

# Activity and Progress Report

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

## INDIA

### 1. Health Centres

*In the Calendar Year 2017/2018, **Hand in Hand** and its partner organization **Prajnana Mission**, were able to successfully carry out their joint Health Projects. The following projects offered free medical care and prevention for underprivileged people in India:*

*HCHC in Jagatpur/Cuttack offers its services 6 days a week. They include specialist medical care such as paediatrics, dermatology, orthopaedics, geriatrics and also dental care, pneumology, internal medicine, and surgery. The expanding laboratory can now provide blood test results on the same day, thus avoiding long waits for patients coming from afar. The number of medical specialists offering their services for free, is increasing.*

*HCHC in Balighai is open 6 days a week. Alongside conventional general treatments, the centre offers also specialist eye and skin consultations, as well as dental treatments twice a month. Moreover, there are Mobile Camps scheduled regularly.*

*HCHC Bhisindipur offers homeopathic treatments on 2 days every week.*

*The Village Health Project Athagarh, offers homeopathic treatments 6 days a week and dental care twice a month.*

*The Village Health Project Arua, offers two days a week allopathic treatments and twice a month dental care.*

Mobile Health Camps offering free general and specialised treatments, as well as dental ones, are organised in city slums and rural areas. These camps can reach areas where normally people have limited or no access at all to medical facilities.

## Statistics for 2017/2018

- Three **Hariharananda Health Centres (HCHC)** situated in Balighai, Jagatpur/Cuttack (in the state of Odisha) and Bhisindipur (in the state of West Bengal), have treated **80,306** patients throughout the year 2017/2018. At the HCHC Jagatpur, they performed 21,940 laboratory tests, 1,350 surgical interventions, 125 ECGs and 4,099 patients received physiotherapy treatments. The physiotherapy department, which opened in 2017, can treat 20-25 people a day. Most of its cases relate to pain therapy and post stroke treatments.
- At the **Village Health Project (VHP)** situated in **Arua** on the premises of the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School and at the **Village Health Project (VHP)** situated in **Athagarh, (Upavanam)**, 31,191 people received medical treatment in 2017/2018.
- **Regular Health Camps** were held in **cities and rural areas** of Cuttack, and Puri in Odisha. The Health Camps allowed for 30,484 sick people to receive medical treatment.
- **During the Dental and School Camps** held in the Health Centres of Balighai, Cuttack, Arua and Athagarh, treatment was given to 10,589 patients.
- A new mobile, medical and dental (MMDU) unit was created with “*Hand in Hand’s*” donations. Its aim is to provide dental camps and health screenings to pupils and students in 364 schools in the district of Kendrapada, and rural dental camps in the district of Cuttack. The MMDU is equipped for tooth extractions, fillings, scaling and for serious dental problems. Five doctors work together at the air-conditioned mobile unit which can travel 250-300km a day.

## **2. Hariharananda Balashram School**

*During the academic year 2017/2018, **Hand in Hand**, together with the **Prajnana Mission**, has been continuously supporting the Balashram Residential School project in the Indian state of Odisha:*

- **528 pupils** (approximately an equal number of boys and girls coming from destitute families, have received during the past school year 2017/2018, accommodation, clothing, food, medical treatment and tuition.
- The academic school year 2017/2018 consisted of 13 school classes (including 2 pre school forms) with 24 teachers, 25 caretakers, clerical staff, workers and volunteers – all of whom constantly endeavoured to support and maintain the school and residential school services and establishment.

- For the project CHRYSALIS, a total of 46,000 EUR were invested:
  - Students of year 12 are about to complete their further education and have two more exams to sit. Two of them are already employed (at *Amaraja*, a trade and engineering company) and four will become financially independent, soon.
  - Within the group of year 11, some are studying in Kendrapara and others in Pattmundai because it is easier to look after them as a group. They all receive support and coaching.
  - For the upcoming year 11 schooling year, an additional 12 fee-paying students from outside the school will join 13 or so Balashram students to create a mixed class. These students will receive a two-year science education at the Balashram School. For students who are interested in further education in economics or art, there will be the opportunity to access these studies via distant learning, while they still reside at Balashram.
- It is also planned to offer Sanskrit classes by next year. The school class will initially take in 10 children each year, aged 8-10. Preparations are ongoing.
- At present, **the school and residential quarters** consist of 9 buildings, as well as an additional 10 buildings situated outside the school premises.

### **Construction and Environmental Projects**

- The provisional construction, next to the main Balashram School entrance, will be replaced by a two-storey building which will have a reception, offices and an auditorium. This way more room is created within the school building; the costs for these works amount to 166,200 EUR.
- The **water collecting system** is now being installed in the boys' hostel; the costs amount to 3,850 EUR.
- The **solar water heater** for steam cooking is being installed; costs amount to 4,500 EUR.
- Water recycling: the water is used to irrigate the fields
- The **biogas plant** is ready now and cost 22,600 EUR. It is still unclear what is to be done with its waste products.
- The kitchen has not been relocated as yet but the new **steam cooking system** has been installed; costs were 2,550 EUR.

## EUROPE

- During the financial year 2017/2018, Hand in Hand issued two **Newsletters**, as well as one edition of the **Spotlight** magazine. They were released, as always, in German and English, and were sent to our donors and published on our website.
- In the same year, **the Secretary of the Prajnana Mission** visited our Hand in Hand organisation in Vienna. Our guest contributed to a positive exchange by telling our Hand in Hand supporters about his first hand experiences with the projects in India. His recollections were greeted with enthusiasm and resulted in several successful fundraising events.
- Members of the **Hand in Hand Board**, as well as additional friends and donors from Austria, Germany, Holland and Switzerland, visited also during this financial year the projects in India. The board members, together with friends and supporters, took the opportunity to interview some Balashram pupils to acquire first-hand impressions and field reports. The group also visited the Health Projects and the Health Centre in Jagatpur/Cuttack and were able to discuss with colleagues of **Prajnana Mission**, important aspects for future cooperation.
- Our website has been updated. It now reflects the actual internet standards and mobile usage demands.
- **Hand in Hand** has created and financed, together with *Hand in Hand USA*, a 15-minutes film on the projects for fundraising events and a five-minute short film for the website.
- Throughout the financial year 2017/2018, the **President** and **Vice President** of Hand in Hand participated at several European fundraising events to support the projects in India. Fundraising programmes were organised in several European cities.
- Besides the yearly **General Assembly**, **Board Meetings** and several workshops were held during this financial year. On top of these meetings, the members have been keeping in touch through a regular exchange of emails and telephone calls.
- Thanks to voice over IP, emails and reciprocal visits, the exchange of information between the **Prajnana Mission** in India and **Hand in Hand** Headquarters in Vienna, has been both continuous and highly positive.

*In collaboration with our European sister organisations “Stiftung Hand in Hand Deutschland”, “Hand in Hand Schweiz”, “Stichting Hand in Hand Netherlands”, “Hand in Hand France” and “Support Group Poland”, we are able to look back on a successful year. Hand in Hand USA and other non-European Hand in Hand groups have sponsored and financed the projects as well. In India, many voluntary helpers and coordinators are participating in different projects.*

*Vienna, August 2018*