



## Asha Insights: Summer (Q2) 2015

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 2015, Asha Zurich is sending more than 1,200 underprivileged children to school in five projects with an annual budget of more than CHF 50,000.



### Our Achievements in summer 2015

#### Presentation at the United Nations

On 30. June, Asha Zurich participated in an international conference on volunteerism at the United Nations office in Geneva. The presentation attracted a lot of attention and the visit also resulted in networking opportunities with other non-profit organizations based in Switzerland and abroad.



#### Nepal Earthquake Donation



Asha contributed CHF 320 to the relief and rehabilitation activities in Nepal after the devastating earthquake in April. These funds were raised from a partnership for a Bollywood party on 5. June and other personal donations by Asha volunteers. Our partner Usthi Foundations ([www.usthi.ch](http://www.usthi.ch)) will use the funds to rebuild their orphanages in Lalitpur and Makhwanpur districts.

### Fundraisers in Q2

#### India Festival in Basel

On 30. May, Asha Zürich was part of the India Festival at Basel organized by Association of Friends of India. Funds were raised via sales of Makaibari tea from Teafairy ([www.teafairy.ch](http://www.teafairy.ch)) and personal donations.



#### Bollywood party

On 5. June, Asha partnered with Zurich-based DJ Indro for another Bollywood party. The party was kicked-off by a Bollywood dance workshop by Nachle Dance Company. Subsequently, the guests grooved to creative Bollywood mixes by DJ Indro. Asha received 20% of the funds raised.



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> WYOP run

On 7. June, our partner WYOP organized their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual running event. More than 150 runners took part, covering an age group from 4 months to 70 years. WYOP donated 20% of the funds raised to Asha.



#### Art Workshop

On 27. June, Asha partnered with Aargau-based professional artist Brindarica Bose to organize an art workshop for both children and adults. Even though the number of participants was modest, the workshop got reported in the local newspaper:

(<http://wohleranzeiger.ch/2015/07/workshop-einer-wohler-k%C3%BCnstlerin.html>).

Asha received the entire funds raised.



### Project updates

In 2015, Asha Zurich is supporting five projects. All project budgets were approved and the annually-renewable Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is in the process of being signed. Following are updates from specific projects:

### Palas Schools (VMS)



Since 2005, Asha Zurich has been supporting Palas schools run by Vishwamandal Sevashram (VMS) which

facilitate the non-formal education of 678 children from the Bhil tribe in Dhule district of Maharashtra. 40% of the students are girls. A budget of around CHF 19,000 was approved by Asha Zurich for 2015.

Recent achievements include a reduction in the dropout rate of students compared to previous years, steady attendance of students and teachers at class and a Summer study camp (April 14 – 19 ) which was attended by 62 girls and 72 boys.

155 students from VMS have now moved into formal state schools.

### Save Children Save Society (SACSAS)



Asha Zurich financially supports New Dampi, and administers the progress and funding of schools in Wangoo and Loilamkot facilitating the education of about 260 students. A site visit for all the SACSAS schools was successfully done by Tapomyukh Bhattacharya in the last week of July. The attendance rate of the school children was above 80% and their academic performance is reasonably good. The detailed site visit report will be available on our website soon.

### Lok Biradari Prakalp



Located in the remote village of Hemalkasa near the Maharashtra-Chhatisgarh border, Lok Biradari Prakalp offers residential education to 650 children of Madia and Gond tribes. Asha Zurich sponsors 100 children with an annual budget of around CHF 16,000.

The school has had a remarkable result in the Central Board examinations this year:

- 100% of the students who appeared in Grade 10 and 12 passed the exam.
- In Grade 10, 21 students (out of 42) passed in 1st division. Best performance: Sachin Toppa (91.4%)
- In Grade 12, 12 students (out of 41) passed in 1st division. Best performance: Rakesh Mudma (78%)

A site visit is scheduled in the last week of August 2015.

### Boys Town Society



Asha Zurich is supporting the Francois Meyer nursery school for 120 children run by Boys Town Society at Tirumangalam village, Tamil Nadu with an annual budget of around CHF 11,000.

In a recent interview (by our local contact) with the headmistress of the school, Mrs. S. Kumari revealed that she would like to:

- Explore the Montessori and other methodologies to implement activity-based teaching and to use the internet to download new teaching materials.
- Take teachers on outings to increase their exposure and to start a peer to peer evaluation a mentoring system for the teachers.

She added that the school was unique as it caters to the underprivileged stratum of the society and often has volunteer teachers from the UK. These teachers bring new ideas and methodologies which benefit not only the students, but their fellow teachers as well.

A site visit was done by Rajesh Varadarajan in the last week of July. He gave a very positive feedback about the project. The detailed site visit report will be available on our website soon.

### Ved Vignan Maha Vidyapeeth

This is Asha Zurich's latest project which is located in Vadakkur village of Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. The school opened on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 and classes are progressing very well. Underprivileged children from 18 surrounding villages are attending the school, because there is no public school within a radius of 10 kilometer from Vadakkur. Currently the school has taken 314 students and expects to increase the number to 500 by 2016. They are taught by 18 teaching staff. The school also has a functioning library, science laboratories and last but not least, cleans toilets. Asha Zurich is

taking care of 30 children. A site visit was recently done by Molin D'Souza. The detailed site visit report will be available on our website soon.



**How can you help?**

Would you like to help us achieve our mission?

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



[www.asha-zurich.ch/cayh](http://www.asha-zurich.ch/cayh)

**Vol  
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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](mailto:info@asha-zurich.ch).