



HIMALAYA HILFE e.V.

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft Konto: 3394500 BLZ 10020500
BIC: BFSWDE33BER IBAN: DE85100205000003394500

Himalaya Hilfe e.V. c/o Sabine Wollmann u. Ulli Göbel
Wisentweg 20, 13503 Berlin

c/o Sabine Wollmann und Ulli Göbel
Wisentweg 20
13503 Berlin
Telefon: +49 30 4 36 34 23
Fax und AB: +49 (0) 3212 101 92 34
E-Mail: himalaya.hilfe@gmx.net

Berlin, January 2016

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

Gyalwa Karmapa Thaye Dorje and we would like to thank you all very much for your generous donations, and for supporting the people in the Himalayas as well as the association last year.

Karmapa assumed the role of 1st chairman from Shamar Rinpoche, and we were able to meet with him several times last year to speak about the projects and the organization of the work. One topic, which also touched many of you deeply, was the earthquake in Nepal and how Himalaya Hilfe should and could have gotten involved there. A large wave of aid entered the country immediately after the catastrophe, and we spoke with Karmapa in spring about Himalaya Hilfe becoming active at a later time. Providing aid will continue to be necessary for a long time, especially concerning reconstruction. For this, Karmapa has assigned a group of people to examine and assess numerous projects in order to ensure that the donations are used meaningfully and transparently. Currently, the Nepalese government still has not issued any building permits. We will notify you as soon as this has occurred and we have the information.

And now to the ongoing projects in **Nepal**. Right after the earthquake we were able to reach one of the main people in charge on the phone, and to our great relief heard that from all our projects, none of the **children and elderly and none of the monks and nuns in the monasteries** were injured. We heard the same when we were in Kathmandu in autumn but also that almost all the houses had been damaged and that it was a difficult time for people having to live in tents. Meanwhile – given these circumstances – life is back to normal, but the strike on India's borders has caused difficulties since mid-September as petrol, cooking gas, building materials and other things don't make it to Nepal.

The **Raj Maha Vihar Monastery** next to the Swayambu Stupa was completely destroyed, the remains had to be removed, and only the large Buddha statue from the monastery is still standing as it was well protected by Plexiglas where the entrance used to be. All the monks could be housed in the nearby **Shar Minub Centre** where the rooms were fortunately ready by that time. Until the monastery is rebuilt, they will stay in Shar Minub. Unfortunately, we heard from the monks that close relatives in their home towns had lost their lives.

We also experienced the same in the **Monastic School Takdah/Darjeeling**. Many of the young monastic students are from the areas in Nepal where the quake had destroyed a lot. The school directors brought 30 new students from the affected areas in Nepal to the school. Some of the children had lost their parents. Now there are more than 140 students living in Takdah. The new construction of the dormitories is going well, but the space is insufficient. Therefore, the Tilopa Institute in the western Himalayas was reopened, and 40 of the boys are now studying at this 'branch'. So far, we've found sponsors for 54 of the children from Takdah.

Likewise, 120 students are now studying at the **Shedra (monastic university) in Kalimpong/Darjeeling**. Construction is also occurring there since classrooms and accommodations are urgently needed. The two Khenpos (professors) are very satisfied with the students' performance, and alongside their studies, there is a 'publishing group' that publishes books and converts old texts into book form. You're currently supporting the students at the Shedra via 74 sponsorships.

From Darjeeling, we went to **Rumtek/Sikkim**. The directors of the **Dharma Chakra Centre in Zimchung** told us in March that they had sent 11 boys from the monastery to the town; in autumn, we saw how all of them were proudly wearing their school uniforms on their way back to the monastery after school was out, changed into monks' robes and continued on with their tasks in the monastery. Construction of a new access road is also underway here since the old one has been blocked by a neighbour. We now have sponsorships for 67 of 84 boys at the Dharma Chakra Centre.



20 boys are studying at the **Kayathang Monastic School** next door. Nendo Rinpoche, director of the monastic school, showed us the new building that is also currently under construction. More children will be accommodated as soon as more space is available. The school still has several cows and two beehives – and the honey is excellent!

In **Darjeeling and Sikkim** we always meet all the children and the elderly you're supporting at the Shedra or in Zimchung. The people in charge of the individual groups organise the meetings over several days. The children and adults you sponsor come from all areas of Sikkim and often travel over six hours to meet with us.

We were treated to breakfast at the **Nunnery Chokar Dechen**, together with friends who accompanied us in March and October. There are currently 27 nuns in the nunnery; two left due to personal reasons. New nuns should move into the nunnery again next year and will also need sponsorships. In autumn, Ani Mingyur-la welcomed us again in the dining hall. In spring, we went up to her room again because she was very ill. However, the young nuns take care of her in a very heartfelt way. Therefore, only a few of the nuns are able to travel on special occasions, such as to Ladakh.

In **Ladakh**, the long-awaited new building of the **Karma Duggyud Choeling Monastery** was personally inaugurated in the summer of 2015 by the 17th Karmapa Thaye Dorje. We've informed you all in almost every yearly newsletter about this construction project. Everyone is very happy that the new building is standing and operational. Everything is going very well in the monastery. The **children and many of the elderly people from Ladakh** travel there to deliver letters for you and to receive the sponsorship money.

The new nunnery in Ladakh, **Karma Chagchen Jampa Ling**, was also inaugurated by Karmapa in the summer of 2015. Everything is still in the initial phases; only eight nuns are living there now. We were already able to find sponsorships for seven of them in summer.

At the **Rigjung Public School**, the students had just taken their autumn exams. The letters to you were brought to us by the manager and a teacher. Some of the children finished 10th grade and will have to either leave the school completely or continue their education by attending another school outside of Ladakh. We will let you know on an individual basis what will happen to the sponsorship.

As with all projects, we try to inform you as soon as possible when something has changed with the conditions of your sponsored children/adults. Sometimes even we are informed late or need to wait another tour before we can know for sure and inform you accordingly. At this point we'd like to ask you to inform us when you change your address or other important data. It's a pity when mail to you is returned to the sender.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported the people and projects with a sponsorship and/or specific-purpose donation. In 2015, you donated EUR 245.344,95 and CHF 22.491,75 for sponsorships and projects, and there are now 882 personal or project sponsorships by which you regularly help people in India and Nepal.

Also many thanks to everyone who made a general-purpose donation so that we could cover all the incurred costs and distribute 100% of the sponsorship funds and donations again in 2015.

And finally many thanks to all of you who continue to support us with your knowledge and energy and to all who helped us with activities such as 'donations instead of birthday gifts', 'baking cakes at school for Nepal', 'placing flyers at businesses' and much more.

We're looking forward to doing many helpful things together with you in 2016 and wish you all a wonderful New Year!

Your Himalaya Hilfe Team