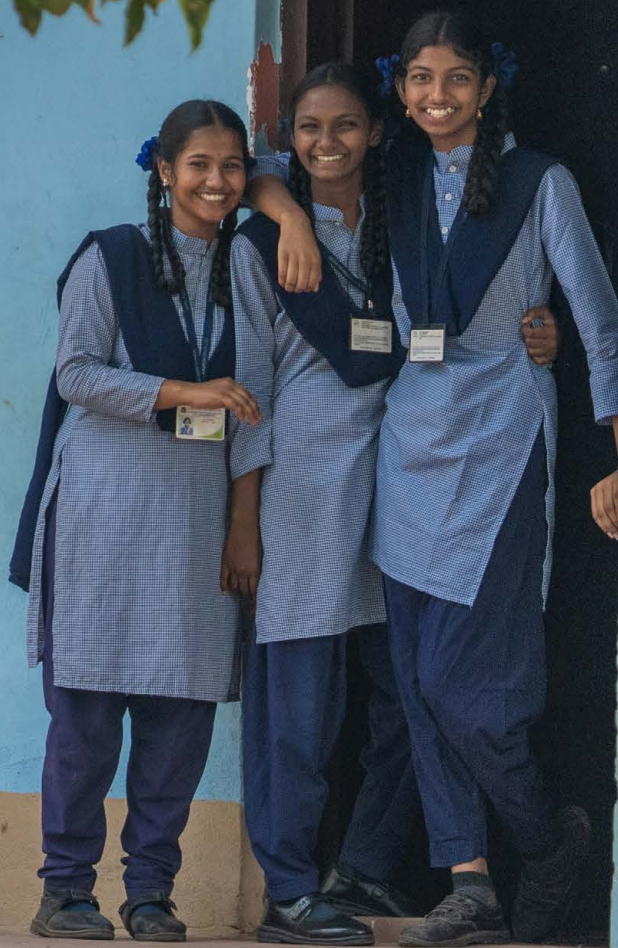


# OPENING UP OPPORTUNITIES

INITIATING CHANGE TOGETHER



Usthi Foundation  
Annual Report 2025

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Siblings with their goats from the project Empowering Children & Families in Dhading, Nepal



Girls from the Penthakata School near Puri, India



Social workers from the Health and Education Project in Keonjhar, India

# EDITORIAL

For five decades, Usthi has been working to support children and young adults affected by poverty and social exclusion in India and Nepal. Then as now, our work focuses on access to education and healthcare, protection services, and the promotion of self-determination and independence. We intend to remain committed to these priorities in the future.

At the same time, over the past 50 years, Usthi has continually evolved, making mistakes along the way, learning from them and adapting to changes in society. This has mostly taken place in small, steady steps, building on long-term partnerships with local organisations and guided by values such as respect, trust and responsibility.

An anniversary provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on this long journey: thanks to the valuable work of volunteers, an anniversary publication has been created in which founder Kurt Bürki takes us back to the origins of the Usthi movement. The anniversary publication also reflects on the history of the Usthi projects and shows how they have developed over time - some have been completed, others continue to this day. In 2025, the handover of the Thaddeus School to local ownership marked another important milestone in Usthi's history. The ability to adapt is a key characteristic of Usthi.

The project participants also took significant steps forward in 2025. Around 3,700 children successfully completed the school year and either moved up to the next grade or finished their schooling altogether. 1,361 young adults were able to complete work-related skills training, including 103 women who escaped

violence and abuse by staying in women's homes and have now laid the foundations for their financial independence as graduates.

We are deeply grateful to everyone whose support makes Usthi's work possible. In 2025, we were able to count on tremendous solidarity and achieved a positive annual result. This enables us to further develop existing projects and take on new initiatives. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your trust and support. We look forward to celebrating with you during our anniversary year through various events and to engaging in personal exchanges. It's wonderful that you are part of the Usthi community.



Felix Senn  
President of the  
Board of Trustees



Alessandra Grosse  
Executive Director

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BDO, Wetzikon

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**Cover image:** Pupils at the Penthakata School in Puri, India

**Back cover:** Schoolchildren from the Education Project in Dhading, Nepal

# YEAR IN REVIEW

We look back with gratitude on an eventful year for Usthi. 2025 was a year of new beginnings, marked by the planning of the Penthakata School expansion, and a year of farewells, highlighted by the handover of the Thaddeus School to the Indian partner organisation. Furthermore, the past year was filled with the sound of children's laughter, the budding hopes of young women and the proud expressions on the faces of graduates from the work-related skills training and school-leavers.

## **13 Usthi projects reached around 46,000 people**

Usthi's projects provide access to high-quality education, promote healthcare in remote areas and create safe havens for children and women in need of protection. Last year, 13 Usthi projects reached around 46,000 people.

Behind this figure lie countless encounters, helping hands and thousands of individual life stories. In 2025, children and young adults studied with hope and ambition in our schools. In the Children's and Women's Homes, the project team created a safe and stable environment. Patients received medical care at the Tribal Health Centre. Families fed their new goats and buffaloes provided through the Education Project in Dhading, so that in the long term they can use the income from the livestock to pay for their children's education. Hard-working volunteers cleaned the beach as part of the Waste Management Project in the Penthakata settlement and the prevention team carried out awareness-raising work in Hyderabad to protect against abuse and violence. All these moving moments are just a few glimpses into the Usthi projects and an impactful 2025.

## **5 partner organisations and more than 360 local staff**

Around 360 staff members have made possible both the implementation of Usthi's projects and the valuable work of the social enterprises in India and Nepal. Usthi's five partner organisations have driven the progress of 13 projects and shaped day-to-day project operations on the ground.

With the handover of the Thaddeus School near Kolkata at the end of 2025, Usthi's long-standing collaboration with its local project partner also came to an end. Usthi has started 2026 with 12 on-going projects, working with three partners in India and one in Nepal.

## **A small team in Switzerland**

In 2025, the Usthi Foundation's Headquarters in Zurich comprised five part-time staff members (equivalent to 31 full-time positions), responsible for project support and funding as well as the foundation's public relations work. We are delighted to have welcomed two new members to the voluntary Board of Trustees: Annette Schär and Claudia Bodmer-Furrer joined us as board members on 15 January 2026.

## **Approximately 500 private and 90 institutional supporters**

Usthi's work would not be possible without continuing and generous support from Switzerland. In 2025, around 500 private donors and approximately 90 institutional supporters, including foundations, associations, churches, companies, municipalities and cantons, made Usthi's work for children and young adults in India and Nepal possible.

We are extremely grateful for the trust placed in us and the valued dialogues within the Usthi community. Only together can we open up new opportunities.

## EDUCATION



📍 Dhading

### Empowering Children & Families

15 public schools  
46 families  
2,294 pupils

📍 Puri

### Penthakata School

19 teachers  
357 pupils

### Waste Management Project

4 school workshops  
3 beach cleaning campaigns  
523 households in the pilot project

📍 Kolkata

### Ananda School

11 teachers  
240 pupils

### Thaddeus School

13 teachers  
208 pupils

📍 Hyderabad

### Tutoring Centres

14 centres  
378 children

### Back-to-School

250 children

### Work-Related Skills Training

18 courses  
1,361 graduates  
131 sets of basic equipment for small businesses

## HEALTH



📍 Keonjhar

### Tribal Health Centre

27 hospital employees  
42 health workers  
27,394 consultations

### Health and Education Project

9 day-care centres  
12 social workers  
247 small children

📍 Hyderabad

### Children's Homes

4 residential communities  
61 children

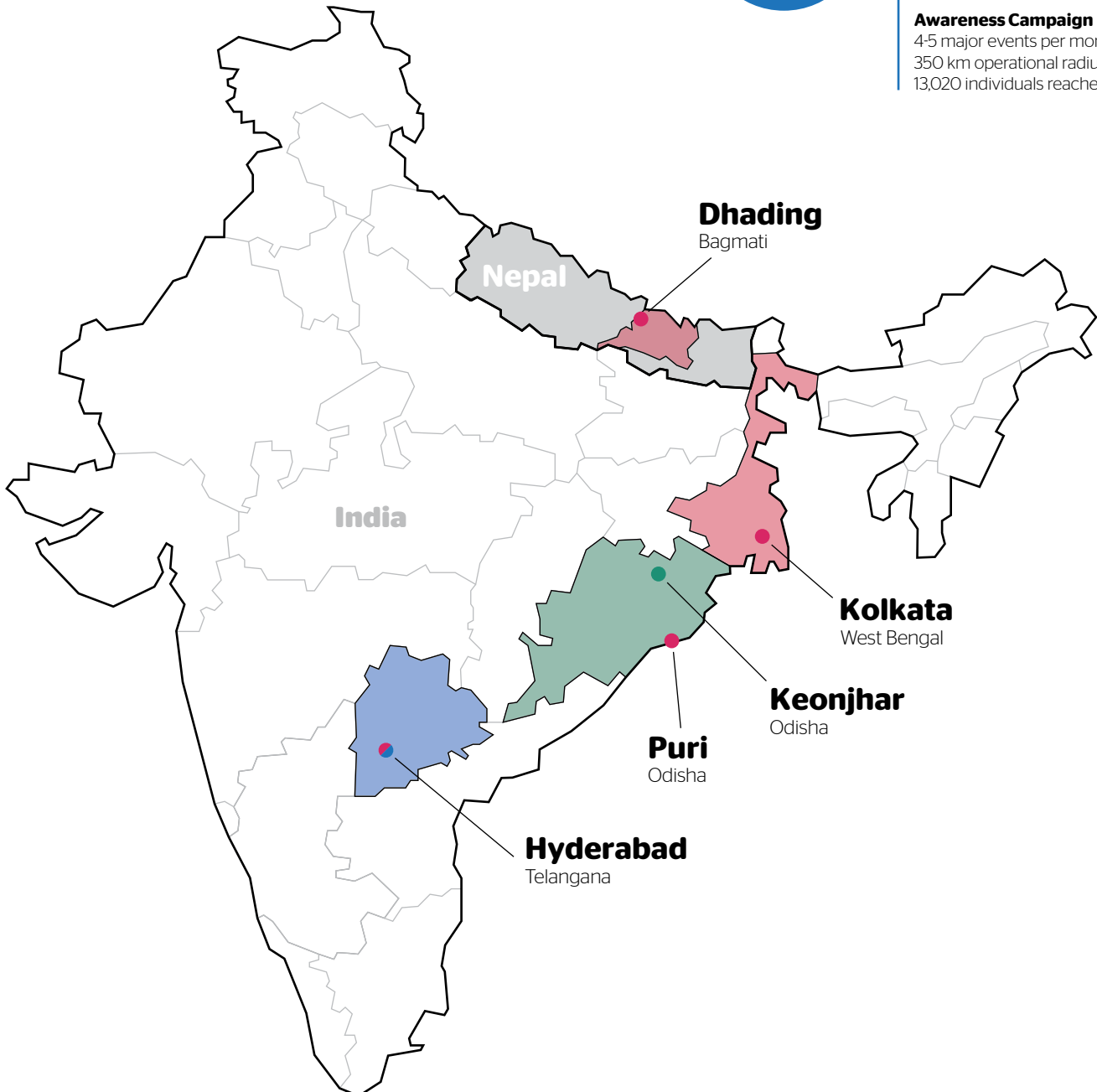
### Women's Homes

5 residential communities  
103 women

### Awareness Campaign

4-5 major events per month  
350 km operational radius  
13,020 individuals reached

## PROTECTION & EMPOWERMENT



# UPDATES UND HIGHLIGHTS

## News from day-to-day project operations



### Holistic support for visually impaired children

As part of the Education Project in the remote Dhading region of Nepal and alongside ongoing project activities, 22 blind and visually impaired children, living on the campus of one of the 15 project schools, received targeted support. They can now take part in music and sports lessons and receive specialised learning support, e. g. in using computers. Tactile learning materials make their everyday school life easier. In addition, important repairs were carried out in the residential home and necessary purchases made.

### Beach outing with the children from Ananda School

The beach outing to the east coast of India, a good five-hour drive from Hudarait, was a highlight for the 40 children from Ananda School who took part last year. Coming from families on a tight budget, many of the pupils were seeing the sea for the first time with their own eyes. For these two days, their smart school uniforms were swapped for casual clothes – and even the older teenagers played boisterously in the knee-deep water.



### Emergency aid following the floods

At the end of August 2025, the city of Hyderabad experienced flooding on a scale not seen for 98 years. The local Usthi projects – the Children's and Women's Homes as well as the Work-Related Skills Training Centre – were also affected. Thanks to the solidarity of generous donors, our project partner was able to repair the flood damage immediately and implement preventive measures to be better prepared for such events in the future.



### **Picnic with children from the Children's Homes**

Last November, children from the Children's Homes in Hyderabad went on a special outing. In mixed-age groups, they visited zoos and amusement parks in the local area with teachers and classmates. The children had a lot of fun at the special picnic and also letting off steam with new games. For both younger children and teenagers, the trip to the countryside was a welcome change from homework and the structured school routine.

### **New courses at the Work-Related Skills Training Centres**

Three new courses have been launched in the Work-Related Skills Training Project in 2025. The Photography and Video course, introduced in spring, has met with great interest, particularly among adolescents. Since summer, those interested in manual trades have been able to attend the Household Appliances and Repairs course. At the end of the year, a Fashion Design course began, serving as an advanced course for experienced tailors. In total, 18 courses now offer young adults practical training, helping them build a stable income in the long term.



### **New workshop about growing up at the Penthakata School**

A workshop for girls on the topics of puberty, health and sex education was held at the Penthakata School by a gynaecologist from Usthi Hospital. During the workshop, the specialist discussed, with the youngsters, the physical development from girl to teenager and provided tips on menstrual hygiene and health. The workshop also addressed the right to self-determination over one's own body and raised awareness about sexual assault.



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Tutoring centres and the Back-to-School Project

**Who goes to school – and who can stay there? Through two projects, Usthi and its partner organisation in Hyderabad are working to prevent children from dropping out of school and to support them on their educational journey.**

The need for these two educational projects is clearly evident in the paths of the schoolchildren receiving support. This is also true of Arjun's\* story. A few years ago, Arjun's father left his wife, leaving the family with considerable financial worries. Arjun's mother worked as a domestic helper to support herself and her children. The COVID-19 pandemic drastically worsened the situation, as she lost most of her work. The remaining income was hardly enough for the bare essentials and the family fell into debt.

Due to the difficult situation at home, Arjun missed several months of schooling. His mother was very worried about his future. When she heard about the tutoring centres, she enrolled Arjun immediately. The tutor in charge recognised the family's difficult situation and reacted quickly. The hard-working boy was accepted into the Back-to-School Project, which from then on covered his school fees. Arjun gradually found his

way back into the school routine and successfully completed his schooling in April 2025.

The local project team has countless stories like Arjun's to tell. The stories are as varied and unique as the children and their paths in life and yet they have one thing in common – all the children face a very difficult start in life, poverty and loss having had a profound impact on their lives. Often, it is single mothers who face insurmountable hurdles in raising their children and providing them with a good education.

### **A pillar of strength on the path to education**

The Back-to-School Project addresses the challenge of financial hardship preventing children from accessing a quality education. The project temporarily covers part of the costs for school fees, uniforms or essential supplies such as exercise books and pens. Every year, thanks to these grants, 250 children are able to continue their education.

Tutoring, meanwhile, creates a motivating learning environment and helps children to cope with the school curriculum. Around 30 children from different year groups work on their homework in each of 14 tutoring centres. The project helps children like Arjun, who have missed months of lessons and

Tutoring creates a motivating learning environment





A good school education paves the way for the children's future

fosters equal opportunities for those children who cannot rely on their parents' academic support when learning.

The Tutoring Project is bearing fruit - in 2025, the children in the programme achieved very good average marks in their end-of-year exams. Since the project began in 2009, all the teenagers in the project have passed their final exams at the end of Year 10.

In addition to improving prospects at school, tutoring serves another important purpose. The children are dependably cared for after normal school hours. This particularly relieves pressure on single mothers, as they know their children are in good hands whilst they are out working.

### Key figures for children and families

The tutoring sessions are run by committed teachers who, after finishing work for the day, look after around 30 schoolchildren, each with great dedication. They play a vital role within the neighbourhood, maintaining contact with families, identifying emergencies and, where necessary, arranging additional support to be put in place - as was the case with Arjun, who also received a grant from the Back-to-School Project. Thanks

to the key role played by the tutors, important synergy is created across other Usthi projects in Hyderabad. Young parents, who cannot find permanent work, learn about the Work-Related Skills Training Project and can undertake training, making entry into the formal labour market easier. Moreover, if the family situation becomes untenable for a child, due to tragic events, they can find refuge in the Children's Homes Project.

### Expansion of the two projects

The two projects give children access to a good education - an important lifeline amidst precarious living conditions. For Arjun, successfully completing school has opened up new opportunities - just as, for nearly 17 years, the projects have enabled countless children to continue their schooling. We are, therefore, all the more delighted that we shall be able to expand both projects. In the 2026/27 project year, Usthi will increase the number of children, supported in the Back-to-School Project, from 250 to 300 and add two more centres to the existing 14 tutoring centres. The latter means, after final expansion, that around 470 children will be able to benefit from tutoring.

\*Arjun's name has been changed for this article to protect his identity.

**“Graduating from school with good grades opens doors for Arjun’s bright future which seemed impossible just a few years ago.”**

– Venu Gopal, Project Director Tutoring Centres

# A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

## Handover of the Thaddeus School

The Thaddeus School opened its doors, in 2006, to 45 children. Since then, the school has grown significantly, has moved into its own building and now teaches over 200 children from kindergarten to 10th grade. Usthi handed over the project in full to the Indian partner organisation at the end of 2025.

### The first English-language school is established in the village of Bhastara

The village of Bhastara is located around 60 km north of Kolkata in eastern India. In 2006, together with an Indian partner organisation, Usthi founded the first English-language school in this predominantly agricultural region. The vision behind this was to provide high-quality education, thereby creating local prospects and counteracting the often hopeless emigration to the big city.

The school was made possible by Thaddeus Getzmann, who, as a private individual, pursued his wish to establish a school for children affected by poverty in India. This vision, indeed, gave rise to a school. And the initial funding originally pledged by Thaddeus grew into a long-standing commitment to the many schoolchildren in Bhastara. For around 20 years, Thaddeus funded and supported the school and his regular visits to the area led to close friendships.

### The Thaddeus School grows - key milestones

Just a few years after the Thaddeus School opened its doors to its first kindergarten children, the next major milestone was in sight. Due to rising pupil numbers, the rented premises soon became too cramped and work began on constructing the school's own building. In 2009, the school was able to move into the new building.

By 2018, the first children admitted to the Thaddeus School at kindergarten age had grown into young adults. Having passed their final exams, they left the school and embarked on a new chapter in their lives. Since then, every year, another cohort has completed 10th grade and moved on, equipped with a high-quality education and important social skills.

### A new chapter begins - project handover

As of the end of 2025, Usthi has fully handed over responsibility for the financing and operation of the school to the Indian partner organisation. This organisation has developed over the last few decades and tapped into its own sources of funding. Part of the costs incurred at the Thaddeus School have, for some time now, been covered locally. For Usthi, the handover of the school also marks the end of the collaboration with the responsible project partner in India.

The handover of the project was marked with a ceremony during a visit to the school in November 2025. Together, a chikoo tree was planted - a symbol of deep roots as well as of growth, health and abundance. We trust that the tree will grow up alongside the schoolchildren and bear sweet fruit in a few years' time.

**“The handover of the Thaddeus School project is at the same time a farewell and a sign of confidence that the school is in good hands.”**

— Alessandra Grosse, Executive Director of the Usthi Foundation and Thaddeus Getzmann, benefactor of the school

### Photo gallery:

1. In 2009, Thaddeus School moved into its own school building
2. Up to 2011, lessons took place in a new single-storey building
3. Today, over 200 children receive lessons in the two-storey school building
4. In 2015, a new playground was opened in the schoolyard
5. Children attend the school from kindergarten through to Year 10
6. Thaddeus Getzmann paid regular visits to the school
7. Cycling home from Thaddeus School
8. In November 2025, a chikoo tree was planted, during the project handover, as a symbol of a bright future



1



2



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# VISITING A DAY CARE CENTRE

## Early childhood development support in the villages of Keonjhar

Numerous small villages are scattered across the Keonjhar district in the interior of the eastern Indian state of Odisha. Here, the “Health and Education Project (HEP)” supports the healthy development of young children. The reason? Let us take you on a journey to one of the child day care centres.

If you wish to visit an HEP kindergarten, the journey from the district capital, Keonjhar, takes you for miles along country roads. After the monsoon season, golden rice fields line the route, whilst oncoming lorries kick up red clouds of dust from the surrounding iron ore mines. After about an hour, the route branches off on to bumpy gravel lanes, with centuries-old trees towering above of dense undergrowth. Hardly any cars venture into this remote area; most residents travel on foot, a herd of cows might occasionally cross the path and heavily laden bicycles carry firewood.

### Making a big impact through play

The dense forests and remote villages are home to various indigenous communities. As “Scheduled Tribes”, they have certain privileges in India, yet despite this, their lives are marked by discrimination and precariousness. The Keonjhar district is one of the poorest regions in India. According to the latest census, one in four people is affected by multi-dimensional poverty and 36% of young children have been denied age-appropriate development.

The HEP was launched in 2012 by Usthi and a local project partner, with the aim of providing all round support for young children. Across nine public day care centres, the project helps a total of around 250 children aged between three and six. HEP staff complement the work of state-employed carers and, thanks to close communication with the village communities, act as a vital link to the families. Alongside twelve social workers, trained health workers administer necessary deworming treatments and carry out early medical assessments.

Staff members promote the healthy development of young children through play





On the way to the HEP day care centres

### Active early learning initiatives and care

School uniforms' pale pink blouses gleam in the late morning sun as the younger pre-school children concentrate on leafing through their new colouring books on the veranda of the HEP building. Beside them, older children play with the animal masks they had previously worn for their play "The Hat and the Monkey". "The moral of the play is that, sometimes, we have to be brave and take the first step", says the project manager, summarising the play in the local language, Oriya. Songs and plays are popular ways of teaching children in a playful way, she explains. Even daily hygiene routines are turned into songs - such as the newly rehearsed toothbrushing song.

The social workers promote the social and cognitive development of the young children, in a playful way, through attentive care and the creation of an active programme. Early learning initiatives, as well as the external care arrangement, together with the daily structure, make it easier for the children to adapt to school later on. Once all the little feet have slipped back into their shoes, the children set off for home. For some, the journey to and from the day care centre is long, which poses challenges for their parents, particularly during the harvest season. Most parents work in agriculture and those employed on a daily wage basis have to set off early during the harvest season and do not return until late. Accompanying their children on the way is therefore simply impossible. During this time, the HEP staff collect the children and bring them back home in the afternoon.

### By women, for women - supporting families

"Supporting and advising mothers is an important part of our work. Above all, discussions on disease prevention and balanced nutrition for young children, impart essential knowledge", reflects one of the staff members. She, herself, comes from a nearby village, as do her colleagues, all of whom have trained as social or health workers as part of the project.

In addition to child-care, the women carry out valuable community work. Monthly meetings are held with parents and other interested parties from the villages. Pregnant women and mothers of infants, in particular, seek advice from the social and health workers, who are happy to share their knowledge on topics such as breast-feeding and hygiene.

The project started in 2012 with an 18-months pilot phase. Since then our commitment to the healthy development of small children has expanded from originally three villages to over 200 young children in nine HEP day care centres today. All nine centres are now integrated into the state care system. Further information on the future of the project can be found in the Outlook on page 18.

**"Supporting and advising the mothers is an important part of our work."**

— HEP social worker

# 50 YEARS OF USTHI

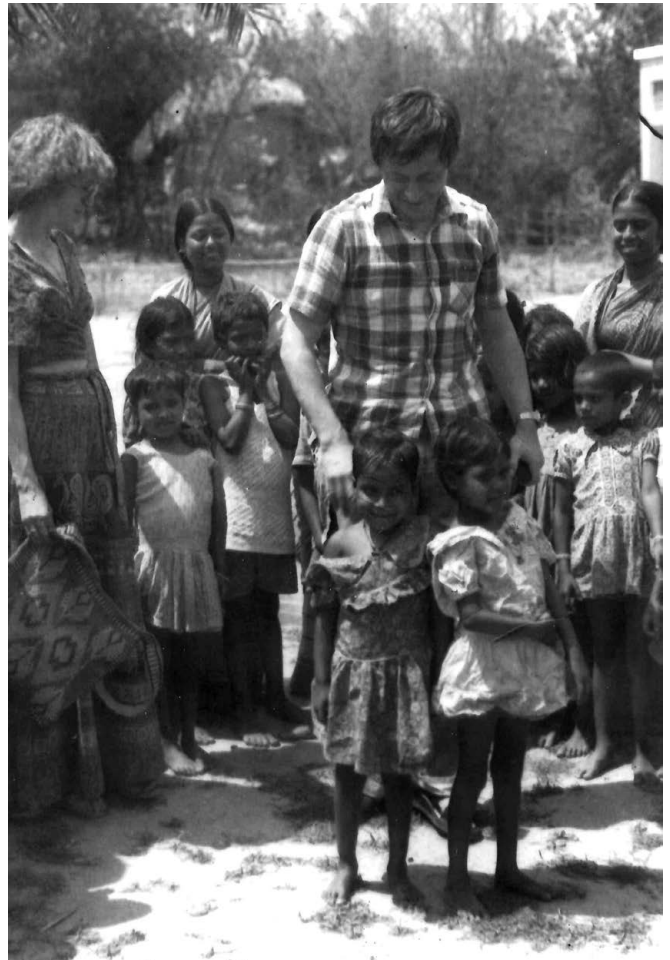
What has since grown into the Usthi Foundation was inaugurated, 50 years ago, with courage and dedication. In 1976, Edeltrud and Kurt Bürki set up a soup kitchen in the Topsia slum of Kolkata, offering a hot meal to children with nowhere to go and no prospects.

Moved by the plight of the children they encountered in Kolkata, the Bürki couple resolved to use their own resources to bring about positive change. As a pilot and a naturopathic practitioner, the couple initially had no experience with social projects for children in India. As such, their work was shaped by close interaction with the local people, whose perspectives and needs guided the way. Following the temporary operation of the soup kitchen in 1976, the first school, “Bhor-e-Phool”, was opened just one year later in the village of Usthi, around 50 km south of Kolkata. The name of the Usthi Foundation derives from this location.

Over the past 50 years, the Usthi portfolio has expanded significantly, with new projects being launched and partnerships established. Many projects have since been completed or handed over to the responsibility of local partner organisations. A key principle of the couple has guided project design over the years: education and health must always be considered together. A hungry or sick child is unable to concentrate on learning at school. Equally – a child needs appropriate educational support for healthy development.

Usthi’s goal remains unchanged to this day – to lay the foundations for a self-determined and dignified life for children and young adults affected by poverty and exclusion. Our work in India and Nepal underlines the pressing nature of this work to us every single day and the stories of countless children – many of whom are now long since grown up – speak of the Usthi projects’ immense impact on their lives.

Looking back fills us with pride. But it also clearly highlights our responsibility to continue, with unwavering dedication, our commitment to children and young people.



The founding couple, Edeltrud and Kurt Bürki, in the village of Usthi around 1980

## Join us in looking back

The anniversary publication “Creating prospects for young people in India and Nepal. 50 years of the Usthi Foundation 1976–2026” offers an insight into the eventful history of the Usthi movement, the values which have underpinned this commitment for 50 years and what has changed. The anniversary publication can be ordered free of charge.

## Join us in celebrating half a century of commitment

To mark this anniversary year, we invite you to join us at various events to celebrate together, discover further facets of India and Nepal and engage in a conversation. You can find more information on individual events on our website.



[www.usthi.ch/en/50-Years](http://www.usthi.ch/en/50-Years)



In one of the classrooms of the first school "Bhor-e-Phool" in the village of Usthi in 1993

# REFLECTIONS FROM THE FOUNDER

It brings me joy to be able to write my thoughts whilst in full command of my mental faculties. As in previous years, I am not focusing on the specifics of the work in India and Nepal. I shall attempt to shed light on the wider context in which Usthi operates.

The year 2025 was marked by a further consolidation of global power shifts in favour of economically established major powers.

Despite shifting military dynamics, neither escalation nor fatigue led to a sustainable political solution in Ukraine. Higher defence spending and closer arms cooperation, coupled with a reduction in social obligations towards society in Europe, dominated political decisions.

In the Middle East, the Gaza conflict and tensions with Iran led to continuing uncertainty. The US acted less as a stabilising force and increasingly as a manager of its own interests. With tensions in Syria,

Lebanon and Turkey, the situation has remained extremely unstable.

The struggle between the US and China for strategic supremacy remained the defining global conflict. Technology, supply chains and currencies shaped competition. Taiwan remained a key problem area, with both sides avoiding escalation without easing tensions.

Due to domestic political polarisation in Western Democracies, driven by economic uncertainty, migration and digital disinformation, authoritarian governments gained support worldwide because they promised simple solutions and stability.

Overall, 2025 revealed a world without any clear framework of order. Conflicts were managed rather than resolved and international institutions fell short of these challenges and of society's expectations. The only constant today is unpredictable geopolitics. My analysis offers little positive impetus

towards determining Usthi's future objectives, but we must not overlook history. Looking back at Usthi's beginnings 50 years ago reveals an equally unstable picture of the political reality. The global political situation of the post-war era was the origin of today's Usthi. In the interview for our anniversary publication, marking Usthi's 50th anniversary, I attempt to reflect on my partner Edeltrud's youth and my own.

Usthi is the fruit of thousands of contributors, not the achievement of individuals. Sincere thanks to all who have been, are, and will be part of it.



*Bürki*

Kurt Bürki  
Founder of the Usthi  
Foundation

# USTHI IN FIGURES

In 2025, thanks to the generous support of the many private individuals and institutional donors, Usthi has been able to implement and strengthen 13 projects in India and Nepal. In addition to its commitment to education, health and protection & empowerment, Usthi supported the emergency relief effort, following the floods in our Hyderabad project region last year.

With enormous gratitude, we can report that total income in 2025 amounted to CHF 1,298,928 (2024: CHF 994,827; +30.6%). A significant proportion of the donations - CHF 910,061 - is earmarked for use in selected projects in India and Nepal. Multi-year contributions and additional income for individual projects have been allocated to the relevant project funds to ensure the sustainable implementation and further expansion of the projects. This enables us, according to local needs, to make long-term investments and realise structural changes such as the expansion of the Penthakata School. Ear-marked income and other fund assets are transparently reported in the annual accounts under "Funds".

Total operating expenses amounted to CHF 1,032,125 (2024: CHF 1,074,254; -3.9%). Of the funds utilised, CHF 833,278 went directly to project work in India and Nepal (2024: CHF 877,441; -5.6%). This corresponds to 81% of total expenditure (2024: 82%). The remaining 19% was allocated to fundraising, public relations and administration in Switzerland. The slight shift in the ratio is primarily attributable to currency effects: the strong Swiss franc meant lower foreign currency costs in India and Nepal.

Efficiency and long-term commitments remain central guiding principles for Usthi. This is the reason we maintain a deliberately lean office structure at the Headquarters. In addition to employees, around 237 working days of volunteers' work were carried out last year - a significant contribution, strengthening our work both professionally and financially and helping to ensure that the vast majority of the funds entrusted to Usthi directly benefit people in the project regions.

## Transparent communication

Since 2013, Usthi has been a proud holder of the Zewo seal of approval, which certifies the trustworthy and careful handling of donations. The annual accounts were prepared in accordance with the principles of Swiss GAAP FER and Zewo and have been audited and approved by the auditors BDO AG. A detailed set of annual accounts and the audit report can be viewed on the website [www.usthi.ch](http://www.usthi.ch).

## Leaving a legacy of hope

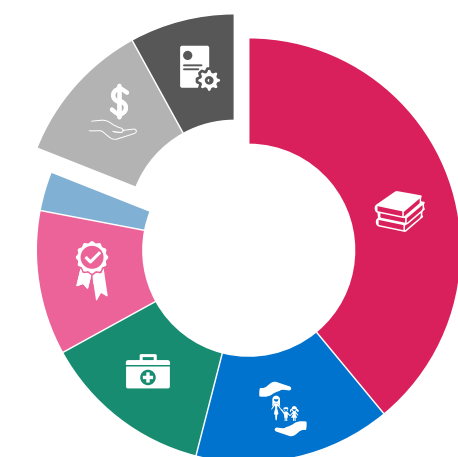
In 2022, the Kurt Bürki Foundation was established with the sole purpose of securing the long-term financial sustainability of the Usthi Foundation. The Kurt Bürki Foundation accepts lifetime donations and bequests, which are used extensively and effectively to support the work of Usthi.

By making a bequest in your will, you create prospects for young people for the long-term. We are extremely grateful for these generous contributions.



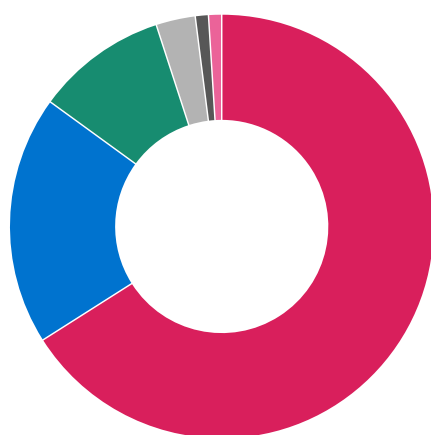
[www.kurt-buerki-stiftung.ch](http://www.kurt-buerki-stiftung.ch)

## Use of Funds



- 39% School Education
- 15% Protection & Empowerment
- 13% Health
- 11% Work-Related Skills Training
- 3% Emergency Aid
- 11% Fundraising & Public Relations
- 8% Administration

## Origin of Funds



- 66% Foundations
- 19% Private Donors
- 10% Public Sector
- 3% Religious Institutions
- 1% Associations & Service Clubs
- 1% Private Sector

## Balance Sheet

Assets	31.12.25	31.12.24
	CHF	CHF
Liquid assets	888,717	863,388
Deferred assets	876	9,896
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>889,594</b>	<b>873,284</b>
Office rental deposit account	7,860	7,855
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>7,860</b>	<b>7,855</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>897,454</b>	<b>881,139</b>
Liabilities		
Deferred income	13,242	264,513
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>13,242</b>	<b>264,513</b>
Project funds:		
Work-related skills training Penthakata	2,000	0
Education Nepal	0	40,752
Women's homes	48,270	0
Children's homes	16,180	5,029
Penthakata school expansion	62,510	0
Thaddeus school	19,617	18,849
School education india	218,508	123,246
<b>Fund capital</b>	<b>367,085</b>	<b>187,876</b>
Foundation assets	530,709	530,709
Free capital	-101,959	-103,659
Annual result	88,377	1,700
<b>Organisation capital</b>	<b>517,127</b>	<b>428,750</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>897,454</b>	<b>881,139</b>

## Operational Statement

	2025	2024
	CHF	CHF
Undesignated donations	388,867	305,219
Designated donations	910,061	689,608
<b>Fundraising income</b>	<b>1,298,928</b>	<b>994,827</b>
Project expenditure	-833,278	-877,441
Administrative expenditure	-82,398	-80,702
Fundraising expenditure	-116,449	-116,110
<b>Operating expenditure</b>	<b>-1,032,125</b>	<b>-1,074,254</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>266,803</b>	<b>-79,426</b>
Financial income	1,655	2,794
Financial expenditure	-873	-697
<b>Result before change to fund capital</b>	<b>267,586</b>	<b>-77,330</b>
Allocation to project funds	-910,061	-689,608
Utilisation of project funds	730,852	768,638
<b>Change to fund capital</b>	<b>-179,209</b>	<b>79,030</b>
Annual result after change to fund capital	88,377	1,700
<b>Annual result after changes to organisation capital</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Minor discrepancies between the figures in the tables and the totals are possible due to rounding differences.

# OUTLOOK

2026 is a special year for Usthi. We shall be delighted to celebrate Usthi's 50th anniversary together with you. In addition to a wide range of events in Switzerland, significant milestones are on the horizon for project development in India and Nepal.

## Expansion and long-term funding of the Penthakata School

In 1992, Usthi founded a school for children from the informal fishing settlement of Penthakata on the outskirts of Puri. The Penthakata School now teaches around 400 children and a major expansion of the school building is planned for the coming years. The aim is to ensure that the Penthakata School can continue to offer high-quality education into the future to children affected by poverty. This requires the modernisation of outdated infrastructure to comply with new government guidelines. The expansion is, moreover, intended to provide opportunities to strengthen local financial participation in the school and, in the future, to be able to teach around 650 children.

Usthi is seeking further supporters to help realise the expansion project. Would you like to join us in shaping the future of the Penthakata School? We shall be happy to send you further information if you are interested.

## Handover of the Waste Management Project

A new project was launched in 2024 to reduce the environmental and health impact caused by waste in the informal fishing settlement Penthakata. The aim was to improve the waste management system in the Penthakata settlement on the outskirts of Puri and to raise awareness among the local population. In 2026, following the completion of the pilot phase, we are pleased to announce that responsibility for the organisation and financing of waste management in Penthakata will be handed over to the municipality of Puri.

## Withdrawal from health projects in the Keonjhar District

In the 1980s, Usthi, together with a local partner organisation, expanded the Tribal Health Centre in the village of Somagiri and later supplemented it with a health network to strengthen medical care comprehensively in the region. Over the past 40 years, the project environment has changed and healthcare provision in the region has improved significantly. State-run medical services, for example, have been increasingly established over recent years. Usthi therefore commissioned an external evaluation of the Tribal Health Centre and the associated



The school building is due for expansion, to ensure that the Penthakata School can continue to offer high-quality education in the future

health network in 2025. On the one hand, the evaluation shows the value to the population of outreach healthcare work and the unbureaucratic outpatient services at the hospital. On the other, the assessment makes it clear that the development in healthcare provision in the region must be more closely taken into account in the project design, in order to avoid duplication of effort. It also highlights significant shortcomings in the quality of medical services and the hospital management.

Based on the assessment, Usthi considers adjustments to the project focus to be necessary. However, extensive discussions have made it clear that Usthi and the local partner organisation have irreconcilable views on the project's potential and future development. The Usthi Foundation Board has decided to phase out its involvement in the Tribal Health Centre and the associated healthcare network and to end the collaboration with the project partner. This also applies to the Health and Education Project (HEP), which is currently being implemented with the same partner organisation. In 2026, discussions will take place with the partner to determine how Usthi's withdrawal from the projects and winding up collaboration can be structured. Usthi will remain actively engaged in the healthcare sector in the future.

# OUR THANKS

Thank you for helping us to create opportunities for young people in India and Nepal. Without your support, Usthi's work would be impossible. We are delighted to count you among the Usthi community!

## Special thanks go to:

- All private donors, for your generous support and long-standing trust. We are extremely grateful for every contribution, large or small, which enable us to make a difference together
- All institutions which support Usthi with funding
- All church parishes supporting Usthi through collections and donations
- All associations and individuals who organise fundraising campaigns and promote Usthi's work
- Our partner organisations and all staff members who work on the projects with such enormous dedication
- Founder Kurt Bürki for his active support and, in 2025, in particular for his editorial work on the anniversary publication marking Usthi's 50th anniversary, together with Foundation Board Member Matthias Manz
- The voluntary Usthi Foundation Board of Trustees for their expert guidance
- Thaddeus Getzmann and his family and friends for their long-standing support of the Thaddeus School
- Volunteers Donatella Suter and Tim Dean, who have stood by Usthi for years
- Luca Mondgenast for the layout of the Annual Report
- All the volunteers who actively support Usthi and make Usthi events possible
- The Kurt Bürki Foundation for its close collaboration and our special thanks to Marion Fischer for her dedication as the volunteer Chair of the Kurt Bürki Foundation up to November 2025, as well as to the late founder Dr Thomas Fischer, who passed away in 2025, for his trust in Usthi and his generous support



### For general donations

ABC Systems AG - Bodmer & Sons GmbH - calmego GmbH - Reformed Parish of Rapperswil-Jona - Reformed Parish of Tablat-St. Gallen - Municipality of Maur - Catholic Church of Dietlikon, Wangen-Brüttisellen, Wallisellen - Catholic Parish of Horgen - Catholic Parish of St. Michael Zollikon-Zumikon - Kiwanis Club Zürich am Stampfenbach - Palghat Charitable Foundation - Raiffeisenbank am Ricken - Reformed Parish of Breite - Reformed Parish of Küsnacht - Roman Catholic Church of Canton Basel-Stadt - Rotary Club Zürcher Weinland - Rütli Foundation - tourasia Roemer AG



### For support in the area of protection & empowerment

Andrea Rutz Foundation - Anne Frank Fund - Cornelius Knüpffer Foundation - Fagus lucida Foundation - FAIRster Foundation - Rapperswil-Jona Women's Charitable Association - J&K Wonderland Foundation - Canton of Schaffhausen - Catholic Parish of Meilen - Appenzell Ausserrhoden Lottery Fund - Reformed Church of the Canton of Zug - Rosa and Bernhard Merz Foundation - City of Zurich - Mother Bernarda Foundation, Menzingen - Vontobel Foundation



### For support in the field of health

Anna Boom Foundation - Jamsetji Tata Foundation - Canton of Basel-Stadt - Maria Frieden Catholic Parish, Dübendorf - Plato Foundation - Roman Catholic Parish of Seeland - Tauro Foundation



### For support in the field of education

Annette Ringier Foundation - David Bruderer Foundation - Municipality of Baar - May-Oui Foundation - Municipality of Küsnacht - Municipality of Meilen - Municipality of Neerach - Rüschtikon Municipal Administration - Hans Gutjahr Foundation - Ingeborg Dénes-Muhr Foundation - J&K Wonderland Foundation - Karl Meyer Foundation - City of Rapperswil-Jona - City of Wetzikon - City of Zug - Katharina & Tyge Clemmensen Foundation - Swissair Staff Foundation for children in need - Swisslos Fund, Canton of Glarus - Swisslos Fund, Canton of Obwalden - Swisslos Fund, Canton of Solothurn - Tauro Foundation - UTIL Foundation - Rotary Club Community Service Association, Oberer Zurichsee - Walter and Louise M. Davidson Foundation

Those listed by name are institutions with a contribution of CHF 1,000 or more.



**Healthy and educated.**

Opportunities for young people since 1976

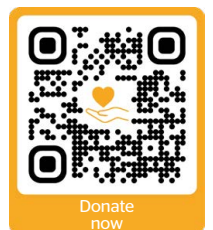
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# We are celebrating **50 years of Usthi**

**Your contribution  
to the future of  
young people**

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Your donation  
in good hands.