

NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2024

FROM THE BOARD

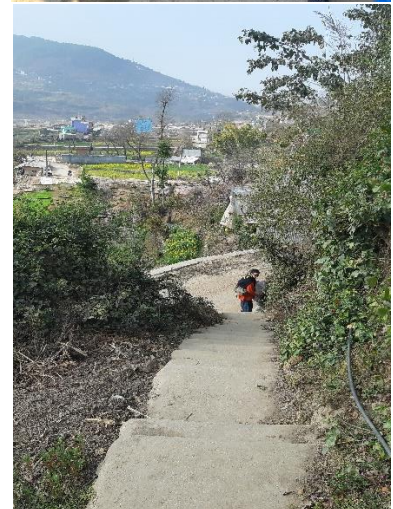
We have had a few active months, during which we visited the projects in Nepal and Bolivia. We were in Bangladesh last year, so we'll skip that for now. They were useful trips, which we made together with our grandchildren. The two eldest went with us to Nepal and number three accompanied us to Bolivia.

NEPAL

From 3 to 18 February, we were in Nepal. A short visit to assess the status of the projects, among other things. Ambia and Djamun, our two eldest grandchildren were with us this time and we were curious about their reactions. Ambia is also a board member of our foundation.

Sathya Uddhyan

Our dentist gave us a lot of children's toothbrushes, so giving a brushing lesson in each class and then actively brushing the teeth was fun for all the children and for us. In addition, we had the money from the fritter campaign in our street. We bought 'very irresponsible' tasty snacks and lemonade from it, to the delight of the children and the teachers. The children rewarded us with big smiles and with songs and dances.



Toothbrushing, rooftop discussion, football talent, walking back

Stepping Stone

More than a year ago, we pledged our support to 5 students, who originally belonged to the Sathya Uddhyan School. They are all beautiful, motivated young people. However, there is one problem, communication is difficult. Of the 5, only 2 respond to texts with our questions about the progress. Rashmi Kafle, director of Stepping Stone, is also rarely on time with the report. We have decided to pay our half-yearly contribution once and only a new one when we have received a report. We are curious.

BOLIVIA

From March 10 to April 3, we visited Bolivia. In addition to family visits, we also went to Cochabamba to find out exactly what had happened to 'La Aldea' and the money, which we sent at the end of 2023.

The story behind La Aldea

As we wrote in the annual report, the children of La Aldea have been transferred to different addresses and 'their village' has been closed. In Cochabamba we heard how that worked. The Bolivian government has indicated that Bolivia is now a middle-income country. As a result, many NGOs, which have been financially supporting projects for years, are now withdrawing their support. Unfortunately, La Aldea is one of them.

Father Miguel-Angel, however, regularly visits the children at the various locations and remains concerned about their well-being. Our contribution of €2,000 could still be spent well on the necessary clothing and footwear and on medical assistance. The money has ended up in the private account of the last Dutch priest in La Paz, who says that it is no problem to transfer it to Cochabamba. We have agreed that they will open a special account in Cochabamba for this purpose, which will allow us to send money directly in the future, without the intervention of the Order of Augustinians in the Netherlands.

BANGLADESH

In 2023, during our visit to the SCSP, it turned out that important agreements regarding our sponsorship contribution had not been fulfilled. We lost our trust in the Bengali-American initiators of the project, especially since this was not the first time. We decided to phase out our sponsorship. Phasing out, because we didn't want to leave the Bangladeshi families out in the cold. Now, we are waiting for the annual report.

SCSP



The joy of reading is important for the development of children



7 of these teens continue their education, 3 are married.

SCSP

We are still sponsoring 7 Sun Children, who will be allowed to finish their secondary school. Six of them up to class 10 and one up to class 12. Normally, we receive a transition report in April, when the new school year starts. Only when we have received it, we transfer the school fees again. Unfortunately, we haven't received a report yet at the moment of finishing this newsletter.

Rita Rani

At the end of April, we received a message that Rita Rani was not doing well. She had been discharged from the hospital and sent home. There was nothing more they could do for her. Rita Rani is the teenager who was diagnosed with leukemia last year. Her parents couldn't afford the medical help at all, so we spontaneously decided to help them.

At the beginning of May we heard that she had passed away. She was only 16 years old. In total, we contributed €2,500 for her treatment. Unfortunately, it was to no avail. We wish the family, strength.

SUKP

We are in regular contact with this daycare for children with disabilities. The new classroom is there and the road to the school is now paved. That's a good thing, because Bangladesh is also struggling with extreme weather conditions. It rains more and more heavily and the heat is also more extreme than other years.

This always results in new requests for help, but we have said that as far as we are concerned, the realization of the physiotherapy lessons for the children with spasms is now a priority. They have already received a budget for this. Only after realizing that, we will look into new requests.



Video lessons



Lunch



The 3 girls that need extra care