

Asha Zurich's Monthly Meeting – April 2013

Date: 05.04.2013

Time: 18.30 to 20:30

Venue: Sitzungszimmer, TEZET Oerlikon, Gubelstrasse 10, Zurich 8050

Members present: Sachin, Pradeep, Indranil, Rajesh, Neera, Shalmali, Prat, Doris, Varsha, Rahul, Tulika and Sujit

Member joined over phone: Akshata

Minutes written by: Prat

The following issues were discussed in the meeting.

Nirmaan (Haveri) update

1. Prat (Asha contact person for Nirmaan for the time being) briefed the members about the revised budget received from Vijay (contact person for Nirmaan).
2. Members **agreed to write a certain maximum amount** for the FCRA letter.
3. This amount to be written will be decided after clarification of the following points to be sought by Prat from Vijay/Karibasappa (actual project coordinator).
 - Members found the amount allotted to children's meal quite high compared to other Asha-funded projects. Are the meals for one class of students or two, namely **a clarification is needed for the 2x factor mentioned in the budget.**
 - How long does the bridge school last per day?
 - Will they need the **original letter or a scanned copy will do?**
4. After all the above-mentioned points are clarified, Indranil will draft the FCRA letter, sign it as the Asha president and send it to Nirmaan.

Akshardeep update

1. Akshardeep's 2013 budget was approved in the last meeting (March). In the April meeting the topic of discussion was **whether to continue funding it beyond 2013**, considering Asha's present financial situation.
2. Project coordinator **Akshata was reached by phone** and a hand vote was taken after briefing her about the discussion and listening to her opinion.
3. The result of the hand vote was the following **YES** (discontinue funding from 2014) **12**, **NO** (continue funding) **1**
4. Based the hand vote result, it was decided that **Akshardeep funding will be discontinued from 2014**, unless it is decided otherwise in a later meeting. A separate e-mail will be sent by Prat explaining the justification for this exit, given by the members in the meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Save Children Save Society (SACSAS)

1. Sujit (project coordinator) has prepared and already sent the new MoU to Rajesh (treasurer).
2. The new MoU was read out loud to all the members.
3. The budget which was approved in the last meeting will be sent in **two**

installments of INR 153,060 (CHF 2,628.13) each.

Vishwamandal Sevashram (VMS) update

1. Varsha (project coordinator) presented the 2013 budget to the members.
2. The funding asked for in the new budget is **INR 1,079,049 (CHF 18,525.37)** which is **almost double** that of 2012.
3. Varsha and Sachin (made site visits in 2012) explained the reasons for the huge increase, and they mainly are due to a proposed bonus to the teachers, financial support for good students making a transition from the non-formal education center run by VMS to the public schools, proposal for an education fair (Baalmela) to raise awareness in tribal parents etc. It should be mentioned that the base budget did not increase from what it was in 2012.
4. A hand vote was taken for approval of the budget. **Members approved the base budget with bonus for the teachers** which comes to **INR 800,000 (CHF 13,800)**. The result of the hand vote was the following – **YES 12, NO 0**.
5. Varsha will prepare the MoU with the approved budget and send it to Rajesh.

Zurich Marathon (7.4.2013) update

1. Rahul (organizer) updated on the fundraising through marathon. As of 05.04, **8,300 CHF** was raised through 22 runners running in the marathon. A number of runners are long term Asha volunteers.
2. Instructions for the marathon day was sent by Rahul to runners and groups of volunteers who signed up.
3. All Zurich based volunteers are invited to join the marathon and **cheer for Team Asha**. They can check the facebook event for details.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/554368271251872/>

Makaibari tea estate update

1. Doris (visited the tea estate) updated about her discussion with the owner of Makaibari tea estate and his interest to work together with Asha. A video of the tea estate and the process of tea-making was also shown to the members.
2. The first idea proposed by the members was **displaying a link of the online ordering portal of Makaibari on Asha's homepage** and **asking him to agree upon giving a certain percentage of the profit**, if a seller goes through Asha's homepage.
3. The second idea was to **help him enter the Swiss organic tea market** and use an **Asha sticker on the package**. In this case as well, **a certain percentage from the sales should come to Asha**.
4. Doris will communicate the ideas to the owner, and let the group know whether he agrees and how much is he willing to give Asha. **A decision on whether to pursue this further will be taken accordingly**.