



# Gesar Fund : Annual Summary 2013

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## Preface

This year again we provide a summary of all Gesar Fund of the past year as appears that the status by us supported projects can change in short term.

Biggest changes often are caused by changes in local of regional law. Our local Gesar volunteers adapt quickly and make modifications where necessary.

Also changes happen due to personal circumstances in the live of the nomad families or local volunteers which may cause to halt Gesar projects. Again, we are lucky to have a very dedicated Gesar Team which always finds solutions for any problem that occurs!

**31-12-2014**  
**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 Annual Account

- a summary regarding the total of received donations and the yearly account.
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### 3. The Gesar Fund in the news

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# 1. The Education Project

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## The school nearby the Surmang monastery

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.

In april 2013 we received via the Könchok Foundation a detailed finacial report from the abbot. een gedetailleerd financieel rapport van de abt. Last year the Gesar Fund donated 10,000 euro (~60,000 yuan). For the financial report, click [here](#).



## 2. The Health Project

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### Hepatitis in China en 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 one 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).

### **Gesar Ambulance**

In cooperation with the Communal Hospital in Chindu the Gesar Funds executes the Fighting TB project. With our ambulance our doctors visit, test and treat the people in the remotest areas. As the ambulance was so much used by the doctors it also was stationed at the hospital.

In 2013 to our regrets the hospital's policy has changed so that from now on the doctors will have to do all the Gesar work exclusively in spare time whereas before they were allowed to do the Gesar work partly in working hours.

This means the ambulance is not used anymore a great deal of the week and we decided to relocate it to a private parking. The hospital doctors and nurses still will use the ambulance of course to do the TB project, but it now also can be used by other Gesar volunteers for emergency transportations to the hospital and health education.

### **X-ray Equipment**

The x-ray equipment in the Gesar ambulance is operated in an unsafe manner discovered by boardmembers Eric Elbers and Nyima Kunga during our yearly *Checking our Aid*. The x-ray technician is not wearing a lead jacket, nor is there a dividing wall.

We are working on a solution.



### 3. The Family to Family Project

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#### Family to Family: a succes!

As in 2012 the Family to Family projects appeared to be succesfull. There are some changes which are mentioned below. The biggest succes this year is that the building of the **Gesar Community Centre** largely has been completed.

#### The Gesar General Store en the Gesar Bakery

The **Gesar General Store** (opened in oktober 2012) sells good quality grocery stores (quality is not for granted in China) and diverse general needed products. Also selfmade clothing is sold.

With the General Store profit 2012 steamovens have been bought to start a bakery. Also the **Gesar Bakery** appeared to be succesfull. The bakery however rather soon has been moved to Zhenzing, due to the fact that a Chinese supermarket was opened nearby our bakery and that in Zhenzing a monastery is located nearby the bakery.

Also half of the General Store inventory has been transported to the bakery. Boardmembers Eric Elbers and Nyima Kunga found the General Store closed during their visit and heard that the current manager is less motivated than the pprevious manager.

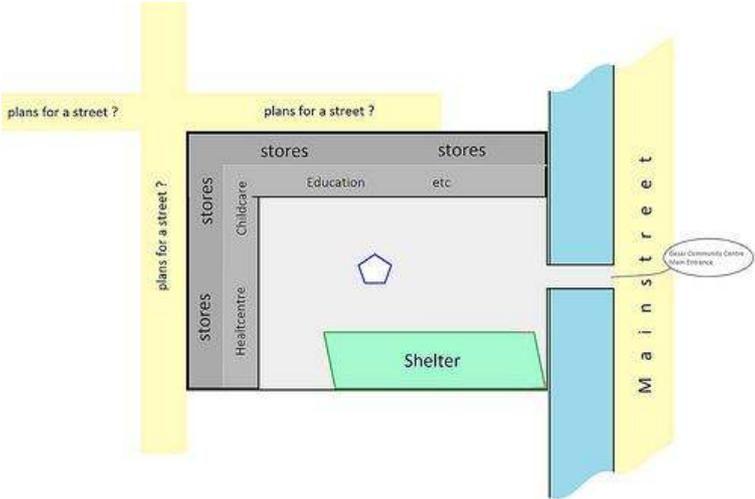
#### Het Gesar Community Centre

In 2012 teh nomad families suggested if it would be possible too create a space where they could train each other in practical professions as tailor or carpenter. The board decided to invest into buying a piece of ground to crate the centre. The project officially was blessed by a lama, but it took more than a year before the building could start as foundations only can be constructed during summer. The buildings allready there had to be removed as they were too rundown.

So in summer of this year the foundations were constructed and boardmembers Eric Elbers and Nyima Kunga performed a first spade ceremony during which they buried a thangka with blessed herbs. A few days after the ceremony construction started and largely was completed in November.

There are two buildings situated in a 90° angle. By this means we can create an entrance on each adjoining road, as it still is not clear which of those roads will become 'major'.

On the outside shops are planned and on the inside a childcare unit. The proposal is to have a nice courtyard with a stupa and on the side opposite from the buildings a roofed open air place with prayer wheels. The idea is to create a haven for people, coming from the busy street where the main entrance will be.



The main entrance to the courtyard and the shops needs to be inviting as the land is not situated directly on the main street. Take a look at all photos and videos of the Centre on our [2013 - Gesar Community Centre - Building photopage!](#)



## 2013 - Donations en Annual Account

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The total of received donations in 2012 is **25.194 euro**.

The Annual Account can be found under [this](#) link.

**Het Gesar Fund board thanks all donators!**



## 2013 - Gesar Fund in the news

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- **06-10-2013:** boardmember Han de Wit told in 2012 about the [birth of the Gesar General Store](#), a part of the 'Family to Family' project. This year the account of boardmember Eric Elbers in de Shambhala Times about his trip to Kham, Tibet was much read and we received many many positive reactions! Read Eric's [Unforgettable Trip to Tibet!!!](#)
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Are you inspired by the work of the Gesar Fund?

Please support us with a donation!

"Generosity is the ultimate wealth"

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