



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

USTHI FOUNDATION



EDITORIAL

PROJECT OVERVIEW

3

EDUCATION

4

FOCUS ON: BHASTARA SCHOOL

6

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016

7

HEALTH

8

CHILD TRAFFICKING

10

FINANCE

12

ORGANISATION

14

FOUNDER'S THOUGHTS

14

OUTLOOK & THANKS

15

«One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution.»

– Malala Yousafzai, 19, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

DEAR READER

Over the past two years the Usthi has been heavily occupied with the emergency relief and reconstruction work in Nepal. After two earthquakes in April 2015, a country that was already plagued by war and crisis, was shaken to the core.

Our local network enabled us to respond immediately. Only a few days after the first earthquake, we launched a humanitarian intervention for over 36'000 people. In a second step, we started rebuilding homes in two districts particularly affected by the earthquakes. With our owner-driven approach, the reconstruction work also helped to promote their sense of community.

Having completed the emergency relief and reconstruction in Nepal, we devote again all our attention to our „regular“ projects. Our education and health programmes continue to have a positive impact on the lives of children and youth! In the past year, Usthi has provided school education for more than 1'600 children and more than 800 trainees were directly integrated into the working world. Granting them the access to education gives them safety and perspective. They have been given the opportunity to build a life in independence and dignity. Loyal supporters like you render it possible!

Since 1976, Usthi Foundation has been supporting children and promoting their rights to health and education. Usthi advocates for children and youth that are deprived from school or/and a home and provides safe shelters and education. The first milestone to ensure children's health and education was established by the opening of the first Usthi school in 1977. Today, Usthi is still promoting children's rights and advocating for the vulnerable. In 2017, we wish to commemorate 40 years of advocating children's rights together with you. All our achievements were only possible thanks to your help. Thank you for your continuous support, thank you for standing up for these children. 40 years of Usthi - 40 years of empowering children and youth together.

Tanja Lirgg



Simon Widmer



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Since 1976, the Usthi Foundation has been active in India and aims to offer comprehensive assistance to people in need - regardless of their race, nationality, religion or language. Since the beginning, Usthi has been focusing on the two key areas of education and health. Through education and professional training, we lay the foundation for a life in financial independence. Via health care, we combat infant and maternal mortality and promote children's well-being and development. Years of working on ground have shown that problems must be addressed holistically to ensure a sustainable and comprehensive solution. A social problem is often not simply limited either to „health“ or „education“, but is often a result of both combined.

The ability to learn, for example, is developed in the first years of life. Usthi's Health and Education Project (HEP) for infants combines both aspects. This approach ensures that children remain healthy and develop accordingly to their age. In this way, the best foundations are laid for the children to be able to succeed later in school. However, it is not enough to tackle the symptoms and not the fundamental problem. For this reason, our shelters and family communities are framed by an extensive prevention campaign against child trafficking. Working closely with local groups, we inform the population about the risks of abuse and trafficking and show families how to protect their children through education.

In 2016, Usthi was responsible for 15 projects with 443 local employees. More than 2'500 children and young people received a school education and job training and more than 800 trainees were successfully integrated into the working world. For 77 children and young people Usthi is put on a par with family. Usthi provides safe shelters and schooling for these children. In the health care sector, Usthi assures the medical care of 133 villages through the Tribal Health Centre (THC) in Somagiri. Additionally, a network of 44 community health workers ensures the health care directly in the villages. Our Health and Education Programme (HEP) 251 infants and provided a safe environment for them to play and learn.

	Focus	Project	Location	No. of Beneficiaries	
INDIA	Education	Ananda School	Kolkata (1)	271	Children
		Bhastara School	Bhastara (1)	268	Children
		Kolar School	Kolar (2)	592	Children
		Penthakata School	Puri (3)	422	Children
		Back-to-School Programme	Hyderabad (4)	89	Children
		Tuition Programme	Hyderabad (4)	275	Children
		Professional Skills Training	Hyderabad (4)	886	Youths
	Health	Tribal Health Centre (THC)	Somagiri (5)	133	Villages
		Health Care Network	Somagiri (5)	42	Villages
		Health & Education Programme (HEP)	Somagiri (5)	251	Children
Child Trafficking	RainbowEnd Children's Shelter	Kolkata (1)	7	Youths	
	Asha Jyothi Children's Shelter	Hyderabad (4)	40	Children	
	Medchal Children's Shelter	Medchal (4)	10	Children	
	Medchal Women's Shelter	Medchal (4)	20	Women	
	Prevention Campaign	Hyderabad (4)	>19'000	Persons	
NEPAL	Emergency Relief	House Reconstruction	Lalitpur (6) und Makwanpur (7)	90	Families
		Reconstruction Training		126	Persons





EDUCATION

The four **Schools** Ananda, Bhastara, Kolar and Penthakata provide education for about 1,600 children. The children come from socially and economically disadvantaged families which cannot afford the school fees. Usthi supports the education of these children and provides access to school in areas that offer little educational programmes. Because education is the most solid basis to build a bright future upon.

However, maintaining the school infrastructure keeps on being a major challenge. In addition to the running costs, repairs and renovations on the buildings are needed. At Ananda School, which has been in existence for 29 years, renovations in the kitchen, dining room and toilets are currently planned and will be carried out as soon as the funding is ensured.



Our **Back-to-School Programme** in Hyderabad helps socially and economically disadvantaged families to pay school fees, books and uniforms for their children. In 2016, 89 children participated in the Back-to-School programme. Without schooling, the children would spend most of their time on the streets, where they are exposed to high risks and could become victims of human trafficking.

Another education project located in Hyderabad, is the **Tuition Programme**. Usthi provides safe and quiet spaces for children to study and learn. It is, at the same time, an important social meeting place for the pupils. 275 children attended our tuition programme in 2016.

Usthi's **Professional Skills Trainings** continue to be very

popular as they have proven to be an effective tool for youth integration. Usthi specifically supports single mothers, as they have no social status and thus virtually no way of providing for their families. With a Usthi training, single mothers can take on safe work and support their family. At the same time, this reduces the likelihood that their children spend their time on the streets instead of in school. Schools are safe places, meanwhile in the streets, children risk to become victims of human traffickers. In 2016, 886 young people completed an Usthi Professional Skills Training, of whom 800 immediately succeeded in finding work. Others have opened their own businesses by using an Usthi micro credit. All of them are now financially independent and able to take care of their families.





31st January 2017

I am Tamanna Akhtar. I study in class-VII in Good Shephard School. I live in Alpan, a village 15 minutes far from this school. My father is a service man and my mother is a health worker. I am the one and only daughter of my parents. I am studying in school from LKG. From the year 2006. My dream is to study in this school upto the board exam. I love this school very much. Also I love all the teachers very much. In this school all the teachers teach us with too much love and care. Our respected Principal man and Manager Sir care for us as our own parents. My dream is to be a Cardiologist in future. When I was small, I and my parents wanted to study in an English medium school. That time Good Shephard School was the only English medium school in Bhastara. For this reason I was admitted in this school and I am still continuing in this school. I love Good Shephard School very much.

Tamanna Akhtar
Class-VII
Thaddeus Good Shephard School

FOCUS ON: BHASTARA SCHOOL

Bhastara school is located in the rural area north of Kolkata, West Bengal and was founded as the first English medium school in the region in 2007. It has a large catchment area, some children having a way to school as far as 12 km. In 2016, Usthi extended the education programmes at Bhastara school. From Spring 2016, the school has offered, in addition to two kindergarten levels and 1st to 8th year courses, a new 9th year course. Hence, an additional 40 children can attend Bhastara school. A 10th year class is introduced in Spring 2017. Bhastara is then offering the full range of compulsory schooling. New classrooms have been equipped, enabling the changes to be successfully implemented. The chemistry and phys-

ics laboratories as well as the library are currently still under construction.

Tamanna Akhtar comes from a rural family and attends Bhastara school. She has now arrived in the 9th year and is diligently forging plans. Her dreams are ambitious and she pursues them with eagerness. The gifted young woman knows exactly what she wants to achieve. The only obstacle she is currently facing is her family's limited resources. Tamanna: „I'd like to study medicine to become a cardiologist. My family cannot afford the study fees; the only chance I have is to get a sponsorship for my studies. I hope Usthi will continue to support me after school. As a doctor, I could help many people and provide for my family“.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016

KOLAR SCHOOL

Usthi has been responsible, since 2007, for the English medium school Kolar in Karnataka. At the beginning the school was limited to the 1st to 4th year classes. The school was continuously expanded and classes were added. Due to the increase in the number of pupils, the rented building was soon bursting at the seams. In 2008, Usthi built a new two storey school building. With the completion of the construction work, Kolar school had the necessary infrastructure to extend the education programme from the 1st kindergarten class to class 10. Kolar school has managed, in the meantime, to become self-sufficient. Usthi's support is therefore no longer necessary. We are proud of the achievements the Kolar school has made in the past years and welcome its independent functioning.

EMERGENCY RELIEF IN NEPAL

In the annual report 2015 and on the website, Usthi reported extensively on the emergency relief and reconstruction work. After a successful emergency relief, the reconstruction of destroyed houses began in early 2016. The goal was to complete construction before the beginning of monsoon season in July. Thanks to the enormous efforts of all partners and our well-functioning Nepalese network, this target was met. The houses were officially inaugurated by their owners at the beginning of June 2016. Minor reworking was necessary thereafter, but this did not prevent the houses being occupied. Usthi and its partners officially finished the reconstruction work in August 2016. The final Nepal reconstruction report can be found on our website

www.usthi.ch/en/reconstruction-nepal

RAINBOWEND CHILDREN'S SHELTER

In 1990, Usthi started the RainbowEnd Children's Shelter for girls living in the streets of Kolkata. Life on the street is full of dangers for children and girls are particularly vulnerable.

Usthi created a safe home for these girls in family communities. Up to 37 girls have been living in these communities. One after another completed her education and has become employed and independent. The project was wound up after the last remaining girls became self-sufficient at the end of 2016.

Integrating these young women who have no family background into Indian society was a serious challenge. An excellent local network permitted to successfully integrate the young women into the labour market. Today, they are working in tourism, IT, administration, accounting and schools. Some of them are now married and take care of their families.

Although the project has officially been completed, a strong bond developed over the years to and among these young women. Usthi will continue to attend the annual family gatherings, which have already become a tradition in the past years.





HEALTH

TRIBAL HEALTH CENTRE (THC)

The activities of the Tribal Health Centre (THC) has been continuously extended in recent years. In early Summer 2016, a maternity department has been added to the hospital. This addition was extremely important for the Usthi Foundation, as infant and maternal mortality in the Somagiri region remains high. The expansion has meant changes in activities and responsibilities of the hospital. At the same time, Usthi has been able to create new jobs.

After long years of preparation, the Tribal Health Centre has successfully been integrated into the National Health System. State recognition means that a significant portion of patient health costs are borne by the state. This results in financial relief for patients and ensures the long-term viability of the hospital. This will alleviate the Usthi Foundation's financial burden and free resources to invest in other health programmes.

HEALTH NETWORK SOMAGIRI

The health network complements Usthi's health care activities in the Somagiri jungle area. 44 health workers, trained by Usthi, work directly in their communities and take care of the health concerns of villagers. The notion of medical care is still foreign to many people in Somagiri. It is, therefore, important for familiar faces to be working in the villages. This creates trust in our health care and guarantees that we are where we need to be: close to the people and their needs.

Many of the female health workers have had further training at Usthi to become social workers. As experts in early childhood development, they are also active in our Health and Education Programme (HEP) for infants.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME (HEP)

More than 35 years of experience in the health care sector in the jungle area of Somagiri have led to the realisation that health care alone is insufficient to ensure children's well-being. Research has shown, that particularly the health of small children in Somagiri is poor and can be enormously improved by educational programmes. This gave birth to the Health and Education Programme in 2012. Usthi created a scheme to counteract the development of health problems and promote infant and young children's development. The programme is supplemented by information campaigns on nutrition, health and childhood development. Measuring the effect after the pilot phase clearly showed a comprehensive improvement in the health status of the infants. In 2016, 251 children took part in the Health and Education Programme (HEP).



CHILD TRAFFICKING



For years, India has been in the top ranking of the sad statistics of forced labour and slavery. It is estimated that more than 100,000 children are forced into work every year. More than 80,000 children disappear in India every year without a trace - that's 220 every day and more than 9 children per hour! The actual figure, however, is expected to be much higher. To combat child abuse, Usthi has launched a comprehensive project against child trafficking

CHILDREN'S SHELTERS

Usthi offers shelter in family communities to children and young women without a safe home. In addition to safety, the family communities offer health care and education. Traumatized children and women receive therapy. Through schooling and professional skills training, these children and youths are handed the tools to become self-sufficient and independent adults.

In 2016, a total of 77 children and young

women lived in one of our four family communities.

In the **Asha Jyothi** Children's Shelter, Usthi houses a total of 40 children from the street. In **Medchal**, 10 children, whose mothers live and work in the red-light district, are sheltered. Usthi offers these children an alternative home far away from the dangers of abuse and trafficking. Usthi continues, however, to foster the important bond to the mother. 20 young women that were victims



of abuse, also live in **Medchal** in a Women's Shelter. Usthi offers targeted therapeutic support and professional skills trainings. In Kolkata, Usthi has been running the **RainbowEnd** children's shelter for girls from the street. At its most hectic, Usthi offered shelter to 37 children. In 2016 only seven young girls remained. In the meantime, they have also made the leap to become independent. The project was successfully wound up at the end of 2016.

PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

In addition to their remedial activities, Usthi is also committed to prevent child trafficking. In the Greater Hyderabad area, Usthi established contact with organisations and networks working in this field. The contact to self-help groups, which have been formed by victim's families, is particularly important. They know where the dangers lie and have direct access to vulnerable people. Using regular information exchanges,

Usthi together with other organisations has formed a network against child trafficking. Prevention campaigns are organised together with victims, risk groups and the authorities and ensure the effective use of available resources to combat and prevent child trafficking. In 2016, we reached over 19,000 people with our prevention campaign.



FINANCES

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

Last year total project expenditure amounted to CHF 718'507. Usthi's contribution to emergency relief and reconstruction work in Nepal in 2016 was CHF 82'022. Local support from our Indian partners in 2016 amounted to 12.3% of total programme expenditure.

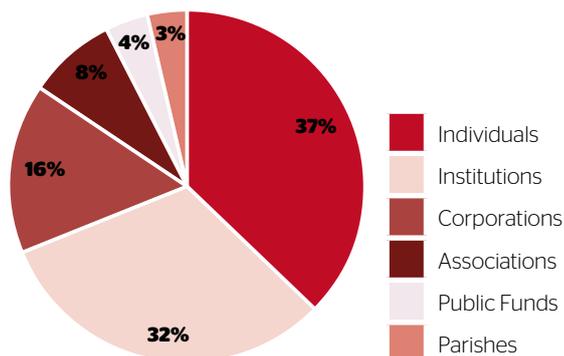
In 2016, 6% of total expenditure was allocated to administration and 6% to fundraising activities in Switzerland. Usthi thereby lies significantly under the av-

erage of the ZEWO-certified organisations (ZEWO = Swiss Charity Certification Organisation), whose spend 21% of expenditure on administration and fundraising.

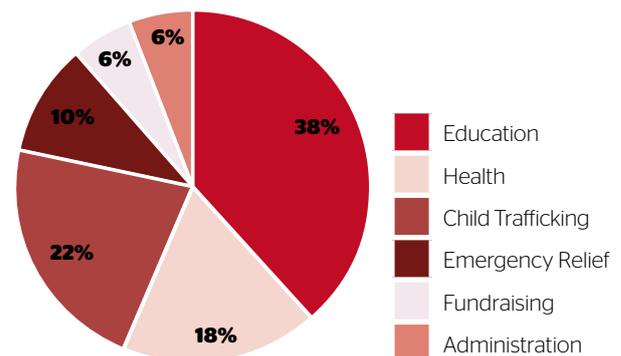
The Usthi Foundation achieved revenue in 2016 of CHF 761'574 from private and institutional donations. A large proportion of donations, as in the past, came from individual private donors and in 2016, these amounted to CHF 281'892, representing around 37% of total donations.

The Usthi Foundation closed the year with a surplus of CHF 15'236. The surplus is explained by the dissolution of the CHF 30'000 social fund for project employees. Social contributions have been administered directly through the Indian social systems for several years, which has rendered the existing social fund superfluous, resulting in its dissolution. The complete audit report is publicly available free of charge from Usthi Headquarters.

INCOME 2016



EXPENDITURE 2016



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016

Assets	2016	2015
	CHF	CHF
<i>Liquid Assets</i>	508'397	554'733
<i>Accruals and Deferrals</i>	5'842	1'407
Current Assets	514'239	556'140
<i>Rent Deposit</i>	4'210	4'210
<i>IT-Accessories</i>	1	2'873
Fixed Assets	4'211	7'083
	518'450	563'223
Liabilities	2016	2015
	CHF	CHF
<i>Payables</i>	0	0
<i>Accrued Expenses</i>	6'733	1'242
Debt	6'733	1'242
<i>Project Fund</i>	77'818	113'319
Fund Asset	77'818	113'319
<i>Foundation Asset</i>	530'708	530'708
<i>Social Fund for Employees</i>	0	30'000
<i>Accumulated Loss</i>	-96'809	-112'046
Organisation Assets	433'899	448'662
	518'450	563'223

TRANSPARENCY

Usthi is a politically and religiously independent non-profit organisation. It is under the supervision of the Swiss Confederation and is tax-exempt. Usthi has been awarded the ZEWO-seal. This seal is attributed to trustworthy non-profit organisations, who meet the strict requirements of transparency. The ZEWO-seals acknowledges that Usthi is using its funds economically, effectively and for the designated purpose. Usthi is regularly monitored by the ZEWO for compliance with all applicable standards. It is important to Usthi to have the highest degree of transparency and trustworthiness towards its donors.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

For Usthi, sustainability of initiated projects is essential since the very beginning. Our programmes must prove to have a positive effect on the beneficiaries, employees and their environment. Usthi and their local partners monitor the sustainability of the projects through regular assessments and quality controls.

OPERATING STATEMENT 2016

	2016	2015
	CHF	CHF
<i>Non-specific Donations</i>	506'746	440'470
<i>Earmarked Donations</i>	254'713	875'261
<i>Sundry Operation Income</i>	115	3'511
Fundraising Income	761'574	1'319'242
<i>Project Expenditure</i>	-718'507	-1'094'792
Interim Result I	43'067	224'450
<i>Administration Expenditure</i>	-46'158	-89'657
<i>Fundraising Expenditure</i>	-45'636	-58'364
Interim Result II	-48'727	76'429
<i>Financial Income</i>	69	614
<i>Financial Expenditure</i>	-1'605	-6'406
Annual Result Gross	-50'263	70'637
<i>Project Fund Deposit</i>	-254'714	-875'260
<i>Project Fund Extraction</i>	290'213	795'924
<i>Liquidation Social Fund</i>	30'000	0
<i>Accumulated Loss Changes</i>	-15'236	8'699
Annual Result Net	0	0

In addition, financial self-sufficiency is the long-term goal of each project. For 20 years now, Usthi and its partners, has been building social business ventures whose profits flow entirely into the projects. Usthi currently operates a hospital, a textile company, a small bank for micro loans, a cosmetics company and a gift factory. In 2016, these companies yielded a total of CHF 77'600 in profit, all of which was invested directly in the projects. Last year, a total of 12.3% of all project costs were locally covered. At the same time, the small businesses offer jobs for 167 people.

PARTICIPATION

Usthi is a co-signatory and supporter of the International Civil Society Centre's (ICSC) „Civic Charter- A global framework for people's participation“. Usthi is convinced that successful interventions are only possible if all beneficiaries and employees are actively involved in project planning and implementation. Usthi therefore promotes the active participation of all beneficiaries and employees at all stages of the work process.

ORGANISATION

USTHI SWITZERLAND

There were no changes in 2016 to the highest body of Usthi – the Board of Trustees. Judith Schuler (CEO), Fabienne Müller (Project Manager) and Manuela Zuber (Communication Manager) left Usthi on the 31st March 2016. We thank them for their tireless commitment to the children

and youth. Kurt Bürki was commissioned by the Board of Trustees to take on interim operational control of Usthi during the transition to the new management. Dorit Battermann completed, as planned, her temporary deployment to the Nepal reconstruction project at the end of April

2016. The Usthi Foundation wishes to thank her for her successful work on the ground.

In August 2016 Tanja Lirgg joined the Usthi Foundation and on 8th November was unanimously appointed Executive Director by the Board of Trustees.



Board of Trustees

Simon Widmer, President, Neuheim, since 1999

Gallus Römer, Vice President, St. Gallenkappel, since 2012

Patrick Bürki, Wetzikon, since 1999

Gabriela Knaurek, Rapperswil-Jona, since 1999

Simone Thompson, Zurich, since 2011

Silvia Day, Meilen, since 2012

Dr. Josef Keller, Rapperswil-Jona, since 2012

Usthi Switzerland

Tanja Lirgg, Executive Director since November 2016

Kurt Bürki, Programme Manager since April 2016

Donatella Suter, Donor Relations and Finance since 1985

Auditors

Argo Consilium, Zurich

FOUNDER'S THOUGHTS

Looking back over the past year, uncertainty about the future is bound to creep in. In the United Kingdom, a majority voted for withdrawal from the EU, in the USA a presidential candidate won the election, who has an affinity with social exclusion and who sees globalisation primarily as a threat. Not less important are concerns over identity and social cohesion, whether as a result of migration, perceived as uncontrolled, or a supposedly growing estrangement between the much maligned „establishment“ and the common people. Nearly everyone loses. Only China, as well as the most affluent one percent of the world's population, have made significant gains.

I am astonished at the blindness within our society. We are focused on the media which serves us up day in, day out: terror, refugees, disasters, wars, ill-will and discrimination. Little by little we are being trained only to see the negative side of things. What has happened to the positives? Why do we forget the most important things that permit us to live a comfortable life? After all, whoever takes time to think about the obvious? We belong to a small part of the world's population with enough to eat, not living on the street, who have cars, public transport and who are mobile. In case of illness we can visit the doctor. For the majority in our society, there is work and we are able to make a

living. Our earnings even stretch beyond the bare necessities. We should remember, when we turn on one of the taps in our home, that hundreds of millions of people do not even have access to clean water. If we grow old, a social network will ensure an almost worry-free future. We should be happy to live in a society that is prepared to make compromises and to seek consensus. If I read a review of the past year's media landscape, I see much darkness and nothing of the beauty our environment offers us and which we take for granted. Have we forgotten that what we take for granted constitutes our quality of life? I do not think modesty is antiquated and it should again be placed „front and centre“ before self-indulgence.

Thank you for your loyalty to Usthi and kindest regards,

Kurt Bürki

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bürki".



OUTLOOK AND THANKS

OUTLOOK 2017

The winding up of the RainbowEnd Home has freed up capacity which Usthi will continue to use for the protection of young women. Usthi will expand its commitment to combat child trafficking and opens a new shelter for former temple slaves (Joginis). This project will be complemented by a prevention campaign against the illegal dedication of girls to the temple deities.

2017 stands for 40 years of Usthi Foundation empowering children and youth. In 1977 Usthi opened its first school in India. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our donors and to celebrate our joint commitment with two events:

29th Sept. 2017 - Usthi Festival. Usthi cordially invites you to their annual festival in Jona. The celebration will also be the premiere of the Usthi Documentary which

was filmed in Dec 2016 by a professionals.

21st October 2017 - Official 40 year of Usthi in Rapperswil Castle. We feel honoured that Leia Zhu, the 10-year-old violinist, will play exclusively for us at the Usthi jubilee. She will be accompanied by the Zurich Chamber Orchestra.

Further Information on the two events will be available shortly on our website

www.usthi.ch/en



BBAHUT DHANYAVAAD - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Usthi Supporter

Our commitment to children and youth is only made possible by your generous donation. For the past 40 years, Usthi has been advocating for the vulnerable. Your support sends an important sign of solidarity to these people and makes you a vital part of Usthi.

An Afghan proverb says "Drop by Drop a River is formed". Every single donation, no matter how big or small, is a drop that helps to form the river of Usthi. This river has been flowing for 40 years, solely because you continuously feed it with drops. This river has left its mark on thousands of children and young peo-

ple, who can now stand on their own two feet. Because they were given access to school and professional skills trainings, they are able to feed their families today. Numerous young women are no longer exposed to social arbitrariness because, through education, they have found financial independence allowing them to decide autonomously about their lives.

Dear Supporter, thank you for enabling more than 1600 children's education in 2016. Thank you for providing 886 youths with professional skills trainings. Thank you for protecting 77 children and youths from abuse and child trafficking.

Dear Donor, thank you for your continuous support, your solidarity and for your trust in our work.

Thank you for being part of Usthi!



DROP BY DROP, A RIVER IS FORMED

Bank Linth
Untere Bahnhofstrasse 11
CH-8640 Rapperswil-Jona
Switzerland

Bank Account No. 30-38170-0/BLZ 8731
IBAN CH97 0873 1001 2943 52011

Postbank account No. 85-148330-7
IBAN CH22 0900 0000 8514 8330 7

Usthi Foundation
Wattstrasse 3
CH-8050 Zurich

Tel. +41 55 511 21 25

hello@usthi.ch
www.usthi.ch/en

