



ANNUAL REPORT ASHA ZURICH

2014

Mission: To catalyze socio-economic change through education of underprivileged children in India

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EDITOR'S NOTE



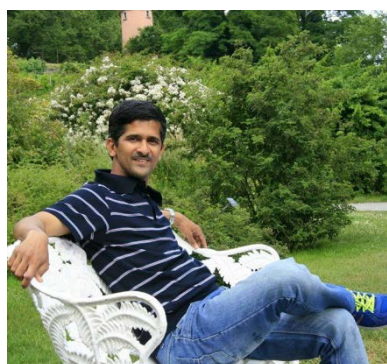
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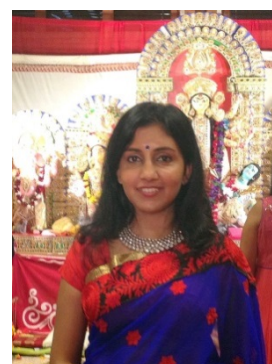
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*Kirtimalini Gadre (Jan - July) and Dipshikha Bannerjee (July - Dec) also served as SACSAS coordinators.

EDITOR'S NOTE

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”
-Nelson Mandela

Since its inception in May 2002, the volunteers and donors at Asha Zürich have steadfastly held this belief and supported Asha by means of not only monetary donation but also by contributing their time, efforts and expertise. With the help of this support, Asha Zürich has been supporting educational projects in mostly far-flung, remote and often unsafe areas of India, whilst at the same time not compromising on its flat organizational structure and minimum- overheads functioning style.

In 2014 as well, we continued to support three projects: SACSAS Academy in Manipur, Palas and Lok Biradari Prakalp in remote regions of Maharashtra. In addition to this, we have taken up two new projects in Tamil Nadu: Sri Sri Gnan Mandir, a school that is under construction and will be run under the patronage of the Art of Living Foundation in Vadakkur village and another primary school in Thirumangalam village run by the Boys Town Society. All new projects in Asha are undertaken only after a thorough background check of the institution and an on-site visit that is carried out either by an Asha volunteer or a trusted representative. The above projects were selected from many others discussed, after careful debate and deliberation.

The funds required for the smooth functioning of these projects are raised through fund-raising efforts such as the Charity as your Hobby (CYAH) program or by means of fund-raising programs. Asha Marathon and Spandan were our most significant fund-raisers, with the latter being attended by the Hon. Ambassador of India to Switzerland, Mr. M. K. Lokesh, who greatly appreciated our efforts. We also organized the Asha disco after a gap of three years, extending the experience beyond just dancing to include a photo booth, Henna and delicious food provided by Chat with Chaat. Besides Chat with Chaat, several organizations such as WYOP, restaurant Malabar, and It's Showtime Entertainment collaborated with Asha to contribute to the cause.

On a personal note, I have been associated with Asha for three years now. Like most volunteers of the “Asha Family”, as we like to call it, I feel proud as well as humbled to work for Asha. Proud, because we are aware that we are contributing in a small, albeit significant manner towards change and humbled because of the scale of work that needs to be accomplished. We hope you will all continue to support us in this endeavor in this New Year, 2015 as well.

Neera Mallick

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

“If not now, then when? If not you, then who?”

Kailash Satyarthi, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Dear donors and well-wishers of Asha

I would like to wish you a very happy new year. I hope that 2015 is bringing joy and happiness to your life as we from Asha are trying to bring them to the lives of underprivileged children in India. 2014 has been a very good year for the struggle for the rights of children. Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to Kalyan Satyarthi (India) for fighting against child labor, and to Malala Yousafzai (Pakistan) for campaigning for education of girl children. The recognition shows that even in 21st century there is still a dire need to fight for the underprivileged children in developing countries who are often deprived of their basic rights.

Fighting for the same cause with your help and support, Asha Zurich was able to successfully support its three projects in remote villages in India. Once again we provided one full year of education for more than 1,200 children by providing the cost of their tuition fees, books, uniform, food, and some other accessories. This will go a long way in giving them an opportunity to decide a career, which they often miss out. Please refer to the project specific articles for details.

Two great developments that happened in 2014 are the following. Firstly, for the first time in the history of Asha Zurich, we took over a US chapter of Asha, namely Asha Houston. We enabled the funds transfer from the US to support 4 additional schools of SACSAS academy in remote villages of Manipur, benefitting an additional 272 children.

Secondly, we have taken up two new projects in interior Tamil Nadu. The first one is a Ved Vignan Maha Vidyapith school supported by the Art of Living Foundation in the village of Vadakkur. The school is under construction with the first session expected to start from June 2015. The second one is an existing primary school run by Boys Town Society in Thirumangalam village. Site visit to Boys Town was done by our volunteer Rajesh in October 2014.

Such achievements would not have been possible without good fundraising. I am happy to say that we have surpassed previous three years in terms of funds raised by events we organized (please refer to treasurer's note). We got excellent support from many Zurich-based organizations such as Chat with Chaat, Write Your Own Prescription (www.wyop.ch), Nachle Dance Company (www.nachle.ch), Tea Fairy (www.teafairy.ch) and It's Show Time Entertainment. Besides, we got sponsorship from a number of Indian restaurants, shops, cultural centers and a Yoga school based in Zurich. At our Indian classical concert, Hon. Ambassador of India to Switzerland, Mr. M. K.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Lokesh praised our efforts. Asha Zurich also sent a delegation to Google Zurich on its Charity Day, and to the Indian Embassy in Berne for the independence day celebration.

In addition to funds we have also increased the number of volunteers in Asha. The average number of volunteers attending the monthly meeting increased from 11 in 2013 to 15 in 2014. This is strongly correlated to the average funds raised per month, which also increased by more than 300 CHF. Many new volunteers readily took up positions in the committee and worked dedicatedly to maintain the professional standard of Asha. On the other hand, we have lost some of our active volunteers as they left Switzerland or Zurich. However, they still continue to provide us moral support by spreading the message far and wide.

I thank you again for being with Asha which helped us succeed in 2014 and I hope to have you with us in the same way in 2015 as well.

Pratyush (Prat) Das Kanungo

PROJECT- LOK BIRADARI PRAKALP

Asha Zurich's project Lok Biradari Prakalp is one of the 11 projects selected for this year's Work An Hour fundraising program, <http://workanhour.ashanet.org>. In this program, donors all over the world are urged to donate an hour of their salary to the selected projects.

Asha Zurich has been associated with this project since June 2011. The LBP is a school and ashram that offers a sanctuary of peace where education is provided to tribal children free of cost in an otherwise disturbed region that is not only inhabited by wild animals and venomous snakes but also affected by Naxalite (ultra-left rebels) violence.

It was started by Dr. Prakash and his wife Mandakini Amte in 1973 in the forests of the very remote region of Hemalkasa, located between Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh state. The School: Ashram Shala. The school serves students from 600 neighbouring villages and was built from financial aid from Swiss-Aid and Oxfam. The class rooms are spacious, each of which can accommodate about 40 students. Apart from the main class rooms, the school also has a library, a newly built science room, clean toilets, a computer laboratory and a playground. Even though the school is Marathi medium, English is being taught already from Class 1.

LBP and Asha Zürich:

Ashram Shala has about 650 students in total who are given free education from kindergarten up to high school. For 480 students (40 per class, excluding the kindergarten), the school receives government funding. Expenses for the rest are covered from external sponsors. Since 2011, Asha Zurich has been sponsoring 100 of them with an



annual contribution of around SFr. 6,100.00 (2013). This money is spent in providing uniforms, books, stationery, sports equipment for the students as well as healthy food three times a day and accommodation in the dormitory.

The project coordinator Aniket Amte (son of Dr. Prakash Amte) sends regular updates, and a number of volunteers from Asha Zurich have visited the project site. In 2010, it was visited by Kirtimalini Gadre and Indranil Bhattacharya for funding assessment. It was subsequently visited in 2012 by Lena Steiner and most recently in early 2014 by the president of Asha Zurich, Pratyush Das Kanungo (Prat). Pratyush found the students living and studying there to be not only deeply

PROJECT- LOK BIRADRI PRAKALP

contented with their education and living conditions, but highly ambitious with impressive career goals: For example Meena (IX Std.) wanted to be a police officer and Manoj (VII Std.) a doctor.

Achievements in 2014:

- The school had a 100% success rate with all students passing the 10th Std. Examination. However, besides this remarkable academic achievement, a lot of other activities were initiated this quarter by the on-site coordinator Mr. Aniket and his team to ensure the social, physical and extra-curricular development of the children:
- A get-together of about 50 ex-senior students was planned in Pune to know about their progress, offer them help by providing knowledge and experience in areas such as personality development and technology.
- In addition to their regular cleaning program, LBP students and staff cleaned up the roads and the school campus to support the “Swach Bharat Abhiyan” launched by the Hon. Prime Minister on 2.October.
- A Bollywood cinema was produced based on Dr Prakash Amte’s life @ Hemalkasa.
- A sports event was 7divasi7d in which the children participated at district level.
- A summer camp was organized in April named ‘Social Surroundings Consciousness’ in which 100 children (40 from other cities and 60 from LBP)participated. The children learnt about their environment, went trekking , interacted with artists and experts of various professions and also improved their social and communication skills during this camp.
- Mr. Aniket has also started the initiative of providing tablet computers in surrounding villages free of cost in order to make them aware of the latest technology and increasing their inclination towards education.
- Additionally, one volunteer software engineer has been engaged at Hemalkasa to develop android based applications with in-built education oriented applications and games.



Umesh Ganoo

PROJECT- PALAS

PALAS has been associated with ASHA's Zürich chapter since 2004 and is one of its oldest projects. Schools were opened in regions where there were no government schools by the Vishwa Mandal Sevashram (VMS) with the support of the villagers.

VMS-PALAS was started with the intention of getting children from the remote tribal villages involved in the educational system. The focus is on non-formal education using teaching aids like charts, action songs and poems. Usually, children who are between the ages of 4-10 are encouraged to enrol in their schools. There is an average of 35 classes that are conducted per month across the various villages around Shirpur. These children are taught basic Mathematics, Marathi and English. Once the students are at the same level as the students who have been in the formal system, they are provided with active encouragement to try and persuade them to eventually make a shift to a formal schooling system and join schools in the district capital at Shirpur. Palas now supports over 600 students. Many of these are also students who come from tribal families or families that move around from one village to the next. The classes by Palas allow the students to continue their education and eventually move into the formal schooling system. Palas also has a boarding facility in Shirpur where the formal schools are located. Children who come from far away villages and would like to join formal education can join these hostels.

Classes are typically divided into groups and are monitored by an assigned supervisor. The supervisor checks the attendance of students conducts exams and does random visits. Project coordinator, Father Assis overlooks the reports and all activities of supervisors and teachers. Children are not charged any fees. With the help of RTE (Right to Education) act, VMS Palas is integrating children in the nearby government schools. A survey conducted earlier in the year showed that 115 students made the transition from the Palas schools to the formal state run schools in the last five years.

Some of the activities undertaken during the course of the last year include:

Teacher trainings: Multiple training programmes were conducted. One was held by Unmesh Gadre, a retired principal from Bombay municipal school. He dealt with topics related to teacher and student interaction. It was a useful and practical training session for teachers on how to handle students with care and concern and how to spot and tap into their talents by giving them positive encouragement. Training was also conducted by Godfrey who is the founder of Palas. Such training encourages the teachers and consequently has a positive effect on the teaching.

Summer study camp: This camp creates opportunities for the children to take a leap of faith – from informal to formal education. In this intensive camp, teachers deal with all important subjects (Maths, English, Marathi & Art). Staying here in the boarding (during this camp) gives them a glimpse to the boarding life that awaits them. In addition to this, the director, supervisors & co-coordinator individually meets each child & helps decide who would fit well and is ready to take this leap from non- formal to formal ways of schooling. This camp helps VMS Palas to

PROJECT- PALAS

maintain a record of each child admitted in Palas classes. In the words of Fr. Assis, “Basically, this camp helps our simple *9divasi* children to take up challenges in life.”

Teachers’ Exposure Tour at Mumbai

This was arranged for them to get an exposure of city life-style and to learn about the kind of education available in cities. Mr. Ravindra Dev (Prof of Xavier’s MBA College) inspired the teachers with his down to earth approach and a variety of motivational games. The fact that he has achieved such great heights in spite of being affected by polio, proved to be a great source of inspiration to the teachers.



A success story from VMS-Palas: From a part time student to a Doctor

Vinod, a student of Palas, successfully transferred to a formal school. After finishing high school he secured admission to a medical college in Bombay. Now he has graduated as a medical doctor (MBBS). We congratulate Vinod on this remarkable achievement.

Vinod’s proud parents



Vinod



Asha Zurich supports the VMS PALAS project by assisting financially in the day to day running of the schools as well as the costs for boarding and housing for students who have made the transition to the formal schooling in Shirpur but come from the villages nearby and need a place to stay and learn.

Samyuktha Muralidharan Sharma

PROJECT- SACSAS

SACSAS Academy is a secular organization striving to provide quality education to children in the remote villages in Manipur.

SACSAS Academy, New Dampi Branch in Manipur started its operations in 2009 with Asha Houston acting as the steward for this Project. The entire school building construction at New Dampi was sponsored by Mr. Martin H. from London. Asha Zurich became a part of the project in 2010 to fund 50% of the recurring costs comprising of the salary of the teachers, study tools, uniforms for students, text books, school maintenance and scholarships.



This school in New Dampi village caters to 9 surrounding villages and has a strength of 165 students who study in classes from pre-nursery to class VI and is the biggest among all the schools operated by SACSAS.

Functioning of the school:

Mr. Surjit Kumar, the on-ground coordinator of the SACSAS Academy has been coordinating all the five schools including the new one at New Dampi. However, owing to the vastness of the area where all these schools operate and also the difficulty in organizing daily visits to all these schools, the functioning of all the schools including the one in New Dampi is taken up by the local people.

They not only take care of the protection of the school premises against the terrorist groups but also take care of the school administration. This is really essential to build up the spirit of self-governance and sense of responsibility in the minds of parents and villagers for their children's education.

New Dampi School has appointed a School Committee, which comprises of the village king or any family member of the king and some parents of the children of New Dampi village and surrounding villages. The Committee charges a nominal monthly fee of 5-10 INR from the parents of the children for the payment of the watchman's services. The committee also makes sure that the children attend the school regularly besides monitoring the punctuality of the school teachers.

PROJECT- SACSAS

The functioning of the schools and the salary of the teachers in case of lack of funds is addressed by running a charitable hospital named “National Charitable Hospital” over the last six years by Mr. Surjitkumar Yumkhaibam, who tries to fund the salaries of the teachers in difficult times.

Education Methodology:

The academy focuses on basic education for children. The books and teaching techniques used in imparting education are the same as the ones used in the government schools. This helps primarily in a way that children passing out of the SACSAS academy can directly enter mainstream schools. For all round development of the students in the school, the school organizes sports meets at least four times a year after each quarterly exam and this has been a great source of motivation and entertainment for the kids in the area with winning students being given books as prizes. It conducts regular meetings with parents of students and the guardian committee. This is essential to address the problems faced by kids and also brings about a sense of responsibility in the minds of the villagers where the school operates.

The SACSAS Academy is doing an excellent job by offering education to the children coming from the interior hill areas of Manipur. The five schools in the villages namely New Dampi, Maovam, Wangoo, Loilamkot and Laishoi under the supervision of SACSAS Academy are giving primary education to the local children. The Zurich and Houston chapters of ‘ASHA for Education’ are jointly supporting this noble work of SACSAS Academy by providing financial support to these five schools. Asha Zurich is administratively responsible for 4 SACSAS schools i.e. Maovam, Wangoo, Laishoi, Loilamkot.

Site Visit in 2014

Site visit was done in August and September, by Mr. Shantikumar (project cor-ordinator of SACSAS from Asha Houston), who visited the school during his trip to India and says,

“The kids are very enthusiastic and I hope that they continue going to SACSAS schools and then go to the State government run High Schools. I am proud to be a part of these schools and am impressed with the dedication, simplicity, sincerity and the level of commitment of the team at the grass root level, in spite of all the challenges the team face and the



social/political disturbances in the area.” He covered all the schools in a period of 4 days. During his stay they celebrated St. Patriot’s Day at the school.

Achievements in 2014

He presented his findings in the report he shared with us, which is available on the Asha website and summarized here:

- Most of the students graduate from SACSAS and join the nearby government schools for further education.
- The dropout rate is as low as 4%.
- Summer camps and other events like Teacher’s Day and St Patriot’s Day are regularly organised.

Namita Agrawal

NEW PROJECTS

SRI SRI GNAN MANDIR

In October 2014, Asha Zürich decided to adopt a new project for the education of underprivileged children. The school, **Sri Sri Gnan Mandir** is currently under construction in the remote Vadakkur village of Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu state. When completed, it will accommodate 500 children in 21 class rooms, whose parents are labourers from 18 surrounding villages.

Funding of the School:

Asha Zurich will start funding 30 children from June 2015. The project is being managed by Ved Vignan Maha Vidyapeeth, which is an NGO under the umbrella of the famous Art of Living Foundation. The NGO comprises of an



enthusiastic group of NRIs, who have a keen interest in promoting education for the underprivileged in rural India. The land for the school (3.5 acres) has been donated by Professor Swaminath, who was the Head of Commerce Department in Shastra University, Thanjavur. The land has already been registered in the name of the Trust. With generous contributions from friends and relatives an amount of SGD 50,000 has been raised.

The NGO has undertaken this project in partnership with The Art of Living (AOL) Foundation, which was established by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in 1982. The foundation has set up several free schools and transformed the lives of thousands of children in India in the slums, rural & tribal regions (Dharavi slums of Mumbai, Tsunami affected areas in Nagapattinam in Tamilnadu, Naxalite-prone regions of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand & West Bengal) since then.

The Foundation will establish and run the school ensuring that:

- administration expenses are kept to a minimum
- the progress of the school is regularly monitored
- payments are released only against milestones in construction.

The AOL Foundation has already contributed INR 50,00,000 (SGD 100,000) for the proposed school.

NEW PROJECTS

Vision of the School:

The school aims to provide free education following the regular curriculum approved by the State Board of Tamilnadu till 12th Standard. The students after completing Std 12 will be eligible for pursuing University education.

The children are from economically backward sections of the society. Their parents are landless labourers/farmers/ local artisans. The proposed school will provide free education to 500 students from 18 nearby villages. These villages don't have access to a school close by (for a radius of around 10 km), as a result of which many children don't go to school or have to travel long distances and hence drop out.

The aim is to admit about 200 students in the school in year 1. The children will be 4 to 12 years of age. The plan is to scale it up and have around 400 students over the next few years.

The education will be imparted in a stress-free, student-friendly and secular environment and thereby lead to the creation of a better social environment in their villages.

Besides academic development, the school aims to

- Provide students with two meals every day as well as uniforms, books & stationery free of cost in order to motivate them to attend school every day.
- Inculcate values like friendliness, sharing & consideration for peers.
- Emphasise healthy living, hygiene and cleanliness given the fact that the children of most parents are illiterate and poor. The literacy rate in the local community is estimated to be approximately 68%.
- Kindle in them a deeper love for their roots and culture, broadening their horizon of thinking, and help them progress towards becoming socially-conscious and responsible citizens.

Sachin Mehta

NEW PROJECTS

BOYS TOWN SOCIETY

In the November 2014 meeting Asha Zurich approved the proposal from Boys Town Society of Thirumangalam village in Tamil Nadu after very positive feedback from our volunteer Rajesh who made a site visit in October. Boys Town Society was founded in 1965 by Joe Hoffman to educate and empower street children. Today, the society has 4 Boys Town, 1 Girls Town, 3 Children villages assisting around 600 children under residential care and another 300 children in 4 villages under non-residential care. Asha Zurich has already signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide the running cost of Francois Meyer Nursery and Primary School that benefits around 50 underprivileged children. Following are the observations of Rajesh in his site visit.

- I met the general secretary Narayana Raja and he showed me around 5 schools including
 - a. Evening classes
 - b. Residential schools
 - c. Nursery
- They have appointed local teachers in each village whom they provide with a salary.
- He explained the structure. The kids have teams and they run the school as well as their dormitory as a government with ministers, president, treasurer etc.
- This is a very professionally run organization with different levels of hierarchies.
- They are doing a great job and it is worth to support them.



Rajesh Varadarajan

FUND-RAISERS

5th SPANDAN – NOTES OF HOPE

On 27. September, Asha Zurich organized its 5th annual fundraising concert of Indian classical music and dance – Spandan - Notes of Hope. This time we had a Bharatanatyam performance by



renowned, locally -based artist Morag Pryde, followed by Indian classical vocals by All India Radio artist Sayantani Dasgupta and a Sarod recital by internationally recognized artist Somjit Dasgupta. The audience enjoyed the various mythological anecdotes, beautifully depicted by Morag in her Bharatnatyam recital as well as the mesmerising vocals of Sayantani accompanied on the harmonium by Aditya Bannerjee, on Tabla by

Shrirang Mirajkar and on the guitar by Aditya Barve Patkar. Towards the end, the audience were further treated to some classical Indian ragas on Sarod by Somjit Dasgupta. Besides the music and dance, the audience also enjoyed the delicious food served by Chat with Chaat.

The event, which was also attended by the Ambassador of India to Switzerland, Mr. M. K. Lokesh, was quite well received by an audience of about 80 people. We are very grateful to our wonderful sponsors: Chalet India, Agarwal Food, Chat with Chaat, Indo Kids, Yoga City, Mundial Restaurant, Malabar Restaurant and many private donors.

All the volunteers worked hard to bring the event to life: The work included arrangements for the artists and the auditorium, negotiation with the sponsors, and spreading word about the event. Through social networks, personal interactions and media advertisements, we were able to reach out to the lovers of Indian classical music beyond the Zurich-based Indian diaspora.

FUND-RAISERS

DHOOM MACHALE – Asha Bollywood party

After a gap of two years, Asha Zurich organized a Bollywood party - Dhoom Machale in the evening of 19. July. It took place at the Hey City of Music club in Zurich Oerlikon and was attended by around 120 people.

Stuti Aga and Veena Steiner from the Zurich based dance group Nachle (www.nachle.ch) gave a Bollywood dancing workshop and subsequently DJ Indro set the floor on fire with his Bollywood mixes. Besides dance, the Henna stall by Asha volunteer Shalmali was highly popular and so was the tasty Indian street-food offered by Kirti from her Chat with Chaat brand. The party was a big hit and Asha will organize it again in 2015.



1st WYOP-Asha Run

WYOP stands for **Write Your Own Prescription** i.e. the motto of the organization is to provide a platform to promote healthier living. They do this by providing workshops, motivational talks and advice on running.



and adults ran and had great fun. The event raised an amount of CHF 1,453 for Asha Zurich projects.

The next event will be on 22nd March, 2015 and will feature runners sharing their inspirational stories and there will also be a workshop on running and injuries. WYOP will strive to promote good health and happiness by organizing many more events in 2015 and would be happy to support Asha Zurich.

Stay tuned for further events at www.wyop.ch.

On 22nd June 2014, this Zurich based association joined hands with Asha Zurich to organize a WYOP-Asha Run. The event took place in the city of Zurich at Fronwald Stadium, Affoltern. Over 100 participants including kids

FUND-RAISERS

CHAT WITH CHAAT

On 8 March and 14. June, Asha Zurich jointly organized a food stand with Chat with Chaat, an Indian street- food brand. Volunteers helped in cooking and serving the food, as well as in promoting Asha. Both events were attended by more than a hundred people and helped us raise a good amount for our projects. Additionally, Chat with Chaat also catered at other Asha events namely Spandan and Asha disco. The attendees enjoy sampling the various delicacies not easily available at the local restaurants here, socialising with their friends and getting to know Asha volunteers and their fund-raising activities and projects in India.

The food is cooked by housewives led by Asha Zurich's long-time volunteer Kirtimalini Gadre. According to her, this street food brand, besides contributing to charity also helps in imparting confidence and a part-time occupation to a lot of housewives new to Zürich.



ZÜRICH MARATHON

On 6 April, 31 runners ran in the Zürich Marathon, Team Run and City Run to raise awareness and funds for Asha Zürich's projects on education of underprivileged children in India. This year, the fundraising target was set at CHF 20,000 which was successfully met. Friends and colleagues of the runners as well as many well-wishers of Asha sponsored the runs by donating to Asha.



FUND-RAISERS

Apart from these big events, Asha Zurich also benefitted from the following fundraisers.

- A cooking course at Malabar restaurant in Zurich, part of the profit was donated to Asha Zurich by the restaurant owners.
- Rajdeep ran in SOLA 2014 and fund-raised for Asha.
- Tulika ran in half marathon in Iceland and fund-raised for Asha.
- Asha was the charity partner of It's Showtime Entertainment who organized a Bollywood music concert – An Evening in Zurich. Part of the profit was donated to Asha.
- Shalmali created handmade Christmas greeting cards. They were sold via Asha and the entire amount was donated to Asha as well.
- Sachin organized greeting cards in collaboration with India-based NGO Akanksha. They were also sold through Asha volunteers and the entire amount was donated to Asha.



UPCOMING FUND-RAISERS

Bollywood Party – 27. February 2015

Zurich Marathon – 19. April 2015

Chat with Chaat – TBA

THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

Dear Donor

As you are aware, Asha members all study or are professionals and only work for Asha in their spare time. In my professional role I have recently received a newsletter from an asset management firm containing an article about the value of education which I would like to summarise and share with you.

The article is based on a publication by David Autor, a professor in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) economics department. Professor Autor has shown with his research that if you took all of the wealth gains which the top 1% of earners (in the USA) made between 1979 and 2012 and spread it among the bottom 99%, each household would get a one-time payment of only USD7,000. However, if you take a two-earner, high school educated couple and give them college degrees, the household's income will increase by USD58,000 per year.

The newsletter article is very inspiring for the sheer fact that it was published in an industry which has certainly other priorities than philanthropy, and it shows that awareness is increasing in all fields. It also confirms that education is the root for improving the situation of the underprivileged and that Asha for Education is on the right track with its mission. Thank you for supporting us.

Doris Hofer, volunteer & Tea Fairy

To order Makaibari tea, please visit www.teafairy.ch. The entire profit from tea sales benefits Asha Zurich's projects.



TREASURER'S NOTE

Financial Overview for year ended 31st Dec 2014 :

The Financial year 2014 was one of the best year in Asha Zurich's history with the total funds raised amounting to CHF 51,391(previous year CHF 46,392). In addition Asha Zurich received financial support from Asha Global treasury with allocations of CHF 35,301(previous year CHF 11,516). The additional support from Asha Global treasury was from the general funds, as well as from Work an Hour Initiative (WAH) for our project Lok Biradari Prakalp.

Asha Zurich had a net surplus of CHF 16,816 (Previous year CHF 4,612) and CHF 38,686 with Asha US Funds. The surplus was mainly driven by higher Asha general fund allocation (US) and discontinuation of support to Project Swadhar effective Jan 2014.

The total cash & account balance including receivable as on 31st Dec, 2014 was CHF 81,328 (previous year CHF 64,824) o/w cash balance was CHF 1,543 & receivable was CHF 250. The total unutilized US general funds were CHF 21,870 o/w WAH CHF 5,870.

The total cash & balance of CHF 103,199 including unutilized balance with Asha Global treasury would cover committed funding for approx. 2 years.

	CHF
Opening Account Balance (01/Jan/2014)	64,824
Total Funds raised/Allocated	86,692
Receipts from Events/CAYH/others**	51,391
Asha General fund allocation* (US)	35,301
Fund Utilized	(48,317)
Project Disbursements by Asha Zurich	(28,874)
Project Disbursements by Asha Global (US)	(13,431)
Expenses 2014	(5701)
Expenses 2013	(311)
Net surplus with US Funds	38,686
Net surplus without US Funds	16,816
Closing Cash & Bank Bal. (31/Dec/2014)***	81,328

*Asha general funds are maintained in United States and are not part of Asha Zurich financials. However, they are utilized only for Zurich approved projects directly

** CAYH: Charity as your Hobby

TREASURER'S NOTE

*** Cash and bank balance reflects cash and balance in Asha Zurich accounts. The Asha global funds are only allocated to Zurich approved projects and are not part of cash & bank balance in Asha Zurich Financials.

Income & Expenditure Overview :

Asha Zurich organized & raised funds from about 14 events directly or as a charity partner. The highest fund raiser for 2014 was the Zurich Marathon with a net surplus of CHF 18,168. The contribution from CAYH increased to CHF 11,365 (Previous year CHF 9,590). The total donor base increased to 19. Donations were also received from outside of Switzerland, from countries such as Singapore, US, India, Dubai & Saudi Arabia.

In addition to Spandan 2014 & Marathon event, we had many new events such as Chat with Chaat, Asha Disco, WYOP run and sale of Asha cards.

Events	CHF		
	Income	Expenses	Profit
Zurich Marathon 2014	19'387	1'219	18'168
CAYH	11'365		11'365
Chat with Chaat	4'123		4'123
Spandan	5'177	2'260	2'917
Donations	3'033		3'033
Asha Disco	2'330		2'330
WYOP Run	2'888	1'378	1'510
Asha cards sale	960		960
Cooking event	770		770
Makaibari/Teafairy*	817	323	494
Others	541	-	541
Admin (post, paypal, rent)		521	(521)
Total	51'391	5'701	45'690

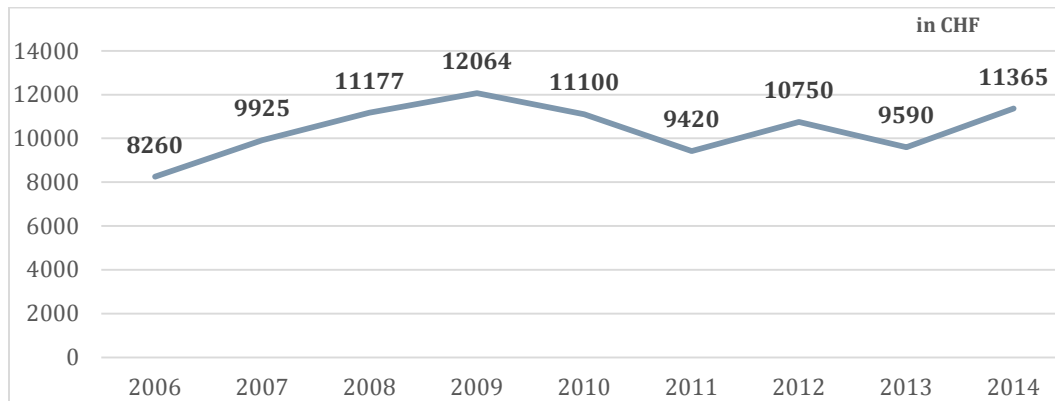
*The expenses shown under the Makaibari partnership relate only to a part of the year. During the year, the procedure was changed and the sales were accounted as income net of expenses.

CAYH Update:

Charity As Your Hobby (CAYH) is a scheme started by Asha Zurich in 2002. In this program, donors contribute a fixed amount of funds periodically (usually monthly). This ensures a constant inflow

TREASURER'S NOTE

of money and allows Asha Zurich to plan for projects in advance. CAYH donations increased from previous year due to increase in donor base and one time donations.

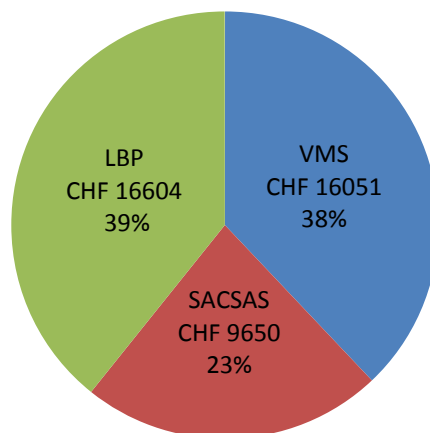


Overview on Project Disbursement :

In 2014, the total project disbursement was CHF 42,305 o/w CHF 13,430 was directly funded by Asha Global treasury (US). The disbursement was mainly to existing 3 projects namely VMS, SACSACS & Hemalkasa (LBP).

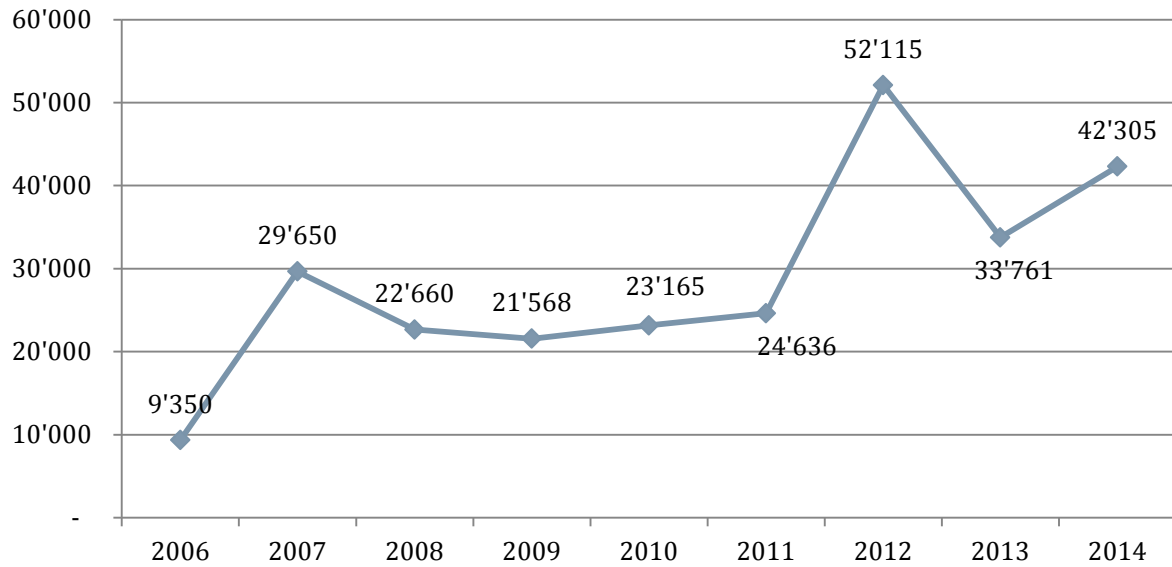
Additionally, Asha Zurich also supported Asha Houston Chapter administratively to organize funding for 4 SACSACS schools from Asha Global treasury (US) amounting to USD 28,946.

Project Funding



TREASURER'S NOTE

Yearly Trend



Note: Disbursement includes funding by Asha Global treasury directly to projects.

AUDITOR'S NOTE


AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the attached Balance Sheet. of "ASHA Zurich CHAPTER " as at 31st December 2014 & also the attached Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date annexed thereto. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Asha Zurich committee and my responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audit.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards. Those Standards require that audit is planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that the audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

1. I have obtained all the information and explanation which to the best of my knowledge & belief, were necessary for the purpose of the audit.
2. In my opinion, proper books of accounts as required have been kept which give all information required. The accounts have been maintained on Cash basis.
3. The Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the Books of Accounts.
4. 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 :
 - i) In the case of Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of Asha Zurich as at 31st December, 2014.
 - ii) In the case of Income and Expenditure Account of the excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date.

Authorised Auditor of Asha Zurich


(Sumukh Koshe)

Date : 22/01/2015

ASHA AND YOU

Giving to Asha

Asha Zurich team select educational projects for underprivileged children in India through a rigorous review process including a site visit. Funds for the project are raised by direct donation and charity events.



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

Even small, regular donations count. Asha encourages its well-wishers to take part in the Charity As Your Hobby program. With as little as CHF 20 per month, one can sponsor

child. Please make a donation!

the monthly cost of education, food and accommodation of a

Vol nteer

Asha Zurich needs yoU

The core of Asha is its dedicated volunteers who passionately work for the cause without any monetary benefit. They are students and professionals based in and around Zurich who bring their skills and donate their time to professionally manage Asha's projects and make our fundraising events successful. Asha Zurich is also very diverse, with volunteers coming from many different countries with a significant presence of female volunteers. Would you like to join Asha and be a part of the change? Then contact us today.

Asha Zurich

c/o Dr. Indranil Bhattacharya

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