

**LEARNING FROM
EACH OTHER**
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

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EDITORIAL

DEAR READERS

Looking back on an eventful and fulfilling year, we are delighted to present the Usthi Annual Report 2023. The report tells of shared learning, challenges, and the people who are at the core of Usthi.

Without our partners and the approximately 370 employees in India and Nepal, who implement the projects day by day with great dedication, our work would be inconceivable. Here in Switzerland, a highly motivated team stands behind the head office, supported by an active Board of Trustees and Usthi's founder, Kurt Bürki, who continues to support the foundation as an external advisor. The contribution of volunteers, who actively assist our work is indispensable as is, of course, the generous support of our donors, from which we have been privileged to benefit for so many years. Each year, the determination of the project participants impresses us anew as they seize the chance for a better future, despite all the hurdles they face. Together, these are the people who make Usthi what it is.

Equally important for Usthi is the willingness of all these people to learn from working together. Continuous development enables us to remain agile, without losing our focus. Because our goal remains the same: creating prospects for young people affected by poverty by providing access to education and health and offering them protection from human trafficking.

2023 was characterised by mutual learning, with a view to achieving precisely this goal. On project visits, the exchange with project participants was crucial to understanding their needs as was the continuous dialogue with our partners to reflect on our activities together. Furthermore, the transfer of knowledge resulting from training sessions among teachers at the Usthi schools was of great importance.

The exchange of know-how likewise contributed significantly to the success of the Geberit apprentices' work at the Ananda School. Very valuable were also the lively discussions with guests during the annual Usthi Event. Similarly, within the application process for funding from the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Co-Operation), Usthi, as a member of an alliance, was able to draw upon the experience of other NGOs. Last but not least, the Usthi Board of Trustees, EAWAG (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology) of ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) and local experts combined their collective knowledge to initiate a waste management project.

As you can see, much was accomplished in 2023. This was only possible thanks to your support as donors, for which we would like to express our heart-felt gratitude. It is a privilege for us to be able to count on you as part of the Usthi community.



Felix Senn
President, Board of Trustees



Mirjam Hirzel
Deputy Executive Director

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BDO, Wetzikon

Publisher:

Usthi Foundation, Wattstrasse 3, 8050 Zurich

Editorial Team: Franka Hüttche, Mirjam Hirzel

Pictures: C. & D. Kempfer, Usthi Team, project partners, Geberit (Laurina Nimtz)

Layout: Luca Mondgenast

Print run: 1,800 copies

Cover Image: Students, Penthakata School

Back cover: Students, Penthakata School

Captions Table of contents

A: Health workers, Somagiri

B: Project participant, Dhading

C: Geberit apprentice, Ananda School

D: Infant development project, Somagiri

E: Student, Penthakata School

F: Project participant, professional skills training, Hyderabad

The names of the project participants have in part been changed.

YEAR IN REVIEW

For over 45 years, the Usthi Foundation has been dedicated to supporting people who have to navigate life under the most challenging conditions. In 2023, through collaboration with our partner organisations, we were able to undertake a total of 12 projects in the areas of education, health, and protection & self-determination, benefitting nearly 50,000 people.

2023 was a year of further development, characterised by continual interchange of ideas and mutual learning. Together with our partner organisation, we expanded our commitment in Hyderabad in the areas of protection & self-determination, as well as education. We increased capacity in the children's homes, the "Back-to-School" project, and tutoring centres. This has enabled us to offer more young people better prospects for the future. In Somagiri, the reopening of one of the child-care centres within the "Health and Education" project has provided more children with access to targeted support, medical care, and child-appropriate development.

Usthi utilises synergy to achieve long lasting impact. Individual issues are combined, e.g. by integrating health promotion into education projects. With the support of Geberit (manufacturer of sanitation equipment and systems), we have been able to improve hygiene standards and the quality of water supplies at the Ananda School.

Five different types of vegetables are now grown in the Penthakata School garden, enriching the students' daily lunch. In 2023, a total of approximately 125,000 nutritious meals were distributed within the Usthi school education programme.

In the Nepal project, too, plants helped create better prospects. In addition to goats and pigs, 1,400 fruit trees contributed to economically disadvantaged families' diversifying their income and increasingly being able to bear their children's educational costs.

In 2023, within the Protection & Self-Determination programme, 105 women, subjected to abuse and violence, found safe refuge in women's shelters. 17 different work-related training schemes enabled them to take an important step towards independence.

Within the health programme, 42 health workers, a chief physician, and 7 specialists conducted around 31,000 check-ups in the Tribal Belt of Somagiri.

Usthi also faced challenges over the past year which were tackled with other small independent NGOs. In an alliance with Co-operaid, Solafrica, and the Swiss Academy for Development (SA4D), we defined a collective identity and developed a joint programme. As the «Alliance for Resilient Communities», we have been able to apply for funding from the «Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation» (SDC). All parties involved are hopeful of a positive response in the first half of 2024.

There were several changes in personnel within Usthi in 2023. Executive Director Alessandra Grosse has been on maternity leave since November and has been well represented by Mirjam Hirzel, Deputy Executive Director and Project Coordinator and, along with Jonathan Schuler, Finance Specialist. In September, Franka Hüttche took over Public Relations and a part of the fundraising responsibilities. After more than ten years in Somagiri, the chief physician of the Tribal Health Centre handed over his responsibilities to a knowledgeable successor.

In line with living Usthi culture, this year continued to see a focus on personal contacts with our partners and the beneficiaries. During two project trips, we spent approximately 450 hours in the Usthi projects in India and Nepal. Opportunities for discussions with the Swiss Usthi community included the Usthi Festival, where we engaged in a panel discussion with supporters from politics, education, and the private sector on inter-generational solidarity and the importance of bequests.

This annual report tells not only of successes but also of challenges, personal encounters, and how we continue to advance together.



EDUCATION

DHADING
Empowering Children & Families
 15 schools
 3'060 pupils

PURI
Penthakata School
 16 teachers
 408 pupils

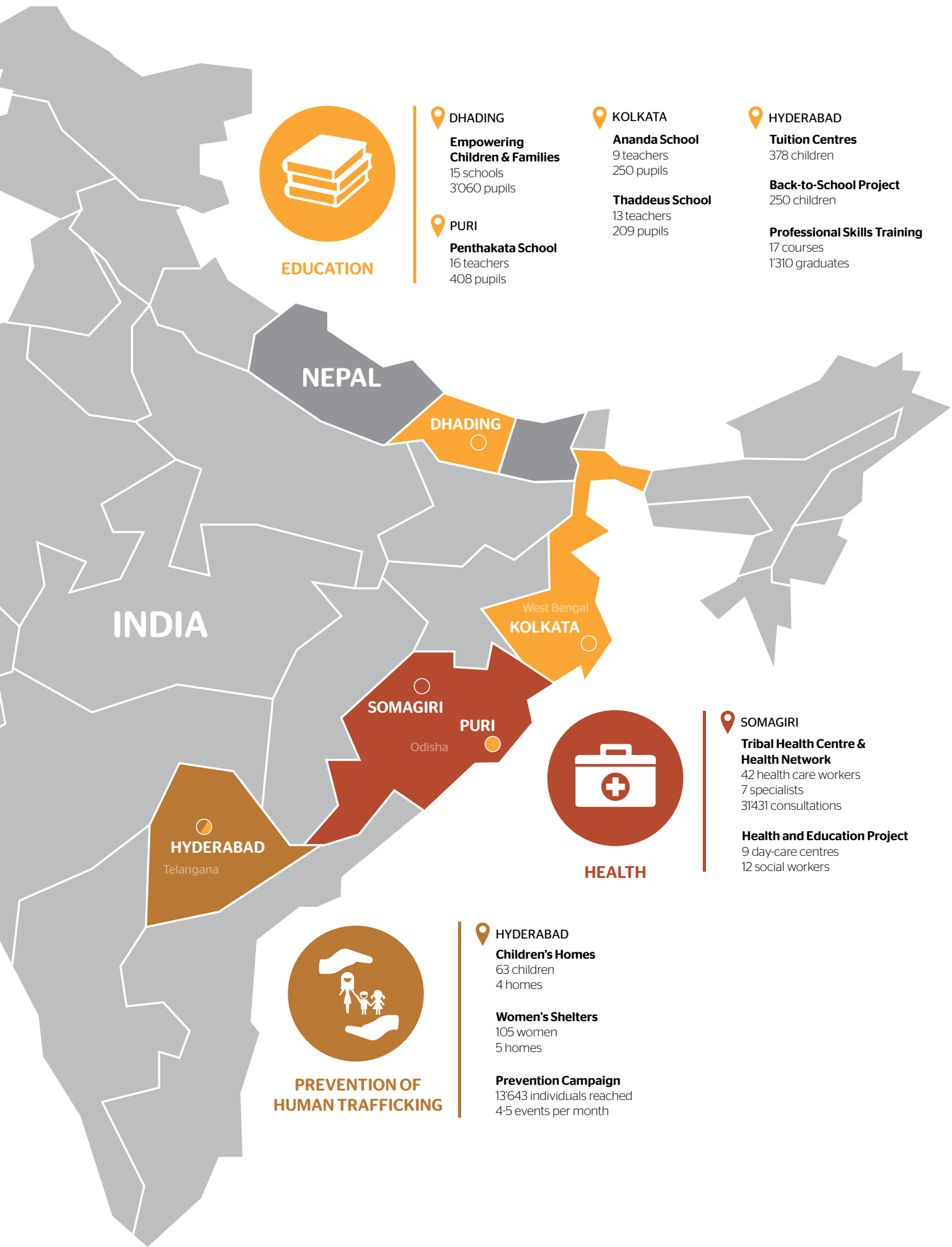
KOLKATA
Ananda School
 9 teachers
 250 pupils

Thaddeus School
 13 teachers
 209 pupils

HYDERABAD
Tuition Centres
 378 children

Back-to-School Project
 250 children

Professional Skills Training
 17 courses
 1'310 graduates



HEALTH

SOMAGIRI
Tribal Health Centre & Health Network
 42 health care workers
 7 specialists
 31'431 consultations

Health and Education Project
 9 day-care centres
 12 social workers



PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HYDERABAD
Children's Homes
 63 children
 4 homes

Women's Shelters
 105 women
 5 homes

Prevention Campaign
 13'643 individuals reached
 4-5 events per month

INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

A new children's home **2 4 10**

Thanks to the support of the Fagus lucida Foundation, we are able to provide a safe home and access to high quality education for ten more children.

Expanded range of training courses **1 4 5 8 10**

In response to the pandemic-induced shortage of skilled workers, a new training programme as Pharmacy Assistant has been introduced at the Professional Skills Training Centre in Hyderabad.

Individual support for school children **4 10**

With the Back-to-School project, we enable socio-economically disadvantaged children to find their way back into education. Without an appropriate learning environment, academic performance will inevitably suffer. Often, there is a lack of basic resources, such as light. In tutoring centres, Usthi provides children, from low-income families with a safe and quiet place to study. Both programmes have been expanded to support more children on their educational journey.

Professional development for teachers **4**

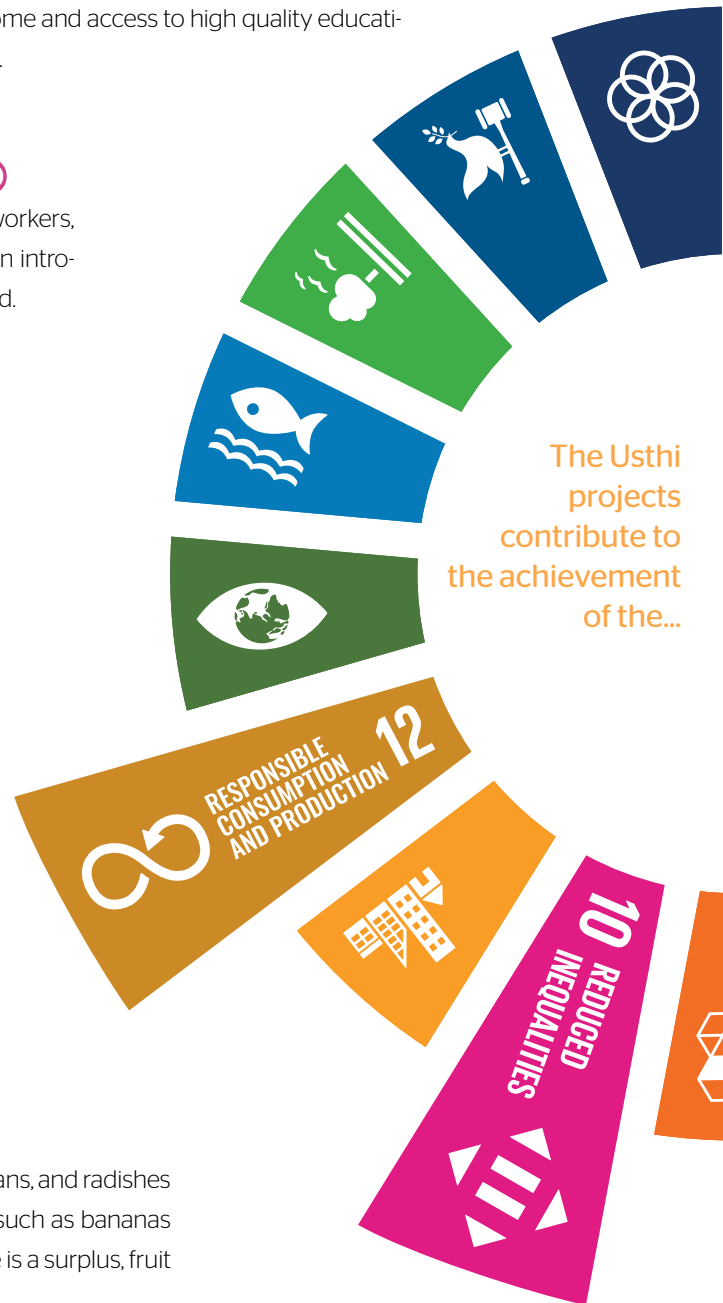
After a pandemic-induced hiatus, our partners in India and Nepal have been able to resume regular professional development courses for teachers. These courses ensure the quality of our educational standard and modernise teaching methods.

From Garden to Plate **2 3 12**

At Penthakata School, spinach, aubergines, chili peppers, beans, and radishes from the school garden have been served for lunch. Fruit, such as bananas and coconuts, grow on the school grounds, too. When there is a surplus, fruit and vegetables are sold to finance school materials.

Sewing machines enable financial independence **5 8 10**

Our partners' social enterprises create economic closed circuits, promote financial independence of the projects, and generate local employment. Special sewing machines open up an additional market segment for the textile processing centre, thereby increasing revenues which can be used to finance a part of the Professional Skills Training Centre.





...17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Digital Education **4**

At Ananda and Penthakata School, we have invested in digital classrooms: computer projectors in the classrooms make digital content accessible for teaching.

Planting the Future **1 4 10 12**

Through targeted and needs-based support, we provide families with opportunities to generate additional income to finance their children's education. In 2023, following a needs-assessment, we diversified our approach and provided, in addition to goats and pigs, various fruit trees, small greenhouses, and individual work-related training courses.

Tailored Education **4 10**

Usthi aims to make education accessible to children with physical disabilities. Last year, we expanded support for a home for the blind, by providing children with warm clothing and Braille paper for their school lessons.

Working together for Hygiene **3 6**

Eleven apprentices from the sanitation company Geberit installed plumbing systems for new sanitation facilities at Ananda School. Thanks to Geberit, and their apprentices, the schoolchildren will continue to have access to clean drinking water and adequate hygiene.

Expansion of the Health and Education project **4**

Unbalanced nutrition and lack of early educational support hinder age-appropriate development. With the reopening of a former day-care centre as part of the infant development programme «Health and Education», we can now provide more young children, growing up in multi-dimensional poverty with intellectual stimulation through play, balanced nutrition, and health-care.

Expanding Horizons **2 3 10**

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of education at Usthi schools. Last year, for example, students from Ananda School spent a day at the beach with games and sports and students from Penthakata School attended swimming classes.



GEBERIT IN INDIA

Over 45 years, the Usthi Foundation has been committed to providing health and education. Through our school education programme, we not only provide access to education for children affected by poverty, but also ensure access to clean drinking water and a warm meal. Maintaining a certain standard of hygiene is essential for our commitment to the children's health. In November 2023, eleven apprentices, from the sanitation company Geberit, travelled to India to improve hygiene standards at the Ananda School. Over the course of two weeks, they installed a new water supply system and new sanitation equipment at the school.

FROM RAPPERSWIL-JONA TO INDIA

Rapperswil-Jona holds significant historical importance for both Geberit and Usthi. Not only were the foundations laid here for Geberit but, nearly 100 years later, the Usthi Foundation was established here, too, by Kurt Bürki and his wife, Edeltrud. From this neighbourly relationship, collaboration between Usthi and Geberit in India emerged as early as 2012. At that time, ten apprentices installed new sanitation facilities at Penthakata School near Puri. In addition to improving hygiene standards, Geberit also contributed to the financing of a kitchen for steam cooking. It is all the more gratifying that this year, once again, a group of highly motivated Geberit apprentices embarked on a journey to India, this time approximately 500 km further northeast, to the Ananda School in Hudarait.

GIVING OTHERS A HELPING HAND

For two weeks, the Geberit team was in action, welding pipes for the new sanitation facilities, setting up toilet cisterns, and installing drinking water and foul water pipes. The apprentices from Germany, Switzerland and Austria, clad in their blue uniforms, quickly became a welcome part of the school community. The Usthi project coordinator, the manager from

our local partner organisation, and the school director of Ananda School accompanied the apprentices, who were supervised by Geberit's Vreni Schweizer as HR Business Partner and Remo Zwick as Project Manager.

As part of their stay, the apprentices also went on an excursion to the surrounding villages of the Ananda School, where most of the students and their families live in modest conditions. Faced with these challenging living conditions, the apprentices quickly realised the importance of providing these children with a good education to enable them to build an independent life.

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

The daily routine at the school quickly turned into a playful exchange between students and the Geberit team. Discussion and mutual support were also needed on the construction site. Since the Geberit apprentices came from different professional fields and none of them was trained as a plumber, it was all about learning together and growing into the job. The apprentices also received active support from local craftsmen, the communication with whom proved easier than expected, despite differences in language. Since most of the Bengali workers do not have formal training but have plenty of experience, the

assignment turned into a project where everyone was able to benefit. In this way, the Geberit apprentices were able to observe how they could achieve good results in spite of crooked walls. In return, the Bengali craftsmen learnt professional

«The experience has shown me how important it is to contribute to society.»

Tobias Lacher, Geberit apprentice



The apprentices on their way to the construction site

techniques in handling Geberit's state-of-the-art technology. In addition to setting up the new sanitary installations, the apprentices conducted workshops to teach the schoolchildren about the importance for their health of thorough hand-washing and toothbrushing. The toothbrushing and hand-washing workshops still had to take place in the schoolyard during the works. Soon, however, the schoolchildren will be able to use the new washrooms.

CAPTURING MEMORIES TOGETHER

To preserve the shared memories of the Geberit team's time spent at Ananda School, an exterior wall of the new washroom building was designated the «Memory Wall.» The schoolchild-



«We were overwhelmed by their sense of responsibility. Thanks to their commitment, we can provide a safe and welcoming educational and working environment.»

Mrs. Bhowmik, Principal of Ananda School

ren and apprentices were allowed to paint the wall together, and their collective artwork will adorn the school for a long time.

Beyond the construction of the new installations, Geberit is supporting Ananda School by financing extensive renovation works. Thanks to Geberit's generosity, in 2024 we shall be able to repaint the school building, renovate the roofs, and also install a kitchen for steam cooking here.

We extend our gratitude to Geberit International AG and the apprentices for their dedication and valuable collaboration. Special thanks also go to Remo Zwick and Vreni Schweizer for their guidance and support during the Geberit team's stay in India.



«WE WORKED TOGETHER, HAND IN HAND»

The paths of Vreni Schweizer and Usthi crossed back in 2014. She and her then-partner were on a trip to Nepal when they seized the opportunity to join Kurt Bürki, the founder of the Usthi Foundation, on his project trip through India. Today, almost ten years later, Vreni Schweizer found herself back in one of Usthi's projects. As HR Business Partner for Geberit, she accompanied eleven Geberit apprentices on their assignment to Ananda School.

Vreni, ten years ago you visited the Usthi projects for the first time. What left a particularly lasting memory back then?

First and foremost, I was simply grateful for the opportunity to get to know the projects and all the people involved. It deeply impressed me to see what Usthi had achieved and built up since 1976. During the project trip, I had the privilege of experiencing at first hand the passion with which the people behind Usthi are committed to helping others. The visit to the «Bangur Home», Usthi's first children's home in Kolkata will always remain with me. I was deeply moved by seeing how confident and joyful these young women had become and what they had built for themselves, compared with the lives which they would otherwise most likely have led.



What makes the Usthi projects worth supporting, for you?

The support towards financial independence for the projects and the autonomy of those being supported is paramount at Usthi. Naturally, it is also the areas where Usthi focuses its efforts. Investing in education is one of the most crucial aspects for me. And education is at the forefront of this project, regardless of one's background, language, religion, or social status. It is impressive how Usthi is able to combine various themes so successfully: e.g. empowering women and promoting medical care through the deployment of healthcare workers in villages near Somagiri. Empowering women, providing them with income and employment, has significantly changed their status for the better. What also distinguishes Usthi for me are the people. They are wholeheartedly dedicated. For instance, the school director of Ananda School commutes approximately two hours to work every morning and evening. And he has been doing so for 37 years.

What have the apprentices taken away from this experience?

I think what left a particularly lasting impression on them was the insight into a completely different reality and way of living, as well as understanding the real difference education can make. In addition to working on the project, we were able to visit one of the villages where the Ananda School pupils live. Afterwards, one of the apprentices asked me: «What good is a school qualification here?» I told him that education allows pupils to have prospects. Just being able to read and write creates a whole new starting point for them. During our time at the Ananda School, we all noticed how incredibly proud the children are to receive an education and have the opportunity of achieving something in life. That's what the Geberit apprentices particularly appreciated about their mission: the chance to have an impact and to make a real difference. With the construction of the new sanitary installations, they were able to directly see the effect of their hard work for the children.

How did you experience the collaboration between Geberit and Usthi on location?

When we arrived, there was a great curiosity on both sides, both from the Geberit apprentices and the pupils. It was a new situation for everyone and we all had to figure out how to interact with



The head of our partner organisation, the local plumber and the Geberit Project Manager discussing the construction plans

each other. The school director showing up with a football after lunch was all that was needed finally to ensure that the ice was broken. In this way, routines quickly developed, such as morning greeting rituals or playing football or badminton during the lunch break. Of course, over the course of the project, the toothbrushing and handwashing workshops also contributed to making it feel like one big family. To capture our time at the school with the children, we all painted a «Memory Wall» together. Especially the littlest ones, the kindergarten children, surprised us with their incredible creativity. All had a lot of fun and were also a little proud to contribute to the «Memory Wall».

The teamwork on the construction site also went surprisingly well. A local plumber supported us with the aim of being able later on to carry out minor maintenance work independently. Although he and the apprentices didn't speak the same language, they found a way to communicate and over time, a small «dream team» developed.

Without the fantastic support of the Usthi team, our work at the school would not have been possible in the same way. We worked hand in hand and were able to offer each other mutual support.



Installation of the waste water pipes

What makes the Ananda School and the Usthi education project particularly worth supporting for Geberit?

At Geberit, sustainability is a long-standing tradition. Geberit also invests in the training of apprentices and supports work-related training, not only at its headquarters in Rapperswil-Jona but also in other countries. Geberit and Usthi share common values in this regard, which is why the project at the Ananda School was ideally suited to both.

VOICES FROM THE USTHI COMMUNITY

To illustrate how our work in India and Nepal is making a difference in the lives of those involved in the projects, we are presenting the stories of three project participants. They share tales of new-found confidence and hope.



Sankar Rao on the terrace of the hotel in Puri, India, where he was working as Restaurant Manager.

«At Penthakata, I was taught everything I know today. Even, my attitude towards life and how to shape my future.»

Sankar Rao

After completing his schooling, he attended college and earned a hospitality management qualification in Bangalore. He gained valuable work experience at various elite hotels and underwent additional management training in Mumbai. Today, he again lives and works in Puri. The city is one of India's popular tourist destinations and provides him with a sound career foundation. He has since changed jobs and now oversees the operations of a well-known hotel restaurant. With his income, he is able to support his family.

EDUCATION OPENS UP PROSPECTS

We met Sankar Rao, a former student of the Penthakata School, when the Usthi team was on a project trip, staying by chance at the hotel where he worked as Restaurant Manager. He grew up in an informal fishing settlement near Puri. To this day, migrant families from the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh live there, often experiencing social discrimination due to their language and social status.

Until the opening of the Penthakata School in 1992, children from the settlement had no access to education. They spent their time on the streets or worked on the fishing boats. Today, some 400 students receive their schooling at the Penthakata School in languages such as Oriya, Hindi, Telugu, and English. Sankar Rao was one of them. He attended the Penthakata School until 2008.

additional management training in Mumbai. Today, he again lives and works in Puri. The city is one of India's popular tourist destinations and provides him with a sound career foundation. He has since changed jobs and now oversees the operations of a well-known hotel restaurant. With his income, he is able to support his family.



Rashmi Tamang and another project participant with their goats.



Santana Mallick and her husband Abishek at the Usthi Event in Maur

«Being in a position to travel independently already says a lot.»

Santana Mallick

Here, she had the opportunity of building a solid foundation for her future. After school, the girls spent their time together, studying, doing handicrafts, or playing. In the shared accommodation, Santana grew up in a supportive community where she received encouragement and where the girls were instilled with the belief that they could really achieve something. Inspired by Kurt Bürki, not only the founder of Usthi but also a retired pilot, the girls developed a fascination for aviation. With high quality education, hard work and discipline, Santana achieved what her mother so deeply desired for her - a promising career and financial independence. For almost ten years, she worked in the Operations Management of Bangalore Airport. Today, she is working on establishing her own travel agency. Santana and her husband were welcome guests to the Usthi Event in September.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER

As a single parent in India, Santana's mother faced uncertain prospects. The future seemed hopeless for her and her children. Although Santana attended school, her future career prospects remained limited, due to her minimal English skills. At the age of six, her mother entrusted her to the care of the first Usthi children's home, located on Bangur Avenue in Kolkata. At that time, 35 girls lived in the «Bangur Home», and Santana grew up with them in a kind of family community. Together with them, Santana attended an «English Medium School», where all classes were conducted exclusively in English.

«My self-confidence came from the Bangur home.»

Santana Mallick

RESPONSIBILITY BUILDS CONFIDENCE

Rashmi and her family live in the Dhading region in Nepal. They belong to the Tamang community, a minority excluded from society, who live, like many people here, in multidimensional poverty. Many work as daily-wage labourers and often their children are also forced to work to contribute to the family income. When children have to work for financial reasons, access to a school, alone, helps little. Within the Nepal project, Usthi not only facilitates the education of children but also supports individual families in achieving lasting financial security. The goal is for them to be able to bear the costs of education themselves in time and send their children to school. In 2022, Rashmi and her family received two goats from Usthi.

«I am able to show how much a woman can achieve.»

Rashmi Tamang

Breeding livestock helps them supplement their livelihood. In October, we spoke to the families receiving aid, including Rashmi, to evaluate the impact of our support. Rashmi had already sold some baby goats and was able to cover the cost of her daughter's education. To strengthen her income further, Rashmi plans to establish a small shop near a local school. Since her husband is often away on business, she manages the goat breeding and the family's finances.



TACKLING CHALLENGES TOGETHER

Together with our local partners in India and Nepal, we can look back on an eventful year. Alongside small and large successes reported by the Usthi Foundation, 2023 has also presented us with challenges.

MAKING PROGRESS TOGETHER

As a modest-sized NGO, we are often particularly challenged. Meeting the requirements for funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), for example, poses a hurdle. Financial support from SDC, as a renowned governmental institution, enhances the credibility and recognition of an NGO, facilitating access to funding from other organisations and government agencies. It can also open up new partnerships and networks.

Larger NGOs can apply for SDC support directly, while smaller NGOs have to join an umbrella organisation or an NGO alliance. Usthi viewed this challenge as an opportunity. Last year, we collaborated with Co-operaid, Solafrica, and the Swiss Academy for Development (SA4D) to establish the Alliance for Resilient Communities and jointly submitted a funding request to the SDC. The process of forging a collective identity and developing a common programme was a valuable learning experience for Usthi.

THE JUNGLE AS A WORKPLACE

Access to education and healthcare is particularly challenging in rural areas of India. Many of the Usthi projects are therefore located in rural environments, such as Somagiri, a jungle area in the state of Odisha. The remoteness of this area poses on-going challenges. For some time now, there has been difficulty in filling the position of Project Manager for the Health and Education (HEP) centres and the Tribal Health Centre in Somagiri. Several attempts to recruit have failed. The remoteness of the project region seems to be a major obstacle for a potential incumbent, perhaps due to family obligations. The Usthi team participates in interviews online. We are fortunate to be able to rely on the assessment of our partners on the ground and are confident that we will find someone who will integrate well into the team.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

Last year, on several occasions, staff at the Tribal Health Centre in the jungle in Somagiri were confronted by wild elephants. These elephants appear to have altered their migratory route, sometimes passing through the hospital grounds. So far, the elephants have only caused minor damage to the infrastructure. To secure the area, we are working together with our local partner organisation to reinforce the wall surrounding the jungle hospital grounds, aiming to prevent the elephants from crossing the property.



Road sign on the way to the Tribal Health Centre, Somagiri



Children in the Children's Home project, Hyderabad

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FOUNDER

Daily media coverage suggests that the world has gone off the rails. Wars in Europe and the Middle East, climate change leading to natural disasters, a growing erosion of democratic principles and a lack of willingness to address challenges with compromise, these all create a sense of helplessness.

I believe that we still act and take decisions in much the same way as we did in earlier times. This is confirmed in the history books. The current challenges should not be seen as obstacles, but as opportunities to address and overcome problems.

Modern communication methods mean the flood of information grows, making it difficult for us to process what we hear and read in these demanding times. Power has always used disinformation as a means to succeed. Today, it has become even harder to separate truth and reality from disinformation in the information overflow from the media. Awareness of these facts helps to keep us alert.

In today's media environment, reporting by the Usthi team is refreshing. It is based on a relationship of trust with our local partners, who provide professional and transparent information. With our annual presence in India and Nepal, the Usthi team is able to confirm work methods and impact directly at the source. Collaboration, built on mutual respect, promotes openness and creates the best conditions for evaluation and reflection. Protections against injustice and discrimination are inviolable rights which distinguish a fairer society from that of today. For 47 years, Usthi has been successfully advocating these principles in the areas of health and education. Without either of these, a life of self-determination and dignity is not possible.

This annual report impressively shows how Usthi successfully promotes independence and a sense of individual worth. Highly qualified persons on the Usthi team and a motivated board of trustees, supporting us in all areas, ensure that

we are already well on our way in 2024. However, we can only achieve our set goals with you, dear readers. It is you who provide us with the necessary financial resources to eliminate injustice and discrimination. Both objectives can only be achieved together. My sincere thanks to you for your support - an investment in a better future.




Kurt Bürki
Founder

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

USTHI IN FIGURES

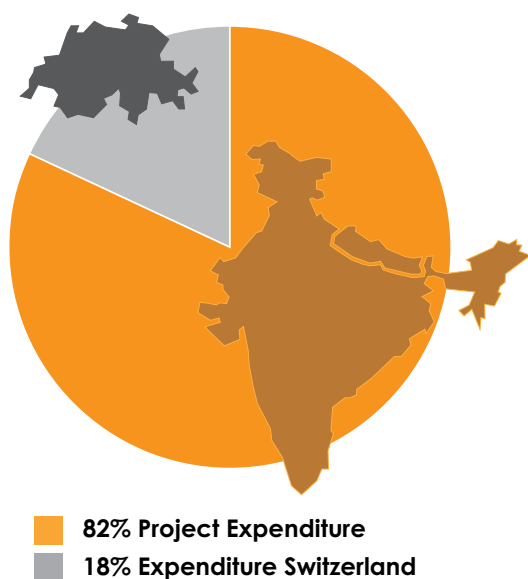
In 2023, we were further able to expand and optimise the impact of our projects in India and Nepal thanks to the generous donations from individuals, organisations, and institutions. Following the challenges of the pandemic, Usthi, in close collaboration with local partner organisations, has identified what needs to be done next and has invested in necessary purchases and renovations in 2023. We are grateful and pleased to announce that we were able to generate financial resources amounting to CHF 1'123'152, compared with CHF 948'909 in 2022. This was made possible primarily through the extraordinarily generous extraordinary contribution from Geberit International AG. Operating expenses were CHF 968'225 in 2023, compared with CHF 877'829 in the previous year. From this income, CHF 787'342 were allocated to our projects, representing an increase of 9.8% over 2022. The remaining CHF 180'883 were used for public relations, fundraising, and administrative expenses in Switzerland. We place great importance on using donated funds in a targeted way and cost-effectively, and we aim for a sustainable use of resources. Four part-time employees, (five since November 2023) totalling, as at 31st December 2023, (3.5 full-time equivalent), cover project management and fundraising. Along with support from volunteers, Usthi aims to keep personnel and ad-

ministrative expenses in Switzerland to an absolute minimum. Approximately CHF 82 out of every CHF 100 donated, or 82% of all donations, went directly to benefitting people in India and Nepal. This continues to place Usthi above the average of other ZEW0-certified aid organisations.

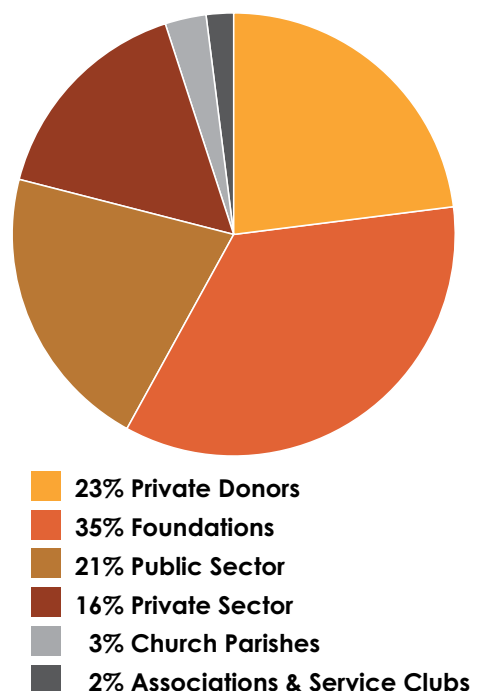
TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION

Since 2013, Usthi has proudly held the ZEW0 quality label, which stands for trustworthy and careful handling of donated funds. The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles of Swiss GAAP FER and ZEW0, and were audited and confirmed by the auditing firm BDO AG. A detailed annual report and the auditor's report can be downloaded from our website www.usthi.ch. We regularly publish news from the projects on our website, to keep supporters and interested parties informed. Transparent reporting on the impact of our investments, aims to build trust in our work processes.

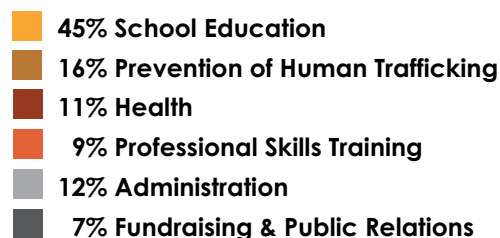
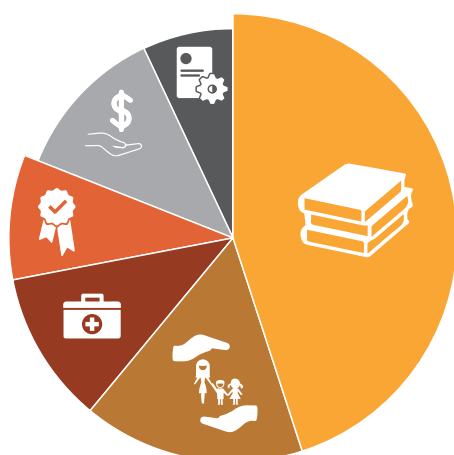
DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES



ORIGIN OF FUNDS



UTILISATION OF FUNDS



BALANCE SHEET

Assets	31.12.23	31.12.22
	CHF	CHF
Liquid Assets	694'770	543'440
Deferred Assets	24'632	15'081
Current Assets	719'402	558'521
Office rental deposit A/C	4'231	4'211
IT equipment	1	1
Fixed Assets	4'232	4'212
	723'634	562'733
Liabilities	31.12.23	31.12.22
	CHF	CHF
Accrued Liabilities	29'678	18'600
Liabilities	29'678	18'600
School Renovations	103'661	0
Work-related Skills Training	11'216	7'441
Thaddeus School	18'476	11'834
Education Nepal	33'827	5'628
Women's shelters	0	8'841
Post-Covid education support	13'664	15'934
Schooling, India	86'062	75'937
Tied fund capital	266'906	125'615
Foundation capital	530'709	530'709
Free capital	-112'191	-89'917
Annual result	8'532	-22'274
Organisation Capital	427'050	418'518
	723'634	562'733

OPERATIONAL STATEMENT

	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
Undesignated donations	293'068	278'497
Designated donations	830'084	670'412
Fundraising income	1'123'152	948'909
Project expenditure	-787'342	-717'129
Administrative expenditure	-70'061	-68'617
Fundraising expenditure	-110'822	-92'083
Operational expenditure	-968'225	-877'829
Operating result	154'927	71'080
Financial income	46	0
Financial expenditure	-5'150	-4'028
Results before change to fund capital	149'823	67'052
Allocation to project funds	-830'084	-670'412
Utilisation of project funds	688'793	581'086
Change to fund capital	-141'291	-89'326
Annual result after change to fund capital	8'532	-22'274
Annual result after change to Organisation Capital	0	0

FUTURE IN VIEW



Graduates of the Professional Skills Training Centre with their certificates

With each year of our operations, we recognise areas where gaps need to be filled and where potential can be realised. In 2024, to assess unmet health needs, we shall be conducting a survey in the jungle area surrounding the Tribal Health Centre in Somagiri. In order to permit an impact assessment of our work, we and our local partner organisation, in collaboration with students from University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland, are planning a midterm evaluation of the Nepal project. The results are intended to demonstrate how far, since the launch of the project in 2020, the previous support measures have improved living conditions for the families receiving aid and to identify opportunities for optimisation.

As part of the Nepal project, Usthi aims to expand support for blind children in Dhading in 2024 and to push more strongly for appropriate access to education according to individual needs.

In 2022, when the Board of Trustees accompanied the Usthi team on a project tour, they noticed the lack of a waste management system in the Penthakata settlement. Waste pollutes the beach and groundwater and poses a health risk to the pupils of Penthakata School and their families. In 2023, the Usthi Board of Trustees, together with the EAWAG within the ETH Zurich, developed a waste management project, which will be implemented in 2024.

Thanks to the commitment of Geberit, Usthi will not only put into operation the new sanitation facilities at the Ananda School in 2024, but also commission the renovation of the school building and the transition from wood-burning stoves to a kitchen for steam cooking.

A core aspect of our work is promoting the financial independence, both of projects and of those receiving aid. Social enterprises like the textile processing

centre of our partner organisation in Hyderabad strengthen financial closed circuits. They provide local employment and contribute to the financial and social integration of projects within the local context. In order to increase income from the textile processing centre to feed into and support the financial independence of the work-related training project, we plan in 2024/25 to implement further measures to tap into a new market segment. As from 2024, Usthi will additionally finance basic equipment (such as power tools) for 80 graduates from the Professional Skills Training Centre to enable them to start their own businesses and become self-employed.

As every year, we are also planning investment in the operations of our projects in 2024, including e.g. the acquisition of a new ambulance for the Tribal Health Centre in Somagiri. We are currently still seeking support to finance this transaction.

We are grateful in advance to our supporters, who we are fortunate to have by our side in this new year. Usthi welcomes new partnerships at any time. Expanding our network(s) is an important tool in the continuous development of our projects.

The establishment of the Kurt Bürki Foundation has created a vessel to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the Usthi Foundation. With further lifetime donations or bequests, the assets of the Kurt Bürki Foundation will hopefully continue to grow. We are deeply grateful for these generous contributions, which will be used meaningfully by the Usthi Foundation Board of Trustees to further the work of Usthi.

THANK YOU

Without the commitment of our supporters, the Usthi projects would be unthinkable. Thank you for joining us in helping young people to build a life for themselves. Furthermore, we consider ourselves fortunate, every year, to be able to count on the dedication of volunteers. The inspired guidance of the Board of Trustees and the active support of Kurt Bürki are also of great importance to us. Special thanks go to:

- All private donors who make our work possible.
- Our project partners and all employees who are dedicatedly involved in the projects.
- Tiana Glatt, until September 2023, member of the administration at head office, for her outstanding work.
- The volunteers Donatella Suter and Tim Dean, who have been supporting Usthi for years.
- Stefan Schumacher, who has supported us for years as a volunteer graphic designer.
- Luca Mondgenast for the graphic work on this year's Annual Report.
- All volunteer helpers who made this year's Usthi events possible.
- Thaddeus Getzmann and his family and friends for their continual support of the Thaddeus School.
- Dr. Thomas Fischer for his long-standing commitment and his long-term investment in the conservation of our foundation.
- Organiser Regine S. Weber and the participants of the Yoga Charity Event
- Rotary and the regional Rotary Clubs for their decades long support.



FOR GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

ABC Systems AG - Acasa Suites - ATU Allgemeines Treuunternehmen - Evangel. /reformed Parish Tablat-St. Gallen - Gabrima Foundation - Kemyvision AG - Kiwanis Club Zürich am Stampfenbach - marti engineering ag - Raiffeisenbank am Ricken - Reformed Parish Küsnacht - Rotary Club Zürcher Weinland - Tourasia Roemer AG



FOR SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S HOMES AND WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Anne Frank Fund - Fagus Lucida-Foundation-Loom Foundation - Municipality of Maur - Charitable Women's Association Rapperswil-Jona - Canton Schaffhausen - Catholic Parish of Meilen - Reformed Church, Canton of Zug



FOR THE FUNDING OF OUR HEALTH PROJECTS

Plato Foundation



FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Aline Andrea Rutz Foundation - atDta Foundation - Bärbel & Paul Geissbühler Foundation - Christian Bachschuster Foundation - David Bruderer Foundation - Municipality of Baar Evangel. Parish Rapperswil-Jona - Gebauer Foundation - Geberit AG - Municipality of Küsnacht - Municipality of Riehen - J&K Wonderland Foundation - Karl Mayer Foundation - Kanton St. Gallen - Lottery Fund Appenzell Ausserrhoden - Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund (Federation of Migros Co-operatives) - Evangel./reformed Parish Bülach - Reformed Church Zollikon-Zumikon - Rotary Foundation Chur - Rom. Cath. Church Canton of Basle City - Roman-Cath. Parish of Mels - Roman-Cath. Parish of Wettingen - Roman-Cath. Parish of Winterthur - Municipality of St. Gallen - Municipality of Rapperswil-Jona - Municipality of Wädenswil - Bredroli Foundation - Katharina & Tyge Clemmensen Foundation - Swiss Staff Foundation for Children in Need - Mutter Bernarda Foundation Menzingen - Swisslos-Fund Canton Aargau - Swisslos-Fund Canton Glarus - Swisslos-Fund Canton Solothurn - Tauro Foundation - TESTEX AG - Rotary Club oberer Zürichsee - Solidarity Association Rämibühl Zürich - UTIL Foundation - Kadiana School Association - Walter und Louise M. Davidson- Foundation

Institutions are listed by name for contributions of CHF 1,000 or more.



Healthy and educated.

Creating opportunities for young people since 1976.

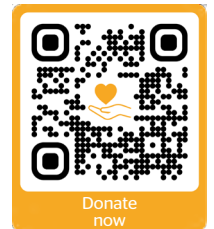
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YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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Switzerland
IBAN CH97 0873 1001 2943 5201 1

By donating to the Kurt Bürki Foundation, you make a significant contribution to the long-term financing of our work. Further information can be found on the website of the Kurt Bürki Foundation.



**Your donation
in good hands.**



Further information about the
Kurt Bürki Foundation