

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Eliminating Educational Poverty

Every story shared is a
life touched. This year,
your support made all
the difference.



About Social Lab Nepal

Social Lab Nepal is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating educational poverty through social innovation, experiential learning, and human-centered design.

The organization works at the intersection of education, social entrepreneurship, and community development, designing practical, scalable, and locally owned solutions that address systemic gaps in Nepal's public education system and further.

Social Lab's work prioritizes children from marginalized and low-income communities while also empowering teachers, parents, youth, and local governments to co-create sustainable change.



Vision

A nation where no child has to go through educational poverty..

Mission

To empower every child with the education, skills, and opportunities they need to break free from generational poverty



Reporting Period: January 2025 - December 2025



Message from the Executive Director



Ajit Bhatta
Executive Director

2025 has been a defining year for Social Lab Nepal. What began as small, pilot-driven interventions in public schools has steadily evolved into structured, evidence-backed, and scalable education models. Throughout the year, our team worked closely with children, teachers, parents, local governments, and institutional partners to ensure that learning environments are not only academically supportive but also joyful, safe, and dignified.

This year reaffirmed a core belief of Social Lab: when children are nourished, respected, and motivated, learning naturally follows. From expanding the Financial Stimulation Model (FSM) across provinces, to strengthening the School Support Program, to piloting creative and expressive learning workshops, 2025 was a year of consolidation, learning, and responsible growth.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our partners, donors, schools, communities, and our dedicated team whose commitment made this impact possible.

Ajit Bhatta
Executive Director, Social Lab Nepal



Organizational Overview

Social Lab Nepal is a Nepali non-profit that fights educational poverty through social innovation and experiential learning. The organization is guided by a leadership team with backgrounds in development studies, education, research, and social entrepreneurship. Strategic decisions are informed by field evidence, community feedback, and long-term sustainability considerations.

Working Domains

Social Lab operates through two major programmatic domains:

- 1 **School Support Program** – strengthening public education systems through holistic, child-centered interventions.
- 2 **Social Entrepreneurship Program** – nurturing youth leadership, innovation, and problem-solving for social impact.

Geographic Coverage (2025)

During 2025, Social Lab implemented programs across multiple provinces:

- Bagmati Province (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Makwanpur)
- Madhesh Province (Dhanusha)
- Karnali Province (Surkhet)



Programmatic Interventions and Impact

1. School Support Program (SSP)

The School Support Program is Social Lab's flagship initiative designed to address educational poverty through integrated, holistic, and school-based interventions. SSP combines nutrition, financial literacy, language development, recreational learning, and behavior reform into a single, coherent model



Key Outcomes

- Significant improvement in student attendance across partner schools
- Increased classroom participation and reduced fear-based learning
- Stronger student-teacher relationships through reward-based discipline
- Enhanced community trust in public schools

2. Financial Stimulation Model (FSM)

FSM is an incentive-based, child-friendly financial literacy model that links positive behavior, hygiene, attendance, and participation with token-based rewards. Students earn FSM tokens, which they can save in a Token Bank, exchange during FSM Marketplaces, or use for small loans.

2025 Highlights

- FSM implemented in multiple public schools across Bagmati and Madhesh Provinces
- FSM Marketplaces organized in partnership with national banks
- Teachers trained to independently manage FSM systems
- FSM integrated into daily classroom routines



Impact Observations

- Students demonstrated early saving and budgeting habits
- Reduction in corporal punishment through positive reinforcement
- Improved student motivation and school attendance
- Parents reported children discussing money management at home
- FSM continued to emerge as a scalable and cost-effective model with strong local ownership.

3. Financial Stimulation Model (FSM) Marketplace Events

FSM Marketplaces are experiential learning events where students apply financial concepts in a simulated market environment.

2025 FSM Marketplace Highlights:

- ✔ Conducted in partnership with Everest Bank, Muktinath Bikas Bank, and Shine Resunga Development Bank.
- ✔ Over 500 students directly participated across multiple events
Students practiced price comparison, rational buying, saving, and interest calculation.
- ✔ Bank representatives engaged directly with students, strengthening real-world exposure.



4. Mid-Day Meal Program (MDM)

The Mid-Day Meal Program addressed one of the most critical barriers to learning: hunger and malnutrition.

2025 Achievements

- Over 30,000 nutritious meals served across partner schools
- Noticeable reduction in stomach-related health complaints
- Improved concentration and classroom engagement
- Support for schools in establishing sustainable kitchen systems



MDM proved to be a foundational intervention, directly influencing attendance, retention, and learning outcomes.

5. English Language Tutorial (ELT)

ELT focused on building confidence and foundational English skills through interactive, student-centered approaches suitable for multi-grade classrooms.



Key Results

- Students demonstrated increased confidence in speaking and singing in English
- Improved participation in classroom discussions
- Teachers adopted more engaging, activity-based teaching methods

6. Recreational Therapy (RT)

Recreational Therapy used music, art, games, and movement to support students' emotional, social, and cognitive development.



Observed Outcomes:

- Improved peer interaction and cooperation
- Reduced classroom stress and fear
- Stronger sense of belonging and safety among students

7. Creative Writing and Storytelling Workshop

In 2025, Social Lab conducted a series of Creative Writing and Storytelling Workshops in partnership with SOS Village, Banepa.

Workshop Highlights:



- Participation of secondary-level students
- Improved creative expression and confidence
- Strong engagement through storytelling circles, group work, and sensory writing
- High demand for follow-up creative learning sessions

8. Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement

Teacher Development

- Teachers trained on FSM implementation, positive discipline, and child-friendly pedagogy
- Improved classroom management and motivation strategies



Parent and Community Engagement

- Parent orientation and training sessions conducted
- Increased parental involvement in children's learning
- Strong collaboration with School Management Committees (SMC) and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA)





9. Local Government Collaboration

- Alignment with municipal education priorities
- Support for long-term integration of programs into school systems



1,200+ Children Reached

Social Lab Nepal reached more than 1200 children in 2025 alone through holistic school support interventions, improving learning outcomes by addressing academic, behavioral, nutritional, and emotional needs within public school systems.

Leave No Child Behind

School Support Program

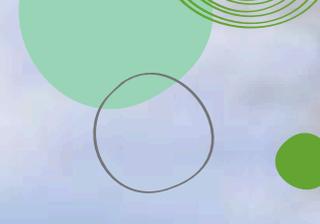


AMSARA
creating responsible economy

SOCIAL
LAB

madec





Impact Highlight



**30,000+
Nutritious
Meals Served**

Over 30,000 nutritious mid-day meals were provided to students, directly strengthening child wellbeing, increasing school attendance, and improving learning readiness—particularly in food-insecure communities.

Impact Highlight

**95% Positive
Behaviour Shift**

Through the Financial Stimulation Model (FSM), 95% of participating students demonstrated improved motivation, discipline, and classroom engagement, contributing to safer, more positive, and fear-free learning environments.



Impact Highlight

**Impact Across
3 Provinces**

**6+ Local Government
Integrations**

School Support interventions reached 3 of Nepal's 7 provinces, enhancing equitable access to quality education. The models have been adopted by over 6 local governments, strengthening institutional ownership and ensuring long-term sustainability.

स्था-२०३४

बटेश्वर गा. पा. २

धनुषा



Impact Highlight

100+ Teachers Capacitated

Over 100 teachers were equipped with behavioral science tools, child-friendly pedagogy, and positive discipline strategies—transforming classroom culture and improving student-teacher relationships.



Impact Highlight

80+ Families Engaged

More than 80 families participated in holistic family literacy and empowerment sessions, strengthening parental involvement and fostering supportive home environments that reinforce children's learning.



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

Social Lab adopted the OECD Evaluation Criteria framework, focusing on:

Effectiveness



Efficiency



Sustainability



Relevance

Methodologies Used:

- Surveys with students, teachers, and parents
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
- Stakeholder consultations



Partnerships and Collaborations (2025)



Social Lab Nepal worked closely with:



Shree Rastriya Basic School, Batteswor Rural Municipality-03



Shree Madhyamik Vidyalaya , Ichhapur- Chhireswornath Municipality-09



Shree Satkanya Basic School , Battedanda- Bagmati Rural Municipality-02



Shree Saraswoti Basic School , Shikharpa- Godawari Municipality-06



Testimonials



Being an ELT Fellow with Social Lab was deeply transformative. Interactive learning helped shy students gain confidence and joy in learning. This experience reaffirmed my belief in creative, student-centered education.

- Ashish Thapa, ELT-Fellow

Earlier, meals were only for ECD-Class 5, and senior students often ate unhealthy snacks or cold food from home. Now, with a proper school kitchen, students from Classes 6-8 also get freshly cooked meals. We feel full, healthy, and comfortable throughout the day

Aarosh Nagarkoti, Class 8



The FSM Program has brought remarkable change among our students. Improved participation, discipline, and learning motivation are clearly visible. Students are developing saving habits and responsible purchasing behavior. FSM has also helped making learning engaging.

Prabina Pyakurel, FSM Focal Teacher

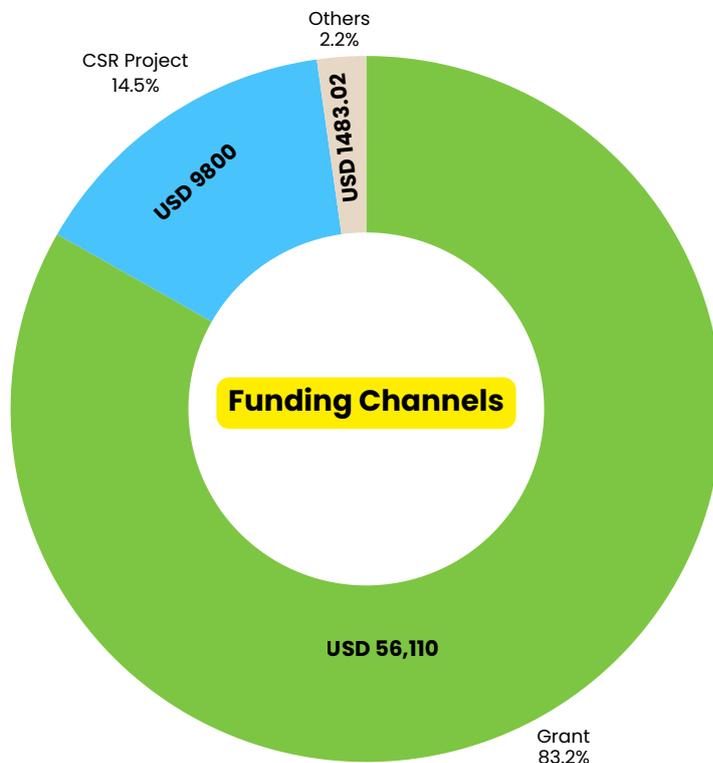
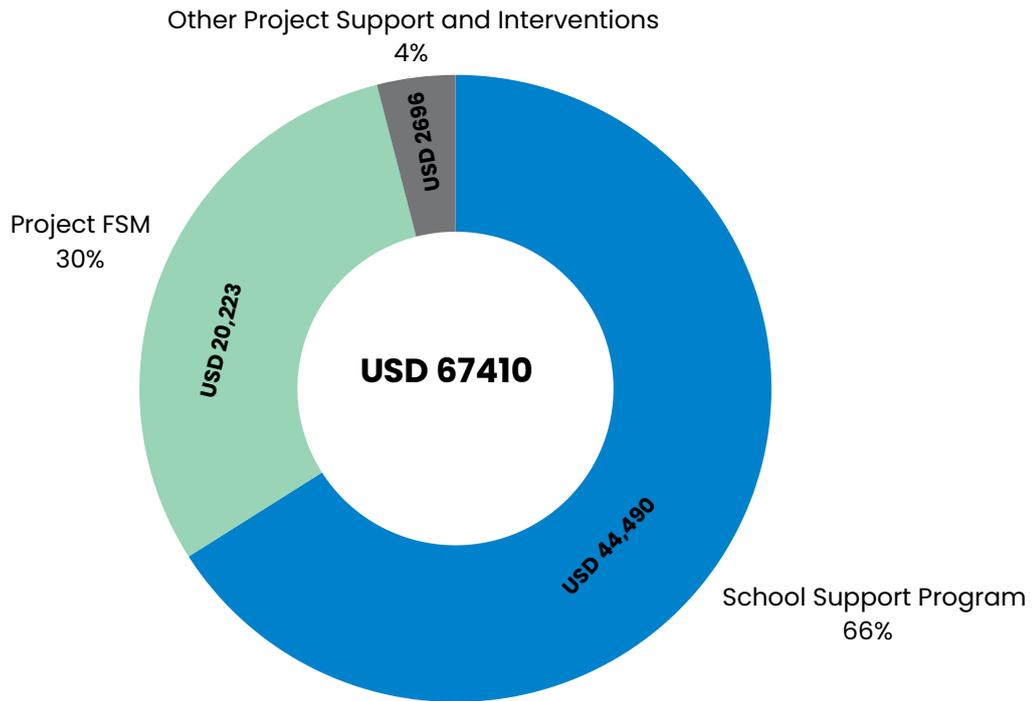
Social Lab is an dedicated young team. In their third year in our ward, the changes have been remarkable. Through collective efforts, we established an ICT hall, continued FSM, and improved the school kitchen. Their innovation and commitment are truly commendable.

Bishnu Man Maharjan, ward chair-06



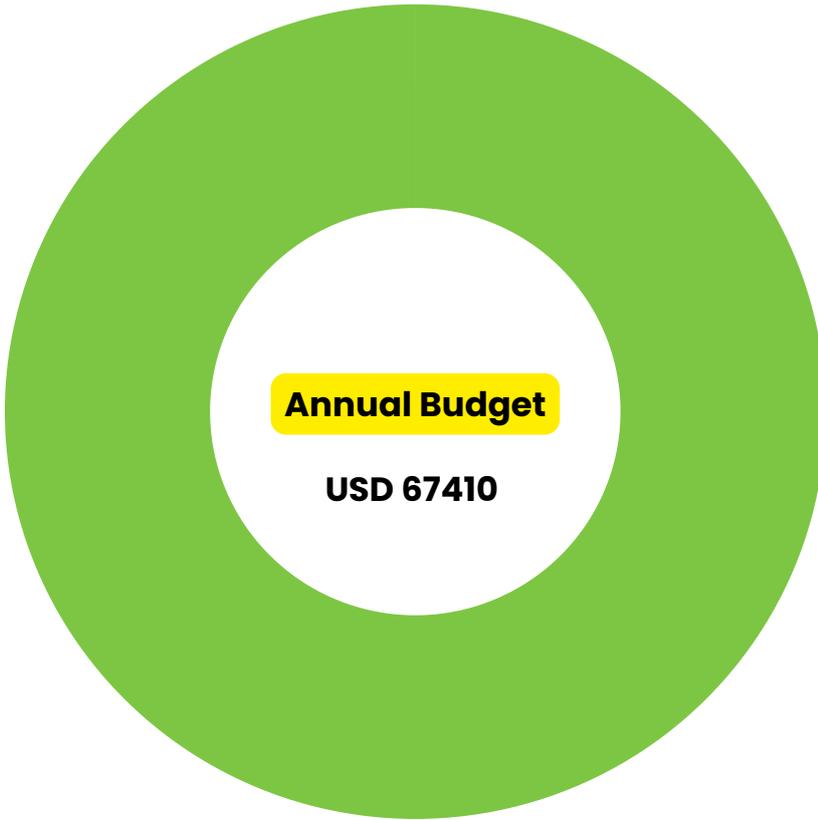
Financial Overview (Summary)

In 2025, Social Lab Nepal mobilized USD 67410 through donor funding, CSR partnerships, and program-based collaborations. Funds were primarily allocated toward:

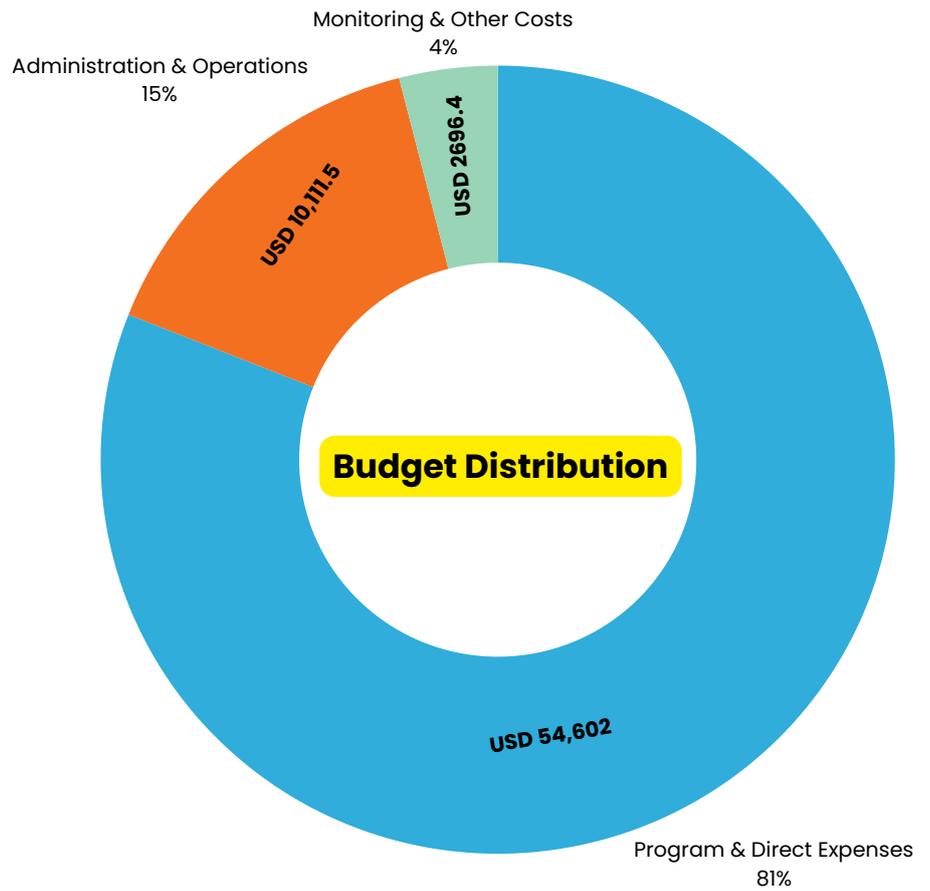


Note: A detailed audited financial statement can be provided upon request

● Total Budget



Total Budget
100%



Challenges Faced in 2025

- Resource constraints in remote schools
- Teacher turnover in public schools
- Balancing scale with quality
- Limited government funding for nutrition and extracurricular learning



Way Forward: Strategic Priorities for 2026

- Scale FSM to additional public schools, particularly in Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki, and Sudurpaschim Provinces
- Introduced new components of Social Lab Nepal to amplify our impact on the ground
- Strengthen teacher leadership and peer-learning networks
- Expand creative and mental well-being programs
- Deepen CSR and institutional partnerships
- Strengthen impact measurement and longitudinal research

Acknowledgment

Social Lab Nepal expresses sincere gratitude to all children, teachers, parents, schools, partners, donors, local governments, and team members who contributed to the organization's work in 2025.



Social Lab Nepal

Email: sociallab.np@gmail.com

Website: www.sociallab.com.np

