



Asha
for Education
Bringing hope through education



Empowering disadvantaged children in India
through sponsored education

ASHA ZURICH

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear donors, volunteers and well-wishers of Asha Zurich,

I would like to thank you for your contributions in donations, volunteering, supporting and publicity for Asha Zurich in the year of 2019. It was a successful year in terms of our commitment to provide underprivileged children quality education. We had successful collaborations with eight different projects all over in India. About 125K CHF was sent to these projects, which supports the education of about 2300 children. Our commitment to education not only covers the general school learning but also in terms of nutritious food and better living facilities. About 44% of our funds are used for better boarding and lodging facility of students. The teachers' salary contributed to about 29% of support. We also worked on a few infrastructure projects especially in classroom development.

In terms of fund-raising activities, this year we raised about 62K CHF. Our activities included participation in different running competitions, Indian cultural and Bollywood dance programs. These activities helped in raising funds and also led to getting more volunteers and active participation in Asha activities. Particularly the Zurich marathon and Asha teams participation require special mention. It was a very nice example of how we collaborated to improve our own health objective in taking part in the city's most sought after running event, contributed to a healthy habit of exercises and in the process raised about 23K CHF. We also worked on different collaborative projects. Parijat academy and Gramya Sansthan are two example of projects where joint collaboration with different Asha chapters helped raising funds to support the school. An important mention is also the collaboration with Gandhi Global Solar Yatra (GGSY). We worked with GGSY to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, where we organized a solar energy workshop in Technorama, Winterthur. This work is a commitment of Asha Zurich towards environmental concerns where we taught new generation students about the use of solar energy and distributed solar lamps among the students.

In the end, I would like to mention a simple statistic - an average of 55 CHF was the cost of a year's education of children in India. We managed to raise funds through different charity events to obtain this support. However, we still have concerns in continuing this support. We are always in deficit over the years in terms of total funds sent to total funds raised (-63k CHF this year). We are looking forward to more continuous support in terms of donation. Two programs from Asha Zurich are worth mentioning here. One is CAYH (charity

as your hobby), where we receive a short donation every month (<https://www.asha-zurich.ch/cayh.php>). Also we are starting a new project called Art Asha where we sell different small paintings, greeting cards and other jewelry handmade by the talented students of some of our schools and support them directly with the revenue generated. Please help us in making these projects and all other Asha events successful so that we can contribute for the greater objective of education for all. Additionally, we always require active volunteering in project management, website development and event management. Attending our monthly meetings will also give you an understanding of the various Asha Zurich projects and activities. Looking forward to more active collaboration from all of you.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members of 2019 team Asha. With your support, we were able to be more efficient in project management, publicity and finances.

Dr. Rajdeep Deb,
President, Asha Zurich

EDITOR'S NOTE

'Helping hands are better than praying lips' – Mother Teresa

Asha Zurich's legacy has been a testimony to this profound thought. For the past 18 years, the committee and its strong team of well wishers and volunteers have made great efforts in providing financial support for the education of underprivileged children in India. Our programs, fund raisers, events, collaborations and partnerships over the years have been enthusiastically supported and sustained because at the heart of all that we do is accountability, transparency and sincerity.

All projects at Asha Zurich are selected on basis of merit and outreach ability. Each partner NGO is allotted a project coordinator(s) who dutifully tracks performance, progress and funds utilization. Regular in-person visits are conducted through volunteers in India who provide feedback about the on-ground situation. All remittances to the projects are documented with through donation receipts and are renewed only once the team is convinced of the project's sustainability and transparency. Asha Zurich is 100% volunteer-run which means that no funds can be misdirected or used for anything else other than the work we do in India.

2019 was a dynamic year for our projects and partner NGOs in India where students performed well not only in academics but also shone in extra curricular activities. Our funding helped the schools expand facilities, increase resources and reach out to more children. Site visits, project evaluations and new proposals were the highlights alongwith addition of new volunteers and members to the ever-growing Asha Zurich family.

The 'Charity As Your Hobby' (CAYH) program has continued to receive support, with an increasing number of good Samaritans embarking on this philanthropic endeavor. Our new initiative 'Art Asha' is also promising as it serves a two-fold purpose – it gives you the opportunity to own an authentic piece of Indian/handmade product and your contributions for it go directly to the creators of the artwork and benefit them. We hope that you embrace this initiative as open heartedly as you have all our other efforts.

Tying up the year in a sentence, it would be just about right to say that there are few things as gratifying as knowing that children are rightfully getting the education they desire and deserve, building themselves up for a future so bright and filled with opportunities.

And YOU have made all this possible!

Thank you for your faith in us, we will keep striving to upkeep our legacy.

Vallari Shah
Editor

PROJECTS 2019

NABA DIGANTA

Project Coordinator: Vineet Mohan



The Naba Diganta program consists of two Non-Formal Education centers run by Sabuj Sangha in Alipurduar district of West Bengal. Asha Zurich is supporting this project since June 2016.

Purpose - The centers are in communities that are remote, economically backward and lack employment opportunities. As of 2020, the centers together support 180 children helping them with school lessons and academic work every morning six days a week. The

children are also provided with daily breakfast, monthly health checkups, study materials, uniforms and school bags. Over half the children are girls and there are six teachers (30:1 ratio).



Highlights 2019:

Last year the program welcomed 50 more children and 2019 saw the first full year of the centers supporting the increased capacity. Several activities were conducted throughout the year and an attendance of 68% was observed in the classes. The children celebrated Independence Day and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday with special functions. Attention continues to be given to sports activities with children regularly taking part in weekly events.

Progress



Regular studies at Nabadiganta Non formal Education centres are at full swing now. After the completion of 2nd summative test and results got published the Centres have started preparing the students for Final examination at the end of the academic year. Individually each student is being mentored with strict vigilance and care.

The wholesome care with nutritional support, health examination and remedial measures are attracting the local population gradually. The Bags and uniforms that were distributed in September have also enhanced the interest. The most recent site visit to the centers was conducted in November 2018 by Dr. Somil Miglani, an acquaintance of the coordinator.

GRAMYA SANSTHAN

Project Coordinator: Antonina Studniarek



Libraries, science laboratories and further support: Through cooperation with Gramya Sansthan Asha Zurich has widened its influence to the region of Uttar Pradesh. After successful creation of science laboratories and libraries in two of Gramya's schools (Laltapur center – 2018, and Jhumariya center – 2019) the decision has been taken to further support this organization.



The science laboratory in the main center – Laltapur - was opened already in April 2018 and is available for all the students. It is used for extra classes/tutorial classes, that are being held in the mornings for around 2 hours. They cover different subjects i.e. Science, Mathematics, English and General Knowledge. Children's library was opened was open in July 2018, and that was even advertised in the local newspaper to reach wider group of children.

As the cooperation went smoothly Asha Zurich decided to continue its support with similar project in another school (6th to 8th grade students) in Jhumariya village, Block Naugarh, district-Chandauli, located 8 km from Laltapur main Gramya center. Money was transferred in July 2019 (255 000 INR) and since December 2019 both facilities are operational. The funding derived partially from IBM grant Asha Zurich has received in November 2018 (1 900 CHF).

Because of Gramya successful development, but also increased budget, the primary supporting Chapter – Asha Chicago, requested if any aid from our side would be possible for the ongoing yearly costs. Thus, from 2020 we decided to fund salary of 6 senior teachers (half of total), what will constitute an expenditure of around 5 000 CHF a year.

About the organization:

Gramya is an organization that works since 1992 in the most backward, isolated and tribal populated block Naugarh in the district of Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh, India). At present, Gramya consists of 8 schools in remote rural villages. It is an alternative education project, focusing on providing education to more than 600 tribal children who are deprived of it. Alongside promoting awareness about importance of education and overall development Gramya is also working on the themes such as children rights, gender equality, women's health and rights of socially excluded.

The Mooltaya adivasi tribe resides in this place surrounded by mountains. In this economically, socially and politically backward tribe the literacy rate is 22%. Female literacy

is only 8%. Due to the lack of irrigation facilities and unfertile land, there is little agriculture in this area. Because of this reason, this tribe is known for poverty and hunger. It is a Dalit and tribal community where the number of girls is more than boys. They are facing many social, political and economic problems. There are few colleges in Naugarh but most students need to go towards Varanasi for better education. In monsoon, multiple villages become disconnected by seasonal streams and hence the need of Gramya centers which provide all year education for children in all ages.

NATUN AALO

Project Coordinator: Michal Studniarek

Natun Aalo a Residential School for Prevention of Child Labor (Abasik Sishu Sramik Vidyalaya) is a project located in West Bengal (Nandakumarpur, Sundarban) coordinated by Sabuj Sangha and supported by Asha since June 2016. The project's running costs are covered by Asha solely. Natun Aalo is a residential school for underprivileged children whose parents can't afford sending them to governmental school. The children are selected through community meetings, home visit, consultation with PRI (Panchayati Raj Institution) members and following criteria like uncertain livelihood of the family, poor income, dropout or never been to school, prone to child labor, child staying at home alone etc.

The children stay in the dormitory of Natun Aalo and attend Kishalaya Sishu Siksha Niketan model school of Sabuj Sangha for two to three years and are further directed into formal system. The school provides education in: Bengali, English, mathematics, history, geography, life sciences, general knowledge, computer education, and practical skills, e.g., agriculture. The children are provided with meals (4 per day) and clothes.

In 2019 the committee of Asha for Education Zurich decided to continue the support and grant the project 13,41,550 INR, what is about 3.5% increase with respect to 2018, for a period from June 2019 – May 2020. The increase comes from annual salary rise of the staff members. The support includes meals for children, salaries of superintendent, 2 teachers, house mother, cook and his helper, educational materials, toiletries, medical checkups, dresses and exposure visit. In addition, 2019 support included also school books for children for total amount of 26,250 INR. Under Natun Alo program there are 35 boys in age 9-15 (grade IV-VII). In 2019 Asha Zurich also held a scholarship for Gourav Halder who wanted to continue his education on grade IX in governmental school. The scholarship covered his tuition as well as stay in Natun Alo dormitory for the academic year 2019. The notes of Gourav Halder after 1st and 2nd term were reported to the committee.

In the course of the year, the proposition of such support for additional 3 children in a similar situation was submitted and granted by the committee. In September 2019, selected boys from Natun Alo participated in 10-week-long computer literacy program organized by IBM in Kolkata. Soumyajit Giri achieved 2nd overall rating in Junior Group and the team of Anubhav Sahoo and Dip Das won the 1st award for presentation "Our City Kolkata". The last site visit to the project was conducted by Anju Das Kanungo in February 2019. She assessed the project to perform very well. The children seem happy and well-integrated in Natun Alo residence. They are attached to their care givers who are very committed to the project. The literacy in English and Math was assessed as rather poor. Additional staff member would be beneficiary for the project.

PARIJAT ACADEMY

Project Coordinator: Rajdeep Deb



Parijat Academy is the first project in Assam supported by Asha Zurich. Rajdeep Deb visited the project in 2018, and thereafter from 2019 onwards the project funding started. Further, this is one of the project in collaboration with Asha Purdue. This project is a good example of collaboration of different Asha chapters. A sum total of 6,25,000 INR was sent to the project by Asha Zurich for the year of 2019. Out of this funding, a total of 3,85,000 INR (61%) was used for providing salary of 25 teachers. The remaining amount was used for infrastructure development in the classroom. This included wooden wall fixing and desk purchase.



Asha Zurich volunteer Aditee Mitra also did the site visit in 2019. The site visit report indicated the key focus of Parijat Academy as better education for rural underprivileged children, digital literacy, useful vocational training, and development of sports among students. Active participation of parents occurs in the form of parent teacher meeting and various school events. Student strength is about 25-30 in each class. Various

innovative ways of teachings are followed. Further, teachers organize some additional doubt clearing session. The school also provides various awareness programme and job search help service. Also students actively participate in sports events such as badminton, football, trekking etc. Further, students also participate in painting, drama, dance and music events. Aditee on her site visit went to different classes and asked students few general knowledge and maths questions. There was enthusiastic participation in answering the questions. Also some students recited poems in the class. School maintained a record of what was taught everyday and signed accordingly.

However, school management required improving the communication skills particularly the online communication with Asha Zurich. Asha Zurich required asking a number of times to

obtain valuable inputs from the school management. The site visit report though present a good work going on in the school in terms of overall educational development of students.



2019 Highlights:

- Shilpi Das from Parijat Academy won gold medal in Athletics under 16 running race.
- Students participated in Reliance sport foundation tournament and won lots of medals.
- Parijat academy won most disciplined team award in inter school football competition in Kolkata.

ANKURAM

Project Coordinators: Namrata Gurung & Guratinder Kaur

“Ankuram” means seed of change. The aim of the programme is to improve the quality of primary education in existing government schools. The programme is currently based in Uttar Pradesh and is the brainchild of Anoop Gupta, who was working in Switzerland for 10 years before moving back home in 2009 in efforts to change the face of education in rural India. Ankuram programme focuses on holistic development that includes infrastructure improvement, health and hygiene awareness, increasing quality of education via multiple activities including youth volunteers, teacher-training, doing engaging activities with children, talking and motivating children’s parents and community including panchayat to encourage and support education of children. Ankuram programme currently spreads across 150 schools in Uttar Pradesh influencing over 175000 children.



Asha Zurich decided to support this novel work in 2018, and currently supports the programme in 3 schools in Sathwara, Salauli and Malauli. The Malauli school was adopted in 2019. In addition to this, in the week of 1st – 10th Feb 2019, during Lucknow Book Fair event, Asha Zurich supported the Shiksha Mahotsav (Literature Festival) hosted by Ankuram, icareindia, to cover costs of all certificates given to students for their outstanding academic and cultural performances. Ankuram’s core work, is mainly based on youth mentorship, and youth volunteers. In light of this, Asha Zurich decided support for one youth volunteer, who is a lead volunteer leading her own team of volunteers, for the period of one year to encourage them to actively participate in this noble cause. Quarterly reports from them, have shed light on very interesting stories such as the increased enthusiasm of children coming to school and willingness to pursue further education. A complete overview, of the work done by Ankuram, icareindia, can also be found online: <https://youtu.be/TIDgB00o7Is>

Below is a brief list of the multiple activities that are conducted via Ankuram programme:

- Building good educational environment via behavioural change activities in the first few months of admission, creating clean and green environment at school etc.
- Develop awareness towards primary education in local community such as street plays and rallies for environment day etc.
- Child development activities such as art, craft, clay work, music, sports, quiz.
- Health and hygiene such as regular medical check-ups and awareness programmes.
- Celebrations of birthdays of children and of major Indian festivals.
- Capacity of building stake holders via meetings with Panchayti Raj Institutions (PRI), Gram Siksha Samiti (GSS) & School Management Committee (SMC).
- Summer learning classes.
- Educational items such as stationary material and sport items.

TREASURER'S NOTE

Namita Agrawal



Financial Overview

Opening Balance on 1 January 2019	219,202
Receipts (Swiss Fundraising)	62,658
Project Disbursements	-125,681
Expenses	-11,067
Currency fluctuation (Hypothetical)	-228
Net Surplus in 2019	-74,318
Closing Balance on 31 December 2019	144,884
• Swiss Current Account	25,408
• Swiss Savings Account	84,783
• Swiss Marathon Account	13,576
• US Funds (in USD)*	1,432
• Paypal	17,970
• Cash	1,390
• Chennai Funds refunded	326

*US funds are controlled by Global Asha

1 USD = 1 CHF

The above table represents a consolidation of fund raising and disbursements in 2019. The funds raised decreased from CHF 80,101 in 2018 to CHF 62,658 in 2019. There were no funds allocated from the global treasury into the US account. The allocation of global funds

is dependent on the utilization ratio; only chapters with a ratio below 1.5 (balances / average annual disbursement amount of last two years) qualify to receive a share of the global funds.

The Chennai funds currently contain INR 23,772. Due to the currency fluctuation, the net amount has is now 326 CHF in 2019. The currency fluctuation shown in above table is only for the Chennai funds.

Disbursements amounted to CHF 125,681 (vs CHF 123,256 in 2018). One new project under Ankuram, Lucknow was adopted this year, additionally a school with Parijat Academy was also taken up and a scholarship for Natun Aalo project was sanctioned. There was also one-time donations to Kerala and Tamil Nadu due to the devastating cyclones in these areas last year.

The opening balance of US funds in 2019 was USD 25,383. Therefore, a few projects were funded via the US account, and the remaining disbursements were done from the Swiss accounts.

The closing balance amounts to CHF 144,884 (vs CHF 219,202 in 2018). The Swiss accounts contain CHF 143,452. The remaining amount is present in the US account of Asha Zurich and is under complete control of Global Asha Team. With the current account balance, projects can be funded for 1 complete year.

Income and Expenses overview

Source of Receipts	Income	Expenses	Profit/Loss
Admin		659	-659
Art & Crafts	133		133
Bank Charges		472	-472
Banner		169	-169
Bollywood Blast	8154	2772	5382
CAYH	9250		9250
Discover India With Asha	3016	450	2566
Donations	5631		5631
Google	5527		5527
Investment Income	4		4
Marathon (2019 & 2020 registrations)	22509	6153	16356
Momo & Dosa		250	-250
Project	7723	125681	-117958
Website		82	-82
Winterthur Marathon	710	60	650
Total	62658	136748	-74090

The net income acquired in 2019 was CHF 62,658 (vs 100,563 in 2018). This huge difference is because no funds were received from global treasury pool.

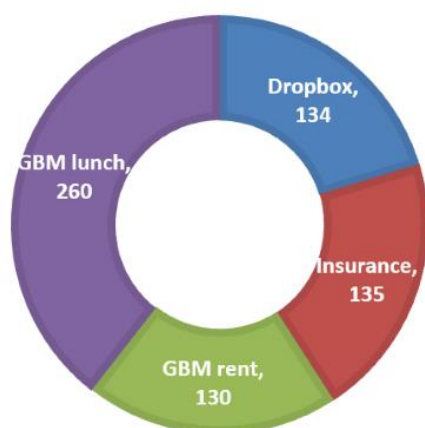
General and purpose bound one-time donations excluding the funds allocated by the global Asha Treasury pool decreased slightly to CHF 13,354 (vs. CHF 15,660 in 2018). Funds

received from regular donors through our Charity as Your Hobby (CAYH) program increased to CHF 9,250 in 2019 compared to CHF 8,910 in 2018. The Zurich Marathon, which is traditionally the largest fundraiser, raised CHF 22,509 (vs. CHF 32,669 in 2018). The Bollywood Event organized in 2019 was the second big fundraiser. The event raised an amount of CHF 8154, and deducting the expenses, the net profit was CHF 5,382 which was considerably higher than the surplus of 2018's Bollywood party (around 444 CHF). Asha Zurich had its first team run in Winterthur marathon and raised around CHF 710. Around CHF 5,527 was received from Google for donations.

A detailed split of the costs incurred for Admin and Bank charges are reflected in the below distribution chart.

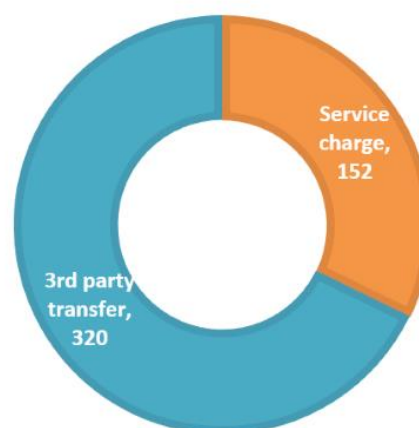
SPLIT OF ADMIN COSTS

■ Dropbox ■ Insurance ■ GBM rent ■ GBM lunch

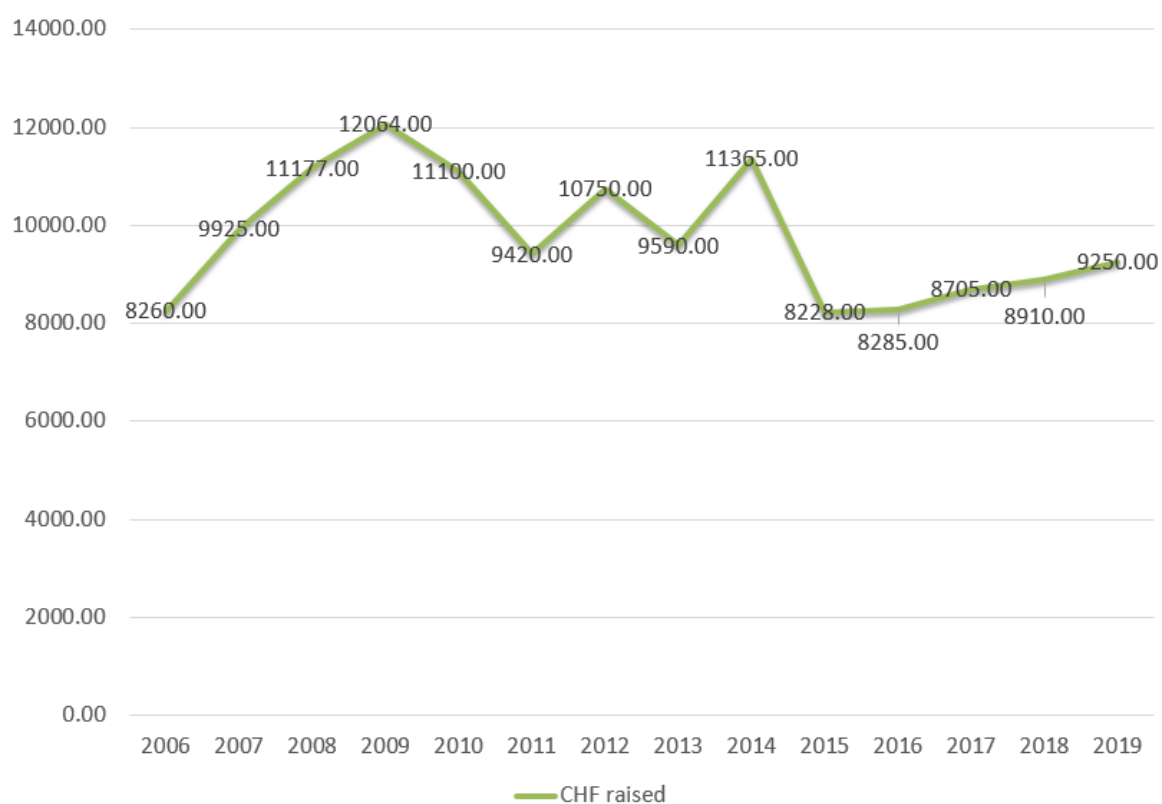


SPLIT OF BANK CHARGES

■ Service charge ■ 3rd party transfer

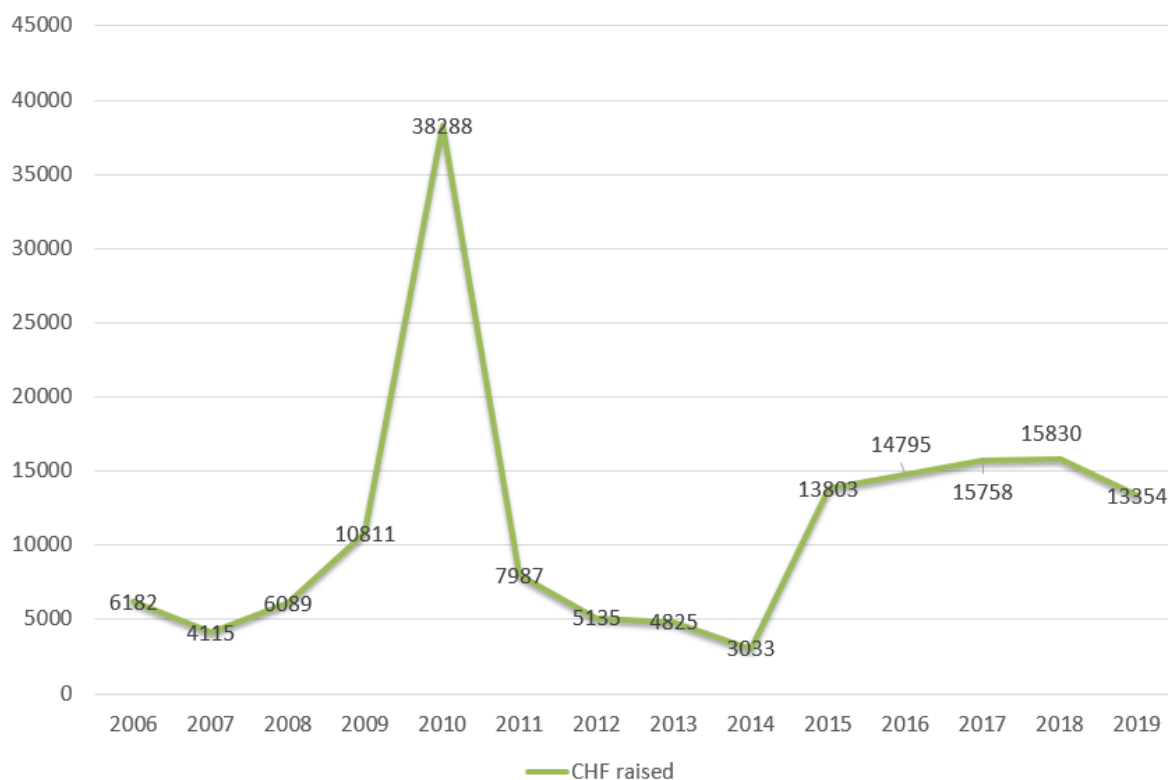


Charity as your hobby (CAYH) at a glance



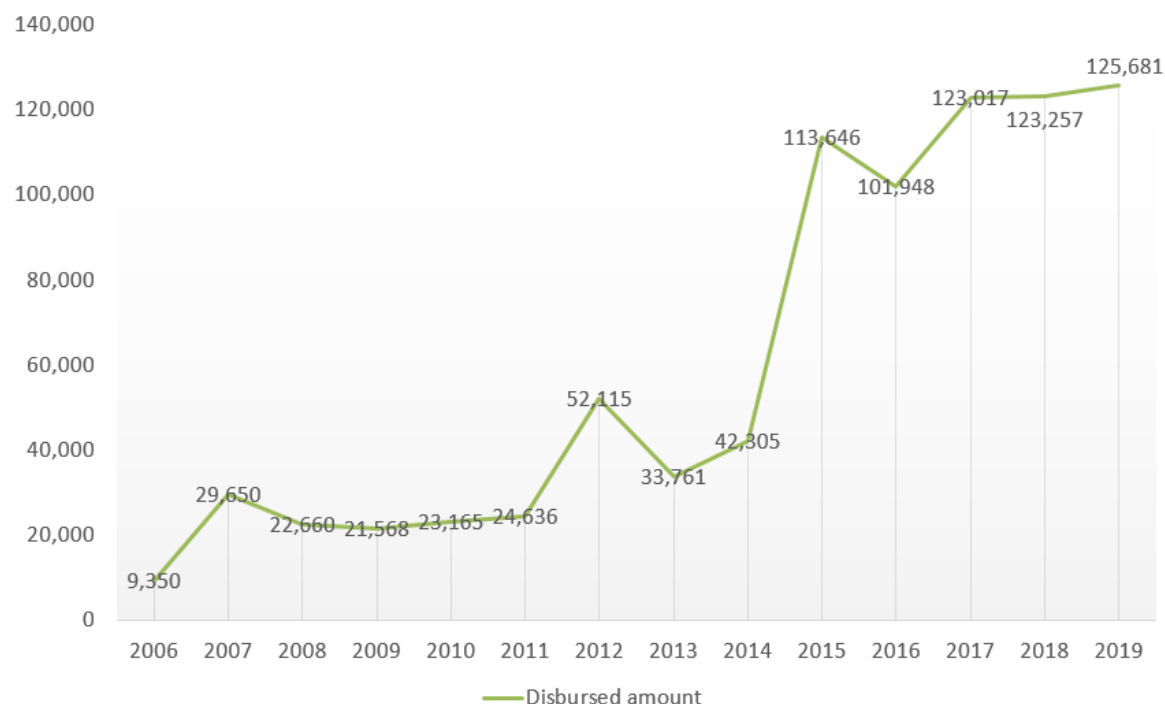
CAYH is a program initiated by Asha Zurich in 2002. Donors participating in this contribute a fixed amount periodically, usually monthly. This ensures a constant inflow of funds and helps us to make our annual budget. CAYH donations raised slightly in comparison to previous year.

Donations at a glance



The amount of one time donations decreased to CHF 4,258 in 2019 from CHF 8,498 in 2018. Through Christmas drive in 2019 at the end of the year, CHF 1,372 was raised (compared to CHF 3,823 in 2018).

Project disbursements at a glance



Asha Zurich adopted a new school under Ankuram program this year and also took up a school for Parijat Academy.

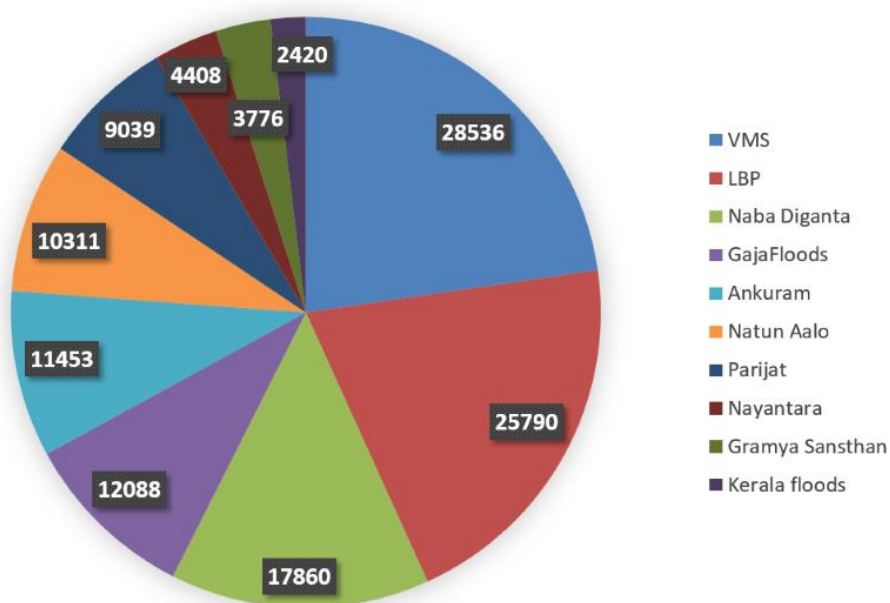
Asha Zurich also sponsored the scholarship of a child in Natun Aalo School and funded the science laboratory and library for Gramya Sansthan.

Asha Zurich also funded the school uniforms of children in Palas.

One-time funding was provided for the expenses of Gaja cyclone.

The schools Nayantara, Natun Alo, Naba Diganta, Sathwara, Salauli, Malauli followed a funding cycle of July 2018-June 2019. Their funds have been transferred for the entire academic year.

The total funds remained almost the same despite adopting two news schools, because a project with Boys town society was discontinued.



Conclusion

The financial year 2019 was a stable year because of the good opening balance. Overall funds raised have decreased because of no allocation from global US treasury and reduction in Marathon funds. CAYH receipts increased slightly, and two new projects were adopted this year.

AUDITOR'S NOTE

Audit Report for Asha Zurich 2019

I have audited the financial statement of Asha Zurich for the year 2019 as on 20.05.2020

These financial statements are the responsibility of Asha Zurich Committee members and my responsibility was to check the correctness of the transactions and the respective bills/receipts

The Audit was conducted mainly to verify the outgoing funds from Asha Zurich to various projects and expenses. To identify any missing bills/receivables any malfunction of the details shown etc.

In my opinion and to the best of my information and according to explanation given to me the said accounts give all the information required to give a true and fair view

The final view of the status is as below

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Date 20-05-2019



G. MURUGESAN
Auditor