

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

USTHI FOUNDATION



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**“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”**

Arundhati Roy

### DEAR READER,

Many of us will remember 2020 as the “Corona Year”. The lockdowns and school closures also affected our projects in India and Nepal. To address the most desperate poverty, we distributed food packages to the families of our beneficiaries. Our schools quickly switched to distance learning, we made second-hand smartphones available and organised small learning groups so that all children were able to maintain access to education.

At the same time, a lot was happening in Switzerland. At the beginning of the year, a new Board of Trustees was formed, in the middle of the year Alessandra Grosse took over as Executive Director and in September Mirjam Hirzel joined the team as Programme Coordinator. We redrafted our documentation (with special emphasis on the Foundation’s Mission Statement) and focussed our efforts on fundraising. Thus in 2020, after two consecutive years of losses, we were able to stabilise the Foundation’s financial situation. Both rebuilding our immediately available reserves (which can, for example, be mobilised quickly for emergency aid) and securing our financial commitments within the programmes are important strategic goals for us for the years ahead.

In the programmes, our main focus in 2021 remains the daily outreach to children and young adults and a Covid-adapted implementation of the projects. Education, professional skills training, health and protection from human trafficking are especially important now, so that through our projects, we are able to improve the prospects for more than 5,500 beneficiaries.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us with your commitment to education and health care and thus enabling young people to have an independent and secured future.



Felix Senn  
*President, Board of Trustees*



Alessandra Grosse  
*Executive Director*



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are targets set by the United Nations and are to be achieved by all member states by 2030. They aim to promote sustainable economic, social, and ecological development. They envisage states solving the challenges together, meaning that Switzerland too has a responsibility to contribute to achieving the goals. They are regarded as important guidelines for modern development cooperation. From the outset, Usthi has been making a visible contribution to the SDGs, in particular to the following:

<p><b>1</b> NO POVERTY</p> 	<p>Usthi empowers young people to overcome poverty through access to education. To ensure the financial independence of projects and beneficiaries, Usthi is committed to promoting local income opportunities.</p>
<p><b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER</p> 	<p>With a warm meal at the schools, Usthi makes a specific contribution in the fight against hunger. This is an important prerequisite for the development and learning ability of the children.</p>
<p><b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<p>Several Usthi projects ensure access to medical care for the local population. Through health checks and awareness raising, Usthi is improving school children's health.</p>
<p><b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>A key focus of Usthi's work is to enable young people to receive a school education and to acquire professional skills through job training. These measures provide access to high quality education.</p>
<p><b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>Within all our projects, we create opportunities for girls and women to lead healthy, independent and dignified lives. An especially important cause for Usthi is the protection of young women from abuse and human trafficking.</p>
<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>In its projects, Usthi creates fair jobs, promotes entrepreneurship, and facilitates access to the labour market through skills training. With our commitment to the prevention of human trafficking, we protect children from degrading work.</p>
<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p>Usthi supports young people who are socially or economically disadvantaged, and enables them to grow up with dignity. In this way, we contribute to overcoming unequal access to resources and opportunities.</p>

# OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECTS

Usthi has been committed to empowering children and young people for 45 years, creating opportunities in India and Nepal for an independent and dignified future. Despite challenges posed by the global Covid-19 pandemic, Usthi has successfully continued to ensure access to education, health care, and protection from the dangers of human trafficking in the last year.

High quality education lays the foundation for an independent future. Many families in India are still unable to afford their children's schooling. With three schools of its own, school sponsorships and tutoring support, Usthi enables children and young people to receive a high quality education.

Last year in Nepal, Usthi was able to further expand its new education project in the Kathmandu Valley. This project promotes individual children's access to ed-

ucation and improves the local education system by investing in school infrastructure and further training for teachers. The renovation of a school and the addition of a science laboratory were completed in 2020.

Young people without school-leaving qualifications and single women often face discrimination in the Indian labour market. Due to rising standards, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find fair employment even with a higher education degree. Professional skills training facilitates young women's and men's access to the labour market and thus their financial independence.

In India, children living on the streets of the country's big cities are exposed to the dangers of human trafficking. To protect them, Usthi provides a safe home for 50 children in Hyderabad. In women's shelters, girls and women who have been ex-

posed to violence and abuse find a safe refuge and a chance to make a fresh start. Last year, it became clear how precious health is. Due to their status in society, the indigenous communities of the Somagiri tribal region have difficulty in accessing medical care. Usthi provides health care at a local hospital as well as through house visits by health care workers, and promotes the development of infants through its Health and Education Programme.

In 2020, Usthi continued its 13 long-term projects. With the educational, early childhood development and trafficking prevention projects, Usthi reached over 5,500 direct beneficiaries. In addition, the Tribal Health Centre and Health Network provided medical care for 133 villages. Almost 2,500 families were supported with food aid as part of the Covid-19 emergency relief.



Focus	Project	Location	No.	Beneficiaries
Education	Ananda School	Hudarait (1)	200	Children
	Penthakata School	Puri (2)	396	Children
	Thaddeus School	Bhastara (1)	246	Children
	Back-to-School Project	Hyderabad (3)	200	Children
	Tutoring Centres	Hyderabad (3)	275	Children
Health	Professional Skills Training	Hyderabad (3)	383*	Young People
	Education Project	Dhading (5)	151	Children
	Tribal Health Centre	Somagiri (4)	133	Villages
Human trafficking prevention	Health Network	Somagiri (4)	42	Villages
	Health and Education Programme	Somagiri (4)	499	Children
	Children's Homes	Hyderabad (3)	50	Children
Emergency Aid	Women's Shelters	Hyderabad (3)	89	Women
	Prevention Campaign	Hyderabad (3)	3,200**	All
Emergency Aid	Food Aid Covid-19	(1), (2) & (3)	2,470	Families

\* Because of Covid-19, the 1,200 available places were not used to capacity. \*\* Because of Covid-19, it was impossible to access the >10,000 people normally reached.



# COVID-19 & EMERGENCY RELIEF

In the spring of 2020, the global spread of the Corona virus confronted Usthi with new challenges. The pandemic forced the team to work from their home offices and some of the projects came to a temporary standstill. A nationwide lockdown was imposed in India at the end of March. Countless daily wage labourers lost their jobs and many families of the Usthi school children temporarily lost their income. Whilst at school, a warm meal had been guaranteed for the children, but due to the school closures, this could no longer be provided. Thanks to generous donations, Usthi was able to distribute food aid to severely affected families.

In Hyderabad, the parents, often single mothers, of children supported by Usthi school sponsorships and tutoring were particularly hard hit. In most cases, they have no local social network and no support to fall back on. Generous donations for emergency relief enabled Usthi to finance the distribution of 1,750 food parcels to families in particularly vulnerable situations.

While the situation for families in Hyderabad improved somewhat, in other regions of India the situation worsened due to locally imposed lockdowns. Cyclone Amphan, which hit the east coast in mid-May, put an additional strain on the local

population. Thanks to an emergency aid donation from the Swiss Embassy in India, Usthi was able to carry out a second emergency relief operation. In July, food parcels were distributed to over 700 families at the sites of the two Usthi schools, Ananda and Penthakata.

Last year, the implementation of all Usthi projects was challenging due to Covid-19. Local partners and staff did an extraordinary job to ensure continued access to quality education and professional skills training, health care, and protection from violence and human trafficking. They impressed with their competence to carry out the projects even under these difficult conditions.

During months of school closures, they provided students with self-study material, video-recorded lessons, and held tutoring sessions over the phone. To ensure access to digital lessons, some of the school children were equipped with smartphones. In addition, our partners made an important contribution to raising awareness of and protecting the local population from an infection with the Corona virus.

Usthi looks back on an eventful year and is impressed by the commitment and flexibility of our local partners in India and Nepal and is overwhelmed by the tremendous solidarity we experienced in 2020.



Ananda School, Hudarait

# EDUCATION INDIA

From the beginning, Usthi has been committed to the education of children from socially and economically disadvantaged families. In India, Usthi currently provides access to high quality education through three schools and school sponsorships. Additional children are supported through tutoring. Adolescents and young adults are successfully supported in entering the job market through professional skills training. Although the projects had to close temporarily and operations in 2020 had to be adjusted to account for Covid-19, Usthi was still able to provide access to education for 1,700 young people in India.

## SCHOOLS

The three Usthi schools Ananda, Penthakata and Thaddeus are located in poverty-stricken regions. Here, children who would otherwise have difficulty in attending school are given the opportunity to learn and build a future for themselves. Due to Covid-19, the children were taught through distance

learning for the greater part of last year. The school children were regularly provided with new learning materials and supported by the teachers in frequent exchanges.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL

All too often, financial challenges in the family lead to children dropping out of school. School sponsorships enable children to continue or resume their school education. In 2020, Usthi provided sponsorships to enable 200 young people in Hyderabad to attend school.

## TUTORING CENTRES

Usthi's tutoring centres in Hyderabad provide a place where children can study and revise their school material. Unfortunately, in the spring of 2020, the centres had to close due to Covid-19. For many children, home-schooling was challenging. It is often not possible for parents to help them with their studies. For this reason, tutors offered support by phone or in small groups whenever

possible. In this way, 275 children received study support in 2020.

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

This programme is aimed primarily at young women. It includes modules such as computer skills, textile processing, cosmetics/beauty care and applied metalwork. In addition, training in spoken English and the basics of business management are provided. At the end of the training, a professional examination enables graduates to obtain a recognised certificate of proficiency. Normally, the professional skills training centre in Hyderabad provides vocational training for more than 1,200 young people, enabling them to gain a foothold in the labour market under fair employment conditions. Last year, the centres had to close for several months. In September, it was possible to resume courses under strict protective measures. In 2020, 368 people were able to attend a training course. A further 15 people completed an online course.

# EDUCATION NEPAL

In Nepal, about one third of the population lives below the poverty line. For many parents, it is not easy to provide their children with access to education. Usthi's new project in the Kathmandu Valley aims to provide educational support to children from economically and socially disadvantaged families. In addition to individual children, support is being offered to improve local schools' infrastructure as well as to provide additional training for teachers. Last year, 10 schools in the Dhading district were selected for support. One of the schools had been severely damaged in the 2015 earthquake. In 2020, together with Usthi, renovation work was completed and a science laboratory was added. Project planning originally foresaw enrolment campaigns in early 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and strict measures in Nepal, this step of the project set-up was delayed. The schools, which were to be supported in 2020, remained closed until autumn. During the school closures, our

partner organisation provided the children in the project district with materials for home-schooling and conducted an awareness campaign on hygiene measures related to Covid-19. When attendance was resumed in autumn, local schools were provided with protective materials.

In autumn, 151 children were selected to receive Usthi support for their schooling. Since then, children have been registering for classes and have been receiving support packages consisting of school uniforms, shoes and school supplies. By the beginning of the school year in April 2021, all supported children should be able to attend school. Currently, Usthi and the local project team are discussing livelihood support measures for individual families, e.g. granting micro-credits and supplying material, with a view to beginning the implementation as soon as possible. During this planning phase, the content of school workshops and trainings for parents are also being discussed and defined.





Health checks, Tribal Health Centre, Somagiri

# HEALTH

Over the past decades, Usthi has established a comprehensive health care system in the Somagiri region. The jungle region in the state of Odisha is one of the poorest parts of India. Indigenous peoples living there are still subject to discrimination and marginalisation. Their isolated way of life makes it very difficult for them to access medical care. With a hospital, home visits by health care workers and an early childhood development programme, Usthi makes it possible for them to access health services.

## TRIBAL HEALTH CENTRE

The jungle hospital in Somagiri offers the population of the surrounding 133 villages access to medical treatment. A central and essential part of the service is the support of women through pregnancy and childbirth in order to counteract the high rates of maternal and infant mortality in the region. Last year, 9,398 out-patient and 151 in-patient treatments were carried out. When needed, patients requiring specialised treatment were transported to a larger hospital in the district capital by an all-terrain ambulance. To counter the spread of Covid-19 last year, the hospital played an important role in testing and raising awareness among the local population.



### **HEALTH NETWORK**

The hospital services are supplemented by a network of 44 health care workers. The women, themselves from the region, provide primary care and midwifery services in the villages. Last year, they provided 4,015 consultations. Their work is of great importance, as it also reduces the local population's mistrust of school medicine. Their health care work provides them with an income and strengthens the status of women in the villages. Due to a travel ban during several local lockdowns in 2020, the health care workers were, at times, able to provide primary care only in their own villages.

### **HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

In eight villages, Usthi day-care centres for young children support their early motor and cognitive development. Usthi-trained social care workers, together with government-appointed carers, support the toddlers in learning through play. This eases the burden on local families and encourages school enrolment for the children when the time comes. Just as for schools, the early childhood centres had to close in the spring for the rest of the year. However, the village-based social workers were able to provide some assistance to families with young children in their homes during the pandemic.





# PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Unfortunately, the streets of India's major cities are not a safe place for children and teenagers. Human trafficking remains a harsh reality in large parts of Asia. Large cities such as Hyderabad are severely affected. Countless children and young women fall victim to human trafficking every year and are forced into degrading work. Girls and young women in particular are also at risk of abuse and violence in their homes. With three projects in Hyderabad, Usthi was able to reach over 3,300 people in 2020.

## **CHILDREN'S HOMES**

Many children have no family or social network to take care of them. They are denied schooling and are exposed to great dangers on the streets of India's big cities. Last year, Usthi was able to offer 50 vulnerable children and adolescents a safe home in shared apartments. One such home takes in children whose mothers work and live in the red-light district. Usthi ensures that these children's relationship with their mothers is maintained. The children's homes enable them to grow up in a safe environment, to attend school, and to have a perspective for the future.

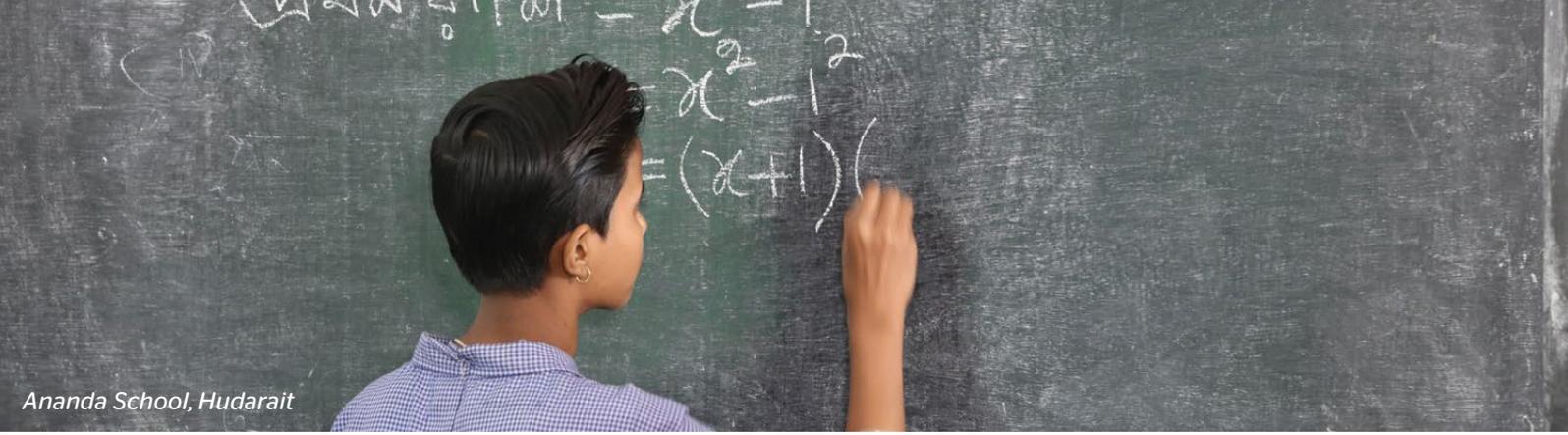
## **WOMEN'S SHELTERS**

Girls and women in India are all too often exposed to discrimination and violence.

Because of their need for a dowry, they are often perceived as a financial burden by the family. Usthi's women's shelters provide a refuge for women who have been victims of abuse at home or victims of temple prostitution. In the women's shelters they find protection, psychological care, and the opportunity to complete a professional skills training course. In 2020, 89 women were thus able to take a step into a new, self-determined and financially independent life.

## **PREVENTION CAMPAIGN**

Since 2013, Usthi has been carrying out prevention work to protect children and young adults from exploitation and violence. Often, families affected by poverty give children away in the misguided belief that they will be able to offer them (and themselves) a better future. The children become victims of the most appalling conditions and sometimes never see their parents again. Awareness of the dangers of human trafficking is increased at community events and in schools. In addition, Usthi's local partner is well connected with other organisations and self-help groups in the greater Hyderabad area, permitting it to become active in suspicious cases. Despite Covid-19, information events were held in the first and last quarters of the year that reached a total of 3,200 people.



Ananda School, Hudarait

# FINANCES

## COMMENTARY ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Usthi generated an income of CHF 782,704.22 in the reporting year or CHF 131,398.21 more than in 2019 (CHF 651,306.01). Operating expenses in 2020 were CHF 695,556.41, or CHF 162,916.78 less than in 2019 (CHF 858,473.19). Savings were made both in the operation in Switzerland as well as in the projects. The annual operating result for 2020 is CHF 87,147.81 (2019: CHF -207,167.18). The organisation capital amounted to CHF 356,562.80 as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (2019: CHF 285,404.65) up CHF 71,158.15 from the previous year.

After the deficits in 2018 and 2019, Usthi's financial situation stabilised in 2020 thanks to joint efforts by the Board of Trustees, the head office, and the partner organisations. Rebuilding the organisation capital is an important strategic goal of the Foundation for the coming years. This is necessary in order to compensate for fluctuations in donation income and to be able to quickly free up funds for disaster and emergency relief.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

Usthi is financed exclusively by donations from private individuals and institutions. Private donations amounted to CHF 387,482.15 or 49.5% (2019: 48%) of the total income. The contribution of institutional donors amounted to CHF 395,222.07 or approximately 50.5% (2019: 52%). Since the change in the guidelines of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which now allow small organisations to form alliances in order to qualify for funding, we have become part of a recognised SDC alliance, but are currently not receiving any contributions.

## COST DISTRIBUTION

Our objective is to use donations in a targeted, cost-efficient and - also within our organisation - economical way. In 2020, expenses for Administration and Fundraising amounted to CHF 121,748.52 (2019: CHF 123,695.32) or 17.5% of the total expenses (2019: 14.5%). Thus, Usthi continues to be below the average

ratio of other ZEW certified aid organisations. According to a study published in early 2021 on the cost structure of non-profit organisations, certified development organisations spend on average 81% of their funds on projects and services and 19% on fundraising and administration. At Usthi, for every Swiss Franc donated in 2020, about 83 Cents reached the beneficiaries.

## TRANSPARENCY

Usthi's 2020 financial statements comply with the requirements of Swiss GAAP core FER, Swiss GAAP FER 21 and ZEW. The Foundation has been ZEW certified since 2013, guaranteeing the meticulous and trustworthy handling of donations. BDO AG audited the 2020 accounts and found them to be correct. The complete audit report, with an appendix on accounting principles, is available for download on our website.

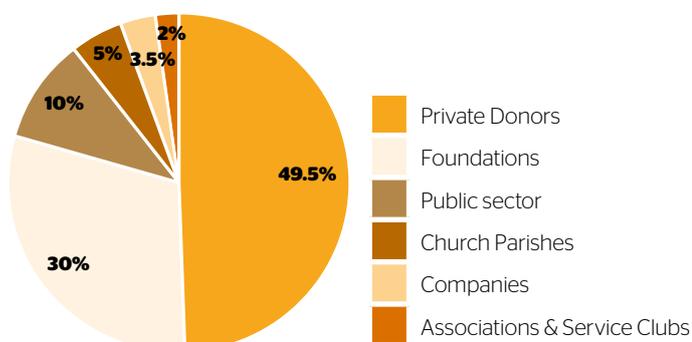
Usthi has a duty to report transparently on its projects as well as its operation in Switzerland. It is important for us to share our successes and the impact of our investment in children and youth in India and Nepal with our supporters. Updates are published regularly on our website.

## SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

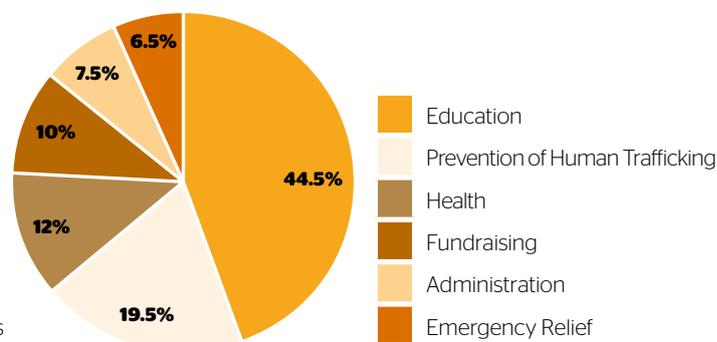
Usthi's objective is to implement projects sustainably and realise quantifiable, positive results. We work with local partner organisations to ensure local integration and the long-term impact of our commitment. By hiring and training local staff and teachers, we help build and share local knowledge and skills. Long-standing partnerships which build on local responsibility for project implementation have proved to be resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic. Close project support from Switzerland continued in 2020, enabling challenges to be overcome together.

Financial sustainability is an important priority for Usthi. We promote local entrepreneurship and income opportunities through our projects, in order to reduce dependence on donations in the long-term and work towards self-financing and financial autonomy.

## REVENUE 2020



## EXPENDITURE 2020



## BALANCE SHEET 2020

Assets	2020	2019
	CHF	CHF
Liquid Assets	405,007.31	326,873.46
Deferred Assets	17,790.10	700.00
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>422,797.41</b>	<b>327,573.46</b>
Office Rental Deposit	4,211.00	4,211.00
IT-Equipment	1.00	1.00
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>4,212.00</b>	<b>4,212.00</b>
	<b>427,009.41</b>	<b>331,785.46</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	CHF	CHF
Accrued Liabilities	53,566.77	43,207.32
<b>Borrowed Capital</b>	<b>53,566.77</b>	<b>43,207.32</b>
Project Fund Women's Shelter	12,182.32	0.00
Project Fund Hospital Renovation	0.00	3,173.49
Project Fund Jungle Hospital	4,697.52	0.00
<b>Tied Fund Capital</b>	<b>16,879.84</b>	<b>3,173.49</b>
Foundation Capital	530,708.55	530,708.55
Accumulated Loss	-174,145.75	-245,303.90
<b>Organisation Capital</b>	<b>356,562.80</b>	<b>285,404.65</b>
	<b>427,009.41</b>	<b>331,785.46</b>

## OPERATIONAL STATEMENT 2020

	2020	2019
	CHF	CHF
Free Donations	427,791.75	278,016.21
Earmarked Donations	354,912.47	373,289.80
Other Operating Revenue	0.00	0.00
<b>Fundraising Income</b>	<b>782,704.22</b>	<b>651,306.01</b>
Project Expenditure	-573,807.89	-734,777.87
Administrative Expenditure	-53,721.25	-58,563.77
Fundraising Expenditure	-68,027.27	-65,131.55
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>87,147.81</b>	<b>-207,167.18</b>
Financial Earnings	28.01	0.20
Financial Expenditure	-2,311.32	-2,499.15
<b>Annual Result before Allocation of Fund Capital</b>	<b>84,864.50</b>	<b>-209,666.13</b>
Deposit of Project Fund	-354,912.47	-373,289.80
Liquidation of Project Fund	341,206.12	480,672.55
<b>Annual Result after Allocation of Fund Capital</b>	<b>71,158.15</b>	<b>-102,283.38</b>
Accrued Free Capital	-71,158.15	102,283.38
<b>Annual Result after Allocation of Organisation Capital</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

# USTHI FOUNDATION

The Board of Trustees was renewed at the beginning of 2020. After many years of dedication to the Usthi Foundation, Silvia Day, Dr. Josef Keller, and Simone Thompson retired from office. In March, Usthi also bade farewell with a heavy heart to Board member Patrick Bürki. We wish to thank them all for their dedicated service to the Foundation and warmly welcome the new Members of the Board of Trustees.

We would also like to thank Tanja Lirgg, Executive Director until April 2020, for her sound management of the Foundation and the dedicated work she has put into the projects in India and Nepal as well as operations in Switzerland. We wish her all the best and much happiness for the future.

Alessandra Grosse took over as Executive Director in June 2020 and has since been responsible for the operational business in Switzerland and in the pro-

ject countries. In September, the Usthi team was able to recruit Mirjam Hirzel as its new Programme Coordinator. The two young women offer many years of experience in development cooperation, especially in the Indian context. During their introduction, they were able to fall back on the valuable support of the founder Kurt Bürki, to become better acquainted with the history and culture of the Foundation. Kurt Bürki ensured the smooth running of operations as a consultant during the transition phase. Many thanks!

A big thank you also goes to all the volunteers. In 2020, Donatella Suter was responsible for the bookkeeping and private donor relations. Stefan Schumacher assisted the team in matters related to graphic design and is responsible for the graphic realisation of the annual report. Tim Dean provided assistance to Usthi in the form of translations into English.

## HONORARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Felix Senn**, President, since 2020

**Urs Jaisli**, Vice President, since 2020

**Patrick Bürki**, 1999 up to March 2020

**René Graber**, since 2020

**Daniel Kempter**, since 2020

**Gabriela Knaurek**, since 1999

**Matthias Manz**, since 2020

## AUDITORS

**BDO**, Wetzikon

## HEAD OFFICE, ZURICH

**Tanja Lirgg**, Executive Director, up to April 2020

**Alessandra Grosse**, Executive Director, since June 2020

**Olga Egli**, Director Fundraising & PR, since 2018

**Mirjam Hirzel**, Programme Coordinator, since 2020

**Christian Rübensaal**, Fundraising & PR and Administration, since 2019

## HONORARY TEAM MEMBERS

**Donatella Suter**, Accounting and Private Donor Relations, since 1985

**Stefan Schumacher**, Graphic Design, since 2017

**Tim Dean**, Translation, since 2015

## FOUNDER

**Kurt Bürki**, External Consultant and interim Executive Director May/June 2020, since 1976



*Penthakata School, Puri*

# MISSION STATEMENT OF THE USTHI FOUNDATION

*Healthy and educated.  
Opportunities for young people  
since 1976.*

## WHO WE ARE

The Usthi Foundation is a non-profit organisation that has been active in development cooperation since 1976. As a politically independent and denominationally neutral foundation under Swiss law, we are committed to helping children and young adults to grow up and live in dignity. As a small, ZEWO-certified organisation, we work together with partner organisations in India and Nepal.

## OUR VISION

We strive for a world where children and young people can grow up with dignity and in a supportive environment.

## OUR MISSION

We enable children and young people in need - regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, or language - to access education, health care and protection from human trafficking and violence. We empower them to build a self-determined life with dignity.

We support young people and especially girls and women who are socially and economically disadvantaged or discriminated against.

We maintain the Usthi culture of personal and respectful interaction with beneficiaries and partner organisations, in the spirit of the founding couple Edeltrud and Kurt Bürki-Büchel.

## OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

We assume responsibility in order to create fair and sustainable conditions for future generations. Children are particularly vulnerable and have the right to protection and care. They are reliant on being cared for.

Everybody has a right to a self-determined life and future with dignity. We support young people by helping them to help themselves in order for them to stand on their own two feet.

The fate of every child and each person we help counts. We create perspectives for a better future for them.

High quality education and good health are sustainable investments for the future; they cannot be sold or stolen and are thus the most important tools to break the cycle of poverty.

Integrity is a core value for us. The Board of Trustees, staff and partner organisations adhere to our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct.

Tolerance and respect for the knowledge and cultural values of others are essential to us and to a successful cooperation.

Transparency and honesty are the cornerstones of our communication with donors and our partner organisations.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child form the basis of our values and the foundation of our work.

## OUR WORK

Education and health must go hand in hand, as health has a strong impact

on development, learning and achievement. Our work is based on an integrated approach.

We involve the social environment and families of beneficiaries to work for change in a holistic way.

We support partner organisations in the long term and ensure that projects are well anchored in local communities. This is the only way to ensure the sustainability of the projects.

We work with partner organisations on an equal footing. We share decision-making processes and responsibilities in project planning and implementation.

We think and act in an entrepreneurial way. For us, sustainability also means striving towards both the long-term self-financing of projects and the financial independence of beneficiaries. The promotion of local social entrepreneurship and income opportunities for beneficiaries has been a prime concern for Usthi since the very beginning.

Wherever possible, we provide immediate support for emergency and disaster relief.

We work closely with interested private and public organisations to promote the Foundation's aims. In this way, looking

ahead, we ensure that finances are immediately available when needed, especially for emergency and disaster relief. We communicate transparently about such joint activities.

We ensure diligence in handling donations and have been awarded the ZEWO seal of approval. We use financial resources in a targeted, efficient, and economical manner, both in the project countries and in the operations in Switzerland.

We contribute actively to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.



*Impressions, Penthakata, Puri*

# REFLECTIONS OF THE FOUNDER

*What a year! The ubiquitous topic - Covid-19. The crisis is depriving several hundred million people of their jobs. Without a livelihood, they fall back into poverty. The images of migrant workers on the streets in India wanting to go back home are omnipresent - whole families, exhausted and starving on the roadside - pregnant women giving birth on the streets without even minimal sanitation and next to the bodies of those who did not survive the long journey home.*

*The global crisis is dramatically affecting those in society who do not live on the bright side. In just 12 months, the first three major UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) "1 No Poverty, 2 No Hunger, 3 Good Health and Well-Being" have become distant prospects.*

*The challenges for society and also for the Usthi Foundation were enormous. No-one was able to fall back on past experience and offer appropriate solutions. Decisiveness and innovation were necessary and imperative, day-to-day, in order to survive.*

*We were amazed to see that our local partners adapted very quickly to the new way of life. In a country with constant social and natural disasters, one learns to live with change.*

*For us, we are seldom challenged to use survival skills. We have a roof over our heads, enough to eat, a bank account, we are mobile and have intact health care and social networks. Current isolation is an excellent opportunity to occupy oneself with one's own personality, to look into the meaning of life. A little less "me" and a little more "selflessness". It would do us good to find a certain humbleness.*

*It is our task, for the time ahead, to learn how to approach our objectives with success despite Covid-19. With a qualified and competent team, Usthi is well equipped to meet the challenges of the future. However, to achieve our goals, we need you, dear readers. Only with you and the society's support can we achieve more justice and less discrimination. It is an important investment in our future. Usthi's focus on education and health is undisputed and imperative for an independent life in dignity.*

*Thank you for your support and kind regards,*

*Bürki*

Kurt Bürki



# OUTLOOK & THANKS

## OUTLOOK 2021

The new members of the Board of Trustees and in the head office brought change and new enthusiasm to the Usthi Foundation in 2020 - in line with Arundhati Roy's quote on a changing world (see page 1).

Our objective for 2021 is to be able to carry out all projects fully, whilst adhering to important safeguarding measures, providing education, health care and protection

against human trafficking. The Usthi Team and the Board of Trustees hope for an early lifting of Covid-19 travel restrictions to be able to visit partners and projects in India and Nepal.

With four part-time employees (a total of 2.7 full-time positions) and the dedicated support of volunteers, more capacity will be available in 2021 to raise funds and provide personal donor contact. In this way, we hope to be able to stabilise the Usthi

Foundation's financial situation even further.

As has been the case since the beginning of Usthi's activities in 1976, we have always welcomed opportunities to build new partnerships with institutions and individuals who wish to show social commitment and assume societal responsibilities. The implementation of our projects is only possible with your contribution. It is a privilege to be able to count on your support.



## WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

... all private donors who have found their way to Usthi over the years and who have formed the solid basis for our work from the very beginning.

... all private and public institutions that have supported Usthi for many years and make the work in India and Nepal possible.

... the generous private donors and the Swiss Embassy in India for financing the Covid-19 emergency relief.

... Rotary and the regional Rotary Clubs who have supported Usthi's activities for over 30 years.

... the Plato Foundation for its long-standing support of our health projects in Somagiri.

... the Swissair Kinderhilfe, which has been supporting the Penthakata School for decades.

... the atDta Foundation and the City of Zurich for their generous contributions to professional skills training.

... the Fagus lucida Foundation for its great trust in us and the generous donation for the Usthi Children's Homes.

... the ATU (Allgemeines Treuunternehmen) for their recurring support.

... the municipalities of Maur and Riehen and the Catholic parish of Meilen for its considerable contributions in favour of young women in Hyderabad.

... the Catholic Parish of St. Gallen for their generous support of the Penthakata School.

... Tourasia Roemer AG for sponsoring our flights to the project sites in India and Nepal.

... Thaddeus Getzmann and his friends and family for their continual support of

the Thaddeus School.

... Dr. Thomas Fischer for his long-standing association with Usthi and his recurring support of Usthi projects.

... Bernike Szabo and the tiiset cares e.V. association for their long-term financing of a women's shelter in Hyderabad.

...the Sunshine School Association for the financing of the school renovation in the Kathmandu Valley.

... our project partners and employees in India, who do the impossible every day and especially in view of the current challenges.

... all those who have supported Usthi in one way or another - without them our work would not be possible.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in us - we are fortunate to have you on board!



*Impressions, Penthakata, Puri*

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION SUPPORTS YOUNG PEOPLE. THANK YOU!**



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