



# ANNUAL REPORT



2023

TARAYANA FOUNDATION





Cover Picture: Yonten and his family in front of their newly constructed house supported by the Foundation, Ney, Lhuntse

Inside Picture: Shantey Doya, Ngawang Dramtoe, Samtse





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## About Tarayana Foundation

**T**arayana Foundation was founded by Her Majesty Gyalum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. The Foundation was formally launched on 4th May 2003 by His Majesty The King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the then Crown Prince. The Foundation is a Public Benefit Organization, registered (Registration No. CSOA /PBO-08) with the Civil Society Organization Authority of Bhutan. It is governed by a Board of Directors, and the Board provides overall policy and strategic guidance. In addition, an Executive Committee is also instituted with the role of assisting the Board and supporting the Tarayana Foundation Secretariat in implementing the activities approved by the Board. The Secretariat plans, coordinates, and rolls out all interventions through a network of programme and field officers.





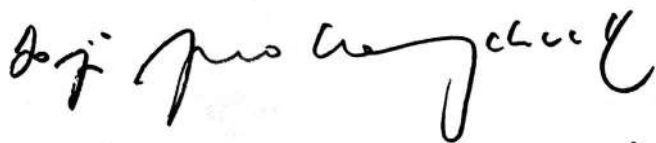
## Message From The Founding President

In 2023, Tarayana Foundation soared to new heights, leaving an indelible mark of transformation across Bhutan's rural landscape. Celebrating two decades of unwavering service, the organization embarked on a journey of empowerment, empathy, and environmental stewardship. The 17th Tarayana Annual Fair in June marked a momentous milestone, where partners, supporters, and the vibrant Thimphu community converged to commemorate the 20th anniversary of grassroots empowerment. Over sixty community representatives from various districts joined in the celebration, igniting a collective spirit of service from the heart. As part of the anniversary festivities, I embarked on a profound journey, visiting project sites across Mongar, Trashigang, Lhuentse, and Pemagatshel. Witnessing firsthand the significant improvements in the quality of life for the communities served, a deep sense of satisfaction and purpose permeated the air. My interactions with Tarayana Club members and students further solidified my belief that compassionate young minds lead the way towards a brighter future. The inauguration of the TSHAR Institute in Kalapang, Mongar, heralded a new era of opportunity for bamboo farmers and artisans. This promising initiative aims to unleash the potential of this sustainable natural resource, revitalizing the rural economy while safeguarding local ecosystems.



Expanding its reach, Tarayana completed six projects and launched seven new initiatives, extending its impact to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. The introduction of the “Environment and Climate” program paved the way for numerous climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives across rural areas, strengthening partnerships with local communities, development partners, and government agencies. Nature-based solutions, such as springshed management and sustainable land management, gained traction, with communities beyond project sites seeking similar support. The exploration of incorporating technology in springshed management further amplified the organization’s commitment to effective service delivery. Fostering a synergistic relationship with colleges, Tarayana’s partnership blossomed, welcoming more students to intern and gain hands-on experience in holistic rural development. These students found a fertile ground to apply their classroom learnings, working alongside seasoned field officers in areas such as community mobilization and skills development.

Committed to promoting equal access to education, Tarayana forged ahead in providing scholarship opportunities for underprivileged and promising students, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder their academic pursuits. Investing in skills development initiatives empowered talented individuals and artisans in rural areas, enabling them to become agents of positive change within their communities. After a hiatus of four years, the annual pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya, India, resumed, allowing eight senior citizens from remote villages to partake in this spiritually enriching experience, nourishing their souls and strengthening their connection to their roots. The Foundation’s subsidiary organizations Tarayana Micro Finance for Rural Development Pvt.Ltd., Folk Heritage Museum, Tarayana Rural Crafts, and Tarayana Centre for Research and Development – all made significant strides in achieving their respective goals and targets, contributing to the overall success of the organization. As Tarayana takes flight into the future, it does so with unwavering determination and confidence, driven by a vision of positive change within Bhutanese communities. The organization extends its heartfelt gratitude to all partners, supporters, donors, volunteers, and well-wishers within Bhutan and abroad, whose steadfast support and dedication have been the wind beneath its wings. With comprehensive community development programs as its compass, Tarayana remains committed to transforming the lives of vulnerable Bhutanese. Through continued partnerships and support, the organization will soar to greater heights, leaving an indelible trail of empowerment, resilience, and sustainable progress in its wake, shaping a brighter future for the people it serves.



Her Majesty The Queen Mother, Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck,  
Founding President





## VISION

A Happy and Prosperous Bhutan

## MISSION

Tarayana Foundation believes in maximizing happiness and harmony among all Bhutanese people by providing opportunities for life improvement to the vulnerable communities in Bhutan. By helping these community members learn and integrate new skills, Tarayana Foundation promotes self-empowerment and the importance of serving each other.

To help vulnerable and the disadvantaged help themselves

## MOTTO

Service from the Heart

## CORE VALUES

Compassion: We will be guided by the spirit of compassion from which the Foundation derives its name.

Dignity: We will act with dignity in our work and seek to respect the dignity of those we serve.

Integrity: We will follow the highest ethical standards.



# Our Team



Chime P. Wangdi  
Secretary General



Sonam Pem  
Executive Director

## Programme Division



Roseleen Gurung  
Director of Programmes



Palden Ongmo  
Sr. Programme Officer



Karma Uden  
Sr. Programme Officer



Tulasi Ghalley  
Programme Officer

## Administration & Finance Division



Sonam Jamtsho B  
Head, AFD



Pema Lhendrup  
Sr. Adm & HR Officer



Tashi Pem  
Accounts Officer



Ram Bdr Ghalley  
Office Assitant/Driver

## Communication & Monitoring Division



Sherub Wangmo  
Communications & Documentation  
Officer



Namgay Pem  
Monitoring & Evaluation  
Officer



Ramesh Subba  
Asst. Communications & Documentation  
Officer

## Field Officers



Passang Tobgay  
Sr. Field Officer



Namgay  
Sr. Field Officer



Sonam Jamtsho  
Sr. Field Officer



Thinley Bidha  
Field Officer



Sonam Gyelthsen  
Field Officer



Ugyen Tshomo  
Field Officer



Tashi Tshering Doya  
Field Officer



Jigme Wangchuk  
Field Officer



Dorji Tshegang  
Field Officer



Som Bdr  
Field Officer



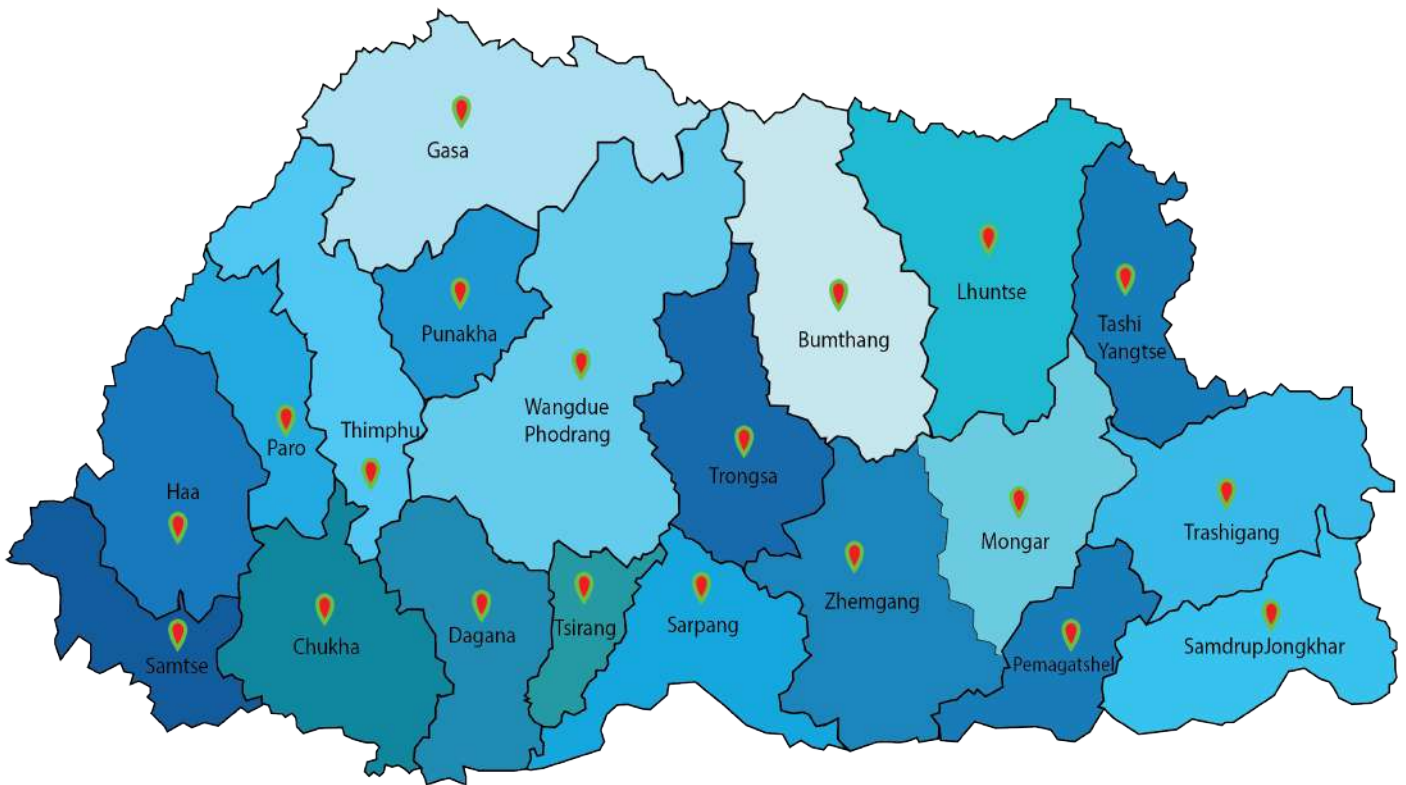
Neten Tshering  
Asst. Field Officer



Namgay Tshering Doya  
Asst. Field Officer



# Where We Work



20 Districts

90 Blocks

600 Villages

Approximately 300,000 Population





## OUR PROGRAMMES

01

Social Development

02

Economic Development

03

Environment and  
Climate

**T**arayana Foundation has strategically organized its initiatives into three primary categories: i) Social Development Programme, ii) Economic Development Programme, and iii) Environment and Climate. Each project/activities undertaken by the Foundation aligns with one of these overarching programmes, Government's plans, policies and SDGs. Amongst our notable endeavors are flagship initiatives like; the Housing Improvement Programme, Annual Pilgrimage Programme, and Scholarship and Learning Opportunities Programme, all of which are integral components of our Social Development Programme.



# Social Development Programme



**T**arayana Foundation's goal of contributing to a prosperous Bhutan have resulted in the facilitation of services and products/goods in the rural, remote and unreached parts of the country. The Foundation has worked to reduce the vulnerabilities of communities through several innovative, social development programmes. These have largely been implemented through Tarayana's field staff and a large number of volunteers, thus reflecting Bhutan's spirit of service and volunteerism.





## i. Housing Improvement

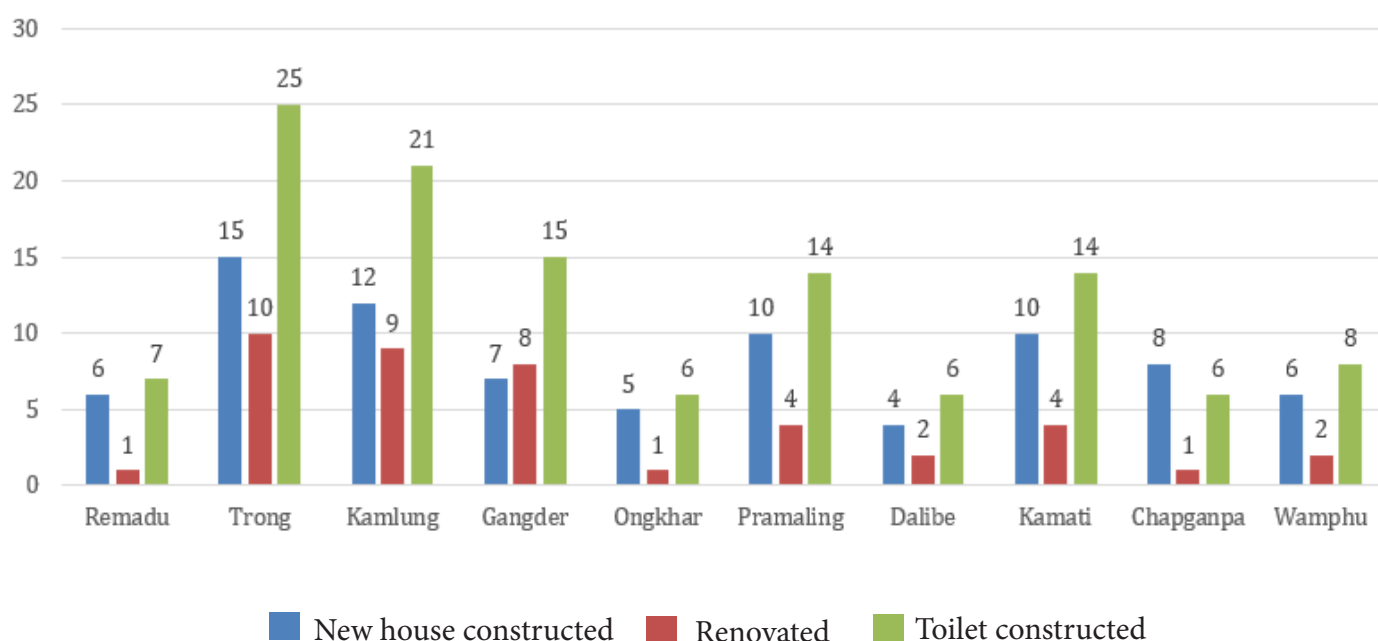


The housing improvement programme is Tarayana's flagship programme which aims at reducing vulnerabilities in the rural communities of Bhutan. Since the inception of the Foundation in 2003, new and improved shelters with pour-flush toilets and home repair and renovations were facilitated through this programme in partnership with various organizations both from abroad and within the country.

## a: Thai Housing Support

The Thai Housing Support was funded by Thai Philanthropists Khun Chia- Rug, Pha-ma-haA-won, Khun Ra-we-wan, Dr. Pun-Ya-Phat, Rung-na-Pha, mobilized by Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club. It was implemented from 2020 to May 2023 at Remadu, Kamalung, Gakhar, Trong, Dalibi, Kamati, Ongkhar, Chapganpa, Wangphu, Pramaling under Bjoka block of Zhemgang district. The project aims to reduce poverty in remote communities of Bhutan through the holistic development model that provides access to modest homes, better nutrition, skills development, and income generating opportunities to improve their living standards.

*Number of Houses and Toilets constructed, and Houses renovated under Thai Housing Project*



*Before Picture*



*After Picture*



## b: Housing Support at Mewangang, Goshing Block, Zhemgang

The Housing Support at Mewangang under Goshing block was funded by an individual donor Ms. Sonam Choden in the memory of her late father. It was implemented from September 2021 to May 2023. The five houses were supported with water and sanitation facilities.





The Tarayana President's Award was presented posthumously to Mr. Richard C. Blum by Hon'ble Founding President for transforming thousands of lives across Bhutan through housing improvement, economic and social empowerment



Mr. Richard C. Blum through the American Himalayan Foundation provided a financial support amounting to US dollar one million for a project, “Integrated Community Development for Poverty Reduction”. This project was initiated in 2018 to 2020 which benefitted more than 500 households across 13 districts in the country. It was able to empower vulnerable rural communities with hope and opportunities to improve their lives and livelihoods. Ms. Heidi J. Blum and her family visited Wangkha in Toedwang block under Punakha district in 2023. During their visit the Blum family was able to interact with the communities and witness firsthand the impacts and changes that their support has created. The communities expressed their gratitude and thanked the Blum family for their generous support.



## ii. Annual Pilgrimage

**A**fter a hiatus of four years, the annual pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya, India finally resumed in 2023. Eight senior citizens from the most remote villages of Pemagatshel, Dagana and Samtse embarked on a spiritual journey from 14th to 24th January 2024. The Annual Pilgrimage Programme was initiated in 2008 to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. Every year a group of senior citizens from the rural communities are supported to go for pilgrimage and they are accompanied by the Foundation staff to take care of their logistic needs. Till date, more than 100 senior citizens have benefited from this Programme.







## Testimonial



A 72-year-old grandmother Phub Gyem never left Khebisa, Dagana during her lifetime. She is childless and resides alone in a little hut constructed by her family on a small piece of land. Grandma Phub Gyem, deeply committed to her Buddhist faith, held Ney Dorjeeden in profound reverence, nurturing a lifelong aspiration to undertake a pilgrimage to this sacred sanctuary in Bodh Gaya, India.

“I was astounded by the vastness of the world beyond, encountering a multitude of people, vehicles, and buildings, unlike anything I had ever witnessed in my life”

Phub Gyem  
*Khebisa, Dagana*



### iii. Food and Nutrition Security



Food and nutrition security is an essential component of the holistic rural development approach that Tarayana promotes. Since the inception of the Foundation, the Field Officers have been providing necessary support, guidance, and facilitation in promoting backyard gardens for every households in the respective sites. This initiative complements the tremendous efforts undertaken by the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in fulfilling the objective of food self-sufficient village. Supports are provided in the form of inputs, capacity building, and market facilitation.

*This programme contributes towards fulfilling many targets under SDGs, specifically SDG 1. and targets 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance. It also contributes towards KPI 6.4: Poorest households without proper dwelling under NKRA 3. The support to WASH facilities contributes immensely towards KPI 6.2: Poorest households without proper sanitation (pour-flush toilet) under NKRA 3 and targets 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation... and 6.b: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management under SDG 6.*

## a: Food Security in Bhutan Through Professionalized Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

The Project Food Security in Bhutan Through Professionalized Self-Help Groups (SHGs) funded by Bhutan Foundation spans over a period of one year from May 2022 to June 2023. Through this project, 10 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed, marking a pivotal step towards fostering and achieving the objective of self-reliance. Extensive capacity-building sessions were carried out for the SHG members with sessions covering essential topics like; Group Management, Financial Literacy, Marketing Strategies, Communication Skills, and Leadership Development. Bylaws were developed for all SHGs and the elected office bearers members to manage the group functioning.

The groups also initiated savings to sustain the activities. The objectives of the project were;

- Contribute to the development of sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and climate-adapted agriculture for food systems and nutrition security in Bhutan
- By strengthening SHGs to become professional and sustainable economic players in the value chain
- By providing SHGs with access to technical knowledge, markets, and finance



*Capacity building session for SHGs Members*



*Group formation exercise*



*Input supplies; Oil Expeller, Corn Flakes Machine, Paddy Thresher, Rice Mill, HDPE Pipes, Syntax, Seeds and Packaging Materials*



## Total numbers of SHGs and Members in targeted districts

### Haa

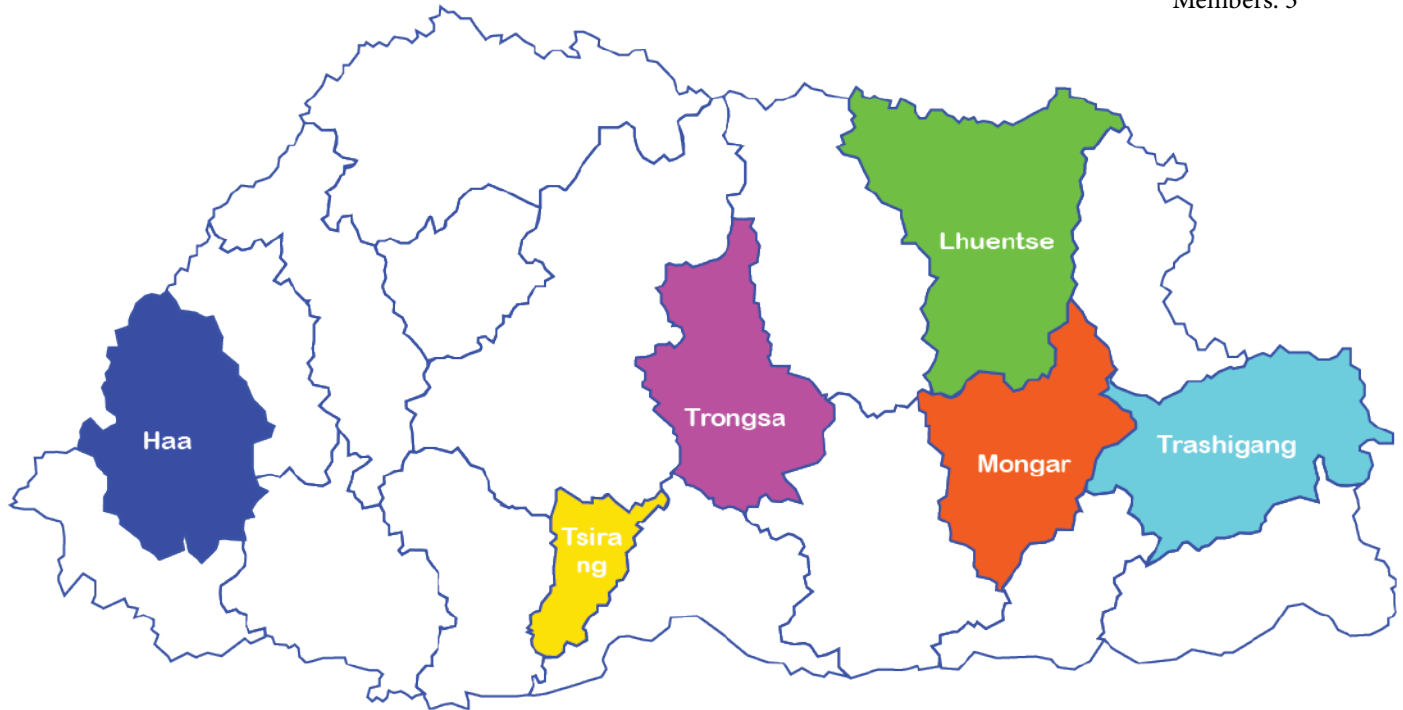
Serterna  
Vegetable Group  
Members: 39

### Trongsa

Jangbi Women's  
Group  
Members: 11

### Lhuentse

Ney Vegetable Group  
Members: 25  
  
Somzhing Vegetable Group  
Members: 25  
  
Lingabi Youth Group  
Members: 3



### Tsirang

Phuntenchu Youth Group  
Members: 32  
  
Tagthang Group  
Members: 16  
  
Tsirangtoe Group  
Members: 80

### Mongar

Jurmey Group  
Members: 24

### Trashigang

Darna Group  
Members: 25

**Total: 280 Members**

## b: Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture

The project Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture earlier known as Nutrition & Health Advocacy to Help Rural and Vulnerable Population Groups Consume & Stay Healthy During the COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond was implemented from January 2022 to March 2023 with the funding from World Food Programme (WFP). The main objective of the project is to promote health and nutrition as a defensive mechanism to strengthen immunity at a community level.



In 2023, with technical support from the LINGZHI Food, 11 Tarayana Field Officers completed Training of Trainer program in Food Processing. Thereafter, these Field Officers imparted these skills to the communities in their respective sites. In addition, an awareness campaign on the importance of Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) were carried out, which were attended by 492 male members and 539 female members at the target sites. A post-harvest management training was conducted with both theoretical and practical sessions and was attended by 397 male and 489 female participants.







A sensitization session on nutrition, crop varieties, water, sanitation & health, and the importance of physical activities for health to fight against diseases was carried out for Agriculture Extension Officers, Livestock Officers, Frontline Health Workers, and Community Influencers. A total of 360 males and 484 females attended the session. A cooking competition was also organized at the block and district levels. In total, 155 males and 201 females participated in the competition.



The findings, lessons learned, and recommendations from all the community consultations were presented to the relevant stakeholders in all the target districts. The participants of 98 males and 88 females, including district officers, local leaders, and community representatives attended the session in the four target districts held at the respective district headquarters.





## c: Collaboration in Support of Irrigation Materials for the Establishment of Dryland Irrigation and Electric Fencing

The project was Funded by Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods Enhancement Programme (CARLEP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through the Agriculture Research and Development Centre (ARDC) based in Mongar, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

The main objective of the project is to improve rural livelihood through the provision of quality and timely delivery of extension services. It is being implemented in the targeted sites of Pemagatshel, Trashigang, Mongar and Lhuentse districts.

The achievements of the project in 2023 are;

- A joint monitoring was carried out by the ARDC Wengkhar, the block administration and the Tarayana team at Sekpa village under Jurmed block in Mongar
- A total of three water tanks were completed: In-tank (01), Service tank (01), and a Reservoir tank by the community members of Sekpa
- Electric fencings were installed at Langabi (1.5 km), Yangsibi (1.2 km), and Nunmaling (1.5 km) villages under Menbi block, Lhuntse
- The Vegetable Group in Bangyul village, Dungmaed block under Pemagatshel district installed a Solar Dryer to dry their surplus vegetables more efficiently. The dryer has a capacity to dry approximately 250-300 kgs of fresh vegetables at a time, and helps maintain hygiene in the process.





*Before: Wooden Fencing*



*After: Electric Fencing*



*Water reservoir tank in Seckpa village*



*Solar Dryer in Bangyul village*

The Vegetable Group in Bangyul village, Dungmaed Gewog under Pemagatshel District installed a Solar Dryer to dry their surplus vegetables more efficiently. The dryer has a capacity to dry approximately 250-300 kgs of fresh vegetables at a time, and helps maintain hygiene in the process.



## iv. Scholarships and Learning Opportunities



In 2023, the Foundation in collaboration with national and international universities facilitated scholarships for 10 students. Currently there are 28 scholarship recipients pursuing their further studies in Regents International School, Bangkok, Norbuling Rigter College, Paro, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University) India, and Royal Thimphu College, Thimphu.

Sixteen students graduated in 2023, 13 from Norbuling Rigter College, Paro and three from Regent's International School, Thailand.





## a: Professional Development

**T**wenty-three youths, 18 female & 5 male from Sherubtse College, Norbuling Rigter College, Samtse College of Education, and Royal Thimphu College interned with the Foundation in 2023. The interns were attached to different divisions based on their interest and subject backgrounds. They were also given an opportunity to go to the project sites to learn about socio-economic issues of disadvantaged communities, engage with the community members enabling them to gain real life experiences.

### Testimonial



“I am Dorji Drakpa, currently pursuing B.Sc Sustainable Development at the College of Natural Resources, Lobesa, Punakha. I want to extend my heartiest gratitude to Tarayana Foundation for the great experience during my internship from 2nd December to 2nd February. Being a development learner and practitioner, I could link the assigned tasks to the SDG goals we studied in theory, and practically apply my book learnings. The Foundation takes interns to imbue us with the appropriate skills to prepare us for the job market. I am grateful that I got this opportunity to explore more about the ground realities, especially with regard to rural development. I could fully implement the knowledge I learned from the module “Integrated Watershed Management”.

Dorji Drakpa  
*College of Natural Resources*



*Interns with Field Officers during Sustainable Land Management Training in Sarpang district*



*Hon'ble Founding President with Royal Thimphu College Tarayana Club Members*

## b: Tarayana Clubs

Tarayana Clubs in schools and colleges was instituted since 2004 to promote the spirit of volunteerism amongst the students. The clubs carry out various social activities within and beyond their schools and institutes. Currently, there are 130 Tarayana Clubs with more than 5800 members across Bhutan. Three new clubs were formed in Royal Thimphu College, Yangchen Gatshel Lower Secondary School in Thimphu and Gyalpozhing Higher Secondary School in 2023.



*This programme contributes towards KPI 7.1: Graduates from in-country TEIs employed within one year of graduation, under NKRA 7, KPI 10.3: Gender parity index in tertiary education and KPI 10.4: Female unemployment under NKRA 10. It also contributes towards targets 4.1: Free primary and secondary education, 4.3: Equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education and 4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education... under SDG 4*



## Highlights of Clubs' Activities



*Sherubtse College*



*Samtse College of Education*



*Royal Thimphu College*



*Paro College of  
Education*



*Gedu College of  
Business Studies*



*College of Natural  
Resources*



*Gyalpozhing College of  
Information Technology*



*Phuentsholing Higher  
Secondary School*



*Gedu Higher  
Secondary School*



*Tsirangtoe Central  
School*



*Yurung Central School*



*Yangchenphu Higher Sec-  
ondary School*





“

I think engaging in volunteer work offers a means to actively contribute to the well-being of others and, consequently, enhance the overall upliftment of the community. Apart from individual accomplishments and prosperity, engaging in actions that improve the lives of others brings a feeling of meaning and satisfaction.

”

Chador Wangdi (Club President)

*Gyalsophing College of Information  
Technology*



“

On the Descending Day of Lord Buddha, we were able to help the incharge of Zuri Dzong. The club coordinator and four of us were engaged in preparing lunch, serving tea and foods, washing utensils and tablewares. Importantly, we have got an opportunity to know the history about Zuri Dzong from the Dzongpoen. Some of us also asked question about the significance of the Dzong. Zuri Dzongpoen described the main relics inside the Dzong.”

Tandin Zam

*Para College of Education*



“

The Descending Day of Lord Buddha is commemorated as an auspicious occasion. This year, it was observed on November 4th. On that day, I had the fortune and blessing to volunteer at Zuri Dzong, where a ritual coordinated by Zuri Dzongpoen. On November 3rd, at the request of Zuri Dzongpoen, the Tarayana club coordinator and four of us volunteered to transport goods to Zuri Dzong.

”

Damcho Wangchuk

*Para College of Education*



## c: Annual Green Technology Challenge

The 10th Annual Green Technology Challenge was held on 29th May at the College of Science and Technology (CST). The theme revolved around the critical aspect of Cold Storage, addressing the need for efficient preservation methods. Five brilliant teams showcased their prototypes and presented them before the students, guests and distinguished panel of judges. The challenge was coorganized by the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Development (CRSED) and the Electrical Engineering Department in collaboration with CST FabLab. This event aimed to promote environmentally friendly solutions and encourage the adoption of sustainable practices





## iv: Skills Training

The Foundation provides various training to enhance the capacity and skills of community members in collaboration with different sectors and organizations. In 2023 a total of 3411 (1607 male and 1804 female) community members were trained in the following categories: Agriculture, financial literacy, social auditing and accountability, sustainable land management, youths and women rights, and Self Help Group Management etc.



Sustainable Land Management Training

Male: 25      Female: 10



Invasive Plant Removal Training

Male: 366      Female: 386



Mushroom Cultivation Training

Male: 6      Female: 10



End Violence Against Children (EVAC) Campaign

Male: 20      Female: 10



Post Harvest Management Training

Male: 433      Female: 495



Strengthening the Rights of Youths and Women in the Rural Communities through HRBAD

Male: 532      Female: 527



Springshed Management

Male: 92      Female: 201



Seed Management Training

Male: 28      Female: 49



# Economic Development Programme



Supporting rural communities of Bhutan in securing a better future through sustained livelihood and enhancing access to financial services has been the primary objective of the Foundation. Therefore, the Foundation has made every effort in ensuring that communities are able to help themselves by empowering them economically through activities ranging from skill development to promoting income generation activities and facilitating farm to market for their products.







*TSHAR Institute: Kalapang Mongar*

## i: Promoting Integrated Bamboo Based Enterprise Development Among SAARC Countries



The project was supported by SAARC Development Fund from July 2017 to March 2023. The project with an objective to promote bamboo-based enterprises for income generation and employment opportunities, was implemented in two districts of Mongar and Pemagatshel. Gondue, Silambi and Saling in Mongar district and Ngangla, Gozhing, and Bjoka in Zhemgang.



Project achievements are:

- Two Community Facility Centers (CFCs) with appropriate bamboo machines were operationalized. Eleven machines (vacuum pressure impregnation plant, knot cleaning machine, laser engraving machine, thin slicing machine, radial splitter machine, handicrafts toolkit, manual splitter, belt disc sander machine, turning machine lathe & cross saw) were installed at TSHAR Institute. At Bjoka CFC, four machines have been installed (bamboo pole cutting machine, knot removal machine, thick slicing machine, treatment pot set and laser engraving machine).



*Picture Courtesy: SAARC Development Fund*

- A total of 1,612 bamboo farmers were trained in the scientific way of bamboo plantation and management practices, bamboo harvesting techniques, bamboo shoot processing, packaging, food handling and safety measures, bamboo post-harvest processing, bamboo seasoning, storage, grading, and sorting. Nurseries were established at the two CFCs to demonstrate the various species of bamboo as well as for the use during training programmes and farmers were encouraged to set up bamboo nurseries within their respective land as well.



*Picture Courtesy: SAARC Development Fund*





Total numbers of Master Artisan trained= 16  
 Seal of Quality Award to 6 Artisans



An exposure visit to Latur and Dumka, India, took place from 1st to 7th March 2023 for seven bamboo artisans (2F & 5M) from Mongar and Zhemgang.



*Picture Courtesy: FMC MSME*

## Testimonial



Dorji Wangchuk, a 22-year-old class 10 dropped out youth was among the seven participants who went on an exposure and a knowledge sharing visit to India. Previously, I used to work with wood carpentry, but it had many challenges. Trees take years to grow, and there are lot of competitions in the wood carpentry market. However, with bamboo, there is less competition currently, and bamboo only takes two to three years to grow, so I decided to shift my focus to bamboo carpentry.

Dorji Wangchuk



# Environment and Climate Programme



**T**arayana works with some of the most disadvantaged communities in the country with high poverty incidences. These communities have very limited adaptive capacity and coping mechanisms for climate induced risks. Most of the communities are also located in high climate variability zones, which further increases their risk of climate hazards. Due to climate change, the livelihood options of the communities are challenged by water scarcity, increased pests and diseases, declined crop yield, and human-wildlife conflicts, further aggravating food insecurity, and so on. Through diverse interventions, the Foundation builds and enhances the capacities of the communities to cope with the impacts and risks of climate change.



Project Sites





## i: Living Landscapes: “Securing High Conservation Values (HCVs) in South-Western Bhutan”-International Climate Initiative (IKI)

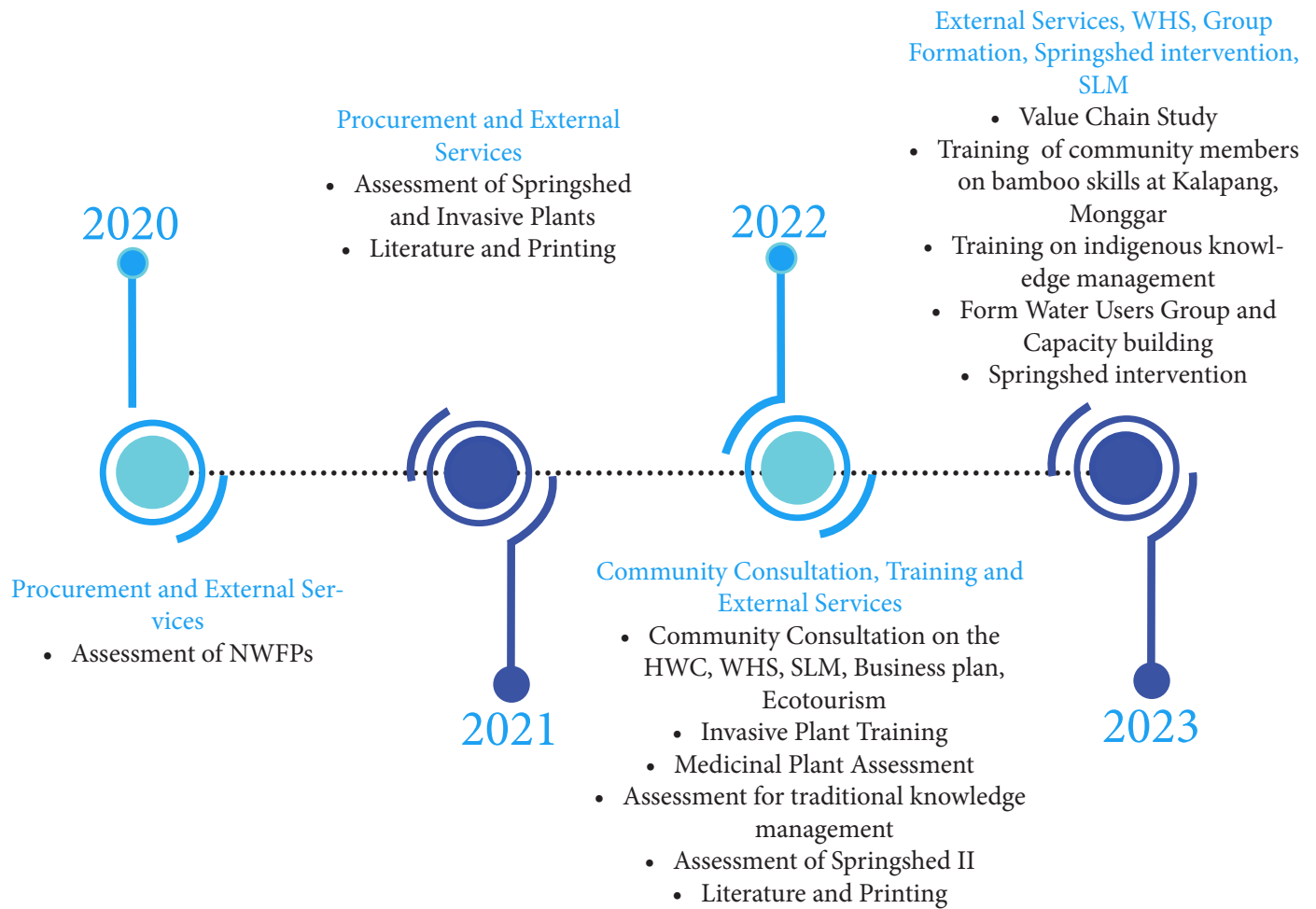
This project is implemented by WWF Bhutan and Tarayana Foundation with fund support from Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The project covers nine districts of Haa, Paro, Thimphu, Chukha, Tsirang, Dagana, Sarpang, Samtse, and Zhemgang.



*Project Sites*



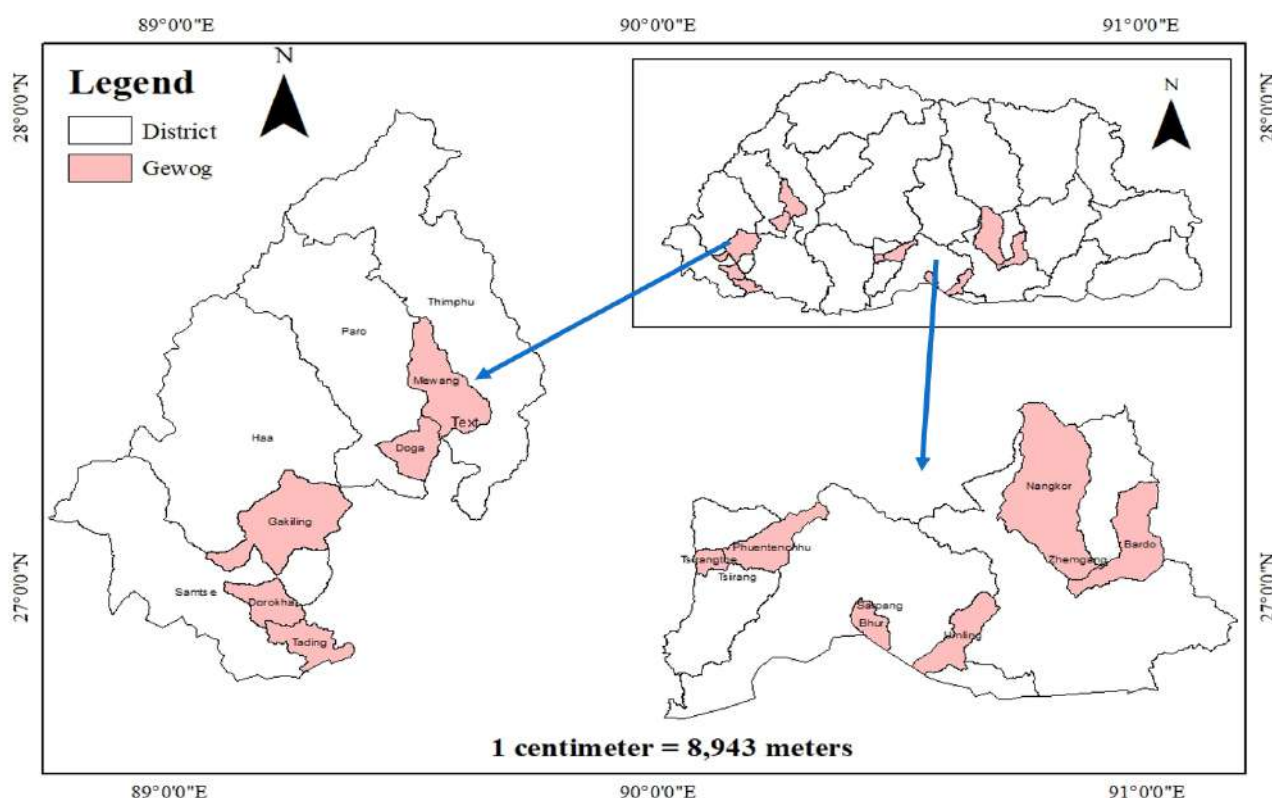
## Project Timeline





In 2023, the project achieved significant milestones;

- The completion of a value chain study for five NWFPs
- The successful conclusion of a month-long bamboo furniture training at TSHAR Institute for the initial cohort of trainees from Tading in Samtse district
- The establishment of 27 Water User Groups spanned across project sites, alongside training sessions on invasive plant management conducted in these areas
- Twenty-nine Water Harvesting Schemes were established in seven districts
- A sensitization and feasibility study on Sustainable Land Management were carried out in Metakha and Loggchina block in Chukha district
- Sustainable Land Management training at Zochhaling village under Tading block, Samtse district
- A Training on identifying, removing, and disposing of invasive plants at Tading and Dorokha (Samtse), Loggchina and Metakha (Chukha)



*Water harvesting schemes established in seven districts*



*27 Water User Groups formed till 2023*





*Sustainable Land Management Training at Chukha district*



*Sustainable Land Management Training at Samtse district*



*Invasive Plant Removal Training at Samtse and Chukha districts*





*Aerial view of Paro Dogar Springshed Management Intervention*



*Reservoir Tank*



*Bamboo Filter*



*Recharge Trenches*



*Filtration Chamber*



*Water Distribution Chamber*



## ii: Climate-Resilient Water Management in Rural Bhutan

Funded by the City of Vienna, the project has made significant strides since its inception on 1st November 2023, with a projected duration until 31st March 2025. Focused on Lichibi village under Goshing block of Zhemgang district, the project aims to enhance water management practices to withstand the challenges posed by climate change. The field visits for water source data collection have been conducted. This included tasks such as obtaining GPS coordinates, measuring physical parameters, and collecting samples for chemical testing. Additionally, vital lithology data has been gathered.



*Project site*





### iii: Developing Climate Resilient Communities Through Appropriate Adaptation and Mitigation Interventions at Yagyur and

This project is implemented by the Foundation with the financial support from the GEF/Small Grants Programme, UNDP Bhutan and Royal Government of Bhutan. The objective of the project is to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts, thereby contributing to food security and sustainability for enhancing livelihood. The second objective is to enhance water sustainability by catchment conservation through community participation. The sites for this project are at Yagyur and Khengzor under Pemagatshel district. The achievements under the project in 2023 are;

- Constructed 15,000-litres water reservoir tank
- Conducted Self-Help Group Management Training (45 participants -30F & 15M), Operation & Maintenance Training of electric fencing (45 participants -30F & 15M), Financial Literacy, Communication Skills, and Time Management Training (30 participants-20F & 10M)
- Installed electric fencing at Yagyur village covering 54 acres of cultivated land and covering 73.9 acres of cultivated land at Khengzor village



*Water reservoir tank at Khengzor village*



*Electric fencing at Khengzor and Yagyur village*



*Oyster Mushroom Training at Yagyur*



## iv: Enhance the Resilience of the Grassroots Communities to Adapt to Climate Change Through the Promotion of Agroforestry

The project funded by Stiftung Drittes, Third Millennium Foundation is implemented in four blocks under three districts of Trashigang, Tashiyangtse and Dagana for the span of three years from January 2023 to December 2025. The objectives of the project are:

- Improve farmer's livelihoods through capacity building on climate resilient farming techniques and technologies that are more efficient and will enhance income generation
- To improve land productivity and soil fertility through sustainable land management practices
- Enhanced water sustainability by protecting recharge areas and catchment conservation through community participation
- Initiate community seed banking and food processing for sustainable production and consumption
- Facilitate access to credit for small holder farmers all through using gender sensitive and agro biodiversity approaches

Project achievements of 2023 are



- Conducted community consultation meeting, resource mapping exercise, community need assessment and planning





- Carried out capacity building in climate-resilient farming techniques, and on nursery management in Lumang block in December 2023



- Seed management training was carried out at two villages Paksay and Gibsa under Khebisa, Dagana district, where 79 participants (28M & 49F) attended
- Two farmers' seed groups were formed with bylaws developed, the groups are officially registered with the National Seed Centre in Bajo for marketing and seed production



- Under the springshed management initiatives, the project constructed two reservoir tanks (20,000 ltrs) at Khesingri and Dhungmanba and installed 15 water taps and a filtration tank each in the two villages
- Five filtration tanks were completed, and three Water User Groups were formed in Nindha Village in Tashiyangtse
- Two reservoir tanks along with filtration (10,000 ltrs), were constructed at Taktsagoenpa and Menchuna village. A total of 16 water taps were installed. Additionally, two Water User Groups were formed, and bylaws were developed in Khebisa block, Dagana district





# Advocacy and Awareness

## i: Secondary Urban Towns Development Project, BHU-3674 Department of Engineering Services (DES), MoWHS

The Secondary Urban Towns Development Project, BHU-3674, executed by the Department of Engineering Services (DES), Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, funded by the Asian Development Bank, was implemented in Trashigang, Sarpang, and Samdrup Jongkhar to mobilize experts to implement a Gender Action Plan (GAP). The activities carried out in 2023 are: Completion of the Endline Survey Report and Gender Action Plan Implementation Report.



*This programme contributes to targets 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation... and 8.6: By 2030, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training under SDG 8. It also contributes to AKRA 2: Income generating opportunities created for vulnerable groups, KPI 2.1: New financial products/services for the vulnerable group, KPI 2.2: HHs receiving targeted income generation support, AKRA 4: Food security and agriculture productivity enhanced for vulnerable groups and KPI 4.2: Poor households benefiting from provision of farm machineries (rice huller, paddy thresher, etc) under NKRA 3. KPI 11.2: Youth unemployment rate, AKRA 1: Jobs created, KPI 1.1: Jobs created in RNR sector, KPI 1.4: Jobs created in CSI sector, AKRA 3: Entrepreneurship and business development enhanced and KPI 3.1: Young people trained in entrepreneurship development programmes under NKRA 11.*



## ii: Strengthening the Rights of Youth and Women in Rural Communities Through Human Rights–Based Approach to Development.

This project was implemented from October 2022 to September 2023, with funding support from the European Union through the International IDEA and Helvetas Bhutan, in 10 villages in three blocks of Haa, Samtse, and Trongsa districts.

The Objectives of the project were;

- To increase awareness and knowledge among the youth and women about their legal rights through capacity development and participatory awareness programmes
- To promote a culture for participation of the youths and women in development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the development programmes in their areas
- To strengthen the capacity of local leaders by imparting training in relation to human rightsbased approach so as to enhance delivery of quality services and engagements in the communities

The achievements of the project are;

- During the interface meetings between community members and local leaders, Awareness of the Local Development Planning Processes and the Local Government Act 2009 was created
- Trained Youth and Women members of the communities in Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (P.A.C.E), focusing on Communication, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Time and Stress Management, and Leadership. A total of 184 (118F & 66M) attended the training



- A policy dialogue session was conducted at Samtse district, involving community representatives and local leaders from Tading block. During this session, a report on action planning from the block was presented to decision makers at the district level, sparking a series of dialogues aimed at educating on inclusive governance. Sector heads participated actively in addressing issues, showcasing their dedication to overcoming challenges and promoting a future that is inclusive and empowering for all



- To foster community vitality through transparency, integrity and ownership for enhanced service delivery in the community, Social Auditing and Accountability training through the adoption of the Community Score Card tool was conducted. The total of 397 participants (250M & 129F) attended the training against the target of 140 participants. A video documentation has been launched to document the outcomes of the project, which will be leveraged as a primary tool for promoting the work on various social media platforms



*ToT for the Field Officers*



- Consultation workshops and Focus Group Discussions in 10 different communities from three target blocks Tading, Gakiling and Langthil, under the Samtse, Haa and Trongsa districts respectively. A total of 320 participants (215F & 105M) community members, including women, men and youths, participated in the consultation workshops



- Conducted consultation meetings with the local leaders, both elected and non-elected, and created awareness on the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development at block level for 36 local leaders (29M & 7F)



# Monitoring Visit of the Founding President to Eastern Bhutan



The Founding President, Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck embarked on a monitoring tour to the Eastern region of the country from October 12th to 21st, 2023, in celebration of the 20 years of Tarayana's journey in the rural transformation.



Her Majesty visited Kalapang, Mongar, and inaugurated (in-person) the TSHAR Institute, which was constructed with funding support from SAARC Development Fund. Her Majesty also met with the students and faculty of Gyalpozhing Higher Secondary School and graced the inauguration of the newly formed Tarayana Club.





In Lhuentse, Her Majesty met and interacted with the community members of Tshengkhar and Jarey block at Autsho. The local leaders of two blocks reported on the Tarayana interventions in their respective blocks. Her Majesty also met with the students and faculties of Lhuentse Higher Secondary School and the Tarayana Club members of Khoma Lower Secondary School. Her Majesty, travelled to Ney, and met with the community members of Ney, Rotpa, Somzhing, Nimzhing, Lingabi and Lekpa villages, and inaugurated the Food Processing Unit (Kurtoed Foods) at Dungnga.



Her Majesty visited Trashigang Middle Secondary School and granted an audience to the students, faculty and Tarayana Club Members of Dungtse Central School. Her Majesty met with the students and faculty of the Sherubtse College, Jigme Sherubling Central School, Wamrong Lower Secondary School, and Kangpara Secondary School. Her Majesty also met with the community members of Lumang, Darna, Dungmanba, Kharphu, and Kheshengri villages under Trashigang district.



# 20th Foundation Day Celebrations



On May 4th, the Foundation celebrated its 20th Founding Day with an in-house event. The Hon'ble Founding President, Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, esteemed board members, executive committee members, Mr. Pankaj Guar and Ms. Semi Gaur, a team from WWF Bhutan, and the Tarayana family were in attendance.



To mark the 20th anniversary of the Foundation, the Tarayana Annual Fair was reintroduced after a long hiatus caused by the pandemic. The 17th Tarayana Fair in June was a momentous milestone, where partners, supporters, and the vibrant Thimphu community converged to commemorate the 20th anniversary of grassroots empowerment. Over sixty community representatives from various districts joined in the celebration, igniting a collective spirit of service from the heart. The event was graced by His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigme Jigten Wangchuck and His Eminence Gyelsay Trulku Jigme Tenzin Wangpo.





Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, His Royal Highness Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, His Serene Highness Dasho Jigje Singye Wangchuck, Excellencies, Dignitaries, and friends of Tarayana also attended the event. While addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Founding President, Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, expressed her gratitude to His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, for inspiring her to embark on this journey of service to those in need.



Her Majesty said, “Had it not been for His Majesty The King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Tarayana would not have materialized. His Majesty encouraged me to look into the welfare of our rural people. It was my duty to embark on journeys into rural Bhutan, where I saw many in need of help, and I wanted to do something to address the need, and that’s when Tarayana was born.” At the opening of the grand event, Her Majesty also launched “Stories of Rural Transformation,” a collection of stories of change from different sites. A Gallery Walk presenting Tarayana’s journey since its inception was also launched at the event.

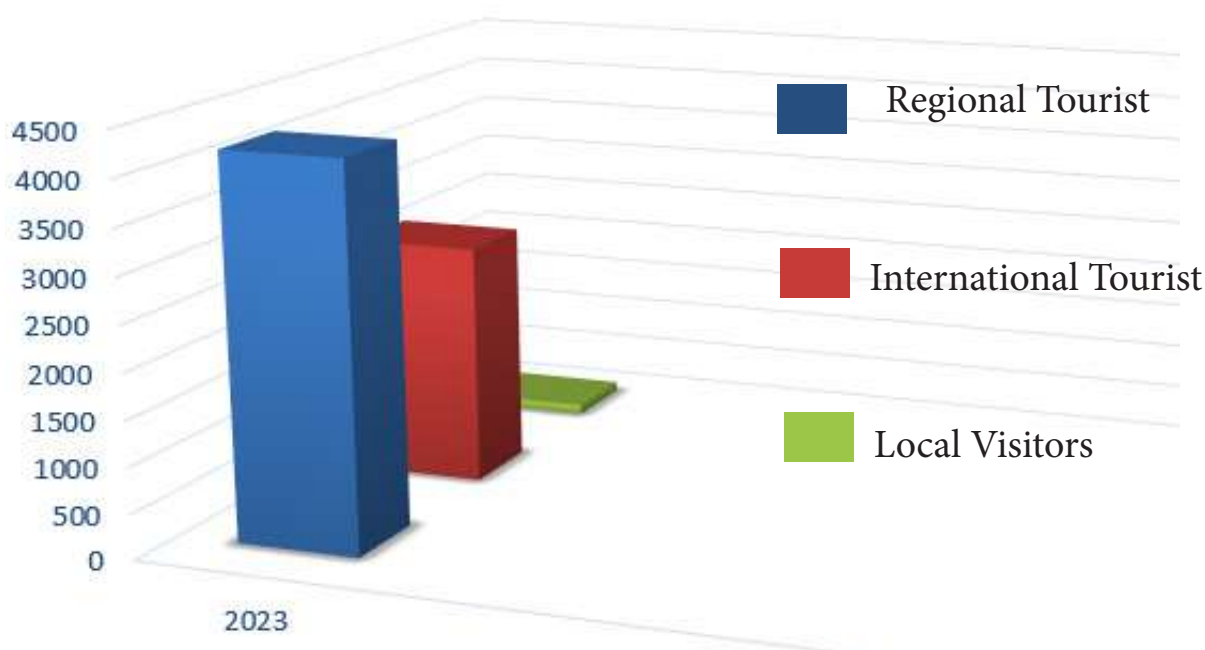


# Tarayana's Subsidiary Organizations



**F**olk Heritage Museum allows visitors to glimpse the traditional Bhutanese lifestyle and artifacts of rural household objects, tools, and equipment. The Museum organizes regular demonstrations of rural traditions for visitors, like traditional games, archery, and darts, allowing visitors to wear traditional attire from different regions and take pictures. The Museum also hosts educational and traditional customs.

## Visitors record





# Lolay



The celebration of Lolay on Nyilo (Winter Solstice) is an annual event at the museum. It is an age-old tradition practiced in the Western districts of Wangdue Phodrang, Punakha, Haa, and Paro. The Folk Heritage Museum has taken initiatives to revive this fading tradition and to create awareness among children about the importance of Lolay and Nyilo on 2nd and 3rd January 2023, Lolay recitation at Lingkana Palace and Minister enclave as well as in other various organizations.



# Jakar Dung Zimchung Renovation



The extensive renovation of the Jakar Dung Zimchung, initiated on 29th June 2023, has made a significant progress. With the internal boundary wall already completed, attention has now shifted to the outer stone boundary wall, with approximately 80% of its construction already completed. Crucially, all necessary repairs, from replacing unstable wood to addressing cracks, have been diligently executed.

The renovation of the Jakar Dung Zimchung is an important initiative that celebrates and cherishes the achievements undertaken by our Queens of Bhutan. It is the symbol of Bhutan's commitment to curating and exhibiting crucial roles women have played in shaping the country's narrative.







**T**arayana Rural Crafts is the production and marketing arm of the Foundation, which works closely with thousands of artisans and hundreds of Self Help-Groups across the country in improving and marketing products from rural villages. Each product is painstakingly handmade by artisans whose families have been involved in the craft for many generations using locally available natural materials. The artisans are provided with the required tools and skills to revive traditional arts and crafts on one hand and help them adapt to new market demands on the other.

The organization is now getting registered as a separate Civil Society Organization, Bhutan Association of rural Artisans, under the Royal Patronage of Her Majesty Gyalum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck.

In 2023, more than Nu. 2.1 millions worth of products were marketed through different outlets of Tarayana Rural Crafts. TRC also collaborated with women social entrepreneurs like She Bhutan, Colours of Bhutan, Yarn and Yathra, and Thokmed. In a move towards expansion, TRC introduced new outlets in the Cottage and Small Industry (CSI) market and Dochula Druk Wangyel Complex. Additionally, in a stroke of creative brilliance, TRC teamed up with an artist to craft exquisite Taktsang postcards, set to be retailed exclusively at the Taktsang Café.



*Tarayana Rural Crafts Marketing at an Event*



*Secretary General with Women Social Entrepreneurs*









Tarayana Centre for Research and Development (TCRD) is the research branch and think tank of the Foundation for action-oriented research that is grounded in people's lived realities and aspires to inform key development debates and policy dialogues. This is pursued through research, documentation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Tarayana Foundation's many interventions in the field with most remote and vulnerable communities in Bhutan. The centre focuses on practical implementation of interventions using bottom-up approach and provides useful insights for national, regional, and global policy formulation initiatives. TCRD complements the Tarayana Foundation in realizing its vision of a happy and prosperous Bhutan by working towards three research themes:

- Adapting to Climate Change and building Climate Resilience in rural communities
- Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods
- Supporting Youth and Women

## Bhutanese Knowledge for Indigenous Development (B-KIND)

**T**he B-KIND research project engages in a transdisciplinary, feminist political-ecological approach to understanding the multifaceted, and interconnected characteristics of natural resource management and integrated food systems- in the context of climate change in Bhutan. Political ecology explores the political-economic and socio-cultural forces that affect and are affected by ecological, environmental, and bio-physical trends. Biophysical research led by CNR focuses on mapping climate, livelihood, and food system vulnerabilities through scientific quantitative assessments of organic agriculture, climate adaptation, food systems, food and nutrition security, gender, and climate change, and the socioeconomics of food processing, distribution, value addition, economic trade-off analysis. It also explores bio-physical and ecological areas, including human-wildlife conflicts, climate vulnerabilities and adaptation, resilient livelihoods, food production, and distribution. The Project is funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Govt. of Canada



## Petari in Punakha – Climate Resilient Irrigation

**W**ater pipelines of 0.4 km laid in the seepage and erosion prone areas of Petari, Punakha district to address water shortage for rice cultivation have benefited the community. Six organic farmers in Petari are provided with the green houses for vegetable production for nutrition security. The green houses were installed on the “learn while doing” approach with the project assisting the community with technical assistance to install initial polyhouses and community completing the rest of the installations. Similarly, drip irrigation pipe layout as water saving technology and raised bed preparation for vegetable production were demonstrated and the members installed the drip lines and prepared bed for plantation.





## Laya – Food and Nutrition Security

Five trench greenhouses were constructed in Laya, Gasa district for the vegetable production for food and nutrition security of the households. Cameras and data loggers were installed for real time monitoring and data recording. Vegetable production data collection is ongoing.



## Kumbu in Gangtey In-conversion to Organic

Action research pilot started with 10 households under Kumbu village, Wangdue district to practice organic farming on potato production. Data collection and analysis on the cost of production, yield and yield components, to compare the in-conversion to organic and conventional are completed for the first year of trial.



## Visual Ethnography



*The traditional method of extracting oil from Pantgtsi seeds (Sapphire Berry) at Petari village, Kabjisa block, Punakha*



*Challenges faced by the Layaps in Gasa on their way to collect Cordyceps*



*Invoking deities' blessings for timely rainfall for crops in Gangtey block, Wangdue Phodrang*



*Photo exhibition held at Gangtey on 11th November 2023 coinciding with Black-necked Crane Festival*



*Photo exhibition held at Laya on 23rd to 24th October 2023 coinciding with the Royal Highland Festival*

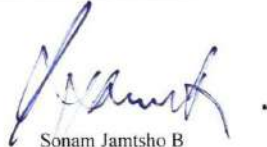


# Financial Report 2023

## TARAYANA FOUNDATION RECEIPT AND PAYMENT STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

RECEIPTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (NU.)		PAYMENTS	SCHEDULE	AMOUNT (NU.)	
		2023	2022			2023	2022
Opening Balance							
Cash in Hand	1	10,070.00	10,070.00	Expenditure			
Cash at Bank		101,167,774.45	62,551,371.84	Operational Expenses	3	51,548,030.88	12,331,018.09
				Program Expenses		97,416,002.75	6,314,541.54
Income Received				Assets	4		63,500.00
Donations	2	8,244,717.24	4,038,456.46	Investments	5		11,365,475.87
Interest on savings		2,457,662.19	4,037,037.63	Advance and Adjustment	6	13,855,979.05	8,119,523.74
Dividend received		1,829,052.00		Recoveries & Remittances	7	8,045,927.39	6,139,617.85
Fixed deposits matured			35,136,484.58	Closing Balance			
Program Funds		15,135,142.48	14,647,437.38	Cash in Hand	8		10,070.00
Other Income		28,376,978.46	9,298,978.64	Cash at Bank		5,841,393.12	101,167,774.45
Advance and Adjustment	6	11,758,628.72	9,490,731.04				
Recoveries & Remittances	7	7,727,307.65	6,300,953.97				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>176,707,333.19</b>	<b>145,511,521.54</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>176,707,333.19</b>	<b>145,511,521.54</b>

  
Tashi Pem  
(Accounts Officer)

  
Sonam Jamtsho B  
(Head, AFD)

  
Sonam Pem  
(Executive Director)

  
Rosy Chettri  
(Partner)





# Year in Review 2023



*3rd to 7th January*

The Annual Review and Planning for the year 2022-2023 of the Foundation was conducted at the Foundation.



*19th to 23rd January*

The community Training under the project NYAMDREL, “Strengthen The Rights of Youth and Women in Rural communities through Human Rights -Based Approach to Development,” was carried out at Gakiling block under Haa district.



*9th January*

With the generous donation from Fire and Rescue NSW and facilitation by the Bhutan Dragons Motorcycle Club ( BDMC) also known as Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club, The Foundation donated 2,000 sets of fire uniforms to Desuung Office.



*20th January*

A virtual call on EVAC campaign: Rangi Buzhi, Rangi Norbu- Our Children, Our Wealth, was conducted with 55 Tarayana Club coordinators and members from all 20 districts.



*12th to 14th January*

The Foundation's Field Officer in Haa district conducted a training on Self Help Group (SHG) Management for the Sertena Sanam Tshokpa in Gakiling block.



*23rd January*

The Self-Help Group (SHG) Management Training was conducted in Mongar and Trashigang districts.



*12th to 17th January*

The community level training was initiated in four villages in Tading block under Samtse district with a series of activities to make them aware of their Rights and to build up potential capacity to influence changes in their life and the community.



*30th January*

Community Consultation to implement the Springshed Management initiative in project sites of Chhukha, Paro, Zhemgang, Dagana, Tsirang, Thimphu, Samtse, and Haa Districts.





*23rd January*

The Cooking Competition was conducted in Zhemgang, Trongsa, Tsirang, and Lhuentse as a part of the project Nutrition & Health Advocacy to Help Rural and Vulnerable Population Groups Eat & Stay Healthy During the COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond.



*18th to 19th April*

The Foundation's Programme Officers, Field Officers, and Interns from Samtse College of Education participated in a comprehensive two-day training on the Human-Wildlife SAFE System Approach and Rapid Assessment tools.



*7th February*

The Post Harvest Training, primarily aimed at self-sufficiency, and the importance of nutrition, was conducted in Zhemgang, Trongsa, Lhuentse, and Tsirang.



*21st to 22nd April*

The Foundation organized Training of Trainers (TOT) on Social Auditing and Accountability for the Programme and Field Officers.



*28th February*

The final round of the Cooking Competition for the block level winners( nine participants from four targeted districts; Lhuentse, Tsirang, Trongsa and Zhemgang) was held in Thimphu at the Bhutan Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (BITH).



*4th May 2023*

Inhouse celebration of our 20th Founding Day at the Conference Hall.



*20th March*

The 37th Board Meeting of the Foundation was held led by the Founding President.



*5th May*

Ms. Tanja Plotz from WWF Germany, along with the team from WWF Bhutan and the Foundation led by Executive Director, visited Tsaluna Village under Mewangang block in Thimphu to monitor the project's progress. The activity is under the project, "Living Landscape- Securing High Conservation Values in South Western Bhutan.





*5th to 6th May*

A training on Springshed Management at Ninda Village in Jamkhar block under Tashiyangtse, and Lumang block in Trashigang districts was initiated by our Field Officers. The initiative is under Climate Change Adaptation, funded by The Stiftung Drittes Millennium (Foundation for the Third Millennium)



*25th May*

Ms. Heidi J. Blum, daughter of late Mr. Richard C. Blum, along with her sons visited the country to see works supported by her late father. During the visit, the Hon'ble Founding President hosted a lunch and presented the Tarayana President's Award posthumously to Mr. Richard C. Blum for transforming thousands of lives across Bhutan through Housing Improvement and economic & social upliftment.



*6th to 13th May*

A training on Springshed Management under Climate Change Adaptation was successfully conducted in Dagana district. The initiative is under Climate Change Adaptation, funded by The Stiftung Drittes Millennium (Foundation for the Third Millennium)



*26th May*

The Foundation hosted an engaging dialogue on "Food and Nutrition Security in the Context of Climate Change, Traditional Knowledge, and Gender" as part of the 20th Foundation Day.



*19th May*

An awareness programme on EVAC (End Violence against Child) was conducted at Rangtse village. The initiative is under the project Rang'i Buzhi; Rang'i Norbu' - 'Our Children; Our Wealth,' a multi-sectoral Social Behaviour Change campaign to address Violence Against Children in partnership with UNICEF.



*2nd June*

Coinciding with the auspicious occasion of the Coronation Anniversary of our Beloved Fourth King, Foundation celebrates a Decade of Green Innovation in collaboration with the College of Science and Technology.





*9th to 11th June*

The Foundation celebrated the 20th Foundation Day coinciding with the 68th Birth anniversary of our Founding President at Coronation Park, Changlimithang, Thimphu



*22nd to 23rd June*

A hands-on food processing training was conducted at Lumang block.



*10th June*

To commemorate the 68th Birth Anniversary of Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the community members of Loggchina, Metabkha & Dungna block under Chhukha district carried out plantation of citrus and teak saplings, facilitated by the Foundation with support from Bhutan Ecological Society.



*26th June*

The final consultation meeting to disseminate findings, lessons learnt, recommendations and way forward on the project "Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (Nutrition & health advocacy to help rural and vulnerable population groups eat & stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic & beyond), with relevant stakeholders from 16 villages under eight blocks in four districts of Lhuentse, Trongsa, Tsirang and Zhemgang.



*21st to 28th June*

Monitoring visits to assess the project activities and community consultation on Human-Wildlife Conflict, SAFE Strategy were conducted in Chubarthang Village under Umling Block and Dechenpelri Village under Samtenling Block in Sarpang district.



*3rd July*

The consultations were carried out on value chain analysis for 10 Self Help Groups in the targeted sites of Haa, Tsirang, Trongsa, Mongar, Trashigang and Lhuentse.





*15th July*

UNICEF Representative to Bhutan, Ms. Andrea James and the team visited TSHAR Insititute at Kalapang, Mongar.



*8th to 9th August*

Mr. Jambay Tshering, Station Manager & Programme Producer, of the Edi Community Radio Station in Sarpang, attended the South Asia Community Radio Conference organized by the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), at Kathmandu, Nepal.



*15th to 16th July*

Ms. Tshering Wangmo from College of Science and Technology, and Mr. Gaylek Wangchuk from Royal Thimphu College, attended the Asia Student Leadership Conference (ASLC) organized and sponsored by Smile Asia in Singapore.



*14th August*

Invasive plant removal training was conducted at Ngawang Dramtoe, Zochhaling & Bukha villages under Tading block, and Jigme, Singye, Wangchuck, Sanglung & Lumbay villages under Dophuchen block in Samtse.



*18th July*

A community consultation and awareness on springshed intervention development for Sanglungpa A spring at Sali, Sanglungpa B, Tashigang, Menimenchu, Dawakha, & Zaka springs at Tshephu village under Dogar block in Paro was conducted.



*23rd August*

A joint monitoring visit, officials from Tarayana and WWF Bhutan, undertaken at springshed intervention site at Dogar block in Paro.



*30th July*

The Energy Programme team from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) visited the Foundation to discuss possible collaboration areas in rural villages through renewable energy, women empowerment, access to credit, and sustainable agri-business development.



*23rd August*

Sarpang Dzongda inaugurated the newly built water reservoir tank at Chubalthang village under Umling block in Sarpang.





*25th August*

A familiarization session was conducted by the Foundation's team for the newly established Tarayana Club at Royal Thimphu College.



*6th September*

A policy dialogue on strengthening the rights of youth and women in rural communities through human rights-based approach to development was conducted at Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall in Samtse.



*30th August*

The Foundation conducted the 38th Board Meeting chaired by the Founding President, Her Majesty Gyalum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck.



*27th September*

The Founding President visited Royal Thimphu College and granted an audience to the faculty members and the 1st and 2nd year students. The main purpose of the visit was to meet and interact with the members of the newly established Tarayana Club.



*28th August to 2nd September*

Training on sustainable land management was conducted at Zhochaling village under Tading block in Samtse district. This initiative is under the project Living Landscape: Securing High Conservation Values in South Western Bhutan.



*30th September*

Her Majesty Gyalum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the Founding President, visited the 'Living Landscape: Securing High Conservation Values' project sites under Dogar block in Paro district.



*3rd to 5th September*

Social Auditing and Accountability training was conducted at Tading block under Samtse district.



*9th October*

Tarayana Foundation and RENEW submitted the alternate report for the 86th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in Geneva, Switzerland.





*11th October*

Hands-on training on Oyster mushroom cultivation was conducted for the community members of Yagyur village under Khar block in Pemagatshel.



*7th November*

Community consultation and awareness on springshed management, importance of water recharge areas, formation of Water User Groups, and improved sanitation practices were conducted at Lichibi village under Goshing block in Zhemgang.



*11th October*

A training on the conversion of invasive alien plants into vermi and heap compost was conducted at five villages of Metakha block under Chhukha district.



*28th October*

The first batch of trainees of the TSHAR Insitute in Kaplang, Mongar, completed Bamboo Furniture Production Training which was held from 28th September to 28th October, 2023.



*12th to 22nd*

The Founding president initiated the monitoring visit to eastern districts as part of the Foundation's 20th Anniversary Celebrations.



*8th December*

Tarayana Foundation participated at Bhutan Pavilion COP28 at Dubai and made a presentation on the topic "Securing Water for Bhutan's Future"- Enhancing Community Resilience and Strengthening Ecosystems through Nature-Based Solutions and Traditional Knowledge.



*5th November*

Ms. Tashi Choden, the chairperson of Bangyul Cotton Group in Pemagatshel attended a fashion show organized at Royal Textile Academy in Thimphu.



*11th December*

The Foundation welcomed five new interns from Sherubtse College and Norbuling Rigter College for an exciting winter internship programme.



*17th December*

Field Officer Namgay received a special certificate from the community of Tsirangtoe, recognizing his outstanding 10 years of service.



# GOVERNANCE

## BOARD MEMBERS

Her Majesty Gyalum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Founding President  
HRH Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, President, Bhutan National Legal Institute, Royal Institute of Law & Bar Council of Bhutan  
Dasho Karma Ura, President, Centre for Bhutan & GNH Studies  
Dasho Yanki T. Wangchuk, Former Secretary, Ministry of Finance  
Dasho Thinley W. Dorji, President, Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club & CEO, Bhutan Tourism Corporation Limited  
Aum Sangay Zam, Proprietor, Rinchen Enterprise  
Ms. Sonam Pem, Member Secretary

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Tshewang Tandin, President, Royal Thimphu College  
Aum Chhimmy Pem, Former Director, Cultural Division, BIMSTEC  
Mr. Chhimi Dorji, Director, Tarayana Centre for Research & Development  
Ms. Chimi Zangmo, CEO, Hotel Dorji Elements, former Executive Director, Vast Bhutan  
Mr. Karma T. Wangchuk, Architect, United Consultants  
Mr. Kunzang Thinley, Former Principal, Royal Academy for Performing Arts  
Mr. Neten Dorjee, Executive Producer/Archive Manager, BBS  
Ms. Rinzi Pem, Assistant Director, Social Window, SDF  
Mr. Sonam Lhundrup, CEO, Peepal Consultancy Firm  
Mr. Thinley Namgyel, Former Chief Environment Officer, National Environment Commission  
Mr. Kalden Sonam Dorji, Proprietor, Terton Travel Bhutan & Founding Member, Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club  
Mr. Tshering Tashi, Proprietor, Jojos Adventure & Founding Member, Tarayana Dragons Motorcycle Club  
Mr. Sonam Tshering Dorji, Director (Department of Trade), Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Employment  
Mr. Tashi Penjor, Director, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport  
Mr. Chenchu Nidup, Proprietor, Druk Events

## SECRETARIAT

Aum Chime P. Wangdi, Secretary General  
Sonam Pem, Executive Director

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Sonam Jamtsho B, Head AFD  
Thukten Tshering, Finance Officer Tashi Pem, Accounts Officer  
Pema Lhendrup, Administrative Officer  
Dechen Dorji, Asst. Administrative Officer  
Sonam Tshering, Human Resource Officer

## PROGRAMME DIVISION

Roseleen Gurung, Director of Programme (On Study Leave)  
Karma Uden, Programme Officer  
Palden Ongmo, Programme Officer  
Tshering Yuden, Programme Officer  
Tulasi Ghalley, Asst. Programme Officer

## COMMUNICATIONS & MONITORING

Namgay Pem, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer  
Sherub Wangmo, Communications & Documentation Officer  
Ramesh Subba, Asst. Communications and Documentation Officer

## TARAYANA CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (TCRD)

Chhimi Dorji, Director  
Dr. Tshering Yangden, Senior Researcher, B-KIND  
Tshering Phuntsho, Research Associate, B-KIND  
Monika Sharma, Research Associate, B-KIND  
Deki Yangzom, Senior Research Intern, B-KIND  
Sonam Pelden, Senior Research Intern, B-KIND  
Tsewang Dema, Senior Research Intern, B-KIND  
Sangay Lhamo, Transcriber  
Sonam Lhamo, Transcriber  
Nado, Administrative Officer, B-KIND

## FIELD OFFICERS

Namgay (Tsirang, Dagana, Sarpang)  
Sonam Jamtsho (Lhuentse, Trashigang, Trashig Yangtse)  
Passang Tobgay (Thimphu, Paro, Chhukha)  
Thinley Bidha (Samtse)  
Jigme Wangchuk (Wangdue Phodrang, Punakha)  
Ugyen Tshomo (Pema Gatsel)  
Tashi Tshering Doya (Haa)  
Sonam Gyeltshen (Mongar)  
Som Bdr. Rai (Trongsa)  
Dorji Tshering (Zhemgang)  
Leki Wangchuk (Mongar)  
Namgay Tshering Doya (Mongar)  
Neten Tshering (Mongar)

## SUPPORT STAFF

Ram Bdr Ghalley, Office Assistant/Driver  
Tobgay, Gardener  
Tsheten, Night Guard  
Ganga Maya Gurung, Cleaner

## TARAYANA RURAL CRAFTS

Dorji Zangmo, Finance/Marketing Officer  
Sonam Dema, Production Manager  
Ugyen Phuntsho Selden, Asst. Programme Officer  
Thinley Dorji, Asst. Programme Officer  
Pema Yangzom, Embroidery Expert/Needle Felting  
Pema Wangchuk, Traditional Paper Expert, Production Division  
Dhan Maya Pulami, Salesperson  
Sangay Wangzom, Tailor  
Samten Pemo, Tailor

## FOLK HERITAGE MUSEUM

Tshering Yangchen, Museum Manager  
Pema Yangzom, Finance Officer  
Gado Tshering, Asst. Event Officer  
Kezang Penjor, Asst. Event Officer  
Lotay, Museum Lam  
Sangay Chezom, Salesperson  
Kuenzang Dorji, Caretaker



# Our Partners and Donors







Tarayana MicroFinance was established in 2020 by the Founding President with the vision of providing access to microcredit for rural development and aims to enable the rural communities of Bhutan to help themselves come out of poverty with accelerated income growth.

In 2023, TMF surpassed expectations by an impressive 13.88%, exceeding its financial year end target. With a strong focus on supporting communities, TMF sanctioned loans to 704 borrowers across 19 districts, with the exception of Bumthang. Out of 704 borrowers 370 are female borrowers and 334 are male borrowers. The total gross loan portfolio amounted to Nu. 44,624,091, indicating the substantial impact TMF has had on empowering individuals and businesses. Furthermore, the annual turnover for TMF in 2023 stood at Nu. 9,77,902.57, reflecting its robust financial performance and commitment in fostering economic growth and development.



## Grant Project Execution and Implementation

The City of Vienna grant for women in Lhuntse has successfully completed all disbursements, ensuring that all 35 women beneficiaries have received their mini tillers. Meanwhile, under the project “Promoting Agroforestry for Climate Change Adaptation” aimed at enhancing the resilience of grassroot communities in Bhutan, 24 beneficiaries in Lumang under Trashigang district and 29 beneficiaries in Khevisa under Dagana district, have been supported.



# SUPPORT A HOME



TARAYANA FACILITATES THE IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN MASONRY AND CARPENTRY FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER BALANCE. THROUGH THIS INITIATIVE, THE RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT THEIR OWN DURABLE AND COMFORTABLE HOUSES, EARN AN INCOME FROM THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED SKILLS, AND ENJOY A MORE DIGNIFIED QUALITY OF LIFE.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: \$ 3000

SKILLED LABOUR: \$800

TRANSPORTATION: \$1,000

TIMBER SAWING FUEL: \$500

TOILET: \$800

FACILITATION (TRAVEL): \$900

**AVERAGE COST FOR A HOUSE: \$ 7,000**

**HELP AN UNDERPRIVILEGED FAMILY**





His Majesty The King awarded the Nation Order of Merit (Gold), during the 109th National Day celebrations in Trongsa in recognition of Tarayana Foundation's contributions in the upliftment of the poorest and vulnerable communities of Bhutan

Tarayana Centre, Chubachu, Thimphu, Bhutan

P.O Box: 2003/Tel: +975-2-329333

Web: [www.tarayanafoundation.org](http://www.tarayanafoundation.org)



*Ap Tawla  
Wangling Village, Langthel  
block, Trongsa district*



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