



# Gesar Fund : Annual Summary 2014

---

## Preface

Over the past year, the local volunteers of the Gesar Fund tirelessly have been working on realizing the objectives of the Gesar Fund. This year it was more than ever a challenge with the ever-changing legislation. It takes a great deal of flexibility to be able to deal with these circumstances!

Despite these setbacks a great deal has been achieved in 2014. The Gesar Community Centre construction has been completed, the rooms are used for a kindergarten and activities for our health care project.

With this summary, we hope to give you more insight in our activities and on what the money of our donors is spend.

You think that your friends and acquaintances also are interested in our good work? Please send them this pdf file!

**17-04-2015**  
**the Gesar Fund Board**  
An van Bolhuis  
Eric Elbers  
Nyima Kunga  
Maarten Regtien  
Han de Wit



# Gesar Fund : Annual Summary 2014

---

## Contens

The annual summary is divided into three categories:

### 1. Gesar Fund Projects

- The Education Project
- The Healthcare Project
- The 'Family to Family' Project

### 2. Donations en Annual Account

- an overview of the total donations received and a selection of fundraising activities by the Gesar Fund, but also by third parties organised activities for the Gesar Fund

### 3. The Gesar Fund in the news

---



# 1. Het Education Project

---

## The school at the Surmang monastery

The educational project is carried out in cooperation with the American Könchok Foundation. The activities on site are done by Khenpo Tsering, abbot of the Surmang Monastery. He reports on the use of the funds to the foundation, which in turns annually reports to the Gesar Fund.

For adults a educational program is scheduled for autumn of 2015. Formerly there were two annual programs for children that were supported by the Gesar Fund with an amount of 10,000 euro per year (from 2010). The first program is for pupil monks, most of whom live in the monastery complex. They receive basic dharma instruction. The second program is for nomad children, both boys and girls.

Khenpo Tsering has indicated that he has trouble maintaining this group. In particular, the guys are so wild that much material damage is created including many broken windows. Last year the Khenpo already twice interrupted the teaching activities to take time for replacement of the window frames and repair the furniture. After resumption of the curriculum quickly more broken windows were to regret. As long as there is not enough adult supervision on this group, the Khenpo does not want to proceed with the program.

The Könchok Foundation has decided in the coming year it will focus on setting up the adults program in the fall (2015). Thus automatically more supervision will become available for the nomad children (annual a varying number of of between 150 and 250).

According to Chinese law education programs outside the Chinese curriculum should be given separately which means that they musttake place outside normal school hours. This means that only the three/four winter months can be used in the Surmang Dutsi Til monastery. If all works out for good he adults program already is started and Khenpo Tsering can teach the children again.

The Gesar Fund priorities education to the nomad children. The fact that children get hot meals during these three months and-if necessary-also medical assistance, guarantees that this very vulnerable group likely will enjoy a healthy future! With the-provisional-reduced teaching activities we will reduce our contribution by a quarter to \$ 10,000 dollar (EUR 7500).



## 2. The Healthcare Project

---

### 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. En of these case some 2 % someday will suffer from levercirrose 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 decease: 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 al 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).

### **Rabies**

In 2014 rabies broke out at several places in the Chengdu prefecture. In China always stray dogs and dogs are to be found in the countryside and there is little control on the health of these animals.

In the border areas of Yushu and Chengdu dogs roam usually in packs around. There are already some human sacrifice cases in Chengdu. The government takes this risk to the public health very seriously. On the countryside people stay iside during the night.

### **Gesar Community Centre and Healthcare**

In the Community Centre is a medical post. This one is furnished and there are stocks bought. Tsepa Lhamo has also contributed.

The by the Gesar Fund ordered medication always is delivered to the people's Hospital in Chengdu. As soon as it is possible is the medication then is given to a driver who drives to the Gesar Community Centre to Dönda. If it is cold and the medication is transported in an open truck, the medication has to be defrosted in the Community Centre.

The doctors take general medical tests at the local nomads such as measuring blood pressure, performing diagnostic heart tests and lung function tests. Tibetan herbs are given to people who have stomach pain.

Finally, education is given concerning the prevention of infectious diseases. Most nomads who meet our local volunteers are illiterate. Information mostly consists of illustrations, which is also provided for free by the Chinese Government. The Gesar Fund strives to educate on healthcare via cd's and dvd's but due to copyright laws this is very difficult.

The Board decided that the medical team of the 10,000 euros that they spend there annually, they are allowed to spend 20% on own initiative and insight.

## Gesar Ambulance

In 2013 to our regrets the hospitals 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. We decided to relocate the Ambulance to the gesar Community Centre. 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.

The x-ray equipment in the Gesar ambulance was operated in an unsafe manner. The University Medical Centre of Groningen donated two lead coats for the x-ray technician.



### 3. Het Family to Family Project

---

#### The Gesar General Store



As already mentioned in April of this year, there were [problems with staffing](#) the General Store: the shop appeared to be closed too many times. As a solution part of the goods then was moved to the Gesar Bakery which was doing good business (and still is!) and the General Store was closed. But now our local Gesar Volunteers have found the young man Metok Bhakto who was eager to run the shop.

After receiving an elementary training in shopkeeping activities, it was clear to our local Gesar volunteers, Metok had the commercial and the people skills to be a perfect shop manager.

We hope very much Metok will be able to bring back the Gesar General Store business back to its original level, meanwhile also providing himself and his family a modest income.

The Bakery will continue to sell the extra Gesar General Store goods.

#### De Gesar Bakery

In 2012 the GesarFund board allowed the bakery to relocate to Zhenzing as indications from the nomad families were that there would be more potential clients. By now the relocated bakery is in full production. Customers are the monks of the nearby monastery, tourists and travelers. The estimates are that we're selling up to 70% more steambreads.

Sadly, the woman who runs the bakery had an accident with a powder machine: her hand got stuck. Our medics have done everything that was possible but it seems the woman will not be able to operate the steam machines anymore. The new plans are now that she will train new people for the bakery and that she will become manager of the Gesar Community Centre.

#### Het Gesar Community Centre

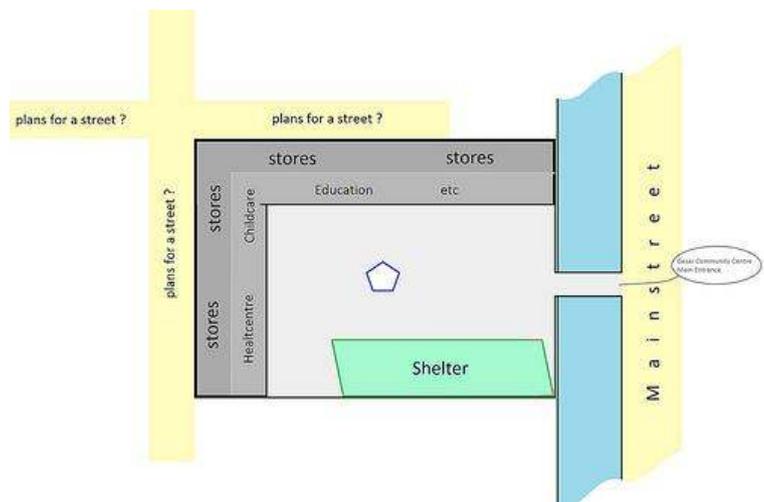
In 2012 the nomad families suggested if it would be possible to create a space where they could train each other in practical professions as tailor or carpenter. The board decided to invest into

buying a piece of ground to create 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 already there had to be removed as they were too rundown.

So in summer of 2013 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!](#)

During the Checking our Aid Campaign of this year Nyima and his brother Sojong board made an inventory of what still had to be added to the Centre. Anyway for each building a stove suitable for the burning of Yak-excrement there will be purchased (a central heating is too pricey).

### **Het Gesar Community Centre: independence of the nomads**

Now the center there the nomads should be further encouraged in self-sufficiency. As the board we do not expect that the Gesar Fund is a kind of money machine.

The problem in the more self-sufficiency of the nomads is that they really do not have more skills than the nomads skills as making yaks hats, tents build and stoves.

As Dönda is an obligatory stop for tourist buses, it seems the best option for the nomads is to sell souvenirs to the tourists: small parcels of yak butter, miniature stoves, miniature nomad tents, thangka, jewelry etcetera. By selling these products there is a direct link between the production and the money.

### **The Kindergarten**

As mentioned earlier in the Checking our Aid campaign 2014: regarding teaching hours we are bound to Chinese law: lessons only can take place outside regular school hours. For us that leaves only the

three months in the winterstop. But winters are extreme cold and teachers from the city cannot stand the Dönda altitude which is much higher than the Xining altitude.

Therefore there has been decided for an alternative teachings program. On the China countryside teaching is done in a strict classical manner which means: the teacher talks, the students listen. It is comparable with our schoolsystem a century ago. So plans have been made to buy lessons material which help the children get insight in shapes, colors, numbers and space. Materials which are meant to work with, stimultate the children to work with themselves. A risk is that the monk-teacher should support this way of working. Our local Gesar volunteers will try to guarantee this!

### **Following the example of the Gesar Projects!**

Last year local authorities in Chengdu county also started various projects for the poorest citizens of the population.

The current situation now is even that varrios municipalities almost a a competitive manor are trying to set up projects and lend micro credits to help out the poorest citisins in winter!

The Gesar Fund is exceptionally proud that 'our' manifestation of the enlightened society is spreading. Even if the consequence is that getting the proper licenses for the Community Centre has become more difficult, as the authorities pay more attention to the other projects.



## 2014 - Donations and Annual Account

---

The total of received donations in 2014 is **32.359 euro**.

De annual account of 2013 is online: [Annual Account 2014](#).

---



## 2014 - Gesar Fund in the news

---

- **19-01-2015:** boardmember Han de Wit went with his son in law Nyima Kunga to Xiningin december 2014 for the yearly Chacking our Aid campaign. Read Hans's impression in the Shambhala Times: [Meeting our Ling Family in Kham.](#)
  
  - **Het Gesar Fund on the web:**
    - dutch website: [www.gesarfund.nl](http://www.gesarfund.nl)
    - english website: [www.gesarfund.nl/english/](http://www.gesarfund.nl/english/)
    - facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Gesar-Fund](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Gesar-Fund)
    - Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/gesarfund/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/gesarfund/)
    - SoCl: [www.so.cl/#/profile/Stichting-Gesarfund](http://www.so.cl/#/profile/Stichting-Gesarfund)
  
  - **Photo's :** op [Gesar Fund Photostream](#) are many photos of Yushu, Dönda en Zhenzing!
- 

Are you inspired by the work of the Gesar Fund?

Please support us with a donation!

"Generosity is the ultimate wealth"

---

