



## **Tara Bodong Foundation Activities Report 2023**

As we reflect on the Tara Bodong Foundation's work in 2023, we are heartened and encouraged by the positive impact we've been able to have on improving the lives of girls and their families in Lumla, India. As in previous years, most of our efforts were spent on finding new ways to finance our main project, the Bodong Nunnery/Home for Girls and meet the daily needs of our young residents.

We are happy to report that in addition to keeping our sponsors and supporters informed and motivated, we also succeeded in meeting our financial goals! This was done thanks to the tireless efforts of our committee members and volunteers who helped plan and execute a variety of events and fundraising activities. For more information on our financial performance, please see our [2023 Financial Report](#).

Below, is a summary of last year's efforts.

### **School**

The girls successfully completed another year of school, studying subjects like English, Hindi, Mathematics, and Environmental Studies (EVS). Six of the older ones are going into Grade 12. Once they graduate, they will receive the Indian Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). This is equivalent to the International Baccalaureate (IB) or British A' Levels pre-university certification. They are also being trained in Tibetan Buddhist studies to prepare them to take their vows as nuns. After graduation, they will be able to help their community as leaders, teachers, health care providers and social workers.

### **March 2023: Geshe Pema Dorjee Visits the Nunnery**

In March, the girls received their Buddhist robes (Kasayas) from Geshe Pema Dorjee. This is a significant milestone for the village. Most of the inhabitants are Tibetan Buddhists who came as refugees to India. They lead a nomadic life and many children don't have a chance to go to school. Now thanks to their combination of Western and Buddhist education, our students will have a chance to attain the highest level of education in Tibetan Buddhism – the Geshema degree. This is the equivalent of a doctorate (PhD) and will allow them to stand alongside their male counterparts as equals - teachers and community leaders.

### **August 2023: Geshe Dorjee visits the Netherlands**

We were very happy to welcome Geshe Dorjee once again to the Netherlands! During his visit, we took the opportunity to record an interview between him and our chairman Christian Horn. A link to the interview is included at the end of this newsletter.

### **October: Buy a Tulip – Help a Girl Campaign**

Once again it was a successful campaign. It is scheduled to coincide with the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, to highlight the positive impact of girls on their communities. We would like to thank all the schools that participated in the project. [International School Breda](#), [International School Hilversum](#), [International Primary School Hilversum](#) and [International School Laren](#). *The money raised will go towards our maintenance and contingency fund.*

### **November 2023: French Wine and Cheese Evening.**

We opted for an intimate setting at the La Petite Creperie in Hilversum. Thanks to the kind contributions from several shops in the neighbourhood, the event was a big success! Many thanks to our generous sponsors. [Gastrovino Delicatessen en Wijnen](#), [Gijsbrecht groente en fruit speciaalzaak](#), [Olala Chocola Hilversum](#), [Kaas Kamer Hooi & Klomp](#), [Le Fournil de Sébastien](#), [La Petite Creperie](#)

### **December 2023: Hummingbird Choir Christmas Market**

Once again, [The Hummingbird Choir Hilversum](#) chose Tara Bodong as its beneficiary for funds raised at its annual Christmas market. We would like to thank the choir members who contributed their time and talent to make the event a success.