

# KAM FOR SUD

## *Kasturi Mirga Forum for Sustainable Development*

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## Activity report 2011

### THE FARM-ORPHANAGE IN TATHALI

Two years have gone by since the opening of the farm-orphanage in Tathali. The emotional bonds between the children and their new parents have become stronger and deeper. A general atmosphere of serenity can be felt in Tathali; this is without a doubt the greatest reward for the work Kam For Sud invested in this strenuous project. Although we sometimes face important psychological injuries, the affection and the devotion the three couples of parents dedicate to the children sometimes seem to work small miracles.



**Prasthan:** "My dad died when I was born. When I was about two years old, my mum and her new husband took me to a village. But one day they disappeared. For some time I stayed in that place, begging or stealing food and sleeping here and there. Even here, in Tathali, at the beginning I used to ask the teacher in school for food, or I would steal the other pupils' snacks. Not any more, though, because I have found out that there is always enough rice and lentils. My new mum is called Pushpa, and she loves me more than anybody else has until now. Sometimes it doesn't seem real to me."



**Priya:** "In the beginning, I lived with my mum in a house that belonged to rich people. My mum used to work there as a maid. When my mum decided she didn't want live any more, the old landlady kept me for some time. But all the others used to treat me harshly because I didn't know who my dad was, and also because of the complicated situation with my mum... Then one day Rajan came to get me and brought me to Tathali. Here, I have a new mum, and even a dad, for the first time. He's called Shyam, and he smiles a lot."



**Tenzing:** "I don't know whether I was born like this, or if I got sick when I was small. I don't remember. I have one leg that is shorter than the other, and it's difficult for me to breathe. Before I came to Tathali, I was in a monastery where the monks gave me food. I didn't go to school because of my legs. Since I've been living with my new family, my legs have gotten a lot stronger: I walk each day to school, I play with the other children, and I nearly never fall down any more. The doctor said I would never cure completely, but if I work hard in school, I'll still be able to get a job when I'm an adult."



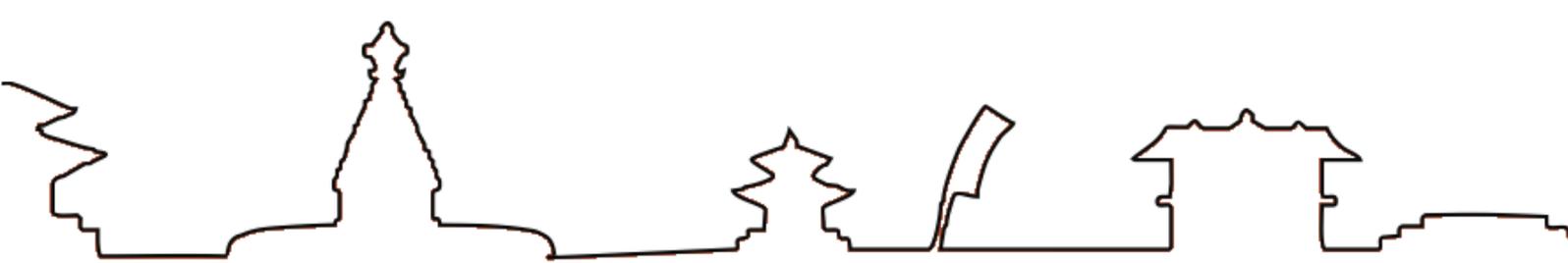
**Bhibisa:** "One day, my first mum stopped coming home. So my dad married another woman, but she wasn't really a mum, because she wasn't good with me and she would often beat me. When my dad stopped coming home too, I felt very alone. But later Rajan came and he brought me to my new parents. They promised that they would never leave me alone again. Now, I even have many brothers and sisters, and we have a lot of fun together. I want to stay here forever."



**Goma:** "One day my first mum didn't come home any more. My dad was a bit strange, and he couldn't work. I was always hungry, and I would have followed anybody who would have given me food. I asked for left-overs in other houses of the village. One day, one of the teachers from my village took me to town. He said we were going to look for a new family for me. My new mum is called Parvati, and she really loves us. I'm sure of that, because when little Iva was born from her tummy, she didn't change her mind. She came back home from the hospital, and she'll always stay with us."



**Dinesh:** "My dad died when I was four yeas old. One year later, my mum went away too, and since that day everything became very difficult. We didn't have enough to eat, and in the village nobody could help us. My older brothers went to look for work, but they couldn't look after me. In the beginning, in Tathali, I couldn't understand the language the other children were speaking, because our dialect is very different. But now I speak Nepali and I study English at school. I feel well with my new family."



**Ishma:** "I came to Tathali with mum and dad. Before, we lived in a flat in town. Sometimes I would like to have mum and dad only to myself. But only sometimes, because after all, it's nice to have a big house with plenty of brothers and sisters to play with. Here, we even have a cowshed with a cow, a calf, a buffalo and plenty of hens. And fish, in the aquarium. We live in the yellow house. Next to it, there's the red house and the green house."



**Pietro Santoro, educator:** "This year I went to Tathali twice to continue the pedagogic training with the parents. Together, we spoke about the topics they consider the most important for the appropriate accompaniment of the children. During our seminars, we spoke at length about sexual education, and how to negotiate the children's anxieties and questions regarding their own origins. All three couples, as well as Rajan, the coordinator, are always very interested and engaged. They ask questions and bring concrete situations to the table, so that we can analyse them. Our conversations are always intense and enriching, and most of all, they give good results in the management of everyday life in Tathali."



**Anouchka Panchard, student:** "From March to June 2011, I gave daily lessons in music and the creative arts to the children of the farm-orphanage. During these lessons, I made different instruments available to the children, and stimulated them to explore music and the visual arts. This was a strong experience for me, it changed my vision of the world. I think that the emotions and energies that are channelled and turned into music and drawing are beneficial for the well-being of each child. They make learning more efficient and later allow one to be more in touch with one's own emotions, objective and aspirations."



**Christian Emery, teacher** "From September 2011 to March 2012 I am accomplishing a civil service period with Kam For Sud in Tathali's school. I accompany the teachers daily in their didactic work, and am attempting to transfer innovative and modern methods to them, which improve the pupils' learning capacities. When I am not in the school, I live in Tathali's farm-orphanage. I help the children do their homework and spend many pleasant hours with the children as well as with the adults in this very welcoming and joyful place. I'm even learning Nepali..."

**What can you do for these children?** To allow all these children and the adults that accompany them to continue living serenely, to grow up, to learn, and to get better every day, Kam For Sud invites all those who desire to share their own material well-being to become distant sponsors. To avoid differences in treatment, group sponsorships rather than personal ones are planned. In other words, the sponsors jointly insure the good functioning of the structure as a whole. The cost for each child is CHF 90.- per month. Kam For Sud heartily thanks all those who participate in this direct and concrete way in the success of this project. Picture: the projects coordinators Silvia Lafranchi Pittet (centre) and Rajan Shrestha (right), with the three families of the Tathali farm-orphanage.





## THE SCHOOL IN SAIPU

After the civilists Julien Rey (August 2010 - February 2011) and Ivan Deschenaux (January – July 2011), the teacher Christoph Graph is accomplishing his civil service in the school Kam For Sud built in Saipu. From August 2011 he has been continuing the didactic work that his predecessors had initiated. Another civilist, Patrick Wigger, initiated a similar teacher accompaniment program in the school of another ward of Saipu. Indeed, considering the successful results of the program, Kam For Sud has decided to extend its didactic support to other schools of the region. Picture: Patrick Wigger, Christoph Graph and some of the local teachers.



In April, the school of Saipu and the *Bassa Vallemaggia* school in Ticino (Switzerland) simultaneously set up a photo exhibit. This was the result of an exchange program between the second grade classes of Laura Marino and Anna Buloncelli, and the second grade class in Saipu. The pupils from both countries exchanged photographs they had taken of their everyday life. This led to an interesting comparative exhibit that allowed the children from both schools to get a glimpse of far-away, different realities.



## THE "GIANNI GOLTZ" HEALTH POST

The health post project, which was initially planned as an independent structure, is now managed by Kam For Sud in collaboration with the Nepali Department of Health and Sanitation. This naturally allows for a better insertion in the existing health network, and gives the project better guarantees of future independence. Patrick Grassi (centre on the picture), nurse anaesthetist with a solid experience of first aid intervention, has been working since November 2011 in Saipu's health post. He is participating in the practical organisation of the project, the training of the local staff, and the definition of a better health provision strategy. Starting May 2012, a young medical doctor from Neuchâtel will follow up with the training of the Nepali staff.



## THE MICRO HYDRO-POWER PLANTS

After the construction in 2009 of the first hydroelectric micro-power plant in Saipu, two additional small plants were built and inaugurated this year in the region. Similarly to the first project, these were co-financed by Kam For Sud (25%) in collaboration with the Nepali government, the district authorities, and the local population. Picture: one of the canals carrying water to the plant.





## HE WHO FINDS A SPONSOR FINDS A TREASURE

The distant sponsorship program successfully allows more than 200 children from different districts of Nepal to access schooling. These children live in their own families, but escape the sad destinies that are child labour and illiteracy thanks to a sponsor who covers their monthly school expenses. Sponsorships are personal and it is possible to help a child with as little as CHF 30.- per month. This year, Kam For Sud once more calls upon your solidarity: with the equivalent of two coffees per week, you can offer a child protection from exploitation. Aurora Guggisberg (091-7434386, [info@kamforsud.org](mailto:info@kamforsud.org)) will happily provide any information or additional explanations you might require.

## STREET CHILDREN IN KATHMANDU

This year once more, thanks to a partial collaboration of the *Margherita* Foundation, Kam For Sud has carried out, in collaboration with the local NGO RODEC, the activities of the Kathmandu daily centre. The centre welcomes and offers support to 50 children who are abandoned during the day. In addition to schooling, the children receive a complete meal in the morning, a snack in the afternoon, support for extracurricular activities and basic medical care, for a total cost of around CHF 40'000 per year.



## NEW SHIPMENTS AT THE KAM FOR SUD BAZAAR IN LOCARNO

Thanks to the passion and engagement of the group that manages the Kam For Sud bazaar in Locarno, the shop concluded its second year of activity with excellent results. This is a great satisfaction for the fifteen volunteers who bring their own contribution in turns, with devotion and perseverance. Textiles, wools, felts, pashminas, carpets, jewellery, bronze statues, singing bowls, essential oils, spices, amulets, lokta paper, books, photos, sacred art, ayurvedic products,... Pay us a visit, it's well worth it!



## YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Kam For Sud's experience over the past 13 years epitomizes the saying: "unity is strength." Together, we have achieved a lot and continue to do so. Each one of your donations, no matter its nature, is highly appreciated and, as always, entirely geared towards carrying out of the projects in Nepal.

## DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE? BECOME A MEMBER!

By becoming a member of Kam For Sud, with a yearly subscription of CHF 100.-, you actively and concretely participate in our common work, allowing us to manage the projects in Nepal in a serious and professional way. Your participation is precious, and Kam For Sud thanks you heartily! You will find more detailed information as well as our balance sheet on [www.kamforsud.org](http://www.kamforsud.org).