

Staff
Core Team

Swastika Shrestha

Chief Executive Officer, Co-founder and Director of Training and Support

"Imagine if the world were to suddenly collapse and the world as you know it no longer existed. Education needs you to prepare yourself for this." - This wisdom from my father led me to spend much of my youth developing my life and leadership skills. Eventually, I had the opportunity to facilitate life and leadership development amongst youth in Nepal as well as in the US. After completing my masters from the US, I worked with UNMIN, and consulted for IUCN, WFP, and UNDP. But my passion for working with youth led me to Teach For Nepal where my current role is to nurture leaders to transform classrooms, communities, and the nation.

Krishna Kumar K.C.

Chief of Staff

Over 24 years, I've taught in primary and secondary schools in different parts of Lalitpur and spent 10 years as a Head Teacher in Ashrang, one of the furthest VDCs in Lalitpur. I was there for 10 years and learned a lot about the district, and public education. The challenges faced by community schools are tremendous. There are infrastructural problems, policy challenges, the huge distance between students' schools and homes, and the mindsets, on the part of teachers, head teachers, politicians, parents, and students. But I believe if teachers have energy, and the right mindset, other challenges can be overcome. I'm so proud to be a part of this movement, as we set new trends and raise the leadership skills of a new generation. They are working to build a truly new Nepal.

Khika Prasad Nepal

Associate Director Community Liaison

I taught at different schools since 2004 and later changed my teaching profession to enter the development field. Subsequently, I've worked at various organizations working in the development field for more than 12 years. I completed my Masters of Sociology from Tribhuvan University. Teach For Nepal is the best platform for me to work in my community through the Municipal Leads and Fellows. As an Associate Director of Community Liaison, I work closely with Fellows, Leadership Development Coordinators and Managers and the community. I feel accomplished when I see Fellows working so hard in the schools and community and bringing a real change.

Ankush Upreti

Head of Recruitment Selection and Matriculation (TFN Alumni)

The transformative experience of the TFN Fellowship opened my eyes to the deep-rooted systemic injustices present in our education system. It ignited within me a profound understanding that youth leadership holds the key to driving meaningful change. Motivated by this realization, I am driven to continue my contribution to the movement. In my current role, I am passionately dedicated to identifying and nurturing aspiring young leaders who possess the burning desire to tackle our nation's educational crisis head-on. I firmly believe that these individuals have the potential to not only effect immediate change but also emerge as lifelong leaders, wielding their influence far beyond the boundaries of the educational sphere.

Madhav Prasad Devkota

Head of Training & Community Support (TFN Alumni)

As a TFN Fellow, I wasn't just teaching Science to my students; I wanted them to learn many other things like personal hygiene, community's sanitation, and balanced diet, among others. And as a Training and Community Support Manager, I have become a role model, a source of inspiration to the Fellows and help guide our Fellows which would help them face all the challenges in their Fellowship.

Ruma Maharjan

Stakeholders' Engagement & Impact Manager (TFN Alumni)

It was during the two years of my Fellowship that I realized the change we always talk about - the change that our country needs is possible. I was convinced that this can happen with equity in education. All forms of inequities and biases can be resolved only when every kid attains a quality education that enables them to reach their potential despite their backgrounds. I strongly believe in this and therefore I joined the TFN staff team soon after graduating as a Fellow. My previous experience as a recruiter and now as an Events Manager gives me sheer joy knowing that I play an important part in this movement of equity.

Rebati Ram (Rafael) Poudel

Development and Partnership Manager

My motivation to join the development sector stemmed from a desire to connect with diverse communities and work across varied locations. My growth journey began at Smart Club, a youth-led public speaking platform, which opened doors to volunteering and eventually a

board position at Youth Initiative. Eager to explore innovative initiatives, I joined ChangeFusion Nepal during its early efforts to promote social entrepreneurship. I was privileged to be part of Teach For Nepal's formative years, serving as the School Relations and Placement Coordinator for three years. This experience deepened my understanding of grassroots education reform. Later, I returned to Youth Initiative as Director, where I oversaw projects across six districts, enhancing my leadership and program management skills. This foundation enabled me to work as a consultant for several organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO). In 2018, I transitioned to Rooster Logic, a research company, where I contributed to knowledge processing for a diverse client base. After nearly a decade, my deep-rooted commitment to Teach For Nepal brought me back—first as the Community Relations and Support Manager, and currently as the Development and Partnership Manager. Each step in my journey has reinforced my passion for impactful work in Nepal's development landscape.

Sadhana Shrestha
Selection Manager

After completing my Master's Degree from Germany, I decided to move back with a dream of doing something purposeful in my own country. I joined Teach For Nepal knowing how impactfully it has been working towards ending the education inequity in Nepal. It gives me great satisfaction to know that the work I am doing and the energy that I have invested will make a difference. As a Selection Coordinator, I am determined to select those best-fit candidates who are passionate about making an impact in the classroom as well as in the community.

Preeti Shrestha
Human Resource & Administrative Manager (TFN Alumni)

I wholeheartedly embrace the ethos that "Our life is what our thoughts make it," actively seeking the silver lining in every situation and endeavoring to uncover the inherent goodness within. With a background in HR, I've long been fascinated by the formation of perspectives and motivations, firmly convinced of education's ability to unleash human potential. This conviction prompted my involvement with Teach For Nepal as a fellow back in 2015. Since then, my dedication to the overarching "ONE DAY" VISION has only grown stronger, both during my tenure as an alumna and in my current role as an HR & Administrative Manager.

Shripa Padhan
Communication and Development Manager

Over the years, I have worked closely with marginalized communities, leading advocacy, capacity-building, and digital storytelling initiatives at feminist and rights-based organizations. My background in mental health and community-centered work grounds my approach in empathy and intersectionality. I joined Teach For Nepal because its mission deeply resonates with my core values of equity, community, and systemic change. In my role, I witness the power of storytelling and relationship-building to connect the inspiring work of fellows with the organization's vision and the shared goals of our supporters and partners. Being part of TFN's community of empathetic and grounded changemakers, I am committed to amplifying their voices and supporting their work in every way I can.

Shekhar Kumal
Finance Manager

For over 10 years, I have worked with World Education with extensive experience in financial management, budgeting, accounting, and compliance within international development programs. I have managed financial systems ensuring donor compliance, and promoting transparency and accountability. I deeply embody the values that TFN stands for and have a strong understanding of its mission and ethos. In my role, I lead the financial procedures and systems to ensure smooth and efficient financial management across the organization.

Sami Manandhar
Project Manager (TFN Alumni)

When I first joined Teach For Nepal as a fellow, I wanted to explore my country beyond the place where I grew up and truly understand its diverse communities. Living and working within the community for two years became one of the most memorable experiences of my life—both personally and professionally. My initial motivation for joining Teach For Nepal in 2015 was to eventually contribute to environmental education. Now, after almost a decade later, I am grateful to return to Teach For Nepal, hoping to give back to the community by helping children become more aware of climate change and empowering them to be part of the solution.

Jenisha Shakya
Recruitment Manager (TFN Alumni)

Jenisha Shakya is an educator and youth development professional with extensive experience in recruitment, leadership, and program management across educational and nonprofit sectors. A Teach For Nepal Alumna (2016–2018), she discovered her lifelong passion for creating equitable learning opportunities during her fellowship. Since then, she has led initiatives promoting gender equality, student engagement, and inclusive education in diverse

communities. Jenisha rejoined Teach For Nepal to inspire and recruit future leaders who share the vision of transforming education in Nepal. She believes that every individual who steps into the fellowship has the power to create ripples of change that extend far beyond the classroom.

Asmita Guragain

Recruitment Coordinator (TFN Alumni)

My experience with Teach For Nepal has been a profound journey of personal growth and societal impact. From navigating the challenges of an under-resourced public school to confronting the disparities in higher education, each obstacle has fueled my determination to drive change. Inspired by the remarkable impact of Teach For Nepal's Fellowship program, I wholeheartedly embraced the mission to eradicate educational inequalities. Witnessing concrete progress within a mere two years reaffirmed my belief in the power of collective action and the potential for equitable education for all. Now, as a Recruitment Coordinator, I am passionately advocating for the urgent inclusion of dynamic young leaders in the public education system. Through this journey, I am not only shaping futures but also reshaping the narrative of possibility, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has the chance to flourish.

Gaurab Ghimire

Leadership Development Coordinator (TFN Alumni)

Even before beginning my Fellowship at Teach For Nepal, I felt a strong desire to contribute beyond the two-year commitment. Stepping into the role of Leadership Development Coordinator is a natural continuation of that journey. I am passionate about educational equity and committed to helping fellows thrive in their roles. My motivation also stems from a deep belief in the movement and a strong desire to support fellows meaningfully—especially during times of transition and challenge. As part of the Training & Community Support Team, I value both giving and receiving mentorship and training. I see this role as a platform to grow professionally while contributing to the development of others. To me, this is more than just a position, it is a meaningful opportunity to give back to an organization that has profoundly shaped my own leadership.

Samikshya Kharel

Leadership Development Coordinator (TFN Alumni)

I am a committed educator and passionate advocate for educational equity. My journey with Teach For Nepal began as an English Fellow, where I had the privilege of working closely with students in under-resourced communities, nurturing both their academic potential and

personal growth. This transformative experience deepened my commitment to leadership in education and inspired me to return to the organization as a Leadership Development Coordinator. In this role, I mentor and support new Fellows, helping them build the skills, mindset, and confidence needed to create meaningful and lasting impact in their classrooms and communities.

Lokesh Khadaka

Leadership Development Coordinator (TFN Alumni)

I am a purpose-driven community builder and passionate advocate for quality education and youth leadership. I currently serve as the Executive Coordinator at Teach For Nepal, where I work closely with the Chief Executive Officer to advance the organization's mission and vision to end educational inequity and nurture the next generation of leaders. My journey with Teach For Nepal began in 2023 as a Fellow—an experience that deepened my belief in the power of education to unlock human potential and promote sustainable living and development. With a background in youth engagement and community work, I bring a hands-on approach to leadership and learning. Through my work, I continue to champion the “One Day” vision, striving to build a more just and equitable future.

Hari Krishna Khatri

Recruitment Coordinator

I started my career path with teaching back in 2014, sharing knowledge of computer science and guitar—a beginning I never imagined would lead me back to the education sector years later. After completing my Bachelor's in Business Administration in South Korea, I returned to Nepal, eager to contribute but unsure of the path ahead. I gained experience working in fintech at Khalti and as a School Coordinator at TRISSA School, yet I realized I was searching for a platform where vision, impact, and transformative change come together. Teach For Nepal embodies that vision, nurturing students as leaders equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values to create positive change in their communities and across the nation. Today, as a Recruitment Coordinator, I am proud to support and inspire passionate young leaders to join the TFN movement and shape Nepal's future.

Akriti Paudel

Leadership Development Coordinator (TFN Alumni)

Driven by a passion for equitable education, my journey began with a two year fellowship (2023–2025) ,as a Teach For Nepal Mathematics Fellow in Sindhupalchok-Himalayan region of Nepal. Serving in the unique and demanding environment of the Himalayas for 2 years, this

experience provide me a up-close perspective and on-the-ground understanding of educational development in Nepal. This formative experience directly fuels my interest in organization to continue the journey as a Leadership Development Coordinator, a part of Training and Community Support Team. In this role, I am dedicated to nurture ,support and guide high-potential fellows,ensuring they are equipped with the skills and mindset necessary for the effective leadership and sustainable change within their classroom and communities, as well translate their own firsthand experiences into impactful support systems that strengthen the fellowship community as well as classroom.

Amir Khokhali

Data and IT Operations Associate

When I was attending my last three years at school where TFN Fellows were teaching me, I never thought I would one day be working for the very organization that inspired me then. Had it not been for their motivation, I wouldn't have dreamed about living in Kathmandu or pursuing my education here. I aim to use my experiences and education to change the perspective of people in my community—showing that even kids from villages, if given the right opportunities, can turn challenges into achievements. I was a diligent student and actively participated in school clubs and extracurricular activities, which paved the way for a fellowship at Samaanata Foundation for my high school studies. This opportunity enabled me to pursue science as my major at Pentagon International College. I have now completed my Bachelor's degree in Computer Application from Janamaitri Multiple College. During my undergraduate studies, I developed strong technical skills, including proficiency in troubleshooting hardware and software issues. Driven by my passion for education and technology, I decided to join TFN not only to assist but to learn and engage with a community dedicated to ensuring all children in Nepal receive an excellent education. My journey has come full circle, and I'm eager to contribute back to the organization that shaped my aspirations.

Sirjana Dhital

Office Assistant

I was born in the village of Chatredeurali in Dhading. There are 12 members in my family - my parents, and my nine siblings. About 12-years ago, I moved to Kathmandu to be closer to my brothers, who were living here. I've been working at Teach For Nepal since it started. I don't understand everything about this movement, but I think it's really good to see young people going to teach in rural government schools. Only the boys in my own family got to attend school. I believe all children should get the opportunity to learn and have a bright future.