



THE
ODA FOUNDATION



2022 Impact Report

Critical health, education and livelihood support in the remote mid-western hills of Nepal

Background on Oda Foundation

OUR STORY

The Oda Foundation (OF) was co-founded in 2013 by Kalikot native Karan Singh and American citizen John Christopher. Named after its location in the village of Oda, the Foundation is a government-registered NGO in Karnali Province with a 501(c)(3) arm in the US, which contributes to its community development work. From starting in healthcare in 2013, Oda Foundation's work now expands to education, community empowerment, programs supporting youth and women, and sustainable agriculture.

In this rural community, where livelihood has traditionally depended on subsistence farming and wage labor in India, the Oda Foundation's integrated approach makes positive change amidst extreme challenges in health, education, and livelihood.





A note from our founders

Hi Everyone,

Thank you for taking the time to open our 2022 impact report! As we begin a new year, I wanted to thank this community for your continued support of Oda. Your generosity has enabled Oda to reach our 10th year, a fantastic accomplishment that we could not fathom on our first day of operations back in 2013.

Over the past nine years, our project has grown into something extraordinary. As we take time to reflect on the past years, here are a few achievements we are proudest of:

- **Women's Health** | Our communities' women historically gave birth at home without clinical support; with the completion of Oda's birthing center, women can now come to a beautiful space staffed 24/7 by skilled birth attendants. We have successfully delivered over 42 babies.
- **Education** | Our relationship with two government schools has expanded our reach from an impromptu tutoring program supporting ~20 students to a deep partnership now working with nearly 800 students.
- **Health Impact** | Our one-room health post has expanded into a mountain-top campus complete with a hospital and birthing center treating nearly 10,000 patients a year.
- **Team** | Our team has grown from 4 to nearly 40, with departments focusing on livelihood, education, health, grounds, and administration.
- **Government Partnership** | Our relationship with the government of Nepal has evolved from an aspirational goal to an integral source of thought and financial partnership.

These achievements are a SMALL celebration of our team's impact in Oda – none of which would have been possible without all of you. As we look to our tenth anniversary, we are thrilled about what is to come and feel blessed for all of those who continue to follow our story!

Thank you!

Karan Sign, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

John Christopher, Co-Founder and Chairman US Board

Education

We continue to support our local government school through a private-public partnership. Through a sustainable approach to education, we train teachers to provide the best education in a low-resource school and support additional teacher salaries. The Foundation hosts youth group classes to give students fun activity-based programming that educates young people on social issues and how to become active citizens within their community. Additionally, OF provided educational opportunities for young women to attend vocational training in Kathmandu this year to create strong future leaders.



25 teachers
sent to Kathmandu
for capacity building



B average grade
received on the National Exams - the
highest in the Municipality!



5 students
received scholarships to
attend partner schools

- Implemented a sustainable water source station at the school, significantly improving WASH standards. The water station provides clean, filtered drinking water for students at school.
- Increased incentives to improve teacher and student attendance. Oda implemented awards for students with greater attendance and benefits for teachers who cover additional classes when teacher attendance is low.
- Provided extra tutoring classes by bachelor's teachers to help students prepare for important exams; efforts led to increased scores and greater student engagement with studying.



30 First-grade students were provided backpacks that turn into desks through our collaboration with Educase



Students proudly showing their homemade pads made in youth group

Health

We opened OF's Birthing Center in November 2021, which provides a safe space for life-saving and sanitary births. The birthing center is a focal point in the community where we continue to advance the needs of women's health care. After piloting a Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) project at the start of the year, we expanded the health program to reach all the communities we serve. OF surveyed 280 households on sanitation, health, and well-being topics which helped guide our program strategy. We also supported the government's vaccination and nutrition programs to ensure all community members have access to necessary healthcare.



97%

of the community prefers to birth at the Oda Foundation



1,500 patients

vaccinated against COVID 19 in 2022



8,500 +

Patients treated in our clinic in 2022



- Our menstrual health project has been underway this year in Oda. Selected women from the community received menstrual hygiene education and learned how to make pads with limited resources. These women are leading workshops in different villages to promote women's health education and sexual wellness.

- In the past year, our Health Clinic started providing additional services in lab testing, birthing options, post-natal care, and public health initiatives.

- Expanded our public health initiatives to solve root cause issues in the community to decrease health visits for things like diarrhea from unboiled water. However, we hope to see more clinic visits for family planning and long-term health understanding.



[Link to Community Wide Survey Noted Above*](#)

Karnali Ratna

Oda Foundation's social enterprise continues to support our operations with sustainable revenue. Karnali Ratna offered economic opportunities for locals in the region through our transportation, agriculture and tourism businesses. Our agriculture department currently employs five women from disadvantaged backgrounds. Additionally, the Oda Foundation recently opened a canteen as the newest business venture and we continue to grow our tourism business.



7,500 lbs

of produce grown by our
agriculture department



\$2,200

revenue from our new volunteer
and travel for a cause business



\$15,000

revenue from our transportation
business

Meet Purna

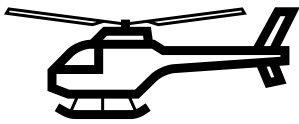


Purna is a long-time employee of OF and is one of our hardest workers. Despite facing challenges of illiteracy and widowhood, Purna has not let these shortcomings hold her back! Recently, Purna was sent to permaculture training to learn about holistic and sustainable approaches to agriculture. Permaculture is the growth of agricultural ecosystems in a sustainable way. Purna now comes to meetings with a voice we had never heard before; confidence and knowledge radiate from her being. Because she could not take notes, she took videos of all her on-the-ground training. She goes back through her videos and photos to remember what she was taught and listens to what the instructor explained.

Overcoming the barrier of illiteracy through technology and education resulted in noteworthy empowerment and our successful year of agriculture production.

Operations

What Operational and Infrastructure changes happened in 2022?



Completed building
emergency
helicopter pad



Hired for 4 new
positions



Partnered with 6 new NGOs
to support our work

- Continued to prioritize local employment. 72% of our staff are from the local community, and 94% of our full-time staff are Nepali.
- Prioritized the capacity building of the team. We sent team members to various training and had a 3-day management coaching held on our campus (pictured right).
- Completed the construction of new cottages that provide additional accommodation to volunteers and guests (pictured right).
- Increased government support through salary coverage.
- Provided Emergency Response in Jan 2022 and fundraised \$2,000 to get necessary winter supplies to the community. In Oct 2022, OF provided supplies for flooding and damage to homes in neighboring communities, such as rice and tents.



What's Next: 2023



Extend our educational impact with another local government school partnership.



Increase public health and lab training for staff to expand our clinic services.



Improve access of our services to women and make our clinic more women-friendly with the arrival of a Women's Health Nurse Manager.



Continue community engagement through additional training and workshops with our agriculture department.



Develop our volunteer and tourism businesses for Karnali Ratna.



Increase government support of programming.



Implement a school lunch program to increase school attendance and reduce malnutrition in children and track the program carefully against government standards.

Thank you for your continued support into the New Year!