Leaving Abuse: Dammaru's Story

30-year-old Dammaru married at age 16 and became a victim of domestic violence after giving birth to her two children. She graduated from KVWC salon training and is now offering salon services from her home while also managing a marital separation.

"The biggest fear I had was to speak up against things going wrong and accept it, as I was accepting my husband who was abusing me. But the love and counseling support I got from Kopila Valley built up my confidence to raise my voice against domestic violence. I am proud because I didn't give up. I am earning and feeding my children alone."



Samina's Story

"The skills, counseling service, and money provided by Kopila Valley Women's Center have changed my life a lot. I used to think I could never be happy or earn anything. But I am now happy and earning. Nowadays, many people come to me to convince me to get engaged in a women's group as they feel that I can do well in any type of work."

— Samina, Women's Center Graduate & 2021 Fund Recipient

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

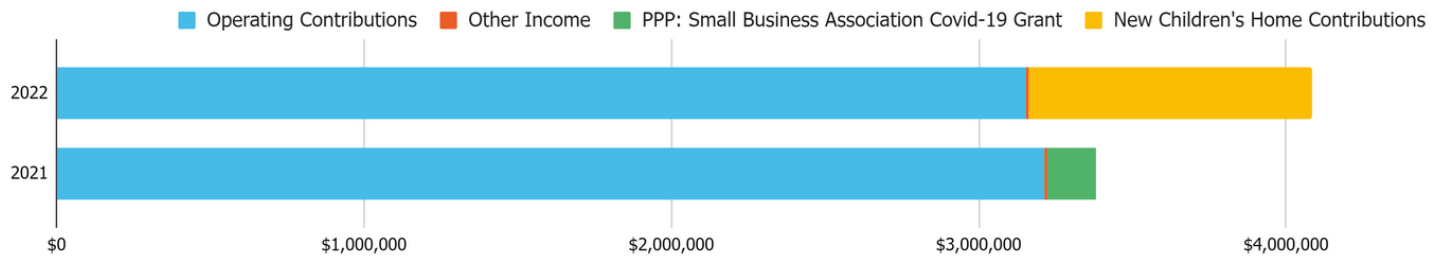
2022 REVENUE*

Operating Contributions: \$3,151,800

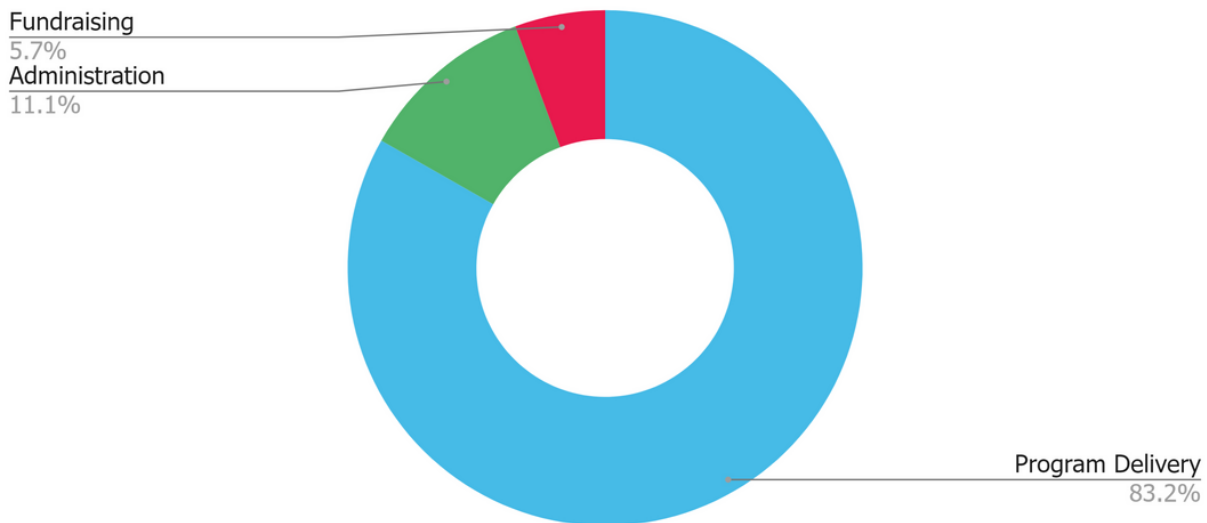
New Children's Home Contributions: \$924,800**

Other Income: \$10,200

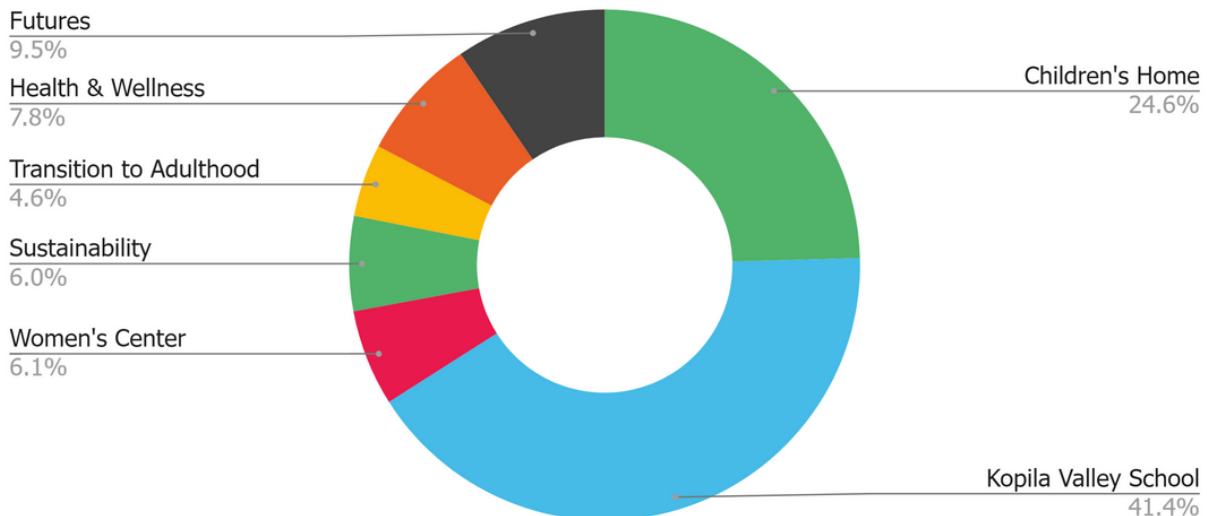
YEAR-TO-YEAR REVENUE COMPARISON



2022 SPENDING BREAKDOWN




2022 PROGRAM SERVICES BREAKDOWN



*The 2022 Audit is in progress and Audited Financial Statements will be available mid-2023.

**New Children's Home construction to begin in 2023.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 BOARD MEMBERS

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David Sager

Vice Chair

Claudia Mott

Treasurer

Jeff DiLollo

Education Committee Chair

Leslie Shaw

Member

Libby DeLana

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