

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

THE TIBET FUND



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SERVING
TIBETAN COMMUNITIES
SINCE 1981



“Since its establishment in 1981, The Tibet Fund has contributed to the building and development of a robust Tibetan community in exile. It has also supported Tibetans in Tibet in socio-economic areas. Over three and a half decades, it has assisted the Tibetan leadership in exile in its work on infrastructural development, refugee rehabilitation, and cultural preservation, while also backing education, healthcare and other capacity-building programs. Through such support, we have been able to strengthen our cultural institutions and undertake projects essential for the preservation of the Tibetan cultural heritage that is the very core of our civilization.”

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama
Honorary Patron
The Tibet Fund

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Lobsang Nyandak
President
The Tibet Fund

Honorary Patron

His Holiness
the 14th Dalai Lama

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Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 continued to profoundly affect Tibetan refugee communities in India and Nepal in the first half of 2021. In the midst of the second deadly wave, The Tibet Fund was in the forefront providing essential medical devices, including oxygen cylinders, concentrators, ventilators, and preventive medical supplies, in majority of Tibetan healthcare centers, which are dismally equipped for such catastrophe. Now, these health facilities are modestly equipped to provide urgent care if we were to face the potential third wave.

The devastating financial impact of Covid on the poorest households in Tibetan settlements prompted us to launch livelihood support programs, including skills trainings, nutritional support for vulnerable pregnant and lactating mothers, and subsistence allowances for female-headed households benefiting 1,337 families.

With your support and generosity, we have helped reduce malnutrition risks among newborn children and infants caused by food insecurity, prevent the most vulnerable women from falling into poverty, due to their inability to earn income during the Covid crisis, and provided new livelihood skills trainings on cookery, bakery, tailoring, hairdressing and beautician, plumbing and electric works etc.

Despite the difficult times and limited resources, we accelerated our humanitarian programs to reach out to the remotest of Tibetan settlements, benefiting over 70,000 Tibetans from our Covid-19 response programs and through education, health, livelihoods improvement, community development, and refugee rehabilitation. In collaboration with the Central Tibetan Administration, we have successfully managed, administered, monitored and reported on \$8.1 million in program activities in India, Nepal, North America, and Tibet, out of which \$6.4 million was funded by four U.S. federal grants and \$1.7 million was funded by dozens of private donor grants from individuals and foundations.

We are blessed with the consistent patronage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and our works have been made possible by the support from the Central Tibetan Administration, generous funding from the U.S. Government, family foundations and individual supporters and especially with the strong leadership of our Board of Directors and dedicated staff members.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lobsang Nyandak'.

Lobsang Nyandak
President

September 30, 2021

Financial Statement

THE TIBET FUND: YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

ASSETS	2020
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Cash and cash equivalents	\$343,545
Investments	
Without donor restrictions	\$5,051,268
Donor restricted	\$778,008
Grants receivable	\$761,503
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$614,221
Loan Receivable	\$950,000
Fixed assets –net	\$566,130
Total assets	\$9,064,675

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$32,133
Deferred grant revenue	\$62,288
Due to subrecipients	\$1,112,567
Total liabilities	\$1,206,988

Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	\$7,079,679
Donor restricted	\$778,008
Total net assets	\$7,857,687
Total Liabilities and net assets	\$9,064,675

These statements of financial position and activities were derived from the 2020 financial statements of The Tibet Fund's independent auditors, BKD CPAs & Advisors. A copy of the audited financial statements and Form 990 FY 2020 are available upon request from The Tibet Fund.

Revenue and Expense Statement

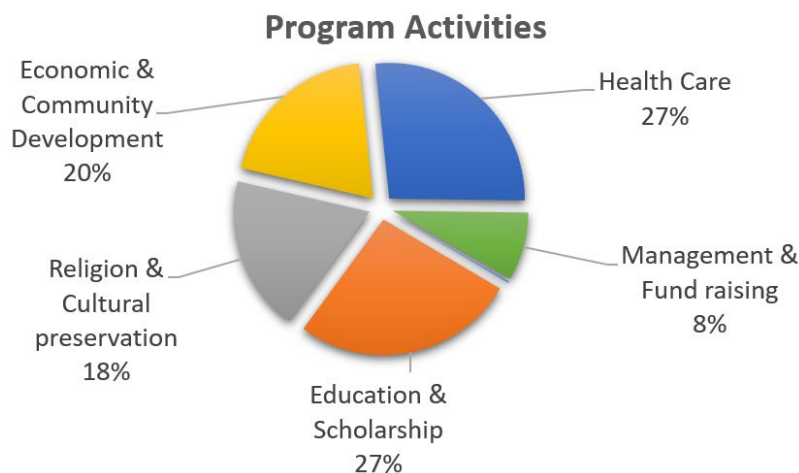
THE TIBET FUND: YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2020
Revenues, gains, and other support			
Public support and revenues			
U.S Federal grants	\$6,641,160		\$6,641,160
Special events	\$89,157		\$89,157
Less direct expenses of special events	(\$4,696)		(\$4,696)
Contributions	\$388,200	\$1,021,896	\$1,410,096
<hr/>			
Total public support and revenues	\$7,113,821	\$1,021,896	\$8,135,717
Other revenues and gains			
Investment income	\$536,472		\$536,472
Rental income	\$52,797		\$52,797
Miscellaneous income	\$75		\$75
<hr/>			
Total other revenues and gains	\$589,344		\$589,344
<hr/>			
Net assets released from restrictions	\$1371,062	(\$1,371,062)	
<hr/>			
Total revenues and other support	\$9,074,227	(\$349,166)	\$8,725,061

Program Activities Statement

THE TIBET FUND: YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2020
EXPENSES			
Program services			
Humanitarian assistance	\$ 15,436		\$15,436
Education and scholarship	\$2,306,308		\$2,306,308
Cultural and religious preservation	\$1,609,748		\$1,609,748
Economic and community development	\$1,714,088		\$1,714,088
Health Care	\$2,333,770		\$2,333,770
Total program services	\$7,979,350		\$7,979,350
Supporting services			
Management and general	\$613,608		\$613,608
Fund raising	\$91,025		\$91,025
Total supporting services	\$704,633		\$704,633
Total expenses	\$8,683,983		\$8,683,983
Change in net assets	\$390,244	(\$349,166)	\$41,078
Net assets -beginning of year	\$6,689,435	\$1,127,174	\$7,816,609
Net assets -end of year	\$7,079,679	\$778,008	\$7,857,687



Rehabilitating New Refugees

China's policies of political oppression, social marginalization, and cultural assimilation in Tibet continue to push Tibetans to risk their lives and escape the prevailing repressive conditions to freedom in exile. Rehabilitating new refugees from Tibet and assisting them to become self-sufficient and productive members of the Tibetan exile community is a core component of humanitarian assistance from the U.S. State Department's Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau (PRM). Since 1991, The Tibet Fund, working in close partnership with the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), has administered PRM funding to improve the health, education, and livelihoods of the most vulnerable Tibetan refugees in South Asia benefitting more than 100,000 Tibetan refugees. The grant supports quality reception and rehabilitation services for incoming refugees through two reception centers located in Delhi and Dharamshala and three schools that cater to new refugees. Healthcare, housing, and other humanitarian assistance support new refugees on their journey from meeting immediate basic needs to achieving self-sufficiency.

In 2020, with PRM funding the CTA Department of Security secured entry permits, safe passage and legal documentation for seven new refugees from Tibet arriving in India via Nepal, working in coordination with UNHCR and the Government of India. The number of new arrivals has steadily declined over the past decade (from an annual average of 2-3,000 in prior years), due to increased border security and restrictions on movement.

All seven newly arrived refugees received food, shelter, clothing, counselling, and access to language study, as well as medical care including check-ups and tests for infectious diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS, and Hepatitis B. The new arrivals also participated in orientation programs on sexual health and gender-based violence, and all obtained legal status to reside in India, after which most were admitted to PRM-supported schools, monasteries, or nunneries. Surveys found that all seven new arrivals felt physically and legally secure after arriving in India and the program was able to adequately meet their basic needs and post reception planning.



The Gift of Education

The Tibet Fund is a proud partner in the momentous journey of literacy and education that Tibetans embarked on soon after reaching exile. With our firm belief that education is the most important step towards resilience and freedom, The Tibet Fund continues to play a key role in administering funds for innovative interventions, providing technical expertise, and finding evidence based solutions to our unique challenges. As schools were forced to shut down due to Covid-19, we worked with our partners to ensure that students continued to learn and study by supporting and coordinating online learning and teaching in schools in India and Nepal.

We team with the Department of Education (DOE) of the Central Tibetan Administration, the Snow Lion Foundation (SLF) in Nepal, and civil society organizations to create the largest educational footprint in exile, serving more than 24,000 students in over 70 schools across India and Nepal. The generosity of our donors including the U.S. Government and many organizations and individuals has enabled us to expand the reach of early childhood care, improve the quality of education at Tibetan schools, broaden access to higher education and professional studies, and address core deficiencies in the Tibetan education system. This gift of education is our contribution to the strong foundation children need to learn, build better lives, and continue the struggle for Tibet's identity and freedom.

Covid-19 Related Educational Interventions

As Tibetan schools closed in India and Nepal due to Covid-19, online lessons were organized for children to receive classroom learning at home. In total over 12,000 middle and high school students benefitted from more than 1,000 online lessons supported by The Tibet Fund with funding from USAID. High school students received online classes in all their standard curriculum subjects, while middle school students received classes in Tibetan, English, math and science subjects. Classes were delivered through Tibet TV, Zoom and Google Classroom. E-learning resources were also uploaded to the CTA Department of Education website and YouTube channel, and Tibetan Children's Villages and Tibetan Homes Foundation received support to create new e-learning portals. Also, schools received personal protective equipment, disinfectant and sanitization supplies to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Early Childhood Care and Education

Tibetan communities in India and Nepal remain underserved in this area due to limited attention toward improving daycare centers and providing knowledge and resources to parents of newborns. Realizing the importance of investing in this critical stage of children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development, we have been working with our partners to educate parents, provide resources and trainings to daycare center staff, and ensure nutritious meals are provided to children at baby crèches in remote areas.

As part of the Tibetan Baby Bag Project our partner Manjushri Educational Services organized virtual parent workshops in the Dharamshala and Bir regions in North India. Manjushri experts gave professional guidance to 60 parents of newborns,

sharing information on positive parenting, gender biases at home, the importance of storytelling, reading and play, harmful effects of excessive screen time, and positive disciplining strategies. Following the training, parents received baby bags containing information brochures, baby board books, Tibetan language children's books, and sensorial and educational toys.

With funding from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, The Tibet Fund supported the Early Childhood Matters project led by a group of Tibetan Scholarship Program alumni. The project was aimed at raising parental awareness on the importance of early childhood care and education and familiarizing them with strategies of positive parenting. 150 parents of newborns in Sonamling Tibetan refugee settlement in Ladakh and the remote nomadic camps in Hanley received workshops. High-quality board books, sensorial toys, and hygiene products were also distributed.

Enriching Children's Literature

With USAID funding, we continued supporting the Tibetan Early Grade Reading Program, which works to overcome Tibetan children's inadequate level of mother tongue reading comprehension. The program focuses on producing high quality, age appropriate and culturally relevant children's books in Tibetan language and providing training and mentoring for primary teachers, librarians, and parents. In collaboration with the CTA, this program supported publication of 15 new titles of translated children's books including five picture books, five STEM books and five fantasy books, bringing the total of USAID supported Tibetan language children's literature to 107 original and newly translated titles. A total of 15,344 children's books were distributed to primary classroom reading corners and school



libraries in 70 schools and parents in Tibetan settlements in India and Nepal.

38 additional classroom reading corners were installed in pre-primary and primary class rooms in 15 schools. Also, 40 hostel reading corners and 12 community children's libraries were set up in Sonamling Tibetan Settlement, Ladakh. The reading corners and community libraries were stocked with a collection of high-quality Tibetan and English children's books. These initiatives have reached thousands of Tibetan children, parents, and educators.

The Tibet Fund supported Manjushri to produce four new children book titles and 3,000 copies were distributed free of charge to educational institutions and learning centers in India and the U.S. More than 110 books in Tibetan and English languages were also purchased for Manjushri's new children's library in Dharamshala.

We also began supporting the Children's Literature Project aimed at increasing availability of culturally-relevant high quality reading materials, particularly for underprivileged children in

nomadic regions of Ladakh. Led by Shatsa, a Ladakh based organization founded by young Tibetans, the project will publish three books by a local Tibetan author. The books will revolve around Tibetan nomadic lifestyle and help children, especially in the remote Jangthang region, identify with the characters, objects, experiences, and places described in the stories.

Serving the Marginalized

With funding from the U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, The Tibet Fund provided access to modern and traditional education for 4,035 vulnerable students, monks and nuns who were born in Tibet and fled to India within the last two decades. These services were provided in collaboration with the CTA's Department of Religion and Culture, the Tibetan Children's Village, and the Tibetan Homes Foundation. 2,644 monks and nuns received support to continue nonformal education at 56 traditional learning centers in India, while 1,391 students received modern education at TCV Suja and THF Rajpur. These residential schools provide Tibetan medium instruction and special classes for new arrivals

from Tibet, designed to integrate them into the formal educational system of India. In Nepal, 1,617 students in nine schools benefitted from meals with increased nutritional value.

The Tibet Fund continued to support Sherab Gatsel Transit School in Dharamshala, which caters specifically to the educational needs of newly arrived adult Tibetan refugees. 32 refugee students received nonformal adult education and foundational courses in English and Tibetan languages, mathematics, and basic computer skills. Following completion of their courses students may choose to continue pursuing general education or vocational training courses.

The Tibet Fund continued supporting a nomad children tent school located at over 15,000 feet in the remote Jangthang region of Ladakh. School going children in the nomadic camps were dealt a double blow with schools remaining closed due to the pandemic and no internet access to take part in online classes. The tent school, in addition to providing a year-round learning space for children below the age of six, organized regular classes for 35 students in Tibetan, English, Math, and Science subjects. The tent school also organized summer and winter camps and held various educational and recreational activities including basic Tibetan reading and writing for elder community members. A new sturdier and warmer tent was procured to help children stay cozy and concentrate on their studies especially during the harsh and long winter months. The tent school moves throughout the year with a traditional herding community of about 20 families whose main livelihood comes from herding yak, sheep, and goats.

As part of our focus on remote underserved regions, we continued supporting Shatsa's activities in Sonamling settlement in Leh aimed at

inculcating reading habits among Tibetan children in the region. Every Sunday, the team organized interactive sessions on reading, meditation, and storytelling and nature walks for with camp children. As the pandemic hit Sonamling settlement, Shatsa held virtual storytelling sessions on the local cable TV network and used its social media platforms to organize guided drawing and read aloud sessions and invited camp elders to tell stories. Shatsa team members received virtual training from Manjushri experts and helped conduct workshops on reading with and for children and early childhood care and education to parents in the region. The Tibet Fund continued supporting the Gapa Himalayan School in the small Tibetan settlement of Kamrao in a remote region of Himachal Pradesh. The school has around 40 students and serves the local Tibetan community and monastery.

Quality of Education

Improving education at Tibetan schools begins with the quality of pedagogy and the practice of complementary teaching methods. The Tibet Fund partnered with CTA, Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society, Tibetan Children's Village, Tibetan Homes Foundation, and Central Schools for Tibetans to deliver a host of trainings for teachers to improve and upgrade their pedagogy skills.



With support from USAID, 40 teachers and librarians in India and Nepal received training and mentoring in early grade reading instruction, Montessori methods, higher order thinking skills and the CTA's basic education policy. As part of the school-based teacher professional development program, 620 teachers attended a series on training on progressive pedagogy including sessions on classroom action research, strategies for higher order thinking skills, designing effective multimedia lessons, positive communication skills, and enhancing student engagement in the classroom. Small grants were released to 40 schools to carry out collaborative teacher professional development activities such as orientation workshops, expert talks, book discussions, and lesson study groups.

Revised guidelines for school-based teacher professional development and higher order thinking skills handbooks were distributed. In addition, a pre-primary student observation guideline for teachers to track children's development and educational

progress was developed. With support from PRM, 323 teachers from 27 schools participated in a series of virtual trainings on inclusive education to identify learning difficulties in students, strategize learning plans for children, and promote their psychosocial well-being. A workshop on remedial teaching was also conducted, and two schools installed disabled-friendly railings and ramps for wheelchair.

The Tibet Fund supported Help with Books, a Mundgod based organization which runs two public libraries, to organize a workshop for more than a dozen Tibetan librarians. The librarian educators' course was led by a leading Indian training center in Goa and focused on knowledge, perspective, and skills to set up and run vibrant library spaces for children and promoting reading habits.

The Tibet Fund continued strengthening STEM education through teacher training and teaching and learning materials. 65 teachers received six-week online training in electronics and information





communication technology conducted by the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences. One school in Nepal was equipped with new ICT equipment and teachers received training on computer literacy and integration of technology in classrooms.

To improve STEM related primary teaching aids in schools, 208 sets of math teaching aids were provided to 59 pre-primary and primary schools. In addition, 18 pre-primary schools received 20 sets of exercises of practical life teaching aids. The provision of teaching aids is expected to improve the quality of classroom instruction in primary and pre-primary classrooms.

Advancing Higher Education

Despite universal access to basic education and high enrollment rates in Tibetan schools, access to tertiary education remains a major challenge for approximately 1,200 students who graduate from Tibetan schools each year. Since 2012 USAID funding has provided scholarships for Tibetan students to pursue higher education in India. Scholarships are awarded by the CTA through a

competitive merit-based process. 308 scholarship recipients pursued undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges and universities across India, of which 35% were post graduate students, 45% were female, and 9% were students from Nepal. To enable high school graduates to gain admission to competitive medical and engineering schools, nine students received support to attend yearlong test preparation courses at reputed coaching centers. 145 secondary school students received coaching to prepare for national standardized tests while 296 grade 12 students and 165 grade 10 students completed month-long test preparation coaching for the Indian national board exams.

The Tibet Fund has been administering the Tibetan Scholarship Program since 1988 with funding from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Managed in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section and CTA Department of Education, this program has enabled 452 students to pursue further studies in some of the best universities and colleges in the U.S., and later return to serve the Tibetan community as officials in the CTA,

educators, health workers, business leaders and heads of community-based organizations. In 2020, 22 graduate students received funding to pursue Master's degrees in a wide range of fields, including public health, computer science, microbiology and immunology, science education, gifted education, human resource management, physics, international relations, psychology, business, and botany. 7 new students were selected to pursue further studies however due to the pandemic travel was delayed.

The Tibetan Professional Scholarship Program supports Tibetan students to pursue professional degrees at colleges and universities in India and Nepal. Managed in collaboration with the CTA Department of Education in India and the Himalayan Society for Youth and Women Empowerment in Nepal, the program aims to cultivate a growing class of Tibetan professionals that can contribute to self-reliance of the Tibetan community in exile. In 2020, 13 students in India received scholarships to pursue professional degrees in medicine, law, business administration, pharmacology, computer science, clinical research, and anthropology. Seven students in Nepal received scholarships to pursue degrees in electrical engineering, law, business administration, and hotel management.

Recognizing that Tibetan girls from poor families are often unable to attend college, The Tibet Fund established the Girls Scholarship Program to support underprivileged girls to pursue higher education. Managed in collaboration with Drokmo, a women-led Tibetan organization in India, the program is intended to address gender inequality and help reduce poverty, as well as empower a new generation of talented

Tibetan girls to become leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, and change agents. In 2020, seven new deserving girls received support to enroll in various colleges taking the total number of scholarship recipients to 24. The girls are studying nursing, physical therapy, journalism, business administration, law, tourism, fashion design, and Tibetan studies.

The Tibet Fund began working with Edulift, a Kathmandu based organization working on promotion of non-academic experiential learning through a variety of after-school programs for high school students. Edulift organized a virtual Explorers Program for 51 students from grades 10 to 12 in Nepal with a focus on critical thinking, collaboration, communication, problem solving, creative expression, and social-emotional skills. The program stimulated intellectual growth and social well-being among participants by exploring art and culture and discussing issues ranging from environment, poetry, religion and culture to gender, mental health, and career guidance.

We continued working with the Tibetan Scholarship Program Alumni Association and supported their youth outreach program to raise awareness on educational opportunities in the U.S. in particular the Tibetan Scholarship Program. Due to restrictions on travel and assembly, association members, who have all studied in the U.S., produced short videos and held live virtual discussions with school and college students focusing on US college application process, acing TOEFL and GRE tests, writing statement of purpose, and preparing for scholarship interviews. Virtual workshops with presentations and breakout sessions were also conducted with senior students of six Tibetan schools.



Building Healthy Communities

The Tibet Fund is committed to providing Tibetan communities with access to affordable and quality healthcare. Working in partnership with the CTA Department of Health, Snow Lion Foundation, and grassroots health organizations, we help deliver essential medical services for the most vulnerable refugees, TB and Hepatitis B prevention and treatment, maternal and child healthcare, community health insurance, nutritional support, safe drinking water and sanitation, and preventive health education.

With funding from the U.S. government and private donors, our initiatives have helped strengthen institutional and human resource capacities by providing Tibetan health workers and administrators with training, supplies, and new medical equipment. Working through a network of Tibetan hospitals, primary health care centers, and rural clinics, we deliver healthcare services to tens of thousands of Tibetans, including the most underserved and vulnerable groups among the Tibetan exile community.

In March 2020 when the world began to go under lockdown The Tibet Fund began working with its partners to assess health system requirements to prepare for the onslaught of the pandemic. Existing funds were redirected and new grants were made to raise community awareness, and deliver Covid infection control, prevention, and emergency health services in all 47 settlements of India and Nepal.

Covid-19 Relief and Response

The Tibet Fund provided a wide range of support to the Central Tibetan Administration and Snow Lion Foundation with grants from USAID and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the U.S. State Department. Quarantine centers were established in every settlement, and medical facilities received equipment and supplies including oxygen cylinders, suction machines, thermometers, pulse oximeters, resuscitator kits, sanitization supplies, and PPE. Infection control triage spaces were set up in the largest settlements, screening, testing, and contact tracing were conducted in all settlements, and Covid patients from disadvantaged households received financial support for their medical expenses. New ambulances were provided for three settlements and vehicles were rented for critical cases in settlements without ambulances. To cope with the increased workload, more than 60 new medical personnel and more than 260 volunteers were hired, as well as cooks for quarantine centers and other nonmedical staff.

The most vulnerable community members received special attention. 27 elder homes received medical equipment and supplies, food rations, PPE, and vitamin supplements to improve nutritional intake, and more than 2,550 vulnerable Tibetans received food rations and cash allowances for basic needs, including the economically destitute, the disabled,

vulnerable elders living alone, monks and nuns living in retreat areas, HIV and TB patients, and students from poor households. In addition, more than 23,500 elders, frontline workers, quarantined individuals, and immuno-compromised community members received immunity-boosting Tibetan medicines. The Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute in Dharamshala shared 33% of the cost of traditional medicine packages.

More than a thousand Covid-19 tests were conducted with our support in India and Nepal for individuals at high risk including frontline workers and students returning to their homes. Also, five DOH facilities collaborated with GOI clinics to collect swabs and conduct RDT testing in the settlements.

A Covid-19 helpline was set up by the CTA Department of Health, and trained counsellors and nurses gave counselling to Covid patients, patient family members, quarantined individuals, elders, pregnant women and postnatal mothers, those at risk due to other medical conditions, and other vulnerable community members. More than 3,300 individuals received Covid related information and counselling by phone or in-person, including psychosocial counselling for those facing anxiety and depression. Also, 79 Covid-19 frontline



workers participated in a survey to assess their mental health and well-being, which showed moderate decline since the start of the pandemic. Based on survey findings and feedback from frontline workers, DOH laid out plans for support groups, yoga classes, and Buddhist teachings.

The Tibet Fund conducted an online survey to assess Covid-19 knowledge, attitudes and practices of more than 1,600 Tibetans in South Asia, North America, and other parts of the world. The survey found that while 95% had good knowledge about symptoms and basic preventive measures, most believed the risk of getting infected to be low. The survey found social media messaging is the most common way Tibetans learn about Covid-19, and healthcare professionals are their most trusted sources. Following the survey, The Tibet Fund produced a series of short educational videos in Tibetan to disseminate on Facebook and Instagram. Topics included CDC mask guidelines, managing pandemic-related anxiety and depression, differences between the flu and coronavirus, the current status of vaccine development, and practical advice for parents with young children during lockdown.

As Covid-19 surged in India, ambulances became prohibitively expensive and difficult to access in major cities, in particular Delhi where thousands of Tibetans reside. In response the Tibetan Cancer Society purchased a new ambulance and life support equipment with a grant from The Tibet

Fund. Staffed by a Tibetan nurse with training in emergency medicine and trauma, the ambulance is available at no cost to Covid-19 patients within driving distance of Delhi, as well as cancer patients in critical condition. The new ambulance began operating in October, and has assisted more than a hundred patients including Covid-19 patients in critical need.

Doeguling settlement in Karnataka and Sonamling settlement in Ladakh were hardest hit by the first wave of Covid-19 in India, with 63% of all fatalities reported in South Asia. Doeguling hosts a large population of monks at Ganden and Drepung monasteries, where outbreaks occurred despite strong prevention and control measures. With The Tibet Fund's support, Ganden Jangtse Hospital converted its guesthouse into a quarantine center, established a fever and flu center, and conducted contact tracing of presumptive cases. Health workers and all hospital visitors received personal protective equipment (PPE), and the hospital produced five public awareness videos in Tibetan that were widely disseminated. Multiple public talks were also conducted by hospital health workers in coordination with the CTA and local Indian government hospital.

In Sonamling families of the deceased received cremation firewood through the Tibetan Children's Village Alumni Association, and we helped the settlement office arrange transport home for over 100 students stranded in other parts of India during the national lockdown. In Phuntsokling settlement in Odisha, with our support the local organization

"A Tibetan in his late 40s with a high-risk comorbidity, was in a critical state in Bodh Gaya suffering from Covid-19. Without lifesaving medical facilities in town and prohibitive transportation charges, the ambulance rushed to Bodh Gaya, more than 2,000 kms away, and brought him to one of the leading public hospitals in Delhi where he was admitted in the ICU for a week. He later fully recovered. The services were provided free of cost by the Tibetan Cancer Society."

Oshi Shenphen Tsogchung disinfected and sanitized all areas of the settlement, benefitting over 2,000 community members. Volunteers covered every house and monastery as well as four Indian villages around the settlement. They also distributed 3,000 face masks to health workers and community members, and delivered food rations and hygiene supplies to 80 of the most vulnerable families in the settlement.

In North America, to prevent infection among elderly Tibetans residing in Queens, The Tibet Fund partnered with Himalayan Elders Project to distribute PPE to 60 Tibetan elders, including masks, gloves and sanitizers. Elders also received the traditional Tibetan staple tsampa and counselling to keep themselves safe from the virus. Many elderly Tibetans with large families are especially vulnerable, sharing two room homes with 5 to 7 family members.

We also supported the Tibetan Nurses Association to fight Covid-19 among Tibetan communities in New York and New Jersey. The association established a helpline that connects callers with Tibetan and Nepali speaking doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners for Covid-related medical, social,

and emotional guidance. More than 200 callers have used this service so far, about 90 of whom were referred to hospitals. At the beginning of the pandemic when PPE and basic medical supplies were in scarce supply, the association provided N-95 masks, simple medical masks, thermometers, and Tylenol to 250 frontline healthcare workers and over 200 Tibetans living in Queens.

The Tibetan Community of New York and New Jersey played an important role in supporting vulnerable community members and coordinating the efforts of other Tibetan organizations. Soon after the outbreak of the pandemic, it established an emergency task force to combat Covid-19 in the most affected areas in Queens where there is a high concentration of Tibetans. With our support the task force organized educational talks by experienced Tibetan healthcare workers, distributed posters to raise awareness, and delivered food to Tibetan healthcare workers and at-risk individuals under self-quarantine.

The Tibet Fund also supported the Tibetan Association in Toronto, Canada, to produce and distribute 1,000 washable masks and 500 hats for Tibetans living in Toronto. The association also delivered food and disinfectant to 100 elders, and provided food to 30 Covid-19 patients.

Promoting Health Coverage

With support from USAID, The Tibet Fund continued to strengthen the capacity of CTA's community health insurance program, the Tibetan Medicare System (TMS), and provided membership subsidies to the most vulnerable Tibetans in India. Over the years TMS has steadily increased member enrollment, claims processing efficiency, member satisfaction, and financial sustainability of the scheme. In 2020, 26,432 members were enrolled, a 101% increase over enrollment in 2015.



With support from USAID and the U.S. State Department's Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau, 1,350 destitute refugees, 3,425 vulnerable families and individuals, and more than 400 students of the Tibetan Homes Foundation, Rajpur and Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, Dharamshala were enrolled in TMS.

Serving the Most Vulnerable

The Tibet Fund continued to extend essential health services, life-saving drugs, and financial support to the most vulnerable Tibetan refugees, including the destitute, torture survivors, HIV patients, elders, substance abuse victims, pregnant women, and newborn children. With funding from the U.S. State Department's Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau and USAID, more than 75,000 Tibetans in India and Nepal received access to basic primary care, referral services, and home visits from health workers at 49 health clinics and hospitals.

Basic subsistence support was provided to 616 highly vulnerable refugees in India and Nepal, including 141 physically disabled, 33 mentally disabled, 5 leprosy patients, 439 disadvantaged elders, and 4 patients with HIV. Essential medical care and rehabilitation services were provided to 2,083 highly vulnerable refugees in India and Nepal, including food, shelter and medical care for disadvantaged elders; primary and emergency medical care for economically destitute refugees with chronic debilitating illnesses; medication for HIV, mental health, and epilepsy patients; and rehabilitation services for substance abuse patients. Delivered by the CTA Department of Health and Snow Lion Foundation, health services included gynecological and pediatric services to more than 700 pregnant women, mothers, and newborn children.

To address the rise in cancer in the Tibetan community, The Tibet Fund continued partnering with the Tibetan Cancer Society (TCS) to provide cancer awareness, early detection, and palliative care. Health camps were held in Sonamling settlement and the nomadic camps of Sumdo and Samed in Ladakh and health professionals provided free consultations, screenings, and H-Pylori stool tests for more than 940 Tibetan refugees. H. Pylori is a common type of bacteria found in the digestive tract associated with ulcers, gastritis, and stomach cancer. 72 patients who tested positive received free medicines and were successfully treated with antibiotics. TCS also assisted patients, especially from economically vulnerable backgrounds, in arranging consultations at reputed cancer hospitals in Delhi and provided palliative care and support.

Fighting Communicable Diseases

With support from U.S. State Department's Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau, USAID, and private donors, The Tibet Fund continued to play a pivotal role in the fight against Hepatitis B and Tuberculosis, two of the largest public health concerns among Tibetan refugees in India and Nepal. We supported measures to control these diseases by integrating behavior change communication strategies with early diagnosis, screening, and treatment programs. Working with the CTA Department of Health, Snow Lion Foundation, and grassroots organizations, our initiatives have improved diagnostic infrastructure, increased public awareness, and provided access to costly tests and treatment.

As part of an ambitious Hepatitis B prevention initiative, the CTA Department of Health and Snow Lion Foundation continued extensive Hepatitis B screening, vaccination and treatment program, reaching 3,363 refugees in six

settlements. Confirmatory follow up tests were conducted for 248 positive cases to determine infection severity and appropriate treatment. 155 new patients and 254 continuing patients received antiviral treatment. Remaining positive patients were monitored by health workers and received guidance on managing Hepatitis B through changes in lifestyle behavior. Second round follow-up tests of patients completing six-month treatment found that antiviral drugs and dosage were effective.

Hepatitis B vaccinations were administered to 697 refugees including high-risk individuals, children under 5 years of age, and newborn children of infected mothers. Seven health workers also received Hepatitis B screening and titer tests to determine if they have the required protective immunity. The Tibet Fund continued supporting Altruism in Action (AIA), an NGO that works to spread awareness about Hepatitis B and provides free diagnosis and treatment to economically vulnerable Tibetans. AIA conducted free Hepatitis B screening for 240 monks at Gyutoe monastery in Dharamshala and provided free viral load tests, treatment for Hepatitis B patients, and consultation with hepatologists for 24 patients from vulnerable backgrounds in Ladakh Jangthang, Dharamshala and Delhi. In 2020 AIA received recognition as member of the World Hepatitis Alliance.



With funding from USAID we continued to collaborate with the CTA to control Tuberculosis within the Tibetan community, through active case finding in schools and monasteries, early identification and treatment of multi-drug resistant patients, innovative solutions to improve adherence and cure rates, and capacity building for health workers to improve quality of services.

More than 200 TB patients received medical treatment, diagnostic services, and supplemental nutrition support. Culture and drug sensitivity testing was conducted to identify whether bacteria are resistant to one or more of the main TB drugs, and to help determine the most effective treatment for multi-drug resistant TB. GeneXpert cartridges were distributed to conduct nucleic acid amplification tests for rapid and reliable diagnosis and new diagnostic equipment and supplies were purchased for TB wards at Tibetan hospitals. TB active case finding and passive screening campaigns reached more than 14,100 Tibetan students and settlement residents in India and Nepal.

Ensuring Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and good hygiene practices is essential in combating the spread of disease and upholding the dignity of vulnerable populations. In 2020 our support significantly improved the health and welfare of thousands of Tibetan settlement residents, school students, and elders. With funding from the U.S. State Department's Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau, The Tibet Fund collaborated with the CTA Department of Health and Snow Lion Foundation to repair, construct, and improve drinking water facilities, toilets and drainage systems in 12 Tibetan refugee settlements and six schools in India and Nepal benefitting more than 26,000 community members.

In Hunsur settlement a hospital water filter system was installed, four new household toilets were constructed and renovation of a hospital sewage tank was completed. Toilets at STS School, Gurupura and THF School, Rajpur were completed benefitting more than 400 students. Construction of an overhead tank at Ngoenga special needs facility was completed and pipelines for water supply at CTA facilities in Dharamshala were repaired.

Community toilets and bathrooms were constructed in Hunsur, Mainpat, Tuting, and Miao settlements benefitting more than a thousand residents. 39 borewell recharge pits were completed in Odisha, Mudngod, and Bhandara settlements benefitting more than 6,000 settlement residents. Check dams in Hunsur, Mundgod, and Mainpat settlements were constructed and repaired benefitting more than 2,500 community members.

In Nepal, underground water tanks at Tashiling settlement were repaired, a new washbasin was installed at the Choejor settlement clinic and construction of new toilets and septic tank were completed in the remote Walung and Tserok settlements. Bathrooms, washbasins, and drainage systems were repaired and a submersible pump was installed at Namgyal middle and high schools and Srongsens Brikhuti School. A Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assessment was conducted in three schools in Kathmandu and recommendations for improvement were provided. Also, a virtual training on budgeting for WASH activities was conducted for 17 settlement and school staff in Nepal led SLF's WASH coordinator and a local expert.

In Sonamling settlement in Ladakh, construction was completed of seven public solar composting toilets at TCV school, settlement camps, and the settlement office compound. Submersible pumps for drinking water supply for settlement residents

were installed while construction of a hand washing station continued. Nonfunctioning hand pumps were repaired and manual hand pumps were modified into submersible pumps in two camps. 35 settlement WASH committees were established to increase community awareness of good hygiene practices, and child health and hygiene clubs were established at schools. Nine community-led total sanitation trainings were also conducted to enhance knowledge, attitudes and practices of hygiene and sanitation among community members.

The Tibet Fund continued to support Reimagining Doeguling Tibetan Settlement (RDTs) water conservation initiatives in Mundgod settlement. Rooftop rainwater harvesting systems along with recharge pits were installed in two camps in the settlement, which are expected to provide access to cleaner and more abundant water for settlement residents. RDTs is a grassroots organization working to preserve the Nalanda tradition and empower local communities, and has successfully demonstrated rainwater harvesting projects at Rato Monastery, Ganden Monastery, Sakya Monastery, and the Doeguling Elders Home.



Solar compost toilet in Sonamling settlement, Ladakh



Strengthening Livelihoods and Self Reliance

The Tibet Fund supports economic and community-led development that strengthens the viability of Tibetan settlements and promotes self-reliance. Our projects improve the livelihoods of disadvantaged Tibetans through low interest business loans, micro and small enterprise development, employable skills training, and agriculture development, while also empowering communities to address their own needs and priorities. With funding from USAID under the flagship Tibetan Self-Reliance and Resilience Program, most of our livelihoods and community development assistance is undertaken in collaboration with the Central Tibetan Administration in India and Lodrik Welfare Fund in Nepal. Responding to the widespread loss of income and slowdown in businesses caused by the pandemic, The Tibet Fund initiated a settlement-based livelihood skills training for Tibetan businesses to engage them in exploring stable and more rewarding livelihood options.

Livelihood Skills Training

The Tibet Fund began working with the Tibetan Youth Congress, the largest Tibetan NGO, to implement month-long livelihood skills training courses aimed at preventing the most vulnerable micro and small entrepreneurs (MSE) from falling into poverty due to their inability to earn income during the Covid-19 crisis, and to provide new livelihood alternatives and increase their access to finance.

In the pilot phase of the skills training program, 160 entrepreneurs in Dharamshala, Dekyiling,

Paonta Sahib, and Shimla began attending courses of their choice within the safety of their settlement compounds. Professionals and experts in the fields of cookery, bakery, tailoring, hairdressing and beautician, plumbing, electric works, and vegetable gardening led the trainings.

Social distancing norms and safety measures were observed during the month-long trainings. Stipend allowances of INR 1,500 were provided to trainees and following completion they will be encouraged to form self-help groups (SHG) with initial seed capital of INR 50,000. SHGs will be

formed on the principles of promoting financial inclusion, encouraging savings, and providing microcredit to members.

Announcements for training opportunities were made in the settlements by the regional chapters of TYC and individual application forms were collected, scored and selected. Members of the regional chapters, with guidance from The Tibet Fund and TYC, organized and coordinated the trainings. Prior to program implementation, a survey was conducted to gather information from Tibetan micro and small business owners about their skills training choices and needs, and assess their interest and willingness to form self-help groups. A total of 425 MSEs in eleven settlements in India and Nepal responded to the survey, including winter garment sellers, street vendors, and small shop and restaurant owners. 88% of the respondents expressed interest in attending skills training and the most desired courses were prioritized for program support. The survey found that in India, 84% of respondents have stopped operating their businesses due to the Covid pandemic, with only 23% expressing confidence about resuming in the next six months. In Nepal, 54% have stopped running their businesses and 47% were confident of restarting.

A large percentage of Tibetans involved in winter garment and tourism businesses are unskilled or semiskilled workers who sell their goods on the street and in Tibetan refugee markets, and are highly vulnerable to income insecurity and seasonal unemployment. The skills trainings are expected to create more secure year round employment opportunities and increase their resilience to sudden crises like the Covid pandemic. In the next phase more settlements in India and Nepal will begin providing similar trainings.

Revolving Loan Funds

With USAID funding we continued to support micro enterprises with low interest loans and non- financial business development services. A revolving loan fund managed by the CTA disbursed over 600 loans to Tibetan micro enterprises in India, primarily winter garment sellers and street vendors. A large number of the loans were given at zero interest to help micro enterprises cope with Covid-19 lockdowns and business slowdowns. Borrowers further benefitted from moratoriums on installment repayment deadlines due to Covid-19.

In Nepal, TTF continued to work on a community managed savings and credit program with a local Tibetan organization, Lodrik Welfare Fund. In 2020 the program extended from Pokhara settlements to include settlements in Kathmandu and one remote settlement in Mustang. 96 households in Pokhara have received low interest revolving loans. 19 savings and credit groups were formed with a total of 428 members. Groups meet monthly to mobilize and collect savings (amounts range from NPR 500-1000), and disburse and repay savings loans. Following Covid-19 related lockdowns, loan repayment deadlines were extended.

The community loan program in Nepal is managed by communities themselves, who are learning to run their own savings and loan funds self-sufficiently.

Business Development Services and Seed Funds

To promote entrepreneurship and small enterprise development, the Tibetan Entrepreneurship Development initiative delivered business development services and training to more than 35 existing small enterprises and supported two new entrepreneurs to start their own businesses. The USAID funded program provided training and

business planning assistance to startup businesses, and provided “skills to enterprise” services to 17 vocational trainees who want to start their own businesses. Tibetan small and micro businesses, many of whom are dependent on the service and tourism sectors, were hit hard by the pandemic with extended lockdowns and restriction on movement.

We continued to support a micro-enterprise project aimed at building economic self-sufficiency of small business owners in Nepal in collaboration with two organizations - Drokpo and Hope & Challenge. The project provided basic business and financial literacy training, seed funds and follow up support to eight economically vulnerable Tibetans running microenterprises in the Boudha area of Kathmandu. These include a small tea shop and restaurant, a noodle and *tsampa* maker, a brass cleaner, and an online marketing portal.

Employable Skills Training

172 unemployed youth attended short and long-term courses in hairdressing, accounting software, cosmetology, food production, bakery and confectionary, motor mechanics, and secretarial skills. The courses were provided at the USAID-funded Dharamshala Tibetan Career Center (DTCC) and the Tibetan Children’s Village Industrial Training Institute near Dehradun. A new vocational education fund designed to

support a wider audience of unemployed and unskilled Tibetans with no minimum educational qualification requirements and an upper age limit of 45 was introduced. Under this program, 16 Tibetans began pursuing courses in tattoo art, hairdressing, Tibetan traditional wood carving, digital marketing, web design, and spa therapy at Indian and Tibetan institutes.

Following mandatory closure of training institutes due to Covid-19, DTCC engaged trainers and experts to produce 78 training tutorials on Tally, Adobe InDesign and Illustrator, and hairdressing, and career awareness videos focused and employability skills and career related information. Tutorial videos were widely circulated on social media platforms. New workforce development guidelines for future CTA programs were completed, a key recommendation of the USAID funded workforce development assessment completed in 2019. The guidelines are expected to result in more effective strategies, improve inter-departmental collaboration on workforce related programs, and enhance cooperation with Indian skills training institutes.

Participatory Community Development

The Tibet Fund continued to implement a participatory approach to community development in Tibetan settlements, intended to address community-identified needs while maximizing local ownership of program support. In 2020, USAID funding provided 15 small grants for community-identified priorities in nine settlements of northeast India. Community priorities were identified through a process of participatory needs assessment using revised guidelines and improved processes with technical support from participatory community experts. Settlement-based projects included support for a beauty salon, tire repair shop, and a welding





enterprise in Tenzingang; a noodle production enterprise in Bomdila; *tsampa* production and bakery enterprise development in Darjeeling; dairy farm development and monastery fencing improvement in Ravangla; restaurant and tailoring enterprise development in Gangtok, and community hall improvements in several settlements.

Supporting Farmers

The Tibet Fund continued supporting initiatives designed to shift Tibetan agriculture from household farming to small scale agribusiness that can both increase farmer income and generate revenue for the Central Tibetan Administration.

With USAID funding, over 740 farmers in India and Nepal benefitted from cash crop cultivation

inputs and training and began using improved farm technologies and management practices on 2,147 acres of land. Farmers benefitted from trainings on value addition farming, cattle and pest management, kitchen gardening, soil health testing, and cultivating new cash crop varieties such as pineapple, peppers, capsicum and moringa tree. A new multi-year citrus development initiative was launched in Bylakuppe that began raising and transplanting citrus saplings to farmer fields. This initiative is expected to bring hundreds of acres in the nearby settlements under high-value citrus cultivation. Also, over 65 farmers in India and Nepal began earning income from sale of farm products cultivated with our support. These include cashew and mango trees, maize, and vegetable farms.





Safe Guarding our Heritage

The Tibet Fund believes that Tibetan cultural heritage and national identity are the fabric that binds the Tibetan people together and lends an enduring momentum to our struggle for freedom and justice. In accordance with our core mission, The Tibet Fund supports diverse programs and institutions in exile that contribute to the preservation of traditional Tibetan culture and national identity. Events in North America are specifically targeted at Tibetan youth and serve as avenues by which to explore cultural expression, Tibetan history, and identity. These opportunities instill a deeper sense of ownership among the youth of their culture, tradition, language, and community.

Enabling Performance Arts

With USAID funding, The Tibet Fund continued collaborating with the CTA Department of Religion and Culture to support performance skills training, cultural events and facility improvements at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) in Dharamshala. 47 artists and trainees received preservice performing arts training in traditional dance, music, drama, and opera performance, and attended *piwang* (fiddle) training and a music

arranging, mixing and mastering workshop. TIPA also worked with a consulting firm to develop a new business plan focusing on long term financial stability and an improved marketing strategy.

The Tibet Fund supported Tibetan opera performances in Pokhara, Nepal celebrating the centuries-old tradition of Tibetan opera known as *Ache Lhamo*. The Kathmandu based Himalayan Buddhist Library and Cultural Center in collaboration with

the Nepal Tibetan Lhamo Association organized the performances. 50 artists performed traditional operas in two Tibetan settlements for over 700 Tibetans and local community members.

We continued supporting Tibet Theatre, a nonprofit contemporary theatre group that uses satire and comedy to help preserve Tibetan language, stimulate community debate, and promote social change. Tibet Theatre produced and performed in five storytelling videos and two nursery rhymes in Tibetan language for children between ages two and eight. The videos were shared on social media sites. Since its inception in 2011, Tibet Theatre has enacted 25 plays and performed more than 100 shows in different Tibetan settlements and schools.

Nurturing Tibetan Artists and Writers

The Tibet Fund began supporting the Norbulingka Institute, widely recognized as one of the preeminent Tibetan cultural institutions in exile on the front lines of preserving Tibetan culture against assimilation pressure inside Tibet. With funding from USAID, the institute began conducting a year-long artisan skills training through traditional apprenticeship methods, by which more than 80 artisan-trainees are learning to produce high quality works of traditional art in collaboration with master artisans. Apprenticeship trainees produced high quality works in Buddhist thangka painting, appliqué, and statue making; traditional furniture making, wood carving and painting; tailoring and appliqué of traditional clothing and textiles; and traditional textile weaving, metal work, and silk screening. In addition, dozens of hospitality, marketing and sales staff employed at the Norbulingka's hotels, restaurants, and retail shops received on-the-job skills training to further advance their professional development.

We supported a team of 16 researchers and digital archivists at the Norbulingka Literary and Cultural Research Center to compile and produce an official biography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a digital archive of His Holiness' teachings and rare historic photos, and an online encyclopedia of Tibetan arts, culture and history. Scholarships were also provided for ten Tibetan students to pursue higher education in Tibetan studies at the Norbulingka Academy of Tibetan Culture. The academy's three-year program includes classes on Tibetan language, history, philosophy, poetry, and literature, giving students the opportunity to learn these subjects in their own language at an advanced academic level.

17 artists, researchers, and cultural organizations received grants from the Tibetan Arts and Culture Fund, established in 2017 with USAID funding to strengthen Tibetan cultural resilience. Administered by the CTA Department of Religion and Culture, the fund awards small grants for culture preservation projects and full-time practitioners of Tibetan arts and culture. Grants were awarded for projects including traditional thangka painting training, publication of folk stories of Tibet, purchase of performance costumes and traditional musical instruments, creating a pictorial biography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, developing a standard research methods reference book in Tibetan, and research on the works of lay Tibetan scholars, evolution of Tibetan alphabetical poetry, and Himalayan stone-carved scriptures.

The Tibet Fund continued collaborating with TibetWrites, an organization of Tibetan writers that promotes and publishes prose and poetry by Tibetans in exile. Two novels in Tibetan language - ཤར་གྱི་གྲང་ངར་དང་རྒྱལ་གྱི་འཇམ་མཁའ། *Cold West Warm East* by Pema Tsewang Shastri and རྩོམ་སྒྲིལ་མེ་རྩོག་ *The Stone Flower* by Tenphun - and an English

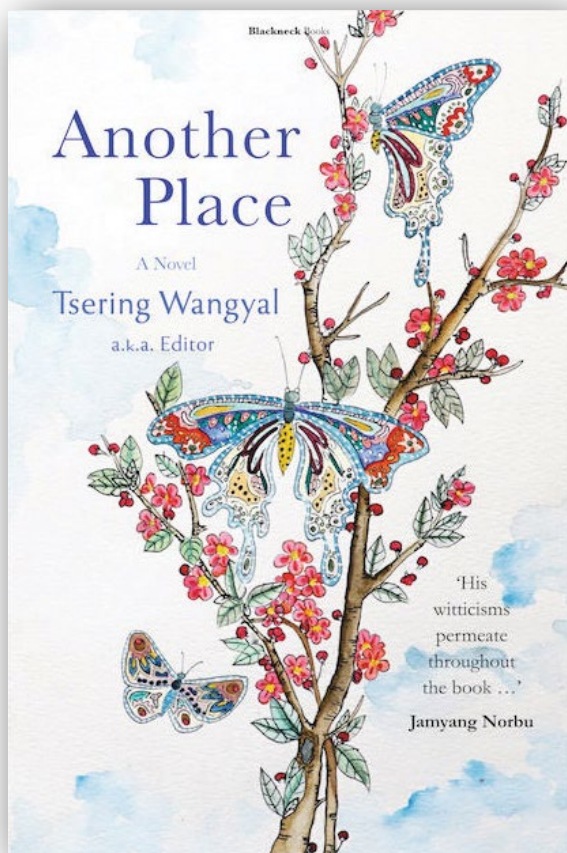
novel *Another Place* by late Tsering Wangyal aka Editor were published. More than 1,700 copies of the books were distributed for free to Tibetan schools, monasteries, libraries, and organizations. The books have been well received by the public and media and young Tibetans from around the world have shown interest in these literary works. TibetWrites publish Tibetan writings in both Tibetan and English and hopes to inspire a new generation of Tibetan artists to share their knowledge, passion, and experience.

We continued collaborating with Stories of Tibetans, an organization that uses storytelling, photography and film to document and share stories of ordinary Tibetan individuals. With our support, they launched “Fading History,” a project that is recording the stories of 500 elder refugees to preserve their legacy and share their stories of hope, hardship, and resilience.

A book and a short documentary of the best stories will be distributed to schools, libraries, monasteries, and educational institutes. The main aim of the project is to share our elder’s narratives and preserve their important stories.

Promoting Tibetan Language and Literacy

The Tibet Fund began supporting Monlam Tibetan IT Research Center to develop a new unified system of Tibetan transliteration based on English alphabet phonetics, and to produce an app for translators and other users to access the new unified transliteration system. We also began supporting a Tibetan Audiobook Project led by LHA Charitable Trust in collaboration with Ven. Redo Sangay. 51 episodes of Tibetan language audiobooks on biographies of 13 eminent Tibetan personalities including Jetsun Milarepa, Yuthok Yonten Gampo, Thonmi





Sambhota, and Drupchen Thangtong Gyalpo were produced and shared on social media sites. The audiobook videos have garnered over 17,000 views from India, Nepal, Vietnam, Canada, US, France, Belgium, Australia, and Switzerland.

A user commented: *“This is such a noble cause to preserve our rich culture. As a Tibetan living in Europe and a mother, I am able to teach my child about our ancient philosophy of Buddhism and our culture through these audiobooks. Also, it is really simple and easy to understand. Thank you for the great effort.”*

In North America we hosted the fourth annual Let’s Talk in Tibetan online contest for Tibetan

children in coordination with the CTA Office of Tibet. The contest gives children aged 6 to 17 the opportunity to showcase their language skills with the goal of encouraging them to speak and write Tibetan frequently. Participants submitted videos of themselves having conversations on various topics, and older participants submitted original stories. 29 children from North America participated, of which five in each age category received small cash awards. Also, an online Tibetan conversation contest was held for children in three age group categories. 20 children in North America participated in the contest, of which eight finalists were awarded certificates and cash prizes.



Protecting and Empowering Women and Girls

The Tibet Fund worked with multiple partners to empower women and girls and protect them from sexual and gender-based violence. With funding from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, USAID, and private donors, we supported gender sensitization workshops, women's leadership training, menstrual health and hygiene promotion, and capacity building of partner organization staff and grassroots leaders. We also supported a comprehensive subsistence support program for vulnerable women reeling under Covid-19 related setback to income and livelihood.

The Tibet Fund began working with the Tibetan Women's Association (TWA), which has a network of over 35 regional chapters in India and Nepal, to provide subsistence support to vulnerable Tibetan women, aimed at cushioning the financial impact of the crisis. The program has three components: nutrition support for vulnerable pregnant and lactating women; subsistence allowances for vulnerable female-led households; and subsistence allowances for vulnerable single women from Tibet. It aims to both reduce malnutrition risks among newborn children and infants caused by food insecurity, and prevent the most vulnerable women from falling into poverty, due to their inability to earn income during the Covid crisis. Regional chapters of TWA announced the program

in settlements and then collected individual applications that were reviewed and scored. The program will benefit a total of 1,341 women households in India and Nepal. This includes nutrition allowances for seven months for 337 pregnant and lactating women and subsistence allowances for three months for 676 female-led households with three or less family members, 205 female-led households with four or more family members, and 123 single women from Tibet.

Prior to program implementation, The Tibet Fund conducted multiple key informant interviews with women grassroots leaders in 27 settlements in India and Nepal to assess the needs of the most vulnerable women. Informants reported a total

loss of income for many households due to the pandemic, and noted that prospects for resumption of normal business in the next few months are very bleak. The Tibet Fund's President and Vice President chaired a series of virtual meetings with executive members of TWA to discuss program planning and implementation. Meetings were also held with regional chapter members to understand the ground situation in settlements and exchange ideas for improvement and coordination of Covid relief programs. Numerous social media groups were formed with regional chapter members to review program implementation, monitor progress, and provide guidance.

The Tibet Fund continued collaborating with Drokmo, a women's organization dedicated to addressing the problems of health, education and livelihoods faced by women. Drokmo organized a series of workshops on sexual harassment of women at workplace for staff of six NGOs in Dharamshala. The workshops focused on introducing and understanding the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 India. As travelling was curtailed due to the pandemic, Drokmo carried out an extensive digital campaign on gender awareness and education in Tibetan and

English languages. Experts were invited to make informative videos on child sexual abuse and menstrual hygiene focusing on sexual and gender-based violence from a mental health perspective, laws and legal aspects of dealing with child sexual abuse, and vulnerability of children with special needs. Drokmo worked with Tibetan artists to develop infographic posts and slides on child sexual abuse, body boundaries and consent, myths and facts about menstruation, gender and sexuality, LGBTQ, and gender-based violence and privilege. The social media campaign was widely shared and well received by viewers.

The Tibet Fund continued supporting CTA's Women Empowerment Desk (WED) to implement a new strategy to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The CTA Kashag (cabinet) formally adopted new guidelines for the Tibetan community specifying practices and procedures for prevention, prohibition and redressal of SGBV. The guidelines were widely distributed to CTA departments, settlement offices, schools and educational institutions, and civil society organizations and WED conducted guidelines orientations for WED Advisory Committee members and Internal Committee members of CTA departments.





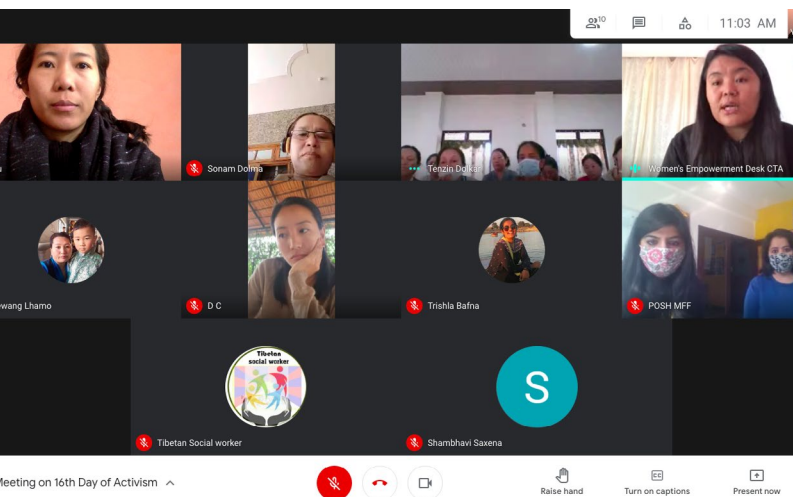
More than 100 secondary school and college students, settlement residents, and CTA staff attended workshops on gender sensitization and preventing sexual harassment at the workplace. Workshop discussions were held on concepts of sex and gender, gender stereotypes, gender roles, gender-based violence, and sexual harassment at workplace.

We also continued working with WED to protect against sexual exploitation and abuse in schools and settlements. Seven gender focal persons were identified at three schools in India, and more than 1,000 students and staff received SGBV orientations, including sessions to build student confidence to report protection issues and seek

support. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) committees were reconstituted to include increased student participation and equal gender representation in two schools.

In Bylakuppe settlement, 15 barefoot counselors received training in couples counselling and therapy, positive parenting, family health history, and childhood imprinting. The counsellors then provided counselling services to 221 residents and facilitated positive parenting sessions for more than more than 300 parents.

In Nepal, SLF and Nepal Fertility Care Center continued their partnership with our support. 32 gender focal persons conducted SGBV awareness sessions to more than 600 Tibetan students, parents and settlement residents. Safe counseling spaces were created in four schools and safety audits were conducted in six schools. SLF printed and distributed posters displaying GBV prevention messaging with contact details of gender focal persons in ten settlements and nine schools, and audio messages on safe and unsafe touch, gender and violence were developed. In addition, 117 nuns from two nunneries and one school attended workshops on reproductive health and SGBV.





Empowering Tibetan Civil Society

In our commitment to build stronger and more resilient Tibetan communities, The Tibet Fund continued to support Tibetan civil society organizations (CSOs) with potential to make positive change. Established in 2017, the Tibetan Civil Society Empowerment Program provides small grants for CSO projects while building their capacity to increase their impact. Our CSO partners address critical community needs left unaddressed by large U.S. Government funded programs, and their young Tibetan staff acquire nonprofit leadership skills and experience.

In 2020 grants were made to 19 CSOs for amounts between \$2,450 and \$35,000, totaling more than \$254,500. Notable CSO projects included a grant to Manjushri Educational Services for a nomad community tent school; a scholarship program for economically vulnerable girls in partnership with Drokmo; microenterprise support for economically vulnerable refugees in partnership with Drokpo and Hope & Challenge; an early child care and education project that trains parents and produces Tibetan children's literature, led by Manjushri; a grant to Edulift for non-academic experiential learning for young students; pro-bono legal aid services for Tibetans in India, led by Tibetan Legal Association; a grant to TibetWrites to publish works of fiction and non-fiction; development of a new unified Tibetan transliteration system, led by Monlam Bodyig; and a project to encourage reading habits among young children led by Shatsa. In the health sector, Tibetan Cancer Society and Altruism in Action received grants to conduct screening and awareness camps to prevent cancer and Hepatitis B.

Building Partnerships

Over the years, The Tibet Fund has supported the educational and social development projects of many Tibetan CSOs, targeting youth, women, elders, and other vulnerable groups. Tibetan CSOs are often most effective at finding solutions to pressing grassroots challenges, and a new generation of Tibetan social entrepreneurs is emerging to spearhead innovative new initiatives. Some of our new CSO partners include:

EduLift

Established in Kathmandu in 2013, Edulift promotes non-academic experiential learning through a variety of after-school programs for high school students. All programs share a focus on critical thinking, collaboration, communication, problem solving, creative expression, and social-emotional skills. In 2020 The Tibet Fund made a grant for Edulift's Explorers Program, which aims to stimulate intellectual growth and social well-being by exploring art and culture.



Monlam Tibetan IT Research Center

Founded in 2004, Monlam Bodyig uses digital technology “to preserve, promote and protect the profound wisdom and cultural practices of Tibet” through “Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan literature-based research and software development.” In 2005 it released a free Tibetan font and writing software application that is widely used in exile and inside Tibet, and has since released a series of improved versions and other apps related to Tibetan language, astrology, and library management. We made a grant to Monlam Bodyig to develop a new unified system of Tibetan transliteration based on English alphabet phonetics, and to produce an app for translators and other users to access the new unified transliteration system easily.

Hope & Challenge and Drokpo Team

Based in Kathmandu, these two CSOs stand out because they collaborate closely on project implementation, sharing both financial management responsibility and office space, an unusual phenomenon in any NGO community. Since 2018 they have received our support for a multi-year project that provides basic business and financial literacy training, seed funds and follow up support to economically vulnerable Tibetans running microenterprises in the Boudha area of Kathmandu.

Tibetan Cancer Society (TCS)

Established in 2014, TCS focuses on cancer prevention and detection through awareness events and screening camps, and assists disadvantaged cancer patients with their consultation, testing and treatment expenses. Led from Delhi by its energetic founder, TCS has a full-time staff of two and relies on a wide network of volunteers and part-time nurses to deliver its health camps and

events in settlements across India. Prior to Covid TCS received grants for cancer screening camps, and received a Covid response grant to buy and operate an ambulance, which is now being used for both Covid patient and cancer patient emergencies

Manjushri Educational Services (MES)

Founded in 2016 and based in Dharamsala, MES is led by a team highly qualified Tibetan professionals. Its projects focus on improving early childhood care and education for infants and pre-school children up to age five, and improving Tibetan reading skills for children. Over the past four years MES has organized multiple parent workshops and conducted hundreds of home visits, through which parents received guidance on early child brain development, the importance of talking, storytelling, and reading with children, the harmful effects of excessive screen time, and positive disciplining techniques. Parents also receive “Tibetan Baby Boxes” containing children’s books and board books, sensorial and educational toys, information brochures and posters, and essential hygiene products for babies.

MES has produced 45 titles of new high-quality children’s literature, both newly authored and translated into Tibetan by MES staff. Over 35,000 copies have been distributed to more than 150 baby creches, pre-primary and primary schools, and community libraries. To encourage youth interested in creating new children’s literature, MES has organized highly practical workshops for aspiring writers and illustrators, led by teams of MES staff and Indian experts.

MES has also trained, mentored, and assisted young Tibetans to implement early child education projects in Ladakh Sonamling settlement, in

particular a “tent school” serving a nomadic camp on the Changthang, and Shatsa, which serves Tibetan children and parents in several other camps of the settlement. TTF support for the tent school has been implemented by MES with a Tibetan graduate student who founded the school and receives training and guidance from MES staff during his school vacations. The all-volunteer CSO Shatsa has received technical advice and regular mentorship to implement its small grants from TTF.

Tibetan Community Grants Fund

The Tibet Community Grants Fund (TCGF) was established in October, 2020, with a grant of \$50,000 from the U.S. Embassy in Delhi. This new project aims to empower alumni of the Tibetan Scholarship Program to contribute to the Tibetan community in India through social impact projects and strengthen their leadership skills in the process. Successful TSP alumni applicants will receive small grants from \$2,000 to \$8,000 to implement their own micro and small-scale projects, which may be in any field of social development. TTF is administering TCGF in partnership with the Tibetan Scholarship Program Alumni Association (TSPAA), a volunteer association based in Dharamshala. Following initial community outreach, a virtual proposal writing and project management workshop, and open call for proposals, seven projects were selected in December by a panel of TSPAA, TTF, and Embassy representatives. Projects will support film and media literacy workshops for middle and high school students, anemia screening and menstrual health awareness for nuns, a children’s playground in settlement, and a gender-based violence awareness campaign in Ladakh.

Sponsoring Needy Tibetans

In 2020, The Tibet Fund raised \$206,063 in sponsorship donations from private sources that was transferred to monasteries, nunneries, schools, and elder homes in India and Nepal. Sponsorships supported a total of 996 individuals including 288 monks, 141 nuns, 435 school children, 42 disabled children, 68 elders, and seven performing arts students. Our Sponsorship Coordinator works with over 80 institutions and organizations to manage this program.

The Tibet Fund's Sponsorship Program empowers hundreds of vulnerable Tibetan refugees. Your sponsorship helps hundreds of children to receive affordable tuition, better education and healthcare services, improved living environments and nutritious foods, and greater care for the elderly and the differently abled.

Through your sponsorship, we offer hope in the future for hundreds of needy Tibetans by giving them life-affirming experiences, particularly for those who are orphans, newly arrived refugees from Tibet and those living in poverty.

We invite you to bond with a new person in your life. You'll receive news of progress and letters from your sponsored child, monk, nun or elders. We ensure that the sponsors remain in contact with the beneficiaries and keep them updated on their wellbeing. You are welcome to contact our sponsorship coordinator through phone or email. For more information, please visit our sponsorship page <https://tibetfund.org/sponsorships/> for more information.

OUR BENEFICIARIES

Monasteries: Chuwar, Drepung Loseling, Drepung Gomang, Dzongkar Choede, Ganden Jangtse, Gosok Rinzin Phodang, Guto Tantric, Gyudmed Monastic School, Gyudmed Tantric University, Gyuto Tantric University, Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Kirti, Samtenling, Sera Jhe, Sera Mey, Sera Mey Toesam, Sera Mey Tsangpa, Shalu and Tashi Lhunpo.

Nunneries: Khari, Dolma Ling, Geden Choeling, Jamyang Choling, Jangchub Choeling, Keydong Thukche Choeling, Ladakh Nuns Association, Namdroling, Sakya Rinchen Choeling, Samtenling, Shugseb, Tilokpur, Tsogyal Shedupling and Thekchok Namdoling

Schools: Atisha Primary School, CST Dalhousie, CST Darjeeling, CST Kalimpong, CST Mussoorie, CST Nainital, CST Shimla, Lophel Ling, Lower TCV, Mt Kailash, Namgyal Middle School, Snow Lion Foundation, Ngoenga School for Tibetan Children with Special Needs, SOS High School Pokhara, Srongten School, STS Bylakuppe, STS Chandragiri, STS Chauntra, STS Dhanji, STS, Gurupura, STS Kollegal, STS Manali, STS Mewon Tsuglak Peteon, STS Mahendragarh, STS Miao, STS Mundgod, STS Paonta Sahib, STS Pokhriabong, STS Ravangla, STS Shillong, STS Tenzingang, STS Tezu, TCV Chauntra, TCV Dharamshala, TCV Outreach, TCV Selakui, TCV SOS Bylakuppe, TCV SOS Gopalpur, TCV SOS Ladakh, TCV Suja, Tibetan Homes Foundation, Tibetan Medical and Astrology Institute and Youngling Creche and Kindergarten

Elder Homes: Tsering Elder's Home, Jawalakhel Elders Home and Dhondenling Old People's Home.

Institute of Performing Arts: Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts.



Event Highlights

Every year The Tibet Fund organizes several events and outreach activities designed to promote and deepen international understanding and appreciation of Tibet's rich cultural heritage and build stronger networks among Tibet supporters. In 2020, we continued our network building and fund raising activities with virtual events reaching out to thousands of Tibetans and friends of Tibet.

Tibetan New Year – Losar

To experience and celebrate Losar, a rich cultural tradition of the Tibetan people, The Tibet Fund brought together our diverse community of supporters, including representatives from Indian UN Mission and Consulate, at Baruch College on February 24th. Through immersion

in customary Losar festivities and rituals we hoped that guests would gain an understanding and meaningfully partake in the preservation of Tibet's cultural heritage. Professional Tibetan artists and guests partook in various ceremonial activities, such as Gorshe or "Circle Dance," and Tibetan cuisine.

Virtual Concert to celebrate His Holiness' Birthday

With the world under lockdown and restriction on gatherings, we decided to bring together the worldwide community of Tibetans and followers of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to celebrate his 85th birthday with an offering of songs and performances. Artists from the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts and 14 top Tibetan singers collaborated with The Tibet Fund to dedicate the virtual birthday concert to His Holiness' long and healthy life.

Virtual Interfaith Celebration

The Tibet Fund organized a virtual interfaith gathering to celebrate the life-long accomplishments of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 85th birth anniversary on June 6. Ten representatives from different religious faiths, including Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Shintoism took part in the virtual gathering. Prayers were offered for His Holiness' long life and good health and the accomplishment of his tireless work for world peace.

The Tibet Fund Collectible Card

We partnered with Phil Ropy, a collectible cards startup, and American photographer David Zimmerman to launch a digital collectible card. The card features the portrait of a Tibetan monk by David, part of his portrait series ONE VOICE. Proceeds from the sale of the digital card goes to the Tibet Fund.

Virtual Talk on Buddhist Wisdom

We organized a virtual talk by Dr. Thupten Jinpa, principal interpreter to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on the topic "Applying Buddhist Wisdom in Coping with Covid-19." The talk was moderated by Chef Eric Ripert and almost 300 participants registered for the event.



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You have made a real difference in the lives of the Tibetans we serve

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How Can You Help?

Get involved with The Tibet Fund to create a lasting impact on the survival of rich Tibetan cultural heritage and uplift a community of underprivileged Tibetans. Your gift and time will go towards life-changing programs that addresses greatest community needs in the field of education, health, elderly care, community empowerment, and cultural preservation.

Become a part of the long-term solution to sustain Tibetan culture and national identity! Learn about how you can make a difference.

For more information, please contact

President at 212 213 5011
or at lnzayul@tibetfund.org

Ways to become involved with The Tibet Fund

- **Remember us in your Will**
and leave a lasting philanthropic legacy
- **Become a TTF Member**
and support our mission and activities
- **Sponsor a needy Tibetan refugee**
and transform their lives
- **Engage your workplace**
through matching gift program, workplace giving and combined federal campaign (Use CFC#10445)
- **Join our Major Donor Circle**
and make an impact on a program of your choice
- **Contribute stocks**
and get full tax deduction of their current value
- **Attend our benefit events**
such as Annual Gala and other fundraising events
- **Give Charity Auction Items**
for our fundraising activities
- **Champion our cause and spread our stories**
by becoming our volunteer social media ambassadors
- **Fundraise for us**
and help empower Tibetan refugees
- **Donate to our General Fund**
or specific programs

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The Tibet Fund Mission:

Our mission is to preserve the distinct cultural identity of the Tibetan people. Founded in 1981 under the patronage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, The Tibet Fund is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening Tibetan communities, both in exile and inside Tibet.

The Tibet Fund reaches out to Tibetan communities through programs for health, education, rehabilitation, cultural preservation, elder care, and community development.

The Tibet Fund is a 501©3 organization and as such your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you have any questions about our organization, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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