

ACTIVITY REPORT '22



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Dear friends,

Last January, our report began with the difficult situation caused by the two-year pandemic.

This year in June, our hearts were once again touched by the sudden death of our beloved friend and member Marie Christine de Werra. A generous and big-hearted woman, she dedicated herself to the Vimala Association with all her great energy, and her untimely death shocked us deeply. Dear Marie Christine, you will always be here to help us as you always did, we promise to do our utmost to continue this work as if you were always at our side giving us your wise advice that helped us so much to run this small-big initiative that you loved so much.

Of the many ideas we discussed together, this year saw the creation of a Vimala Italia Association, which will act independently, while maintaining solid relations of mutual aid, for example in the supervision of works and their subsequent control. The new entity will simplify the increasing fiscal and administrative duties.

ONGOING PROJECTS

The projects we have committed to annually have been renewed, albeit with some added difficulties due to the decrease in income from our sales:

For the "Friends of the Missionaries of the Immaculate":

- **GUINEA BISSAU:**

- Support for nutritional centres for twins;
- Maintenance and petrol for the Sisters' means of transport;
- Support for students;

- **BANGLADESH:** Support for the school;

- **PAPUA NEW GUINEA:**

- Support for youth education;
- Support for the child welfare centre;;

- **INDIA:** Support for the Versova Dermatology Hospital;

- **NORTH BRAZIL:**

- Support for the Maria Imaculada Community Centre;

- **ITALY:** Support for the Association Passo dopo Passo Insieme.

For the Sisters of the Destitute

- **INDIA**

- Support for the centre for disabled girls;



- Support for the centre for mentally handicapped women;
- Support for the school canteen;

For the Tibetan refugee camps in India

- **BYLAKUPPE:** Support for the Tso-Jhe hospital (full support for the delivery room, supplementing the food in the tuberculosis ward, payment of half a dentist's salary);
- **VARIOUS FIELD:**
 - Contribution to the canteens of six schools and a monastery;
 - Contribution to five homes for the elderly;
- **DHARAMSALA:** Payment of rents for a deaf-mute girl, two elderly nuns and a widow with three children, one of whom is severely disabled.

ONE-OFF PROJECTS

- **CLEMENT TOWN:** Completion of the construction of the first floor of the home for the elderly in Clement Town, India. *Project sponsored by GAB Charity Foundation*



- **BYLAKUPPE:** Renovation of the Tso-Jhe hospital (construction of a new staff building, re-roofing and flooring, renovation of important medical equipment).

Project sponsored by UBI-Unione Bhuddista Italiana.



- **TDL:** Reconstruction of a unsafe bridge.



Other small interventions:

- **CHENNAI:** purchase and distribution of small gift parcels containing food and toys to Indian children;
- **BHANDARA – GURUPURA – MIAO – PAONTA (Tibetan refugee camps):** purchase of essential medical equipment for the four hospitals;
- **MUNDGOD (Tibetan refugee camps):**
 - construction of a new house for Rinzin Tsomo, a destitute widow;
 - medical emergency for the home for the elderly;
- **DEHRADUN:**
 - purchase of various equipment for the school for disabled children in Ngoenga;
 - purchase of solar panels for the Kyitselling school in Clement Town.
- **TDL (Tibetan refugee camp in Bylakuppe):**
 - purchase of a generator
 - purchase and installation of solar-powered street lamps for two different camps
 - renovation of the social cooperative's staff quarters
 - purchase of mattresses for the hostel in Chowkur and minor renovation work
- **GURUPURA (Tibetan refugee camp):**
 - Renovation of the roof of the kindergarten
 - Aid to the monastery for an avocado cultivation;
- **MUMBAI:**
 - Participation in the purchase of an ambulance for the Vimala hospital.



SCHOLARSHIPS

At the end of the 5-year cycle of scholarships sponsored by 'In the Name of Women' we searched, in vain, for a new sponsor. Marie Christine, in her great love for the less fortunate, bequeathed a legacy to the Association and we, knowing how important she felt it was to help young people to have the best possible education, used part of it to sponsor a new 5-year cycle for Tibetan schoolgirls, in her memory.

The individual scholarship for a Tibetan girl from Clement Town continues, to which was added this year another individual scholarship for a young Indian man from Kollegal and a third for an Indian girl from Mundgod.

A more specific aid plan is also being created for the next few years for the most deserving boys and girls, who wish to enter the Master's programme, among all the Indian boys and girls helped in the Mumbai distance support programme.

SPONSORSHIP

After two years of forced absence, we were able to return to India, to the Vimala Dermatological Centre in Mumbai, to finally see our children again! We met the children most in need, those who have recently been in particularly difficult situations; and then also those in need of encouragement to study or praise for having been meritorious: there are many of them and this is a source of pride and hope for all of us! We met more than 150 of them and the general impression we got was that everyone was really happy to be back at school, to be able to get out of their small rooms to see relatives, friends and teachers again. The confinement in India was particularly hard and long. Schools were closed for two years. For more than six months, people could neither work nor leave their homes: no job, no salary.... We leave you to imagine the disastrous consequences of such conditions on the household economy of those already struggling to make ends meet! Many children have been forced to change schools to attend one that costs less. Some lost the year because their parents could no longer pay the last school fees for admission to the final exams. So many difficult situations that we have tried, to the best of our ability, to remedy. But these children, thanks also to the significant presence and concrete help of Sister Bertilla and the sisters, always manage to smile and find ways to have fun and play.

All of them, indistinctly, thank those who help them with all their hearts in their hands!

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2023

The most important project for 2023 is undoubtedly the renovation of the school in Gulladhalla. The school is large and there is a lot of work to be done. It has been decided to start with a first tranche that includes the construction of a new canteen with a new kitchen (the existing canteen and kitchen were so unsafe that they were razed to the ground) and new bathrooms. Subsequent tranches include the construction of a boundary wall for the safety of the young pupils and the renovation of the classrooms. The work has just started and will hopefully be completed before the monsoon season.

With a view to 'teaching how to fish instead of giving away fish', we were impressed by the professionalism with which it is run and the practicality and beauty of the setting, the Private I.T.I. vocational school in Selaqui. It is located in a Tibetan refugee camp, but is also open to Indians. It provides a diploma in various trades: carpenter, electrician, cook, confectioner, secretary, beautician, masseur... the courses are mainly practical but are complemented by general culture courses and the study of English and Hindi. The school also works in



concert with hotels and various important companies where the students, in addition to doing practical training, can also find work once they have graduated. We were therefore delighted to accept their request to renovate three houses for the students and purchase more modern teaching tools.

We have also accepted a request from the Sisters of the Destitute to finance the construction of a wing of the home for mentally handicapped women in Santhisadan (Jahrkhand) with: infirmary, hospital rooms, laundry.

For all that is planned, for the many emergencies that are continually reported to us, to be able to maintain our commitment to the annual projects, we need you! If you would like to make (or give) a gift, consider buying something from us, the proceeds go entirely to the projects; you can also donate to a project or distance support. If you would also like to make a donation, it would be a wonderful gift for us, and for our helpers an additional hope.

Thank you very much for what you have done, are doing or will do!

We would like to thank the UBI Unione Buddhista Italiana, GAB Charity Foundation, the Arpe Foundation, Mauro S., Giovanna and Gianandrea Z. and all the generous donors who do not wish to be named, all those who have responded to our sales, online shop and media appeals. Special thanks go to Marie Christine who thought of us so generously in her will. Only with your help can we continue to help our children to study, our sick to be cured, our elderly to be cared for.

Distant in the world, united in the heart!

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

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