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# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31TH OF MAY 2021

[By Krit Sharma]



[Picture-01: Hamro Samaj Nepal Team]

**NEPAL VILLAGE FOUNDATION, UK**

**178 Rotherhithe New Road, London, SE16 2AP**

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*Nepal Village Foundation (UK registered charity no- 1158504)*

## Summary of the Report

Nepal Village Foundation UK aims to improve the well-being of poor and Dalits in rural villages of Nepal by enabling access to education and learning. It does this by working in partnership with grassroots organisations in Nepal. Hamro Samaj Nepal a Nepalese grassroots organisation has been our partner organisation since 2009. This year, we have worked together on two projects in rural Nepal.

In total £8,885 was expended on the two projects. £6,385 on the girl's education and £2,500 on the corona relief and recovery. Seventy-three girls from the poorest of the poor families in Mahadewa Municipality of Saptari district benefited from the education project and one-hundred and thirty-five from the same municipality benefited from the corona relief and recovery project. More details can found in the section A and C of the report.

To fund the above projects, we have fundraised through GlobalGiving, Virgin Money Giving, Charity Aid Foundation, direct debits and individual donations. In total, we have fundraised £12,955 through the sources in the year. Despite the global corona pandemic, we have fundraised 35% more than the last year which means our supporters are generous and are with us even in a difficult time. We feel honoured and it has also encouraged us to do better.

The challenges at the ground levels and, at the management levels remains the same as the previous years and in addition, the global corona pandemic has put many more families in a very difficult situation. More families have been added to the poverty list and the poor families have become poorer. A project to recover the suffered ones from the corona pandemic must explore and considered as soon as possible when the virus is under control.

This report was prepared by Krit Sharma for Nepal Village Foundation UK and it will be publicly available through our website and Facebook page once it is approved by the trustees. Any feedback about the report should be forwarded to Krit Sharma by emailing at [krit.sharma@nvf.org.uk](mailto:krit.sharma@nvf.org.uk)

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## FROM THE CHAIR

The global pandemic affects the whole world and we do have much in common as we try our best to overcome this dire situation, but there is unfortunately, differing access to treatment, vaccination, and the financial ability to sustain families through the worse times.

Here in the UK, NVF has faced some difficulties but our thoughts are with our Nepalese partners and our co-ordinator who face extremely difficult circumstances with little or no help from the government and very limited access to medications and vaccination.

As a result of the pandemic businesses in Nepal are failing and unemployment has increased. Schools are often closed and people are going hungry. These factors are making it very difficult for the families we work with who were already on the lowest incomes and lived in poverty.

Last year we provided some emergency food relief and this year we will repeat this project by working with Global Giving to fund raise for basic food supplies. As a result of the Delta variant spreading across the sub-continent the situation is deteriorating rapidly and Nepal is very badly affected.

In the UK the Trustees met virtually but could not put on any of our fundraising events, however we did arrange an online quiz which was successful and for which we must thank Ewan Newton for a wonderful event. Despite this our donations have risen this year by 35% on last year mainly through giving platforms such as Global Giving and virgin money. This upturn is heartening and we are very grateful.

We remain committed to and very proud of our partner organisation Hamro Samaj Nepal. We understand that supporting the girls while the schools are shut is not safe but know that as the situation improves they will be back to help the girls access and attend education.

This Pandemic serves to underline the urgent need for the education of girls so that in future health emergencies they will be able to manage households and keep their families safe.

Thank you to our supporters, donors, trustees and our co-ordinator in Nepal Krit Sharma.

Dr Carole Sharma  
15<sup>th</sup> of July 2021

## SECTION: A

### [PROJECTS, CHALLENGES AND THE FUTURE PLANS]

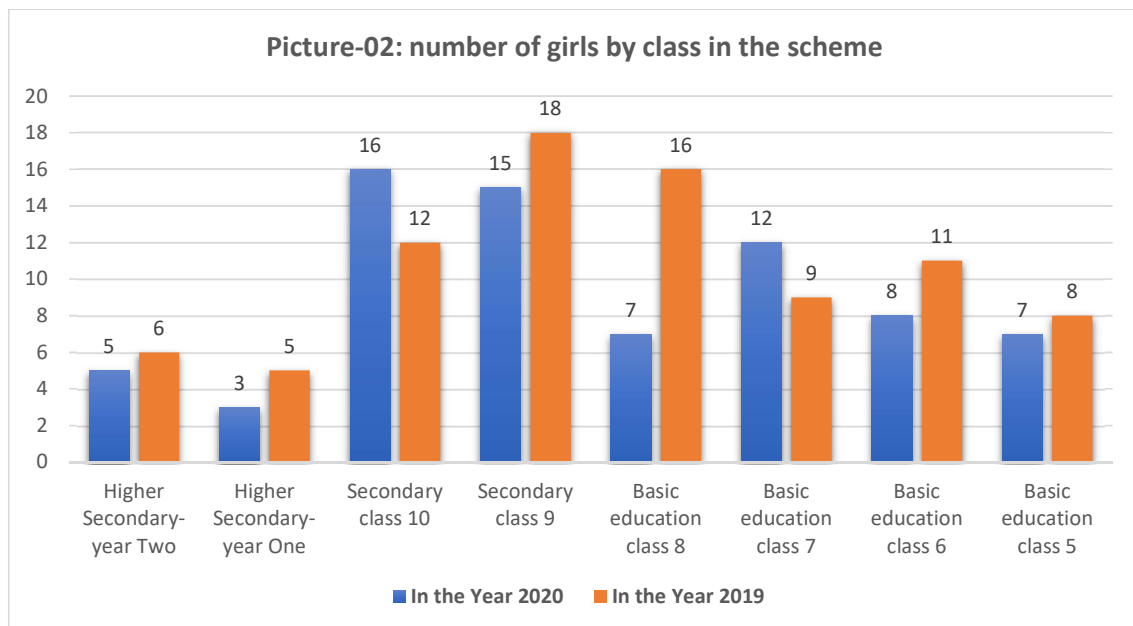
This section contains information about the projects we support, the challenges that are experienced, opportunities identified and our future plans.

#### PROJECTS FUNDED:

This year, Nepal Village Foundation has funded two projects (the girl's education and the coronavirus relief and recovery) in Nepal. The girls' education project is an ongoing project since 2009 and the corona relief and recovery project is a one-off short-term project. More details of the projects are as follow;

#### 1. The Girl's Education Project

Girls' education has been ignored in Nepal, particularly in rural areas. The main reasons are cultural traditions, an unsuitable schooling environment and financial problems. NVF raises awareness about the importance of girls' education through the project and provides financial support to girls from the poorest of the poor and Dalit families to enable them to receive a formal education. The support includes all the study materials such as books, notebooks, pens, and pencils as well as a bicycle, extra tuition classes and exams fee and the support.



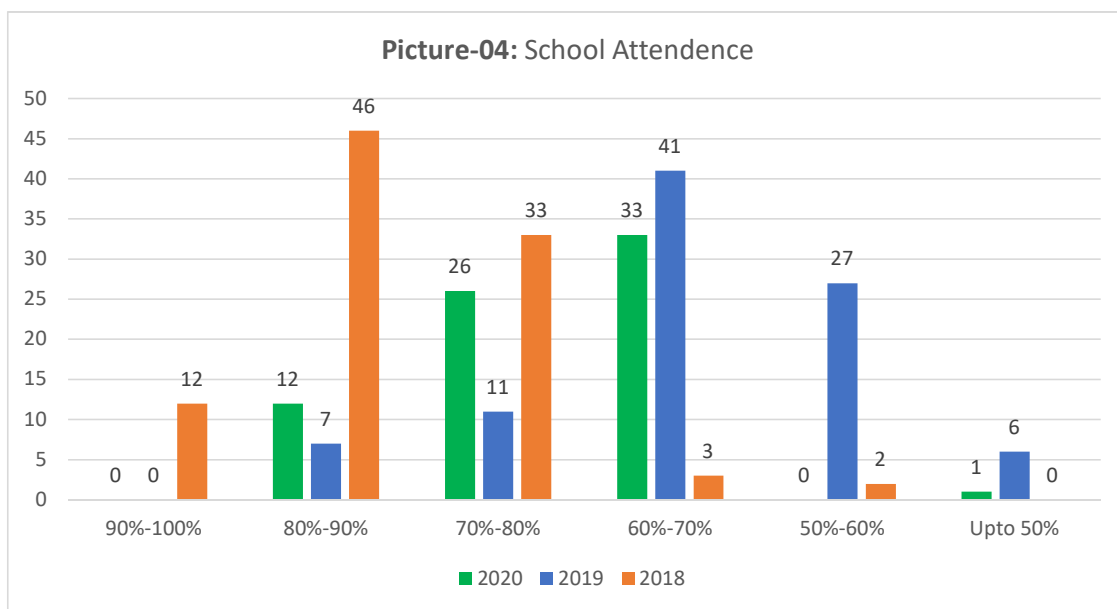
In this year, we have supported seventy-three girls studying in class five to twelve from Bhagawatpur, Majhaura, Dhikuli, Mahadewa, Durgapur, Kajoli, Chakala, Ekbarpur and Bathanaha villages of Mahadeva Municipality, Saptari Nepal. We have extended the support

to three new girls this year and nineteen girls have left the scheme. Ten of the nineteen girls didn't want to study higher education, six of the girls completed their higher education and three of them have left the scheme without completing their study. The three girls were forced by their parents and, now they are married and have a baby. We are grateful to hear that they are safe and their baby.



**[Picture-03: Photo from the educational tour by HSN]**

Most of the girls from the scheme are in the photo above along with some members of the partner organisation. It was taken six months ago in an educational day tour organised by Hamro Samaj Nepal. You can see almost half of the girls in the photo are teenagers which were very rare at the time when the project was started in 2009. It took twelve years to see that many teenager's girls in the education from the community.



The community schools which the girls attend were open only for five and half months in the year due to the corona pandemic. So looking at the month's attendance, most of the girls attended school between 60% and 80% of the school days. The number of the girls who attended school below 60% of the school days in the last year was high and this drooped to just one this year. But, none of the girls has school attendance of above 90% this year. However, comparing the school attendance with other years and, considering the limited staff mobilisation in the year due to the pandemic it's is fairly good.

One of the main project activity is to provide the support package to the girls in the scheme which involves providing notebooks, pens, pencils, school bag, cycle, books for the girls in higher secondary school, extra tuition fees, exam fees and others necessary stuff. The study support package motivates the girls and reduces the financial burden of the parents. The table (picture-05) below provides more details about what we have provided in the year.

<b>Picture-05: Study support materials</b>		
	2020	2019
<u>Details of goods provided</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Notebooks	1695	1832
Pens and pencils	1234	1061
School bags	76	101
Exams and registration fee (in Nepalese Rupees 145/£1)	Rs. 46,400	Rs. 51,500
Geometry toolbox and Calculator	8	8
Books for the girls in Higher Secondary School	56	77
New Cycle	16	65 pcs
Extra tuition/coaching classes for all the girls in the scheme	9 months	4 months

As mentioned above that the community schools were closed during the pandemic, we have provided extra tuition classes to the girls in the scheme so that they are still on track and not forget everything that was taught in the class. The extra tuition class was the most expensive activity of the project this year. We have spent over £2,000 on this activity which is 35% of the total project budget. Spending the money is worthwhile to keep the girls motivated in the education.

## **2. Corona Relief and Recovery Project**

The damages that the coronavirus has done to the world is beyond imaginable. Even though Nepal did not suffer much in the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of the virus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave and the 2<sup>nd</sup> variant of the virus has destroyed many families and brought the country to its knees. Over seventy percent of the population is uncertain about when they will receive the vaccination and

hundreds of people are still dying on daily basis. The health service sector in Nepal is lacking tools and medicine to treat the infected ones.

More importantly, the corona pandemic has pushed millions of people back into harder poverty in Nepal and beyond. It's almost two years' businesses and the labour market is affected by the pandemic so the poorest ones are the hardest hit. They are struggling to feed themselves and many small scale investments are busted. The government incentives are virtually zero to put them back on their feet.

Nepal Village Foundation is a small grassroots organisation with an annual income under 25k. So it is beyond our capacity to support the millions. However, to service the pandemic and even a little lift-up we have provided emergency groceries suppliers to the poorest families in the villages currently we are working. In the last two years, we have spent £4990 in total to provide the emergency supplies £2500 of which £2500 was from this year.



**Picture-06:** Grocery Supplies distribution

In total, 3,375 kg of rice, 405 kg of rice flakes, 135 litres of cooking oil, 270 kg of daal (lentil), 135 kg of salt and 67,500 (£450) rupees cash for fresh vegetables has been provided to 135 families in the villages. There are many more families who need the supplies and, the same families are begging for help again because the supplies would have last only for a couple of months. Nepal Village Foundation has a very limited budget so we are doing only what we can because we have an ongoing girl's education project to support.



## **RISK AND CHALLENGES**

1. We have learned that keeping in touch with the girls and their parents as well as with the local schools regularly, is very effective in improving the school attendance of the girls in the scheme. However, to do that involves an intensive level of monitoring, which is costly. All the girls attend a different school and there are fourteen schools in the Municipality (ten villages) which is spread out over a radius of six kilometres. The roads are terrible so sometimes it can take up to two hours to travel the six kilometres.
2. Dealing with teenage marriages is one of the biggest problems that we have been facing since the project began in 2009. Despite the laws and agreement with parents of the girls, some parents continue to force their daughters into teenage marriage. Enforcement of the law is not effective in the community, especially in rural villages. There are many reasons for that such as; the local authorities are not accountable and taking their job seriously and, there is an inadequate infrastructure to support them. This year, three girls from the scheme were forced into teenage marriage.
3. All the fourteen schools currently we are working with have the inadequate infrastructure to provide even the most basic needs of the pupils such as bench, desk, classrooms and toilets. In such circumstances, working with schools to improve the schooling environment for girls as well as for boys is extremely challenging.
4. The majority of women in the community, especially from poor and Dalit families, never got a real opportunity to understand the need for education. Furthermore, women's role in the community is limited to housework and farming. So, the importance of education for girls in the community has not been realised yet. Therefore, it is also a huge challenge to motivate girls in the community to receive a formal education.

## **❖ FUTURE PLANS**

The plans that are in our interest to explore and invest in the near future are to;

1. Keep exploring to improve the school attendance of the girls in the scheme and develop strategic approaches that are more suitable and effective to achieve the objective.
2. Develop and strengthen the relationship with all the schools and other organisations working in the municipality to improve the schooling environment for girls and boys.
  1. Explore the possibility to work in partnership to develop a learning resource centre in Mahadeva-5, Bhagawatpur, Saptari, Nepal.
  2. Minimising the impact of dowry traditions because it has severe consequences in the community, especially for the poor families.

## SECTION- B

### [CHARITY, OBJECTIVES, TRUSTEES AND GOVERNANCE]

#### ❖ CHARITY DETAILS

- Registered name: Nepal Village Foundation (UK)
- Registered Charity No: 1158504
- Gift-aid Reference No: HM Revenue and Customs Charity XT13105
- Registered address: 178 Rotherhithe New Road, London, SE16 2AP
- Website: [www.nvf.org.uk](http://www.nvf.org.uk)
- Email: [info@nvf.org.uk](mailto:info@nvf.org.uk)
- Phone: P: 02070640914, M: 07954376665

#### ❖ OBJECTIVES

- The advancement of education for the public benefit, in particular among girls from low-income families in rural Nepal who would not otherwise receive a formal education.
- The prevention or relief of poverty in rural areas of Nepal by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.
- To develop the capacity and skills of the members of socially and economically disadvantaged communities of rural Nepal in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

#### ❖ TRUSTEES AND THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

A board of trustees manages NVF. Some of the trustees are elected to act as principal officers at the annual general meeting. The trustees and principal officers' roles and responsibilities are discussed in the governing document, part two, section 16.

Following are the trustees and the principal officers:

- Dr Carole Sharma – Chair
- Dr David Petts – Vice Chair
- Ms Pam Miller – Treasurer
- Ms Jan King - Trustee

- Mr David Lines - Trustee
- Dr Rajeeb Sah - Trustee
- Mr Ewan Newton- Trustee
- Ms Chloe Dickinson- Trustee
- Mr Krit Sharma – Director
- Ms Pat Warrington – Ambassador

## **GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Nepal Village Foundation is a UK registered charity, and it is governed by the constitution adopted on 29<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2007 and amended on 6<sup>th</sup> of Sept 2014. All the trustees must act in the interest of the organisation and comply with the governing document and the Charity Acts of England and Wales. This includes obligations under the charity Act 2011 with regard to the keeping of accounting records for the Charity, the preparation of annual statements of accounts for the Charity, and the preparation of an Annual Report. These accounts must be prepared in accordance with the provisions of any Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) issued by the Commission to demonstrate transparency and accountabilities.

To manage the organisation, the board of trustees meet every three months, followed by an AGM at the end of the year. Minutes of all the meeting get recorded and kept for five years. Urgent issues are dealt with via phone and email. We make all our activities, performance and achievement public and communicate with stakeholders periodically.

### **❖ HOW DO WE WORK?**

NVF raises funds in the UK and works in partnership with grassroots organisations in rural Nepal by funding their projects to achieving the objectives as set out in the legal document.

### **❖ WHERE DO WE WORK?**

Currently, NVF is working in Bhagawatpur, Majhaura, Dhikuli, Mahadewa, Durgapur, Kajoli, Chakala, Ekbarpur and Bathanaha villages of Mahadewa Municipality. These villages are in the Saptari District of Nepal in the Eastern Development Region. Roughly, there are 5310 households with an estimated population of 23,800 in the villages. An estimated 9,520 of them are children and teenagers, 1,190 senior citizens and the remaining are adults.

Livelihoods of 80% of households depend on agriculture and the remaining of on income from overseas employment. The unemployment rate in the villages is as high as 40% hence half of the men are age between 20 and 40 workings in India and the Gulf countries.



**[Picture- 7: Project Location- the red mark on the map is the project location]**

## ❖ PARTNERS

NVF is currently working in partnership with **Hamro Samaj Nepal**. Hamro Samaj Nepal is a young and dynamic organisation. Their board of trustees consist of people from various walks of life, and the majority are women from different castes. The organisation is registered in Nepal with the Central District Administration Office under the registration number of 994, Tax registration number 600345882 and Social Welfare Council registration number 31800. NVF is currently a sole funder for the organisation, and our partnership has been strengthening since 2007.

## ❖ BENEFICIARIES

The following are the primary beneficiaries' group in rural Nepal:

- School-age girls from poor and Dalit families
- The poorest of the poor and Dalit families
- Local community schools and teachers
- Volunteers and partner organisations.
- This year an additional beneficiary was the families whose income was affected by the Lockdown/Corona Pandemic and was struggling to feed themselves.

## SECTION: C

### [FINANCIAL REVIEW]

#### ❖ RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNTS



NEPAL VILLAGE FOUNDATION, UK

NO. 1158504

### Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	5th April 2020	To	4th April 2021
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### Section A Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations Received	1,290	-	-	1,290	3,452
Funds raised through GlobalGiving	-	8,257	-	8,257	5,956
Funds raised through Charity Aid Found	43	-	-	43	145
Amazon Prime Europe	16			16	-
Funds raised through Virgin Money Giving	175	-	-	175	62
Gift Aid Claimed	3,174	-	-	3,174	-

Grants Received	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>4,698</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,955</b>	<b>9,615</b>

<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,698</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,955</b>	<b>9,615</b>
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### A3 Payments

Expended on Charitable Activities	629	8,257	-	8,886	9,505
Admin and Governance	440	-	-	440	180
Cost of Fundraising	-	-	-	-	273
Monitoring and Evaluation	500	-	-	500	1,092
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,569</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,826</b>	<b>11,050</b>

<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Total payments</b>	1,569	8,257	-	9,826	11,050
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	3,129	-	-	3,129	-
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>		-	-	-	1,435
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	16,259		-	16,259	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	19,388	-	-	19,388	16,259
					14,824

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash at Bank as of 4th of April 2021	19,388	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	19,388	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	

**Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees**

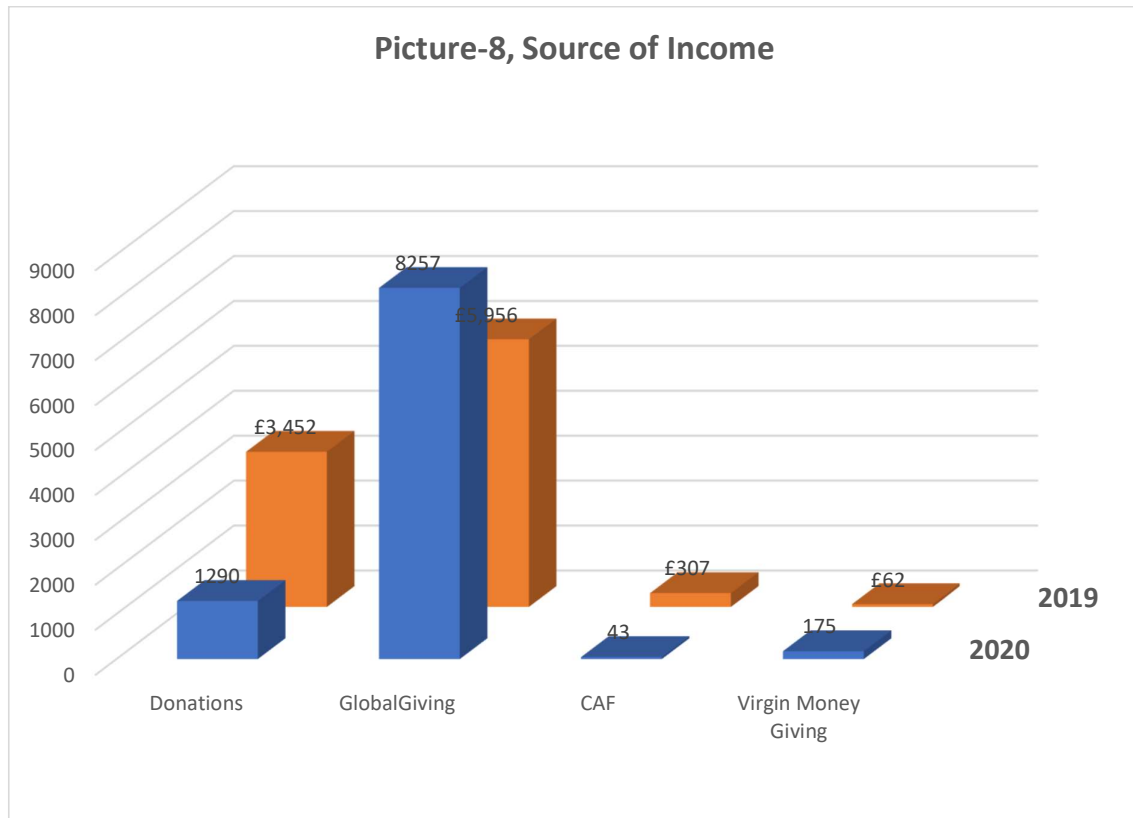
Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<p>X</p> <p>CaroleSharma</p>	Dr Carole Sharma (Chair)	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<p>X</p> <p>Pam Miller</p>	Ms Pam Miller (Treasurer)	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021



## FUNDRAISING AND EXPENDITURE FURTHER EXPLAINED

### ❖ INCOMING RESOURCES

The current NVF income sources are from individuals, fundraising events and online fundraising partners - GlobalGiving, Charity Aid Foundation and Virgin Money Giving. The graph below shows how much income came from which source and how we did compare to the last year. The largest income came from GlobalGiving for this year and the last year.

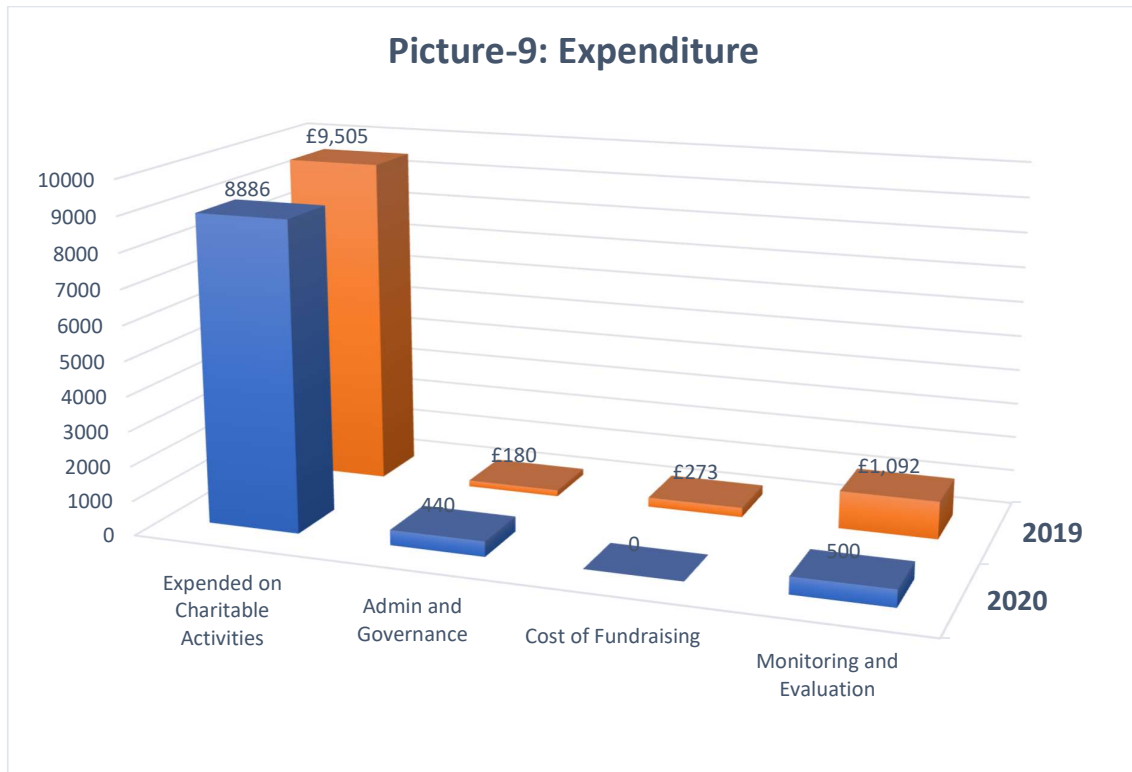


The total fundraising for the year was £12,955. Despite the global Corona Pandemic, we have fundraised 35% more than last year. Fundraising from the annual events hasn't been as expected but the Online-Pub quiz organised by Ewan was fairly good and, it boosted the fundraising on GlobalGiving. However, the number of people regularly donating to NVF has been increased, which is more helpful to plan future projects. In total, £3,882 was fundraised from the regular donors. £2,592 was through GlobalGiving and £1,290 through direct debit.

### OUTGOING RESOURCES

This year's total expenditure was £9,826, and 90% of that was directly expended on the Girls' Education and corona relief Projects which is 4% more donor's money directly spending on the projects than the last year. Only 5.5% of the total expenditure was expended on the

monitoring of the projects and 4.5% on the admin and governance. The hard work and generosity of the NVF-Team have been exceptional to keep the other expenditures to a minimum such as monitoring and admin.



❖ **THIS YEAR'S TOP FIVE DONORS/ FUNDRAISERS**

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Yu Ming Wang      | 3. David and Pam Petts |
| 2. Alexander Burrell | 4. Ewan Newton         |
| 5. Anne Pugh         |                        |



**End of the Report**