



THE TADRA PROJECT

ORPHAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGES IN TIBET

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NEWSLETTER 2022





DEAR FRIENDS OF TADRA,

While for most of us our everyday lives have returned to normal and are not limited by the regulations of the covid pandemic, this is unfortunately not the case in Tibet. You have doubtless heard through the media how covid outbreaks are dealt with in China. On account of the rigorous entry and quarantine regulations, it was unfortunately not possible for us to visit our Children's Villages again this year.

The earthquake in Sichuan in early September, whose epicentre was only a few hours' drive from our Children's Village on the eastern edge of Kham province, claimed many lives. Fortunately, our Children's Village was spared and none of our children or staff were harmed.

But there is also good news from Tibet.

There have been no further restrictions from the authorities, so our village in Golok continues to exist without any changes. And while in Dawu our children still have to attend the government school during the week, they can return „home“ at weekends and during the holidays.

At this year's event of the Mountaineering Association in Lhasa, which is very well known in Tibet, there was a meeting of various Tibetan associations. Each year a charity is chosen to which the Mountaineering Association donates its proceeds from the sale of clothing. Happily, this year the Tadra Project was chosen. Our leader Thupten Nyima was invited to present our project and some of our handicraft students and teachers went to the event to sell products made by our children. The combined proceeds of about 40,000 yuan were donated to our project and the funds invested in our handicraft school.

After 27 years, this is the first time that one of our employees is taking his retirement. You will find a short tribute to our former village leader Lobsang Jampa in this annual report.

We are happy that, thanks to your help, our villages continue to give many children a home and that we were able to take in thirty new children in Golok again this year.

Our website is currently being updated and revised, and we hope that you will be able to find more information there later in the year.

Thank you so much for your loyal support, which cannot be taken for granted given the many trouble spots in the world at present.

Wishing you all a peaceful New Year 2023.

Dr. Youlha Tawo
First Chairperson
Tadra-Projekt e.V.

Dr. Klaus Vedder
Second Chairperson
Tadra-Projekt e.V.

Beat Renz
President, Board of Trustees
Tadra-DEMIGH-Foundation



THANK YOU, LOBSANG „JAMPA“!

Lobsang „Jampa „ is well known to all who have visited the Children's Village in Dawu, where he was director for almost twenty years, visiting new orphans every year in the remotest nomad areas and taking them into our care.

Jampa was born in Dawu in 1953, is married and has four children.

Until he came to us in the Children's Village in 2001, he led a life as a semi-nomad, trading self-produced goods from livestock farming, cultivating fields and helping to build Tibetan houses. This was also one of the reasons why he was employed in the Children's Village. At that time, we needed a village leader who had a lot of experience in this field and who could also stand up to the wild nomads who caused us a lot of trouble in those years because they insisted we take in their own children (who were of course not orphans). On account of their threats, Jampa often had to go on patrol with his long khampa sword, because at that time we were building our first Children's Village with seven family houses, a primary school, a youth house and a handicraft school.

Since those wild days, twenty years have passed, and we are very grateful and happy that Jampa has worked for us for so long.

Now it is time for him to take his well-deserved retirement. Jampa wishes to stay on in the Village to be there for the children and to help the new staff as much and as long as he can.



At Tsering Dorjee's arrival in the Village (2005)



TSERING DORJEE

was born in Dawu in 1997 and came to us in 2005. After attending our primary school, he completed a Tibetan middle school and then high school in Dawu. In 2017, he started working in a Tibetan publishing house in Sichuan and gained experience in the field of communication and accounting. In the process, he stood out for his eagerness to learn and his diligence.

In 2021, he was asked by Thupten Nyima to work for us in the Dawu Children's Village as an accountant, as the authorities required that we provide very detailed project accounts. He fulfilled this task to our complete satisfaction and showed himself to be agile and proactive. After consulting with us, Thupten Nyima asked him to act as our representative with the authorities, given that Thupten Nyima is in charge of both of our Children's Villages, and cannot be on site all the time himself.

We are extremely happy that Tsering Dorjee can help our Village with such an important ask.



On her way to Golok (2013)

DOLMA CHOETSO

Dolma Choetso came to our handicraft school in 2007. She was born in Migru (Dawu) in 1997 and lost both her parents when she was very young: when she was nine years old, her mother died in a lightning strike, and her father passed away a year later. Until she came to us, she was living in very squalid conditions with her uncle's family. Thanks to her skill and talent, she learned a lot in a very short time and was soon able to do all the sewing work independently, so that in 2013 we sent her to Golok to help set up the tailoring workshop in the handicraft school there. She fell ill with a severe lung disease, and had to be treated at the Shining Hospital for several months. We were able to cover the cost of treatment, and fortunately the hospital offered us reduced terms.

In 2015, Dolma had the opportunity to pursue ongoing training for a year in Shanghai, afterwards continuing to study in the fields of trade and handicrafts in Chengdu. Since 2017, she has been directing our handicraft school in Golok, also organising the distribution of the goods made by the children there. She is a prime example of what our Tadra children can achieve given the right support. During the years of her further education elsewhere, she benefited from our financial support and accompaniment. We are very happy that our children are willing to work for us even after their education, although they would have better earning opportunities in a city. This shows once again how much they identify with their home, the Tadra Children's Village.





OUR NEW PRAYER WHEEL LOGO

With the redesigning of our website, the Tadra Project got a new logo - a prayer wheel. Known as *Mani Chökhör* in Tibetan (*Chökhör* means *wheel of teaching*), it is the best-known ritual object in the Tibetan culture. For use as a hand prayer wheel, it is equipped with a handle and a clapper. Prayer wheels are also found in the form of large cylinders along the outer walls of monasteries and other shrines. Inside they contain strips of paper inscribed with mantras or sacred formulas. The *Mani Chökhör* is rotated clockwise by the worshipper following the path of the sun in the sky, and each rotation symbolises a reading of the prayers it contains.

Buddhism and its religious symbols are omnipresent in Tibet. Thus the *Mani Chökhör* is found everywhere: when people walk their kora - the circuit around monasteries and sacred sites -, or say their prayers and mantras in inner meditation.

The name *Mani Chökhör* refers to the first teaching discourse of the historical Buddha following his enlightenment, when he announced the central elements of Buddhist teaching, the four noble truths and the eightfold path.



THE TADRA PROJECT IN FIGURES

Our donations and sponsorship income decreased by some 19% in 2021, mainly due to the massive restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, a number of sponsorships have expired for various reasons. The profit and loss account of the association Tadra-Projekt e.V. thus closes with a negative balance of 9,108.03 euros, which was covered by the corresponding provisions for the project. In Switzerland, too, income has decreased for similar reasons.

The profit and loss account of the Tadra-DEMIGH-Foundation closes with a negative balance of 184,045.88 CHF, as a result of a necessary term transfer of funds shortly before the end of 2021 and which was of course covered by the provisions in place.

The need for project funds in our two Children's Villages increases from year to year, as there are enormous increases in costs in all areas. However, since we are not planning any further building measures, only the unavoidable repair and renovation costs (inventory, buildings, land) are incurred, in addition to running costs and those supporting the pupils and students living elsewhere. On account of the extreme temperatures encountered, wear and tear is quite high.

2021 TADRA-PROJEKT E.V. GERMANY

2021 Profit and loss account

01.01.21 to 31.12.21 (in Euros)

INCOME

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sponsorships | 62,888.09 |
| Donations | 73,799.84 |
| Total income | 136,687.93 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Translations | 90.00 |
| 1&1 Internet AG (Homepage) | 362.91 |
| Stationery | 374.01 |
| Bank charges | 674.78 |
| Transparency register costs | 13.01 |
| Postage | 888.13 |
| Lexware bookkeeping | 59.99 |
| Project funding Golok | 140,000.00 |
| Project funding Dawu | 2,066.70 |
| Tax consultancy | 238.00 |
| Telephone costs to Tibet | 975.43 |
| Other | 53.00 |
| Total expenditure | 145,795.96 |

Total income less expenditure **-9,108.03**

Administrative costs 3,729.26 € = 2.557 %

2021 TADRA-DEMIGH-FOUNDATION SWITZERLAND

2021 Profit and loss account

01.01.21 to 31.12.21 (in CHF)

INCOME

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Sponsorships | 48,520.00 |
| Donations | 152,607.35 |
| Interest earned | 30.42 |
| Total income | 201,157.77 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Bank charges | 2,438.45 |
| Project funding Dawu | 201,795.90 |
| Project funding Golok | 180,000.00 |
| Treuhand- u. Revision AG | 969.30 |
| Total expenditure | 385,203.65 |

Total income less expenditure **-184,045.88**

Administrative costs 3,407.75 CHF = 0.884 %

As in previous years, we did not incur any costs for the printing and layout of the Annual Report 2021; these were offered to us as donations in kind. A heartfelt „thank you“ for this gesture!



**...PLUS:
YOU CAN ALSO
SUPPORT US VIA
SMILE.AMAZON.DE !**

SPECIAL THANKS

TO MR. BRIAN LEVIN

SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR. BRIAN LEVIN, WHO
VOLUNTEERS EVERY YEAR TO DO
THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
THE ANNUAL REPORT

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