

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2020



**vimala**  
ASSOCIAZIONE

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January 2021 - n.5

Dear Friends,

*In this last year that has been so strange and so dramatic the whole world has been affected by the pandemic, and for those who rely on their salary to survive without any sort of insurance or social security, the situation has been desperate. Since they could not go to work due to lockdown, they lost their jobs and therefore their salaries. No salary = no food.*

*In India families in such situations survived on food rations received from the state shops, the Nuns of Vimala hospital prepared bags of rice, sugar, flour, biscuits and fruit for the families of children we sponsor. We made our contribution with food rations distributed by the Shubnam Resources in Chennai.*

*As regards our projects, because of lockdown we feared we would not be able to collect enough funds with our sales in order to maintain our undertakings for on-going projects. Thanks to the providential intervention of the "Unione Buddhista Italiana" in Milano our fears were dispersed and we were able to keep our promises. The introduction of the "shop" page on our website provided us with extra funds for other projects.*

*Heartfelt thanks to everyone who, in spite of the great difficulties of the last year, have continued to be at our side!*

## ONGOING PROJECTS

All last year's projects have been renewed:

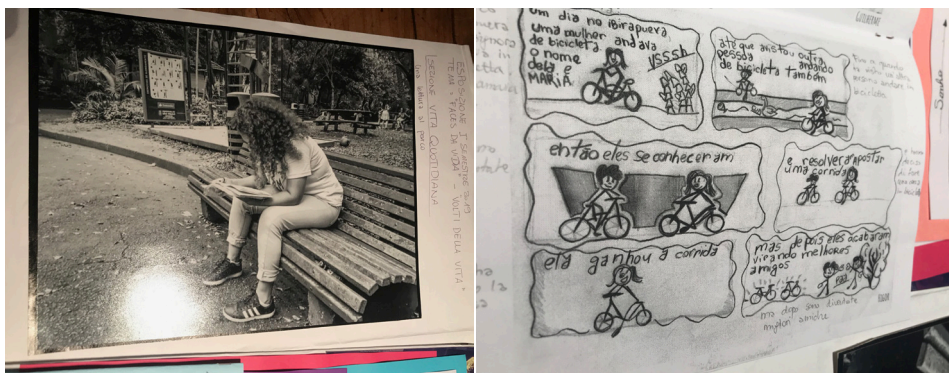
- For the "Amici delle missionarie dell'Immacolata":

• **GUINEA BISSAU:**

- support for the nutrition centres for twins;
- maintenance and petrol for the Nuns transport vehicles;
- support for students;

• **BRAZIL:**

- support for after-school activities at Maria Imaculada community centre;
- support for photo and comics laboratory for 50 children. This is a new project that we liked very much and was sponsored this year by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous;



• **BANGLADESH:** support for the school;

• **PAPUA NEW GUINEA:**

- support for the education of young people;
- support for the social assistance centre for children;

- **INDIA:** support for the dermatological hospital in Versova;
- **ITALY:** aid for the "Associazione Passo dopo Passo Insieme";

- for the "Sisters of the Destitute":

• **INDIA**

- support for the disabled children's centre;
- support for the mentally disabled women's centre;
- support for the school canteen;

- for the Tibetan refugee camps in India

Heartfelt thanks to the "Unione Buddhista Italiana" who financed all the projects in the refugee camps for 2021, thus saving us from the diminished proceeds of our sales.

• **BYLAKUPPE:** support for the Tso-Jhe hospital;

• **VARIOUS CAMPS:** contribution for the canteens of six schools and a monastery;

• **VARIOUS CAMPS:** contribution for five old people's homes;

• **DHARAMSALA:** payment of rent for a deaf and dumb girl, two elderly nuns and a widow with 3 children, one severely disabled;

• **DEHRADUN:** financial support for the school/residence for disabled children.

## ONE-OFF PROJECTS

Due to the long lockdown in India and consequent closure of the refugee camps to non-residents, some of the work planned for 2020 could only be started well into the summer, others were postponed to 2021.

These are projects that were completed:

- **GURUPURA:** new roofing of nursery school A, repair and painting of classroom walls, re-arrangement of the playground (private sponsor);



• **BYLAKUPPE:**

- purchase of tables and chairs for the new canteen of the CST school, (Fondazione G. & G. Ambrosoli, Lugano);



- purchase and installation of new open air games for the Kailashpura nursery school (Rotary Club Geneva);
- new sheet metal roofing for the CVP school in the TDL camp, restauration





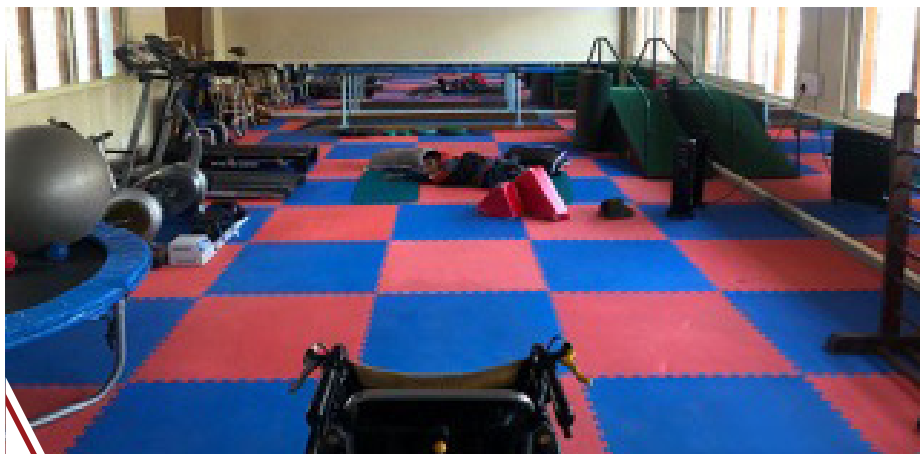
and painting of walls, tiling of perimeter of the playground to stop grass growing where snakes can hide, (Apre Foundation, Zurich);

- **MAINPAT:**

- renovation of the school class rooms, (GAB Foundation, Lugano);
- purchase of solar panel (private sponsor);

- **NGOENGA:**

- purchase of equipment for the children: two wheel chairs, one of which electric, a computer for teaching aids, special foam rubber tiles for the physiotherapy room, electronic equipment for the children's shows;
- renovation of the physiotherapy room (Unione Buddhista Italiana);



- **TSOPEMA:** purchase of a scooter for the hospital (private sponsor);
- **DEHRADUN:** renewal of library of the Tibetan Homes Foundation (private sponsor);
- **CHOKUR:** purchase and installation of street lamps on main street, (Arpe Foundation)
- **CHENNAI:** purchase of food to distribute to the poor via Shabnam Resources.



These are projects where work is still under way:

- **GURUPURA:** New flooring of the canteen floor damaged by rodents. Work will be completed by the end of January (Fondazione G. & G. Ambrosoli);
- **MUNDGOD:** construction of a physics, chemistry and biology laboratory and a new library. The school in Mundgod is a large campus with many buildings, some of which are unusable and precarious, others in a pitiful state, and there are 600 students. A private donor who wishes to remain anonymous took this project to heart and offered to finance the work required. At the end of the year, work had just begun with excavation for the foundations.

These projects have been postponed to 2021:

- **MUNDGOD AND BYLAKUPPE:** purchase of a school bus;
- **GURUPURA:** removal of the old asbestos roof of the agricultural cooperative and replacement with a sheet metal roof;
- **BYLAKUPPE:** purchase of a new tractor for the TDL agricultural cooperative;
- **BYLAKUPPE:** vaccination against cervical cancer was also suspended due to COVID-19 and will be resumed in 2021.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

For the *fourth year* the “Nel Nome della Donna” trust financed scholarships for:

- college attendance for 50 Tibetan girls;
- university medical studies for 2 Tibetan girls.

An anonymous donor financed higher education studies for 13 Indian girls from the Jeewandhara institute.

## MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

The emergency fund set up last year in agreement with the Tibetan Ministry of Health was used this year to treat 150 patients who contracted COVID-19, in the two hospitals at Bylakuppe and Mundgod.

At Clement Town, which is a camp with different statutes and thus not covered by the Ministry of Health, we supplied aid for:

- surgical operation and stay in hospital for a serious leg fracture suffered by one of our Tibetan grannies;
- surgical operation for a leg fracture suffered by the father of one of our sponsored children;
- laser treatment of a case of cervical cancer.

At Versova we were able to assist:

- the mother of a sponsored boy operated for removal of kidney stones;
- the mother of one of the hospital paramedics for an operation for a brain tumour.

## SPONSORSHIP

This year we were unable to go to India in October, the month when we interview some of our sponsored children and coordinate all the information collected by staff at the Vimala hospital.

We therefore have no stories to tell you. In Mumbai schools are still closed since last March. The pupils were all given passes automatically to the next grade and are presently studying online. We imagine how difficult it is for them to follow the lessons on their mother's or father's smartphone because hardly anyone possesses a computer. But there were expenses all the same and the pupils who enrolled for the next grade had to buy the same books used in regular lessons. Unfortunately, many sponsors were obliged to give up their girl or boy for economic reasons. We warmly invite whoever can to help them!

## PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2021

Besides the projects postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19, for 2021 we are planning another important project: renovation of the Tso-Jhe hospital at Bylakuppe, with construction of new living quarters for the medical staff.



*We wish to express our sincere thanks to UBI Unione Buddhista Italiana, the “Nel Nome della Donna” Trust, G. & G. Ambrosoli Foundation, GAB Charity Foundation, Arpe Foundation, Rotary Club, Geneva, Mauro S., Giovanna e Gianandrea Z. Gisella B., Stefano G., Eleonora P., Patrizia Z., Postura e Benessere, all the generous donors who wish to remain anonymous, everyone who responded positively to our sales offers, our new online shop and our appeals on social media. It is only thanks to your help that we can continue living aid and assistance to our children so that they can study, to our sick people so they can be treated, and to our old people so that they can be taken care of. Far away in the world, united in our hearts!*

If you wish to help us carry out these projects and participate in our actions, contact  
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