



Asha Insights: Spring-Summer (Q1 & Q2) 2016

Asha Zurich is a chapter of Asha for Education, a world- wide organization that works dedicatedly to catalyze socio-economic change through the education of underprivileged children in India.

We have no paid staff, no office rent and hence very low overheads, typically covered through contributions from volunteers. This is a key factor that distinguishes us from many other organizations. In 2016, Asha Zurich is sending more than 1,300 underprivileged children to school in seven projects with an annual budget of more than CHF 70,000.



Our Achievements

Biggest marathon Contingent and Fundraiser

On 24. April, this year 60 runners ran for Team Asha. This was our biggest contingent ever which raised more than CHF 35,000. Asha Zurich thanks the passionate runners, the generous donors and the energetic volunteers.



Two new projects taken

After thorough review followed by site visits, we have undertaken two new projects in West Bengal in June this year. Please see details under Project Updates.



Upcoming fundraisers



Our project Lok Biradari Prakalp is qualified for Asha's global Work An Hour program which is running from September 24 to November 24, 2016. We request our donors to symbolically donate an hour of salary for this program.

For details, please take a look at <http://workanhour.ashanet.org/projects/1134>

Assam Flood Relief and Rehabilitation

Asha Zurich is also raising funds for relief and rehabilitation after the devastating floods in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam. We are working with local NGOs to rebuild houses, schools and support endangered species such as the one-horned rhinos. Asha Zurich will match the amount raised from individual donation. Please donate from the following link.

<https://www.youcaring.com/for-people-and-saving-the-last-remaining-rhinos-kazirangha-621093>



Cultural Event

Our friends at Swiss Puja are organizing a cultural event on 29. October. Part of the profit will benefit Asha. Please take a look at the flyer below for details. For booking tickets please e-mail to ecmember@swisspuja.org or call +41 79 2475829 / 5714631



Fundraisers in Q1 and Q2

Food stand with Chat with Chaat

In April and May, Asha Zurich co-hosted food stands together with Chat with Chaat at GZ Oerlikon. The event was attended by more than 200 people each time.

Project Updates

New Projects

After site visits by volunteers this year Asha Zurich has started partnership with Sabuj Sangha, an NGO based in the Sundarbans, West Bengal and have taken two new projects under its umbrella. They are called Natun Alo and Naba Diganta and are based in Sunderbans and Jalpaiguri respectively. Natun Alo is providing residential education to 35 underprivileged children, who are orphans or rescued child laborers or beggar. Naba Diganta is offering pre-school coaching classes to more than 150 children from the local tribal communities.





Three new Asha volunteers have taken up the duties to manage these two projects and they are progressing very well.

Palas Schools

Asha Zurich's partner Vishwamandal Sevashram (VMS) facilitates these non-formal education centers for children from the Bhil tribe in Dhule district of Maharashtra. This is Asha Zurich's largest and oldest project that benefits around 700 children.

From December 2015 to May 2016, five teacher-training camps were organized, where senior teachers from cities like Mumbai and Pune trained the VMS teachers. Teachers also got a day off for a picnic. Palas teachers had an interaction day with parents to listen to their concerns as well as to communicate their children's progress.

From 13 to 18 of April, a summer study camp was organized where 130 students took part. They were provided special classes in Marathi, mathematics and environmental studies, as well as evening entertainment including a laser show.



Palas schools have now introduced computer training to students. A couple of Asha well-wishers have also donated laptops for this cause. Please contact us if you would be interested to donate your old laptop to Palas schools.



Lok Biradari Prakalp (LBP)

The project is located in the remote tribal village of Hemalkasa, Maharashtra. Following are the updates from the school till summer 2016.



LBP students performed very well in the board examinations for Class X and XII. Additionally, they won the champion trophy on divisional level for overall sport activities, as well as medals in "Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan" - a district level talent search for sports.

A number of workshops and training programs were organized for them including a workshop on personality development and leadership skills by Rotary Club, one on robotics and one on health awareness including hands-on training for first-aid treatments, snake bites etc. An IAS officer organized a training camp to prepare students for competitive examinations. A Tehsil (district) level science exhibition was also organized at campus in February.

A site visit to LBP will take place in October 2016.



Other projects

Three other projects of Asha Zurich, Boys Town Society, Ved Vignan Maha Vidyapith and Save Children Save Society are performing very well too. Site visits have already been done for the first two by Asha Zurich volunteers. Site visit for SACSAS has already been scheduled for later this year. Details will be available in our Autumn newsletter.

How can you help?

Would you like to help us achieve our mission?

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Asha Zurich needs yoU

Come volunteer with us and be a part of the change.

- Attend our monthly meetings.
- Help us organize fundraisers.
- Spread the word about Asha.

Please write to us at info@asha-zurich.ch.



How about making a onetime donation once a year or making small donations every month through our Charity As Your Hobby program? As little as CHF 20 can support the cost of education and food of a child for a month.

Our Bank account	
Bank	UBS Zurich
In favor of	Asha Zurich
Account Number	206-259021.40Q
IBAN	CH29 0020 6206 2590 2140 Q