

# KAM FOR SUD

*Kasturi Mirga Forum for Sustainable Development*

Registered office: c/o lawyer. Antonio Galli, Corso Elvezia 16, CH-6900 Lugano, Svizzera  
Information c/o Silvia Lafranchi Pittet, CH-6670 Avegno, Switzerland +41.(0)91.6309708  
info@kamforsud.org www.kamforsud.org

## Activity Report 2009

### INAUGURATING THE FARM-ORPHANAGE IN TATHALI

After much work, it is with great pleasure that we inaugurated the farm-orphanage in Tathali on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The three houses are now ready to welcome 60-70 orphaned or abandoned children, as well as three couples of new parents. The agricultural land around the orphanage has been in production for a long time already, thanks to Ram and Deepak's passion and hard work. Ten initial children have already begun a new life in Tathali, leaving what was a sad or difficult past behind them. Goma, Sameer, Sandesh, Sunil, Sujan, Sujina, Sagar, Sunil, Srijana, and Milan now enjoy a new family, affection, education, care, and are all progressively rediscovering serenity and happiness.



These ten children, like the others that will soon live in Tathali, are now looking for distant godfathers and godmothers: with 90.- CHF / month, you can secure one child's access to food, housing, clothing, school fees, extracurricular activities, medical care... and the affection of two new parents and several brothers and sisters. Would you like to offer a brighter future to a child that has been abandoned or that lives in extremely poor conditions? For the children of the Tathali farm-orphanage as well as for those who receive help while staying in their families (currently over one hundred!), each sponsor is precious! For more information, feel free to contact Aurora Guggisberg, person in charge for sponsorships, by phone (091-7434386) or at the following email address: info@kamforsud.org.

We had the pleasure of welcoming some thirty visitors from Switzerland for the inauguration ceremony. The group was greeted by the committee for Kam For Sud's Nepalese branch committee, by a number of hosts, and by our friends from the music band Sukarma, whose sitar, sarangi, and tabla were a delight to everyone.





A singular effort was put into building an ecologically balanced structure, hence enabling –for the first time in Nepal– the construction of a complex where techniques and knowledge converge, most of which already existed in the country, but that had never been assembled into a unique global concept. In summary: use of bricks and building materials with a low environmental impact, collection of rainwater in an underground tank for purposes of irrigation during the dry season, purification

of waste water by reed-bed using *Phragmites australis* (common reed) with subsequent use of the obtained water for irrigation, production of biogas from solid organic waste, use of solar ovens, production of photovoltaic electricity for purposes of lightning and water pumping, and use of direct solar energy for production of sanitary hot water. We gratefully thank Paolo Kaehr and his colleagues from the "Environment Construction and Design" department in the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland, who, after winning the "award for best teaching 2009" for didactic work on the architectural integration of photovoltaic modules, generously decided to offer their prize to finance the farm-orphanage's photovoltaic installations.

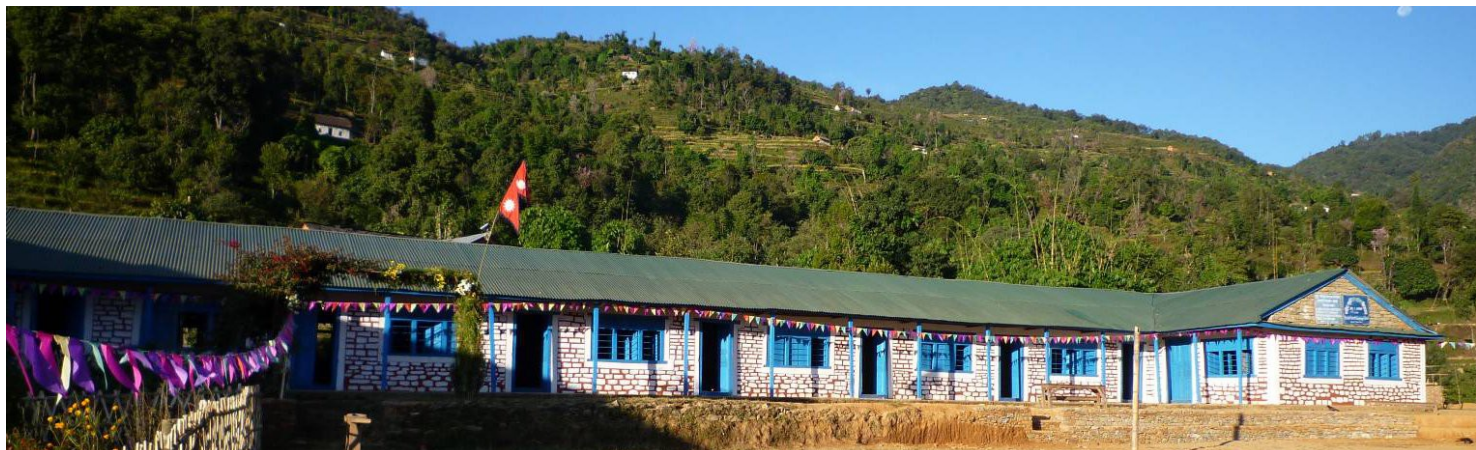


Many other donors have enabled Kam For Sud to pursue its efforts since the beginning of this project, offering small or large contributions. Together, we have made a dream come true and added new possibilities to these children's destinies. The three houses were respectfully dedicated to the memories of Luca Lafranchi, Franco Tettamanti, and Virginia Cavagna. Kam For Sud addresses everyone profound and heartfelt thanks.

### TEN YEARS, A PRIZE FOR THE SCHOOL, AND ELECTRICITY ARRIVING IN SAIPU

After inaugurating the farm-orphanage, Kam For Sud's founding group went to mark the ten years of existence of the school in Saipu, where they were greeted by a crowd of celebrating pupils and parents, with hundreds of flower garlands, dances and songs.





We discovered with great pleasure that the school received a prize from the Nepalese government, with two specific mentions: the first for the quality of the school building, the second for the important number of attending girls, a figure remarkably higher than the national average.

In the future, the community would like to extend the school –that presently offers lessons up to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (the end of basic schooling)– so that it may accept pupils until 12<sup>th</sup> grade, a level that would allow those sufficiently motivated to then move to town and study at the university.



Furthermore, the micro-hydropower plant has brought artificial lightning to the village for the first time (four or two bulbs per house, according to the financial capacity of the family). The community now also plans on using the electricity available during the daytime to power two computers at the school, to be used by pupils of the higher grades.

The hydropower plant was co-financed by Kam For Sud (25%), the Nepalese government (50%), district authorities (10%) and the inhabitants themselves, who raised funds in each family (15%). It will also be used to power the planned medical health-post, dedicated to the memory of Gianni Goltz.

### **MEDICAL HEALTH-POST IN MEMORY OF GIANNI GOLTZ**

A committee for the construction and maintenance of the future health-post has been formed in Saipu. It is currently selecting people to receive the medical training that will guarantee the clinic's proper functioning. Kam For Sud has already financed the purchase of the required land, situated close to the school and registered to the name of the local community. The construction of the building and the staff training will take place simultaneously.





## **EDUCATION AND MEDICAL CARE FOR 50 STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU**

In collaboration with the Nepalese NGO "RODEC", that has been actively defending children's rights for several years, Kam For Sud is maintaining a center for children who are abandoned during the daytime, while their parents work all day without making enough money to afford sending them to school. In one of the most underprivileged areas of Kathmandu, this center welcomes fifty children each day, providing necessary care and offering them a place to stay out of school hours or when they have the day off. As well as basic school education, children are given a full meal in the morning plus a snack in the afternoon, supervision during extracurricular activities, and basic medical care.



## **WELCOME TO THE KAM FOR SUD BAZAAR IN LOCARNO**



Open since spring 2009, the Kam For Sud Bazaar is located in Locarno, via F. Rusca 2 – just between the Piazza Grande and the Visconteo castle. It is run by voluntary sales workers and offers a wide display of Himalayan products, all resulting from fair and sustainable trade: carpets, fabrics, clothes of natural fiber, lokta paper, crafted felt, jewelry, photographs, ayurvedic cosmetics, spices, Himalayan tea and salt, perfumed sachets, essential oils, knitted and woven pashminas, decorative objects, etc. It goes without saying that all benefits are used to sustain Kam For Sud projects, and that you are welcome to visit us in our Bazaar-headquarters.

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE? BECOME A MEMBER OF KAM FOR SUD!**

There is no doubt about the matter: working for Kam For Sud is a demanding task. However, it is also one that generates a lot of happiness, not exclusively in Nepal. In order to help finance inevitable working expenses, Kam For Sud is calling upon all those who feel audacious enough to believe in dreams and who long for a better world. By becoming a member and paying an annual fee of CHF 100.-, you actively take part in our common work and allow us to optimally manage donations destined to projects in Nepal.

**Thank you !**

**धन्यवाद**

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**Bank ref.: Associazione Kam For Sud, Banca dello Stato, CH - 6000 Locarno**  
**Account n° 3582660001000001,**  
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