

Dear Members and Sponsors of the Support Group at Swiss TPH,

The Support Group looks back on a pleasing year 2019: we were able to record largely stable contributions and meaningful and well-planned projects were submitted to us for financing. This success is of course backed by you, our members and sponsors, and I thank you very much for your loyalty and support. We also owe this success to a very active and committed board of directors, to whom I would also like to express my thanks at this point - without these two pillars of support, the Support Group would not be the solid small association of today.

Throughout the year, several special activities took place:

The General Assembly of the Support Group took place on 28 May 2019. The Support Group had 77 members and 25 benefactors at the end of 2018. Five projects were supported in 2018, resulting in expenses of CHF 24,536.82. This compares with an income of CHF 19,560.50. The cash balance was CHF 21,683.21 as of 31 December 2018. The Executive Board unanimously approved the cash report as well as various entries and withdrawals.

As part of the Swiss TPH summer party on 21 June, several board members actively recruited new members, and we were able to raffle a clean-up consultation to KonMari donated by board member Nadja Cereghetti. The lucky winner is Barbara Bürkin.

On 21 August we organized a cake and soda sale in the garden of the Swiss TPH and offered selected handicrafts from Cambodia and Sri Lanka. Despite the low temperatures, the stand was completely sold out before the planned end (the cakes were also delicious!), except for the lemonade, which did not really suit the weather.

Motivated by this success, the board decided to be present in public for the first time with a small stand at the Swiss TPH Winter Symposium on 5 - 6 December. The Support Group will be promoted and handicrafts and jewellery from the STEPS project in the Philippines will be offered: the parents of the children taught in the STEPS schools (see Buschtrommel 2-2018) have the opportunity to earn an additional income by producing handicrafts.

Finally, I would like to invite you to our traditional Christmas bazaar – on 4 December you will find a rich selection of beautiful, useful, exotic and surprising objects from all over the world in front of the Matterhorn lecture hall. Spoil yourself and your loved ones with jewellery and bags from the Philippines, handicrafts from Kenya or candlesticks from Morocco! And this year there will also be fine 'Grättima' and punch!

I wish you a merry Christmas and a good start into the year 2020.

Yours sincerely,

**Peter Steinmann**

*Präsident der Support Group am Swiss TPH*



## Completed Projects

### Rehabilitation project for leprosy patients in Myanmar

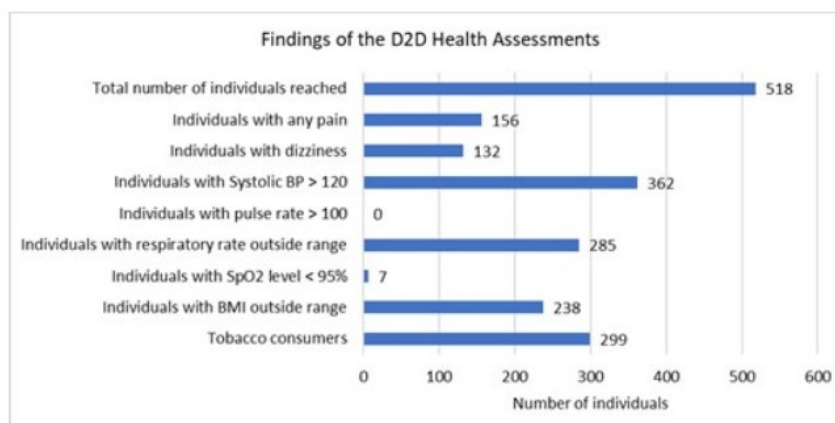
The Support Group supported the project of the association Myiatta Arr Marn by providing the means for 30 male and 30 female young pigs. These were distributed to 30 families in three former leprosy colonies in order to provide them with a basis for pig breeding and thus combat poverty. The families must reimburse the contribution after one year, either in the form of two young pigs or their equivalent in the form of money, so that other families can benefit from support in the following year. In all three villages, the breeding has been successful in the meantime; several families have already sold piglets and paid their debts. Five of the families can already make a living thanks to pig breeding. The project made a lasting contribution to improving the socio-economic status of the people affected by leprosy and promoted their independence and reputation.



## Ongoing Projects

### Medical care study in Manipur, India

The nurse hired by the project started work in June and already examined 518 people. By the end of the pilot phase, a total of 2500 people will have been examined. The free examinations include the measurement of blood pressure, SpO2 oxygen saturation level and body mass index as well as eye checks and respiratory rate. In addition, a blood sugar test is offered for a nominal contribution of 40 rupees. This amount serves to cover the costs. In discussions with the farmers and their families, other health problems







are also identified. The findings will be used to set up a social enterprise focused on offering an improved service package once the pilot phase has been completed. During several information sessions in July, additional health checks were carried out for 172 people.



## New Projects

### Renovation of a school in Botembo, Democratic Republic of Congo

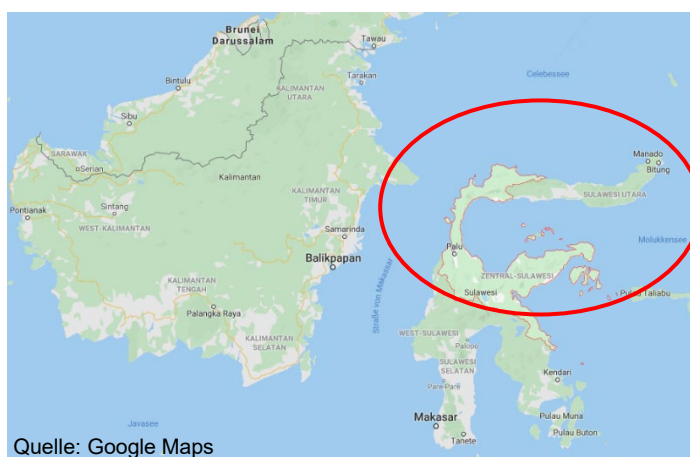
Under the lead of Martin Naef, the Basel-based DarsiLaMano association is supporting a school in Botembo in North Kivu, Congo, where Ebola erupted again in August last year. With 120 pupils, the school is rather small. Hunger is a big problem, so a mother cooks a daily meal for the younger children. In contrast to most schools, the École d'Unité is open to all religions and accepts children and young people who are too poor to pay school fees. This is not self-evident, as the teachers have to be paid by the school. The school has to carry out some urgent repairs and received financial support from the Support Group. Among other things, windows and doors are to be replaced, a cement floor needs to be cast in three rooms and the roof repaired. The renovation work is in progress.





## WASH project in Sulawesi, Indonesia

On 28 September 2018, a severe earthquake shook the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. The quake triggered a tsunami that devastated large parts of the city of Palu and other places along the coast. More than 4000 people fell victim to the double natural disaster. Devastating damage was also caused by soil liquefaction. Around 68,000 houses, around 265 schools and 45 health facilities were destroyed or damaged.



Reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts are continuing in the affected regions, and the government has now initiated the third phase, focusing on the reconstruction of secondary infrastructure and economic recovery. The Protestant Church of Donggala and the Christian Church of Central Sulawesi are supporting the construction of permanent toilets and the provision of clean water infrastructure through a community-based sanitation programme. The development activities are carried out in a strictly neutral way so that all religious groups and ethnicities within a political community benefit from the churches' reconstruction efforts. The activities cover ten communities. The Support Group is funding the project with CHF 5,500. Our collaborator Piet van Eeuwijk has been working in Indonesia for many years and supervises the project on site.



**Every Swiss Franc counts! Thank you very much for your membership and support!**

With CHF 50 (students: CHF 20) you are a member of the Swiss TPH Support Group and make a valuable contribution to supporting our small projects! The contribution for 2019 and/or your donation can be transferred with the enclosed payment slip or directly to account no. 80-2-2, in favour of CH68 0023 3233 5179 79L1 E, Support Group of Swiss TPH. Please indicate purpose (membership fee or donation).