

Asha Zurich's Monthly Meeting – March 2013

Date: 01.03.2013

Time: 18.30 to 21:00

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

Members present: Amit (new member), Indranil, Rajesh, Neera, Ankita, Shalmali, Prat, Akshata, Varsha, Rahul, Tulika, Sujit and Zeba (observer)

Minutes written by: Prat

The following issues were discussed in the meeting.

Nirmaan (Haveri) update

1. Indranil updated on the FCRA letter for Nirmaan. He first enquired from Asha Munich and later called up the department responsible for issuing the FCRA certificate in India.
2. He was informed by the Indian authority that the amount from the budget proposal has to be written on **every page of the letter and it has to be signed by an Asha office bearer on every page as well.**
3. Therefore, we will need a **new budget** proposal from Nirmaan.
4. Vijay and Karibasappa, the two responsible for Nirmaan, are already asked for the new budget. Prat will remind them of it, stressing on its importance. They will also have to clarify the issues raised in the previous meeting, such as training of Graam Panchyat members.
5. Asha Zurich will write a **maximum amount** in the letter after looking at the new budget.

Annual report 2012

1. **Sachin Mehta** kindly **audited** the report and he was **thanked** in the meeting.
2. Tulika will send the audited report to Indranil and Rajesh, and it will be **ready for printing by next week.**
3. In order to **cut costs** and be **eco-friendly**, Asha will **stop sending printed copies of the annual report** to donors who would opt out of it. Indranil and Rajesh will sort the donors to be sent soft or hard copies.

Zurich marathon – 7.4.2013

1. Rahul has registered **5 teams** for the marathon which is **20 runners** in total (4 in each team). In addition there are **2 individual runners** running the full marathon who will register themselves. They will be reimbursed the registration fees after the marathon.
2. As time progresses the marathon website will be more focused to attract more donors. Giving donation will be made easy (refer to Paypal integration latter).
3. Publicity will continue in full form. Prat will try to approach the marathon organizers to discuss if it is possible to have a water/snacks and info stand of Asha.
4. Marathon flyers were discussed. Shalmali will send the final version soon.

Akshardeep update

1. Akshata (project coordinator) had a Skype conversation with Mrs. Bapat, the India coordinator of Akshardeep.
2. Upon asking the financial sustainability of the project in case of Asha's withdrawal of support, Akshata was told that a lot of corporate funding for the project was stopped lately. **Therefore, if Asha pulls out its funding it will increase their financial burden significantly.** However, if Asha decides to exit, they will need a years notice.
3. Mrs. Bapat will consult with another NGO called Sikshana to learn about resource maximization and how to run an eventually under-funded project.
4. **Indranil will do a site visit in April** and assess the project.
5. Akshata will ask Mrs. Bapat for some success stories among 300 students supported by Asha.
6. For 2013, they asked for a **10% increase** of budget. This comes to an amount of **CHF 12,500.**
7. **The new budget was approved** by hand votes with the following result.
YES 12, NO 0, ABSTAIN 1

Lok Biradari Prakaalp (VMS) update

1. Ankita (project coordinator) shortly updated on LBP.
2. She understood the new funds disbursement process (explained latter).

Vishwamandal Sevashram (VMS) update

1. Varsha (project coordinator) **has received** the new budget proposal from India.
2. She will present it and get approval in the next meeting.

Save Children Save Society (SACSAS) update

1. Sujit (project coordinator) updated on SACSAS.
2. Like previous years, **Asha will bear 50% of the total proposed budget in 2013,** and the rest will be taken care of by Martin.
3. This comes to **CHF 6,000** for Asha for entire 2013.
4. **The budget was approved** by hand votes with the following result.
YES 11, NO 0, ABSTAIN 1

Asha Zurich's new process of funds disbursement

1. From 2013 onwards the funds will be disbursed in **January – December** time frame. All project budget disbursement will have to be readjusted to fit to this time frame.
2. Every project coordinator should sign the new memorandum of understanding (MoU) keeping this new process in mind.
3. **Sujit will send the new project proposal forms to all project coordinators.**

Charity dinner at Krishnaas

1. The idea of a charity dinner was welcomed in the meeting, and everybody agreed

on it. However, it was decided that Asha should not do it before the marathon in order not to lose focus.

2. Prat and Indranil will discuss with Gopi (owner of Krishnaas) further to sort out the details.
3. In the mean time, Krishnaas will do publicity for Asha. Asha's flyers will be kept there and will also be shown on his TV screen.

Asha's involvement with Makaibari Tea Estate

1. The proposal to sell tea from Makaibari tea estate in Darjeeling came from Doris who was approached by the tea estate manager.
2. Most members favored an online selling and subsequent contribution of certain percentage of the profit to Asha.
3. The possibility to have their ad on Asha Zurich's website was also discussed.
4. Final decisions will be taken after Doris gives first hand updates in the next meeting.

Asha's presence in IAGZ's Vasnt Utsav – 16.03.2013

1. Akshata and Manohar will volunteer at the Dosa stand from where all the profit will go to Asha.
2. The Dosa stand will have Asha's poster and flyers.
3. Prat will also be around to do publicity. **More Asha volunteers are very welcome to join.**
4. Shalmali will have a separate Mehendi stand. She will donate a certain percentage of the profit to Asha.

Online donation through Paypal

1. **Rajesh has integrated online donation through Paypal.** He has finished all testing.
2. **Less than 4%** will be **deducted** by Paypal and this information will be available to the donor.
3. **The implementation of online donation was approved** by the members with the following results.

YES 11, NO 0, ABSTAIN 1