

EMPOWERING PEOPLE

CREATING SUSTAINABLE IMPACT



Usthi Foundation
Annual Report 2024

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers

It is our pleasure to present you our Annual Report 2024, in which we look back with gratitude and pride on another successful year at Usthi. In these times of global challenge, we should like to focus on the impact orientation and (interim) successes of our projects in India and Nepal. We shall show achievements of our joint actions, how we empower people, families and communities and how this creates sustainable change.

For us, impact means when women subjected to violence and exploitation find a way out of their difficulties with the support of protection and employable skills training. An interview with two employees from the awareness campaign against human trafficking is deeply moving. Every woman with newfound self-confidence, taking her first step towards a self-determined future, is a success.

For us, impact means supporting disadvantaged families so that they can send their children to school and, in the long term, are able to cover the education costs independently. The 2024 project evaluation in Nepal shows that we are on the right track. For us, impact means strengthening communities so that they can tackle local problems independently, e.g. with the newly launched waste management project in Penthakata. Raising awareness and training the community, as well as creating a functioning waste disposal system, are key to getting a grip on growing volumes of waste and enabling sustainable development.

Collaboration with our local partner organisations is crucial to this, as they contribute local expertise and are the driving force behind the implementation of day-to-day project activities. Equal partnerships are not just a principle but, for us, are the core and foundation of our involvement and are vital to the success of locally anchored projects.

Usthi's work is only possible thanks to you, dear Readers. Your support has enabled countless successes with enormous significance for the affected children, women, families and communities. Your commitment inspires our work, expands our reach and motivates us in pursuing our vision. We should like sincerely to thank all the individuals and organisations who have supported us over the past year. We are filled with joy to know that you are part of the Usthi community!



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President of the Board of Trustees



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Executive Director

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Cover: Penthakata School pupil.

Back cover: Penthakata schoolchildren in the playground.

Image captions for page 2:

A: View from the balcony of a children's home in Hyderabad.

B: Out and about in the Penthakata settlement on the outskirts of Puri.

C: Small child in one of the day care centres in the tribal area of Odisha.

D: A health worker in action in the villages around Somagiri.

E: Participants at an employable skills training course in Hyderabad.

F: Schoolchildren from Ananda School in Hudarait near Kolkata.

YEAR IN REVIEW

„We strive for a world in which children and young people can grow up with dignity and in a supportive environment.“ This vision has guided Usthi’s work since 1976 and has lost none of its relevance, especially in light of global developments over the past year. Usthi’s projects provide access to education, create safe spaces for vulnerable children and women, raise awareness, and provide healthcare in remote areas. Usthi projects reached over 46,000 people in India and Nepal in 2024 - a small step closer towards our vision. However, looking ahead, there is still much to do.

A significant development in the past year was the launch of a new Usthi project. The aim of the wide-reaching project is for the long term, to improve waste disposal in the Penthakata settlement, the catchment area for the Penthakata School. In order to improve the health of the people in the settlement and to sensitise them to the risks of uncontrolled waste, Usthi is working closely with EAWAG (the ETH Swiss Federal Technical University water research institute), local authorities and other research and business institutions in both Switzerland and India. We are delighted that, following its successful launch, the project „Waste Management in Penthakata“ is now part of the Usthi portfolio.

Last year, almost 380 employees in India and Nepal made implementation of the 13 Usthi projects possible. Our five partner organisations manage project activities with great skill and tireless commitment. Day after day, teachers, health workers, carers and many more fight for the future prospects of children and young people.

Project work is not always conducted under the simplest of conditions. Our partners in India and Nepal are regularly confronted with bureaucratic hurdles and changing requirements of authorities. The 2024 elections in India led to changes in the political situation in some project regions. Support received from the local community, e.g. neighbours, local councils and friendly organisations is, therefore, indispensable to our partners. In 2024, our partner organisations were not only able to expand their professional networks, but also opportunities for local project funding. One highlight within transnational co-operation was the fruitful meeting between the founder of Usthi, Kurt Bürki, and Swiss Ambassador Maya Tissafi in New Delhi.

The head office in Switzerland employs five people (totalling 31 full-time equivalents), who are responsible for developing and financing the projects. Usthi’s commitment to disadvantaged young people would not be possible without continued and

generous support from Switzerland. We are extremely grateful for the confidence of the Usthi community and opportunities for dialogue. Dear Supporters, we invite you to find out more about the highlights and challenges of the past Usthi year in this annual report and hope it will offer much food for thought.



Working closely with five partner organisations, Usthi was able to achieve wide-spread impact with its 13 projects. This overview shows the key figures for project activities in 2024. More information about the projects is available on the Usthi website.



EDUCATION

DHADING
Empowering Children & Families
 15 public schools
 13 families
 2,839 pupils

PURI
Penthakata School
 16 teachers
 377 pupils

Waste Management Project
 project start 2024

HYDERABAD
Tuition Centres
 14 tuition centres
 375 pupils

Back-to-School
 250 pupils

Employable Skills Training
 16 courses
 1,301 graduates
 101 sets of basic equipment for small businesses

KOLKATA
Ananda School
 11 teachers
 246 pupils
Thaddeus School
 13 teachers
 224 pupils

INDIA

NEPAL

DHADING

West Bengal
KOLKATA

SOMAGIRI

Odisha

PURI

Telangana

HYDERABAD



HEALTH

SOMAGIRI
Tribal Health Centre & Health Network
 27 hospital employees
 42 health workers
 27,079 consultations

Health and Education Project
 9 day care centres
 12 social workers
 257 small children



PROTECTION & EMPOWERMENT

HYDERABAD
Children's Homes
 4 homes
 62 children

Women's Homes
 5 homes
 98 women

Awareness Campaign
 4-5 major events per month
 350 km operating radius
 13,548 individuals reached

BETTER DISPOSAL, BETTER HEALTH: WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PENTHAKATA

Usthi launched a new project in 2024 in collaboration with EAWAG, the ETH water research institute, to improve the waste situation in the Penthakata settlement in the long term. But where do waste disposal issues fit in with Usthi's commitment to education and health?

Together with our Indian partner, Usthi opened a school in the Penthakata settlement in 1992. The informal settlement appeared on the outskirts of Puri when migrants from Andhra Pradesh settled here to make a living from fishing. The fishing village has since grown into its own township with around 36,000 inhabitants. To this day, the majority of Penthakata's inhabitants work in the fishing industry, but the settlement's infrastructure is lagging behind its growing population.

This is noticeable, for example, when you take a walk along the beach. Almost 11 tonnes of waste are generated in Penthakata

every day, of which around 1.3 tonnes land on the beach and on the streets. The amount of uncontrolled waste has reached such proportions that it represents a serious problem and has become a burden on the health of the population.

Working together to create sustainable solutions

Usthi is responsible for the education of around 400 children in Penthakata and maintains contact with numerous former pupils. The health of the children and the future prospects of the fishing village are, therefore, of vital importance to us. A needs analysis has shown that there is also a great desire for better waste management among residents of the settlement. For these reasons, Usthi has decided to actively address the waste problem, thereby contributing to improved health and quality of life in the settlement.

In order to improve the waste situation for the long term, we have teamed up with our local partner organisation, the city

Mounting waste - a serious problem.



administration of Puri, EAWAG, and its Indian partner company Sarek Waste and Resource Management. The project also receives strong support from the local population. Schools, NGOs and numerous volunteers are involved in brainstorming workshops, as translators or in cleaning up the beaches.

Exchanging plastic waste for exercise books

Even the best infrastructure is of little use if it is not used. It is, therefore, essential to sensitise the population and schoolchildren, in particular, to the issue of waste and the resulting risks to health and the environment. As part of the project, training is being organised for teachers from 19 schools in the region. The subject will then be included in the curriculum.

In addition to theoretical input and creative recycling craft days in the classroom, the schoolchildren themselves are helping to collect waste: A „plastic bank“ has been set up at Penthakata School, where the children can exchange their plastic waste for tokens. Whoever has collected enough tokens can approach teachers and exchange them for a pencil or exercise book. The idea of the plastic bank is to sensitize the children on waste matters in a playful way.

Developing a comprehensive waste disposal infrastructure

In 2025, a pilot phase in the expansion of the waste disposal infrastructure will begin for a specified part of the settlement. This will not only test the waste collection and separation systems, but also new ideas for the reuse of collected recyclable materials.

The project will then be expanded to the entire Penthakata settlement and even further afield in the future. Last December, Usthi was able to celebrate an important success for the project, when a memorandum of understanding was signed with the city administration of Puri, in which the city agreed to take responsibility for the continuation of waste management in Penthakata after the pilot phase and to ensure its financial security. Improvement in the waste disposal infrastructure in Penthakata will automatically ensure a decrease in health risks and environmental damage in the settlement. The educational component lays the foundation for sustainable change. By firmly anchoring waste management in the curriculum, schoolchildren are given the knowledge they need to ensure effective waste management in the future. Heightened awareness and an in-depth examination of the waste issue are essential, as the problem is likely to become increasingly critical in the coming decades.



Introducing children to waste management in a playful way.

TRUST, PATIENCE AND ALTERNATIVES: PREVENTION AND PROTECTION WORK IN HYDERABAD

„The days are long, when we meet communities to discuss human trafficking, violence against women and protection measures. We sometimes stay in a location for several days in order better to understand people’s problems and needs,“ Malini*, explains her day-to-day work. She has been working together with Akash* for over ten years in the Usthi partner organisation’s awareness campaign in Hyderabad.

The four-member awareness team attends neighbourhood meetings and visits schools to raise awareness of the risks of human trafficking and (sexualized) exploitation while showing alternative paths. As persons of trust, they accompany women at risk to women’s homes and support them in their decision to pursue employable skills training.

The work of the awareness team requires sensitivity because, although abuse and exploitation of women and violence against them are widespread problems, they remain a taboo topic. This violence occurs in secrecy and is either unrecognized by large parts of society or silently tolerated. This is clearly evident in the daily work of the team. Akash and Malini report that often neither families of the women affected, nor their friends nor neighbours are aware of the abuse. For fear of stigma and social consequences, many women remain alone with their emotional and physical scars.

Building trust and offering new prospects

Total confidentiality is absolutely crucial to the work of the awareness team. It protects, first and foremost, the women concerned, but also the team members themselves. A widespread network and extensive confidence building activities, enable the team to raise awareness and offer support despite the many challenges. Malini and Akash explain their approach thus: „We usually take up first contact with community leaders, the council of elders or head teachers within a community. If they agree and come to trust us, we can also gain the trust of the communities.“

At their events, the two not only talk about human trafficking and violence, but also campaign for access to education for

women, empower young women towards self-determination and provide information about training and career opportunities. The employable skills training project run by Usthi, together with the same partner organisation in Hyderabad, offers 16 courses in various career areas and, for women who live in the women’s homes, they are free of charge. The women’s homes and employable skills training courses complement each other. Having completed the training course successfully strengthens the women on their path to financial independence, gives structure to their lives and creates new prospects for them. At the same time, it offers those affected an easily accessible opportunity to escape a violent environment, since they can use the training course as a justification for staying for several months within the project campus in Hyderabad.

Strong women, strong role models

It takes time and building their trust, before a woman will dare to go to a women’s home. The awareness campaign team will offer support to the women, in many cases, for months. Women who had previously sought protection within the women’s homes, play a particularly important role in establishing contact with victims of violence. The project team will remain in contact with the young women even after they have completed their



As part of the awareness campaign, workshops are also held in schools.



The awareness campaign team informs young adults about the possibilities of employable skills training courses.

training and have left the women's homes. In their new place of residence, having successfully completed an employable skills training course, they set an inspiring example to other women and can reassure them that a different future is possible. Akash and Malini are contacted time and again by women having formerly sought refuge, to inform them of other cases of suspected abuse. The team also receives reports of suspected domestic violence or abuse from local associations, affected groups and a special police unit, with whom the team works closely.

„A woman cannot break out of human trafficking or a difficult family situation overnight – it often takes months.“

– Malini, member of the awareness team

„I used to cry with her.“

With her many years of work experience, but also as a woman and as a mother, Malini personally supports many of the young women. „When I hear their stories, words fail me. No words can do justice to their incalculable suffering. Nevertheless, I try to comfort them.“ In light of the taboo surrounding suffering from violence and abuse, comfort and reassurance from confidants like Malini are crucial. Upon request, the team will support the young women in filing a criminal charge.

The work for the awareness campaign is draining, and the employees often don't get home until late. The two of them report honestly that their tasks are difficult, and some situations weigh heavily on them. But Akash and Malini are convinced that their tireless commitment and patience are worth it: „A woman

cannot break out of human trafficking or a difficult family situation overnight – it often takes months. But one thing is certain: Once women are aware and have access to education, they will fight back. They will stand up for the fact that others do not have the right to decide over their lives. Knowledge and education are key to making a difference.“

*Names have been changed for this text, in order to protect the employees.

BIG AND SMALL HIGHLIGHTS FROM EVERYDAY PROJECT WORK



On the children's home's „Contribution Day“, neighbours, former residents, employees and acquaintances gathered to support the children's homes with gifts, large and small. Visitors came with their hands full and the kitchen pantry quickly filled up. Past residents paid a visit to their former home. The cheerful get-together over the lavish buffet provided an ideal opportunity to strengthen the project's local anchoring in Hyderabad.

Over 90% of those successfully completing the employable skills training courses in Hyderabad go on to start a successful career. Some of them become self-employed and open, for example, a tailor's business, a beauty salon or work as electricians. Since 2024, Usthi has supported around 100 of these entrepreneurs with basic equipment. Sewing machines, beauty treatment couches and tool boxes enable the small businesses to get off to a flying start.



„Poshan Maah“ is celebrated in India in the month of September. The „Nutrition Month“ was proclaimed nationally for the first time in 2018 to sensitise the population to the topic of healthy nutrition. In September 2024, the social workers from the Health and Education Project in the tribal area of Odisha organised celebrations in the nine day care centres. The small events serve as an opportunity to raise awareness. „The aim of the events was to pass on to parents the importance of food diversity in our daily meals,“ explains the project manager.



Children's Day on 14 November is a highlight in India. In contrast to other festivals, when children perform dances and songs, the roles are reversed on this day in schools. Accompanied by lots of children's laughter, the teachers perform short theatre sequences. Disguise and self-irony are a must, as seen here in the performance of a teacher from Thaddeus School near Kolkata.

42 health workers bring primary health care to the villages in the tribal area of Odisha. To cover the distances in the remote region, they often travel by bicycle. The women not only provide first aid, but are also an important link to the Tribal Health Centre. Last November, eleven new employees received their bicycles.



Around 120 girls and boys from Penthakata School were given the opportunity in 2024 to complete a swimming course. Twice per week, during the summer term, they were able to learn the basics of swimming at the city's newly opened swimming pool. The courses are open to pupils from the fourth to the eighth year and were well attended - hardly surprising, as the Penthakata settlement borders directly on the sea and swimming is therefore an important skill for the children. The course fees for the Penthakata schoolchildren were paid by the local council.



TAKING A CLOSER LOOK: PROJECT EVALUATION IN DHADING

The pilot phase of the project “Empowering Children and Families” was launched five years ago in the Dhading district of Nepal. Since then, over 175 schoolchildren have received educational support, investments have been made in educational quality at 15 public schools and 111 families have been helped to improve their income. After five years of the project, it was time to take a closer look at how effective the project is. What is working well? Where is there potential for improvement?

Together with our partner organisation in Nepal and University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland, Usthi carried out a comprehensive project evaluation. Two students from UCC’s International Development programme travelled to Nepal in April 2024 for four months. They spent several weeks in the project region of Thakre, a rural community in the district of Dhading, where they collected data for the evaluation through school and home visits, discussions with focus groups and almost 100 interviews. They were advised and accompanied on location by the head of Usthi’s Nepalese partner organisation, himself an expert in scientific project analyses. The evaluation analyses the relevance, effectiveness and long-term impact of the education project.

The positive conclusion: „The project has achieved significant progress in improving educational access, teaching quality, and student well-being.“ The project is supporting disadvantaged children and their families, including members of indigenous communities, Dalit families, low down in the caste system, as well as children with visual impairment. The project is, moreover, improving educational quality at 15 public schools, e.g. through advanced training for teachers and investment in infrastructure.

Creative survey of schoolchildren

In addition to scientific interview guidelines, the study authors also designed creative evaluation methods for the younger schoolchildren. Motivated by a game of make-believe, the

children drew their dream village in an ideal world. The answers, from discussion of the pictures, paint visions of harmonious co-existence. Education for all, plants and trees as well as a water tap in the schoolyard, religious freedom and a community free of discrimination were among the children’s most prominent wishes. By supporting disadvantaged children, investing in the school buildings and organising workshops for teachers and parents – e.g. on gender equality or trauma-sensitive teaching – the project is helping to bring the children’s dreams one step closer.

Fit and motivated for school

A particularly welcome finding is that the project not only improves attendance at school, but also the children’s enthusiasm. The school materials they receive motivate the children

and strengthen their awareness of the relevance of education. This is also clearly reflected in improved school grades. Some children say that they prefer going to school thanks to the school uniforms, because the uniform protects them from the shame of their threadbare clothes. Others simply look forward to going to kindergarten because they have fun

with the new toys. Older children do their homework more reliably because they have the materials they need. In addition, the support for families, diversifying their income streams, relieves the household budget, so that the children have more time for school instead of having to help out at home.

Gaps and potential for expansion

The evaluation shows successes, but also gaps in the project. Whilst younger children receive comprehensive support, activities for older children could still be expanded. For example, adolescents have to take more notes in class and, therefore, need more exercise books. Older schoolchildren would also like additional laptops and textbooks to help them prepare for their final exams.

Interesting insights can also be drawn from the conversations with families who have received, from the project, e.g. goats, chickens or oxen. Receiving livestock or fruit trees is inten-

„The project has achieved significant progress in improving educational access, teaching quality, and student well-being.“

– Extract from the evaluation report



The project not only improves attendance in class, but also the children's motivation.

ded to enable the parents to improve their financial situation so that, long-term, they can pay for their children's education themselves. Most of the families reported that the assistance provides them with an important source of income, even if it is dependent on the weather and the health of the animals. With hindsight, the new livestock farmers criticised that the training courses on animal husbandry were not more detailed. In addition, some would have liked a financial contribution and helping hands for construction of animal shelters. In its project work, Usthi emphasises the importance of the families themselves contributing to project activities, as this strengthens their sense of personal responsibility. The evaluation has now shown that this poses a challenge for some of the families. It is precisely such findings that are valuable for Usthi, as they provide a solid basis for the further development of the project.

Moving forward with valuable insights

The evaluation confirms that the education project in Nepal is reaching the correct target group and is making a significant contribution to high-quality education for children. The support for families is also showing its impact and can stabilise families' financial situation for the long term.

At the same time, the evaluation also shows that the needs of families and schools remain high. In 2025, Usthi and the partner organisation are expanding their support for children with visual impairments. At the beginning of the year, Braille paper, tactile teaching materials and warm blankets were procured so that the 22 residents of the home for visually impaired children

can start the new school year well equipped. Together with our partner, Usthi will continue the project with great commitment into the future and further develop it, in order to maximise its potential and give the children access to high-quality education.

BUILDING AND PROMOTING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Usthi's commitment would be unthinkable without the tireless work of our local partner organisations. The joint projects are based on long-standing partnerships and intensive co-operation. Usthi was involved in the founding process of two of our partner institutions. They have since grown into professional non-profit organisations.

Our partner organisations in India and Nepal are continually developing. For example, our partner organisation in Hyderabad began in 2007 with a children's home for 20 vulnerable children. Today, the organisation has grown to become Usthi's largest partner, with whom we are carrying out six projects. Thanks to a professional organisational structure, they are able to utilize synergies between the individual projects and empower employees. As a result, the projects benefit both from the knowledge gained from day-to-day project work and from the knowledge and coordination skills of the project managers. Usthi attaches great importance to strengthening its partner organisations. In addition to many positive developments, we also encounter challenges. For example, developments at Usthi and the partner organisations do not always run precisely in parallel, and some priorities are set differently or shift in importance. An important part of our work is therefore to uncover misunderstandings, tackle challenges together and foster a culture of open communication.

Generating local financial support for projects

An important component in strengthening the partner organisations is the expansion of local funding. Two of our partner organisations have set up social enterprises for this purpose. The companies create fairly-paid jobs in the region and profits are invested directly in social projects. Last year, Usthi supported the textile processing centre

in Hyderabad, one of the social enterprises, in purchasing new machines to serve a further market segment. This will enable the company to increase its profits for the long term and thus make a greater contribution to financing project costs. The second large social enterprise is a hospital in Bhubaneswar with around 30 beds, which since 2000 has been providing high-quality medical care for inpatients. Local financing opportunities created by the social enterprises give the partners greater financial independence and ensure long-term implementation of the projects.

The partner organisations are also working to expand local fundraising. Support from private individuals in India ranges from sacks of rice or egg cartons, such as those brought to the children's homes by neighbours, to larger financial donations. A larger donation was e.g. used to equip two classrooms at Penthakata School with new desks. In 2024, our partner organisations were able to self-finance a total of 13% of local expenditure, using revenue from, inter alia, social enterprises, local donations and contributions from project participants such as school or course fees.

Strengthening local networking

Usthi's partner organisations have a profound understanding of local circumstances and actively maintain their regional networks. It is only the support they receive in the villages and neighbourhoods which makes their work possible, in the first place. Our partners work closely with public authorities, civil society organisations and other local stakeholders. Usthi supports the development of their partner organisations by providing professional project support and advice. At the same time, we can learn a lot from our partners about the impact of the projects and benefit from their expertise in project work.





The 13 projects are based on long-standing partnerships with Usthi's five partner organisations.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FOUNDER

At the time of writing down my thoughts, a ceasefire has been reached in Gaza under international pressure. However, this partial easing of tensions for the population urgently needs to be expanded if it is to be sustainable in the long term - at least one initial, positive development for the future after a year characterised by destruction and war in Ukraine and the Middle East. Progressive renunciation of international obligations has become fashionable and enjoys high priority. The past year was defined by ever increasing polarisation between democracy and autocracy. In the future, we shall have to live with new challenges posed by political decisions taken by the major power blocs of the USA, Russia, China and, increasingly, India. The international community will have to face up to these geopolitical changes. Usthi is also called upon to integrate social changes into setting objectives and their implementation. A discourse that has become a continual process for Usthi in the midst of the ever faster changing conditions in Switzerland and especially in India/Nepal.

Usthi moves between the Indian subcontinent of India/Nepal and Switzerland - two extremely different contexts which are not developing along the same lines. Co-operation with all stakeholders in our goals, based on mutual respect, fosters understanding for other cultures and world views. Involving the whole community in finding solutions to existing problems and implementing them, ultimately leads to long-term impact.

Over the past year, Usthi has cultivated and intensified important relationships with leading figures in politics, administration and the private sector. This is a process that is a top priority for Usthi and has been practised since the very beginning. We endeavour to incorporate the experience and capabilities of various public and private institutions into our decisions. In addition, the expertise of our local partner organisations and the experience of project participants are crucial for Usthi to the development and implementation of the projects.

Usthi is ideally positioned to master the challenges of the future. In this annual re-

port, the Usthi team reports on its objectives, operational milestones and the impact achieved. My task was to conduct an (understandably incomplete) analysis of the social conditions in which the operational Usthi team had to work over the past year.

You, dear Readers, alongside the Usthi team and the Board of Trustees, are the most important people and with equal ranking on our list of priorities. Without your support, it would be impossible for us to achieve the objectives we have set.

It is my great pleasure as my reflections on the past year draw to a close, to express my sincere thanks to the ever-growing Usthi family.

Sincerely, Kurt Bürki



Kurt Bürki
Founder of the Usthi
Foundation

USTHI IN FIGURES

In 2024, thanks to the generous support of individuals and institutions, Usthi was able further to expand its projects and increase their impact in targeted areas. Together with our partner organisations, we have especially invested in the education quality and employable skills training, in order to meet changing circumstances and offer young people the best possible prospects for the future.

It is with sincere gratitude that we are able to publish having received donations, in 2024, totalling CHF 1,237,327 - compared to CHF 1,123,152 in the previous year. Some of the income represents multi-year commitments, hence CHF 242,500 having been designated as deferred income in the annual financial statement and booked under liabilities. Financial resources generated for 2024 because of this, amount to CHF 994,827. Our operating expense totalled CHF 1,074,253, compared with CHF 968,225 in 2023. Thanks to earmarked donations from 2023, we were able to achieve a balanced budget. CHF 877,441 of the income flowed directly into our projects, which represents an increase of 11.4% compared with the previous year. The remaining CHF 196,812 was used for public relations work, fundraising and administrative tasks in Switzerland.

82% of the donations directly benefit the projects

Efficiency and sustainability are top priorities at Usthi. We utilise donations in a focused and cost-efficient manner and ensure that resources are used responsibly. With five part-time employees in the head office totalling 3.1 full-time equivalents (FTE), we

deliberately keep office expenditure to a minimum. Usthi is also able to count on the valuable support of volunteers, representing, in 2024, a total of around 400 working days, corresponding to around 1.7 FTE. This means that around 82% of all donations - or CHF 82 out of every CHF 100 - directly benefit the people in India and Nepal. This puts Usthi above the average of other ZEWO-certified organisations.

Communicate transparently

Since 2013, Usthi has been the proud bearer of the ZEWO seal of approval, which certifies the trustworthy and responsible handling of donations. The annual financial statement was prepared in accordance with the principles of Swiss GAAP FER and ZEWO and approved by auditors „BDO AG“. Detailed annual financial accounts and the audit report can be viewed on our website www.usthi.ch.

Application for funds from the Swiss Government

Every four years, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) awards programme contributions to civil society organisations which are active in its sphere of influence. In 2024, as a member of the NGO Alliance for Resilient Communities, Usthi and three other organisations submitted a comprehensive application to the SDC for funding for the 2025-2028 project period. The application was assessed by an independent panel of experts as being of high quality. Nevertheless, the SDC decided against funding the NGO alliance. Usthi understands this decision, amongst other things, in the context of the SDC's parliamentary budget cuts for 2025 and the significantly reduced financial plan for the SDC up to 2028.

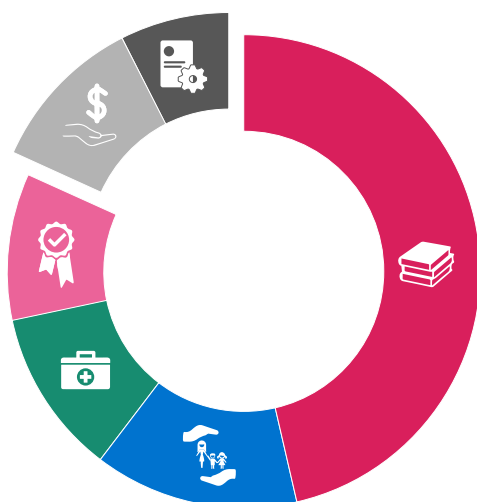
The Kurt Bürki-Foundation was created for the sole purpose of providing sustainable financial security for the Usthi Foundation. The Kurt Bürki-Foundation receives endowments as well as legacies, which are utilised comprehensively and effectively for the work of Usthi.

By leaving a legacy in your will, you create long-term prospects for young people. We are extremely grateful for your generous donations.



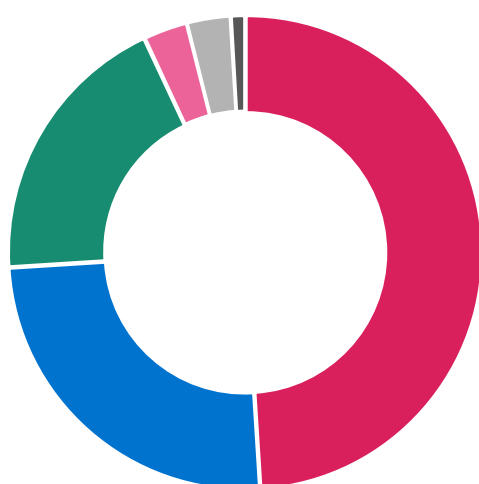
www.kurt-buerki-stiftung.ch

Use of funds



- 47% School Education
- 14% Protection & Empowerment
- 11% Health
- 10% Employable Skills Training
- 11% Fundraising & Public Relations
- 7% Administration

Origin of funds



- 49% Foundations
- 25% Private donors
- 19% Public sector
- 3% Private sector
- 3% Religious institutions
- 1% Associations & Service Clubs

Balance Sheet

Assets	31.12.24	31.12.23
	CHF	CHF
Liquid Assets	863'388	694'770
Deferred Assets	9'896	24'632
Current assets	873'284	719'402
Office rental deposit account	7'855	4'232
Fixed assets	7'855	4'232
Total Assets	881'139	723'634
Liabilities		
Deferred Income	264'513	29'678
Liabilities	264'513	29'678
Project Funds:		
Ananda redevelopment	0	103'661
Employable skills training	0	11'216
Education Nepal	40'752	33'827
Children's homes	5'029	0
Thaddeus School	18'849	18'476
Post-Covid education support	0	13'664
School Education India	123'246	86'062
Fund Capital	187'876	266'906
Foundation assets	530'709	530'709
Free capital	-103'659	-112'191
Annual result	1'700	8'532
Organisation Capital	428'750	427'050
Total Liabilities	881'139	723'634

Operational Statement

	2024	2023
	CHF	CHF
Undesignated donations	305'219	293'068
Designated donations	689'608	830'084
Fundraising income	994'827	1'123'152
Project expenditure	-877'441	-787'342
Administrative expenditure	-80'702	-70'061
Fundraising expenditure	-116'110	-110'822
Operating expenditure	-1'074'253	-968'225
Operating result	-79'426	154'927
Financial income	2'794	46
Financial expenditure	-697	-5'150
Result before change to fund capital	-77'329	149'823
Allocation to project funds	-689'608	-830'084
Utilisation of project funds	768'638	688'793
Change to fund capital	79'030	-141'291
Annual result after change to fund capital	1'700	8'532
Annual result after changes to organisation capital	0	0

OUTLOOK

Usthi strives continually to develop its projects and co-operation with partner organisations. Exciting project milestones are coming up in 2025. We look forward to tackling the next Usthi year together with you.

Project developments

At Penthakata School, planning for a major extension to the school building is beginning. The extension is to meet changing official regulations and to obtain state recognition for internal final examinations, for years nine and ten. The extension will create space to further develop the project and opportunities to provide the school with a broader local financial base.

In Somagiri, a comprehensive assessment of the Tribal Health Centre and the health network is pending. Since the hospital opened in 1983, the remote region surrounding the hospital has continued to develop. The local range of medical services has also changed over the years. The impact and relevance of the Tribal Health Centre and the healthcare network will, therefore, be reassessed in 2025. The evaluation will serve Usthi as a management tool for future projects.

Upcoming withdrawal from a project

Responsibility for the Thaddeus School in the village of Bhastara will be handed over to the partner organisation at the end of 2025. Usthi set up the school near Kolkata together with Thaddeus Getzmann and a local partner in 2007. In the meantime, the partner organisation has evolved and built up its own sources of funding. For some time now, it has also been possible to cover part of the costs incurred at the Thaddeus School through school fees. In consultation with Thaddeus Getzmann, Usthi is currently in the process of completely handing over the school to the partner organisation.

Together into the future

An imminent event is inspiring us to look a little further ahead than usual. In 2026, the Usthi Foundation will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. We shall be starting preparations in 2025, to honour, together with you, five decades of dedicated work in India and Nepal. The latest information on the upcoming programme will be made available to you in our newsletter or via the website and social media channels.

The Usthi team is looking forward to an eventful year and, with you at our side, is ready to tackle the challenges ahead. With your support, we can further expand projects, strengthen their impact and initiate positive changes together with our partner organisations.

Together into the future: pupils at Penthakata School take things into their own hands.



The annual Usthi Event will take place in Maur on **27 September 2025**. We look forward to active discussions with you and invite you to celebrate with us.

OUR THANKS

Thank you for joining us in creating prospects for young people in India and Nepal. Only your support makes Usthi's work possible. We are delighted to count you among the Usthi community!

Special thanks go to:

- All private donors for their generous support and long-standing confidence in us. We are extremely grateful for all contributions, whether large or small, because together we can make a significant difference.
- All institutions supporting Usthi with funding.
- All parishes supporting Usthi with collections and donations.
- All associations and private individuals who organise fundraisers and spread the word on Usthi's work.
- Our partner organisations and all employees who work with total dedication on the projects.
- Founder Kurt Bürki for his active support.
- The Usthi Board of Trustees for their competent support.
- Benefactor Dr. Thomas Fischer and the Kurt Bürki-Foundation Board of Trustees for the co-operation.
- Thaddeus Getzmann and his family and friends for their continued support of the Thaddeus School.
- Volunteers Donatella Suter and Tim Dean, who have been supporting Usthi for years.
- Luca Mondgenast for the layout of the annual report.
- Heather O'Connell and Grace Kingston for the in-depth evaluation of the project "Empowering Children & Families" in Nepal.
- Larissa Bachmann for her contribution to the project "Empowering Children & Families" during her stay in Nepal.
- All the volunteers who actively support Usthi and make Usthi events possible.



General contributions

ABC Systems AG - Reformed Parish Tablat-St.Gallen - Municipality of Maur - Kiwanis Club Zürich am Stampfenbach - Municipality of Rapperswil-Jona - Raiffeisenbank am Ricken - Reformed Parish Küsnacht - Rotary Club Zürcher Weinland - Rütli Foundation - Swissair Aid for Children - tourasia Roemer AG - Rotary Club Oberer Zürichsee



Support in the area of Protection & Empowerment

Aline Andrea Rutz Foundation - Anne Frank Fund - Fagus lucida-Foundation - Loom Foundation - Charitable women's association Rapperswil-Jona - Siblings Keller Foundation for Orphans - J&K Wonderland Foundation - Canton of Schaffhausen - Catholic Parish of Meilen - Federation of Migros Co-operatives - Reformed Church, Canton of Zug - Rosa und Bernhard Merz-Foundation - Mutter Bernarda Foundation Menzingen - Vontobel-Foundation



Support in the area of Health

Canton of Basel-City - Catholic Church Maria Frieden Dübendorf - Catholic Church St. Michael Zollikon-Zumikon - Catholic Church Uster - Plato Foundation - Catholic Parish of Wettingen



Support in the area of Education

Aline Andrea Rutz Foundation - atDta Foundation - Bärbel & Paul Geissbühler Foundation - David Bruderer Foundation - Municipality of Baar - Fondation May-Oui - Gebauer Foundation - Municipality of Freienbach - Municipality of Küsnacht - Municipality of Riehen - Ingeborg Dénes-Muhr Foundation - J&K Wonderland Foundation - Canton of St.Gallen - Karl Meyer Foundation - Catholic Parish of Winterthur - Rotary Foundation Chur - City of Zug - Katharina & Tyge Clemmensen Foundation - Swissair Aid for Children - Swisslos-Fund Canton of Glarus - Swisslos-Fund Canton of Obwalden - Swisslos Fund Canton of Solothurn - Tauro Foundation - TESTEX AG - UTIL Foundation - Solidarity Association Rämibühl Zürich - Walter und Louise M. Davidson-Foundation

Those mentioned by name are institutions with a contribution of CHF 1,000 or more.



Healthy and educated.

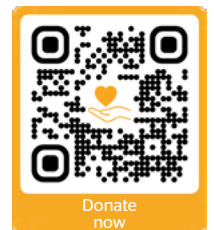
Creating opportunities for young people since 1976.

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By making an endowment during your lifetime or leaving a legacy to the Kurt Bürki-Foundation under laws of succession, you can make a crucial contribution to the long-term financial security of the Usthi Foundation.

More information about the
Kurt Bürki-Foundation