

UTSAAH Initiative
Annual report
For the year ended 31 December 2019

UTSAAH Initiative

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 2019
(01 January – 31 December)

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Message from the chair

2019 has been a significant year in progressing our objectives as a small charity aiming to support communities in the Indian Himalayas. Ranging from forming new partnerships with organisations in the Himalayas to engaging with new partners and supporters of UTSAAH in the UK, we managed to raise awareness about the challenges facing communities in the Himalayas, raise funds through a mix of online fund-raising campaigns as well as events and improved our communication through a refreshed website.

A key milestone we reached in 2019 was our partnership with Northumbria University's Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, through which we are now exploring a strategic partnership with Agrani Foundation's Arogya project, an ambitious healthcare initiative led by Dr Sushil Sharma, an experienced Anaesthetist who has been serving rural Himalayan communities over three decades. Arogya project aims to provide maternal and child health programmes to remote and rural communities in the Champawat District in the state of Uttarakhand. My special thanks to Dr Cathy Bailey and Dr Vikki Smith at Northumbria University for their leadership on this initiative.

Another significant activity was the commissioning of Undergraduate and Postgraduate student projects at Northumbria and Loughborough universities. Business school students researched and recommended options for consideration by our partner organisations in the Himalayas in the areas of enterprise development.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our supporters, partners and generous donors in the UK, our partner organisations in India and volunteers at UTSAAH who have made 2019 a successful year for us and our partners in the Himalayas. I wish to specifically thank Sunil Chauhan, UTSAAH Co-Founder and mentor who has provided guidance through the year, and to Dr Chandrika Roysam for her initiative and lead on the successful fund-raising event in 2019.

At the time of writing this report in 2020, we are in the middle of a global pandemic due to COVID-19, and we are exploring how UTSAAH can continue to add value to our communities in the Himalayas.

Dr Arun Harish

Chairperson, UTSAAH

Charity Number	1175125
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Registered office and operational address	2, Sunningdale Whitley Bay NE25 9YF
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Trustees	Dr Arun Harish (Chair)	Appointed October 2017
	Radhika Ghanekar (Treasurer)	Appointed October 2017
	Rosalyn O'Brien (Secretary)	Appointed October 2017
	Gon Asla	Appointed June 2018 (resigned Sep'20)

Bank	Llyods TSB Butler Place Chelmsford Legg St OSC, 1 Legg Street, Essex, CM1 1JS
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The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Structure, governance & management

The organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered on 12 October 2017.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and have no beneficial interest in the charity. Notes to financial statement includes details on income and expenses.

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the CIO each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work for the 12 months to the year ending 31 December 2019. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the Trustees to ensure the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

Our Vision

To bring about tangible and intangible social change, which specifically aims at creating a collective consciousness and a value-based change in the social fabric of the communities we work with in the Indian Himalayan region.

- Knowledge sharing and capacity building
- Providing basic healthcare support to remote and rural communities in the Himalayan region
- Creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the communities

Objectives and activities

UTSAAH Initiative was formed to benefit communities in the Himalayan region in India and Nepal. The trustees are therefore satisfied that UTSAAH Initiative ensures its work is in the public benefit. Our 2019 strategy and business plan state the following objectives:

Increase awareness of the challenges faced by communities in the Himalayas and their need for support: We will harness the skills and resources of our members, volunteers and partner organisations to deliver a range of services that create connections, broker opportunities and build organisational capacity. These services include healthcare, education, networking and entrepreneurship.

Raise funds for charitable causes for rural, remote Himalayan communities to provide sustainable, beneficial development through education, healthcare, conservation, and enterprise: We will encourage donors to contribute and engage in periodic fundraising activities. We will also continue to explore grant funding available to small charities.

Create a network and community of social entrepreneurs in the Himalayas and the UK with a view to individually or collectively contribute towards Himalayan communities, solely for charitable purposes: We will strategically expand our community and help all our volunteers/members to be stronger and better equipped to make a difference in society.

Build long-term partnerships with organisations in the UK and abroad: we have engaged with universities to explore research opportunities and collaborating on needs analysis in the grass roots. We will also explore other avenues such as corporate funding and grants.

Build long-term relationships with aspiring volunteers in the UK and abroad: we will continue to expand our volunteer base and ensure we do a strategic matching of the skill set with demands.

The activities undertaken throughout the year have been consciously structured to meet our objectives.

A year in the life of UTSAAH Initiative 2019

Partnership with
Northumbria University

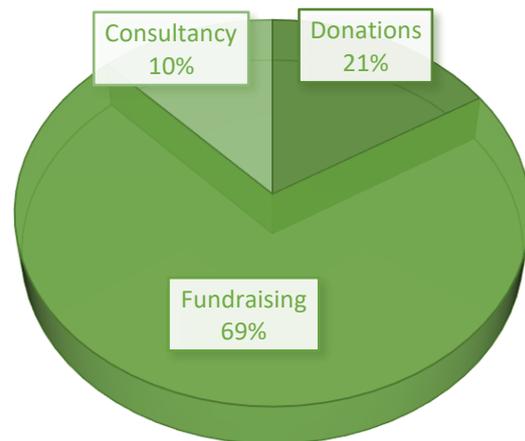
Bollywood ball
fundraising

UTSAAH Forest in Alaap,
Uttarakhand

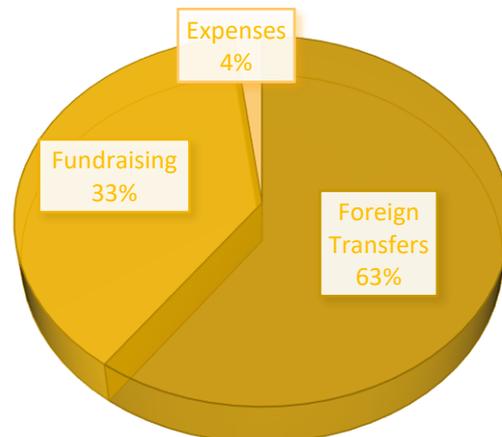
Supporting local leaders
in delivering change

University student
projects

INCOME 2019



SPEND 2019



Charitable Activities during the year 2019

Awareness raising and Fund-raising event:

UTSAAH hosted a Bollywood ball in June 19 as an awareness and fund-raising event. The objective was to broaden the audience base and spread awareness about UTSAAH's work as well as the work our portfolio organisations are doing on the ground. We shared information on each of our portfolio partners, how we collaborate with them and the challenges they face. The event was attended by 180 guests from mixed professional backgrounds including academia, medicine, corporations and friends and family. We raised £11,511 from ticket sales, auction, and raffle. The funds raised have helped us to make donations to our partner organisations in the Himalayas.

The funding was used to support the following healthcare and conservation initiatives:

- **Alaap Peoples Foundation:** For creating a native forest on a small piece of land in Alaap, Uttarakhand. 320 saplings have been planted which consist of 22 native species plants.
- **Agrani Foundation:** Maternal healthcare initiatives
- **Kalap Trust:** Healthcare initiatives
- **Spiti ecosphere:** Electrification campaign

Partnership between UTSAAH, Northumbria University and Agrani:

In October 2019, Dr Arun Harish from UTSAAH, along with colleagues Dr Vikki Smith and Dr Cathy Bailey from Northumbria University's Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Health visited Champawat region in Kumaon Himalayas with a view to understand the challenges facing remote and rural communities around maternal and child health. The visit was hosted by Dr Sushil Sharma of Agrani and his colleagues. The learnings and appreciation of local needs led to a partnership between the University, UTSAAH and Agrani, which was formally launched in January 2020.

Following on from the visit, the team led by Dr Vikki Smith and Dr Cathy Bailey have secured a Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) initial grant of £6,750 to further investigate the needs in maternal, child and public health in Champawat region with a view to plan medium and long term interventions for capacity building.

Supporting volunteers and young leaders in the Himalayas:

UTSAAH sponsored Stanzin Tseyang, one of our volunteers in Ladakh on a mental health leadership programme hosted by an organisation called Sangath. Mental health problems, including depression, drug addiction, and suicides are becoming a growing concern in the Ladakh region. UTSAAH recognises the key role volunteers and young leaders play in bringing about a social change in these remote and rural Himalayan communities. The course was designed to help leaders interact and develop strategies to overcome barriers in resource constrained settings. Following the course, a mental health care plan has been designed specifically catering to mental health needs of women and children.

Spiti Valley Electrification Campaign:

Spiti Valley, a remote, high-altitude mountain region located in the Indian Himalayas has no reliable access to electricity and with winters lasting up to six months of the year, the communities spend large amounts of their lives in the dark. The region has roughly 12,000 inhabitants. With renewable solar energy, these communities can have access to lighting, dramatically improving their quality of life. UTSAAH and Spiti jointly launched an online fundraising campaign to generate funds to provide thousands of homes with electricity enabling Spiti communities to prosper and thrive. Having access to sustainable sources of light, families can enhance their livelihoods, improve incomes, educate their children and experience increases in safety. Solar light will reduce health problems, depression and mental health illnesses.

Hosting Himalayan partners in the UK:

UTSAAH hosted Sheeba Sen, Founder of Alaap People's foundation and a social change maker, at Northumbria University. She talked about forestry conservation initiatives led by Alaap and the need for regeneration of native forests in the Himalayas. Opportunities for collaboration are being discussed with researchers at Edinburgh Napier University to support Alaap's activities in the Kumaon Himalayas.

Student projects in UK Universities:

Undergraduate and Masters student projects were commissioned by UTSAAH at Northumbria and Loughborough Universities.

Students from the Business school researched and recommended a few options for consideration by our partner organisations in the Himalayas, focusing on livelihood and social enterprise initiatives. These projects also raised significant levels of awareness amongst students and their networks about challenges facing rural and remote Himalayan communities in the areas of livelihood and sustainability.

Risk and Challenges

The Board performs regular assessments of the risks to which the Charity may be exposed. Comprehensive governance arrangements are in place to ensure that standards are maintained in line with good practice, legislation and accreditation. The processes in place are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The risks identified by the Trustees are focussed around financial sustainability and social media engagement.

Given the reliance on income generations through grants and donations, which is needed to support the fund-raising needs of the portfolios, the Trustees are exploring ways to generate income and ensuring financial portfolio is stable and strong in future.

Awareness raising through social media platforms has been identified as a challenge. All trustees give their time voluntarily and this casts some limitations in terms of time available to devote to an area such as social media, which is becoming increasingly important and requires constant engagement. We are currently looking for a dedicated volunteer to manage the social content.

Statement of Responsibility of the Trustees

Our Trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees' and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Financial Reporting Standards requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the CIO for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements in accordance with the charity commission guidelines

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which any of the trustees is unaware.
- There are no material misstatements in the financial information disclosed.
- The CIO is not required to obtain an independent audit of its accounts for the year in question.

Financial Year Jan – Dec 2019

UTSAAH raised a total of £17,521 during the year. The total expenditure was £10,686 in the period. Net receipts of £6,835.

 UTSAAH Initiative Receipts and Payments accounts For the period from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019				
Section A Receipts and payments				
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £		Total funds to the nearest £
Receipts				0
Direct Donations	545	3,194		3,739
Fundraising activities	12,011			12,011
Consulting	1,771			1,771
Total receipts	14,327	3,194		17,521
Payments				
Cost of fundraising events	3,511			3,511
Foreign Transfer	6,718			6,718
Foreign Transfer Fees	120			120
Train Fare/travel	337			337
Total Payments	10,686	-		10,686
Net Receipts and Payments	3,641	3,194		6,835

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the charity commissions guidance.

Notes to the accounts

- £337 expensed for travel relating to awareness raising workshops in Manchester and Loughborough
- £1,771 consultancy income relates to advisory services provided by Dr Arun Harish for the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Short Term Exchanges/Visits in collaboration with Northumbria university. This includes consultancy fees of 1,350 (@ £450 x 3 days) and Travel and accommodation for £420.80
- Foreign transfers to our portfolio organisations in the Himalayas
 - Alaap Peoples Foundation £750
 - Kalap Trust £5,068 (including PayPal donations from regular donors)
 - Spiti Ecosphere £400
 - Agrani Foundation £500

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Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Radhika Ghanekar', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Radhika Ghanekar
(Treasurer)