



Asha Insights: Spring (Q1) 2015

Asha Zurich is a chapter of Asha for Education, a world- wide organization that works dedicatedly to catalyze socio-economic change through the education of underprivileged children in India.

We have no paid staff, no office rent and hence very low overheads, typically covered through contributions from volunteers. This is a key factor that distinguishes us from many other organizations. In 2015, Asha Zurich is sending more than 1,200 underprivileged children to school in five projects with an annual budget of more than CHF 50,000.



Our Achievements



In 2015, Asha for Education has already achieved two major milestones. Firstly, we restored our 4* rating (the highest) from Charity Navigator, with a score of 100/100 in transparency. For the full evaluation, please visit <http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.summary&orgid=7630#.VR5h2vmUe> So.

Secondly, Asha received the Social Impact Award in the international category from Times of India. For the full report, please visit <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/TOI-Social-Impact-Awards-2015-Rays-of-Asha-brighten-classrooms/articleshow/46497624.cms>.

We dedicate this success to our hardworking volunteers and our generous donors like you.

2015 Committee

The following persons were elected to the committee of 2015 at the general body meeting on 24. January.

President: Pratyush (Prat) Das Kanungo

Secretary: Deepika Sharma

Treasurer: Doris Hofer

Co-treasurer: Sachin Mehta

Project coordinators: Samyuktha Muralidharan Sharma, Rajdeep Deb, Namita Agrawal, Stefania Lanfranchi and Varsha Gandhi

Webmaster: Rajesh Varadarajan

Editor: Neera Mallick

Painting workshop



On 27. June, we are organizing a painting workshop. Zurich-based artist Brindarica will give the workshop for both children and adults and the entire profit will help Asha. Please register at info@asha-zurich.ch.

Fundraisers in Q1

Zurich Marathon 2015

On 19. April, Team Asha ran in Zurich Marathon for the 4th time. This year we had three Full Marathon Runners, 36 Team Runners and two City Runner. We appeal to all our donors to acknowledge their effort by donating to Asha through their online profiles, available on www.asha-zurich.ch/marathon/. We are very close to our fundraising target of CHF 25,000.



Chat with Chaat

On 11. April, our partner Chat with Chaat hosted an Indian Street Food Café at GZ Oerlikon. Part of the profit benefitted the marathon fundraiser.



Dhoom Machale II



On 27. February, Asha Zurich organized its flagship Bollywood party Dhoom Machale for the second time. This time it was in collaboration with another Zurich-based non-profit organization called Crowdguard (www.crowdguard.org). The event started with a short presentation on Asha and Crowdguard, followed by a Bollywood dance workshop by Nachle Dance Company. Subsequently, the floor was taken over by DJ Indro who entertained the guests on the dance floor with his creative Bollywood mixes. The event was attended by around 300 guests and generated a total revenue of around CHF 5,300, thanks in part to the generous sponsorship from Lycamobile.

Project updates

In 2015 Asha Zurich is supporting five projects. All project budgets were approved and the yearly-renewable memorandum of understanding (MoU) is in the process of being signed. Following are updates from specific projects:

Palas Schools



Asha Zurich's oldest project (since 2005), Palas schools run by Vishwamandal Sevashram are supporting non-formal education of 678 children from the Bhil tribe in Dhule district of Maharashtra. 40% of the students are girls. A budget of around CHF 19,000 was approved by Asha Zurich for 2015.

Save Children Save Society (SACSAS)

Asha Zurich is supporting three SACSAS schools this year at New Dampi, Wangoo and Loilamkot village of the north-eastern state of Manipur with a total budget of

around CHF 21,000, benefitting around 260 students. Some of the students will also get scholarships. In addition to that, we have successfully handed over two other SACSAS schools to Asha Redlands, California.



Lok Biradari Prakaip



Located in the remote village of Hemalkasa near the Maharashtra-Chhatisgarh border, Lok Biradari Prakalp offers residential education to 650 children of Madia and Gond tribes. Asha Zurich is sponsoring 100 children with an annual budget of around CHF 16,000. Recently a new library and a computer center have been set up for the students. 40 students appeared for the high school board examination in 2014, and 20 of them secured more than 60% marks.

Boys Town Society



This is one of the new projects for 2015. Asha Zurich is supporting the Francois Meyer nursery school for 120 children run by Boys Town Society at Tirumangalam village, Tamil Nadu with an annual budget of around CHF 11,000. They have also laid the foundation for a new school building recently.

Ved Vignan Maha Vidyapeeth



The second new project of Asha Zurich in Vadakkur village, Tamil Nadu will start its first school session from June 2015. As per the recent site visit report, more than 80% of the construction work has been completed. We will be supporting the cost of education of 30 students for an amount of about CHF 5,000.

Light a Life

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Well-wishers of Asha organized a cultural event named Light a Life on 28. March. It was also attended by Asha volunteers Rajesh and Indranil who gave presentations on our work and their experience with Asha. The profit from the event amounted to CHF 2,813 which was donated specifically to our marathon fundraiser. We sincerely thank the organizers for this gesture.

How can you help?

Would you like to help us achieve our mission?

How about making a onetime donation once a year or making small donations every month through our Charity As Your Hobby program. As little as CHF 20 can support the cost of education and food of a child for a month.



**Vol nteer
Asha Zurich needs yoU**

Our Bank account	
Bank	UBS Zurich
In favor of	Asha Zurich
Account Number	206-259021.40Q
IBAN	CH29 0020 6206 2590 2140 Q

Come volunteer with us and be a part of the change.

- ttend our monthly meetings.

- Help us organize fundraisers.
- Spread the word about Asha.
- Please write to us at info@asha-zurich.ch.

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