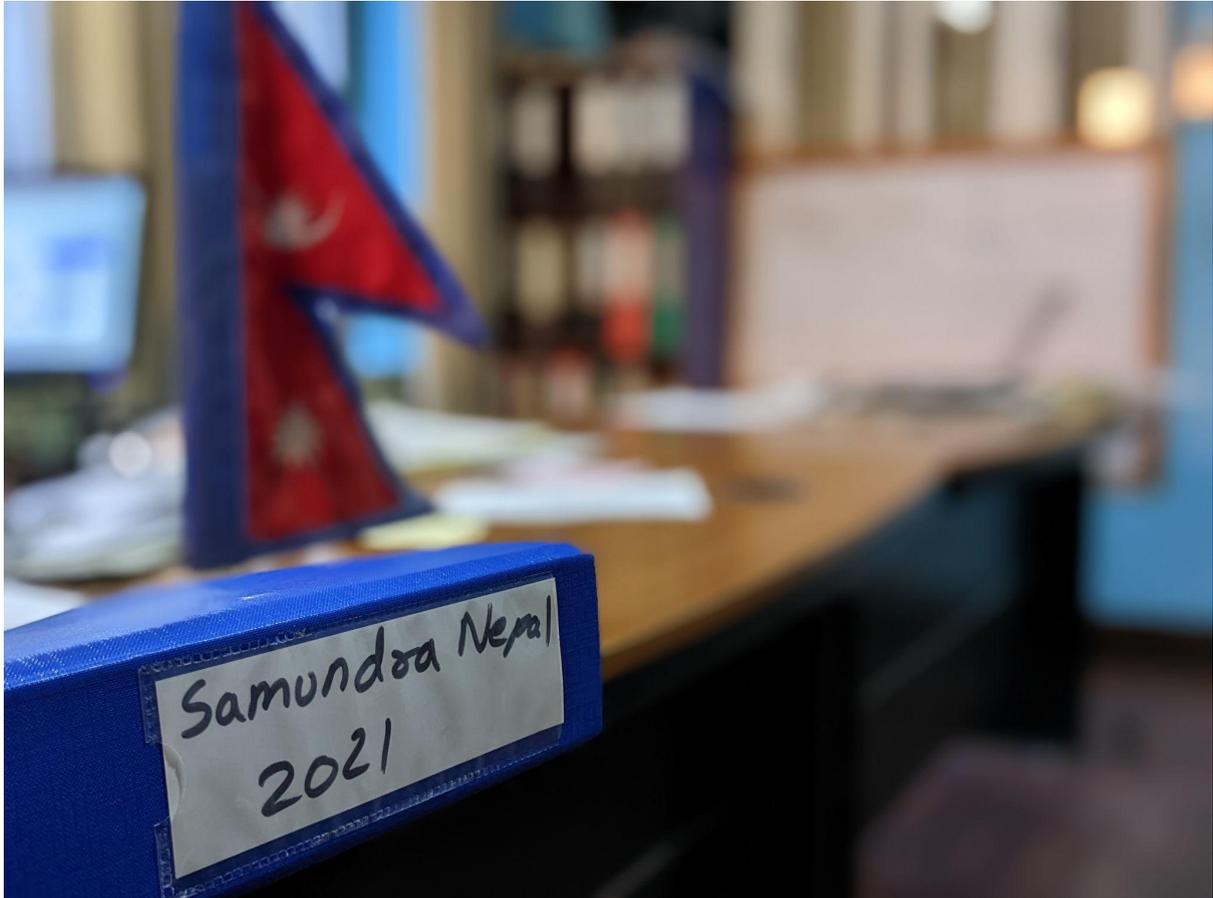


Journey report



Journey date: November 24 - December 7, 2022

Report by: Niels Visser

DAY BY DAY REPORT

[→ jump to conclusions from closing meeting](#)

SN = Samundra Nepal / SB = Samundra Belgium

Board membership update

Samundra Nepal		Samundra Belgium	
Jagat Dahal	Chairperson	Niels Visser	Chairperson
Govinda Pathak	Vice-chairperson	Kristof (Sprokkel) Wouters	Secretary
Gopaldhoj Shrestha	General secretary	Lies Gerousse	Treasurer
Rita Shrestha	Secretary	Jerina Colyn	Member
Neesha Maharjan	Treasurer	Bart De Ridder	G.A. member
Toran Sunuwar	Member	Wouter Spiessens	G.A. member
Prakash Dahal	Member	Igor Daems	G.A. member

Report on one year program coordinator employed

We determined 3 thematic areas SN is working on today:

- **Income generation** (i.e. through agriculture)
- **Health**
- **Education**

Project details on the above areas can be found in the impact report '1 year program coordinator 2021-2022' available on www.samundra.be.

Some of the **lessons learnt**:

- (kiwi) SN will release new funds, only when community shows strong commitment through attitude, passion and progression
- (kiwi) training and technical consultation should be provided by SN and partners in order to stimulate the commitment (ie. visiting a professional kiwi farm)
- (health camp) the UP theme had an effect on both medical well-being and social behaviour in families

Major achievements

- SN has mapped the needs and requirements of the local communities in a **project library**
- SN has a set of **working strategy**, project flow chart (in development), and vision, mission and goals. SN is **well on its way to maturity**.
- SN is **able to connect** the local community with local governments, financial institutions, public services and sponsors. Some financial institutions themselves propose to cooperate with SN.
- **Credibility** (as well in NP as in BE) with stakeholders is high, because the project is organised for and by local Nepalese

Major challenges

- There is community demand for an infrastructure-related program. SN cannot comment on this today due to budgetary constraints.
- Financial cooperation with the local government remains difficult. They often have little budget to invest with.
- Getting permission from the Social Welfare Council is a cumbersome process, especially for small projects like ours.
- SN is aware that self-reliance is necessary as an organisation. She will explore collaborations with other NGOs/INGOs and agencies.
- SN must look for extra income through its own campaigns and new partners.

Note to SB: (a summary of) both SN and SB reports could be communicated to our stakeholders as an impact document.

Structurize and prioritise the projects

Ramesh guided us through the list of projects. We discussed the outcome of projects and how to measure the desired impact. These details were added/updated to each project line.

The search for calculating a projects 'value', was not easy. Ramesh indicated the **areas most important to have impact on:**

- Women
- Discriminated groups (ie. Dalit)
- Project budget on total budget (%)

I added:

- Budget per household

We ended up with a new library sheet that can act as dashboard:

- Calculating a **impact value**

- Linking to the projects their **proposal document**
- Presenting data for **annual program** and **annual budget**
- Keeping **focus** on active projects

We ended with **6 projects**, defined in the annual program & budget 2022-2023 for a total budget of approximately **€28.000**:

- **Kiwi** farming to generate own income / 20 households
- **Turmeric** farming to generate income / 100 households
- **Health camp** on uterine prolapse / 150 women (estimate)
- **Radio program** on uterine prolapse awareness / 45.000 households
- **School fund** setup to provide clothes and school materials / 60 households
- Electricity **skills training** for 15 youngsters to lead to job market / 15 households

Interesting fact: we found that **37% of the project resources will be locally funded.** 63% will come from Samundra (mixed Nepal and Belgium).

Note to SN: get familiar with formulas in Excel, in order to understand and maintain the impact value calculation/sheet.

Task SN: link project proposal files to the library titles.

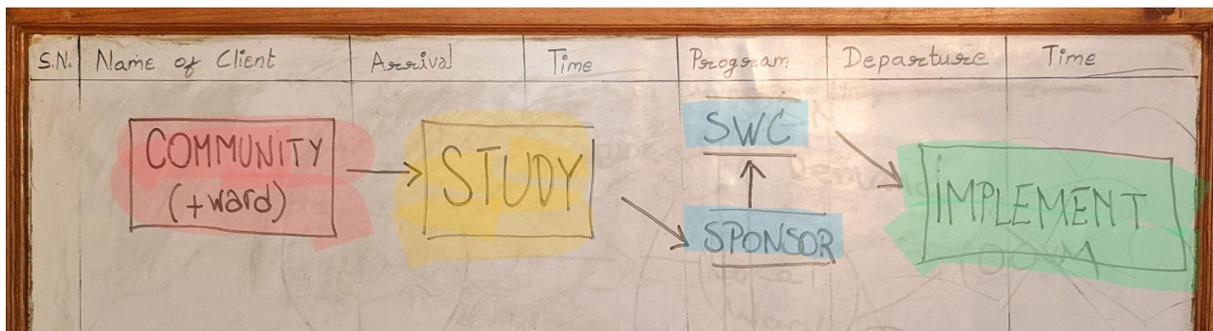


Ramesh (L) indicates the impact areas and together with Niels (R) creates the impact value calculation.

Defining a project flow between SN and SB



Ramesh (R) explaining how a project arises and how it goes through the funnel of administration. Jagat (L).



Project flow simplified.

COMMUNITY

A need or request to start a project, will only be valued if it is raised by the local community.

If the local government (ward) is not yet involved, SN will connect them to the local question.

SN own principle: local government needs to be involved, always.

STUDY

Samundra Nepal will now investigate and make a study on the request/need:

- Is there a **local owner** of the project (to adopt the project after SN leaves)
- How is the local **government** planning to contribute
- Can SN **support according to [her own strategy](#)** and principles?
- After thorough investigation, is the local community still willing to continue and sign an agreement of **engagement**?
- What is the **impact value** of this project in the community?

SPONSOR / SWC

When this is done, the result will be written in a **project proposal** and a **sponsor** will be searched. Today, in most cases, it is Samundra Belgium.

When the sponsor agrees, a **letter of agreement** will be drafted to be signed by SN and the sponsor.

With this signed agreement, SN informs the **Social Welfare Council** on the project. The SWC has two weeks to reply. In almost all cases, they will consent.

IMPLEMENT

Now, the project can start and actions will be taken to accomplish the project.

We agreed upon creating

- One **proposal document** per project
- One **budget sheet** per project

Both documents will be shared with the sponsor.

Suggestion to SN: create a standard budget sheet for each project, to be shared with sponsor



Having a brake

Photography

We discussed the images that have been proposed by the photographer after his first assignment (Kiwi farm visit in Charikot with leading people of farmer group).

Ramesh as well as SB were not satisfied with the results. We are on the same page.

Ramesh will discuss our common needs with the photographer.

Ramesh indicated that finding another person for this job will not guarantee better results.

Suggestion to SN: use this feedback (both moodboard and conversation) to improve the quality of the photographer's work, assigning one or two more assignments.

Personal remark: the photography assignment still does not feel right. SB seems to be the driver for this, but SN acts as 'employer' to the photographer. For now, SN is SB's middleman.

Thinking loud: images of each project should be organised by SN. Until a certain amount, we can sponsor those assignments if needed.

Let us see after this journey, what images SB still needs for their own communication. If more images are needed, we can make a separate assignment for that.

Radio program on UP (Dolakha)

We attended a [broadcasting program](#) on Kalinchok FM.

The program is part of one of SN's projects: **breaking taboo on uterine prolapse** (UP). UP is a huge problem in Nepal, especially because it is hidden. Women are shy to talk about their discomforts on this matter.

After this program (interview with a doctor, a politician, a nurse and Ramesh), **three more episodes** will be recorded this year, covering medical aspects and advocacy.

Earlier this year, [a radio jingle](#) was recorded and is broadcasted on this radio station one year long. It contains the message that UP needs to be treated, in order to avoid infections and to have more comfort in life.

Afterwards, all interview participants looked satisfied and a foundation has been laid for further collaborations. Doctor Binod (of Pashupati Chaulagain Memorial Hospital of Charikot) is **happy to collaborate on awareness programs related to this uterine prolapse issue**.

Observation: SN looks to be interested in playing a role as an awareness' warrior'. They should discuss/investigate what their role should be, according to their strategy.

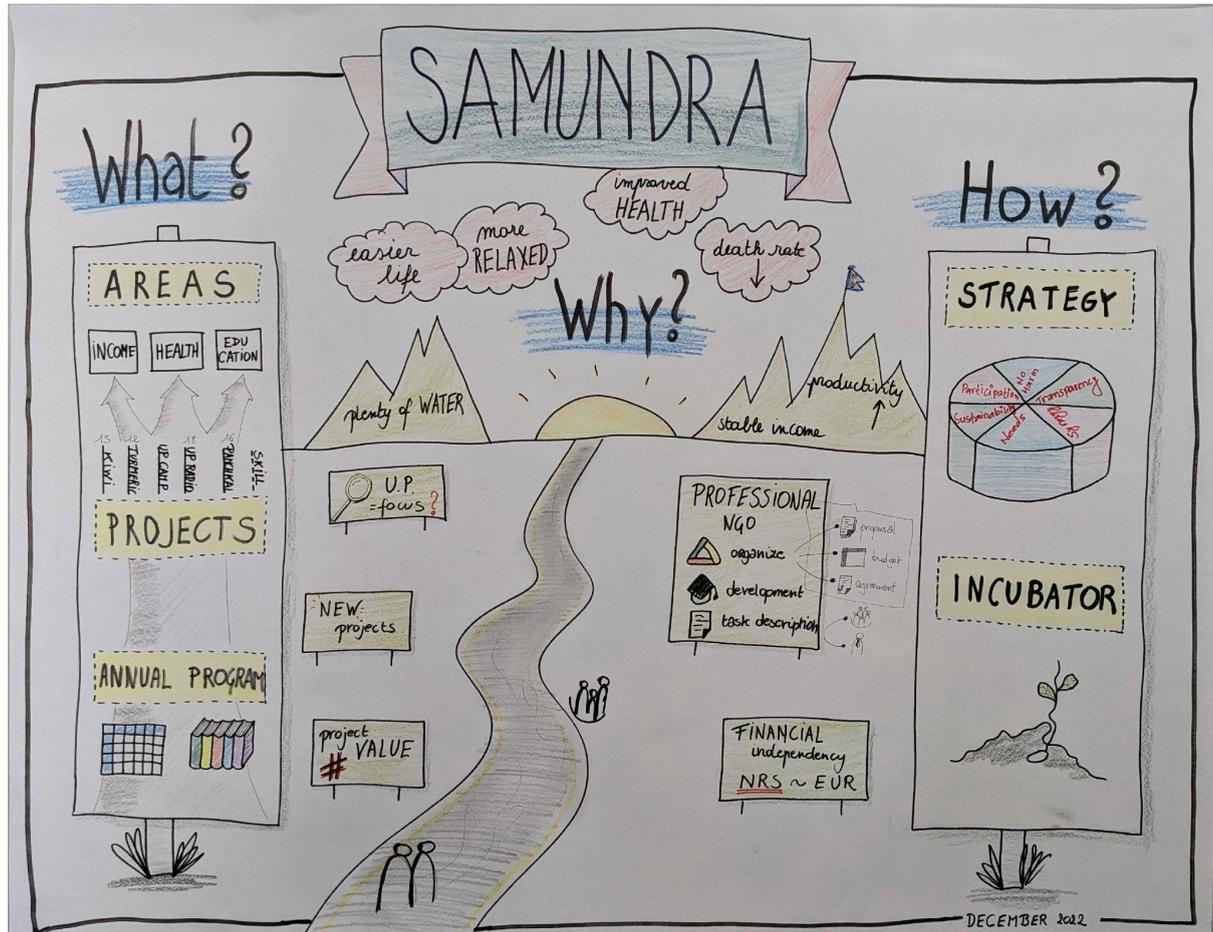
I.e. Health camps do not seem very 'sustainable' when they stand on their own. If they are prompted by an UP awareness program (which can act as an umbrella program), they can fade out when the awareness has reached its desired level.

Question to SN: will you focus on UP and, therefore, organise health camps only on this topic?

CONCLUSIONS

[→ jump to day-by-day report](#)

Almost all board members attended the closing meeting on December 7, 2022. It was very nice and satisfying to see they all took part in this!



Visual presentation about our common findings of the past year and this visit. The road to our goal maps out some suggestions, questions or issues for SN to consider.

Strategy

The 6-point-strategy is written by Ramesh. The SN executive body should review this, discuss and finalise this document, in order to define the NGO's official 'way to go'.

Focus on UP

As uterine prolapse is an issue, popping up regularly in our meetings, it is good to define whether this topic is SN's medical focus.

If so, the topic needs to be worked out in alignment with the strategy and can then act as an umbrella for other medical projects (i.e. health camps UP, awareness through radio programs, ...)

According to [Maya Greet Verbist](#) to SN: the Nepal government has resources available on programs about uterine prolapse.

Question: what is the exit strategy on this project?

New projects

For this upcoming year, 6 projects were selected to be implemented.

With this, the HR resources (= Ramesh as program coordinator), we will be fully occupied.

What will the board do, when new needs will pop up during the year?

Project value

Ramesh and Niels calculated the project value for each project. The board needs to get familiar with this calculation method and discuss on the weight of these parameters:

- **Targeted groups** get more 'impact points' (women, Dalit, ethnic groups)
- High **budget/household** and **budget/total** gets less 'impact points'

Every topic has its weight in the calculation: define these weights.

Professional NGO

To take the next step in professionalisation, three items could be improved. This will help to communicate with all different donors. Future collaborations with other NGOs (local or overseas) will gain from this.

NGOs and donors will judge SN on good management and credibility. These three items can help to get there:



1. Create a **basic set of 3 (template) files** for each individual project
 - Proposal document: to inform & convince sponsors
 - Budget: to estimate as well as to report
 - Agreement letter: confirmation between SN and sponsor, to submit to SWC
2. Today, the knowledge on social development is carried by the Program Coordinator only. The experience and knowledge of the board members are located in the area of tourism and education.
Therefore, the SN board should **immerse itself in the matter of social development** and how it is organised in Nepal. This way, SN makes sure it is independent of one employee's knowledge.
3. It is not clear which tasks are the responsibility of the board and which are the responsibility of the employee. A written **document on tasks/responsibilities for each party**, could help in this matter.

Financial independency

Today's sponsors for projects are mainly overseas parties. Samundra Belgium is sponsoring 75% of project costs, Peters Soons is sponsoring 25%.

Actions on local fundraising should be set up.

A benefit rafting is planned for spring 2023.