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THE TIBET FUND

Annual Report 2025

"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 and 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

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Dear Friends,

With your generous support, we continued preserving Tibet's precious culture and served more than 68,000 Tibetans with education, health, livelihoods, and humanitarian assistance in 2025. We are deeply grateful to the many friends who stood with us last year – you made more of a difference than ever.

Crucially, your support helped The Tibet Fund withstand an unexpectedly tumultuous year, after USAID was shuttered and two of our federal grants for Tibetans were terminated. In response to our appeals, private donations more than doubled over the previous year, thanks to hundreds of kind individuals and families. Thank you again to all those who responded so generously in that moment of crisis and uncertainty.

USAID shutting down was an important wake-up call for The Tibet Fund, our partners, and the people we serve, and brought home the urgency of building a durable, diversified private funding base. Although we eventually recovered two-thirds of the grants that were terminated, the future of federal funding for our work remains unclear.

Precipitated in part by this crisis, The Tibet Fund embarked on a year-long strategic planning process, led by a working group of board members, staff, and expert advisors. The plan will address imminent challenges facing the Tibetan people, both in the diaspora and inside Tibet, where Chinese efforts to suppress Tibetan language, culture, and religion are intensifying more than ever. We look forward to sharing our strategic plan with interested friends and supporters, once it is finalized.

2025 was also a year of celebration and gratitude, as His Holiness the Dalai Lama turned 90 on July 6th. We invited friends to join us in celebrating by sharing their tributes to his legacy of compassion, wisdom, and service. Hundreds of birthday messages from around the world were printed in a special volume and presented to the Office of His Holiness in Dharamsala.

I hope you are inspired by the work described in this report, and feel proud to be a part of the Tibetan people's ongoing struggle to preserve their precious culture and ancient wisdom. Our commitment continues, and your support is as vital as ever to advance our mission.

Thank you again for standing with us, and for standing with Tibet.

With best wishes,

Bob

Bob Ankerson
President

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Tibet Fund is a proud partner in the transformative journey of literacy and education that Tibetans embarked on soon after going into exile. We partner with the Central Tibetan Administration, U.S. Government, Tibetan Children's Villages, Tibetan Homes Foundation, Snow Lion Foundation, and local community-based organizations to create the largest educational footprint in exile, serving more than 13,000 students across India and Nepal.

With our support, foundational mother tongue literacy was strengthened for more than 6,000 children in daycare centers, kindergartens, and primary schools in 2025. More than 560 Tibetan students received higher education scholarships, enabling them to study at colleges and graduate schools that they would not otherwise have been able to attend. Of these, 20 were graduate students pursuing master's degrees in the United States.

The quality of teaching and learning improved for more than 13,000 K–12 students across 60 Tibetan schools in India and Nepal, with teachers and librarians receiving training and professional development. Forty-four schools received teaching aids and resources to create their own Tibetan language reading materials, and inclusive education practices were strengthened at 47 schools.

Early Child Literacy Program

When children learn in their own language they grow with confidence, curiosity, and a strong sense of who they are. Mother tongue literacy is especially important for Tibetan children, because it connects them to their heritage and values in a world where outside influences are strong. When Tibetan children can read Tibetan fluently, they are better prepared to learn other languages and subjects, thrive academically, and grow into strong individuals who will sustain cultural and community resilience later in life.

In 2025, we spearheaded production of *Peppa Pig in Tibetan*, a globally popular cartoon series that makes language learning fun and engaging for young children. Available on YouTube, the series builds early listening and comprehension skills through familiar stories and characters. A team of Tibetan translators, dubbing artists, and animation specialists worked over several months to produce 104 Tibetan episodes, the first 30 of which were released on the official *Peppa Pig* channel, with the remainder scheduled for release in 2026.

We supported five local Tibetan organizations working to advance early child literacy, four of which run community libraries for children and parents in India and Nepal. In Ladakh, regular reading activities were held at Shatsa's community library in Leh, which relocated to a larger space with an improved book collection, and more than 120 nomad children participated in a summer reading program in a remote high altitude region near the Tibet border.

Tibetan parents in Odisha, Mainpat, and Bylakuppe settlements received training in early literacy and socio-emotional development along with baby kits containing board books, sensorial toys, and hygiene products. Manjushri's community library in upper Dharamsala served hundreds of parents and young children, and its team published five new Tibetan children's books. A new children's library was established in lower Dharamsala, where an early literacy program was conducted with storytelling and read-aloud sessions.

In Kathmandu, Nepal, parents received training in positive parenting and emotional bonding practices. Caregivers at a Tibetan-run daycare center received training in early child care, and children accessed the center's library of Tibetan language books after school.

Tibetan foundational literacy was also strengthened at 87 daycare centers, kindergartens, and primary schools with our federally funded programs, benefiting 6,024 children. Teachers and caregivers received training and learning aids to improve early reading skills, and school librarians were trained in strategies to promote strong reading habits. New Tibetan children's storybooks were published and distributed to libraries, classrooms, and families, and parents attended workshops on the importance of reading at home.

The impact is visible in the data: since this initiative began in 2017, reading comprehension has more than doubled among children in Tibetan primary schools. A recent survey found 67 percent of children in second grade now read Tibetan competently, up from 26 percent, and the share of struggling readers has dropped from 10 percent to 4 percent.

Access to Higher Education

The Tibet Fund supports multiple scholarship programs for young Tibetans to pursue higher education at colleges, universities, and institutes. Programs are designed for students with varying financial needs, academic goals, and career aspirations.

The **Tibetan Scholarship Program** awards full scholarships to pursue professional master's degrees in the United States. In 2025, 20 students received awards to study public health, education, neuroscience, and computer science, among other subjects. Funded by the U.S. Government since 1988, this program has supported 501 Tibetans to attend universities including Columbia, Harvard, Georgia Tech, and UC Berkeley.

Our **Girls Scholarship Program** gives young women from low-income families the opportunity to attend college. In 2025, we provided need-based scholarships to 46 young women, with the most vulnerable receiving full financial support. Students pursued degrees in computer science, medical physics, environmental studies, fine arts, psychology, public health, and other subjects.

In addition to full scholarships, we provide partial scholarships to help students cover tuition and living expenses at universities in India and Nepal. In 2025, more than 500 undergraduate, graduate, and pre-med students received partial scholarships, of whom 66 percent were women and 23 percent were graduate students.

A recent survey found that 80 percent of the previous year's scholarship program graduates are now either employed or pursuing higher degrees. Among those employed, many are serving as teachers and nurses, making meaningful contributions to the education and health sectors in the exile community.

Advancing Quality Education

The Tibet Fund works to improve the quality of education in Tibetan refugee schools through teacher professional development, student counseling, and STEM education.

In 2025, teacher professional development programs benefited educators at 60 Tibetan schools across India and Nepal. Teacher-led book discussions, lesson study groups, peer observations, seminars and expert talks were held, and teachers received training in student assessment, lesson planning, and higher order thinking skills.

More than 158 teachers and staff participated in Social, Emotional, and Ethical (SEE) Learning activities. Inspired by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, SEE Learning aims to foster compassion and mindfulness through practical, compassion-in-action activities.

School-based counseling was strengthened through group counseling and life skills programs. 503 students participated in group sessions on emotional intelligence and leadership, while 201 attended sessions on practical stress management strategies. Nutritional support was also provided to 29 schools, benefiting 4,400 students.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education was strengthened through science conclaves and exhibitions. A conclave at the Dalai Lama Institute for Higher Education in Bangalore brought together students, teachers, and professionals to share knowledge and network on the intersection of STEM education and artificial intelligence.

Students from 20 Tibetan schools showcased science projects at an annual exhibition titled "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future." Following the exhibition, nine outstanding students were selected to represent their schools at India's National Children's Science Exhibition.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Our health programs save lives, reduce morbidity, and strengthen community health systems. We support tuberculosis and hepatitis prevention, maternal and child health, safe drinking water and sanitation, and essential care for the most vulnerable community members. Key partners are the Central Tibetan Administration, U.S. Government, Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute, Snow Lion Foundation, and community-based health organizations.

More than 68,000 Tibetans in India and Nepal benefited from community health services with our support in 2025. All received access to affordable primary care and preventive health education, 22,513 received insurance coverage for secondary and tertiary care, and more than 1,400 were treated or protected against life-threatening infectious diseases. 2,592 women and children benefited from maternal, child, and adolescent health services, over 2,000 settlement residents gained better access to clean water and sanitation, and more than 2,200 of the most vulnerable refugees received free medical care, rehabilitation, and basic subsistence support.

Fighting Communicable Diseases

We continued fighting Tuberculosis (TB) and Hepatitis B, the two most prevalent life-threatening diseases among Tibetan refugees. Active TB case finding was conducted in schools and monasteries for more than 3,400 students, monks, and nuns. Presumptive cases received diagnostic services including X-rays, sputum smears, and GeneXpert testing for rapid and accurate diagnosis. Positive cases received treatment, diagnostics, and nutritional support, and multi-drug resistant patients received second-line medication and targeted care. More than 470 high-risk individuals received Hepatitis B vaccinations, and 861 positive cases received consultations, viral load testing, and antiviral medication. Children under five were immunized, and newborns of Hepatitis B-positive mothers received immunoglobulin to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Lifesaving Health Care

Two years ago, Sangmo's life changed overnight.* A brain hemorrhage left her partially paralyzed on her left side, making even simple daily tasks difficult.

She had long lived with Hepatitis B, a condition that runs in her family and claimed her mother's life at 61, when there was little community awareness or access to treatment. "By the time symptoms showed, it was too late," she recalls.

Regular bi-annual check-ups, viral load tests, and access to affordable medication have helped keep Sangmo's condition under control. When recovering from her stroke, community nurses made regular home visits to monitor her health. These services have made a critical difference not just for her, but for her entire community.

"Since the program began, I have not seen a single person in my settlement lose their life to Hepatitis B."

At 43, Sangmo is also caring for her six-year-old autistic son, who is enrolled in a special needs school. Since her stroke, managing his care has become much harder. Despite these challenges, access to consistent monitoring and treatment has been vital, helping Sangmo manage her condition and hold her family together in the face of ongoing strain.

**Name changed to protect privacy*

Preventing Waterborne Diseases

Safe water and sanitation facilities were constructed and repaired in settlements, schools, and elder homes to combat the spread of waterborne diseases. With our support, clean water supply, toilets, waste disposal, and drainage systems were improved for more than 2,100 Tibetans in India and Nepal. Awareness programs were conducted in three schools, engaging students through interactive sessions on hygiene, safe water, and sanitation, and school WASH clubs were established for students to engage with local communities.

Maternal and Child Health

As part of our **Every Mother and Child Program**, pregnant women and newborns received lab tests, nutrition supplements, safe delivery support, postnatal care, immunizations, and baby kits with children's books, sensory toys, and hygiene products. 1,315 women and childen in India and Nepal accessed these comprehensive services, helping ensure safer pregnancies and healthier outcomes for newborn children.

Safe Motherhood

At 43, Dolma never expected to walk the path of motherhood again.

Living in a rural refugee settlement in Odisha, India, Dolma and her husband had turned to seasonal garment vending after farming became unsustainable. Their daughter was about to finish high school, and after the heartbreak of three miscarriages, the prospect of a new pregnancy felt both fragile and daunting.

"When I found out I was pregnant, my joy was overshadowed by anxiety," Dolma recalls. "Because of my age and history, I was terrified of what might happen."

The weight of a high-risk pregnancy began to lift when Dolma enrolled in the Every Mother and Child Program. What followed was a comprehensive circle of support with regular antenatal check-ups, nutritional support, and guidance throughout her pregnancy.

"For the first time, I felt I wasn't navigating this alone and felt supported every step of the way."

That support didn't end in the delivery room. Following the birth of her son, Tenzin, the program provided a baby care kit and nutritional supplements for two years to ensure his healthy development. Today, Tenzin is a thriving two-year-old who has just begun attending a nearby crèche.

Caring for Vulnerable Elders

More than 1,000 vulnerable elders across 17 settlements benefited from improved elder care. Disadvantaged elders in old age homes received compassionate care, while those living alone received regular nurse visits, doctor consultations, medical care and subsistence support. More than 600 elders received comprehensive health check-ups, and 253 were vaccinated against pneumonia.

Essential Community Services

68,120 Tibetans in India and Nepal received access to affordable health care through a network of settlement clinics and hospitals managed by the Central Tibetan Administration and Snow Lion Foundation. These facilities provided essential primary and preventive services, inpatient care, and specialist referrals. Community outreach nurses made home visits to 7,571 households, where they conducted basic health check-ups, made referrals, and delivered health education messages, with a focus on the most isolated and vulnerable community members.

22,513 Tibetans received hospitalization insurance for secondary and tertiary care through the **Tibetan Medicare System**. 1,048 of the most vulnerable community members—including those with disabilities, mental health patients, HIV patients, individuals with leprosy or epilepsy, recovering substance abuse patients, and economically disadvantaged elders—received free medical care and rehabilitation support.

Telemedicine services continued to improve service delivery across five remote settlements, enabling more than 100 patients to consult specialist physicians online.

Mental health awareness and outdoor therapy sessions were held for patients and their families. 149 patients received teleconsultations with qualified psychiatrists, and community nurses provided follow-up counseling, including telepsychiatry for patients in remote settlements.

Eye health camps were conducted in seven settlements, where more than 500 individuals received exams followed by cataract and pterygium surgeries, eye medicine, and glasses, as prescribed by visiting eye doctors.

Dental health camps and oral hygiene education were conducted for students in 11 schools, and seventh grade girls in 14 schools received HPV vaccinations to prevent cervical cancer.

Local Tibetan health organizations reached more than 1,500 community members in Dharamsala and Mysore. Registered nurses conducted home visits for isolated elders, Tibetans with disabilities, and monastics living alone, including monks and nuns in remote mountain hermitages, of whom more than 150 received emergency care at nearby hospitals.

Tibetans from rural settlements received patient advocacy services and safe, affordable accommodation when visiting large city hospitals. In Mundgod, the largest Tibetan settlement in India, more than 500 residents participated in health awareness and wellness activities at a community health fair.

STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS

Our livelihood programs increase income, employment, and self-reliance for Tibetans in India and Nepal, in particular vulnerable women. We support microentrepreneurs, unemployed youth, and farming households with microloans, business development services, vocational skills training, and agriculture development. Key partners are the Central Tibetan Administration, U.S. Government, Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute, Lodrik Welfare Fund, and several community-based organizations.

Our livelihood programs focused on three core strategies in 2025: microenterprise development, vocational skills training, and agriculture development. 507 microentrepreneurs gained access to finance, savings, training, equipment, and marketing assistance. 257 unemployed youth received job-focused skills training, internships, and placement services, and 294 farmers received support to improve crop productivity. Progress continued cultivating traditional medicinal plants on six settlement farms.

Microenterprise Development

Our **Women Microentrepreneurship Program** helped 104 vulnerable women in India and Nepal grow their businesses. Street vendors, tailors, artisans, and small shop owners received seed funds and training to develop business plans and use digital platforms to reach new customers. Nomad women in remote areas near the Tibet border received design training to improve the quality of traditional rugs and textiles.

Becoming Self-Reliant

At 26, Nordon has done what once felt out of reach: she now owns and runs her own small business. Originally from a small hill town in Darjeeling, her journey began with a simple ambition: to build something of her own.

After completing professional training in hairdressing and spending two years as an apprentice in Delhi, Nordon had the skills and determination but not the capital to take the next step. At a critical moment, support from The Tibet Fund helped bridge that gap. "When I heard I was going to receive the support, I was so elated. I knew my dream would finally come true," she recalls.

Today, her salon is more than a business. It is a source of stability, dignity, and independence. It allows her to support her family, something that once felt unimaginable. "This happiness is not just mine, it is also for my mother. I used to depend on her for everything. Now I can support her, and I know she is proud."

"I used to think success meant material things. For me now, it means standing on my own feet and not being dependent on others."

Nordon now shares what she has learned by guiding young beauticians through the Tibetan Career Centre's vocational training program and taking some of them on as interns at her salon. She sees it as a simple way of giving others the same chance she once needed. Her journey shows how supporting young microentrepreneurs can ripple outward, sustaining not just individuals and their families, but the communities they are part of.

The **Community Managed Revolving Fund** provides microloans, basic business training, and financial literacy to Tibetan microenterprises in India and Nepal. 469 microenterprises received low-interest loans, pooled their savings, and managed their own loan repayments. 211 of these microenterprises were led by vulnerable women. Designed by The Tibet Fund in 2017, this program promotes financial inclusion and women's empowerment and continues to maintain repayment rates above 95 percent.

Vocational Skills Training

More than 250 Tibetan youth in India and Nepal received vocational skills training with our support in 2025. Trainees attended courses in vocations including food production, hairdressing, electronics repair, sound engineering, and information technology. Digital skills courses included cloud computing, full-stack application development, digital marketing, and graphic design. Digital skills training was paired with employability coaching and internships leading to entry-level jobs at Amazon Web Services and tech companies in Bangalore.

We supported Lha Charitable Trust to provide vocational training to unemployed youth and former monastics without school diplomas. Participants attended courses for up to six months in subjects of their choice, including baking, barista skills, nail art, yoga teacher training, wood carving, and carpentry. Industry talks were held for those seeking employment, and small business development workshops were organized for those interested in starting their own businesses.

Agriculture Development

294 farmers in India and Nepal received support to increase their crop productivity and income.

In India, farmers in 14 settlements received training in modern farming practices, soil management, and cash crop production, and grapefruit farmers in Bylakuppe settlement began marketing their first harvest.

Fourteen varieties of native plants used in traditional Tibetan medicine were cultivated in settlements across Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Ladakh, Mainpat, and Odisha, with guidance from the Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute.

In Nepal, farmers received support for apple orchard maintenance in Tserok, and households in Jampaling earned income from their first lime harvest. Farmers in Dhorpatan received support to improve potato and oat cultivation, and households in Delekling received support for kitchen garden greenhouses and harvested 1,500 kilograms of potatoes.

Community Matching Grants

The **Settlement Matching Grants Program** encourages Tibetans living overseas to support their home refugee settlements in India by matching the funds they raise with equal contributions from The Tibet Fund and the Central Tibetan Administration. In 2025, eight matching grants were made to enhance settlement quality of life in four settlements through construction, renovation and improvement of roads, drainage systems, street lights, community centers and a community pond.

Sustaining Tibetan Settlements

"The Settlement Matching Grants Program is one of the most meaningful initiatives for our community because it brings former and current residents together to address the most pressing needs. Before the road renovations in our settlement, residents struggled to walk safely on uneven, rubble-filled roads with potholes, especially during the rainy season."

"Today, with proper roads and pathways in place, we regularly see elderly residents freely walking around the camp during their morning and evening circumambulations, improving not only their physical health but also their mental and spiritual wellbeing. The program has also transformed daily life for children. Earlier, many children remained indoors, spending most of their time on phones because the roads and pavement outside were unsafe for play. Now, children can safely run, ride bicycles, and move freely around the camp."

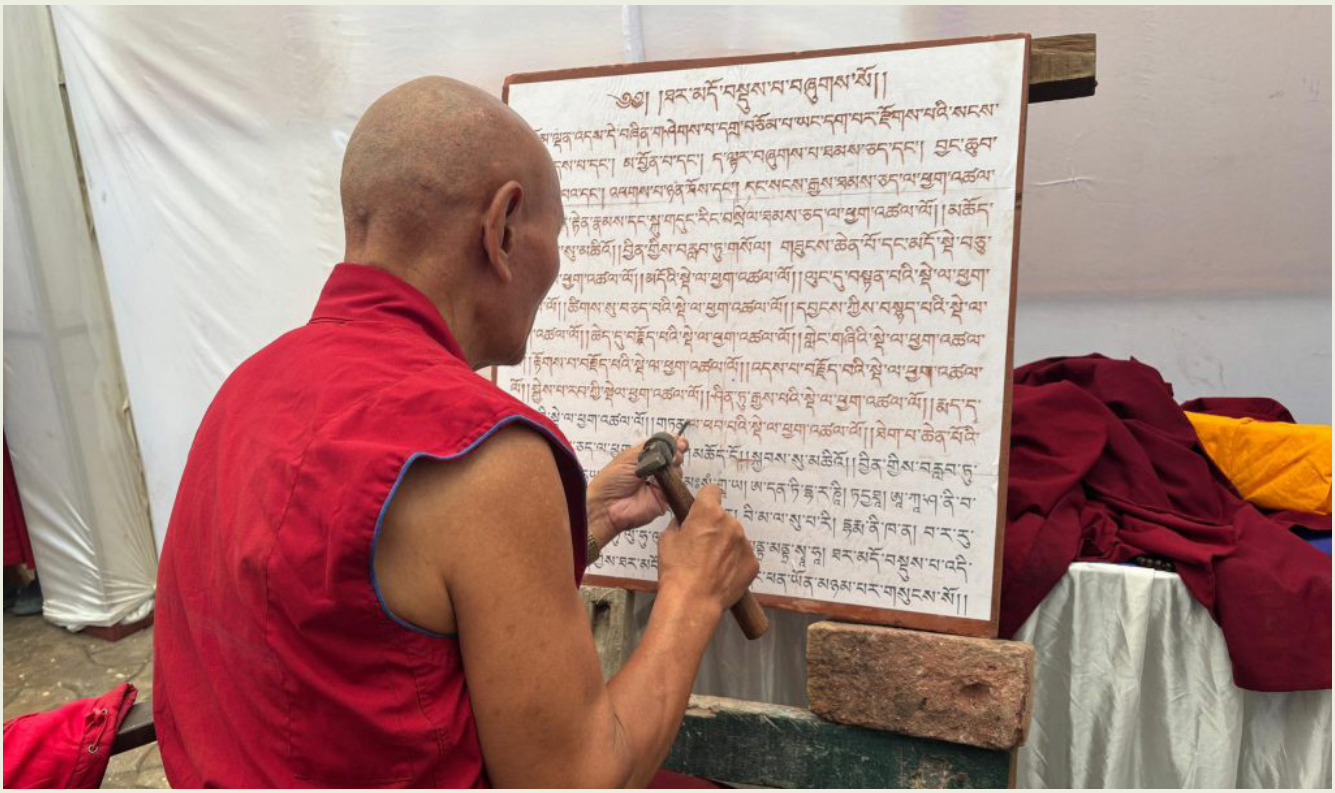
— Ngawang Tenzin, Settlement Officer, Bylakuppe Dekyi Larsoe Settlement

"Beyond improving infrastructure, the program has strengthened the community's sense of connection, collective responsibility, and care for one another, perhaps the most meaningful outcome of all."

SAFEGUARDING **CULTURAL** HERITAGE

Tibetan cultural heritage and identity are the fabric that binds the Tibetan people together and gives enduring momentum to their struggle for freedom and justice. The Tibet Fund works to preserve Tibetan language, sustain traditions, and nurture the living culture that connects young Tibetans to their heritage and each other. Key partners are the Central Tibetan Administration, U.S. Government, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, Monlam AI, Center for Higher Tibetan Studies, and contemporary artist collectives including Drung, Khadhok, and TibetWrites.

Our culture preservation work in 2025 focused on programs designed to keep Tibetan language and living traditions vibrant and resilient. Thousands of new Tibetan children's books and folktales were published, and more than 100 children's cartoon episodes were produced. Tibetan language apps and digital language tools reached tens of thousands of users, and the development of Tibetan language AI models advanced steadily. More than 700 young Tibetans in India, Nepal, the U.S., and Europe attended intensive language and cultural studies programs. 176 Tibetans studied and practiced traditional performing arts, and dozens of young filmmakers, writers, artists, and performers created new work with our support.



Tibetan Language Preservation

To advance mother tongue language learning among young Tibetans, we spearheaded the Tibetan translation and production of *Peppa Pig*, a widely popular cartoon series. 18,000 new Tibetan children's books and folktales were published, and new Tibetan educational and cultural videos were viewed more than 30,000 times on YouTube.

Hundreds of young Tibetans in India, Nepal, the U.S., and Europe participated in Tibetan language and cultural studies programs, connecting them more deeply to their shared identity and heritage while improving their Tibetan language skills.

More than 400 youth in India attended intensive courses in Tibetan language, philosophy, and dialectics at partner institutes, ranging from one to six months in length.

Tibetan literacy and music classes were held in remote regions of Nepal near the Tibet border, where more than 175 participants, mostly women, learned to read Tibetan Buddhist texts, and 80 children studied Tibetan language and music at an after-school program.

A group of 37 Tibetan college students from North America and Europe traveled to India for five weeks of immersive language and culture studies during their summer vacation.

In New York, 76 children joined a summer camp where they learned Tibetan language, music, dance, art, and Buddhist philosophy for six weeks. Activities included trips to monasteries, cultural centers, and libraries.

Our support for Monlam AI helped make Tibetan language more accessible through online platforms and practical tools including text recognition, translation, and speech-to-text apps. In the last quarter of 2025, its public portal handled more than 1.3 million requests from over 25,000 users. We also supported improvement of Monlam's online Tibetan dictionary, fonts, and digital keyboards.

Empowering Tibetan Artists

Contemporary arts—film, music, visual art and language media—strengthen the connective tissue that links young Tibetans across the global diaspora. In 2025 our **Contemporary Arts Program** supported dozens of Tibetan filmmakers, writers, painters, musicians, and performers, helping them create new art and amplify their work to reach new audiences.

Production began of *Be the Sky*, a compilation of new songs by Tibetan singers and musicians, and *Dharamsala*, a feature film with an all-Tibetan cast, was completed. Three new books by Tibetan authors were published: *Rules of the House, Driven into Exile,* and *A Life of Service and Contentment*.

We supported two solo gallery exhibitions to showcase the work of exceptional emerging visual artists: *Celebrations* in Dharamsala and *Himalayan Wisdom for a Modern World* in New York. A collective of contemporary Tibetan painters organized an exhibit showcasing the work of 20 emerging artists in Dharamsala, and held a children's art exhibition in Delhi and Dharamsala that received more than 700 submissions from Tibetan children worldwide.

Twenty young Tibetans attended a one-month filmmaking workshop in Ladakh, India, to learn basic scriptwriting, directing, sound mixing, editing, and post-production. A mentorship program paired two emerging filmmakers with established directors to develop and produce short films, one of which received the Jury Award at the Tibet Film Festival's India edition.

We spearheaded formation of the **Tibetan Arts Council**, an initiative to connect, support and promote Tibetan artists worldwide. More than 200 Tibetan-heritage artists have since joined this global network, which aims to support their creative development, amplify their art, and foster collaboration and exchange.

We also supported the Dharamsala International Film Festival, which showcased short films by emerging Tibetan filmmakers. Theatre workshops engaged students across four Tibetan schools in India, alongside a program for emerging performing artists.

Sustaining Traditions

Tibet's centuries-old performing arts traditions were strengthened. Forty-three youth at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) received training to perform traditional songs, dances, and *Ache Lhamo*, the age-old tradition of Tibetan opera. Senior TIPA artists learned to perform five sets of *Lingdro*, a sacred Buddhist dance associated with *Ling Gesar*, for which new performance robes, headdresses, and accessories were produced. An expert committee developed a nine-year curriculum for new TIPA artists covering six core subjects: music, dance, opera, performing arts history, Tibetan, and English.

In Kalimpong, a year-round program of Tibetan language and traditional performing arts classes was organized after school hours, on weekends, and during school vacations. The program brought together Tibetan and local Himalayan children, youth, and experienced adult artists, and included workshops on Tibetan opera and traditional instruments such as the dranyen, flute, and dulcimer.

A festival in Dharamsala celebrated traditional Tibetan arts and culture with performances, seminars, film screenings, and exhibitions of *thangka* painting, traditional attire, stone craft, musical instruments, and sand *mandalas*.

The Central Tibetan Administration launched Neykor, an app that gives Tibetan settlement visitors access to information on hundreds of monasteries, nunneries, and Buddhist statues through QR codes, maps, and audio guides in English, Tibetan, and Hindi.

INVESTING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS

We invest in Tibetan women and girls because they deserve equal opportunities and because empowered women improve the lives of their families, communities, and the next generation. We invest in their education, health, and livelihoods, and protect them from gender-based violence. Key partners are the Central Tibetan Administration, U.S. Government, Himalayan Society for Youth and Women Empowerment, Tibetan Women's Association, and Tibetan Legal Association.

Thousands of vulnerable Tibetan women and girls were empowered through education, health, and livelihood support in 2025. 421 girls received financial support for higher education, of which the most vulnerable received full scholarships through our **Girls Scholarship Program**. 159 women microentrepreneurs received support to grow their businesses, and 196 unemployed young women received job-focused skills training. 1,409 breastfeeding and pregnant mothers received nutritional support, hygiene supplies, baby books and sensory toys, and 142 girls were vaccinated to prevent cervical cancer.

Empowerment Through Education

Tenzin's world was shattered during her eleventh-grade year. In the span of just five months, she faced the unimaginable loss of both parents, one to cancer and one to pneumonia. Forced to put her studies on hold, she suddenly faced a future that felt entirely uncertain.

Yet Tenzin remained undeterred, and eventually finished high school, determined to complete her education. She set her sights on Banaras Hindu University, drawn by its prestigious program and relative affordability. But even with lower tuition fees, her total lack of financial resources meant higher education remained out of reach.

The Tibet Fund's Girls Scholarship Program became her lifeline in the truest sense, covering full tuition, housing, and daily expenses.

"I feel deep gratitude. These are people who don't know me, yet choose to support girls like us. That means everything."

After successfully completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts, Tenzin decided to continue her art studies. Art is where her creativity, confidence, and connection to Tibetan culture come together, and where she has found her voice. Now pursuing a Master's in Fine Arts, she is committed to sharing Tibetan stories and celebrating the richness of her heritage through her work.

Protecting Against Violence

A 2021 study by The Tibet Fund found that 40 percent of Tibetan refugee women reported having experienced sexual and gender-based violence. This led to establishment of the **Tibetan Women Helpline**, which operates a safe space offering confidential counseling, emergency shelter, and legal aid. In 2025, 19 cases of violence against women were reported and three survivors received emergency support.

The Women Empowerment Desk in Dharamsala conducted advocacy campaigns and digital safety workshops, and expanded outreach through training workshops and webinars. Awareness campaigns about violence against women and girls reached over 1,500 students, teachers and community members. Community based prevention efforts included safeguarding sessions for staff and students at five schools, home counseling for settlement residents, and training for youth and community leaders to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

A survey found that only 16 percent of settlement committee members were adequately prepared to manage cases, highlighting the need for continued capacity building and stronger survivor-centered response systems.

EMPOWERING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

Our social entrepreneurship program helps young Tibetans to make positive change in their communities. In 2025, 18 social impact partners received grants to work on local education, health, community, and culture preservation challenges, strengthening a growing ecosystem of locally rooted, youth-led change.

Shatsa Organization

Shatsa promotes reading among children in the remote region of Ladakh, near the Tibet border. In 2025, it conducted reading activities year-round at its children's library in Sonamling settlement, expanded its book collection, and moved the library to a larger space to accommodate more children. Its mobile reading program reached 124 nomad children on the Jangthang plateau.

Tibet Charity

Tibet Charity delivers health care to the most vulnerable and isolated community members in Dharamsala. Registered nurses conduct home visits, followed by referrals, transport, hospital navigation, and medical advocacy when needed. In 2025, these services reached 74 vulnerable elders, disabled Tibetans, and monastics living in remote mountain hermitages.

LHA Charitable Trust

LHA Charitable Trust addresses youth unemployment by providing vocational training to underserved Tibetan youth in India, especially school dropouts and former monks and nuns. In 2025, 111 participants received vocational skills training in small groups across job-focused sectors including cooking, baking, barista skills, electrical work, carpentry and heavy machinery operation. By the end of the year, 41 trainees had secured employment and taken the next step toward better livelihoods.

Tibetan Legal Association

Tibetan Legal Association promotes legal literacy and provides legal aid to Tibetans in India. In 2025, it supported 274 individuals, families, and organizations with civil and criminal cases, and offered pro bono services to low-income Tibetans. It also trained settlement officers on Indian laws on crimes against women and children.

TibetStartup!

TibetStartup! supports new Tibetan entrepreneurs and strengthens the start-up ecosystem. In 2025, it provided business development support to ten microenterprises in Dharamsala, helping them refine their business plans and acquire new skills through training and mentorship.

Tibetan Centre for Conflict Resolution

Tibetan Centre for Conflict Resolution builds skills in nonviolence, dialogue, and conflict management. In 2025, it conducted workshops for parents, youth, and students across Bylakuppe, Ladakh, Bangalore, and Dharamsala, delivering soft skills training on communication, teamwork, and critical thinking to strengthen personal and professional development.

Hope & Challenge and Drokpo

Hope & Challenge collaborates with Drokpo to help vulnerable Tibetans in Nepal start their own businesses. In 2025, ten new microentrepreneurs received seed funding, mentoring, and training in financial literacy and basic marketing support. New ventures included restaurants, tailoring shops, traditional food stalls, and Tibetan attire stores.

Shenphen Charitable Trust

Shenphen assists low-income patients from rural settlements in South India during costly visits to hospitals in Mysore. In 2025, it supported more than 1,500 patients with hospital navigation and medical advocacy and provided subsidized food and accommodation to more than 200 patients and caregivers, easing their financial burden during treatment.

Manjushri Educational Services

Manjushri strengthens early childhood development and mother tongue literacy. In 2025, it trained 134 parents across Tibetan settlements in Odisha, Mainpat, and Bandhara on early language and socio-emotional development, and published three Tibetan language board books for young children on the theme of compassion - *My New Friend, Dorje's Day of Helping,* and *Delicious Stone Thukpa.*

Reimagining Doeguling Tibetan Settlement

Reimagining Doeguling Tibetan Settlement focuses on water conservation, community development, and health education. In 2025, it installed ten borewell recharge pits for settlement farmers, and organized a health fair attended by more than 500 residents featuring sports, check-ups, and wellness talks. An outreach campaign on lifestyle diseases reached schools, monasteries, and elderly homes across the settlement.

Help with Books Trust

Help with Books Trust promotes good reading habits among Tibetan children and parents. In 2025, it expanded its children's library in lower Dharamsala where it organized weekly reading activities for visitors. It also hosted a week-long program for children and parents featuring storytelling and read-aloud sessions, drawing activities, and interactive workshops led by an early literacy specialist.

TibetWrites

TibetWrites supports Tibetan writers by publishing their fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. In 2025, it released three titles—*Rules of the House, Driven into Exile,* and *A Life of Service and Contentment*. Books were distributed free to schools, institutes, libraries, and NGOs to inspire new contemporary storytellers. It also hosted a reading workshop in Dharamsala focusing on Tibetan women writers.

Mutik Books

Mutik specializes in translating children's literature into Tibetan, and has published 68 titles to date. In 2025, it released a series of illustrated Tibetan riddle books for children, covering themes such as animals, food, clothing, and everyday life.

Khadhok Tibetan Artists Collective

Khadhok promotes contemporary visual art and supports emerging artists. In 2025, it organized *As the Mind Wishes*, a two-week exhibition in Dharamsala featuring 20 Tibetan artists that spanned multiple media and included workshops for children and mixed-age groups. The collective also organized *Dear Kundun*, a children's exhibition that received over 700 submissions from Tibetan youth worldwide.

TSAMPA

TSAMPA nurtures and promotes Tibetan performing arts. In 2025, it conducted training workshops for two Tibetan opera groups, Gangjong Doeghar in Kalimpong and the Nepal Tibetan Lhamo Association, refining the skills of their performers and supporting the continuity of *Ache Lhamo* traditions.

Tibet Theatre

Tibet Theatre creates original plays exploring identity, culture, and social justice. In 2025, it conducted workshops for young artists and students in Dharamsala, engaging 95 participants. Through activities like improvisation, scriptwriting, and performance, the workshops built artistic skills, emotional resilience, and cultural awareness, encouraging youth to use theatre for meaningful expression.

Drung Tibetan Filmmakers Collective

Drung works to advance Tibetan filmmaking and foster collaboration among diaspora filmmakers. In 2025, it ran a three-month mentorship program pairing two emerging filmmakers with established mentors. The program resulted in two short films, one of which was screened at the Tibet Film Festival and won the Jury Award in the short film category.

Tenzin Talkies

Tenzin Talkies trains young Tibetans in filmmaking, from storytelling and screenwriting to production and editing. In 2025, it ran a summer workshop in Ladakh for youth aged 16–30 covering the full filmmaking process from concept to post-production. Participants gained hands-on experience in filming and editing, culminating in a 15-minute short film, *Balung*.

HUMANITARIAN AID

The Tibet Fund assists new refugees from Tibet to lead healthy, dignified lives in exile. Since 1991, in collaboration with the Central Tibetan Administration, the U.S. State Department, and UNHCR, humanitarian aid has reached tens of thousands of Tibetan refugees arriving in India via Nepal, providing them with safe passage, food, shelter, clothing, counseling, and essential medical care. Legal protection and access to education at Tibetan schools, monasteries, and nunneries equip them with the tools to rebuild their lives, and additional financial and psychosocial support is provided to former political prisoners, torture victims, and refugees with post-traumatic stress.

In recent years, the number of Tibetans fleeing into exile has declined sharply due to tighter border controls, increased surveillance, and harsh repercussions for those caught escaping. In 2025, only one new refugee arrived from Tibet. He received support for, food, shelter, clothing, legal documentation, safe passage to Dharamsala, and essential medical care, including health screenings and tests for infectious diseases. He also had the opportunity to have an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and was enrolled in a Tibetan school of his choice.

With support from the American Himalayan Foundation, aid was also provided to meet basic health and welfare needs of the most vulnerable Tibetans in Nepal, following the termination of USAID and U.S. State Department programs.

Map from Tibet Museum, Dharamsala

EVENT **HIGHLIGHTS**

Launch of Tibetan Peppa Pig

The Tibet Fund launched *Peppa Pig* in Tibetan, bringing one of the world's most beloved cartoon characters to Tibetan children in their mother tongue. Thirty of the first 104 episodes were uploaded on the official *Peppa Pig* YouTube channel, making high-quality Tibetan language children's entertainment easily accessible to Tibetan families. More episodes will be uploaded in 2026 @PeppaPigTibetan.

Behind this milestone was a dedicated team of 26 Tibetan translators and voice artists who spent more than a year bringing the project to life. They carefully adapted the scripts to make the dialogue natural, child-friendly, and reflective of everyday Tibetan conversation, while preserving the humor and spirit of the original series.

Art Exhibitions in Dharamsala and New York

Two exceptional emerging visual artists, Ngoshi Choedon and Anay Ngawang Chodak, presented their latest work at solo exhibitions in Dharamsala and New York with support from The Tibet Fund.

Ngoshi Choedon's vibrant mixed-media paper collages and illustrations, inspired by traditional fabrics, jewelry, and headdresses, were exhibited for a month at The Other Space in Dharamsala. Anay Ngawang Chodak's paintings, which explore the intersection of sacred Buddhist art and philosophy in a fresh visual language, were exhibited for a month at Crossing Art Gallery in Chelsea, New York. The exhibition opened with a conversation between the artist and a senior curator and concluded with a performance by the Grammy-nominated Tibetan singer Tenzin Choegyal.

Board Member Visits to India

Our team in India hosted visits from four board members throughout the year: Nima Binara, Geoffrey Menin, Nina Schroeder, and Tenchoe Wangyal. They met with staff and partners and engaged with social entrepreneurs and local NGOs to discuss their current projects. They also visited Ngoshi's exhibition and watched a film by one of our mentorship program participants.

Annual Gala

We celebrated our 44th anniversary at Chef Eric Ripert's renowned Le Bernadin Prive restaurant in New York. The event honored Pico Iyer, Geshe Nicholas Vreeland, and Joyce and Maya Romanoff. Tibetan singer Tenzin Choegyal performed with Geoffrey Menin on piano, and more than 150 guests attended.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

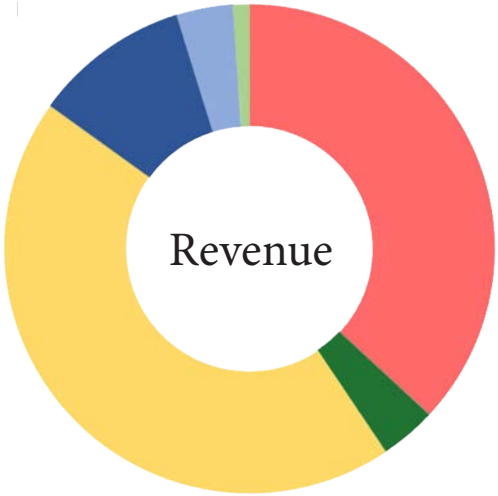
STATEMENT OF EXPENSES

Program Services	Total
Safeguarding Cultural Heritage	$6,679,975
Educating the Next Generation	$2,057,329
Building Healthy Communities	$1,243,653
Livelihoods and Community Empowerment	$1,114,580
Humanitarian Aid	$217,356
Supporting Services	
Management and Operations	$771,662
Fundraising	$322,187
Total Expenses	**$ 12,406,742**

- Safeguarding Cultural Heritage 54%
- Educating the Next Generation 16%
- Livelihoods and Community Empowerment 9%
- Building Healthy Communities 10%
- Humanitarian Aid 2%
- Management and Operations 6%
- Fundraising 3%

STATEMENT OF REVENUE

Public Support and Revenue	Total
U.S. Federal Grants	$4,101,083
Contributions - Restricted	$4,024,723
Contributions - Unrestricted	$936,938
Private Events	$245,631
Other Revenue	
Investment Income and Interest	$883,336
Rental Income	$94,522
Total Revenue	**$10,286,233**



- U.S. Federal Grants 40%
- Contributions - Restricted 39%
- Contributions - Unrestricted 9%
- Private Events 2%
- Investment Income and Interest 9%
- Rental Income 1%

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In 2025, the kindness of many generous sponsors supported nutritious meals, basic necessities, essential health care, and education for 929 children, monks, nuns, and elders in need. Sponsorships benefited 215 monks, 127 nuns, 432 school children, 54 children with special needs, 84 elders, and 17 performing arts students across more than 80 partner institutions.

We invite you to form a meaningful bond with a member of the Tibetan community, and to build a relationship of compassion, comfort, friendship, and hope. As a sponsor, you'll receive updates and personal letters from your sponsored child, monk, nun, or elder. We work closely with beneficiaries and sponsors to ensure you are informed about the well-being of the person you support every step of the way.

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Elder Homes
Dhondenling Old People's Home
Jawalakhel Elders Home
Tsering Elders Home

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Your contribution—big or small—will make a lasting impact.
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General donations contribute to the long-term sustainability of The Tibet Fund and our core initiatives.

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Please consider becoming a monthly donor, allowing you to support The Tibet Fund with a schedule that best aligns with your giving preferences.

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You may also consider contributing stocks and securities, bequeathing real estate, and engaging your workplace through a matching gift or Combined Federal Campaign (CFC # 10445)

For more information, please contact
Bob Ankerson at (212) 213-5011 or
bob@tibetfund.org

The Tibet Fund's 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 dedicated to strengthening Tibetan communities and safeguarding Tibet's cultural heritage, both in exile and inside Tibet.

The Tibet Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in New York State.
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