2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Sunrise Children's Association Incorporated

Bringing a brighter future to the children of Nepal

www.scai.org.au

A message from our CEO

Dear Supporters and Friends,

With the generous support of our sponsors and donors, the dedication of our team in Nepal, and the courage and determination of the children and families we work with, I am delighted to share that the 2024-25 fiscal year was another truly rewarding one for Sunrise Children's Association Inc.

This year was particularly special, as **we celebrated our 20th birthday** - two decades since SCAI began its journey in Nepal and Australia. From a single home for rescued children, we have grown into an organisation helping hundreds of children stay safe, continue their education, and return to or remain with their families. Celebrations in Nepal in May and in Australia in August were a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how far we've come and to thank everyone who has made this work possible.

It was also the second year of our 3-year Project Agreement with the Government of Nepal, through which we continued to operate Sunrise Home, the Reintegration Program and Education Scholarship and Livelihood Development Programs. Across these, over **320 children** were directly supported this year. Through education support, regular monitoring, mentoring and livelihood support, we saw **more children continue their studies**, **more families maintain stable care**, and **more young people graduate and begin shaping their own futures**.

The year's results again showed that **steady, family-centred support works**. When parents have the tools and confidence to provide for their children and stay connected with their schooling, the risk of separation, early marriage or trafficking drops dramatically. Many families that once relied on SCAI's help are now independent, and their children are thriving at home.

Looking ahead to 2025-26, we will continue to focus on **Prevention, Rescue and Reintegration**, ensuring that every child we reach can grow up safe, educated and with family. We will also keep refining our youth transition support to help graduates take their next steps towards further study, training or employment.

To our long-time sponsors and those who joined us this year - **thank you**. Your generosity and belief in our mission over the past twenty years have helped transform hundreds of young lives and continue to create brighter futures for children in Nepal.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Emma Taylor
Co-founder and CEO
SCAI Australia

Sunrise graduate Mansingh, now studying a Master of Public Health in Copenhagen on a full scholarship

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20 Years of Partnership and Impact

Celebrating two decades of brighter futures

Twenty years ago, SCAI began with a simple belief — that every child deserves to grow up safe, educated, and within a loving family. What started as one home for rescued children has grown into a network of programs preventing separation and empowering families to build brighter futures.

Our journey so far

2004	Founders volunteer in Nepal and begin informal support
2005	SCAI established in Australia; Sunrise Home opens in Nepal
2007	Became an INGO in Nepal; first children return to family
2009–2011	Five Education Scholarship Programs launched and expanded
2011–2013	Land purchased; new Sunrise Home & community school completed
2015	Earthquake; Emergency relief and housing support
2016	Education & Livelihood Programs extended to earthquake-affected areas
2017–present	Education, livelihoods, and family-based care strengthened
2023	New Education Scholarship Programs launched, reaching more children
2025	SCAI celebrates 20 years of partnership, protection and progress

Our Collective Impact (2005–2025)

Since 2005, your support has helped almost **1,800 children** access education, rebuild family connections and move towards safer, more stable futures at home — **helping prevent trafficking, early marriage, and unnecessary institutionalisation.**

- **1,770+** children directly supported to stay safe and in school
- **690+** youth completed secondary or vocational education
- **206** children rescued & cared for at Sunrise Home
- **183** children reintegrated into families
- **1,000+** families improved their livelihoods
- **Over 5,000** family members have benefited from our programs
- **20 years** **of proven, family-centred impact**

Together, we have helped rebuild families, protect childhoods and open doors to lasting opportunity.

Impact Story: Bal Bahadur

Bal Bahadur lost his father when he was young and placed in an illegal orphanage. After being rescued by authorities, Sunrise provided temporary care before reuniting him with his mother and siblings. With ongoing support, he successfully graduated from secondary school this year and has begun further study.

"I am excited to begin my studies as a Health Assistant. My goal is to become a health practitioner after completing my diploma.

I am very grateful to Sunrise for supporting my education and helping me continue my studies after returning to my mother."

— Bal Bahadur

2024-25 Impact at a Glance

This year, your support continued to change the course of life for hundreds of children and families. Families built steady income and greater stability, children stayed in school, and young people took important steps towards further study, work and independence.

Children & Education

253 children attended school or college

17 more finished secondary school

39 more completed Year 12 or diploma

Outcome: Children at high risk of dropping out stayed in education and moved closer to finishing school and safer pathways forward.

Family Livelihoods

351 families had access to small-business loans

273 trained in small business and livelihood skills

Outcome: More families began covering daily expenses and school costs from their own income – a key step towards independence.

Care & Reconnection

23 children received care at Sunrise Home

47 reintegrated children supported

9 more children reconnected with families

Outcome: Children experienced stability and belonging, while family relationships were rebuilt and strengthened over time.

Protection & Youth Development

1,246 home visits, **466** school visits

124 youth strengthened **life skills,**

112 built **peer-education** skills, **91** received **career counselling** support.

23 **teachers** trained in psychosocial support

789 winter fleeces distributed

Outcome: Regular visits, training, and mentoring built confidence, practical life skills and stronger, protective networks for children and youth.

Impact Story: Rita Tamang

Rita, a widowed mother of three, struggled to keep her daughters in school and her eldest had to drop out. In 2018, her two younger daughters received education scholarships from SCAI.

"After my husband's death, life was very difficult, and I couldn't afford to educate my children.

Through Sunrise, I got the chance to attend training and start goat and buffalo rearing. Now, I have six goats and one buffalo, and I earn around NPR 150,000 a year from selling calves and goats.

I am very thankful to SCAI Australia for supporting my daughters' education and helping me become self-reliant."

– Rita Tamang

Our Context and Approach

Why We Work in Nepal

Nepal has made progress in recent years, yet thousands of families still face poverty, unstable incomes and limited access to quality education. When crises hit — such as illness, job loss, crop failure, or natural disasters — **children are often the first to be affected**. Many drop out of school, begin working, marry early or are placed in institutional care.

The challenges remain significant:

Child Marriage

Over 1 in 3 women aged 20–24 married before 18 years.[2]

Poverty

1 in 5 families live in multidimensional poverty.[1]

Child labour

1.1m children aged 5-17 are engaged in labour, with 222,000+ in hazardous work.[3]

Orphanages

10,905+ children are still in orphanages. Around 85% are not orphans.[6]

Trafficking

7,000–12,000 children are trafficked every year. [4]

Education

Only 1 in 4 youth studied up to year 12.[5]

Behind each statistic is a child whose future can change when families have the means and confidence to provide care, safety and opportunity.

1. UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2022. 2. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2022 (NDHS), 3. Nepal Child Labour Report 2021 (Central Bureau of Statistics & International Labour Organisation), 4. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal, 2024 CESLAM report, 5. Nepal's Economic Survey 2025/26, 6. National Child Rights Council Nepal's ''Child Status Report 2078''.

Our Approach & Program Strategy

SCAI's work is **holistic and family-centred**. It recognises that children's safety and wellbeing depend on many factors — including stable caregivers, access to education, economic security, and supportive communities.

Prevention

Education & Livelihoods

Keeping children in school and families economically stable through Education Scholarships and Livelihood Development.

Family-based care

Protection when it's needed most

Providing family-style, nurturing care at Sunrise Home for children unable to live safely with family, while preparing for reunification or independence.

Reconnection & Reintegration

Returning children to where they belong

Helping children safely return home or re-establish contact where possible, through family tracing, counselling, and ongoing support.

Together, we're creating brighter futures — one child, one family, one day at a time.

Our Programs in Action

Prevention - Education and Livelihoods

Every child deserves the chance to be safe and learn. Every parent deserves the means to make it possible.

Education remains one of the strongest protections for children in Nepal, yet many families still struggle to meet even basic school costs. SCAI's Education Scholarship and Livelihood Development Programs work together to equip children and their families with the tools they need to create meaningful and sustainable futures.

253 children had access to education and other vital support in 2024-25.

253 Education Scholarships

covered school essentials such as uniforms, stationery, fees and extra tuition for senior students, as well as clothing, hygiene kits, medical and rent assistance when needed.

Youth Development

124 youth strengthened essential life skills, **112** participated in peer-education training, and **91** received career counselling, equipping them with practical skills in communication, problem-solving and decision-making, while helping them explore study and career pathways and build confidence and wellbeing.

1157 Home visits

allowed our team to assess family wellbeing, provide counselling and guidance, and track progress in livelihood activities.

404 School/College visits

allowed our team to track progress, attendance, and wellbeing on a regular basis, and provide timely support when challenges arose before they escalated.

283 Families developed knowledge and skills

by participating in a mix of formal and informal livelihood activities, including small-business training, farming, animal husbandry and other skill development and ongoing mentoring.

351 Families had access to loans

through local savings group and a credit cooperative to start or expand small enterprises such as vegetable farming, animal husbandry, grocery kiosks and tailoring.

Most scholarship students completed the school year and moved up to the next grade

Families reported feeling more confident about managing school costs and daily needs

Youth were better prepared to consider further study, vocational training or local employment

Impact Story: Sapana Tamang

Sapana, 19, lives with her mother and three younger sisters. After her father passed away when she was 10, her mother struggled to raise the family alone and several of her elder sisters had to leave school early. In 2018, Sapana received an Education Scholarship, which helped her continue her studies and take part in Life Skills and Peer Education training. Today, she is pursuing a three-year Diploma in Agriculture.

"When my father died and my sisters had to leave school, I thought my dream of studying was over. But after receiving the SCAI Australia scholarship, I regained hope.

I studied hard and successfully completed my schooling and am now pursuing a Diploma in Agriculture. I am deeply grateful to SCAI Australia for supporting my education and helping me continue my studies."

— **Sapana**

Family based care - Sunrise Home

A safe home. A sense of belonging. A bridge back to family.

For children rescued from abuse, neglect or abandonment — or where no safe environment currently exists at home — Sunrise Home provides short- to medium-term care in a warm, family-style setting. Here, children can recover, learn, and grow while plans are made for their long-term future. This may involve tracing and rebuilding relationships with parents or extended family, or for older youth, preparing for safe and confident independent living.

23 children were cared for at Sunrise Home in 2024-25

Education

The children attended the local school, equipped with materials and extra tuition at Sunrise Home for those who needed extra support.

Personal development

Each child followed an individual development plan focused on education, wellbeing and areas of interest, including yoga, meditation, art, singing, music, dance, games, outings and counselling.

24/7 care

Live-in carers provided consistent daily routines, guidance and emotional support, as well as involving them in daily household chores and organic farming, equipping them with vital skills for their return to family or life of independance.

9 more families found

Family tracing and contact with relatives (where safe) continued in order to establish or re-build relationships and prepare for possible reintegration. Reconnection is usually done via phone, online or physical visits.

Awareness raising

Children took part in interactive sessions and events on key issues affecting young people, helping them learn, discuss and express their views. Topics included sexual and gender-based violence, Children's Day, Human Rights Day, World Day Against Child Labour, Environment Day, International Women's Day and Teacher's Day.

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Children developed confidence, participation and emotional wellbeing.

All school-aged children advanced to the next grade

Older youth developed practical **life-skills for independence**, including problem solving, communication skills, conflict resolution and taking responsibility for their decisions

Regular calls and visits to family helped rebuild relationships and a sense of identity

Impact Story: Anisha Basnet

Anisha, now 11, lives at Sunrise with her younger brother, Anish. Their early childhood was difficult: both parents struggled with alcohol addiction and eventually abandoned them. The police found the siblings wandering the streets searching for their parents and brought them to safety. After a short stay in a transit home, they were referred to Sunrise in 2021.

At Sunrise, they received stability, care, protection, and the chance to return to school. They have been attending regularly ever since and are doing well.

Sunrise undertook extensive family tracing, searching for relatives and making repeated attempts to contact both parents, who had since remarried. After many efforts, our team finally reached their mother in India. She was relieved to learn her children were safe and has been eager to reconnect.

Now, Anisha, Anish, and their mother speak often through WhatsApp and Messenger. She hopes to travel to Nepal soon to visit them and work toward reunification.

"I am very happy to see and talk to my mother on WhatsApp, and I am excited to see her soon. If I had not come to Sunrise, my brother and I might never have seen our mother again."

- **Anisha**

Reconnection & Reintegration

Returning children to where they belong

SCAI's Reintegration Program supports children, families and support networks through this process so that reunions are safe, stable and lasting. To prevent children being unecessarily separated again, SCAI provides ongoing monitoring and support, generally through until the end of high school or a three-year diploma.

47 children and youth received regular follow-up support in 2024-25

Similar to the Education Scholarship Programs, reintegrated children were supported with education, basic needs where required, life-skills, peer education and career-counselling support. The team also carried out **1,246 home** and **466 school visits** to monitor safety, encourage regular schooling, and help resolve issues early.

- Children and caregivers had someone they could turn to for support when challenges arose
- Children reconnected with the communities likely to provide them suppport in the future
- Families reported greater confidence in caring for their children
- Issues affecting safety or schooling were identified earlier, allowing timely action where needed

Emergency Support

Each year, unexpected crises threaten the safety and wellbeing of families in our programs. In 2024–25, your generosity helped us respond quickly to two major emergencies: a life-threatening medical case and devastating floods that affected thousands. We deeply appreciate every supporter who acted swiftly and compassionately when help was needed most.

Life-saving medical support

When eight-year-old Alan became critically ill after several days of high fever, he was rushed to hospital and diagnosed with severe pneumonia and fluid in his lungs. With no free emergency medical system in Nepal and his family unable to afford treatment, his life was at serious risk.

Thanks to your rapid support, Alan received urgent ICU care and the treatment he needed to recover. His family expressed deep gratitude for the help that saved their son's life.

Flood Relief

In late September 2024, Kathmandu and surrounding districts experienced torrential rains that caused deadly flooding and landslides. Around 250 people lost their lives, and thousands of families were displaced.

With your support, SCAI provided urgent relief to some of the hardest-hit communities:

- **470 gas stoves** to families in the Kalimati (Balkhu) slums in Kathmandu after all homes were badly damaged or destroyed
- **599 sets** of education materials and hygiene kits to children in Kavre District
- Psychosocial / trauma-counselling training for **30 teachers** in Kavre

Your generosity helped provide the essentials families needed during a frightening and unstable time, while children could maintain basic hygiene.

Winter Warmth & Smiles – Fleece & Blanket Campaign

Thousands of children and families affected by the floods faced a harsh winter living in temporary shelters. Thanks to your compassion, we were able to distribute:

- **200 warm blankets**
- **170 high-quality winter fleeces**

These simple but essential items provided warmth, comfort, and dignity to families who had lost almost everything.

Our Impact in Motion

Stories of hope and inspiration

Behind every program is a young person working hard to build a safer, brighter future. Many have overcome the risk of separation, long walks to school, financial hardship or the loss of parents — yet with steady support, they have gone on to achieve remarkable things.

Today, our graduates are shaping their communities as teachers, nurses, health assistants, logistics coordinators, HR professionals and skilled language learners, with some even undertaking bachelor's and master's degrees in Nepal and abroad. Their stories reflect the power of opportunity — and the life-changing impact of your support.

Maya, Vice-Principal

Maya lost both her parents young and was later cared for by her grandparents. When her grandfather passed away, financial hardship made it difficult for her and her brother to remain in school. Sunrise provided a safe home and the support she needed to continue her education.

Maya worked hard, completed high school and earned a scholarship to a respected college in Kathmandu. **Today, she is a teacher and Vice-Principal,** known for her gentle leadership and strong commitment to her students. She has also taken computer and calligraphy courses and offers after-school tuition. Maya is now a confident educator and role model in her community.

Lasang, Bachelor Graduate & Logistics Coordinator with a heart

When her father went abroad for labour work, Lasang's mother struggled to care for her and her sister. With Sunrise's support, she completed high school in the science stream and went on to volunteer for nearly four years at a monastery, teaching Buddhism and Chinese to children.

She later studied Chinese at university and now works in Kathmandu for a Chinese logistics company, where her excellent language skills and gentle confidence have helped her thrive. Alongside her work, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Health and Nutrition and hopes to start a master's degree and combine her passion for health with her other skills in the future.

Sujata — Human Resources Professional, Etihad Airways (Dubai)

Sujata was abandoned by both parents and later cared for by her aunty, who was already struggling to support three children alone. When finances became overwhelming, Sujata and her cousins were placed in an orphanage. With Sunrise's support, they returned home, rejoined school and rebuilt their family life.

Determined to succeed, Sujata studied hotel management while working part-time in accounting and operations at a local hotel. Her talent and work ethic opened doors, and she is now based in Dubai, where she has progressed from catering to **Human Resources at Etihad Airways**. She is now happily married and on a path she once never imagined. Sujata's story is one of courage, opportunity and hope.

Anita, Registered Nurse in the UK

Anita's family struggled financially to care for her and her siblings, but with Sunrise's support and her own determination, she completed secondary school with **Distinction.** She went on to earn a **three-year Diploma of Nursing** and obtained her professional licence.

After gaining clinical experience in several hospitals in Nepal, Anita achieved what once felt impossible — she is now a **Registered Nurse in the UK**, supporting patients, advancing her skills and building a life of opportunity abroad. Her story is a powerful reminder that when a girl is given education and a chance, her future can change completely.

Our young girls work incredibly hard to stay in school.

Many start their days before sunrise and travel long distances each day to pursue their education. Saraa is one of them.

A Day in the life of Saraa, 14

Saraa lives with her family of eight and begins each day at **5am**, helping with household chores before leaving at **6am** to collect grass for the family's livestock. After a quick meal of traditional *daalbaht*, she sets off for school at **7:30am**.

Her demanding journey takes **2.5 hours** through forest and rivers, and after studying from **10am to 4pm**, she walks the same long route home, arriving around **6:30pm**. After dinner she washes dishes and completes her homework until about **9:30pm**.

Despite a **five-hour daily walk**, heavy chores and long school days, Saraa attends regularly and remains determined to succeed. She dreams of becoming a **nurse so she can help others**.

She is just one of many girls who follow this demanding routine **six days a week** in pursuit of a better future.

Our SCAI Community

People & Partnerships

Behind every success story is a dedicated team. In 2024–25, SCAI's work was led by our committed staff at SCAI and our local partner organisations and supported by our wider community networks.

We thank our teams for their professionalism, compassion and unwavering focus on children's wellbeing.

Our Governance and Management Teams

Management Committee

• Geoff Sam, OAM	Chair
• Dr Leigh-Anne Claase	Secretary
• Ivo Kavelj	Treasurer
• Sarah Thom	Committee Member
• Emma Taylor, OAM	Committee Member

Public Fund Committee

• Dr Susan Phillips	Chair
• Deborah Sykes	Committee member
• Corinna Hale	Committee member

Award Recognition

In 2024, SCAI was honoured to receive a NAV Community Award in recognition of our impact and commitment to children and families in Nepal.

Our Sponsors and Donors

Every contribution – from project sponsors to monthly child sponsors to one-off donors – made a meaningful difference this year. We are especially grateful that our major sponsors maintained their generous commitments throughout 2024–25.

Major Project Sponsors

- Kathmandu Kids
- Armadillo Foundation
- MIT Group Foundation
- Arauco Ltd
- Geoff Sam, Australia
- Paul and Rose Cody
- Große für Kleine Kinderfonds Foundation

140+ Individual Monthly Sponsors

A heartfelt thank you to every one of our regular monthly sponsors who continue to support Sunrise Home and the Reintegration Program. We are deeply appreciative of your long-term commitment - with around **70 of our current monthly sponsors now supporting Sunrise for over 11 years.**

One-off donations

In 2024–25, one-off donations supported our two-part flood relief efforts - providing urgently needed stoves, hygiene kits, and psychosocial counselling, followed by warm winter fleeces blankets as part of the Christmas Winter Warmth and Smiles campaign. Donations also enabled emergency medical treatment for an eight-year-old boy and supported other essential needs as they arose across our core programs.

Fundraising Events

Our *Dining at Sunset, Bringing Hope at Sunrise* dinners in Melbourne and Adelaide were a highlight of the year once again. Guests enjoyed an evening filled with delicious Nepali cuisine, lively entertainment, vibrant market stalls, and heartfelt stories of impact.

We are incredibly grateful to all who attended, volunteered, donated prizes, shopped at the Nepali market, made donations and sponsored children. Your enthusiasm and generosity helped raise vital funds and made the nights truly special.

Financials

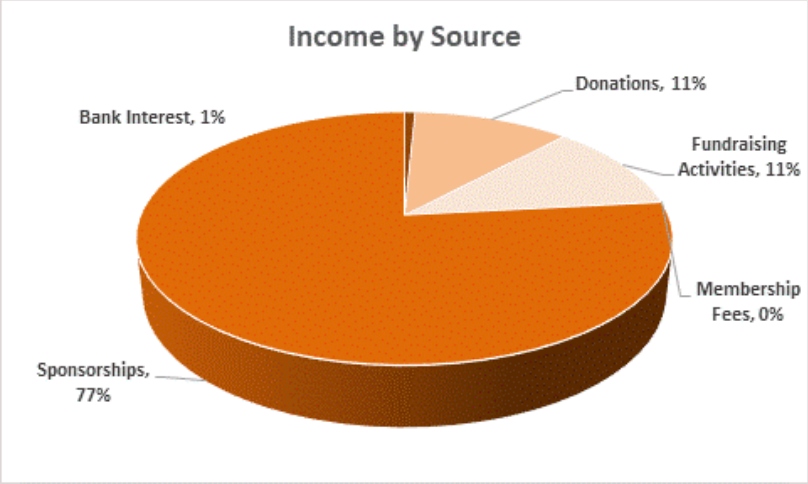
We are proud to maintain our high level of transparency and accountability in both Australia and Nepal, and to continue delivering our programs effectively and efficiently throughout 2024–25.

Income and Expenditure

	2024	2025
Income		
Bank Interest	3,485	3,348
Donations	51,364	49,288
Fundraising	17,775	49,291
Memberships	360	360
Other	-	14
Sponsorships	329,264	336,474
	402,248	**438,775**
Expenditure		
Audit Fees	1,650	1,650
Bank Charges	155	124
Bookkeeping	1,856	1,910
Equipment	-	1,815
Fundraising Expenses	6,390	14,182
Fundraising Support	863	391
Insurance Fees	2,190	2700
Marketing/Website	1,745	1278
Programs Nepal	272,414	288,565
Program Support	36,359	35,377
Salary and Wages	33,132	33,638
Superannuation	5,835	7,737
Telephone/Internet	312	1,408
Travel	946	4,689
	363,847	**395,463**
Operating Surplus	38,401	43,312
Retained Earnings at Start of Year	199,700	238,101
Retained Earnings at End of Year	238,101	281,413

*The above is based on the Audited Financial Reports

Further details can be found in our full Audited Financial Statements 2025, prepared by Lee Green, at www.scai.org.au and in our regular project Newsletters.



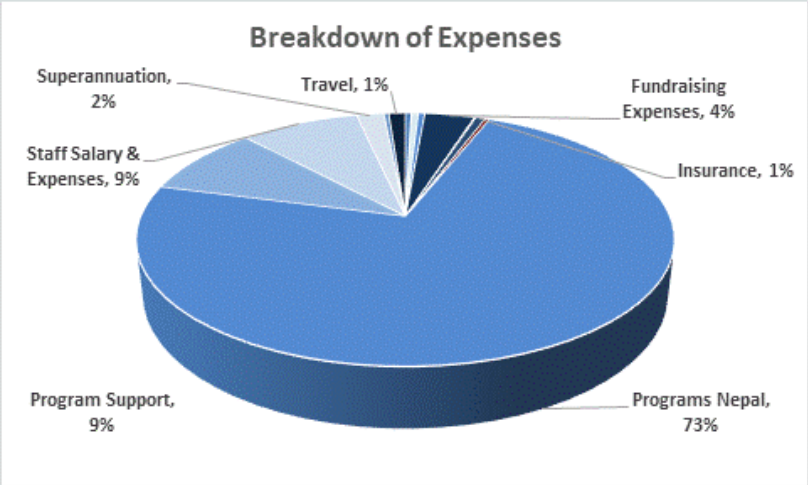
Income Analysis

Total Income of $438,775 in 2025 reflected an increase of 36,527 (9%) from 2024.

This was largely driven by

- $31,516 increase in fundraising event income
- a $7,210 increase in sponsorships
- a small decline of **$2,076** in one-off donations

50% of Sponsorship Income came from project sponsors, and 50% from monthly sponsors.

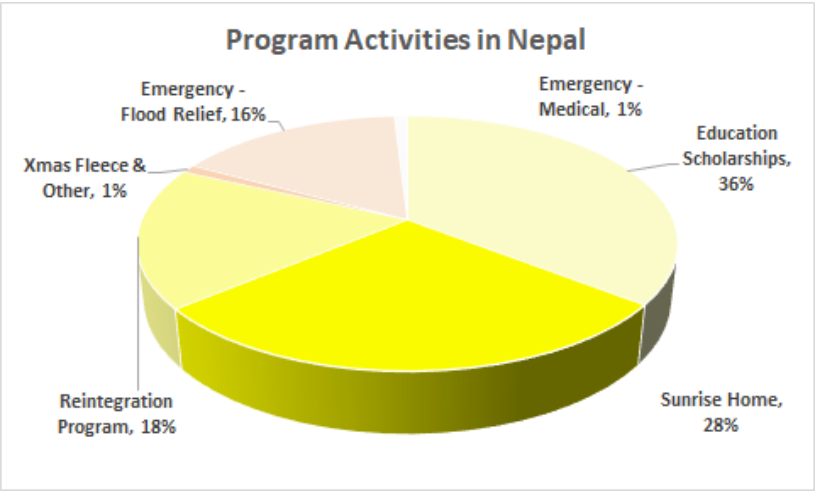


Expense Analysis

Total Expenses of $395,463 in 2025 reflected an increase of $31,696 (9%) from the previous year.

The rise was primarily due to:

- **$16,151** in additional direct program expenses in Nepal
- almost **$8,000** in increased fundraising costs
- various smaller increases across operational categories



Activities in Nepal

In 2025, program expenditure in Nepal was distributed as follows:

- **36%** Education Scholarship Programs (including Livelihood Development) –
- **28%** Sunrise Home
- **18%** Reintegration Program
- **16%** Flood Relief
- <1% Winter Fleeces, Emergency Medical, and other community support

Although the percentage share for core programs decreased due to emergency flood relief, the actual spending increased by 5–22% across Education Scholarships, Sunrise Home, and Reintegration, as a result of rising needs and expanded support.

Thank you sincerely for your support

If you would like to become part of the SCAI community – by supporting a child or project, helping with our annual fundraising events, taking on a fundraising challenge, donating your expertise, or simply sharing our story – we warmly welcome you. It is a truly rewarding journey.

Sponsors receive quarterly newsletters dedicated to the program they support, and we are always happy to share exactly where your contributions go.

If you have any queries about this report, our audited financial statements or our work, please get in touch:

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Email: enquiry@scai.org.au
Website: www.scai.org.au

Sunrise Children's Association Inc. is a registered Australian charity with DGR endorsement. **All donations over $2 are tax-deductible in Australia.**

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SUNRISE CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION INC. AUSTRALIA