



MIT GROUP
FOUNDATION

MIT Group Foundation
Annual Report, 2025

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Message from the President

As we reflect on 2025, I am immensely proud of the progress we have made together in our mission to empower communities and create sustainable, long-term change. This year has further demonstrated the power of collaboration—within the Nepali diaspora, across global partnerships, and within the communities we serve.

In **December 2024**, the Foundation proudly partnered with the United Nepali Diaspora Organization (UNDO) for its **First International Convention and AGM**, held in Kathmandu under the theme “*Diaspora Engagement for Sustainable Nepal*.” The gathering brought together more than 150 delegates from 29 countries to address climate change, youth empowerment, migration, sustainable infrastructure, and policy innovation. As an event partner, the Foundation played an important role in advancing shared priorities. A key highlight was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the MIT Group Foundation, UNDO, and the Federal Capital City Public Transport Authority (FCCPTA) to jointly research air pollution caused by public transport—strengthening our commitment to environmental health and climate resilience.

Building on this momentum, the Foundation co-hosted the **Sustainable Startup & Entrepreneurship Conference 2025** in March, in collaboration with UNDO and NYEF Kathmandu. Under the banner “*From Roots to Growth*,” this landmark event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and innovators to accelerate sustainable, diaspora-driven economic development. The inaugural **Future Roots Awards** celebrated promising ventures in climate-smart agriculture, circular economy innovation, and accessible environmental technology—demonstrating the enormous potential of Nepal’s young entrepreneurs.

In **Gaunkharka, Nepal**, our multi-year education and livelihood program has continued to deliver meaningful progress. This year, 40 sponsored children benefited from sustained academic and emotional support through regular home and school monitoring, including 42 home visits and 21 school visits in the first quarter alone. Students received school materials, life-skills development, and counselling, while families strengthened their financial stability through cooperative participation, agricultural training, and the expanding goat pass-on program. These initiatives continue to build resilience within households and create a more stable foundation for children’s futures.

In **Kenya**, the transformation of **Mwakishimba Primary School** continued to make meaningful progress. The renovation of classroom blocks, ongoing construction of the indoor Dining Hall, upgrades to sanitation systems, and improvements to roofing have collectively enhanced safety, comfort, and the overall learning environment. This project remains a powerful example of how targeted infrastructure investment, supported by strong community partnerships, can create lasting educational impact.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and generosity of our supporters, partners, and volunteers. Your trust in our mission allows us to continue reaching communities that need support the most—helping children stay in school, empowering families to build sustainable livelihoods, and fostering innovation that strengthens Nepal’s future.

As we look ahead, we do so with optimism and determination. We remain committed to education, empowerment, sustainability, and community-led development. Together, we will continue turning challenges into opportunities and hope into lasting progress.

Warm regards,

Dr Shesh Ghale

President, MIT Group Foundation

About Us

Our Vision

A world where every community has the resources, knowledge, and support needed to overcome poverty, thrive in health and education, and build a sustainable future. We envision empowered, self-sufficient communities that flourish with equal access to opportunities for growth, resilience, and well-being. Through our work, we aim to create a global impact where individuals and communities are strengthened and equipped to lead fulfilling lives

Our Mission Statement

Empowering communities in developing regions by expanding access to quality education, healthcare, and sustainable resources. We aim to create lasting change by building educational opportunities, supporting essential healthcare services, promoting environmental stewardship, and responding to humanitarian needs. Through collaboration and commitment, we work to break the cycle of poverty and build pathways to self-sufficiency and resilience for underserved populations.

Our Values

Integrity and Transparency

We uphold the highest standards of honesty and accountability, ensuring that every contribution is used responsibly to create meaningful impact.

Innovation and Impact

We pursue forward-thinking solutions that address root causes, enhancing the effectiveness and reach of every project.

Equity and Inclusion

We champion inclusivity and equal opportunity, working to ensure that everyone, regardless of background, has access to resources and support.

Empowerment and Community-centred approach

We create change through collaboration with local communities, tailoring our programs to meet their unique needs and promote self-sufficiency.

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

We prioritize sustainable practices that protect the environment, ensuring our work benefits communities today and into the future.

Collaboration and Partnerships

We believe in the power of partnerships, working with local and global allies to amplify our impact and drive lasting change.

Objectives & Goals

1. Education Initiatives

- Build and support schools in underserved regions to provide children with safe, inspiring learning environments.
- Offer scholarships and resources to students, making quality education accessible for everyone.
- Support teacher training programs to strengthen local education systems and improve learning outcomes.

2. Healthcare Programs

- Establish health centres and mobile clinics to increase access to essential medical care in remote communities.
- Provide funding for medical equipment, staff, and supplies, ensuring quality care for all.
- Promote health and wellness education, empowering communities to prevent illness and lead healthier lives.

3. Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

- Provide immediate relief in times of crisis, offering essential supplies such as food, water, and shelter.
- Respond to natural disasters and emergencies with tailored support, helping communities recover and rebuild.
- Support programs that assist refugees, asylum seekers, and those affected by displacement, ensuring their basic needs are met.

4. Environmental and Sustainable Development

- Implement eco-friendly practices in all our projects, reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainability.
- Support initiatives that enhance biodiversity, preserve natural resources, and promote sustainable agriculture and livelihoods.
- Educate communities on environmental stewardship, empowering them to protect their surroundings and create sustainable futures.

5. Social Equality and Empowerment

- Promote programs that advance gender equality, reduce poverty, and break down social and economic barriers.
- Provide resources and support for marginalized groups, including women, children, and ethnic minorities, to foster inclusive development.
- Create pathways for self-reliance and empowerment, encouraging individuals to become leaders within their communities.

Accreditation

MIT Group Foundation Ltd is a proud signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, a voluntary, self-regulatory framework promoting sector best practices. By adhering to the ACFID Code, we commit to conducting our work with transparency, accountability, and integrity.

MIT Group Foundation Board of Directors



Dr Shesh Ghale (h.c.)

President, Founder and Director, Chair Funds Committee

Dr. Shesh Ghale is a distinguished leader with an extensive academic and professional background. He holds a Master of Civil Engineering degree from Kharkov, USSR, and an MBA specializing in Tourism in Nepal from Victoria University, Australia.

Dr. Ghale is the Founder, CEO, and Director of Melbourne Institute of Technology Pty (MIT). He also serves as Chairman of the MIT Executive Committee and is the Chairman & Executive Director of both MIT Group Holdings Pty Ltd, Australia, and MIT Group Holdings Pvt Ltd, Nepal.

His accomplishments include serving as the Honorary Consul General of Nepal in Victoria, Australia (1997–2000). He was recognized as a nominee for the Ernst & Young Australia Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2013. Additionally, Dr. Ghale completed two terms as President of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), concluding in 2017.

Currently, Dr. Ghale is the President of MIT Group Foundation Ltd and Chairman of MIT Group Foundation Nepal Ltd. In 2015, he was awarded a Degree of Doctor of the University Honoris Causa by Federation University, Australia, in recognition of his significant contributions to higher education, urban development, and his service to Nepal.

Through the MIT Group Foundation, Dr. Ghale continues to lead impactful charitable initiatives, emphasizing education, community development, and humanitarian support.



Ms Jamuna Gurung

Founder and Director

Ms. Jamuna Gurung is a trailblazing leader and entrepreneur who holds a Bachelor of Business in Marketing from Swinburne University, Melbourne.

As the Co-founder of Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT), she serves as the Managing Director and is a key member of the MIT Executive Committee. Ms. Gurung is also the Co-founder and Director of MIT Group Foundation Ltd, contributing significantly to community development and philanthropy. Her notable efforts include establishing the Nepalese Association of Victoria (NAFA) in Australia.

An active supporter of the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA) Australia, Ms. Gurung has taken on numerous leadership roles. Between 2013 and 2015, she coordinated the NRNA Structural Review, served as an executive member of the NRNA Foreign Employment Resource Fund (FERF) Task Force, and contributed to the Branding and Communication Committee. Additionally, she spearheaded web development projects and participated in workshops advocating for women's empowerment.

Ms. Gurung's leadership extended to disaster relief, where she coordinated operations with the NRNA Earthquake Relief Team following the 2015 Nepal earthquake. Her work highlights a deep commitment to community empowerment and resilience-building.



Mr Austin Kijagulu

Director

Mr Austin Kijagulu is an experienced education management and corporate governance professional, serving Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT) for more than two decades. Currently the Group General Manager, he has held senior leadership roles since 2005, including General Manager and Director of People and Culture (pro tem).

He holds a Master of Business from Victoria University and a Bachelor of Business with specialisations in Tourism, Applied Psychology, and Marketing. As a key member of MIT's Executive Management Committee, Mr Kijagulu represents the Institute across internal and external forums and serves as TEQSA Liaison Officer and Principal Executive Officer (PEO) for CRICOS compliance.

He contributes extensively to institutional governance through his involvement on major committees, including the Student Experience Committee, Policy Committee (as Secretary), Audit & Risk Management Committee, and Teaching & Learning Committee. He is also a member of the Australian Institute of Management (AIM) and the Australian Marketing Institute (AMI).

Beyond his professional commitments, Mr Kijagulu is active in community development. He leads and supports educational initiatives such as the refurbishment of Mwakishimba Primary School in Kenya, helping improve learning conditions and outcomes for local children.



Dr Patricia Stewart

Director

Dr Patricia Stewart is a distinguished leader in education and organisational development, serving as a Non-Executive Director of the Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT) Group Foundation since 2019. She brings more than three decades of experience across educational management, strategic planning, and student engagement.

At MIT, Dr Stewart has held several senior roles, including Director of Marketing and Student Engagement (2014–2019) and Campus Director (2006–2019). Her expertise spans student services, organisational development, and initiatives that strengthen student success and institutional performance.

Dr Stewart holds a Professional Doctorate in Education from Central Queensland University, focusing on international student persistence and organisational characteristics. Her qualifications also include a Master of Business (Research), a Bachelor of Organisational Development and Industrial Relations, and Associate membership with the Library Association of Australia.

Beyond MIT, she has contributed extensively to community and public service. She served as President of the Westall Secondary College Council for a decade and was a member of the Area Consultative Committee advising the Australian Government on employment initiatives.

Dr Stewart is widely respected for her commitment to education, community development, and evidence-based organisational improvement, bringing valuable insight and strategic perspective to the Foundation's work.



Mr Hung Tran

Secretary

Mr. Hung Tran is an accomplished legal professional with over 20 years of experience across diverse areas of law. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Commerce from Monash University and is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Since 2014, Mr. Tran has been the General Counsel and Company Secretary at Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT), managing legal risks, advising on corporate governance, and overseeing company secretarial matters. He is also Secretary of MIT Group Foundation Ltd, where he guides governance, compliance, and policy development.

In addition, Mr. Tran is a Senior Lawyer at AJH Lawyers, specialising in Commercial, Property, Litigation & Dispute Resolution, and Immigration Law.

With deep expertise in law and corporate governance, Mr. Tran plays a pivotal role in ensuring organisational success and compliance.

MIT Group Foundation Funds committee members



Dr Rowena Coutts

Funds Committee
Member

Dr Rowena Coutts serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors at the Melbourne Institute of Technology (MIT), guiding the institution's strategic direction and governance. Based in Anglesea, Victoria, she brings more than 28 years of experience across legal practice and public sector leadership.

She has previously chaired the boards of The Royal Children's Hospital and Ballarat Health Services, contributing across several key committees. As Principal of Rowena Coutts Management Consulting, Dr Coutts advises higher education and public sector organisations on governance, policy, HR, and international education.

Her governance experience also includes serving as Chair and board member at Ballarat Clarendon College, with involvement in finance and nominations committees. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a B Juris from Monash University.

Dr Coutts is widely regarded for her expertise in policy, governance, and stakeholder engagement, and is respected for her leadership across education, health, and community development.



Mr Fred Eakins

Funds Committee
Member

Fred Eakins is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) with over 26 years of experience managing his own practice in Mooroolbark, Melbourne. He specialises in business management and taxation services, supporting a diverse client base.

Fred's expertise includes income tax preparation, rental property schedules, employee share schemes, foreign income, capital gains tax, and financial statement preparation. He also advises on business structures, trust distributions, and self-managed superannuation funds.

His services encompass liaising with the Australian Tax Office (ATO), managing ASIC compliance, and handling GST, PAYG, and ABN registrations. From business setup to external auditing, Fred provides comprehensive support tailored to client needs.

As a member of the Funds Committee, Fred applies his financial expertise to strategic decision-making, contributing valuable insights to organisational success.

Our Projects

Project Highlight: Mwakishimba Primary School Transformation

Project country: Kenya

Overview

Nestled in the hills of Taita–Taveta County in Kenya, Mwakishimba Primary School has continued its remarkable evolution from a once-neglected institution on the verge of closure in 2017 to a thriving, future-ready learning community. Through the sustained commitment of the MIT Group Foundation, MIT staff, local leaders, and generous donors, the school has become a model of how meaningful partnerships can uplift education and transform lives.

Over the past year, the school has seen **major new upgrades**, strengthening the learning environment for all students while ensuring long-term sustainability and safety.

Key Milestones

Completed Projects

- Modern Kitchen (2023): Fully operational, enabling hygienic and efficient food preparation.
- School Printers & Computers (2023): Reducing learning costs and supporting digital literacy.
- Administration Block (2024): Now in use, providing a functional and professional workspace for staff.
- Some maintenance and renovations of multiple classrooms, including new plastering and structural strengthening.

Ongoing 2024–2025 Upgrades

Recent on-site progress includes:

- Dining Hall under construction (expected completion FY 25-26), improving safety and daily student support.
- New roofing installations mirroring the existing infrastructure on several buildings, giving the school a modern, weather-resistant finish.
- Sanitation and drainage system upgrades, including new concrete slabs and improved wastewater management.
- The new Dining Hall under construction is designed as a multifunctional space that will also serve as the school's assembly area, exam hall, and venue for community programs.

Upcoming (Planned)

- Construction of Perimeter wall to improve safety of the students and staff.
- Construction of a Science Laboratory to enhance STEM education and provide hands-on learning opportunities.
- Rainwater harvesting system for continuous safe drinking water access for the students.

New Impact Achievements (2024-2025)

Improved Learning Spaces

The newly renovated classroom blocks and the ongoing restoration of the Dining Hall have significantly improved comfort, safety, and accessibility for students and teachers alike.

Nutritional Support Through the New Kitchen

With the modern kitchen fully functional, the school now provides nutritious daily meals, reducing hunger and improving classroom concentration and academic engagement.

Sanitation

Recent upgrades to the school's sanitation systems have significantly improved hygiene across the

campus, contributing to better health and wellbeing for students and staff alike.

Voices from the Community

Student Perspective

"The printers and computers help us learn better and reduce the cost for our families. With the new kitchen, our meals are clean and well prepared. This support has been a blessing for the school."

— Mwarenge, Student

Teacher Perspective

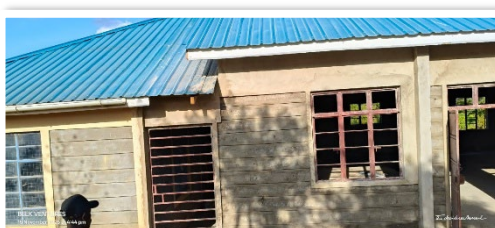
"Digital tools have improved literacy and reduced printing burdens. The modern kitchen has transformed meal provision, and the new admin office makes our work much easier. With the upgrades to classrooms and the assembly hall, teaching and learning are more effective. Clean drinking water has been a major improvement for student health."

— Ms Knight, Science Teacher

Photos of Mwakishimba Primary School Pre-2018 (before)



Photos of recently completed and ongoing renovation works



Looking Ahead

With key facilities such as the modern kitchen and administration block now complete, the school is entering a new phase of growth focused on academic excellence and long-term sustainability. Upcoming developments include the completion of the new Dining Hall—designed as a multifunctional space for assemblies, examinations, and community programs—and the construction of a perimeter wall to enhance the safety of students and staff.

Plans are also underway to install a rainwater harvesting system, ensuring consistent access to clean, safe drinking water throughout the year. Combined with ongoing sanitation and infrastructure upgrades, these initiatives will strengthen the school's capacity to deliver a healthy, resilient, and supportive learning environment.

A Legacy of Hope

The journey of Mwakishimba Primary School stands as a powerful testament to what collective action can achieve. From crumbling classrooms and limited resources to modern facilities, nutritious meals, and strengthened safety, the school's transformation reflects the profound impact of community-driven development.

Today, students learn in brighter, safer classrooms. Teachers work in improved conditions. Families feel renewed confidence in their children's future. What began as an urgent rescue effort has become a long-term commitment to empowerment, education, and opportunity—leaving a legacy of hope that will shape generations to come.

Help us help others like Mwakishimba Primary School

Your support can help sustain and expand this vital work and help us reach other schools like Mwakishimba Primary School.

Contributions can be directed to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Account Name: MIT Group Foundation OGF
BSB: 063 010
Account Number: 1275 1038

Together, we are building not just classrooms but a brighter, more hopeful future for schools like Mwakishimba

Primary School around the world.

Project Highlight: Transforming Lives in Gaunikharka, Nepal

Project country: Nepal



Overview

In partnership with Sunrise Children's Association Inc. (SCAI), the MIT Group Foundation continues to support a transformative multi-year initiative in Gaunikharka, Nuwakot District. Launched in 2023 with a commitment of AUD 65,000, the program focuses on breaking cycles of poverty by enabling vulnerable children to stay in school, strengthening families' livelihoods, and building resilient community systems that ensure long-term sustainability.

Across 2024–2025, the program has made strong progress in education, life-skills development, and income generation, creating measurable improvements in the lives of students and their families.

Key Objectives

- Enable vulnerable children to continue higher secondary education while living with their families.
- Equip youth for sustainable employment and career growth.
- Improve school retention and protect at-risk children.
- Empower families to achieve financial independence and provide quality care for their children.

Achievements to Date

Education Support & Monitoring

- The program currently supports 40 students, from primary to higher secondary levels (as confirmed in all quarterly reports).
- Over the past year, SCAI conducted:
 - 42 home monitoring visits (Jan–Mar 2025)
 - 21 school monitoring visits (Jan–Mar 2025)
 - 43 home visits and 15 school visits (Jul–Sept 2024)
- Students received ongoing school supplies, academic counselling, and emotional support.
- Exam results show steady improvement: several students achieved 1st and 2nd divisions in term and SEE exams.
- A number of youth participated in life skills training, career counselling, peer education, and parental education training, enhancing confidence, decision-making, and awareness.

Child Progress

- 13 students sat for the SEE exam in March 2025, with results pending.
- In 2024, three students passed the SEE Chance Exam (1 in 1st division, 2 in 2nd division).
- Children are developing academically and socially through supervision, counselling, and improved stability at home.

Family Livelihood Development

Cooperative Strengthening

- A growing cooperative structure continues to support savings, loans, and market linkages.
- Regular subgroup meetings and an Annual General Meeting were held to review progress and maintain transparency.

Goat Breeding Program

- The pass-on goat program continues to expand:
 - 77–76 households have received two goats each (depending on reporting quarter).
 - 94 goats passed on in the Jan–Mar 2025 update.
 - Nearly 72–78 pregnant goats across households.
- Families use goats and buffalo farming as stable income sources.

Income-Generating Activities

- Families have diversified into:
 - Goat and buffalo rearing
 - Vegetable farming
 - Poultry
 - Tailoring
 - Small-scale local trading
- Many households (e.g., families of Dolma, Kishor, Sushmita, Mangale) have significantly increased their annual income—some reaching NPR 150,000–200,000 per year through combined livestock and agriculture activities.

Success Stories

- Case studies highlight powerful transformations, such as:
 - Laxmi Tamang (Class 8): returned to school after dropping out, now consistently passing exams and aspiring to become a teacher.
 - Mangale Tamang: expanded from subsistence farming to owning 12 goats and 2 buffalos, raising his annual income to nearly NPR 200,000.
 - Mendo (Class 10): passed SEE in 1st division and plans to study a 3-year Diploma in Plant Science.

Impact on Children

Children now receive regular home and school monitoring, academic guidance, life skills, and mental health support. Improved exam results and increasing participation in extracurricular and peer-education programs reflect rising confidence and motivation. Students are envisioning brighter futures in fields such as agriculture, civil service, and technical trades.

Impact on Families

Families who once struggled with food security and school expenses are now running small businesses, rearing livestock, and saving regularly through the cooperative. The goat pass-on program, buffalo farming, and vegetable cultivation have created sustainable sources of income, reducing financial stress and enabling families to support their children's education with dignity and independence.

Future Plans

- Looking forward, the program will prioritise:
- Supporting SEE graduates into higher secondary, vocational, and technical diploma programs.
- Strengthening the cooperative, improving financial literacy, and expanding access to markets.
- Continuing livelihood diversification, especially goat farming, poultry, and vegetable cultivation.
- Addressing critical needs such as:
 - Improved access to clean, safe water
 - Continued monitoring of vulnerable families
 - Expanded youth counselling and career guidance

Support our mission to transform lives in places like Gaunkharka

Your contributions will help provide education, vocational training, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, empowering the community to build a brighter future.

Contributions can be directed to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: MIT Group Foundation OGF

BSB: 063 010

Account Number: 1275 1038

Together, we can continue creating meaningful change. Thank you for your support!

Project Highlight: Mobilising Diaspora Innovation in Nepal

Project country: Nepal



Overview

In line with its mission to empower communities through sustainable development and collaborative action, the MIT Group Foundation deepened its engagement with Nepal's global diaspora through two landmark initiatives.

In **December 2024**, the Foundation partnered with the United Nepali Diaspora Organization (UNDO) for its First International Convention and AGM, held in Kathmandu under the theme **"Diaspora Engagement for Sustainable Nepal."** The gathering united over 150 delegates from 29 countries to address climate change, youth empowerment, migration, sustainable infrastructure, and policy innovation.

The Foundation supported the convention as an event partner, contributing to discussions that advanced collaborative solutions and strengthened policy-level engagement. During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the MIT Group Foundation, UNDO, and the Federal Capital City Public Transport Authority (FCCPTA) to jointly research air pollution caused by public transport—reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to environmental health and climate resilience.

Building on this momentum, the Foundation co-hosted the **Sustainable Startup & Entrepreneurship Conference 2025** on **29 March 2025** in Lalitpur, in collaboration with UNDO and NYEF Kathmandu. Centred on the theme **"From Roots to Growth,"** the conference brought together diaspora investors, local entrepreneurs, policymakers, and innovators to advance sustainable economic development and diaspora-driven innovation.

Key Objectives

- Mobilise diaspora investment and expertise to strengthen Nepal's startup and innovation ecosystem.
- Build platforms for dialogue on national challenges such as climate change, migration, and resilient infrastructure.
- Connect entrepreneurs with diaspora networks, mentors, policymakers, and private-sector leaders.
- Promote youth leadership, sustainable business models, and circular-economy solutions.
- Foster innovation in agribusiness, environmental resilience, rural transformation, and public-private partnership.

Achievements to Date

UNDO International Convention – December 2024

- **Over 150 delegates** from **29 countries** united to advance diaspora collaboration.
- Sessions addressed climate change, migration, infrastructure, and innovation.
- A youth-focused session, **"Brain Drain to Gain,"** showcased young Nepali entrepreneurs and leaders.
- The **UNDO Strategic Plan 2025–2029** was formally endorsed, emphasising climate resilience, youth mobilisation, and sustainable development.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** was signed between MIT Group Foundation, UNDO, and the Federal Capital City Public Transport Authority (FCCPTA) to collaborate on air-pollution research related to public transport.
- Leadership elections established a diverse executive committee with global representation.

Sustainable Startup & Entrepreneurship Conference – March 2025

- Featured **four expert-led panel discussions** on diaspora investment, sustainability, agribusiness, and public-private collaboration.
- The inaugural **Future Roots Awards** recognised innovative and sustainable Nepali ventures.
- Strong participation from entrepreneurs, industry experts, policymakers, and diaspora investors, strengthening cross-border collaboration.

Impact

- Entrepreneurs gained direct access to diaspora networks, mentorship, investment pathways, and visibility—helping local innovations evolve into scalable ventures.
- Both events elevated the narrative of **"brain gain"**, reinforcing the role of the diaspora as a catalyst for Nepal's long-term prosperity.
- The MOU on air-pollution research expanded policy-level collaboration in environmental health and sustainable public transport.
- These initiatives broadened the Foundation's contribution to climate resilience, youth empowerment, and innovation-driven economic development.

Future Plans

- Strengthen follow-through mechanisms to support startups identified through the Future Roots Awards and conference networking.
- Deepen diaspora-investment pathways into Nepal's agribusiness, infrastructure and clean-technology sectors.
- Expand collaborative research and policy partnerships — especially in climate resilience, sustainable transport and youth entrepreneurship.
- Monitor impact outcomes from conference initiatives and report on long-term startup success and job creation.

Future Roots Awards 2025 – Winners



Grand Prize Winner – Khona Farm (NPR 1.5 Lakh)

Khona Farm is transforming organic waste management in Nepal through Black Soldier Fly (BSF) technology. Their model produces affordable, high-protein animal feed and organic fertiliser—reducing feed costs by 33% and strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers. A scalable, climate-smart solution redefining sustainable agriculture.

Second Prize Winner – Bhoomithan (NPR 1 Lakh)

Bhoomithan's Phoolbatti is a rope incense made from recycled flowers and natural ingredients, crafted by women who receive free training and livelihood opportunities. The initiative reduces floral waste and uplifts women artisans—an inspiring example of circular economy and social enterprise.

Third Prize Winner – VayuDrishti (NPR 50,000)

VayuDrishti's affordable air-quality monitoring device provides accessible, data-driven insights for communities and policymakers. Their innovation empowers citizens and local governments to track pollution levels and advance cleaner, healthier environments.

Photos from the diaspora events



Support Nepal's Emerging Innovators and Sustainable Startups

Your contribution will help empower young entrepreneurs, strengthen sustainable businesses, and accelerate diaspora-driven innovation across Nepal. By supporting initiatives showcased through the Sustainable Startup & Entrepreneurship Conference and the Future Roots Awards, you are investing directly in climate-resilient agriculture, women-led enterprises, and community-focused technology solutions.

Contributions can be directed to:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: MIT Group Foundation OGF

BSB: 063 010

Account Number: 1275 1038

Together, we can nurture ideas that create jobs, protect the environment, and build a more sustainable future for Nepal. Thank you for your support!

Project Highlight: Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction in Rukum and Jajarkot

Project country: Nepal



Overview

In response to the catastrophic 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal's Rukum and Jajarkot districts on 3 November 2023, the MIT Group Foundation, in collaboration with the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA), launched a large-scale relief and reconstruction initiative. This collaborative effort has raised over NRs. 10 million to support immediate rescue operations, provide critical supplies, and lay the groundwork for rebuilding devastated communities.

Key Statistics

- **Magnitude:** 6.4 on the Richter scale.
- **Lives Lost:** Over 157 fatalities and an equal number injured.
- **Houses Destroyed:** More than 35,000 homes, including 442 houses in Aathbiskot Municipality and 28 completely destroyed in Lata Village.
- **Affected Communities:** Approximately 80% of the 63 homes in Rauth Village, Jajarkot, were severely damaged.
- **Infrastructure Impact:** Numerous schools, primary healthcare centres, and public facilities were destroyed.
- **Funds Raised:** NRs. 10 million, with equal contributions from MIT Group Foundation and NRNA.

Immediate Relief Efforts

- **Relief Deployment:** Two teams, led by Dr. Shesh Ghale and NRNA Youth Brand Ambassador Dipesh Khatri, delivered critical supplies, including 1,000 sets of blankets and essential food items, to the most affected areas.
- **Field Assessments:** Teams conducted comprehensive damage evaluations in Aathbiskot Municipality and Rauth Village, engaging with local representatives, earthquake survivors, and stakeholders to understand immediate and long-term needs.
- **Impact on Communities:** In Aathbiskot, 442 houses were damaged, including 28 completely destroyed in Lata Village, while Rauth Village in Jajarkot saw 80% of its 63 homes severely impacted

Reconstruction Initiatives

The MIT Group Foundation and the Global NRN Foundation are spearheading the rebuilding of 28 homes in Lata Village (Aathbiskot Municipality-13, Rukum Pashchhim). This project incorporates:

- **Housing Reconstruction:** Initial focus on 28 homes in Lata Village (Aathbiskot Municipality-13) and 63 homes in Rauth Village, using earthquake-resistant designs and local resources.
- **Educational Support:** Establishing a scholarship fund of Rs. 600,000 at Janajagaran Secondary School in Gaubari, supported by the Nepali diaspora in Belgium, to assist underprivileged and orphaned students affected by the disaster.
- **Community Development:** Partnering with local municipalities to integrate sustainable practices in rebuilding efforts, such as the use of local labour and tools.

Notable Stories of Resilience

During the relief mission, the team encountered profound human stories of survival and courage. These included:

- The rescue of two-month-old Ashvi BK, found alive under debris 12 hours after the earthquake.
- Engagements with survivors like Chandra Kami, who lost his mother and grandmother, underscoring the emotional toll on families.

Future Plans

- Rebuilding 63 homes in Rauth Village, Jajarkot, and continuing support for families displaced by the disaster.
- Enhancing local infrastructure, including schools and healthcare centres, to strengthen community resilience.
- Expanding livelihood training and cooperative support for affected households.

A Collaborative Approach

This project underscores the critical importance of collective action in disaster recovery. By pooling resources and expertise, the MIT Group Foundation and NRNA are paving the way for sustainable rebuilding, providing hope and security to affected communities.

Acknowledgement

The MIT Group Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to all donors, supporters, and stakeholders who made this relief and reconstruction effort possible. This collective mission exemplifies the strength of community and global collaboration in responding to crises.

Special Thanks to:

- **MIT Group Foundation Team:** For leading on-ground coordination and planning.
- **Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA):** For partnership and operational support through the Global NRN Foundation.
- **Nepali Diaspora in Belgium:** For contributing to the scholarship fund for children in need.
- **Local Authorities:** Mayor Rabi KC (Aathbiskot Municipality), Chief District Officers, and other municipal leaders for their guidance and support.
- **Field Teams:**
 - Airborne Humanitarian Assessment Force led by Dr. Shesh Ghale, Suresh Chitrakar, AC Sherpa, and Shyam Tamang.
 - Land Relief Team led by Dipesh Khatri and Tshring Sherpa.
- **Individual Donors and Volunteers:** Whose generosity ensured timely delivery of essential supplies.

A call for continued support

This project highlights the transformative power of unity and shared purpose. MIT Group Foundation remains committed to rebuilding the lives of those affected by this disaster and any other unforeseen acts of God, and your support is vital to sustaining these efforts.

Project Highlight: Establishment of MIT Australian Foundation Ltd

Project country: Australia

Overview

The MIT Group Foundation launched the MIT Australian Foundation Ltd, a charitable arm under the governance of the Melbourne Institute of Technology Pty Ltd. This foundation was formally registered in November 2021 and has been carefully structured to provide targeted support for vulnerable youth across Australia.

Purpose and Objectives

The primary mission of the MIT Australian Foundation Ltd is to provide relief to young individuals who are poor, destitute, sick, or living with a disability (referred to as Vulnerable Persons). The foundation achieves this through:

- **Funding Educational Materials:** Providing resources to enhance learning opportunities for vulnerable youth.
- **Awarding Scholarships:** Offering financial assistance to open pathways to education.
- **Educational Programs:** Organising activities and programs to enrich learning experiences.
- **Life Skills Training:** Equipping young individuals with the tools needed for personal and professional success.
- **Supportive Activities:** Complementing educational efforts with ancillary initiatives to uplift Vulnerable Persons.

Governance and Structure

The foundation operates under the governance of the Melbourne Institute of Technology's Board of Directors. Its leadership ensures alignment with the organisation's overarching mission to uplift communities and drive impactful change. Key personnel include:

Directors: Dr Shesh Ghale (*h.c.*) & Mrs Jamuna Ghale-Gurung

Company Secretary, Director, and Public Officer: Mr Austin Mghendi Kijagulu

Entity Information

Entity Name: MIT Australian Foundation Ltd

Australian Business Number (ABN): 22 655 351 009

ABN Registration Date: November 2021

Address: 284-294 La Trobe Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Email: austin@mit.edu.au

Type of Entity: Australian Public Company

ANZSIC Code: 6240 – Financial Asset Investing

ACN: 655 351 009

Impact Focus

By targeting vulnerable youth, the MIT Australian Foundation Ltd seeks to create sustainable, positive change through its carefully designed initiatives. The foundation's emphasis on education and life skills reflects the MIT Group Foundation's commitment to fostering opportunity and growth for disadvantaged communities across Australia.

Commitment to Excellence

The foundation's activities are monitored and directed by the experienced Board of Directors at the Melbourne Institute of Technology. This ensures that every initiative aligns with the foundation's mission of empowering vulnerable youth through education and support.

Financial Overview

Balance Sheet

MIT Group Foundation Ltd as at 30 June 2025

30 June 2025

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash and bank balances	AUD 450,083
Short-term investments	AUD 800,000
Trade and other receivables	AUD 349
Total Current Assets	AUD 1,250,432
Total Assets	AUD 1,250,432

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	-
Total Current Liabilities	-
Net Assets	AUD 1,250,432

Equity (Member's Funds)

Accumulated Surplus (1 July 2024)	AUD 1,208,586
Surplus for the year	AUD 41,846
Total Equity	AUD 1,250,432

Profit and Loss

MIT Group Foundation Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2025

2025

Revenue

Donations income	AUD 200,500
Interest income	AUD 28,685
Total Revenue	AUD 229,185
Gross revenue	AUD 229,185

Expenses

Donations expense	AUD (184,273)
Other expenses	AUD (3,066)
Total Expenses	AUD (187,339)
Net Surplus	AUD 41,846

Help Us Help Others

Support the MIT Group Foundation Overseas Gift Fund with your donation. Together, we can make a difference.

Donation Information

All donations are recorded, and receipts can be provided upon request. Please include your name, address, and the donation amount in your email.

Tax Deductibility:

Donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible.

How to Donate:

Donations can be made via the following methods:

- **PayPal:** Visit our website at <http://mitgroupfoundation.org>, click the "Donate" tab, and follow the prompts.
- **Cash**
- **Cheque**
- **Direct Debit/Transfer:**
 - **Bank:** Commonwealth Bank
 - **Account Name:** MIT Group Foundation OGF
 - **BSB:** 063 010
 - **Account Number:** 1275 1038

Bequests and Support:

We welcome bequests and all levels of support, whether large or small. Your generosity enables us to continue providing relief aid to the areas of Nepal that need it most. Contributions support building or repairing schools and providing medical aid to those in need.

Your donations make a difference—thank you for your generosity!

Feedback and Complaints

MIT Group Foundation values your feedback and welcomes both positive and constructive input.

We assure you that all feedback will be reviewed, and appropriate actions will be taken.

To raise a concern with or about the Foundation, please use the contact details below:

- For feedback or complaints about MIT Group Foundation Ltd, email shesh.ghale@mit.edu.au.
- For complaints regarding a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct, contact ACFID's Code of Conduct Committee.

Your input helps us maintain and improve our commitment to accountability and excellence.

Closing Remarks

As we conclude this year's Annual Report, we celebrate the collective efforts that have shaped 2025 into a year of significant progress and meaningful impact. From deepening diaspora engagement through the UNDO International Convention and our Sustainable Startup & Entrepreneurship Conference, to strengthening educational and livelihood initiatives in Gaunkharka and advancing the transformation of Mwakishimba Primary School in Kenya, every achievement reflects the power of collaboration and shared purpose.

Our partnerships this year—in policy, innovation, community development, and education—demonstrate what becomes possible when individuals and organisations unite around a common vision. Whether through clean air research initiatives, support for emerging entrepreneurs, or programs that help children remain in school and families build stable livelihoods, the Foundation has continued to deliver impact that is both practical and transformative.

To our donors, volunteers, community leaders, and global MIT family: thank you. Your trust and generosity have made each of these achievements possible. Together, we have helped strengthen communities, empower young leaders, and build opportunities that will continue shaping lives long into the future.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding this work with the same dedication and compassion that guide our mission. With your continued support, the MIT Group Foundation will keep investing in people, ideas, and communities—turning hope into action and action into lasting progress.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Warm regards,

MIT Group Foundation