



Gesar Fund : Annual Summary 2012

Preface

During this year the Gesar Fund tried to keep you, contributors and potential contributors, informed regarding the by us supported activities in Tibet.

We did this by posting messages on our website (and on diverse social media websites), sending news updates via e-mail and of course directly via personal contacts of the Gesar Fund board members.

This year we also have made an annual summary. Why?

We noticed that some of the by the Gesar Fund supported projects were influenced by rapid changes, and in such a degree that some of our messages were inaccurate within a period of months. The cause of these changes were often changes in local or regional jurisdiction. The local Gesar Team accordingly had to change their plans as well. After consulting the board of course and if changes were still possible.

With this annual summary 2012 we hope to inform you correctly about the current state of all our projects.

31-12-2012

the Gesar Fund board

An van Bolhuis

Eric Elbers

Nyima Kunga

Maarten Regtien

Han de Wit



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The annuals summary is divided in three categories:

1. Gesar Fund Projects

- a summary of the three project supported by the Gesar Fund:
 - the Education project
 - the Health project
 - the 'Family to Family' project

2. Donations and Fundraising

- a summary regarding the total of received donations and a selections of fundraising activities by the Gesar Fund, as well as fundraisings for the Gesar Fund organized by 'third parties.'

3. The Gesar Fund in the news



1. The Education Project

De school bij het Surmang klooster

The entire education project is executed in cooperation with the Könchok Foundation. The local execution is in hands of Khenpo Tsering, the abbot of the Surmang monastery. Khenpo Tsering reports regarding the spending of the donations to the Könchok Foundation, which on its turn reports to the Gesar Fund.

The school nearby the Surmang monastery has been built with aid of the local population and furnished with money of the Gesar Fund. Local women are responsible for the meals for the children, two times a day. The meals (and the women) also are paid with Gesar Fund money.

The students attend school for ten months, seven days a week. Whenever a English speaking teacher or monk passes by English lessons are organized for the children.

Curriculum

The government has some influence regarding the education curriculum. Last year there have been some changes and all changes are reported to the Gesar Fund.

New school

The local authority will open a new school in the Yushu district and as there is a compulsory education law, also the nomad children will get boarding and education in the new school. The Gesar Fund offered to test all 500 students on hepatitis as part of the Health project.



2. Het Health Project

Fighting hepatitis after the 2010 earthquake

After in fall/winter of 2011 the most urgent aid was supplied (one and half year later) out medical volunteers became available for the Gesar Health Project. Until then they were asked by the local authority to help in first aid. Thus the Fighting TBC-project and the Fighting Hepatitis-project could be resumed.

Tete Kunga and Peyo Sönam

Het Hepatitis-project is supervised by Tete Kunga, former teacher at a secondary school in Chenduo. He is well-known and respected in the community, and has contacts within the local authorities, the infection hospital in Chenduo and the General Chenduo Hospital.

On behalf of the Gesar Fund Tete Kunga is authorized to sign official documents. His niece, Peyo Sönam is nurse and works as well as accountant in a hospital nearby Yushu. She is the treasurer of both health projects. on a regular base she sends summaries (in Chinese) of the money spend. She also is in charge of the local Gesar team bank account.

Hepatitis in China and Tibet

Hepatitis, especially hepatitis B is a large health risk in China and particular in poor areas like Yushu. This project aims at testing people with hepatitis (A and B) and at vaccinating people, who do not have antibodies in the bloodstream. The costs of the vaccine and the tests are paid by the Gesar Fund. This means that the often very poor people can have themselves tested and vaccinated.

Also health education is given to the poor: in simple terms is explained what they can do themselves to prevent infections and to recover from infections. In China hepatitis still is a big taboo, like HIV is.

Although rarely people die from hepatitis B, the fear of this disease is big. Also fighting this fear is part of our campaign. And although most people can recover from hepatitis, in case of a long-term hepatitis the liver can be damaged in such an extent that special treatment is necessary. These treatments can be very costly. For now the Gesar Fund is not involved with their treatments.

In areas where Tibetans live the percentage of people who carry or have carried hepatitis is some 60 %. As most infections are transferred from mother to baby, and the baby's immune system is not yet fully developed, this causes in 90% a lifelong carrying of chronic hepatitis. In of these cases some 2 % someday will suffer from liver cirrhosis or liver cancer.

The later in life people get hepatitis, the greater the chance their body can conquer the disease, and so smaller the chance they'll develop a chronic hepatitis. The Gesar Fund Medical Team tests anyone who wants to be tested, but has special focus on testing and vaccinating pregnant women.

High on the agenda of course is education regarding this contagious disease: not only the course of the hepatitis but also how hepatitis can be transferred: via blood, or sexual contact. Not only the doctors and nurses of our Gesar Team provide the education, but also a growing number of enthusiastic volunteers.

For a permanent immunity three vaccinations are required. Standard procedure for the vaccination of one person is 60 Yuan (9.5 US\$). Thanks to the fact the hospital grants us discount we can offer a full vaccination for 45 Yuan (7 Euro).



3. The Family to Family Project

Family to Family: a success!

The Family to Family project has appeared to be a success this year. The Gesar General Store was profitable right from the start. It sold good quality products (which is not guaranteed in China) against very reasonable prices. Out of the first profits bakery steam ovens were bought, as was decided democratic by the participating nomad families.

The Gesar Bakery

Bakery steam ovens were bought and 3 women were trained as personnel. After some technical startup hiccups also the Gesar Bakery turned out to be a success: the habitants of Dönda knew to find the bakery, especially during the moments the fresh bread was leaving the ovens! Remaining bread was transferred to the Gesar General Store where it was sold to truck drivers and transit passengers.

New initiatives: the Family to Family nomad families

After the General Store success story and now also after the Gesar Bakery success story, we noticed the participating nomad families became more self-assured.

There came up more new ideas to generate income and thus improving the quality of life. One of the ideas was to buy a location where a truckerscafé could be created, as truckers by law are required to make a stop in Dönda. The local Gesar Team, after approval from the board, started looking for a suitable location to rent and meanwhile more ideas were bubbling up in the families.

"Is it possible to move the Gesar Bakery to a location nearby the Kanang monastery in Zhenzing? In Dönda we have other bakeries as competitors and in Zhenzing (10 miles from Dönda) we'll be the only one."

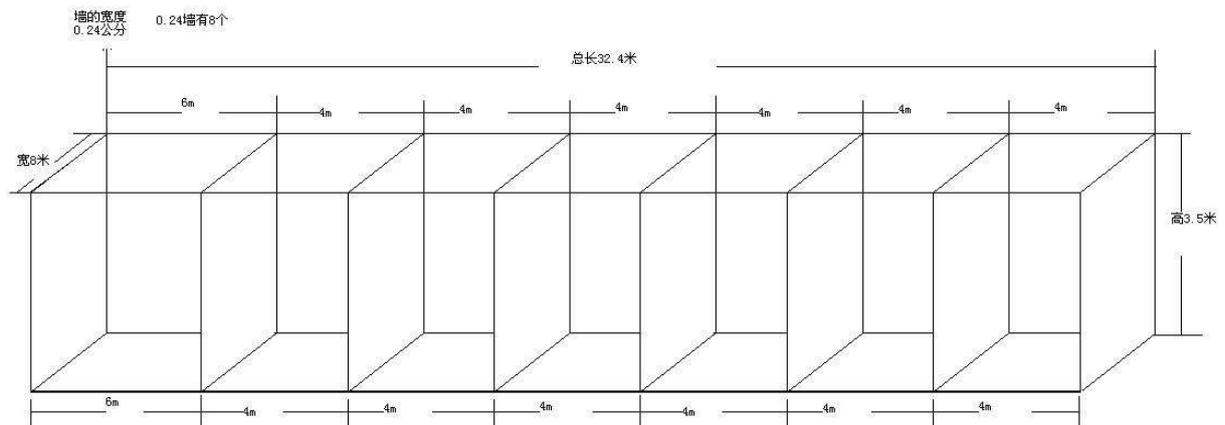
"Wouldn't it be nice if we had a location where we could train each other in practical professions? Like tailor, or glazier or carpenter. And isn't there a possibility to create a marketplace o sell our own products. Then we have more quality control and we lose the dependency of the local buyers who always pay too less "

New initiatives: new acquisitions and new buildings!

The question regarding the Gesar Bakery has been granted by the Gesar Fund. Currently the local Gesar team is exploring the possibilities in Zhenzing.

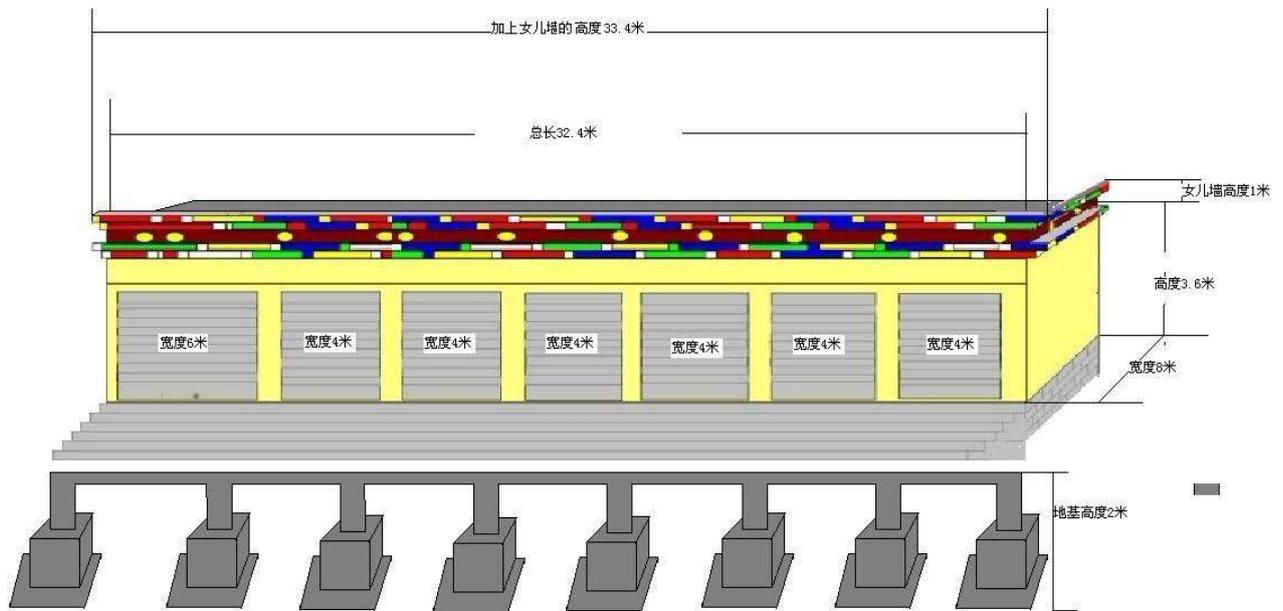
For the extra activities the nomad families proposed we already bought ground plus buildings, and all has been blessed by a lama. However, the buildings were in very poor condition. The local Gesar Team consulted the board and ***there has been decided to build new, good quality buildings, with reinforced foundation and with an optional second floor!***

At the end November an architect made drawings for the new buildings (see also images in this document): estimated costs are 1800 Yuan per square meter, which means total costs will be some 66.000 US\$. The local government however will pay the architect.



-- the seven spaces in the new building--

It is of the upmost importance the building will get a reinforced foundation. The land is swampy, the weather in the winter is extreme and the foundation has to be strong enough to support an optional second floor, so that there is the possibility to create extra rooms.



-- the reinforced foundation (poles upon blocks) --

Dönda is a village with some 300 families. When weather gets worse in winter, the expectation is that more families will settle in Dönda, as yaks die in extreme winters, especially since there has been a long row of extreme winters in the recent years. Then as well the government encourages the nomads to settle. There is a reasonable chance the extra floor on the newly to realize buildings will become necessary! End of December three contractors have been asked to make a bid. The Gesar Fund will select one of the contractors based on the bid and the advice of the local Gesar Team.

At least one of the rooms in the new building will be reserved for (health) education.

Kunga Dorje, cousin of board member Nyima Kunga, will supervise the building process: he builded his own house, thus is experienced. Kunga Dorje will be added as volunteer toe the local Gesar team and travel expenses will be paid for him.

New initiatives: juridical implications

Buying the land and building upon it raise questions regarding ownership and legal risks. Via the local Gesar Team the board of the Gesar Fund will achieve clarity upon legal status and try to consolidate legal status. To be continued...



2012 - Donations and Fundraising

The total of received donations in 2012 is **27,685 US\$**. This amount includes **13,185 US\$** which we received from the Dutch foundation [Stichting Suppletiefonds Sonnevank](#). The remaining of the donations were made privately.

Underneath a small selection of donations and fundraisings:

- **22-02-2012:** Teachers and students (2011) of the Shambhala Ngedonschool donate **1000 euro**. Read the article on our [website](#).
- **02-06-2012:** In cooperation with the students of the [Rijnlands Lyceum Oegstgeest](#) the Gesar Fund organized a fundraising at the main location of the school. Total amount of the donations and the auction was **892 euro**. Read the article on our [website](#).
- **11-08-2012:** Barbara Wessel, Jan van Bolhuis and Maarten Regtien donate the money raised by selling their cd "De Hans Zwart Sonnetten" to the Gesar Fund. Read the article on the [Shambhala Times Magazine](#)
- **09-09-2012:** Dennis Rietbergen runs the "Klaaskreek Sponsorloop" and donates **705 euro**. Read the article on our [website](#).
- **16-11-2011:** Marc Wiewel runs the Amsterdam Marathon and donates **1227 euro**. Read the article on our [website](#)
- **16-12-2012:** The children and parents of the Dutch Shambhala Children's Day 2012 donate **223 euro**. Read the article on our [website](#).

2012 - Gesar Fund in the news

- **02-05-2012:** after the much read [inspiring interview with board member Nyima Kunga](#) in the Shambhala Times of September 2011 this year another interview was published: board member tells on the 2nd of May 2012 about the [birth of the Gesar General Store](#), a part of the 'Family to Family' project.
- **30-05-2012:** het Dutch [Boeddhistisch Dagblad](#) spotted the Shambhala Times interview and republished it on the 30th of May 2012.
- **16-09-2012:** "[Succesvol Gesar Fund zoekt nieuwe wegen](#) (successful Gesar Fund seeks new possibilities)" is the header of a article in the Dutch Tibet.nu magazine. It tells about the history of the Gesar Fund, the connection with the Kunga family and the birth of the Gesar Fund and the Gesar bakery.

Are you inspired by the work of the Gesar Fund?

Please support us with a donation!



"Generosity is the ultimate wealth"
