

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

USTHI FOUNDATION



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“In the little world in which children have their existence, (...), there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt as injustice.”

– Charles Dickens

DEAR READERS

We looked ahead to 2019 with a concrete plan: After the new website went online at the beginning of the year, the entire focus was then to be on the Usthi programmes. 2019 started auspiciously, projects were running, some were to be expanded in April and one was even to be restarted.

Then, at the beginning of May, a cyclone raged over the eastern coast of India and, overnight, our plans dissolved before our very eyes. The storm robbed thousands of people of their livelihood at one fell swoop. The Usthi children and their families in Penthakata were hard hit. We immediately focused all our energies there, prepared emergency aid and collected donations in Switzerland.

The joint effort paid off. In next to no time, food and relief supplies were distributed to over 1,000 families and, after extensive renovation work, the Penthakata School reopened its doors in mid-June. Emergency aid was fully covered, and the projects planned for early 2019 were able to be fully rolled out or restarted.

These days, I often think about what people can do together in a spirit of solidarity. Our local employees, who do great work on the spot, day in day out, our donors who have made our work

possible for over 43 years and finally the team and the volunteers in Switzerland who energetically deal with situations as they arise.

The commitment of many individuals for a common cause can make a massive difference. I am convinced that, with your help, Usthi can make a big difference this year as well.

Thank you for your solidarity and support.

Tanja Lirgg
Executive Director

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

School education forms an important basis for a life of independence and dignity. Many children are, however, denied the opportunity to attend school for economic and social reasons. With three schools, the back-to-school project and eleven tutoring centres, Usthi is committed to ensuring that even children affected by poverty and marginalisation have access to education.

For numerous adolescents and young adults without a school-leaving qualification, Usthi's work-related training courses open up opportunities.

At the beginning of May, cyclone Fani caused terrible damage to India's east coast and the Usthi Penthakata school, about which we shall talk in more detail below.

Hyderabad is still one of the centres of human trafficking. Usthi offers street children safety and protection from these dangers in children's homes and conducts preven-

tion campaigns. Young female victims of abuse find refuge in women's shelters and are given the opportunity to make a fresh start with work-related training.

The Usthi Foundation is launching a new educational project in Nepal and is now supporting a school in the Dhading district to provide disadvantaged children with access to education.

Usthi's commitment began in 1977 with the foundation of their first school and has grown steadily ever since. Today, the Usthi Foundation has overall responsibility for 13 programmes which benefit almost 3,000 children, adolescents and young women each year.

Training is offered in sanitation, metalwork/construction, as are further education certificates in IT and English. In 2019, 1,320 young people were able to earn a work-related training qualification and gain a foothold in the Indian labour market, under fair conditions.



	Focus	Project	Location	Number	Beneficiaries
	Education	Ananda School	Hudarait (1)	246	Children
		Penthakata School	Puri (2)	397	Children
		Thaddeus School	Bhastara (1)	271	Children
		Back-to-School Project	Hyderabad (3)	200	Children
		Tutoring Centres	Hyderabad (3)	315	Children
		Work-related Skills Training	Hyderabad (3)	1'320	Young People
		Educational Project	Nepal (5)	150	Children
	Health	Tribal Health Centre	Somagriri (4)	133	Villages
		Health Network	Somagiri (4)	42	Villages
		Support Programme for young Children	Somagiri (4)	480	Children
	Human trafficking prevention	Children's Homes	Hyderabad (3)	50	Children
		Women's Shelters	Hyderabad (3)	90	Women
		Prevention Campaign	Hyderabad (3)	12'000	All
	Emergency Aid	Penthakata School	Puri (2)	1'000	Families

EDUCATION

From the very beginning, the main focus of Usthi's work has been education for children, deprived of the opportunity to attend school. We make this possible with three schools of our own and school sponsorships. In addition, children in tutoring centres are supported with their homework and towards academic success. Usthi also provides work-related training to help young people without school-leaving qualifications to enter the world of employment at a fair salary. For young people without a school-leaving qualification, Usthi's work-related training courses ensure access to fairly paid work. In 2019, around 2,700 children and young people took part in Usthi's educational projects.

SCHOOLS

The Ananda and Thaddeus schools were created in rural regions of India that have little educational infrastructure. The Pen-thakata "English-Medium-School" near Puri offers this fishing village's children access to high quality education. In 2019, over 1,000 children, half of them girls, had the opportunity to study in the safe setting of the Usthi schools.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Through school sponsorships, we enable children to return to school. This also ensures that children, from families in difficulty who can no longer afford a school education, are able to stay in school.

Last year, 60 more school sponsorships were made possible. As a result, in 2019, 200 children were able to continue their schooling.

TUTORING CENTRES

Many Indian families live together in a tiny space. Children often lack space, peace and sufficient lighting at home to do their homework. The tutoring centres offer these children a place to learn and ask questions. The children often have no-one at home to ask for help because many parents were unable to attend school themselves. In 2019, Usthi supported over 300 children towards academic success in eleven tutoring centres.

WORK-RELATED SKILL TRAINING

Usthi has been offering work-related training courses in textile processing, beauty care, accounting, word processing and business management since 2008. In the technical field, Usthi trains young people as electricians, plumbers and welders. Usthi offers all participants, in the practical training courses the opportunity, in parallel, to take English and computer courses. These work-related training courses are in high demand among companies in Hyderabad. In 2019, almost 1,300 graduates received a state-approved proficiency certificate. More than 90% found employment with local companies.





EMERGENCY AID PENTHAKATA

In early May Cyclone Fani devastated large parts of East India and also hit the Usthi school in Penthakata. Due to this natural disaster, our children and their families lost all their possessions. Large areas were flooded, public infrastructure, homes, market stalls, fishing boats and belongings were damaged or completely destroyed. Usthi immediately provided comprehensive emergency relief.

From the experiences of previous natural disasters, the population had been informed in advance by the state. The people were able to get to safety early, but many people living in Penthakata live in huts unable to withstand major storms. More than 1,000 people, however, found protection in the Penthakata school during the storm.

Usthi distributed relief supplies such as rice, oil, lentils, sugar, kerosene stoves and medication to 600 families. By mid-May, 500 meals per day were being prepared in the school kitchen and distributed to those affected. Usthi also provided plastic tarpaulins for the construction of 1,000 temporary shelters.

After the clean-up efforts, renovations began for the badly damaged school premises. Electricity and water supply systems, windows and doors had to be replaced and the school entrance, including fencing, rebuilt. The schoolchildren actively helped with the planting of trees and bushes. With the restart of school operations in mid-June, normal school life was re-established. Renovation work and new planting, however, continued until the end of July.

PROJECT LAUNCH NEPAL

Usthi has been active in Nepal since 2006 and, together with the local partner organisation, has accompanied the integration of many young people into society. Following the devastating earthquake in April 2015, Usthi, in 2016, finally ended its emergency relief efforts and reconstruction and handed over complete responsibility for the integration project to the local partner. The preparations for a new Usthi project were then able to be started in 2019.

Thorough on-the-spot evaluation brought clarity about the targeted region and relevant project content. A rural area northwest of Kathmandu, characterised by immigrant daily-wage earners and families of the severely discriminated against Chepang people, was unanimously chosen.

The project focus is a school originally initiated by the local population and which is now an officially recognised educational institution. More than 1,000 children attend school classes here, many belonging to the Chepang, or children from informal settlements on the nearby river. Despite official recognition, the school's personnel costs are only partially borne by the state. Schooling is, therefore, only possible through external donations. Our goal is a smooth functioning school with sound financing for all children, regardless of donations.

Usthi and its local partner also wish to reach remote families and to persuade them to send their children to school. This requires the local partner to raise awareness of the benefits of schooling in the community. We work with youth clubs and small primary schools, utilising networking and synergy. In workshops, in close co-operation with the local partner, we motivate and inspire young adults actively to contribute to achieving objectives. Primary schools in the area are integrated into the overall concept. Getting to school, even for small children, must not, from the outset, become an insurmountable obstacle to taking part in lessons. The costs of enrolling 150 children will initially be borne by both project partners. However, it is a clear goal that after a few years, families should be in a position to assume this responsibility on their own. Usthi is, therefore, providing information and development workshops, together with families and those in positions of responsibility in the village community, to highlight opportunities for forming co-operatives and social facilities. These should in turn generate income and finance school costs. 150 children and families and 5 primary schools will be supported from 2020 through the co-operation of the two partners in the new project in Nepal.





HEALTH

The jungle area of the Odisha Keonjhar district is populated by indigenous tribes. A majority of them belonging to the Juang, these neglected ethnic groups live close to nature. They have little access to education and health care. Many years ago, Usthi opened the Somagiri Tribal Health Centre to provide health care for the population. The centre is complemented by a network of female health workers who are directly responsible for the health in their villages. These social carers, trained by Usthi, offer care for children in the “support programme for young children” in the villages surrounding the Tribal Health Centre .

SOMAGIRI TRIBAL HEALTH CENTRE

The Somagiri Tribal Health Centre provides medical care for residents of the surrounding 133 villages in Keonjhar District. The focus in 2019 remained on out-patient treatment with over 30,000 consultations. In-patient care is limited to post-operative treatment from the maternity department and treatment after minor medical procedures. Patients with serious illnesses are transferred to the Keonjhar hospital by field ambulance. In addition to normal hospital treatments in 2019, doctors and nurses at the hospital examined more than 1,200 people during a “Health Camp”. Treatment was necessary for 909 patients. The Tribal Health Centre is integrated into the

Odisha state health system. As a result, treatment costs are partially covered by insurance. In 2019, 36% of operating costs were covered by local financing.

HEALTH NETWORK

The health network, consisting of 44 female health care workers, is an important addition to the preventive and curative work of the Tribal Health Centre. Carers come from surrounding villages and are trained by Usthi in co-operation with the district doctor. They are out and about in their villages every day, make house calls and inform families about healthy eating and general rules of behaviour. In 2019, there were 4,490 cases where health workers contacted doctors and organised transfer of patients to the Tribal Health Centre.

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

In eight Usthi day-centres, motor and cognitive abilities are promoted in young children. Social workers, trained by Usthi, and local “Anwangadi Workers” look after, teach and play with the children. This offers relief to mothers in their daily work and the children spend a structured day in safe and nurturing surroundings. In 2019, 76 children from the “support programme for young children” were admitted to public schools.



PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a sad reality around the world and Asia is particularly badly affected. Children and women are victims of abuse, disappear without a trace and are forced into degrading work. Victims of human trafficking and abuse find a safe haven in Usthi women's shelters. The prevention campaign, helps to identify possible target groups and to inform them about the criminals' activities. In total, Usthi reached over 11,000 people with the prevention campaign in 2019 and over 130 children and women found shelter in one of our family communities.

CHILDREN'S HOMES

Life on the street is perilous and the risk of falling victim to human trafficking is particularly great for children. In children's homes, we look after and support 50 vulnerable street children to protect them from human trafficking. The children grow up in loving, safe family communities, are able to go to school and this all creates friendships for life.

WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Girls and women are subject to arbitrary and discriminatory behaviour in South-east Asia. For financially disadvantaged families, girls also represent an insurmountable financial burden, caused by the dowry required on marriage. They

are often considered inferior in society. As a result, they easily become victims of exploitation and abuse, which are particularly common in domestic situations. Degrading abuse also takes place in "temple slavery". In Usthi women's shelters, the young women find refuge and receive psychological counselling. With subsequent work-related training, 90 women in our family communities are able to prepare for their new life with dignity.

PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Together with partner organisations, self-help groups and the local authorities, we organise information campaigns about the dangers of human trafficking. Human traffickers have easy pickings in densely populated slums in large cities. With lucrative job offers for their child, mothers are persuaded to hand over the child to a dealer. Every year, tens of thousands of children disappear into child labour and sexual abuse. In 2019, with targeted preparation and a coordinated approach, we were able to reach over 11,000 people to help stop human trafficking. We inform, develop solutions together, co-ordinate our work with various interest groups and allocate implementation activities to the participants according to their individual skills.

FINANCES

In 2019 Usthi spent a total of CHF 734,778 on direct project work in India (2018 year: CHF 676,721). 11% of the project expenditure was financed locally. The slight decline in local funding is mainly related to legal changes regarding health insurance and reduced contributions to the Tribal Health Centre in 2019.

Administrative and fundraising expenditure rose slightly due to the creation of a new part-time position, but at 14.5% of revenue (previous year: 13%) it is still far below the average for the sector. Donations of CHF 651,306 (2018: CHF 728'888) were received in 2019. This is the second consecutive fall in donation income after the successful 2017 financial year. The proportion of private donors in total revenue remains the same as in the previous year. However, their total donations decreased slightly to CHF 307,440 (2018: CHF 345,605). The contribution of institutional donors in 2019 also decreased in 2019 and totalled CHF 343,865 (2018: CHF 383,284). Due to increased project costs in India and Nepal and the simultaneous decrease in donation income, Usthi showed a deficit of CHF 209,666 at the end of 2019 (2018:

CHF 46,107). The balance sheet loss thus increased to CHF 245,304 (2018: CHF 143,021). The complete auditors' report is publicly available on our website usthi.ch/en/annual-report-2019 or can be ordered from us free of charge at: hello@usthi.ch.

TRANSPARENCY

Usthi is politically and religiously independent and is subject to the Federal Supervisory Service for Foundations. Usthi has carried the ZEWO (Swiss Charity Certification Organisation) seal of approval since 2013. The seal of approval certifies transparency and meticulous handling of donations. According to ZEWO, Usthi is characterised by a large number of private donors and its effective utilisation of donations. It is important for Usthi to be seen to be trustworthy and transparent in its reporting on the use of donations. In 2019, 85.5% of all donations were used directly in the projects.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Social sustainability is very important to Usthi. We rely on local workers and the

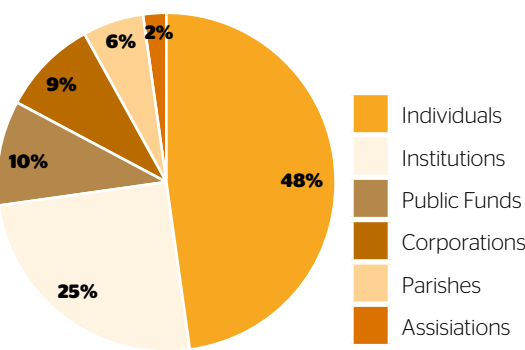
transfer of knowledge and skills to local teachers and employees. Experience and specialist knowledge thus remain on the spot and do not migrate abroad. With our partners, we run local small businesses and generate income through value-added. This enables us to achieve local funding and make local partners more independent of donations.

EFFICACY

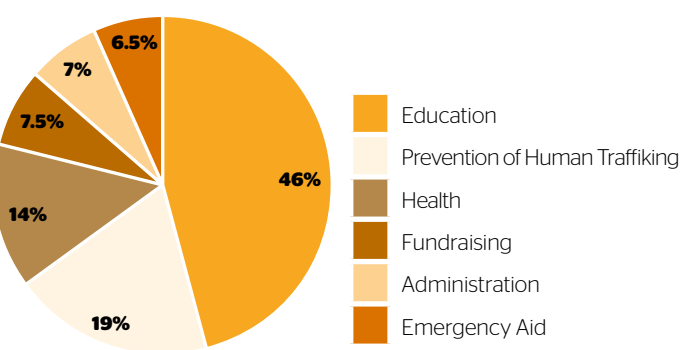
Projects are supervised with Skype discussions every two weeks. We are in contact by e-mail on a daily basis (as required) to overcome, jointly, any difficulties arising. For us, this support means working as partners to achieve our objectives. Regular visits are made to all projects by the Usthi team who, together with local partners, evaluate and adapt activities to changing conditions. Our local partners have extensive knowledge of local socio-political contexts, which enables them efficiently to reach desired target groups. Only through close co-operation with local partners can we ensure that required international standards and local needs are equally taken into account.



INCOME 2019



EXPENDITURE 2019



BALANCE SHEET 2019

Assets	2019	2018
	CHF	CHF
Liquid Assets	326'873.46	447'358.39
Accruals and Deferrals	700.00	84'071.00
Current Assets	327'573.46	531'429.39
Office Rental Deposit	4'211.00	4'210.80
IT-Equipment	1.00	1.00
Fixed Assets	4'212.00	4'211.80
	331'785.46	535'641.19

Liabilities	2019	2018
	CHF	CHF
Accrued liabilities		
Expenditure	43'207.32	37'396.92
Project Fund Thaddeus School	43'207.32	37'396.92
Project Fund Hospital Renovation	0.00	78'539.61
Project Fund HEP	3'173.49	16'010.49
Project Fund work-related. Skills training	0.00	1'356.12
Project Fund Nepal	0.00	4'900.02
Tied Fund Assets	0.00	9'750.00
Foundation Assets	46'380.81	110'556.24
Accumulated Loss	530'708.55	530'708.55
Organisation Assets	-245'303.90	-143'020.52
Organisationskapital	285'404.65	387'688.03
	331'785.46	535'641.19

OPERATIONAL STATEMENT 2019

	2019	2018
	CHF	CHF
Non-specific Donations	278'016.21	317'641.60
Earmarked Donations	373'289.80	411'247.03
Sundry Operating Income	0.00	0.00
Fundraising Income	651'306.01	728'888.63
Project Expenditure	-734'777.87	-676'720.87
Administration Expenditure	-58'563.77	-51'723.64
Fundraising Expenditure	-65'131.55	-45'665.69
Operating Result	-207'167.18	-45'221.57
Financial Income	0.20	1'782.35
Financial Expenditure	-2'499.15	-2'667.84
Annual Result prior to changes	-209'666.13	-46'107.06
Project Fund Deposits	-373'289.80	-411'247.03
Liquidation of Project Fund	480'672.55	373'198.28
Liquidation earmarked Fund capital	0.00	0.00
Changes - Accumulated Profits / Loss	102'283.38	84'155.81
Net Annual Result after changes	0.00	0.00

USTHI FOUNDATION

The Usthi team expanded in the reporting year 2019. Olga Egli has been with Usthi since 2018 and assumed responsibility for fundraising and public relations at the beginning of 2019. She has been supported by Christian Rübensaal, who joined the Usthi team in June 2019. The Executive Director Tanja Lirgg has been responsible

for the operational business since 2016. In 2019, the Usthi team was again able to count on the active support of volunteers. Dona Suter continued to be responsible for accounting and maintaining private donor relationships. Stefan Schuhmacher supported the team with his know-how in graphical matters and Tim Dean was

responsible for major translations. There were two resignations from the Board of Trustees. Gallus Römer and Simon Widmer resigned from their positions at the end of August 2019. Usthi thanks the two outgoing board members for their unre-served and long-standing commitment to the goals of the Usthi Foundation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (UNSALARIED) Gallus Römer , St. Gallenkappel, President 2012 – Aug. 2019 Patrick Bürki , Wetzikon Vice-President , since 1999 Silvia Day , Meilen, since 2012 Dr. Josef Keller , Rapperswil-Jona, since 2012 Gabriela Knaurek , Rapperswil-Jona, since 1999 Simone Thompson , Zürich, since 2011 Simon Widmer , Neuheim, 1999 – Aug. 2019	USTHI-TEAM SWITZERLAND Tanja Lirgg , Executive Director since 2016 Olga Egli , Director Fundraising & PR, since 2018 Christian Rübensaal , Correspondent Fundraising & PR, since 2019 Dona Suter , Finance Director and Private Donor Relations, volunteer, since 1985 Stefan Schumacher , Graphic Designer, volunteer since 2017 Tim Dean , Translator, volunteer since 2015
AUDITORS BDO , Wetzikon	FOUNDER AND EXTERNAL CONSULTANT Kurt Bürki , seit 1977

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FOUNDER

The past year can justifiably go down in history as the year of the greatest changes of the last decade. The global protest movement against climate change, which kicked off within, for the most part, female youth, has triggered discussions that will probably continue to shape public discourse for quite a while. I hope that these young people will maintain the pressure so that sustainable changes in society can be achieved. It is significant that together with the climate debate, the topic of equal rights for women in society led to significant changes in the political environment of the Swiss National Council parliamentary elections. The entry of 40% women into parliament is seen as a landslide in the Swiss political landscape. I am convinced that this trend will continue for future elections and was no ephemeral mayfly for 2019...
In a perpetually changing world, adjustments are continually necessary to remain fit for the future. This is also relevant for the achievement of our objectives within Usthi – A young and motivated team works in the operational area.

In the 43 years of Usthi, the social needs and requirements of our work have fundamentally changed. Education and Health have proven to be the only constants in this long period. Without these, the whole future would be called into question. Access to education and medical care, protection for the needy, more social justice and less discrimination are still Usthi's objectives. Thanks to you, dear Readers, Usthi is able to alleviate hardship. Usthi's work is urgently needed as an investment to ensure a more human future.

Kind regards
Kurt Bürki



OUTLOOK & THANKS

OUTLOOK 2020

2020 starts with challenges, the scale of which our present generation has never seen. Covid-19 has had a direct effect on Usthi's projects, i.e. schooling and other activities are currently not possible. Usthi is in close contact with its local partners. The health and safety of children, adolescents and of our projects' employees have top priority. Since measures, introduced to combat the spread of the virus, will be in force for a longer period, setting precise objectives is currently unfeasible. Usthi will resume operations for the projects as soon as existing restrictions are relaxed. We shall focus on updating you frequently on the current situa-

tion. Media available for us to give you rolling updates include: The Usthi website www.usthi.ch, social media, newspapers and direct information by email
In this period of uncertainty about the social and economic consequences of Covid-19, Usthi is more than ever reliant on the solidarity of the entire population and the Usthi family. We do not know what to expect and Usthi is entirely dependent on you, dear reader, for our survival. Your solidarity and your contributions are vital for Usthi. We thank you from the bottom of our heart for your long-standing trust and your contributions.

OUR THANKS GO TO...

- all private donors who have been the firm basis for our work from the very beginning.
 - all companies, church parishes, foundations and associations who support Usthi and make our work in India and Nepal possible.
 - the FADY Foundation for generous support for work-related training.
 - the Plato Foundation for the long-standing funding of our health projects in Somagiri.
 - the Migros support fund for their support of health projects in Somagiri.
 - the Canton of St. Gallen for their generous support of our emergency aid in Penthakata.
 - Swissair Children's Aid, which has offered crucial support to the operation of the Penthakata School for 26 years.
 - the Gebauer Foundation for their welcome donations to our health projects.
 - the atData Foundation for generous support of work-related training projects.
 - ATU for the long-term help and funding of Usthi projects.
 - Thadde Getzmann and his friends and family for the continuous support of the Thaddeus school.
 - Thomas Fischer for loyal support and funding of women's shelters and work-related training projects.
 - all volunteers who actively support Usthi time and again and thus make our events possible.
 - our project partners and employees in India who work miracles every day.
 - all those who have supported Usthi in one way or another – without them our work would not be possible.
- It is only thanks to your trust and support that we can assume our responsibilities in India and Nepal. It's a privilege to be able to count on you.



DROP BY DROP, A RIVER IS FORMED



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