

# ACTIVITY REPORT '18



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Dear Friends,

The year has come to an end so it is time to let you know what we have achieved in 2018: we believe this is the best way to thank you for your support.

## YEARLY PROJECTS

These are the projects that we have been supporting for several years in cooperation with the "Friends of the Missionarie dell'Immacolata":

- **BANGLADESH** – Kalisha: support for the school;
- **GUINEA BISSAU** – Mansoa: support for a nutrition centre for twins;
- **GUINEA BISSAU** – Bissau: maintenance of transport vehicles for the Sisters and purchase of petrol;
- **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** – Watuluma: study and work scholarships for young people;
- **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** – Port Moresby: contribution for education of young people;
- **BREZIL** – Macapà: support for children in the favelas after school hours;
- **INDIA** – Mumbai: support for the Vimala Dermatological Centre, the hospital where leprosy is treated;



The second school that we supported in Brazil and the alternative medicine centre for which we provided aid in Guinea Bissau are now self-supporting and no longer need our help; so we decided to take on a new project:

- **INDIA** – Haldwani: requalification of the leper hospital into a centre for assistance to terminally ill patients.

These are the projects that we have been supporting for many years now regarding the two centres run by the "Sisters of the Destitute":

- **INDIA** – Jeevandhara: contribution for the centre for physically handicapped little girls
- **INDIA** – Kera Kurd: contribution for the centre for mentally handicapped women.

These are the projects that we continue to support in favour of Tibetan refugees in the various refugee camps in India:

- **BYLAKUPPE** – Tso Jhe hospital: maintenance of delivery room and a contribution for the tuberculosis patients' wing and the dental department;
- **VARIOUS REFUGEE CAMPS**: contribution for the canteens of 7 schools;
- **VARIOUS REFUGEE CAMPS**: contribution for 5 old people's homes;
- **DHARAMSALA**: payment of rent for a deaf and dumb girl and for two elderly nuns;
- **DEHRADUN** – financial support for the Ngoenga school for disabled children.

## MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Unfortunately, medical emergencies are often dramatic situations with no easy solutions for families living at the limit of their means: to fall ill without any medical insurance and not be able to work and therefore receive no wages are tragic situations that can ruin whole families who have to borrow money in order to survive and pay for treatment, or even be forced to forego treatment. That is why our help is sought ever more frequently and for this reason we try to maintain reserve funds to cover these emergencies.

## ONE OFF PROJECTS

These are the projects that were already accepted in 2017 but which we were able to carry out and complete in 2018:

- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: this is without doubt the most important and demanding project financially and we succeed in carrying it out thanks to support from the "In the Name of Women" trust. It involved in the construction of new homes for the elderly women in the Lugsung refugee camp, and consisted of 2 blocks of 4 rooms each occupied by two persons, and a block of 2. Altogether 20 elderly Tibetan women will be living there. The bathrooms were designed for their specific needs and are located between two rooms. The building where they were living before was unsafe and unhygienic;



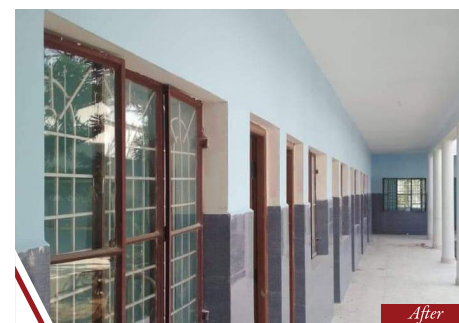
- **UTTARAKHAND** – Dehradun: with help from the Gab foundation in Lugano and the Bertarelli foundation in Geneva, we were able to complete the renovation of the Dejikiling hospital. The previous year we worked on the tuberculosis patients wing, this year we renovated the central block of the hospital: metal roofing was installed to protect against the monsoon rains, a drainage canal was created around the walls to protect them, the whole of the inside of the hospital and staff quarters on the 1st floor were renovated and repainted;



- **UTTARAKHAND** – Dehradun: the renovation work at the school for disabled children in Ngoenga was continued this year with renewal of part of the electrical installation: the meters were changed and their power increased, and the cables in the children's dormitory and in some of the the staff quarters were changed and covered. Heartfelt thanks to the Arpe foundation in Zurich which financed the work;
- **KARNATAKA** – Mundgod: the construction of new quarters for the staff of Mundgod hospital was started. The old quarters, with asbestos roofing and wooden door and window frames that were unsafe due to attack by termites were impossible to repair. We foresee completion of construction by the end of the first half of 2019;
- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: vaccination against Hepatitis B was started in young people up to 16 years of age. Heartfelt thanks to Sokhrates which financed the project; we sincerely hope to be able to renew this project for many years to come given its huge importance for prevention;
- **TAMIL NADU** – Chennai: purchase of shoes for children in the slums.

Regarding the other projects that we were able to complete in 2018, most of these were decided as an emergency following the flooding which severely damaged central and southern India last summer, causing serious structural problems in buildings that were already in a precarious state.

- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: installation of metal roofing for 2 schools: CST e CVP, the heavy rain last year infiltrated the roof and flooded the classrooms, destroyed the computers, short circuited the electrical installation, damaged books and desks... the metal roofing will prevent similar disasters in the future. Many thanks to all those who replied most generously to our appeals.
- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: installation of metal roofing and requalification of the tuberculosis patients' wing at the Tso Jhe hospital in Bylakuppe. Here damage caused by the torrential rains was very severe indeed and a more serious, radical intervention





was necessary to restore the situation to an acceptable level. Heartfelt thanks to one of our friends who financed the project but wishes to stay anonymous;

- **KARNATAKA** – Gurupura: installation of metal roofing and renovation of kitchen and toilets in 2 nursery schools;
- **KARNATAKA** – Gurupura: construction of a new water well that will serve 45 families (about 215 people) in village “A” of the refugee camp. The previous well collapsed with the floods.
- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: one of our benefactors donated the furniture for the library in the CVP school in memory of a dear friend prematurely deceased. The shelves do not have cupboards and so are open. It was explained to us that if a book should disappear, and that only happens very rarely, well it would mean that there was one reader more!
- **UTTARAKHAND** – Dehradun: purchase of open air games for the new children’s play park.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

For the second year running the “In the name of women” Trust financed scholarships for:

- 50 Tibetan girls who are doing secondary education courses;
- 2 Tibetan girls who are enrolled with the Faculty of Medicine;
- 5 disabled Indian girls who want to continue their studies after XII class.

## MEDICAL CAMPS

The 2018 medical camp saw the participation of dentists: Doctor Giorgia Capocasale, Doctor Rodolfo Mauceri, Professor Giuseppina Campisi and Doctor Nicola Mauceri from the University of Palermo, who with Professor Bruno Neri from the University of Pisa were in Bylakuppe from 28 January until 10 February. They worked full time: checkups in the schools, treatment and dental hygiene at the Tso Jeh hospital, plus conferences on dental hygiene. They saw more than 1,000 children. For this medical camp one of our benefactors donated X-ray equipment for the dentistry department of the hospital.

Heartfelt thanks to all those doctors who forego their holidays to come to India as volunteers to treat and advise the Bylakuppe refugees, Vimala Association is profoundly grateful!



## SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship proceeds: with a small annual contribution (less than one coffee per day) we can sponsor the education of an Indian child or assist a Tibetan child or grandmother/father.

This year we want to tell you of an episode that caused us great emotion and helped us to understand how important these small gestures of solidarity can be for those in need. During our annual interviews with many of the young people we assist, we asked Ganesh, who was now in XV class (short degree course) whether or not he intended to continue his studies. His father had died and his mother worked as a home help paid by the hour earning less than 100 euros a month, a sister who married very young and a younger brother who was at school. Ganesh, a handsome boy, said as soon as he arrived that before the interview he wished to say something. We were very curious and encouraged him to go on. With a voice trembling with emotion he told us that he had already been for an interview with us before but at that time he still hadn’t grasped how much he was being offered. He had dreams of small things and year after year (he had been assisted from when he attended IV class), he had achieved them and discovered he had other bigger dreams, and little by little as he dreamed, the road ahead opened, he could go on studying, after X class, college, after college, university, now he was even being offered the opportunity of a master. By now he was overcome by tears (and us, too), he thanked us, he thanked his mother for having always believed in him and for having always supported him.

Perhaps not all the stories have such a happy ending, some are forced by circumstances to abandon their studies, but many, and they are more numerous every year, succeed in getting a bachelor and many others a master, whereby they can guarantee a more dignified life for themselves and their families, with less poverty.

# PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2019

These are the projects for which we have generous financiers:

- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: construction of a new canteen for the CST school in Bylakuppe;
- **UTTARAKHAND** – Dehradun - Ngoenga school: Construction of a protection wall behind the kitchen: the stream that passes there becomes stronger during the monsoons and erodes the land belonging to the school by about 50 cm/year. If no action is taken in a few years the kitchen and canteen will also collapse;
- **UTTARAKHAND** – Dehradun – Ngoenga school: purchase of new water tanks and construction of a tower to store them;
- **UTTARAKHAND** – Dehradun – Ngoenga school: Renovation and metal roofing for 3 other school buildings;
- **KARNATAKA** – Mundgod: construction of a new kitchen for the school;
- **UTTAR PRADESH** – Dharamsala: extension of toilets for the girls at the CHTS (College for Higher Tibetan Studies) and creation of a laundry room;
- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: construction of a new water well for the hospital, school, and surrounding village. Here the problem is the same as at Gurupura: the old well collapsed after the torrential rain.

These projects are awaiting financing:

- **SECULAR ETHICS**: this is a project that His Highness the Dalai Lama is very keen on. He also mentioned it in a conference he gave in Switzerland in April 2013 (to find out more: <http://thefelder.net/29/04/2013/etica-secolare-secondo-il-dalai-lama/>). This is ethics beyond all religions, that can go further than religion itself, with the aim of achieving greater social peace. It is an extremely topical subject, as can well be imagined. We are being asked to finance courses that will enable teachers to teach secular ethics in schools;
- **VACCINATION** against cervical tumours: This project was proposed to us by the Ministry of Health since cervical tumours is one of the main causes of death among women in the refugee camps. Especially in countries where regular gynaecological check-ups are rare, vaccination is effective in 80% of cases;
- **HIMACHAL PRADESH** – Paonta Sahib: New roof for the secondary school attended by about 300 pupils;
- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: renovation of toilets at the Arlikumari school;



- **KARNATAKA** – Bylakuppe: renovation of toilets in the Kailashpura school;
- **HIMACHAL PRADESH** – Paonta Sahib: Tiling of court yard of the monastery, at present the court yard is soil and grass and during the monsoons it gets flooded and snakes nest there;
- **DELHI** – Manju Ka Tilla: construction of new quarters for hospital staff, since the present quarters are too small and unhygienic;
- **LADHAK** – Janthang: purchase of an ambulance.

*We wish to thank “In the name of women” Trust, the G. & G: Ambrosoli Foundation, GAB Charity Foundation, Arpe Foundation, Bertarelli Foundation, Vandoeuvres Municipality, the Cureglia charity carnival association, all those who, even when donating generously, wish to remain anonymous, and all of you who with your purchases and generous responses to our appeals in the media, and your gifts, allow us to complete our projects.*  
**Thanks to you everything is possible!**

If you would like to help us complete these projects and take part in our activity get in touch with:

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