

Tara Bodong Foundation Activities Report 2020

We reflect on the Tara Bodong Foundation's work in 2020. After a period of being closed due to the Corona virus, schools reopened in India and our girls went back in the classroom! Who would have thought that children would be so happy to be back in school, but after so many months away, they were all grateful to be able to see their friends again and get back to their old routine.

Although some of the children were fortunate enough to visit their families during the lockdown, others remained behind at the nunnery under the supervision of Pema Deki and Tashi Drema, who did their best to make sure that they did not fall behind in their studies. Because there were fewer residents at the nunnery, we were able to save some money on living expenses. This was used to buy some new coats for the girls, kitchen supplies and furniture.

Below, is a summary of 2020's efforts.

1) Sponsorship

Thanks to this project, 21 orphaned or vulnerable girls have access to a state-recognised academic curriculum and opportunities for self-development. For many of them, it is the first time they have even been to school or slept on a real mattress. With your support, these girls are getting a chance to learn and grow into self-reliant, contributing members in their communities. Next year will mark a significant milestone for us. Six of our girls who are 14 years or older, will be going into (Grade) Class 8, which is the last year of elementary (upper-primary) school.

We welcomed 2 new sponsors.

2) Fundraising

The following fundraising events took place in 2020. These extra events allow us to save money for unforeseen incidents, such as building repairs or medical expenses.

- **The Sing Out Choir Hilversum** had its internal Christmas market and Tara Bodong was a chosen charity, raising €850.
- **Buy a Tulip - Help a Girl:** This campaign, which we run with the generous help of many schools in the Netherlands, is our biggest annual fundraiser. Every year, the campaign is scheduled to coincide with the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11.
- **Puur Market:** We participated in the Puur Market in Hilversum.

3) Operations

- We donated €10.000 (884.893,12 Indian Rupees) as a contribution towards the construction costs of building a prayer and debate hall next to the nunnery in Lumla.
- We also gave the 2 house mothers a raise in salary.

- Board member, Elizabeth Fleming was replaced by Vincent van den Hurk (treasurer)