



---

# 2024 Annual Report

## Mission, Vision, and Values

As Diyalo Foundation we envision that Nepalese youth are able to successfully develop solutions for problems in their local communities by having access to technological expertise and resources. Our mission is empowering Nepalese youth to become future leaders and to support their local communities through technological development by connecting them with young experts and ecosystems from across the world. We strongly believe in equal access to opportunities, and work to make access to innovation and technology available for Nepalese communities. We work on this through our three locations in Nepal, The Netherlands, and the United States.

Diyalo follows a problem-solution oriented approach, using technology as an enabler to solve local needs in Nepal. Together with our partners, we contribute to the development of both students working with us and local communities in Nepal.

We dream of a world where youth anywhere have got equal opportunity to solve the problems their communities face. In this world, knowledge, expertise, and resources are shared freely to solve the problems of our times. To create this world, we connect high potential, young, problem solvers in developing countries with the knowledge and expertise they need. We build international knowledge communities, take away barriers to entry, and support mutual understanding and collaboration across cultures.

Summarised: We enable universities, knowledge hubs and high-tech companies to transfer knowledge and expertise towards high potential tech initiatives that lack specific knowledge. We facilitate infrastructures for collaboration, a business & project approach, and funding.



## Our Approach

We believe solutions need to be owned by their communities, this is reflected in our operating model.

1. We start by finding local needs defined by communities by looking at the problems that influence quality of life, health and safety.
2. Our Diyalo Foundation Nepal team connects with local organizations (NGOs, government institutions, etc.) for technology-oriented projects. The DFNP evaluates the potential of the proposed project on several key criteria.
3. We find young representatives through these local partners. They are bright, young Nepalese people from within these communities.
4. We find the right expertise for the project within our network of knowledge partners in the US and Europe.
5. Our international technology partner network connects us to emerging young experts who work together to create and execute solutions.
6. We facilitate connection between our emerging technology experts and our Nepalese representatives to develop and implement technology solutions.



## Board

Diyalo Foundation is based in three countries; Nepal, The Netherlands, and the United States. Each country is represented by a national board, and all boards are coordinated by the international council.

At the end of 2024, the board formation was as follows:

### *International Council*

**Binita Pandey**  
**Dilip Shrestha**  
**Marijn Götzenberger**  
**Thom Smetzers**  
**Aavash Thapa**  
**Jord Drontman**

### *Diyalo Foundation Nepal*

**Chairman** - Sudip Lingthep  
**Secretary** - Dilip Shrestha  
**Treasurer** - Binita Pandey  
**Board Member** - Ashim Dhakal  
**Board Member** - Kiran Khadgi

### *Diyalo Foundation Netherlands*

**Chairman** - Jord Drontmann  
**Secretary** - Edwin Klinkenberg  
**Treasurer** - Thom Smetzers  
**Board Member** - Marijn Götzenberger

### *Diyalo Foundation USA*

**Chairman** - Jord Drontmann  
**Board Member** - Adam Rouhana  
**Board Member** - Andrew Schoen  
**Board Member** - Matthew Michaelides  
**Board Member** - Aavash Thapa

## Projects in Nepal

### Developing a Solution for Safer Drinking Water

“Some 1 million people are estimated to die each year from diarrhea as a result of unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hand hygiene.” (WHO)

To help address this urgent problem, we teamed up with Phutung Research Institute (PRI) to develop a low-cost device that detects water contamination. This technology allows communities to quickly test their drinking water, improving overall health and saving lives in rural Nepal. Because designing such a device requires diverse expertise, our project managers worked with universities in the Netherlands and the USA. Four notable collaborations emerged this year:

- Hogeschool van Amsterdam (HvA): Enhanced the core design to make the water-testing tool more accurate and durable by helping develop bespoke electronics. Our project manager coordinated meetings and assignment deadlines between HvA students and PRI.
- Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e): Hosted a hybrid workshop where students tackled the challenge of getting these test devices into more Nepali hands. After brainstorming and presenting ideas, PRI is now adapting the most promising concepts for real-world deployment.
- User-Centric Research (Internship): We hosted an intern who gathered feedback from local residents on how they test water. This research informed critical design updates—like simplifying how data is displayed—to ensure the final device is truly user-friendly.
- University of Minnesota: For the first time in years, we partnered with a U.S. university to add water decontamination features, along with testing. Together with PRI, we created a clear project roadmap. By the end of this effort, the expanded device should be ready for communities in Eastern Nepal.

### Healthcare Innovations at the National Innovation Center (NIC)

Nepal grapples with a neonatal mortality rate of about 29 per 1,000 births (UNICEF). One key factor is the lack of appropriate newborn warming technology. In response, NIC developed Nyano Nani, a simple, low-cost baby warmer that’s easier for rural nurses to operate.

- Improving the Baby Warmer (with TU Delft): We helped NIC collaborate with TU Delft to redesign the user interface, making it more intuitive for healthcare workers. This means nurses can provide newborns with the warmth they need, especially in remote clinics.

- **Medical Drone Deliveries:** Nepal's mountainous terrain makes delivering life-saving supplies a logistical nightmare. NIC's fixed-wing drone project aims to change that. Working closely with Avans University of Applied Sciences, NIC improved the drone's take-off, payload capacity, and range. Our project managers facilitated communication between the Dutch student teams and NIC, ensuring everyone stayed aligned on design milestones. First tests were encouraging, bringing us closer to reliably delivering medicine to hard-to-reach areas.

### **Solutions for Nepal's Geographic Challenges (Robotics Association Nepal)**

Nepal's steep hillsides and unpredictable climate often result in landslides and widespread deforestation. Robotics Association Nepal (RAN) is harnessing new technologies to protect these vulnerable landscapes:

- **Seed-Bombing Drones (with Avans University):** Landslides can strip entire mountainsides of vegetation. To replant these areas quickly, RAN and Avans developed a drone that drops seed pellets into otherwise inaccessible spots. Communication hurdles were significant in this project; our project managers stepped in to hold everyone accountable and maintain consistent data-sharing. Thanks to these efforts, a first prototype was completed, paving the way for faster reforestation.
- **Supporting the Mental Health of Innovators:** Across all our Nepali projects, we have provided co-active coaching sessions to bolster innovators' resilience, motivation, and self-awareness. This mental health support helps teams handle challenges—from technical setbacks to cultural differences—ultimately leading to better project outcomes.

### **Psychological safety Net for Partners**

Diyalo conducted a two-hour workshop on mental health, stigma, and self-care for 13 team members at Phutung Research Institute in Balkumari, Lalitpur. Main intention of the workshop was to emphasize psychological safety and well-being. Participants have learned techniques across physical, emotional and mental domains. The session encouraged open discussion and sharing of personal experiences, helping create a supportive space. Main significant moment of the workshop was a personal session with a few individuals. It was powerful and reflective for them

On February 3, 2025, Diyalo also facilitated a five-hour counseling session for three individuals at the institute. One received psych education to better understand anxiety, another used cognitive restructuring to manage intrusive thoughts during a midlife crisis, and a third addressed burnout through stress management tools. Each participant



showed progress, and follow-up support was recommended to ensure sustained well-being.

Diyalo's psychological safety net successfully created a safe and supportive environment for both group learning and individual reflection. Through the workshop and counseling sessions, participants gained valuable insights into well-being, stigma, and self-care, while also learning practical techniques across emotional, physical, and mental domains. The personal sharing and individual sessions proved to be particularly impactful, offering space for deeper reflection and healing.

### **A First Project in Vietnam**

This year saw us expand our reach beyond Nepal, thanks to a new partnership with the International Centre for Frugal Innovation (ICFI). We placed students in Hanoi, Vietnam, at EBG Science & Technology and the Centre for Creativity and Sustainability (CCS).

In many parts of the Global South, woodfired stoves still dominate, leading to environmental and health problems. EBG and CCS have developed a biomass gasifier that uses agricultural waste to produce heat more efficiently and sustainably.

- **ICFI Student Contributions:** Students tackled everything from re-engineering the gasifier's design to creating a public outreach plan. According to both EBG/CCS and the students, the collaboration was highly rewarding, demonstrating that Diyalo's approach—linking local innovators with academic expertise—can thrive beyond Nepal as well.

### **Staff Changes**

#### **Nepal**

In 2024, we streamlined our Nepali team. We said goodbye to project managers Biraj and Samrat, and welcomed Dr. Rijan Maharjan—previously affiliated with PRI—as our new project director. Rijan holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Yale University and has proven both technically strong and culturally adept. He will remain with us until at least April 2025, when he will reassess his role (his wife is expecting their first child).

#### **The Netherlands**

We brought in two new project managers this year: Lisa and Maxime. Lisa has since departed to pursue a role in patents and trademarks. Maxime remains and has successfully managed challenging partner relations—particularly with RAN and their university collaborators. Her diplomatic approach helped salvage a tense project situation and keep everything on track.

## Financial Statement 2024

Profit and loss statement				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Donations</b>	<b>€8.543,66</b>	<b>€88.165,00</b>	<b>€12.800,84</b>	<b>€368,81</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Staff costs	€6.124,92	€4.743,34	€6.183,33	
Bank costs	€288,41	€247,33	€574,66	€209,25
Overhead	€1,75	€645,10	€125,00	
Project cost	€0,00	€0,00	€79.412,13	
Partner training	€0,00	€54,35	€0,00	€0,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€6.415,08</b>	<b>€5.690,12</b>	<b>€86.295,12</b>	<b>€159,56</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>€2.128,58</b>	<b>€82.474,88</b>	<b>-€73.494,289</b>	<b>€159,56</b>

Balance Sheet				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Assets</b>				
Liquid assets	€492,74	€79433,17	€5.941,20	€6177,83
Accounts receivable		€1.350,00	€0,00	€0,00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>€492,74</b>	<b>€80.783,17</b>	<b>€5.941,20</b>	<b>€6177,83</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable		€746,00	€0,00	€0,00
Project reservations		€76.000,00	€0,00	€0,00
Reserves	€492,74	€4.037,17	€5941,2	€6177,83
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>€492,74</b>	<b>€80.783,17</b>	<b>€5941,2</b>	<b>€6177,83</b>
<b>Net assets &amp; liabilities</b>	<b>€0,00</b>	<b>€0,00</b>	<b>€0,00</b>	<b>€0,00</b>

2021 - 2023 show the consolidated profit and loss statement of Diyal Foundation Nepal and Diyalo Foundation Netherlands. 2024 shows only Diyalo Foundation Netherlands.

### Explanation for income

This year, Diyalo Foundation received generous funding from several private donors. These contributions have been essential in supporting our mission to empower entrepreneurs and create impactful solutions for communities in the Global South. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors for their unwavering support and commitment to our cause.

### Explanation for expenses



Staff costs cover the expenses for our team in Nepal, which consists of four part-time members dedicated to project management, training, and administration. Bank costs include fees for maintaining our bank account and transferring funds to Nepal. Overhead costs encompass our website maintenance and other incidental expenses. Partner training costs relate to our contributions to joint training sessions, including catering and venue rental.

### Explanation for changes

This year, we primarily relied on the donations made by Wilde Ganzen and Stichting Nepal in 2023. This fuelled our projects in Nepal and ensured we did not need to spend as much as previous years.

### Future Funding Options

We are exploring new revenue streams for 2025 and beyond. These include developing university courses and partnerships that align with Diyalo's practical, global approach and offering structured intern placements that generate a fee. Both strategies could provide more consistent funding while still advancing our mission.

### Lessons Learned & Activities Summed Up

- **Building Global Partnerships:** We continued expanding alliances with universities and experts, ensuring diverse input for our projects.
- **Ensuring Proper Communication:** Regular updates and clear accountability kept our multi-continent collaborations running smoothly—though occasional challenges with RAN highlighted the need for persistent follow-up.
- **Holding Partners Accountable:** Our project managers worked diligently to ensure tasks were completed and deadlines met, sometimes navigating tense situations.
- **Bridging Cultures:** We coordinated international student teams and local innovators, fostering rich cultural exchange that fuels more creative, relevant solutions.
- **Nurturing Strong Minds:** Our emphasis on mental health coaching improved team morale and boosted problem-solving capacity.

### Conclusion & Outlook

Whether it's delivering medical supplies to remote clinics by drone or designing water-testing devices that anyone can use, our collaborative model continues to yield real change in Nepal. The leap into Vietnam this year reaffirms that our approach—combining local expertise with global partnerships—can succeed in other parts of the Global South as well.

Our focus for the coming year will be:

- Strengthening Financial Stability
- Expanding Partnerships
- Refining Internal Processes—especially communication and accountability—to maintain high project quality as we grow.

Thank you to everyone—staff, students, donors, and volunteers—who made this year of progress possible. We look forward to continuing our mission of empowering local innovators, improving lives, and sparking sustainable development where it's needed most.