



**U-GO**  
NEPAL



# Annual Report

2024-25

## Message from the Executive Chairperson

**Dinesh Pd. Shrestha**  
Executive Chairperson



### Dear Friends,

The year 2024-25 has been a remarkable chapter for U-GO Nepal, one defined by progress, resilience, and inspiration. With your steadfast support, we enabled 243 young women across 15 districts of Nepal to pursue higher education. For many, this represents a historic milestone as the first in their families to enter college.

At U-GO Nepal, our mission extends beyond scholarships. Through a holistic model of mentorship, life-skills training, and counselling, we are equipping young women not only to excel academically, but also to grow as leaders who can influence their families, communities, and the nation. This year, we strengthened our mentorship network, conducted impactful training, and expanded our reach, ensuring that more deserving students have the opportunity to thrive.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to scaling our programs and building a strong alumnae network, so that the ripple effects of education and empowerment continue to spread.

On behalf of the entire U-GO Nepal family, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your trust and partnership. Together, we are creating pathways of opportunity and shaping a brighter future for young women in Nepal.



## Message from the Founder & CEO, U-GO

**John Wood**  
Founder & CEO



### Dear Friends,

Over the last 25 years of devoting my life to education projects, I have seen time and again how opportunity can transform lives. What continues to inspire me most is how the impact of a single scholarship extends far beyond one student – it uplifts families, strengthens communities, and creates a future where young women are empowered to lead and contribute. This is the remarkable change that U-GO strives to advance every day.

The young women in Nepal who join the U-GO community demonstrate extraordinary passion, resilience, and determination. Many of them face challenges that would discourage even the strongest among us, yet they continue to persevere. What they often need is simply a chance to pursue their aspirations. Through support, mentorship, and encouragement, U-GO is helping them unlock opportunities they once believed were out of reach.

I am pleased that our partnership with U-GO Nepal, established in 2023, has enabled us to expand our support in one of my favourite countries, and one that forever changed my own path as a younger man. In just two years, we have awarded long-term scholarship to 243 young women. They are now pursuing higher education at colleges and universities across the country through our scholarship program. We are committed to extending our reach even further, ensuring that deserving young women—especially from rural areas—do not miss the opportunity to be part of this program.

I am equally delighted that U-GO Nepal is publishing its first Annual Report, capturing the achievements, progress, and impact of the past year. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the U-GO Nepal team for their exceptional dedication in transforming the lives of so many young women.

To our supporters, partners, and team members: thank you. Your unwavering commitment enables more young women to pursue education—not only for themselves, but for the generations that will follow.

## About U-GO Nepal

U-GO Nepal, established in 2023, is a registered non-profit organization under the Social Welfare Council (SWC) of Nepal. As part of the global U-GO network, which operates across 9 countries, we share a common vision: to enable ambitious young women from low-income families to pursue higher education and unlock their fullest potential.

At U-GO Nepal, we believe that education is not only a right but also a catalyst for empowerment and social transformation. Higher education empowers young women to dream boldly, break the cycle of poverty, and step into leadership roles in their families, communities, and the nation. With every scholarship awarded, we are not simply covering the cost of education we are investing in futures, nurturing leaders, and creating ripples of change that extend far beyond the classroom.

Our support is designed to remove the financial barriers that often stand between young women and their dreams. Each U-GO Nepal scholarship helps cover:

- Tuition and examination fees
- Essential learning materials such as books and stationery
- Uniforms and other academic necessities
- Additional educational expenses

But our work goes beyond financial aid. We provide scholars with mentorship, life-skills training, and peer-support networks, ensuring that they develop not only academically but also personally and professionally. This holistic approach builds confidence, resilience, and leadership, enabling our scholars to thrive and inspire others.



Looking ahead, we envision a strong and vibrant alumnae network of U-GO Nepal scholars who will contribute as teachers, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. Guided by the belief that when one girl rises, we all rise, U-GO Nepal remains committed to shaping a future where education unlocks opportunities for every young woman in Nepal.

## Vision

Where every young woman in Nepal regardless of her socio-economic background can pursue quality higher education and shape her future with dignity, independence and opportunity.

## Mission

To reduce financial and social barriers for young women in Nepal by providing comprehensive support that includes:

- Scholarships covering tuition fees and essential academic expenses
- Mentorship from professionals and alumnae who can guide their personal and professional growth.
- Life-skills and leadership development training to prepare them for the challenges of adulthood and the workforce

## Objectives

1. Provide Scholarships: Identify and support bright, motivated young women from marginalized and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, enabling them to enroll and complete undergraduate programs.
2. Build Confidence & Leadership: Develop scholars' self-esteem, communication skills, and leadership capacity through workshops, mentorship, and exposure opportunities.
3. Strengthen Institutional Partnerships: Collaborate with colleges, universities, and local governments to expand program reach and ensure sustainability.
4. Create an Alumnae & Mentorship Network: Build a robust alumnae community that supports new cohorts, fosters peer-to-peer learning, and develops future mentors and role models.
5. Promote Gender Equality: Advocate for girls' education as a driver of community development and gender equity in Nepal.



## Programs and Updates

Program / Session	Objective	Key Activities	Accomplishments
<b>Scholarship Program</b>	Provide financial assistance for tuition, fees, and academic expenses, enabling disadvantaged & marginalized young women to pursue undergraduate degrees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarship awards across multiple faculties</li> <li>Covers tuition and academic expenses</li> <li>Focus on first-generation learners</li> </ul>	243 scholars supported in 2024–25 academic year across 15 districts
<b>Mentorship Program</b>	Build long-term academic and career support networks by pairing scholars with mentors and alumnae.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One-on-one mentorship</li> <li>Group mentoring circles</li> <li>Networking sessions</li> </ul>	30+ active mentors engaged; stronger alumnae network
<b>Life Skills &amp; Leadership</b>	Strengthening scholars' confidence, communication, and leadership abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Captainship training</li> <li>Life-skills workshops</li> <li>Leadership seminars with guest speakers</li> </ul>	Increased scholar participation in peer leadership
<b>Psychosocial Counselling</b>	Ensure scholars' mental health and emotional well-being alongside academic progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual counselling</li> <li>Group counselling</li> <li>Stress management sessions</li> </ul>	Early support for at-risk scholars; improved retention
<b>Monitoring &amp; Support System</b>	Ensure accountability and track progress throughout the academic journey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular scholar check-in calls</li> <li>Home and college visits</li> <li>Continuous performance reviews</li> </ul>	90% scholar retention and improved academic performance
<b>U-GO AI Session</b>	Introduce scholars to emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, to enhance digital literacy and future career readiness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interactive workshop on AI tools and applications</li> <li>Hands-on activities and discussions on AI ethics</li> <li>Exploration of AI's role in education and employment</li> </ul>	Scholars gain exposure to digital innovation and emerging technologies; increased interest in STEM and AI fields
<b>Global Conference Participation</b>	Provide international exposure and learning opportunities through participation in global educational and leadership platforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two scholars represented U-GO Nepal at a global conference in Vietnam</li> <li>Pre- and post-conference engagement sessions</li> <li>Sharing insights and experiences with fellow scholars</li> </ul>	Enhanced confidence, cross-cultural understanding, and global outlook among scholars

## Global Conference Participation – Vietnam

In April 2025, two U-GO Nepal scholars Rahimat Jaha Khan (Bachelor of Public Health, Central Department of Public Health) and Puspa Shukla (Bachelor of Computer Application, Camad College) represented Nepal at the U-GO Ambassador Program held in Da Nang, Vietnam. The five-day event, organized by U-GO Global, brought together scholars from eight partner countries for leadership workshops, cultural exchange, and collaborative discussions on education and women’s empowerment.

Throughout the program, Rahimat and Puspa engaged in interactive sessions on leadership, communication, and community development. They shared their personal journeys, learned from international peers, and explored ways to translate global insights into meaningful local action.

Their participation not only enhanced their confidence and global outlook but also reflected the growing impact of U-GO Nepal’s mentorship and leadership initiatives. Upon returning, both scholars shared their learnings with fellow participants in Nepal, inspiring others to think beyond boundaries and lead with purpose.



## Progress to Date

### Scholarship Program Reach

U-GO Nepal currently supports 243 scholars enrolled across 48 colleges in 15 districts of Nepal, creating a strong national footprint.

Total Partnering Colleges: 48

1. Government: 28
2. Private: 20

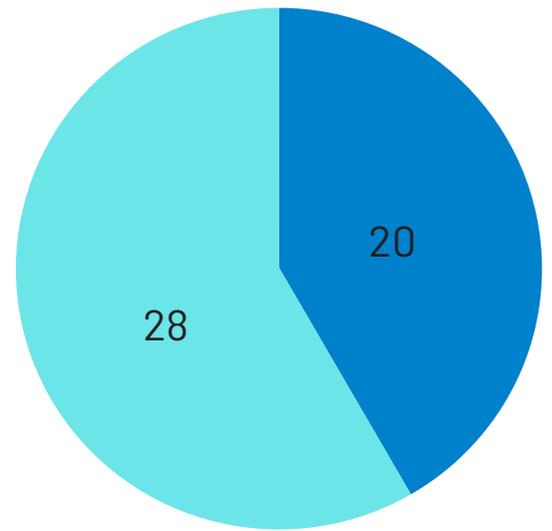
Government College



Private College



## Total College



# TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED: 243

### Our Impact In Numbers

U-GO supports ambitious young women from low-income and deprived backgrounds in their pursuit of higher education by offering financial scholarships.

243

Scholarships Awarded

young women empowered to pursue higher education.

100+

Scholars Mentored

guided toward academic & personal success.

3+

Training Conducted

leadership, career, life-skills training sessions.

80+

Scholars Trained

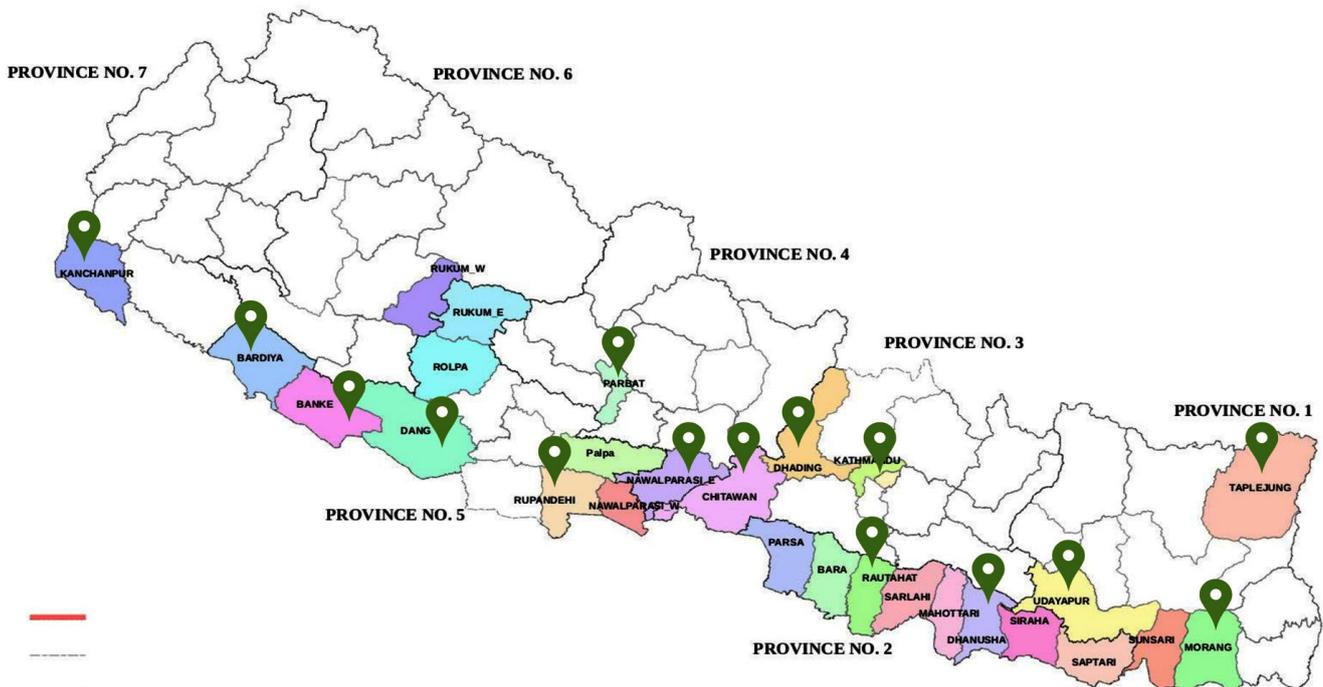
Provided with mentoring, skill development, and capacity-building support.

42

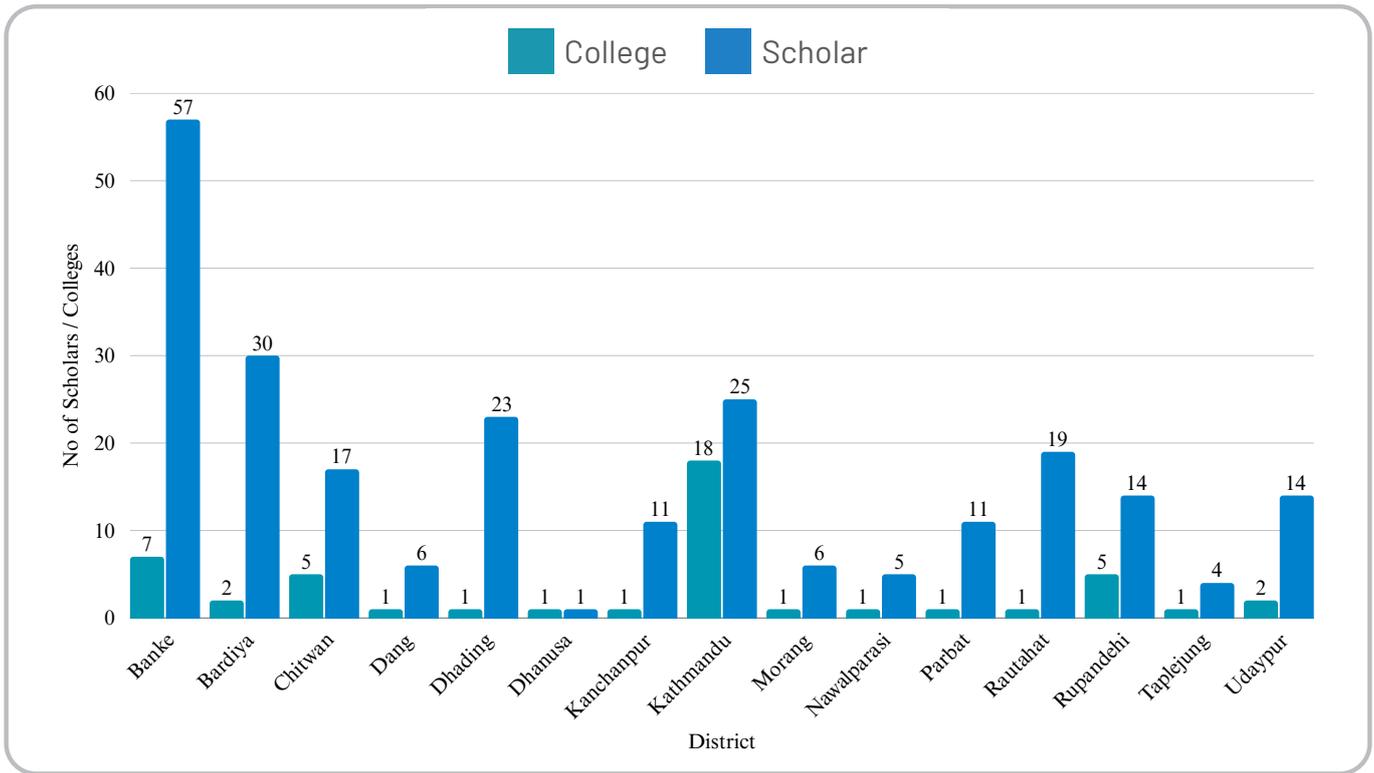
Academic Partners

Partnering for a better future.

## U-GO Nepal Program District and Reach

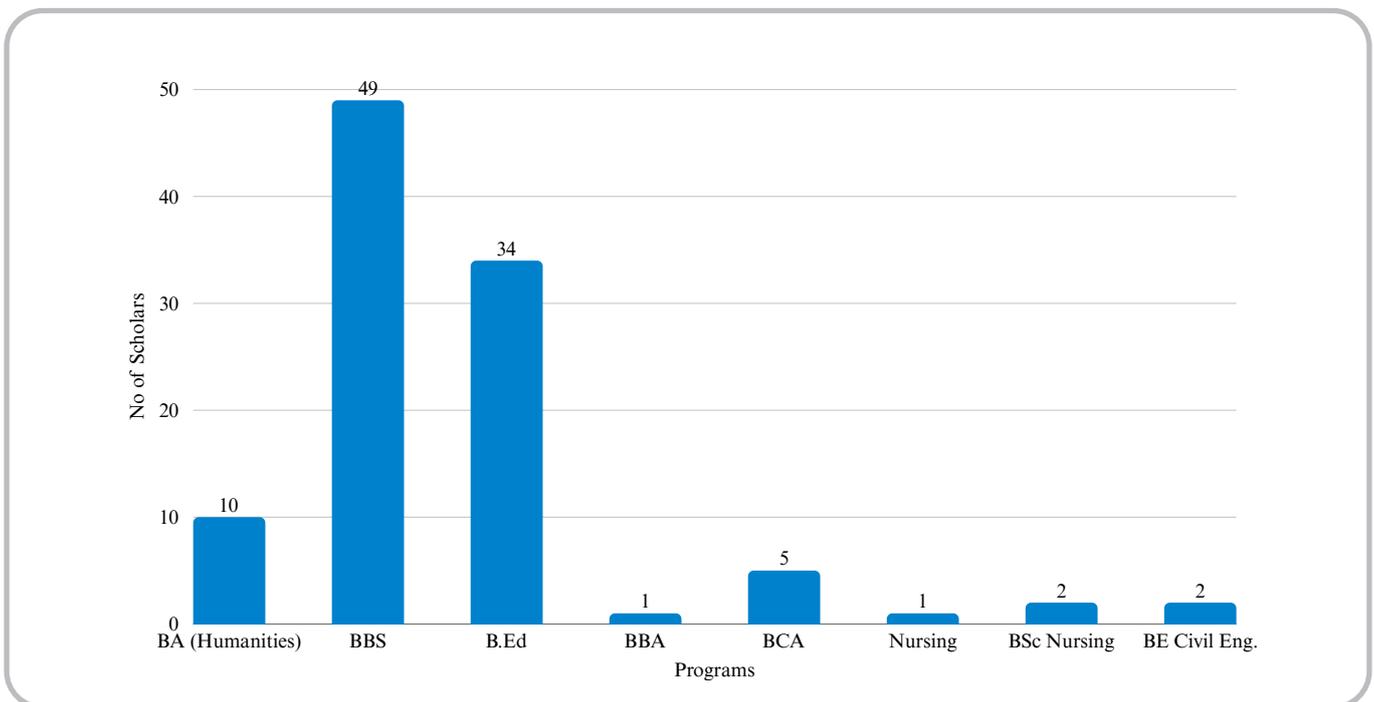


### District -Wise Scholar Distribution

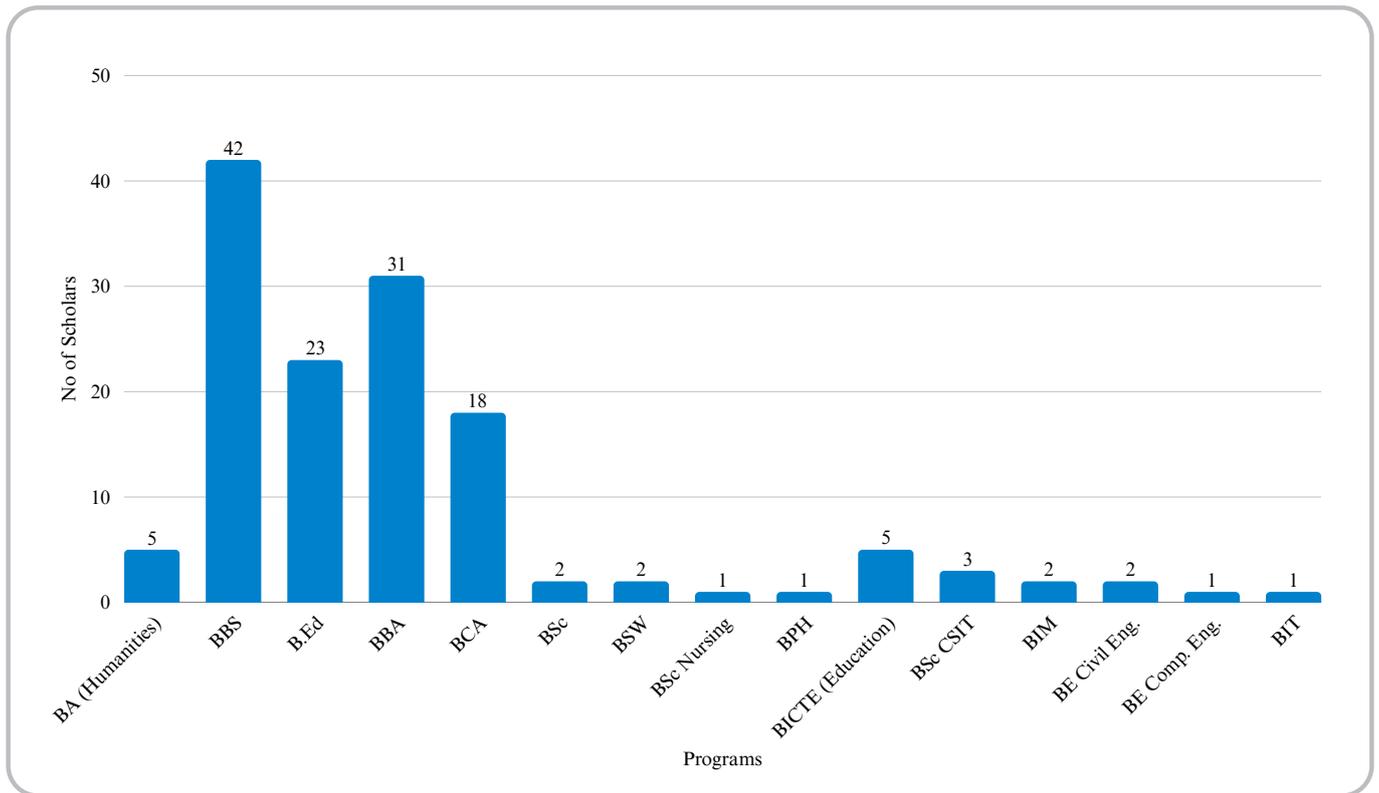


The table illustrates the district-wise distribution of scholars across the program’s implementation areas. A total of 243 scholars have been engaged through 48 colleges spanning 15 districts of Nepal. The highest number of scholars is in Banke District with 57 scholars across 7 colleges, followed by Bardiya with 30 scholars and Dhading with 23 scholars. In contrast, districts such as Dhanusa and Taplejung have a relatively lower representation. The distribution highlights the program’s broad geographical coverage and its commitment to ensuring equitable access to educational opportunities across diverse regions of the country.

### Faculty-Wise Enrollment cohort 1



## Faculty-Wise Enrollment cohort 2



### Faculty-Wise Enrollment

The table provides an overview of scholar enrollment across academic programs for Cohort I and Cohort II, totaling 243 scholars. The highest enrollment is observed in the Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS) program with 91 scholars, followed by the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) with 57 scholars, and the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with 32 scholars. Other programs such as BCA, BA (Humanities), and BSc also reflect notable participation. The data indicates a strong inclination of scholars towards management and education-related disciplines, aligning with current academic and employment trends in Nepal. Moreover, the gradual diversification into technical and professional fields, including Engineering, Information Technology, and Health Sciences, demonstrates the program's evolving focus on addressing emerging workforce demands.



## Capacity-Building and Support Activities

Alongside scholarships, U-GO Nepal emphasizes holistic scholar development. Key activities conducted include:

1. Captainship Program: Senior scholars appointed as College Captains to monitor peers and provide monthly progress reports.
2. Life-skills & Leadership Trainings: Over 60 scholars participated in interactive sessions on leadership, emotional intelligence, gender equality, SRHR, cyber security, and legal literacy.
3. Mentorship & Counselling: Regular mentorship sessions and academic counselling are provided to support both personal and academic growth.
4. Regular Engagement: Continuous scholar support through monthly calls, orientation sessions, and dedicated WhatsApp groups ensuring real-time communication and monitoring.
5. Field Visits & Reviews: Faculty engagement, classroom observations, and community interaction strengthened local support networks.



## Empowered by Opportunity: Scholar Highlights

### Sirjana Tharu

Sirjana comes from a family of six: her father, mother, two older sisters, herself, and her younger sister. Her parents are hardworking farmers who also work as laborers to support the family. Despite the challenges they face, her parents have always been supportive of Sirjana's dreams.

Currently, Sirjana is in her third year of a Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS) program at Kohalpur Model Campus. Balancing her studies with the financial difficulties her family faces is challenging, especially after completing her +2 when societal pressures to marry increased. However, her family encouraged her to pursue her education and achieve her goal of securing a government job to serve the public.



In addition to her academic pursuits, Sirjana serves as the chairperson for the Ranighat Community Forest. In this role, she promotes sustainable harvesting practices and collaborates with the government to prevent forest encroachment in her locality. She also issues letters for the forest department and coordinates various activities with her team to raise awareness about forest conservation in her community.

Sirjana also volunteers as a scholar with U-GO Nepal, working with other scholars and participating in regular meetings to stay updated. Despite her many responsibilities, she prioritizes her academic pursuits, understanding their importance in achieving her dreams. Her commitment to improving her family's financial situation and making them proud is a driving force in her life. Her parents' belief in her aspirations motivates her to work hard and never let them down.

Sirjana is deeply grateful to U-GO Nepal for providing her with the scholarship opportunity that has illuminated her path. This support allows her to continue her education and strive towards her goals. Sirjana Tharu's story is a powerful testament to the impact of perseverance, family support, and the transformative power of education. Her dedication to her studies, her community, and her family is truly inspiring, showcasing the potential to overcome challenges and achieve great things with the right support and determination.



## Tshering Gole Tamang

Meet Tshering Gole Tamang, a young woman whose journey is defined by extraordinary courage and unshakable resilience. Born in Bahrabise Municipality, Sindhupalchowk, Tshering's life changed forever in the devastating floods of July 2020. In a single night, she lost her entire family, her greatest source of love and security. Left completely alone, she faced not only the weight of grief but also the fear of an uncertain future.

The trauma of this tragedy pushed Tshering into a period of deep depression. Simple tasks felt heavy, and continuing her studies seemed almost impossible. As an orphan navigating life without emotional or financial support, every day was an

overwhelming challenge. Yet even in her darkest moments, a quiet determination began to grow within her.

With remarkable courage, Tshering chose not to let tragedy define her. She started setting small daily goals, tiny steps that gradually helped her regain confidence. She immersed herself in volunteer work, hoping that helping others might also heal her own heart. Through these efforts, she discovered a newfound sense of purpose and a desire to contribute to the well-being of her community.

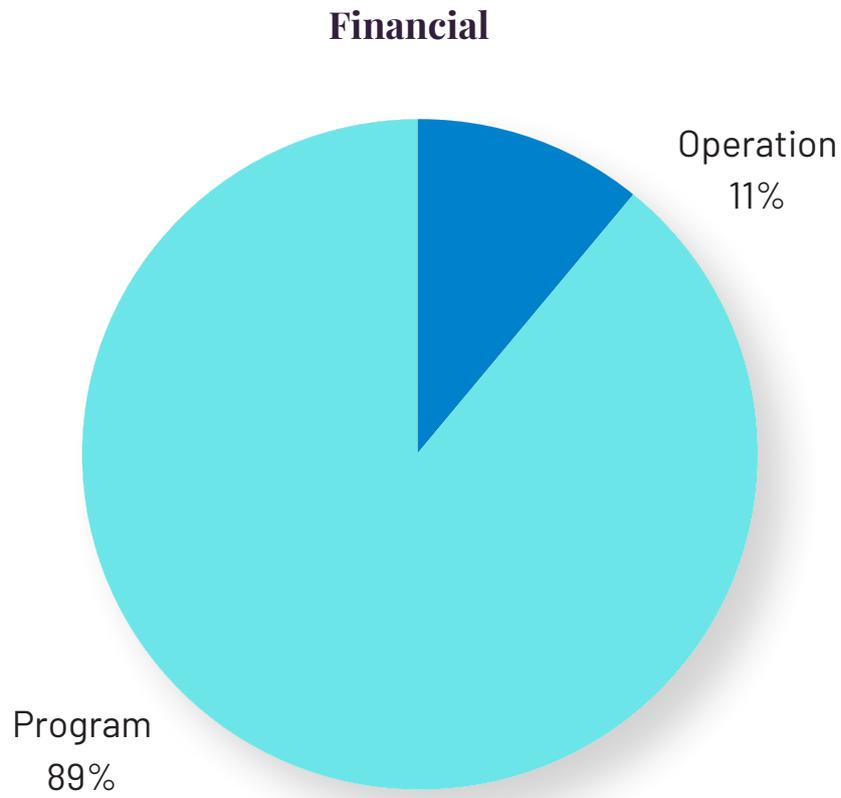
Academically, the road was not easy. After high school, Tshering struggled to keep up, battling both emotional scars and financial hardship. But her perseverance never wavered. With no guardian to guide her and very limited resources, she worked tirelessly until she secured a scholarship and successfully completed her +2 in Kathmandu.

Today, Tshering is taking the next bold step in her journey. With the support of U-GO, she is now pursuing her nursing career, a path inspired by her own experiences of loss, healing, and hope. She dreams of becoming a compassionate healthcare professional who can support others in their most vulnerable moments.

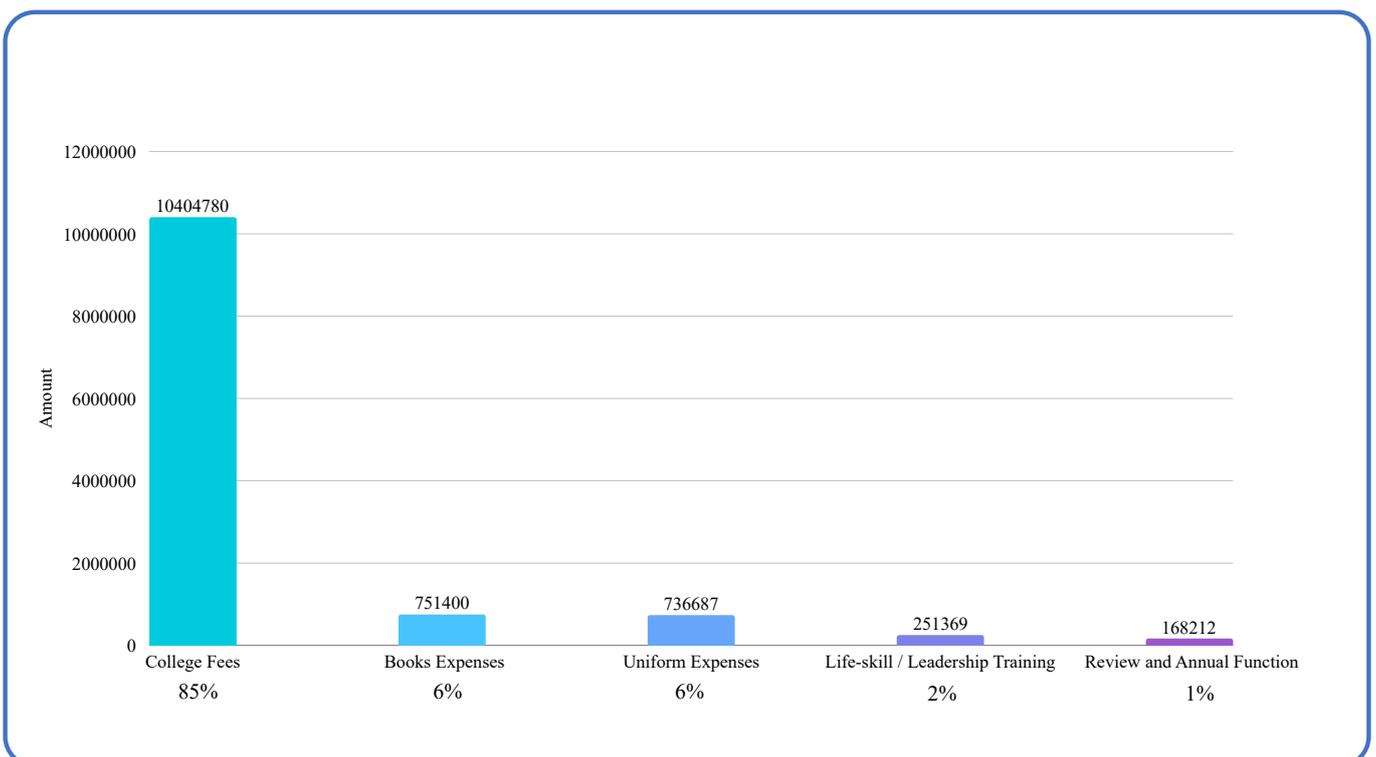
Tshering's story is not just one of survival, it is a testament to strength, resilience, and the power of hope. From unimaginable tragedy, she is building a future filled with purpose, courage, and the promise of brighter days ahead.

## Budget & Expenses

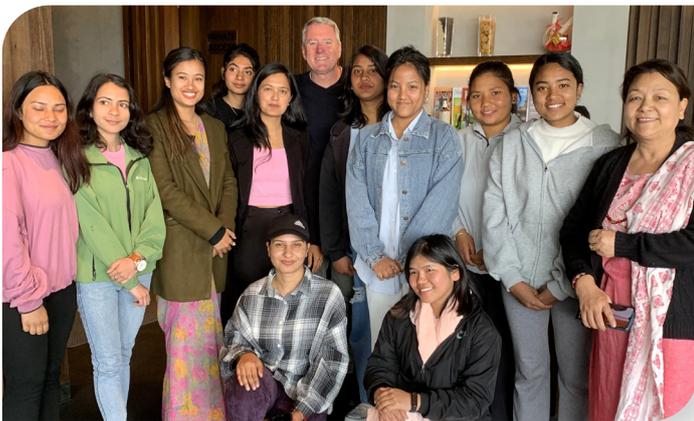
The chart below represents the allocation and utilization of funds for the reporting period.



### Program Expenses



## Glimpse of U-GO Nepal 2025



## Glimpse of U-GO Nepal 2025



# THANK YOU

## FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY

Every scholarship and every success story is made possible through your support.



Together, we are empowering young women across Nepal to rise, lead, and inspire meaningful change.



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