



nick simons
foundation

2020–2021 Annual Report





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The Nick Simons Foundation (NSF) is a private family foundation formed in 2005 to honor the memory of Nick Simons, his love for Nepal, and his interest in developing countries. The Foundation's main focus is to improve health and medical care in Nepal, especially for rural and remote populations.

नेपाल

Capital	Population	Type of government
Kathmandu	29.1 million	Federal secular parliamentary republic
Size	GNI per capita	Percentage of population below income poverty line
147,181 sq. km	\$4,007	18.7

Nepal is a small, landlocked nation in the southern Himalayas. Most of the population lives in mountainous rural areas, where healthcare is hard to access. Much of the work supported by the Nick Simons Foundation (NSF) aims to increase access to healthcare in remote and underserved areas.

While sustained efforts are leading to increased access and improved outcomes, the COVID-19 pandemic along with economic and political uncertainties pose significant threats to the health and well-being of the people of Nepal.

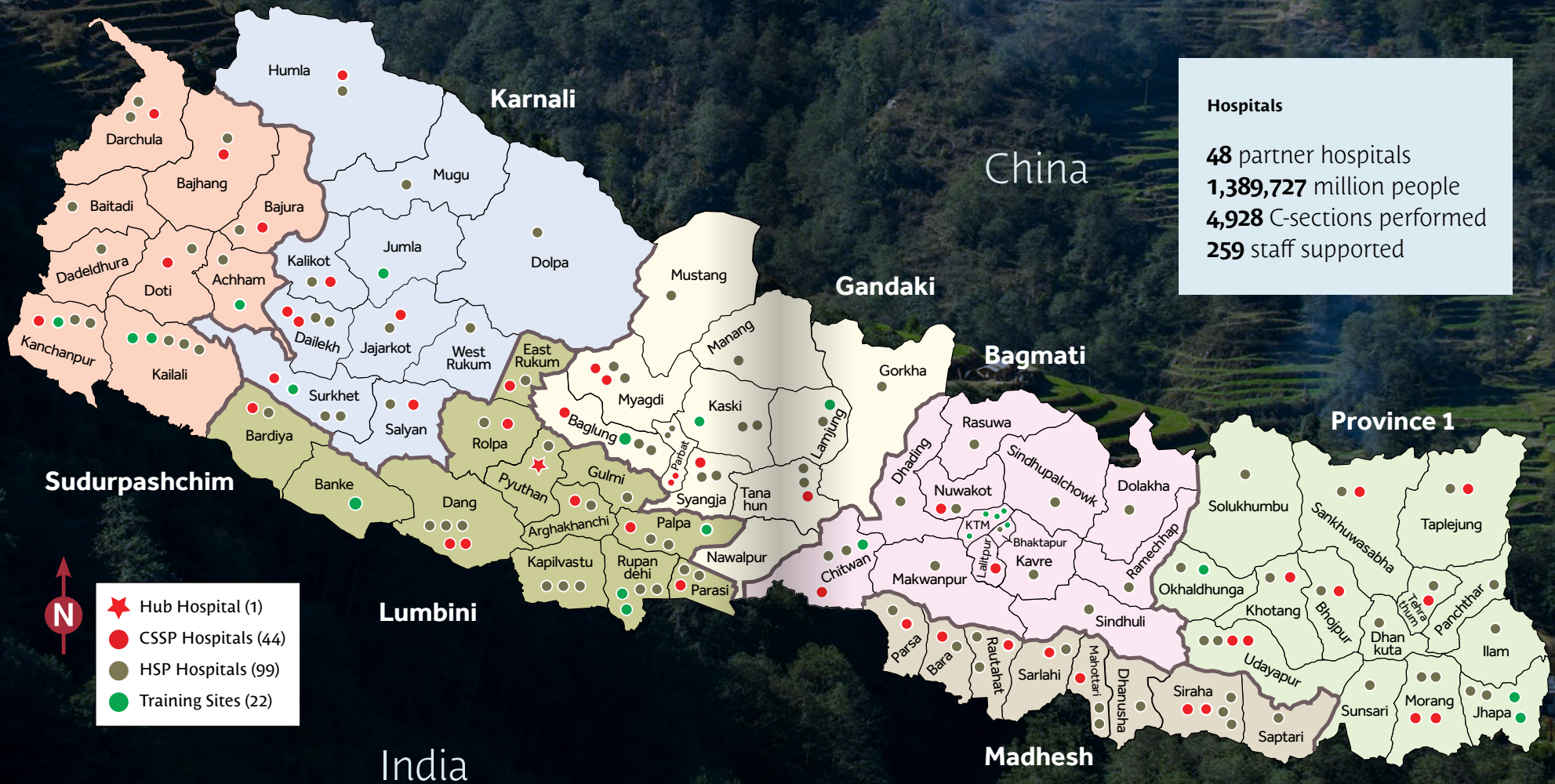
As COVID spikes overwhelmed the healthcare system, people lost loved ones and households spiraled into economic hardship.

In spring 2021, the prime minister lost a vote of confidence, no political party had a majority in government, and parliament was dissolved as the nation struggled to form a new coalition government amid a catastrophic coronavirus surge. Today, another prime minister leads a fragile coalition government with national elections scheduled for late 2022.

The Nick Simons Institute

nsi.edu.np

The vision of the Nick Simons Institute (NSI) is for people in rural Nepal to receive quality healthcare within their own communities. NSI innovates solutions in rural healthcare—through training and hospital support—and advocates for their scale-up with the government of Nepal. Since the Institute was founded in 2006, NSF has supported NSI with grants totaling \$40.1M.



Hospitals

NSI's Hospital Support Program (HSP) enhances lifesaving emergency and essential services and improves minimum service standards of government hospitals, including Curative Service Support Program (CSSP) and a Hospital Management Strengthening Program (HMSP).

Training

NSI funding helped train more than 784 healthcare workers across 10 different programs in 2020-21 from 19 training sites/hospitals. The Institute supports skill-based training to the healthcare workers who are most likely to have an impact in rural institutions, equipping available workers to perform needed tasks in the absence of a doctor—from anesthesia assistants to primary emergency care to skilled birth assistants. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NSI adapted its training to virtual learning.

NSI's model of supporting the advanced medical education for Medical Doctor General Practitioners (MDGPs) and bonding them for three years in rural hospitals was so effective it has been adopted by the government and scaled up nationally.



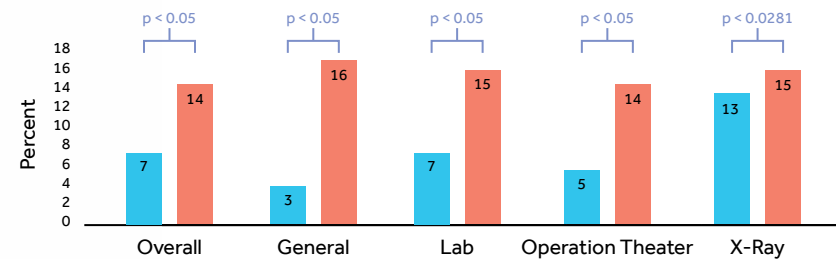
BMET/BMEAT program

Research & Advocacy

NSI uses research and reporting to generate evidence-based data to support advocacy and system change.

“Hospitals in lower-middle-income countries will get big donations of medical equipment, but there’s not necessarily a plan. Does anyone know how to use the machine? Maintain the machine? There are often storerooms full of unused machines or machines in disrepair that no one knows how to repair. NSI realized there was a huge need for training on equipment in district hospitals.” **Ruma Rajbhandari, MD, MPH**

NSI helped develop a large national workshop to fix equipment, as well as training for biomedical equipment technicians (BMETs) and assistant technicians (BMEATs) in rural hospitals.



- Percent Nonfunctional Equipment at Hospitals with BMETs (n=1183)
- Percent Nonfunctional Equipment at Hospitals without BMETs (n=1006)

A study found that the quantity of non-functional equipment in hospitals without BMETs was double that of hospitals with BMETs.

Gradian Health Systems

gradianhealth.org

Gradian at a Glance

Gradian trained over **1,900** individuals across **12** countries on the use of our products

In 2021, the team conducted **231** installations and **704** preventative maintenance visits across **18** different countries

2.2 million surgical & critical care patients treated with Gradian equipment to date

1,000+ machines installed in **32** countries

The Gradian CCV, a ventilator for ICUs and emergency rooms, launched in 2018. A nimble piece of equipment made by one of the only medical technology organizations with a specialization in critical care support in Africa and Asia, it became an important resource during the COVID-19 pandemic. Production increased tenfold to meet the spike in demand. At the same time, distributors and technicians continued to install, maintain and repair Gradian's other product, Universal Anaesthesia Machines, which are often a critical piece of equipment in the delivery of emergency obstetric services and C-sections.

Because Gradian has been building that ecosystem for years—the company manages logistics and services for more than 1,000 pieces of equipment—its lean staff of about 20 was able

to implement effective emergency response in multiple countries, including Nepal, during the pandemic. Over 50 Comprehensive Care Ventilators (CCVs) and 100 oxygen concentrators were distributed to zonal, regional and teaching hospitals in remote regions throughout Nepal, as well as three central hospitals in Kathmandu including Bir Hospital and Civil Hospital.



Critical Care Ventilator

Birat Nepal Medical Trust & Impact TB Project

impacttbproject.org

In Nepal, tuberculosis kills 11 people every day. While preventable and treatable, because of difficulties accessing basic healthcare services, tuberculosis remains a deadly disease in Nepal. With villages scattered among the largest mountains in the world and a poor road network, people have to walk for hours to get to a basic healthcare facility—which means not only an arduous journey, but lost income for people whose work is tending farms or daily wage labor. And so people are inclined to wait until a health issue is extreme before seeking care. When care is postponed, people with tuberculosis don't get diagnosed, and it spreads. The Impact TB project, a collaboration between NSI, the Birat Nepal Medical Trust and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, will put more accurate tests in more districts, train locals in contact tracing, and increase diagnoses and training to stop the spread and accelerate elimination efforts for this ancient infectious disease.

Impact TB was only a few months into its first year when the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit Nepal. After installing five advanced tuberculosis testing machines in rural districts, the project was put on pause while resources were redirected to emergency relief.

Since March 2021, Impact TB active case finding has been underway in four rural districts. 140 cases of tuberculosis have been diagnosed and started treatment.

Sabina is a 19-year-old student from the Chitwan District. She was diagnosed with tuberculosis a few weeks before COVID-19 hit Nepal, and eventually diagnosed with drug-resistant tuberculosis that required nine months of daily injectable medicine. Her father lost his job because of the pandemic, and her mother was fired because of Sabina's tuberculosis diagnosis. The family had a hard time fulfilling their daily food needs, which on top of everything else could negatively impact Sabina's recovery. The Birat Nepal Medical Trust and Project SUSTAIN provided the family with food as well as sanitizers, masks and soap, and stayed in regular contact, liaising with the local health facility and delivering medication to Sabina at home. Thanks to holistic support, Sabina is now recovering well and interested in doing health promotion work and advocating for tuberculosis prevention.



Patan Hospital

pahs.edu.np

Number of Providers Trained

Postgraduate (MD/MS) students : **20**

Masters in Public Health (MPH): **24**

Proficiency Certificate in Nursing (PCL): **45**

Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Nursing: **40**

Bachelor of Nursing Science (BNS): **64**

Master of Nursing (MN): **48**

Located in Patan, Nepal, Patan Hospital is the teaching hospital for the Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS), which aims to produce doctors willing and able to provide healthcare to disadvantaged people in Nepal's remote or rural areas. During the pandemic, the schools at PAHS continued to operate, providing education virtually.

“Patan Hospital was quickly designated as a special COVID management center, with a 24 hour isolation clinic, a COVID ward and fully equipped COVID ICU. We left no stone unturned in enabling us to best serve the needs of the critically ill and needy patients seeking our care.”

Professor Rajesh N Gongal,
Vice Chancellor of the PAHS



“I knew that I could never understand and embrace the actual health system in Nepal if I remained confined in the city.”

Prativa Subedi, a medical officer working in Rolpa District Hospital

Grantee Partners Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Nepal in Spring of 2020, Nick Simons Foundation grantee partners played crucial roles:

Immediately after the first positive case was identified in the country, the **Nick Simons Institute (NSI)** mobilized support for local and national governments and assessed hospital preparedness for testing and treatment. Seeing a critical shortage of needed equipment, NSI distributed comprehensive care ventilators to seven hospitals across Nepal and personal protective equipment to medical staff at 80 hospitals. NSI also developed and conducted a critical care training curriculum for nurses and doctors providing direct care in COVID-19 units.

The pandemic demonstrated the importance of strong relationships across the healthcare system, from governments to healthcare workers to equipment manufacturers to equipment technicians. Nick Simons Foundation

grantee partners are part of Nepal's healthcare ecosystem, doing complementary work and often partnering to leverage their strengths and provide maximum impact together—like when **Gradian** sent 100 oxygen concentrators to support COVID-19 care at Patan and Bir hospitals during a COVID spike in May 2021. Flexible funding enabled them to quickly respond as the situation demanded. “For emergency response and quick response that cannot be planned, unrestricted funding is exactly what’s needed,” said Gradian CEO Lina Sayed.

Globally, with support from the Nick Simons Foundation, **Gradian** installed more than 450 CCVs in 10 countries, including Nepal.



Oxygen concentrator delivery

When the new **Impact TB** project was put on hold due to the pandemic, **Birat Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT)** redirected resources to “Project SUSTAIN, Emergency Support and Sustenance to Communities Affected by Crisis,” designed to provide personal protective equipment and a nutritional relief package for tuberculosis-affected families experiencing food insecurity.

In the Kathmandu area, where the pandemic hit hardest, **Patan Hospital** rolled out its disaster plan for mass casualty incidences and an infectious disease epidemic; the hospital was prepared better than most government and private hospitals, and Patan quickly established a dedicated COVID-ward. The hospital developed its own testing lab, trained technicians, and was government-accredited as a COVID-19 center in three weeks. To address the difficulty of home isolation in rural areas where large families shelter in small houses, Patan established a district-level isolation center under the initiation of Rolpa District Hospital.

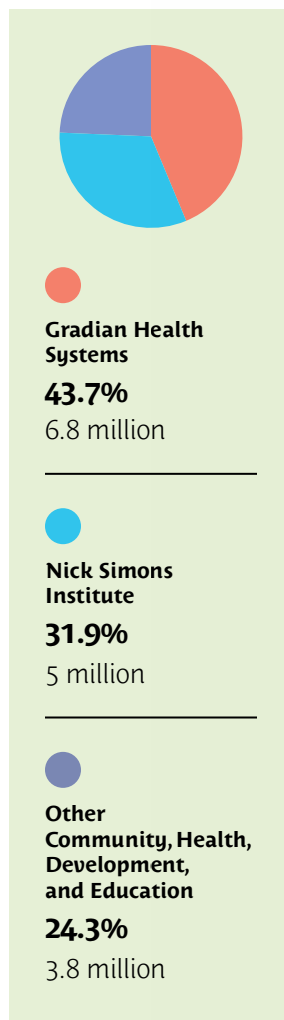


“NSI was one of the first organizations to mobilize critically needed equipment, including oxygen concentrators, ventilators, PPE and testing kits. Working closely with our partner government hospitals, COVID care centers were established, and 275 front line health care workers were supported and trained in emergency care. Our staff communicated with all the partner hospitals to track the COVID caseloads and to respond to the needs of the health care workers. We were a key contact and advocate for both the Health Ministry and the district hospitals, and of course for our communities.” **Dr. Anil Shrestha, Executive Director, NSI**

Grantee Partners

FY2020

America Nepal Medical Foundation
 American Himalayan Foundation
 Autism Care Nepal
 Bhaskar-Tejshree Memorial Foundation
 Birat Nepal Medical Trust
 Brigham and Women's Hospital, Inc.
 Doctors Without Borders USA
 Friends of Patan Hospital
 Future Generations
 Gradian Health Systems
 Himalayan Cataract Project
 Hospice Nepal
 Ipas
 Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust
 LinkCaring
 Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
 Lo Gyalpo Jigme Cultural Foundation
 Nepal Mathematical Society
 Nick Simons Foundation International
 Nyaya Health Nepal
 Partners Asia
 Patan Hospital
 Possible
 Project Prakash Foundation
 Public Health Concern Trust (PHECT-Nepal)



Consolidated Statements of Financial Position As of June 30

Assets	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	4,161,803	9,984,968
Prepaid expenses	280,292	171,273
Investment redemption receivable	6,000,000	10,000,000
Investments	178,400,284	119,454,848
Total Assets	\$ 188,842,379	\$ 139,611,089

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES	2021	2020
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	91,042	43,691
Grants payable, net	21,077,128	20,765,595
Deferred tax liability	1,652,827	840,472
Total Liabilities	\$ 22,820,997	\$ 21,649,758
NET ASSETS (without donor restrictions)	166,021,382	117,961,331
Total net assets	166,021,382	117,961,331
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 188,842,379	\$ 139,611,089

Consolidated Statements of Activities Years ended June 30

Revenues	2021	2020
Contributions	-	17,500,000
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	64,897,996	35,950,119
Other income	37	12,411
Total Assets	\$ 64,898,033	\$ 53,462,530

Expenses

Program services	15,643,517	21,913,669
Supporting services	1,185,694	324,985
Total Expenses	\$ 16,829,211	\$ 22,238,654

Changes in net assets before foreign currency translation adjustment	48,068,822	31,223,876
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(8,771)	(218,502)
Changes in Net Assets	\$ 48,060,051	\$ 31,005,374

Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of year	117,961,331	86,955,957
Net assets without donor restrictions, end of year	166,021,382	117,961,331

The Nick Simons Foundation

Board of Directors

James H. Simons
President and Chairman

Marilyn Hawrys Simons
Secretary and Treasurer

Caitlin Heising
Mark Heising
Audrey Cappell
Jacob Cappell
Liz Simons
Nat Simons
Laura Baxter-Simons

About Nick Simons



Nick Simons went to Nepal as a young man in 2002. He loved the country and told his mother not to be surprised if he ended up spending his life in a place like Nepal. He enrolled in the remaining course that would allow him to apply to medical school, but the following summer, Nick drowned while swimming in Bali. His family created the Nick Simons Foundation in his honor.

Nick would have been in his forties now. While we will never know what he might have done, in his memory the Nick Simons Foundation has made \$141.3M in grants to improve health and medical care in Nepal, to create a sustainable legacy in his memory.



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Patricia Weisenfeld, Country Representative

