

ACTIVITY REPORT '21



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Dear Friends,

For more than 20 years, now is the time when we usually return from India, our hearts full of joy and our hands full of requests for new projects and reports on the projects completed during the current year. Unfortunately the whole world has suffered the devastating effects of this horrible pandemic, leaving in its path heart rending tragedies and irreparable damage. As always, those who suffered most were the poorest populations and our work, too, was affected in no small measure. The priorities of our projects were turned upside down due to all the requests for aid to families badly hit by Covid-19.

Nevertheless, we succeeded in completing a good number of projects, and the faithful support of our sales together with the generosity of our sponsors enabled us to maintain most of the commitments undertaken with the annual projects. A huge thank you goes this year to the Unione Buddhista Italiana, which through their donations enabled us to maintain, punctually and integrally the annual projects in favour of the Tibetan people in the refugee camps.

ONGOING PROJECTS

These projects have been renewed:

- For the "Amici delle missionarie dell'Immacolata"

• **GUINEA BISSAU:**

- Support for the nutrition centres for couples with twins;
- Maintenance and petrol for the nuns' transport vehicles;
- Support for students;

• **BANGLADESH:**

Support for the school;

• **PAPUA NUOVA GUINEA:**

- Support for the education of young people;

- Support for the social assistance centre for children;

• **INDIA:** Support for the dermatological hospital at Versova;

• **BRAZIL NORTH:**

- Support for the Maria Immaculada community centre;
- Support for the "a young glance" project;

• **ITALY:** Aid for the "Associazione Passo dopo Passo Insieme";

- For the "Sisters of the Destitute" (nuns)

• **INDIA**

- Support for the disabled girls centre;
- Support for the mentally disabled women's centre;
- Support for the school canteen;

- For the Tibetan refugee camps in India

• **BYLAKUPPE:** Support for the Tso-Jhe hospital (total support for the delivery room, food supplements in the tuberculosis ward, payment of half the salary of the dentist);



- **VARIOUS CAMPS:** Contribution for the canteens of six schools and a monastery;
- **VARIOUS CAMPS:** Contribution for five homes for old people;
- **DHARAMSALA:** Payment of rents for a deaf and dumb girl, two old nuns and a widow with three children, one seriously disabled;

ONE-OFF PROJECTS

Also this year there were considerable delays, but fortunately some of the projects could be completed entirely, or will be completed within the first quarter of 2022:

• **MUNDGOD:** Construction of physics, chemistry and biology laboratories and a new library for the school in one of most populated refugee camps in India. We very much hope that this will be the first of a series of projects aimed at renovating this important school, which we considered was in a very bad state;



• **MUNDGOD:** Purchase of a school bus. The Mundgod refugee camp consists of a large number of villages that are quite a long way away one from the other, and an efficient and roomy school bus is absolutely indispensable (Fondazione G. & G. Ambrosoli);



• **CLEMENT TOWN:** Construction of an additional floor (first) for the old peoples' home. The home was quite small and sometimes the old people slept on the roof because of lack of space. We thought it was right, after the



renovation carried out two years ago, to add one floor to the hospice;

- **LONGLIANG:** Aid for the inhabitants of the village after the devastating fire that broke out when the majority of people were at work, far away from their homes and therefore unable to put out the fire in time. 114 families lost their homes and all their belongings, 2 people died;



- **BRAZIL:**
 - Support for 50 children and their families;
 - Food baskets for the whole year for 22 families;*These two projects were developed by the nuns expressly to deal with the difficulties caused by the pandemic.*
- **CHENNAI:**
 - Purchase of teaching aids lost in the terrible floods that hit the city in November.
 - Purchase of netting to use as a cover to protect against illnesses carried by mosquitoes that proliferated in the stagnant water left after the floods.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

The emergency fund set up in 2020, as agreed with the Ministry of Health of Tibet, was again used this year to pay for drugs, medical assistance and surgical operations for the very poor.

We also paid for drugs for Sonam Tashi, in Dharamsala and a surgical operation on the legs for Losel, in Clement Town.

SCHOLARSHIPS

For the fifth and last year the “Nel Nome della Donna” trust financed scholarships for:

- The college of 50 Tibetan girls;
- Medical school for 2 Tibetan girls.

With 2021 the cycle of 5 years of scholarships was thus concluded. We are actively looking for a new sponsor to fund a further cycle of 5 years because we believe that aid towards education is fundamental for tomorrow's society. Heartfelt thanks to the trust for having made it possible for us to complete this project and for having helped us so many times! A thousand times thank you.

SPONSORSHIP

With the tragedy in India, Vimala hospital staff had enormous difficulty to gain information on the sponsored children. It would take a story apart to tell you what an enormous task it was for them to collect what you will find in the envelopes: as you no doubt heard from the media, India witnessed a biblical exodus from the cities to the country and many of our children took the same route, for a few we are still waiting for them to return. It is not our custom to put pressure on our benefactors but this year we feel obliged

to ask you, with our hands on our hearts, to help us with your patience and support to overcome all the difficulties that this pandemic has caused. We would never want that the current impossibility of contacting a child could jeopardize his/her opportunity to continue their studies.

Here is some information from the media on the situation of the schools in India after two years of pandemic: “a group of volunteers from charity organisations made a study that shows clearly the devastating impact of the closure of schools in the Indian countryside. In the 18 months of interruption 37% of the children left school courses, only 8% studied regularly via internet connection; even so, of this 8% at least half were not able to read more than a few words. The study covered more than 1500 families in 15 states of India and was particularly centred not only in the countryside but also on the poorest parts of the cities (on the slums and degraded neighbourhoods) where children have no alternative to state schools. The main difficulties are due to lack of smartphones or tablets, poor quality connection and the fact that they are unable to pay the expenses.” Fortunately, only relatively few of “our” children have had to leave school to start work, but even only one who leaves is for us a great sorrow...

Schools in Maharashtra start in June and finish in April. The dates may vary from state to state and in the different levels. The most important exam is the one taken at the end of X class. After, there is a rush to be admitted to University

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2022

Since we were not able to go to India even in 2021, we still do not have any projects planned and accepted; it is not our custom to accept projects unless we have been able to personally verify the need and feasibility. At last India has opened its borders and our associate Debbie Carrani was able to go, and we are sure she will return with her hands full of new projects which we will present to you on our web-site (www.associazionevimala.org) as they come in.

The only project that we have accepted for 2022 is a project proposed by the “Amici delle Missionarie dell’Immacolata” and carried out by the Trappist nuns in Azair, Syria, concerning the purchase of uniforms and teaching aids, and payment of transport to and from the various schools for 104 young people, from primary school to university, besides of course the project already approved for 2021 but unfortunately postponed, for the renovation of the Tso-Jhe hospital at Bylakuppe.



If between one market and the next you wish to make a gift to someone or to yourself, look at our offers!

Pashminas, jackets, kurte and much more. You will find them visiting the SHOP section of our web-site, contact us and we will send you what you have chosen without delay!

We wish to thank the UBI - Unione Buddhista Italiana, the “Nel Nome della Donna” Trust, the G. & G. Ambrosoli Foundation, the GAB Charity Foundation, Arpe Foundation, Monica A., Mauro S., Giovanna e Gianandrea Z. and all the generous donors who wish to remain anonymous, all those who came to our sales, to our shop online, and to our appeals on social media.

It is only with your help that we can continue to assist our children to study, our sick people to get well, and our old people to be taken care of. Far away in the world but united in our hearts!

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