



Annual Report for 2003 - 2004

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Foreword

It has been one year since the establishment of the Tarayana Foundation. A year may not seem much to look back on but it gives me great pride to say that the Foundation has covered a commendable distance from the time when it was only an idea. This has been made possible not only by the commitment and dedication of everyone involved with Tarayana but the strong support that we have received from all levels of the government, the private sector and our donors, both from abroad and within. My deepest appreciation would fall far short of that felt by those people whose lives have been touched and transformed by your help.

Within the past year the Foundation has been working on a variety of activities – from the construction of demonstration houses in Lotokuchu in enabling the community to make comfortable and affordable houses to ensuring that children from poor families do not miss out on the opportunity of attending school. Another important area that the Foundation has been focusing on is the promotion of artisan skills that would not only revive and ensure continuity of our rural crafts but also bring economic benefits to the rural communities. Through the compassionate gestures of individual donors the Foundation has been able to provide financial assistance to many individuals who were in desolate situations thereby, adding a sense of hope and dignity in their lives.

These were some of the activities that the Foundation carried out within the past year. In the coming years we have many more milestones to cover and many more challenges to overcome in our efforts to improve the quality of lives of the poor and the disadvantaged – our sole purpose. In this endeavour we hope that we will continue to receive the same support and goodwill from all our friends.

Tashi Delek!

Her Majesty the Queen

Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck

Founder and President

Background

Tarayana Foundation has been instituted by Her Majesty the Queen Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck after her many travels to rural and remote communities in the country. Her Majesty's interaction with the most disadvantaged individuals and communities convinced her that small interventions could go a long way in helping them partake in mainstream development initiated by the Royal Government. Thus, the Tarayana Foundation was formally launched on May 4th 2003, by His Royal Highness Dasho Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Crown Prince of Bhutan. The Foundation helps vulnerable individuals and communities gain greater economic independence through small and targeted interventions at the individual household and small community levels. The Foundation has been in active operation for the last one year and this report covers the progress made to date.

Goal

To reach out to those in need through the spirit of voluntarism

Objectives

- Promote artisan skills and generate income in poor communities through training and facilitating sale of crafts.
- Help vulnerable individuals achieve greater economic security through the provision of maintenance allowances.
- Encourage academic excellence by instituting recognition awards within the educational institutions.
- Provide basic maintenance grants for students hailing from less privileged background.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees determines the directions of the Foundation's programmes. The members of the Board of Trustees serve for a term of three years, which may be renewed. The members of the Board comprise of individuals from a wide spectrum of society and the Board meets quarterly to renew and take decisions on the activities of the Foundation.

Management/ Working Committee

Guided by the Board of Trustees the Management/Working Committee supports the Foundation Secretariat in implementing the Foundation's activities approved by the Board of Trustees. It supervises proper maintenance of records, work plan preparation

and implementation, screening of beneficiaries, allocation of the Foundation's fund, and its utilization. The Committee meets every fortnight to discuss and work on the planned activities of the Foundation. The members of the Management/Working Committee also serve for a term of three years, which may be renewed.

Secretariat

The Secretariat prepares financial statement and reports on the progress of works of the Foundation every quarter to the Board. It implements the planned activities of the Foundation and ensures that the programmes are well coordinated. The Secretariat is responsible for the day to day functioning of the Foundation.

Programme I: Improving socio-economic conditions of rural communities

Activity 1: Construction of 3 Demonstration houses in the three villages of Lotokuchu Jigme, Lotokuchu Singye and Lotokuchu Wangchuck (supported by SCF-USA, Bhutan)

The first of the three houses was built with technical expertise and supervision provided by the National Technical Training Authority (NTTA). The houses are built using local materials as far as possible. However, to be able to withstand the heavy monsoon rains, the model houses have been provided with CGI roofing. In the process of building the house, a total of 20 villagers have also been trained in masonry and carpentry so that in future they do not have to look for outside skills in building their houses. The Foundation also provided basic food supplies for the construction workers during this training period. The construction of the first house is completed and work on the other two houses is underway. The construction of these two houses is expected to be completed by September 2004.

Activity 2: Supply of CGI sheets (supported by SDS)

The Foundation has supplied CGI sheets for 20 houses in the three villages of Lotokuchu.

Activity 3: Maintenance allowance (supported through individual contributions)

A maintenance allowance of Nu. 500 per month are being given to individuals incapable of earning their own keep. The main objective of this scheme is to allow these individuals to live in dignity as they are able to contribute a little towards the family kitty. The identification of the beneficiaries is done through rural needs assessment visits and selection is done by the Working Committee upon verification by local institutions. Currently there are 32 beneficiaries and 39 individual donors.

Programme II: Promotion of artisan skills and crafts

Activity 1: Establishment of Tarayana Craft Centres

The Foundation is in the process of acquiring land for the establishment of four regional Craft centres that will serve as nodal points for Tarayana activities.

Activity 2: Promote skills of artisans (supported by SDS)

Twelve youth (8 boys and 4 girls) from the communities of Lhop, Monpas and Oleps have been selected for training in pottery (7) and papermaking (5). They are being trained under two master potters employed by the Foundation. Their training started in November 2003 and will end in September 2004. A three weeks study tour to New Delhi was undertaken in February 2004. This gave the trainees an opportunity to observe Indian artisans at work as well as receive practical training.

Activity 3: Construction of Bamboo Craft Workshop (supported by SDS)

A Bamboo Craft Workshop is being built in Yebilaptsha Middle Secondary School, Zhemgang. This workshop will be used for training students interested in cane and bamboo crafts, both traditional and contemporary styles.

Programme III: Endowment Fund for Education

An Endowment Fund has been created to help the Foundation meet its objectives towards helping school going children from poor and disadvantaged communities. The scholarship provides for their uniforms, supplementary meal contributions and other associated expenses. For the year 2004 the Foundation is supporting 69 students at the primary level as follows:

- 15 from the Lhop communities, Samtse Dzongkhag
- 10 from Kangpara, Trashigang Dzongkhag
- 34 from Adang and Rukha, Wangdue Dzongkhag and
- 10 from Zhemgang Dzongkhag

These children were identified in collaboration with the Dzongkhag and Geog (Block) officials.

This Fund has been set up through grants from SCF- USA, Bhutan and Lotus Outreach. Generous personal donations were also received from Mrs. Sareena Chopra and Mr. Dorji Wangchuk towards this Fund. The Endowment Fund currently stands at Nu. 2.9 million.

Programme IV: Facilitate access to medical services (supported by SDS)

The Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, RGoB, is in the process of organizing two hare lip correction clinics for 66 persons in the last week of May 2004. These clinics will be conducted by two teams of volunteer Thai surgeons.

Programme V: Fostering volunteerism

Tarayana clubs have been established in sixteen high schools in 2004 on a pilot basis. The main purpose of these clubs is to stimulate interest in voluntary social services for the communities close to the schools and to inculcate the spirit of volunteerism in the youth. The Foundation provides Nu. 15,000 to each club as a starting fund to support the activities of these clubs. While the overall objective of these clubs will be to foster volunteerism in the students, the choice of activities depends largely on the club members.

Programme VI: Other Activities

Production of Brochure and Annual Report (supported by SCF-USA, Bhutan)

Three editions of the Tarayana brochure numbering to 2500 copies have been printed and distributed both internally as well as outside the country. In addition 500 copies of the Annual Report 2003 – 2004 have been printed for distribution to donors and other relevant partners.

Institutional Capacity Building (supported by UNV and SDS)

A national programme manager has been recruited through the support of the United Nations Volunteer Programme in Bhutan. In addition an Office Assistant has also been recruited with support from SDS.

Relief activities coordinated by Tarayana

In an effort to ensure a coordinated and systematic approach towards organizing possible help from civil society during emergencies, the Foundation took the lead in coordinating various activities involving other associations and Tshokpas (groups). Some of the outcomes include a Blood Database of voluntary donors for reference and use by the hospitals, counseling and emotional support for afflicted families and creation of

Emergency Relief Fund. The Foundation also produced an inspirational song called “Palden Drukpai Misy.” An essay and poetry competition was organized by the Foundation in order to provide a channel for reflections of the people during the security situation in December 2004. The elected entries have been compiled into a book, *Drugyel’s Destiny* and published by the Foundation.

Financial Statement for 2003 – 2004

Fund Type	Debit (Nu.)	Credit (Nu.)
General Fund	2,082,417.83	404,801.00
SDS Project	2,100,000.00	1,348,378.00
SCF Project	960,000.00	612,995.00
	1,430,000.00	
UNV Support	73,000.00	73,000.00
Total	6,645,417.83	2,439,174.00
Balance as of 31 March 2004 = Nu. 4,206,243.83		

Foundation Facts and Figures

Number of regular individual donors = 39

Board of Trustees = 7 members

Working Committee = 13 members

Secretariat = 2 staff