The Road to Change
“We are all on the same path, our goals, objectives and dreams, and our future are the same, and we have to work together for it. Let’s hope that wherever we reach is a good place.”

—His Majesty The King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck
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On behalf of the Bhutan Foundation, we are pleased to share with you The Road to Change: Bhutan Foundation Annual Report 2019. It is indeed an appropriate time to talk about change in Bhutan, as we have entered a five-year preparatory period to graduate from the United Nations’ least-developed country (LDC) category. Access to better health care and education in Bhutan were among the reasons for this recognition. During this period, the country will be planning for a major transition and considering all possibilities for Bhutan’s future. Non-governmental organizations (also called civil society organizations) in Bhutan, such as those the Bhutan Foundation supports, will be seen as partners of the government to achieve development goals that further benefit our citizens and our environment.

As a country, we have delineated specific objectives to continue our forward movement, including those in the following areas: tourism, cottage and small industry, agriculture and organic farming, employment, governance, public service, private sector, and environmental conservation. As you can see from this partial list, the Bhutan Foundation serves a critical role by supporting capacity-building programs in these and other areas identified as national priorities. Your support through the Foundation is paving the road to change and will be as important as ever as we move forward.

Our plans for the future are ambitious, but we are confident that we will achieve them, always cognizant of our development values of environmental conservation, equitable and sustainable development, good governance, and cultural preservation. With our objectives in mind, we hope you will enjoy reading The Road to Change: Bhutan Foundation Annual Report 2019 and will recognize the specific ways your support contributes to Bhutan’s future. We thank you most sincerely for your support during this important time in our history.

From the field in Bhutan, to our offices in Thimphu and Washington, DC, we present to you The Road to Change: Bhutan Foundation Annual Report 2019. We hope you will enjoy reading about the many ways your support is contributing to progress in Bhutan by helping to build skills, training, and opportunities for its citizens.

We were recently reminded of a speaker at Bhutan’s Mountain Echoes cultural festival who told her audience, “Change starts locally.” The programs the Bhutan Foundation support often start with a few Bhutanese citizens who see a need and ask, “What if?” With your support, the Bhutan Foundation provides the global expertise, training, equipment, and capacity so that Bhutanese citizens can effect the positive change they seek in their communities. In this year’s annual report, you’ll see examples of change beginning at the local level and growing to meet Bhutanese needs and visions, such as the following:

- training citizens, especially youth, to be discerning news consumers and to understand citizenship and community participation
- building the capacity of educators and parent groups in planning transitions in the lives of students with disabilities
- meeting a new need of community members in snow leopard regions to support their continued interest in conservation programs in their communities
- expanding an organic farming program to promote sustainable agriculture through peer exchanges and community-to-community interactions
- entering a new phase of the historic Wangduechhoeling Palace restoration to create an onsite museum and cultural center for future generations
- expanding health-care services and opportunities for Bhutan’s remote nomadic communities
- supporting local projects with small grants to promote drug rehabilitation, art, entrepreneurship, and many other community initiatives

We have seen a lot of change in the 33 years since the Bhutan Foundation was founded, and the coming years will be full of new possibilities as we plan to work with the local Bhutanese communities and the Royal Government of Bhutan. We can’t thank you enough for your continued support of progress in Bhutan—and we are excited to be on this road with you.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother of Bhutan
Gyalum Tseyring Pem Wangchuck
Co-Chair

Mr. Michael Philipp
Co-Chair

Dr. Bruce W. Bunting
President
This year, we pause to remember the life of Lisina M. Hoch, who died peacefully at her home in Irvington, New York, on February 15, 2019. Known as an engaged philanthropist, Lisina served on numerous boards and as a volunteer for local, national, and international organizations. Her role as life trustee of the Bhutan Foundation was one of many such philanthropic positions, reflecting her commitment to conservation, cultural preservation, and sustainable development in Bhutan.

Born in Switzerland, Lisina attended school in England. One of her classmates was a Bhutanese woman who later married the Crown Prince and became Queen of Bhutan, Ashi Kesang Choeden Wangchuck. When Lisina and her husband, Frank Hoch, first visited her in the 1950s, a life-long love of and relationship with Bhutan and its people began. At that time, almost no one had heard of the landlocked kingdom, and reaching the capital of Thimphu required a grueling six-day trek over Himalayan passes. The stories and documents from their early trips will become historic documents of a land that, in just 60 years, has transitioned from a medieval Buddhist kingdom to a vibrant nation whose Fourth King coined the development term “Gross National Happiness,” now being widely adopted by other countries.

In 1986, Lisina and Frank Hoch, along with Henrietta and John Goelet, established the Bhutan Foundation in the United States to assist with Bhutan’s development. (Henrietta Goelet was a classmate in England and her family remains active in the Bhutan Foundation). Lisina and Frank visited Bhutan numerous times over the past six decades and hosted many Bhutanese visitors at their home. Their friendship with the Bhutanese people continues, now encompassing four generations of her family. Lisina is survived by her four children—Steven, Alix, Daphne (current Bhutan Foundation board member), and Roland— their spouses, and 11 grandchildren.

Lisina’s long-time connection to the Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, New York, led to training teams of medical personnel from Bhutan, who in turn trained hundreds of Bhutanese citizens after returning home. Lisina also supported the cultural preservation efforts of Bhutan, including the restoration of the Wangduechhoeling Palace, the birthplace of Bhutan’s monarchy, and much more. Her generosity knew no bounds, and her passion and commitment to Bhutan were immeasurable. The Bhutan Foundation greatly appreciates the legacy that Lisina has left in Bhutan and the leadership and guidance she provided the Foundation.
HEALTH CAMPS IN BUMTHANG

78 Cases screened in Nomad Health Camp
228 Procedures carried out during the camp
138 Patients treated during obstetrics and gynecology camp
14 Days of Nomad Health Camp
10 Days of obstetrics and gynecology camp
Health Care Is a Necessity for Bhutan’s Nomadic Communities

Access to health-care services is challenging for many nomadic communities living in Bhutan. Most nomadic families are yak herders who move from one place to another at high altitudes of 14,500 feet to 16,000 feet, which are inaccessible from the road. To visit the closest Basic Health Unit (BHU), families often have to walk hours, and sometimes even days. With these significant barriers in place, nomadic families often do not access regular health services or check-ups. As a response to this issue, the Bhutan Foundation supports annual Nomad Health Camps in Bumthang, Jomolhari, Merak, and Sakteng.

A diversely skilled, all-Bhutanese medical team composed of a doctor, dental surgeon, ophthalmic assistant, laboratory officer, pharmacy assistant, indigenous (traditional medicine) staff, physiotherapist, and district health officer trekked over two weeks to areas where the nomadic communities reside. The team provided physiotherapy, dental care, vision check-ups, lab testing, obstetrical/gynecological, and general health-care services. They also carried out a cleaning campaign along the route to these villages in order to promote sanitation and wellness as well as advocacy and awareness education on sanitation, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, child health, and the importance of immunizations. In addition to the Nomad Health Camp, a 10-day-long obstetrics and gynecology camp was organized and conducted at Wangduechhoeling Hospital in Bumthang in central Bhutan. While there, the team performed 228 procedures, including colonoscopies, biopsies, cryotherapy, cyst/IUD removal, and even a caesarean. The camp was extended due to an overwhelming number of patients because of the lack of a female OB/GYN doctor in Bumthang.

In the near future, the Wangduechhoeling Hospital is expected to be a district health center of excellence equipped with the best infrastructure and well-trained health-care professionals. With continued support, the hospital aims to improve its technology-based diagnostic and therapeutic facilities. The staff of Wangduechhoeling Hospital hopes the hospital will be a center that serves its community through exceptional health leadership.

“Bumthang is one of the districts, with a high nomadic population that still remains un-reached from the mainstream programs. With little-to-no health-care-service-providing facilities in the vicinity, nomadic families miss out on many critical public and curative health services.

Annual nomadic health camps would not have been possible without the Foundation’s support. The support has been instrumental in fulfilling the nation’s and district health sector’s objective of reaching the un-reached and making basic health-care services available to all. We sincerely believe that the Bhutan Foundation has served the people of Bhutan in living and sharing the principles of Gross National Happiness. Let the harmony continue to grow to greater heights.”

—Dr. Pema Wangchuk
General Medical Officer at Wangduechhoeling Hospital

Bumthang is one of the districts in central Bhutan, that has a high nomadic population. The Foundation works in partnership with the Bumthang Health Association, a local civil society organization, to bring health services to nomadic families in Bumthang through annual Nomad Health Camps.
WANGDUECHHOELING PALACE

8 Mural paintings need restoration

17 Students trained from the Institute of Zorig Chusum on paint conservation and the art of using mineral paints

51 Students from the Technical Training Institute trained
Jigme Namgyel, the father of the First King of Bhutan, built the Wangduechhoeling Palace in 1857. What if Jigme Namgyel had never built the palace? Would the monarchy in Bhutan exist, and would Bhutan have continued to live in peace for the last 150 years? We’ll never know.

What we do know is that, since then, the Wangduechhoeling Palace and the former monarchs it affected over its life has helped establish the trajectory of Bhutan’s modernization while continuing to be a symbol of peace and prosperity in Bhutan. The Wangduechhoeling Palace is also an excellent representation of 19th century traditional Bhutanese architecture and craftsmanship that continues to inspire and influence contemporary Bhutanese architecture. In partnership with the Ministry of Home and Culture, the Wangduechhoeling Palace has completed its restoration phase in which students and local architects, engineers, and carpenters were trained to understand the concept of heritage conservation. Now, the project is training local painters on the traditional art of mineral painting, a practice that has disappeared due to the prevalence of cheap modern acrylic paints. These newly revitalized practices are now, with the success of the palace, becoming a benchmark for other conservation projects throughout Bhutan. Simultaneously, the project is looking into the installation of preventive fire and security systems to address a major threat to the entire heritage site.

The next phase of the project is creating a museum and cultural center at the palace—one that will continue to influence future generations through education about Bhutan’s rich history, culture, and much more. The palace served as the hub of social and cultural life in Bhutan during the reign of the First (1907 to 1926) and Second (1926 to 1952) Kings. In addition, the entire Wangduechhoeling village, as well as the country’s first modern educational structure initially set up in 1914 for the royal family, was built around the needs of the palace. In that time, everyone who lived in the local village served the kings and queens at the royal courts in some capacity. The descendants of those villagers, the current members of the Wangduechhoeling community, see the need to protect this heritage site that not only brought the Bumthang community together, but the entire country during the times of Bhutan’s former monarchs.

As modernization and democratization changes the landscape of the country, the need to preserve Bhutan’s rich cultural history and heritage for future generations has become more important than ever. Bringing life back into the palace that was abandoned for about five decades by creating space for retelling Bhutan’s stories and emphasizing the need to preserve the Bhutanese way of life creates an important role for the palace as an educational institution. In addition, it also is a standing display and representation of Bhutan’s most prized traditions—the cultural paintings and traditional Bhutanese architecture—which are at risk of disappearing.

“The palace is our national treasure. It has a rich history, a lot of significance to the royal family and thus to Bhutan. Value it before it is too late. Finally, while renovating the palace, make sure the originality is maintained. They can change timber, redo paintings and so on but the original architecture should be preserved.”

—Late Dasho Pasang

Served the court of the Second King
ELECTRIC FENCING FOR MONASTERIES

1,165 Meters of electric fencing supported
76 Households benefited
5 Bear rampages reported in a year
4 Monasteries supported

14
0x0
826x681
15
944x402
937x416
1074x317
1060x303
984x317
963x303
957x289
1065x416
1066x388
1061x402
943x388
943x402
825x621
Changing to Meet Needs in Snow Leopard Conservation

What do bears have to do with snow leopard conservation?

The Jomolhari region of Jigme Dorji National Park is one of the best habitats for snow leopards in Bhutan, and perhaps globally. The Bhutan Foundation has identified Jomolhari region as one of our priority intervention areas to implement environmental conservation and sustainable livelihood programs for remote highland communities that share the landscape with snow leopards and their prey. Any effort to improve living conditions of the local residents offers them an opportunity to support conservation programs in return. Recently, there has been a spate of Himalayan black bears in the area, ransacking remote monasteries, rummaging for food. In addition to destruction of property, this poses significant risks to human lives. Recognizing this as a new area of collaboration with highland communities, the Bhutan Foundation supported the installation of electric fencing around four community monasteries, based on requests from the local communities.

In partnership with Jigme Dorji National Park (JDNP) and local Snow Leopard Conservation Committees, the Foundation successfully installed 1,165 meters of electric fencing at four sacred monasteries in the region: Jomolhari Ney in Soe and Tandro Gonpa, Gewphu Gonpa, and Bjagoe Dzong in Lingzhi. These temples play a pivotal role as a source of spiritual blessings and as pilgrimage destinations for both locals and visitors.

As a way to build the capacity of local community members and to maintain the fence’s utility, the Bhutan Foundation also supported a one-day, hands-on training, provided by the technical team from JDNP, for volunteers overseeing the operation and maintenance of the electric fences. The communities of Yutoed, Yaksa, and Lingzhi lie along the Jomolhari trek. Yutoed has 28 households while Yaksa has 18, and Lingzhi has over 30. Therefore, their support is instrumental in the effective implementation of snow leopard conservation programs. The Bhutan Foundation will continue to work in partnership with the local Snow Leopard Conservation Committee and JDNP towards creating awareness and responding to changing community priorities for harmonious co-existence of community members and the endangered snow leopards.

“I have been serving as caretaker of Gew Goenpa for the last seven years. The biggest challenge I have faced to date is black bears entering my residence and destroying everything at home, including rations and clothes. We have to guard the temple every day from bears, and it is really challenging, because we have to spend sleepless nights guarding the temples from bears. I am hopeful that the electric fencing will benefit us a lot, especially in protecting our temple.”

—Mrs. Sonam Pelden, 62
Caretaker of Gew Goenpa

“Tandro Goenpa has been rampaged several times by Himalayan black bears, and I can remember at least five times or more. Bear usually break in from the roof, but sometimes they do break in through doors and windows as well and damage the temple’s roof, door, offerings, rations, cloths, etc. It is worrisome that a bear might attack humans too in the future. However, now with the electric fencing, we feel safe. We are thankful to the Bhutan Foundation for the support in safeguarding this sacred temple with electric fencing.”

—Ugyen Tenzin, 66
Caretaker of Tandro Goenpa
Public schools that help children with special needs

Children with disabilities enrolled in daycare with transition plan

Teachers supported for masters in Special Education

Families reached by one active parent support group

Braille supplied for the school for the blind

Teachers trained
Transition Planning: Our Evolving Role in Special Education

Special education has steadily progressed in Bhutan over the last few decades. It started with one school for the blind established in 1973 to address the needs of visually impaired children; today, 18 public schools across the country teach children with various disabilities as well as one institute for the deaf. Having always been an inclusive society, Bhutan signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010 and, in 2019, endorsed its first national disability policy. But earlier, teacher training and professional development lagged behind the need for specialized teaching of students with disabilities. The Bhutan Foundation’s support for special education capacity-building has contributed to forward momentum, and we continue to seek avenues for positive outcomes in Bhutan’s classrooms and beyond.

Since 2008, our focus for our special education program has grown. The Government of Bhutan has taken ownership of our 11-year-old program for children with learning difficulties, which has allowed us to advance into other pressing areas, such as addressing the needs of children with more moderate to severe disabilities.

Our current support includes building the capacity of educators and parent groups in the areas of transition. Through our experience working with persons with disabilities, we have realized the importance of and the need for transition planning at an early stage. We have found that many persons with disabilities in Bhutan spend their whole life sitting at home unproductive and being heavily dependent on their family. This is the result of not having a proper transition plan. In partnership with day-care centers, schools and parents, we are working with a smaller group of children by facilitating direct service support to the youngest children, yet to enter school, and to older children who are close to the end of their school years. We are currently working to create individual transition plans with the parents and facilitators, keeping in mind the child’s strengths and interests and working toward the child’s goal.

Down the road, the government has projects in the pipeline that include having separate medical programs and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. We hope to be involved in these initiatives as we plan for the children we are working with to transition into adulthood.

"...what this documentation does is it helps parents and the center focus on specific goals that we need to work on for the children for a specific amount of time. So the goals are thought out by the parents and the center together. We map it out together, and then we work on them for four months, and then after that the goal is revised, and then we work on the next transition plan. Everybody has the same plan, but it is very important that children with disabilities have this plan so that they can go on to the next stage of learning."

—Yangree
Proprietor of Hejo Day Care Center
Throughout the last decade since Bhutan’s first election and its subsequent inception, the Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD) has held more than four trainings for more than 306 teachers, students, and community members to engage citizens in media literacy and civic participation. This year, however, BCMD, in conjunction with the Bhutan Foundation, started the first year of its newest and largest reaching project yet: Project Mikhung.

Project Mikhung, or “Project Citizenship,” is a three-year citizenship engagement project aimed at using the “whole school” approach at two experimental educational institutions in Bhutan. This approach combines faculty, parents, students, and community members in a full-scale, community-based program to develop news literacy and build citizenship and community participation.

In the past, Bhutan’s pro-social government and decades of enlightened kings maintained a peaceful, but dependent, population where the people’s needs were met directly by the government without local input. This top-down approach created a gap between the citizenry and the government that BCMD now works hard to bridge with community-based forums and activities. However, changing culture and engaging citizens with their own power takes time and face-to-face effort. BCMD’s Executive Director, Soksian-Pek Dorji, recounted the story of a parent and local teacher who was hesitant at first during a community mapping workshop. They argued on day one of the event that, “This is not possible. Who will want to listen to us? This is too difficult.” By the end of the program, though, his views had changed dramatically, and he said, “I get it now! You need to train others. We all need to do this.”

This first year is already underway, having successfully completed 4 workshops catering to 306 students, teachers, leaders, and residents, but these successes are just the beginning. Project Mikhung’s three-year endeavor to engage Bhutan’s citizens and leaders in a way that emphasizes democracy as an everyday action has the potential to influence a national curriculum in Bhutan. Over the next few years, BCMD and the Bhutan Foundation will work together also to conduct a comprehensive study on the effectiveness of the program for a potentially national audience. The hope is that the results from this program will inspire individuals and convince municipal governments that adopting programs for active engagement is not just an interesting idea, but a necessary and fundamental part of maintaining a thriving democracy in the modern world.

“I feel that it has immensely helped me in sorting right information from fake ones. I am also aware of bias, prejudice, and sensationalism in news stories. I [now] follow the genuine news channel/pages for authentic and credible information. Media literacy has enabled me to be a critical and reflective educator; I think well and rethink about the content I teach before I actually share. I also make sure the information or content I am teaching is current and relevant.”

—Chencho Lham
Chukha Central School
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
FOR MARANGDUT COMMUNITY

Total households: 305
Total population: 22
Days training on System of Rice Intensification: 3
Farmers engaged in the training: 14
Steps Toward Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture for Marangdut Community

Marangdut is a subsistence farming community with 22 households and a population of about 105 people. This small, rural community in Panbang is where the Bhutan Foundation in collaboration with Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative under the Lhomon Society expanded an organic farming program this year, with particular emphasis on promoting sustainable agriculture through peer-exchanges and engaging community-to-community interactions.

In January 2019, the Bhutan Foundation supported the first community-to-community exchange visit to the Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative (SJI), in the Dewathang under the Samdrup Jongkhar District in Eastern Bhutan. During the exchange visit, 19 farmers, including 11 youth who recently dropped out of school from Marangdut village in Panbang (in Southern Bhutan), participated in an educational agriculture program. The group of farmers received hands-on training in organic farming techniques, including preparation of organic fertilizers, bio-pest control solutions, soil nutrient management, seed treatment and saving methods, and bio-gas production. During this exchange, the group also visited SJI project sites for further practical demonstrations—one such demonstration was an introduction to System of Rice Intensification (SRI), a technique successfully piloted and implemented in the Samdrup Jongkhar District by SJI to increase rice yield from their paddy fields. The SRI pilot program in Samdrup Jongkhar was supported by the Bhutan Foundation in 2016 and saw a 122 percent increase in rice production in comparison to the conventional methods.

Following the community exchange visit to SJI, the organic farmers group that was established as a result of the trip requested further training in Marangdut with their organic farms. In response, the Bhutan Foundation supported three days of extensive training on SRI for 14 farmers (10 males and 4 females) of Marangdut village with technical support from SJI. During the program, farmers were also provided with hands-on training on other organic farming techniques, and the community members are now expecting a good harvest from their pilot plots.

Moving forward, how can we ensure that Marangdut farmers have a supply of good quality seed and energy security? The Foundation plans to initiate training on development of a community-based seed bank to ensure a continuous supply of good quality seeds for the farmers. Simultaneously, to address energy needs within the community, we plan to support small-scale bio-gas plants for selected farmers of Marangdut village.

“Such trainings are an eye-opening experience for all of us and will help us ensure sustainable agriculture development and food security in our community. We look forward to receiving continued support from the Bhutan Foundation. Thank you.”

—Mr. Dorji, Chairman
Marangdut Farmers’ Group

“The SRI method looks promising judging by the training conducted by the Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative. In this three-day training, we were intensively engaged in rice transplantation and bio-pest management. We are excited to see how it will yield and hopeful that it will generate a fruitful result.

Thank you, Bhutan Foundation, and SJI for your continuous support and for doing this. We appreciate it.”

—Rinchen Jamtsho, 25
Marangdut farming group member
SMALL GRANTS

- 20 CSOs supported
- 10 Government agencies supported
- 9 Non-formal groups supported
- 2 Social enterprises supported
Small Grants, Big Impact

Sometimes the road to change is a small path. In the larger interest of promoting Gross National Happiness, and in helping realize His Majesty’s vision of equitable distribution of the benefits of development, the Bhutan Foundation established the Small Grants Program (SGP) in 2014. This program, run entirely by the Thimphu office in Bhutan, supports projects with a shorter time-frame for immediate, localized impacts. These grants typically range from $3,000 to $5,000 and support the four pillars of Gross National Happiness.

The first grant was offered in 2014 to support 8 projects with a startup fund of $12,000. This year, the fund has grown to $50,000, clearing the way for an even more diverse range of projects. To date, the Small Grants Program has supported more than 20 civil society organizations, more than 10 government agencies, and 9 other informal groups, out of which emerged 2 new social enterprises.

The primary focus of the SGP is to support exciting and unexplored projects and to address ad-hoc but important needs of our partners. As we prepare to enter 2020, this program aims to continue to expand our funds and carry out additional specialized projects across Bhutan.

Here are a few examples of the programs we supported in 2018:
“To date, three guys who had an interest and talent in art were sponsored by the Foundation for three-month art classes in Siliguri, and since returning, all three have managed to find work that utilizes these skills. At present, another boy who has been sponsored by the Foundation in electrical repair in Siliguri is taking his final exam today. The Bhutan Foundation’s assistance for these recovering addicts has been invaluable. Without it, there would have been a high chance for them to relapse.”

—Lama Shenphen Zangpo
Guardian

**Building a Future: Rehabilitation and Skills Training after Addiction**

Lama Shenphen Zangpo, a Buddhist monk from Wales, has been an inspirational mentor for Bhutanese youth who suffer from substance abuse and come in conflict with law. In fact, in 2015, His Majesty the King awarded Lama Shenphen the National Order of Merit, Gold in response to that service. In recognition of various youth-related issues that Bhutan confronts and in further support of Lama Shenphen’s valuable work, the Bhutan Foundation supported the rehabilitation program costs of four recovering addicts as well as their skill-related training in the neighboring Indian town of Siliguri.

One of these four is a man by the name of Galay Wangchuk. With a difficult and dysfunctional family background, Galay soon came into conflict with the law and served numerous periods in juvenile detention. However, his life turned around when he met Lama Shenphen. After successfully completing his three-month rehabilitation program and skill training in art and painting, Galay returned to Bhutan to open a home-based art gallery in Thimphu. With this gesture of support, Galay got another chance for life.

**Entrepreneurship Festival Sparks Interest of Thousands**

The Loden Foundation, one of our civil society organization partners, is well known for its efforts to promote social entrepreneurship and intelligent business in Bhutan. Through our Small Grants Program, the Bhutan Foundation supported Loden’s 2018 entrepreneurship festival—the Druk Tshongrig Gatoen—where over 2,000 Bhutanese youth in 11 educational institutions were engaged in multiple events in seven districts to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and understanding. The festival also brought together entrepreneurs from around the country to showcase their products during the Made in Bhutan Market Fair.

“This would not have been possible without the support of the Bhutan Foundation. We remain thankful to the Foundation’s continued efforts to support the growth of civil society in Bhutan.”

—Phuntsho Namgay
Development Manager, Loden Foundation
Continuing the Path to Success: Dhungsel Home Spa

The Bhutan Foundation, in collaboration with the Disabled Persons Association of Bhutan, partnered with Amankora Resort in 2015 to train eight unemployed visually impaired youth in massage therapy. Tshering Dorji, one of the eight candidates, now runs his own home spa, popularly known as the Dhungsel Home Spa, in Thimphu with a small seed fund from the Foundation. With his mission to empower other people living with disabilities, Tshering trains and hires other youth with disabilities. This year, our Small Grants Program supported the purchase of a sauna with a steam machine for Tshering’s home spa to diversify his services.

“Usually, during winters, my business runs slow because not many people want to have a massage due to the cold weather. Now, I can offer my customers a hot steam bath. Many have availed the steam service and are very happy with the new service addition.”

—Tshering Dorji
Dhungsel Home Spa
Our Partners

Local Partners

- Ability Bhutan Society
- Amankora
- Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care
- Bhutan Canada Foundation
- Bhutan Cancer Society
- Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
- Bhutan Ecological Society
- Bhutan Media Foundation
- Bhutan Nuns Foundation
- Bumthang Health Association
- Chituen Phendey Association
- Clean Bhutan
- Department of Forests and Park Services
- Dhungsel Home Spa
- Disabled Persons’ Association of Bhutan
- Draktscho Vocational Training Centre
- Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital
- Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
- Karma Drubdey Gonpa
- Khedrup Foundation
- Kgchenling Foundation
- Concern, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women
- Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies
- River Guides of Panbang
- Royal Education Council
- Royal Government of Bhutan
- Royal Society for Protection of Nature
- Royal T extile Academy of Bhutan
- Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative
- Sewala Buddhist Institute
- SGP
- the GEF Small Grants Programme
- SGP UNDP
- Tarayana Foundation
- Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research
- United Nations Bhutan
- Voluntary Artists’ Studio, Thimphu
- World Wildlife Fund Bhutan
- Youth Development Fund
### International Partners

| Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital |
| Explorers Club St. Louis |
| Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) |
| Humane Society International (HSI) |
| National Geographic Society |
| Perkins International |
| Phelps Memorial Hospital Center |
| The Rubin Museum |
| Smithsonian Institution |
| Snow Leopard Conservancy |
| Squire Patton Boggs LLP |
| Tsao & McKown Architects |
| University of California San Francisco |
| University of Montana |
| University of Texas at El Paso |
| US Ambassadors’ Fund for Cultural Preservation |
| USAID |
| US Department of Agriculture |
| Weill Cornell Medicine |
| World Wildlife Fund |
| Yale University |
Bhutan Foundation Grants

Fiscal Year 2019

Conservation of the Environment

Over 300,000

WWF Bhutan
Bhutan For Life

50,000 to 99,999

Bhutan Ecological Society
Sustainable Building Initiative

Global Tiger Centre
Tiger Conservation Program

20,000 to 49,999

Bhutan Ecological Society
Mission Support

Jomolhari Community
Snow Leopard Conservation Community Program

River Guides of Panbang
Social Enterprise

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research
Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Non State Actors Grant for Monitoring Forest Cover Change

10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Ecological Society
Bhutan Lecture on Innovation, Science, and Society

Bhutan Ecological Society
Schools on the Edge

Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research
Digital Parks Spatial Decision Support System

5,000 to 9,999

WWF Bhutan
Livelihood Improvements Initiatives in Budashi

Sustainable Development

20,000 to 49,999

Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences
Public Health Research Capacity

Ministry of Health
Improving Emergency Medical Services

10,000 to 19,999

Bumthang Health Association
Improving Health Service Delivery in Bumthang

Bumthang Health Association
Nomad Health Camps in Bumthang District

5,000 to 9,999

Ministry of Education
Enhancement of Educational Opportunities for Children with Special Needs

PHENSEM
Parent Support Group for Children with Special Needs

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary
Nomad Health Camps in Merak and Sakteng

Shaba Primary School
Classroom Equipment and Water Filtration

1,000 to 4,999

Bhutan Emergency Aeromedical Retrieval Team
Improving Emergency Medical Services

Preservation of Culture

Over 300,000

Ministry of Home and Culture
Adaptive Re-use and Restoration of Wangduechhoeling Palace

20,000 to 49,999

Music of Bhutan Research Centre
Research and Archiving of Traditional Songs and Ritual Arts

5,000 to 9,999

Faculty of Traditional Medicine
Identification and Documentation of High Altitude Medicinal Plants of Bhutan

1,000 to 4,999

Gangteng Sangnag Choeling Monastery
Mission Support

Sewala Buddhist Institute
Mission Support

Thangka Conservation and Restoration Centre
Mission Support

Trashigang Dzong
Fire Alarm System

Good Governance

900,000

Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
Law Library

100,000 to 200,000

Bhutan Nuns Foundation
Mission Support

50,000 to 99,999

Khedrup Foundation
Mission Support

Tarayana Foundation
Mission Support

20,000 to 49,999

Shaba Primary School
Classroom Equipment and Water Filtration

1,000 to 4,999

Gangteng Sangnag Choeling Monastery
Mission Support

Sewala Buddhist Institute
Mission Support

Thangka Conservation and Restoration Centre
Mission Support

Trashigang Dzong
Fire Alarm System

Good Governance

900,000

Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law
Law Library

100,000 to 200,000

Bhutan Nuns Foundation
Mission Support

50,000 to 99,999

Khedrup Foundation
Mission Support

Tarayana Foundation
Mission Support

20,000 to 49,999

Bhutan Animal Rescue and Care
Mission Support

Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
Mission Support

Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
Project Mikhung
10,000 to 19,999

Bhutan Youth Development Fund
Mission Support
Druk Metho
Social Enterprise
Gyalum Charitable Trust
Mission Support
Loden Foundation
Mission Support
Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women
Mission Support
Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies
Urban Planning and School Design
Royal Society for Protection of Nature
Mission Support

5,000 to 9,999

CSO Core Coordination Committee
Establishment of CCC Secretariat
Draktsho
Mission Support
Green Pigment Arts
Research on Herbal Pigment Paints
Ogyen Choling Foundation
Mission Support
Royal Textile Academy
Mission Support

1,000 to 4,999

College of Language and Cultural Studies
Mission Support
Dhungsol Home Spa
Social Enterprise
Early Learning Center
Mission Support
Gumar Films
Small Grants Program
Lama Shenphen Zangpo
Small Grants Program
Lhomon Society
Mission Support
Loden Foundation
Druk Tshongrig Gatoen
Nima Tshering
Music Video on Animal Rights
Rotary Club of Thimphu
Mission Support
Royal Thimphu College
Mission Support
Thangton Ami Dewa Foundation
Mission Support
Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research
Advanced Photography Workshop

999 and below

Bhutan Cancer Society
Mission Support
Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy
Quickbooks
Clean Bhutan
Mission Support
Disabled Persons’ Association of Bhutan
Quickbooks
iHub
National Entrepreneurship Congress
Tarayana Foundation
Quickbooks
Youth Caring Community
Project Chodrup
Financial Overview

The Bhutan Foundation is proud to report that fiscal year 2019 was our strongest fundraising year. During fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019), the Bhutan Foundation raised $3.8 million in contributions. This is a significant increase of $1 million from the previous year.

We continue to receive support from our amazing donors—ranging from US government agencies and public charities, to private foundations, and the many individuals who believe in the mission of the Foundation—to serve the people of Bhutan in living and sharing the principle of Gross National Happiness.

As we look ahead toward growth, we remain committed to fiscal prudence and ensuring sustainability and high-quality programming for every community we serve in Bhutan. The Bhutan Foundation strives to maximize the percentage of funds raised toward supporting programs in Bhutan. In fiscal year 2019, 91 percent of our total expenditures were spent on programs and 9 percent on supporting services.

Further, to address the sustainability of the Foundation, we have instituted a sustainable usage fee for restricted gifts, which will help cover the cost of managing grants. This fee is essential in helping to build working capital for the Foundation to continue supporting programs and services in Bhutan.

We are grateful to our ardent supporters who make our work in Bhutan possible. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Brian Menkes
Treasurer

Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2019

See how your support significantly impacts our mission:

Support and Revenue
- Contributions and Grants: 3,182,157
- Public Charities: 248,794
- Government Grants: 386,820
- Other Support: 19,732
- Subtotal Revenue: 3,837,503
- In Kind Probono Support: 74,250
- TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE: 3,911,753

Programs and Services
- Culture: 549,283
- Environment: 858,482
- Good Governance: 1,558,618
- Sustainable Development: 301,662
- Events: 134,856
- Subtotal Programs: 3,402,901
- Management: 235,318
- Fundraising: 128,192
- Subtotal Supporting Services: 363,510
- TOTAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES: 3,766,411
We Thank Those Who Make It Possible

$200,000 and above
Karuna Foundation
Ajana Foundation
Annenberg Foundation
Daphne & John Cunningham
The Late Lisina M. Hoch
Michael J. Mars
Philipp Family Foundation
Tan Teo Charitable Foundation
US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation
William H. Donner Foundation

$100,000 to $199,999
Nancy Hamill Winter
Petal Foundation (Leigh Talmage)
R.E. Hoch Charitable Trust
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

$50,000 to $99,999
Anonymous
Favrot Fund
Ford Foundation
Mieko Nishimizu
Rosemary Phelan

$25,000 to $49,999
Agentives Fund
Anonymous
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Christopher & Lucy Goelet
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Rudolf & Alix Laager
Shared Earth Foundation (Caroline Gabel)

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Bhutan Foundation
21 Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 755
Washington, DC 20036

Wire Your Donation or Make a Stock Gift
Please contact the Bhutan Foundation at (202) 609-7363 or email: info@bhutanfound.org

A Gift in Your Will
Please remember the Bhutan Foundation with a gift in your will. There are several ways to make a bequest to the Bhutan Foundation through your will or other estate plan: a residual bequest, a percentage bequest, a specific bequest, or a contingent bequest.
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