

# Year End Report 2025



# Emergence: A Year In Review

Executive Summary .....	3
A Message From The Community Homestay Network (CHN) Team .....	4
From The Community: What Tourism Means To Us .....	6
Who We Are .....	8
Why Community Tourism Matters .....	9
Impact Snapshot .....	11
What The World Is Saying About Community Homestay Network .....	17
Community Connect 2025 .....	18
Awards And Recognitions .....	23
Elevating Community Voices On Global And Local Platform .....	26
Partnerships That Strengthen The Ecosystem .....	29
Strengthening Local Capacity And Leadership In Tourism .....	34
Learning While Navigating Complexity .....	37
How We Are Strengthening Our Way Forward .....	38
From Visibility To Market Readiness: Fixed Departures And Featured Products 2026 .....	39
Thank You .....	41



# Executive Summary

In 2025, Community Homestay Network (CHN) advanced its community-led tourism model across rural, semi-urban, and urban Nepal, working with 51 communities, 408 households, and benefiting around 2,000 people through homestays and locally led experiences. The year brought notable recognition, including the Gender Equality Champion of the Year Award (Accommodation), ICRT awards for local sourcing and shared value, and founder Shiva Dhakal receiving the PATA Nepal Trailblazer Award. CHN strengthened its flagship event, Community Connect, hosting nearly 40 journalists and travel professionals across emerging destinations, generating over 70 international media features. Emphasizing product readiness, ethical storytelling, and responsible partnerships, CHN collaborated with organizations like [Planeterra](#), [ICIMOD](#), [NTB/STP](#), and academic partners to enhance equity, sustainability, and community capacity. Looking ahead, CHN remains committed to bridging communities and travelers, ensuring tourism adds value without disrupting local ways of life.

## Key Highlights (2025):

- Engaged 51 communities and 408 households, benefiting ~2,000 community members through homestays and experiences.
- Received major awards: Gender Equality Champion of the Year, ICRT Gold & Silver, and PATA Nepal Trailblazer Award for founder Shiva Dhakal.
- Community Connect hosted ~40 journalists and travel professionals, showcasing emerging destinations and generating 70+ international media features in outlets including TIME, The Guardian, National Geographic Traveller UK, and Lonely Planet among others.
- Focused on product readiness, ethical storytelling, and responsible partnerships, rather than rapid expansion.
- Collaborated with Planeterra, ICIMOD, NTB/STP, and academic institutions to enhance equity, sustainability, and long-term community impact.



# A Message From The Community Homestay Network (CHN) Team

This year, we balanced outward growth with intentional reflection. As well as reaching new audiences, we continued to deepen and evolve existing community tourism experiences for our travelers. CHN's work was featured by notable media titles globally, and we were invited to share our experiences in spaces that encouraged us to look even deeper within. These opportunities amplified the voices of our communities and inspired us to reflect on our processes, partnerships, and practices. We carry this commitment to meaningful external communication and ongoing introspection with us into 2026.

Alongside these achievements, we encountered challenges that gave us valuable lessons, moments when products were not fully ready and uncertainties brought about by changing political landscapes, when building trust required transparency, patience and care.

These experiences have helped us grow, guiding us to work more intentionally with clearer structures and thoughtful reflection, while remaining true to our core purpose. For us, community tourism is about dignity, co-creation and cultural continuity, while creating a tourism model that is sustainable, fair, and resilient in the long term.

Looking ahead, our focus is clear: to convert visibility into value, invest in quality over quantity, and continue walking with local communities on this journey of changing perceptions and strengthening community tourism in Nepal.

To our communities, travellers, partners, supporters, and readers, thank you for being a valued part of our shared learning journey!





“

*To our communities, travelers, partners, supporters and readers, the CHN family wishes you a meaningful and inspiring 2026 filled with growth, collaboration and shared learning.*

*We thank you for being an essential part of our journey to strengthen community tourism in Nepal*

*- CHN Team*

”



Picture Credit: Simon Urwin

# From The Community: What Tourism Means To Us

Community tourism, as practiced by CHN across Nepal, is not just about welcoming travelers, it is about learning by doing, collective ownership, cultural continuity, and resilience. Across generations, gender, and geographies, communities recognize that tourism is most meaningful when rooted in lived experience and shaped by those who call the place home.

As Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary from Bhada, Sudur Paschim Province, explains,

“*Nothing will happen in safeguarding culture, nature, or business growth if we do not take ownership.*”

- Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary  
Bhada Community Homestay

”

Established in 2011, Bhada Community Homestay preserves Tharu culture while creating dignified livelihoods. The journey began with national-level dialogue and research, linking culture, handicrafts, and traditions to tourism. Bhada joined CHN in 2018 to responsibly share its community-led tourism products with wider audiences.

# From The Community: What Tourism Means To Us

In Patan, community tourism grew through adaptation.

“

*Hosting initially started as a learning space for my children, who were studying hospitality. When tourism stopped during COVID-19, we adapted by starting our small home-based spice business, Lucky 7.*

*- Ujjwala Bajracharya Shakya  
Patan Community Stay*

”

When the pandemic halted travel, Ujjwala Bajracharya Shakya and six other women started a home-based spice business, later hosting momo cooking experiences in 2025. Despite language barriers, teaching travelers empowered them, generating income and confidence, and expanding their role as local guides.

From Bhada in far-western Nepal to Patan in the heart of the Kathmandu Valley, community tourism brings both joy and challenges. Youth often move away, cultural practices face decline, and passing knowledge across generations requires constant effort. Yet one belief unites these communities: tourism thrives when it is owned, practiced, and shaped by the people themselves. CHN's role is to support this ownership, helping communities transform their traditions and stories into meaningful, authentic tourism experiences.

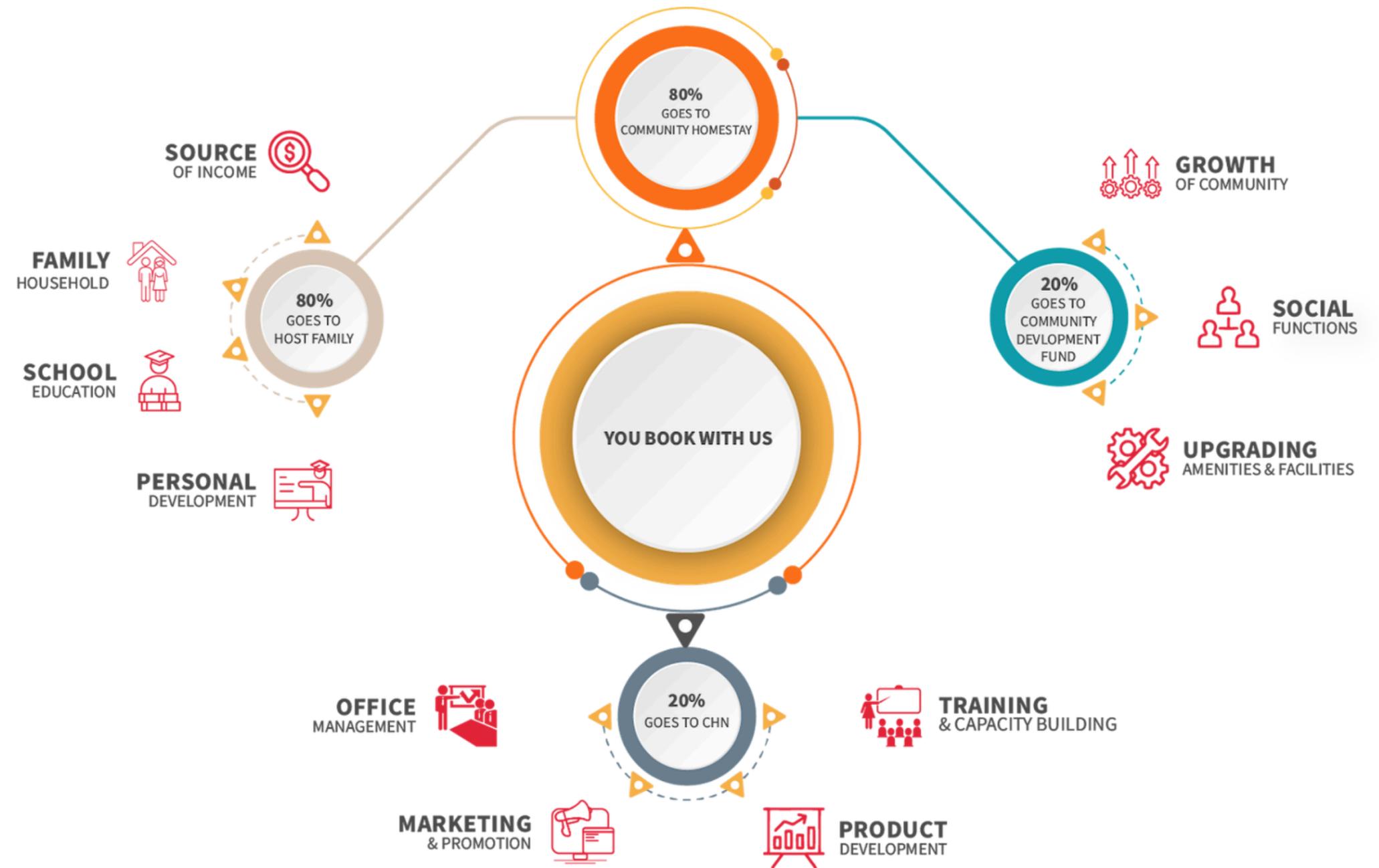


# Who We Are

Since its founding in 2017, CHN's vision and approach have been shaped by the experiences, successes, and challenges of communities across Nepal. Our mission is to build tourism by centering communities, culture, and shared value, moving beyond traditional models focused on a few popular destinations. Working across rural, semi-urban, and urban areas, we collaborate with communities to create authentic, high-quality tourism experiences that foster cultural immersion and economic empowerment.

Through co-creation and inclusive engagement, CHN now works with 51 communities, supporting local residents in developing and managing their tourism products. CHN directly engages 408 households, benefiting around 2000 community members through homestays and locally led experiences.

By partnering with communities, local governments, and impact organizations such as [Planeterra](#), [ICIMOD](#), [NTB/STP](#), and Kathmandu University's RES Program, CHN fosters a tourism model that is inclusive, culturally respectful, and economically sustainable. Our training in hospitality, hygiene, business skills, and storytelling equips communities to meet global standards while sharing their stories authentically. Combined with a revenue-sharing model, these collaborations ensure benefits flow broadly, strengthening collective ownership, harmony, and local pride.





# Why Community Tourism Matters

Community tourism goes beyond travel, serving as a pathway to economic empowerment, cultural safeguarding, and sustainable development. In 2025, internal reflection deepened our understanding of the ecosystem in which we operate our communities, partners, audiences, and organizational capacities helping refine strategies and strengthen collaboration. At the same time, sustaining equitable engagement across remote and lesser-visited communities remained a challenge, prompting renewed focus on access, inclusion, and fair distribution of opportunities.

We observed growing interest from travel agents, alongside persistent assumptions that community-led experiences should be priced lower than conventional tourism. Variations in infrastructure and hosting capacities across communities raised important questions around fair valuation, standardization, and respectful intervention without compromising authenticity. Through these experiences, CHN's work across Nepal demonstrates how community-rooted tourism strengthens women's economic agency, nurtures youth leadership, creates dignified local employment, and protects living cultural heritage.

Through targeted capacity building, ethical storytelling, strategic media engagement, and carefully curated Community Connect experiences, we generated meaningful visibility, credibility, and demand. These reflections now guide how we amplify local voices and engage beyond our immediate communities through ethical storytelling, partnerships, and global platforms, as explored in the sections that follow.

“*Tourism has provided more than just income, it's for the whole community. I'm proud to be part of Narchyang Community Homestay, as it has opened doors to earning and building confidence.*”

- Premmati Buduja, Host,  
Narchyang Community Homestay



“

*Community tourism turns travel into a relationship, not a transaction. It places decision-making power in the hands of local communities, especially women and youth. For me, it is one of the most practical ways to advance dignity, ownership, and long-term sustainability.*

- Aayusha Prasain, CEO  
Community Homestay Network

”

Picture Credit: Simon Urwin

# Impact Snapshot 2025



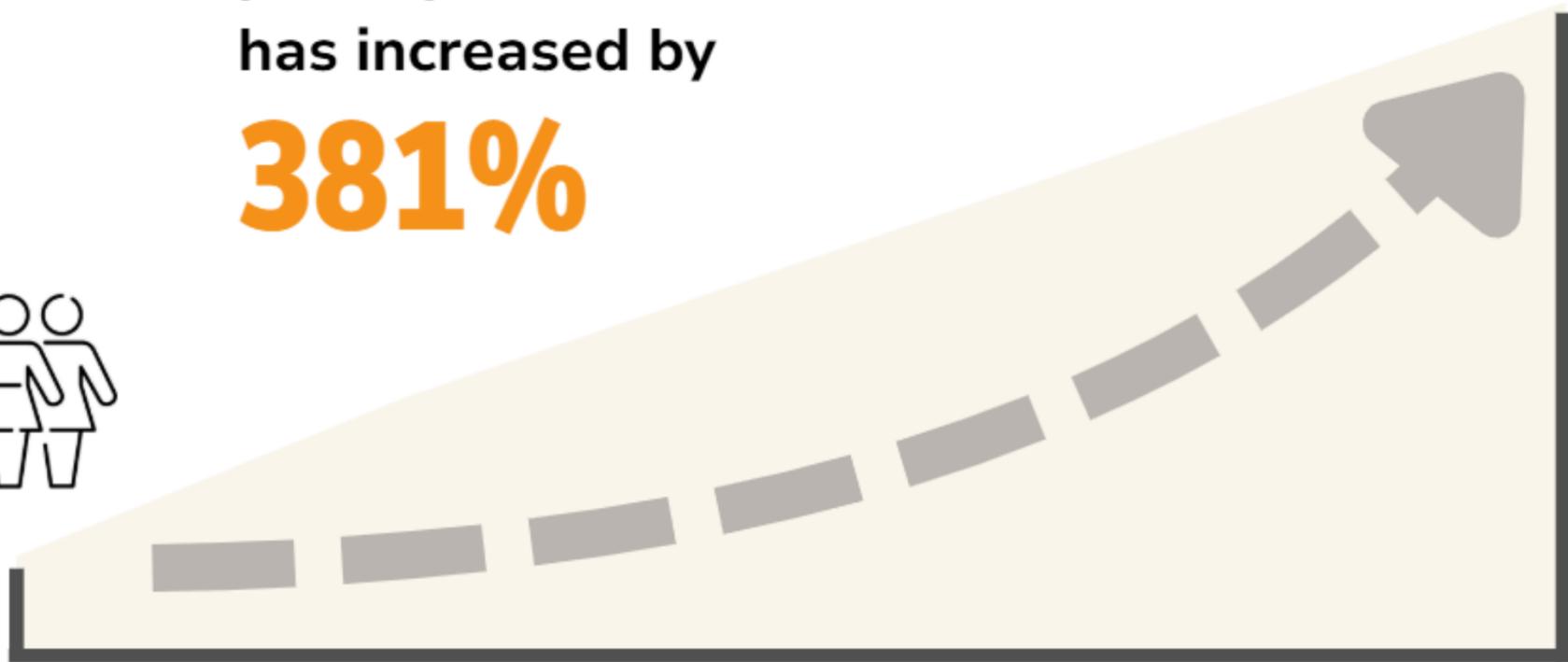
# Reimagining Tourism Through Women Leadership

Since 2018  
**Women**  
participation in our network  
has increased by

**381%**



180



2018

2025



865



“

*Tourism helps us earn, share our traditions, sell what we make, and stay connected to our culture while welcoming visitors.”*

— Isha Mahato  
Barauli Community Stay

”

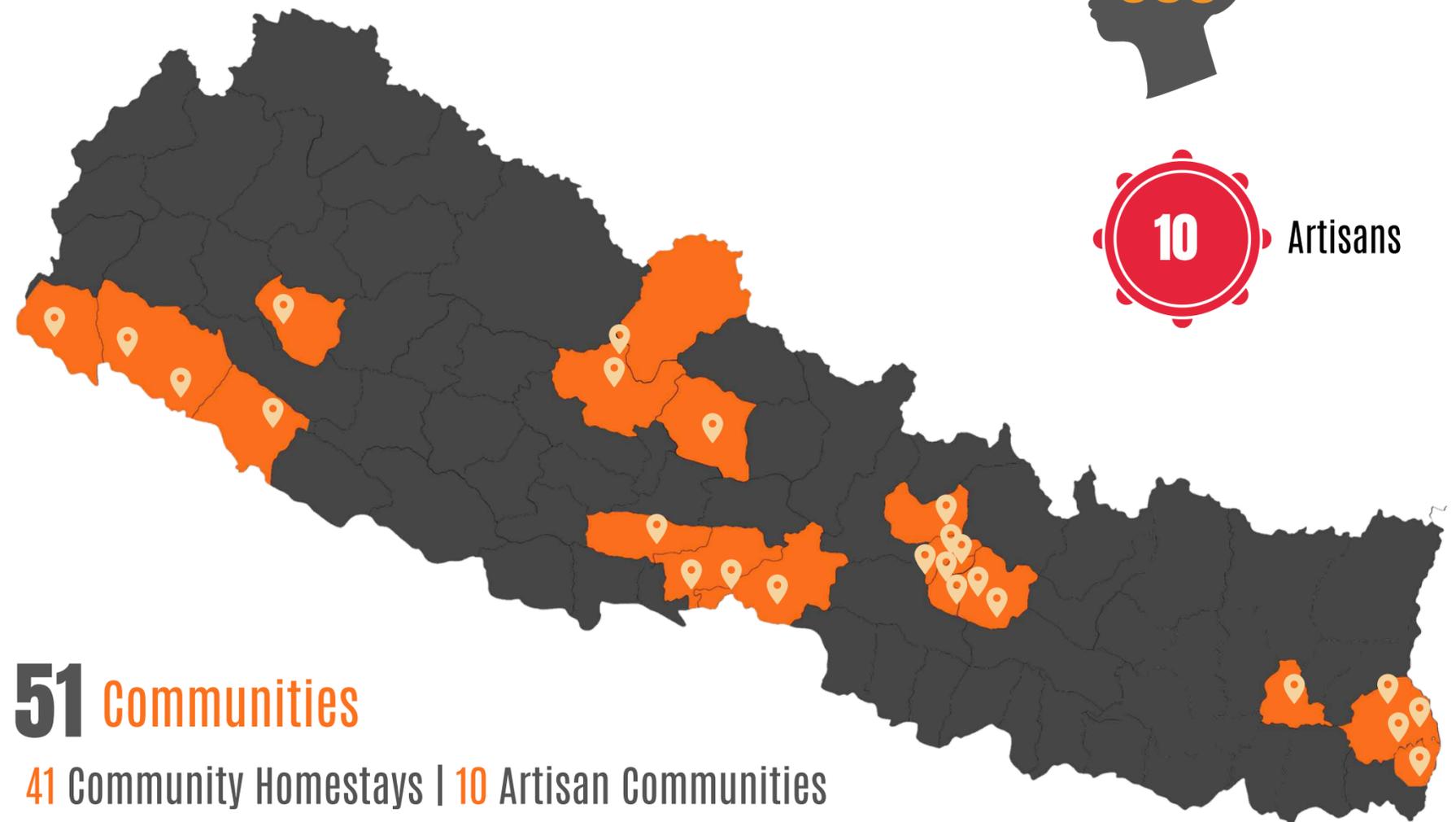


# In our Network

**408** Households

**865** Women reached

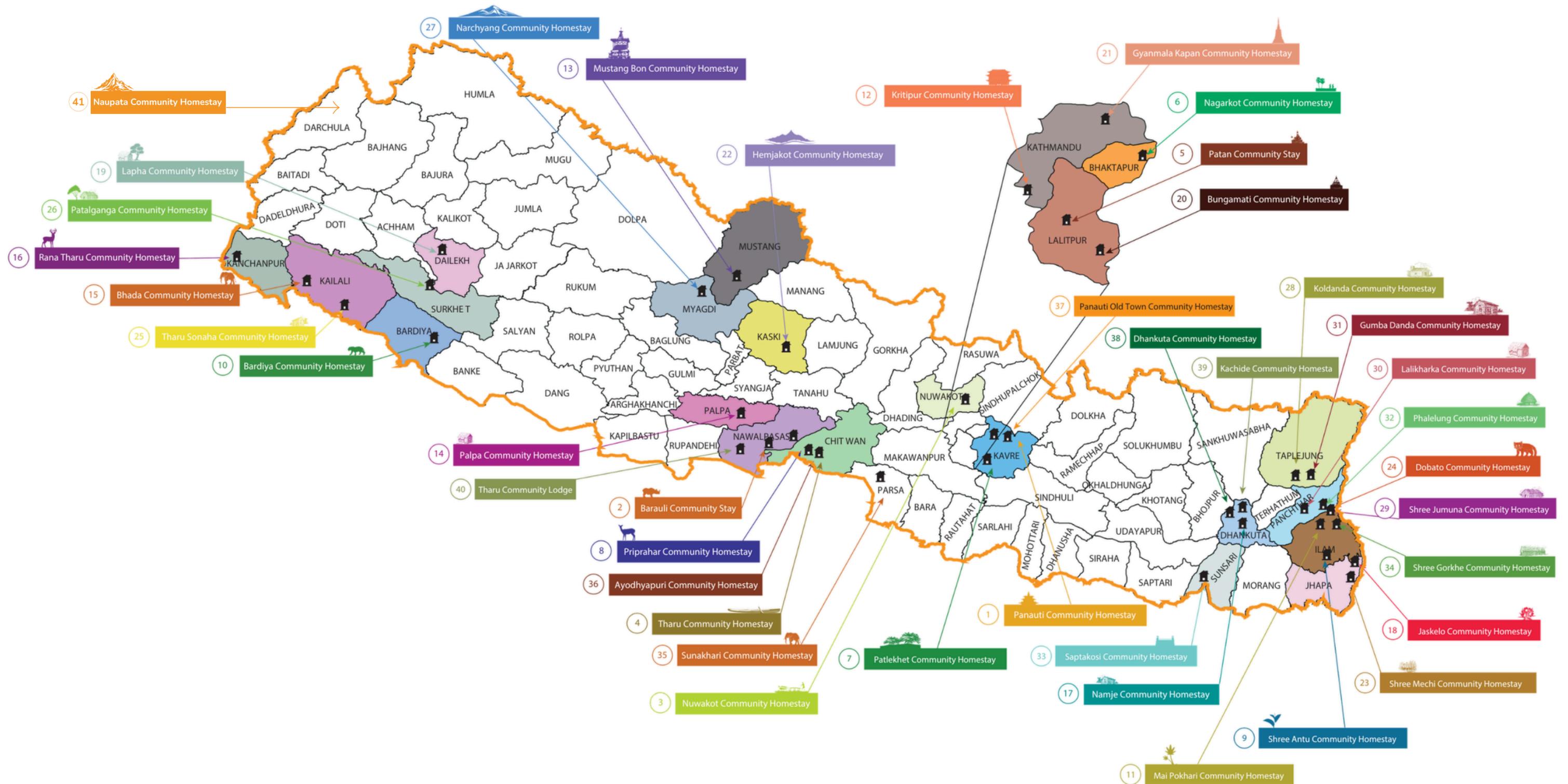
**10** Artisans



**51** Communities

41 Community Homestays | 10 Artisan Communities  
Across Nepal

# Communities Across Nepal



# Reach



**4104** Travelers



Hosted from

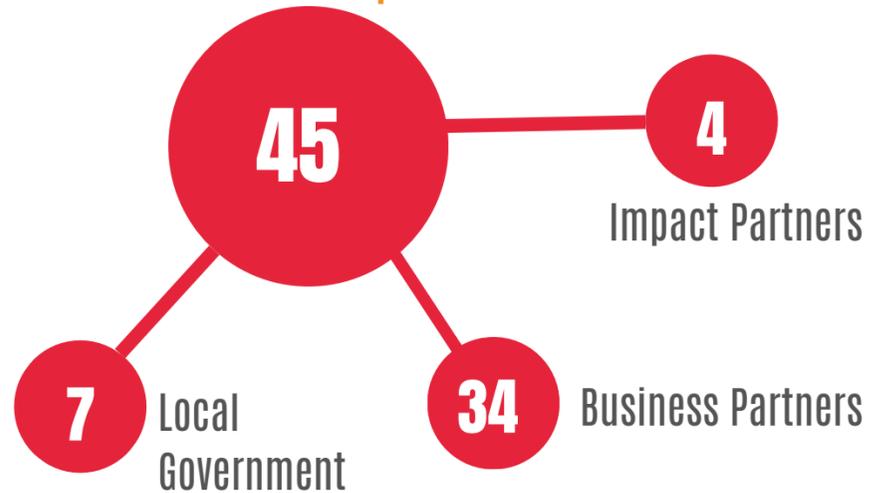
**52** Countries

In **35** Communities

Average Length of Stay

**1.5** Days

## Partnerships



Over **70** Features and Press Releases



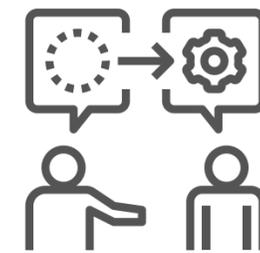
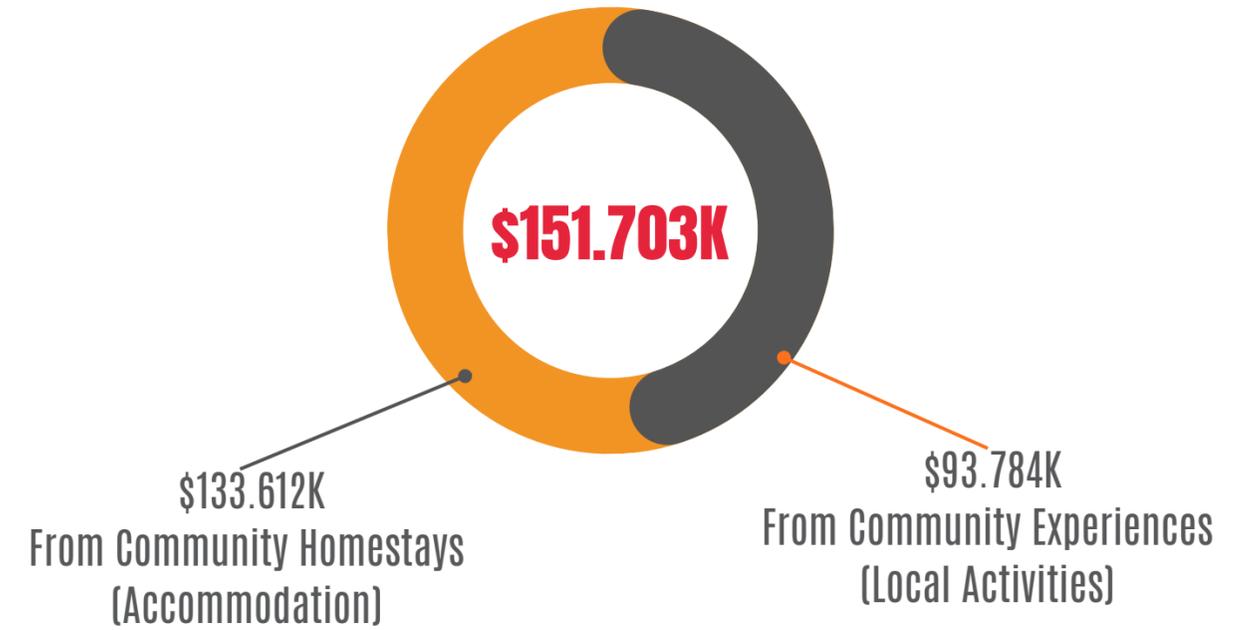
**2** Awards and Recognitions





# Impact

Overall value generated for the Communities



**7** Capacity Building Program + Peer to Peer Knowledge Exchange



**1945** Beneficiaries



**11** Community Meet-ups for Quality Assurance

# What the World Is Saying About Community Homestay Network



➤ “The fastest way to feel the pulse of a destination is by getting to know its people.” — [TIME Magazine](#) highlighting CHN’s deep cultural immersion and connection between travelers and hosts.



➤ “Nepal: A new homestay network is putting money into the pockets of rural women.” — [National Geographic Traveler](#) (Best of the World 2026) spotlighting CHN’s economic impact and focus on empowering women through tourism.

➤ “Asia’s little-known region where ‘the guest is god’.” — [BBC Travel](#) feature that captures the heart of Nepali hospitality showcased through community homestays.

➤ “Arrive as strangers, leave as friends: why homestays are the future.” — [TTG Media](#) emphasizing how CHN experiences transform travel through personal connection and community engagement.



➤ “Far from tourist hotspots... staying with a family in a rural mountain village gives a vivid taste of life...” — [The Guardian](#) reflecting on authentic cultural insights and meaningful travel experiences enabled by CHN.



# Community Connect 2025



## Global Visibility, Local Impact: Elevating Community Tourism

Building on lessons from 2024, CHN continued Community Connect in 2025 in close partnership with communities and stakeholders. Launched to highlight the power of locally-led tourism, the program aims to improve tourism products while amplifying community voices to a global audience.

A key challenge remains raising awareness of lesser-known destinations and ensuring economic benefits reach local communities. Many travelers and tour operators hesitate to explore these offbeat locations, making direct, immersive exposure essential. In 2025, CHN hosted nearly 40 journalists, content creators, and travel agents to experience destinations such as Bhada, Bardiya, Hemjakot, Narchyang, Nagarkot, Bungamati, Kirtipur, Dhankuta, and Janakpur. Their participation generated over 70 international media features in outlets including [TIME](#), [The Guardian](#), [National Geographic Traveler UK](#), [Lonely Planet](#), and [BBC Travel](#), among others, elevating Nepal's community tourism globally.

From a single homestay in Panauti in 2012 to formal registration in 2017, Community Connect reflects nearly a decade of effort. Beyond recognition, CHN emphasizes reflection, collaboration, and capacity building, working with communities and partners through meetings, peer learning, and advocacy to strengthen sustainable, locally-led tourism. Seeing communities confidently share their stories and having them amplified by international media reinforces CHN's core mission: supporting local entrepreneurship through responsible tourism





**BBC**

Asia's little-known region where 'the guest is god'



**The Guardian**

'You can feel the gods here': a village homestay in Nepal that supports Indigenous women



**TIME**

The World's Greatest Places of 2025 / Community Homestay Network



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELLER**

Best Of The World 2026



**WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM**

How tourism can be a catalyst for cultural exchange and shared prosperity



**lonely planet**

A guide to Nepal's homestay network

Media Coverage

# Dialogue And Learning



# Dialogue And Learning

Community Connect 2025 brought together communities, local governments, media, and global advocates to amplify community voices and foster dialogue on responsible tourism. The event highlighted how collaboration from grassroots to national levels is essential for building resilient, locally led tourism models that safeguard culture, support livelihoods, and ensure long-term sustainability.

## Key Highlights:

- Pre-event reflection with familiarization trip participants and community hosts to discuss experiences, feedback, and priorities.
- Panel on **Mainstreaming Community Tourism for a Resilient and Inclusive Future** with ICIMOD, Planeterra, and NTB.
- Panel on **Decommodifying the Narrative exploring ethical media storytelling that centers local voices.**
- Community-led experience-sharing session emphasizing untold stories and cultural authenticity.
- Reaffirmed CHN's mission: promoting inclusive, sustainable, and impactful community tourism with support from key partners like Planeterra, ICIMOD, and NTB/STP.

Communities that were represented on stage during Community Connect Event 2025:



Suraj Bastola  
Nagarkot Community Homestay  
Nagarkot, Bhaktapur



Basanti Rana  
Rana Tharu Community Homestay  
Rana Tharu, Kanchanpur



Nabin Rai  
Local Guide  
Khambela, Dhankuta



Lila Bhattarai  
Mai Pokhari Community Homestay  
Mai Pokhari, Illam

# Awards And Recognitions

Community Homestay Network marked a series of meaningful milestones by receiving the Gender Equality Champion of the Year Award 2025 (Accommodation Category), the ICRT Indian Subcontinent Award for Increasing Local Sourcing and Creating Shared Value (Gold), and the ICRT Global Responsible Tourism Award for Increasing Local Sourcing and Creating Shared Value (Silver). In addition, our founder, Mr. Shiva Dhakal, was honored with the PATA Nepal Trailblazer Award for his sustained efforts to make tourism a force for good.



## Spotlight on the Community members

For Kabita, community tourism is all about working as a team. Together with four other members, she runs the momo-making experience for visitors in Kirtipur, coordinating every aspect to ensure the activity runs smoothly and that the benefits are shared equally. Reflecting on her journey, she shares,

“ *If I had to do it alone, I could not have managed this experience. I needed to gain hosting experience with travelers. Now, I am deeply engaged with the members of my community to create something meaningful, and I am happy to work with them.*  
- Kabita Maharjan,  
Kirtipur Community Homestay ”

The Momo-making class, co-developed with Planeterra and Kirtipur Community Homestay, has welcomed nearly 2,000 travelers over just two years, generating approximately USD 23,000 in income for the local women’s group. This initiative demonstrates the transformative potential of high-quality product development when paired with strong organizational support and, most importantly, the enthusiasm, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit of the women involved.

Beyond hosting, Kabita has also engaged in storytelling and digital empowerment through CHN’s collaboration with [The Doers Nepal](#). She participated in a podcast episode alongside Basantiji and took part in a content creation workshop for members from seven communities, learning how to craft and share authentic stories, reach wider audiences, and represent her culture with dignity.





## Spotlight on the Community members

During Community Connect 2025, Mr. Buddhi Sen Chaudhary, founding member of the Barauli Community Stay and President of the Tikauli Bufferzone Community Forest, shared his decade-long journey integrating tourism with conservation, highlighting the impact of locally driven leadership. His insights showed how community-led, culturally grounded tourism has shaped Barauli into a model rural destination. The session, alongside community-led sharing and the panel Communities as Narrators, emphasized the importance of untold stories in building an equitable tourism landscape led by communities.

In a separate conversation during our team members visit to Barauli, Buddhi, also Chief Experience Officer at G Adventures and co-founder of Tharu Community Lodge, reflected on the ripple effects since 2015:

“

*Today, we have around 20 new accommodation businesses in Barauli, about 80% locally owned, including Tharu Community Lodge, Green Village Hotel, Peacock Lodge, Mitiyu Cottage, and Lamichaur Agro Resort. One community enterprise can inspire others to invest responsibly and take ownership of tourism development.*

*-Buddhi Sen Chaudhary  
Tharu Community Lodge*

”

He highlighted growth in nature-based experiences, with 12 local entrepreneurs offering jeep safaris, boating, and other activities. Over 66 individuals now benefit from employment in community stays, and more than 21,500 travelers have visited **Barauli** beyond the original homestay.

# Elevating Community Voices On Global And Local Platforms



# Positioning Community Tourism Within Global Responsible Tourism Discourse

In 2025, the Community Homestay Network (CHN) engaged in global and regional forums to share experiences and learn from evolving conversations on responsible tourism, women-led entrepreneurship, and regenerative tourism. Key platforms included:

- ▶ ITB Berlin – Import Promotion Desk panel
- ▶ World Travel Market London – When Place Speaks Back session
- ▶ ICRT Global Annual Summit & India Roundtable – **Creating Shared Value**
- ▶ SCOT webinar – **Regenerative tourism and justice**

Through these exchanges, CHN highlighted the practical realities of community-led tourism, women's empowerment, and market linkages, while gaining insights from policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders to better address sectoral challenges.

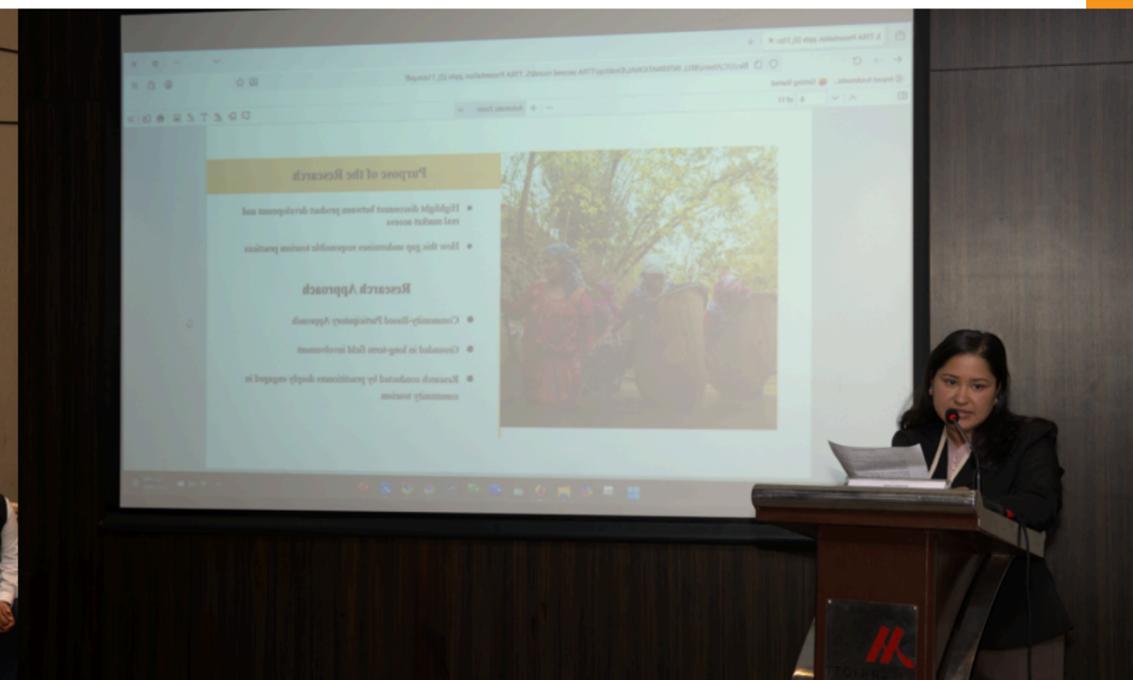
CHN also participated in a cultural exchange in Kerala, learning how responsible tourism can be embedded through policy, institutions, and government engagement, and reflecting on how similar approaches could strengthen local ownership, equitable benefits, and sustainable practices in Nepal.



# Expanding Horizons Through Academic Collaboration And Knowledge Exchange

CHN worked with international and local academic institutions, researchers, and students to integrate evidence-based insights into community tourism initiatives.

- ▶ Contributions to Women's Voices in Tourism Research and presentations at **TTRA ASPAC** on local entrepreneurship and market connectivity
- ▶ Engagements with Lucerne University, Hong Kong Polytechnic, Golden Gate International College, and GATE College through lectures, interactive sessions, and symposiums
- ▶ Hosted **Reimagining Nepal's Tourism** at NATHM, facilitating dialogue on tourism shifts and the role of communities in shaping sustainable, locally-led tourism
- ▶ These efforts help CHN refine approaches, strengthen community capacities, and ensure that tourism initiatives remain locally relevant, economically viable, and culturally respectful, supporting the long-term sustainability of community-led tourism



# Partnerships That Strengthen The Ecosystem

At CHN, partnerships are built on shared purpose and co-creation rather than transactions. Our partners and collaborators bring distinct and diverse strengths technical expertise, policy insight, market access, and global platforms while communities bring lived knowledge, culture, and leadership. Together, these partnerships strengthen community tourism ecosystems that are resilient, inclusive, and locally owned.

*When you come across an excellent concept and product, which CHN undoubtedly is, the immediate desire is to want to spread the word to the travel trade. However, it's also important to realise that this product may not be for everyone, and so discussing how it is best portrayed in certain markets was an essential part of our planning. Luxury clients would love to try a day experience, while experiential clients will happily try a couple of nights during a longer itinerary and planning circuits around that became the way forward. For trekking clients, the homestays are a wonderful option at the start or end of any trek. Regardless of the option taken, the client still has a wonderfully authentic experience and the communities benefit.*

*-Philippa J Kaye*

Founder, Indian Experiences | Specialist in India & Nepal



# Building Community Capacity And Market Readiness

Through partnerships under HIGRID, a project funded by the Australian Government and implemented by ICIMOD, we were able to organize Familiarization trip to Dhankuta via flagship initiatives like Community Connect, and the Mangshire/Wadagment Festival, CHN worked closely with local governments and partners such as ICIMOD, NTB, and STP to strengthen community readiness. From scoping studies in municipalities like Chattar Jorpati to hands-on training in Dhankuta, communities were supported in digital marketing, product development, sales, and hospitality. Through this partnership we have been seeing some tangible and intangible outcomes of youth and local guides gaining confidence in designing, hosting, and sharing tourism experiences, using storytelling that connected culture, climate resilience, and smart water management, while shared media kits and a unified HIGRID narrative enabled effective engagement with journalists and global audiences during Community Connect 2025, positioning Dhankuta as a model for scalable, responsible tourism in eastern Nepal.

In emerging destinations such as the Api Base Camp Trail and Khandeshwori, collaboration with STP helped address limited market visibility by strengthening homestay capacity and connecting local initiatives to national tourism platforms, enhancing competitiveness while ensuring inclusion.



## Storytelling, Exposure, And Shifting Tourism Narratives

CHN has consistently worked with partners to broaden and reframe how Nepal is seen and experienced. Through the Community Connect Initiative, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board and other stakeholders, CHN facilitated targeted familiarization trips for national and international journalists, media professionals, and B2B travel agents.

These engagements were designed to move beyond transactional tourism marketing and instead create immersive, story-driven experiences rooted in community voices. A key milestone was a networking session in London that brought together over 30 international journalists, helping reposition Nepal's tourism narrative beyond mountains and adventure toward community-led, culturally immersive experiences.

Importantly, we carried handwritten messages from community members to share directly with global travel advocates, conveying why community matters and how travel, when done responsibly, can be a force for good.

### Why are these stories important?

- Shifts perceptions of Nepal by highlighting community-led experiences beyond mountains and adventure.
- Builds connections between travelers and communities for authentic, memorable engagement.
- Promotes responsible travel by centering local voices and respecting culture and environment.
- Boosts competitiveness by showcasing immersive, community-focused tourism to diverse, socially conscious markets.



## Learning Partnerships And Sustained Community Engagement

Our collaboration with RES has grown over more than five years, enhancing CHN's ability to engage with geographically remote communities. The partnership has taken MBA students to 13 communities across Nepal, spanning from the Far Western to the Eastern Himalayan regions. Through this engagement, RES fellows and students have supported communities by providing context-relevant inputs and conducting workshops on marketing, management, and entrepreneurship, while gaining hands-on experience in community engagement themselves. In 2025, student teams worked with communities in Patalganga (Karnali Province) and Patlekheta (Bagmati Province), ensuring continuity, mutual learning, and sustained connections that extend beyond individual project cycles.

### Key Achievements for 2025:

- Fostered meaningful exchange where students learn from communities while contributing skills and ideas.
- Supported ongoing engagement that extends the benefits of projects beyond their immediate duration.
- Strengthened long-term impact by integrating local knowledge with external expertise for sustainable results.



## Policy Influence And Global Market Connections

Partnerships with institutions such as ICIMOD enabled CHN to contribute to broader conversations on climate resilience, nature-based solutions, and responsible tourism as a development pathway, particularly through long-term engagement in Dhankuta. These collaborations offered valuable lessons on sustainability, local government ownership, and the importance of planning beyond project timelines.

At the same time, CHN continued to engage with Planeterra to explore pathways for connecting more Global Community Tourism Network (GCTN) Nepal partner communities to international markets ensuring that visibility and recognition translate into meaningful, long-term opportunities for local hosts.

- Partnerships with ICIMOD emphasized planning beyond project timelines and fostering local government ownership for lasting impact.
- Collaborations with ICIMOD and local governments enhanced communities' capacity in digital marketing, product development, sales, and hospitality.
- Hands-on engagement with ICIMOD and Planeterra built confidence in designing, hosting, and storytelling around different facets of tourism, including culture, engaging product development, climate resilience, and smart water management.
- Working with Planeterra and GCTN Nepal connected communities to international markets, turning visibility into meaningful, long-term opportunities.



# Strengthening Local Capacity And Leadership In Tourism



“

*We are always fond of talking with people about the Mithila Art, but when we get to know CHN, we feel happy as we get to know many travellers around the world. Community tourism is new to us, but it helps us generate income differently. We only focused on selling the products but had never given this kind of workshop to foreign guests, but now we deliver. Tourism can benefit artists like us who want to do new things.*

*- Sarita Mandal  
Mithila Artisan*

”



## Peer To Peer Learning And Capacity Building

CHN facilitated targeted **peer-to-peer learning** and **community meetups** to strengthen local capacity and enhance the quality of community tourism experiences. In Kirtipur, members delivering the Ranjana Lipi experience refined their facilitation techniques and storytelling through a knowledge-sharing session with the experienced Pauna Painting team from Patan, leading to a redesigned, more engaging experience while retaining community ownership.

Similarly, the Patan and Kirtipur momo cooking teams exchanged practical lessons on coordination and delivery, strengthening their confidence and collaboration. Complementing this, CHN conducted capacity-building trainings across five communities to improve culinary facilitation skills and reinforce responsible tourism practices ensuring experiences remain authentic, well-structured, and sustainable.

Peer learning between Kirtipur and Patan experience provided:

- Experience redesign to improve engagement and flow
- Cross-community exchange between momo cooking teams
- Capacity-building trainings in 5 communities
- Focus on storytelling, hygiene, presentation, dietary needs, and teamwork
- Strengthened collaboration, confidence, and sustainable community-led delivery

# Strengthening Community Tourism Through Local Government Collaboration

Throughout the year, CHN strengthened collaboration with local governments to support the sustainability and growth of community tourism across Nepal. From co-hosting international travelers during Community Connect to facilitating tourism dialogues and destination planning discussions, these partnerships fostered shared ownership and long-term vision.

What does that mean to us:

- Collaboration with municipalities in Dhankuta, Kirtipur, Hemjakot, Bhada, Bardiya, Panauti, and Barauli
- Co-hosted international travelers during Community Connect (2nd Edition)
- Branding and signage support for Hemjakot Community Homestay
- *Paryatan Sambad* in Barauli with Kawasoti Municipality, Ward Office, Nepal Tourism Board & stakeholders
- Dialogue on eco-friendly destination management and future joint initiatives
- Strengthened link between community ownership, local livelihoods, and sustainable tourism planning



# Learning While Navigating Complexity

These included times when products were not yet fully prepared for the level of attention they received, which sometimes felt overwhelming for communities, when informal ways of working led to misalignments and repeated revisions, and when shifting political contexts and post-pandemic uncertainties shaped how communities and partners could engage.

As communities grew in confidence and economic activity, expectations naturally evolved. Conversations around pricing, roles, and responsibilities sometimes required more time, dialogue, and alignment. Building trust lies at the heart of community tourism, requiring patience, care, and consistent presence from the team, and reminding us that relationships grow at their own pace and cannot be rushed.



# How We Are Strengthening Our Way Forward

In response to these learnings, CHN has already begun strengthening its ways of working, becoming more intentional and structured while remaining grounded in dignity, ownership, and collaboration. We have started formalizing processes to safeguard both communities and the organization, enhancing key guiding documents such as Behaviour Guidelines, Membership Contracts, Operational Guidelines, enrolment criteria, and a Traveller's Code of Conduct.

We are strengthening clearer feedback mechanisms, including dedicated WhatsApp groups, to ensure transparent communication, shared learning, and accountability. Greater emphasis is being placed on product readiness, consistency, and value communication so that community experiences are well-prepared before reaching travelers.

## Key Focus Areas:

- Strengthening governance and guiding frameworks
- Formalizing community feedback and communication systems
- Enhancing product readiness and quality standards
- Clarifying team roles and internal coordination
- Safeguarding community well-being while enabling responsible travel



## FORMALIZING PROCESSES & GUIDING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Community Homestay Behaviour Guidelines
- ✓ CHN Membership Contracts
- ✓ Community Experience Service Provider Guidelines
- ✓ Community Homestay Operational Guidelines
- ✓ Enrolment Criteria
- ✓ Traveller's Code of Conduct



## INTRODUCING FORMAL FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

Dedicated WhatsApp groups for communities. Ensuring access to information, creating space for reflection, accountability, and mutual learning.



## EMPHASIZING PRODUCT READINESS & VALUE

Greater focus on product readiness, consistency, and value communication. Ensuring offerings are well-prepared and supported before sharing with travelers.



## INTERNAL STRENGTHENING & NAVIGATION

Clearer roles, stronger collaboration, and thoughtful prioritization helping the team navigate complexity with confidence and care.

## THE CHN BRIDGE: COMMUNITIES ↔ TRAVELERS



**SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITY LIFE, CULTURE, & ENVIRONMENT.**  
Supporting comfortable and sustainable hosting.

**BALANCE:**  
Tourism adds value without disrupting local ways of life.

**ENSURING SAFE, MEANINGFUL, & WELL-MANAGED EXPERIENCES.**  
Preparing travelers to engage with respect.

# From Visibility To Market Readiness: Fixed Departures And Featured Products 2026

## FIXED DEPARTURE



**NEW**

**Hidden Gems of the Kathmandu ...**

📍 Kathmandu, Bungamati, Kirtipur, Dhulil



**NEW**

**Rural Life with the Locals: A Jour...**

📍 Kathmandu, Pokhara, Narchyang, Herr



**NEW**

**Eastern Nepal: The Road Less Tak...**

📍 Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Dhankuta, Jani

## FEATURED PRODUCTS



**BBC**

**The Traces Of Terai and Its Tharu ...**

Explore the rich and unique Tharu culture of We...



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELLER**

**Chuliban-Khambela Hike: Explore ...**

Experience the beauty of rural Dhankuta on the ...



**TIME**

**Dhankuta Community Homestay, ...**

Enjoy vibrant cultural programs, scenic hikes, an...

# 2026: From Emergence To Fruition

In 2026, we are transitioning from building visibility to strengthening market readiness through the introduction of two key product categories Fixed Departures and Featured Products, marking a clear shift from emergence to fruition while aligning media recognition with commercially ready experiences in collaboration with our partners and through our connection with CommunityHomestay.com.

## Key Highlights:

- ▶ **Featured Products:** Experiences recognized by reputable publications, reinforcing credibility and industry trust.
- ▶ **Fixed Departures:** Confirmed, scheduled departure dates ensuring reliability, clarity, and ease of booking.
- ▶ **Partner Alignment:** Closer collaboration with partners to enhance quality, pricing, and market positioning.
- ▶ **Community Connection:** Strengthened integration with CommunityHomestay.com to link visibility with direct, bookable opportunities.
- ▶ **Market Readiness:** Moving beyond awareness toward structured, sales-driven, and partner-friendly offerings.



## FIXED DEPARTURES

Join our scheduled fixed departure trips to explore Nepal's hidden gems with like-minded travelers. These pre-arranged itineraries offer a convenient and social way to experience the beauty and culture of community homestays.



**Hidden Gems of the Kathmandu Valley...**  
Unveil the Valley's Soul Through Hands, Hearts, and Ho...  
📍 Kathmandu, Bungamati, Kirtipur, Dhulikhel, N  
\$1052.03/adult (Size of 4 person group)

Inquire



**Rural Life with the Locals: A Journey thr...**  
Live Simply, Connect Deeply in Nepal's Heart  
📍 Kathmandu, Pokhara, Naryyang, Hemjakot, I  
\$888.18/adult (Size of 4 person group)

Inquire



**Eastern Nepal: The Road Less Taken (7...**  
Where Culture Meets Wilderness Off the Beaten Path  
📍 Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Dhankuta, Janakpur  
\$899.48/adult (Size of 4 person group)

Inquire

FEATURED IN



**The Traces Of Terai and Its Tharu Her...**  
Explore the rich and unique Tharu culture of Wester...



**Bhada Community Homestay**  
Being a guest at the Bhada Community Homestay I...



**Bardiya Community Homestay** ★ 4.0  
Travel of the beaten path in Western Nepal at the B...



**Half-Day Jeep Safari**  
Join a thrilling 4-hour jeep safari from Barauli Comm...

# Thank You!

First and foremost, our heartfelt gratitude goes to our communities. Your dedication, support, and commitment to each other have been the foundation of responsible community tourism in Nepal. By sharing your knowledge, culture, and experiences, you not only strengthen your own communities but also inspire and support others across our network.

We are also deeply thankful to our partners, supporters, and our CHN team. Your collaboration, guidance, and hard work have made it possible to create meaningful experiences, amplify community voices, and bring our vision to life.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the travelers who joined us this year. Across Nepal, you explored the richness of community tourism, experiencing the warmth of local culture, traditions, and hospitality firsthand. By engaging with communities with curiosity and respect, you not only created memorable experiences for yourselves but also contributed to the economic and social well-being of the places you visited, helping make each journey truly meaningful and impactful.

As we step into the new year, we remain excited and committed to doing more, expanding our travelers' reach within our network, deepening impact, and continuing to learn together. This journey continues with communities at the heart of it.



[communityhomestay.com](https://communityhomestay.com)

