

Regenboog India Foundation

Annual Report of 2013-14 *(April to March)*



www.regenboogindia.org

Dear Friends,

Warm wishes from Regenboog India Foundation!!!

Another successful year has passed with your generous support. In December 2013, Regenboog completed 7 years of service in the field. Although there were some challenges, we were able to add to the services we provide and increase the number of people we serve.

We want to thank our donors for their great support which makes it possible for us to achieve our dreams. Because of your support, guidance and unconditional love we make it through difficult times with courage and strength which makes a big impact on our service!!!

Regenboog's main driving force is the dedicated TEAM. I am so grateful to my colleagues for their wonderful, devoted service, which makes every Regenboog dream, small and big, come true. Their passion and understanding of the needs of beneficiaries is simply great!!!

The achievements of this year were highlighted by the inauguration of the mobile library project. In addition, other important goals were accomplished

- **A well-equipped mobile library was launched in December 2013. In the first 7 months, 1,508 titles have been checked out.**
- **Mobile clinic team treated 39,447 patients.**
- **Evening schools supported an average of 530 students.**
- **Brilliant teamwork saved the holy Arunachala Hill from a huge pile of plastic waste again in November 2013.**

There are plenty of great experiences to share with you all from all these projects; our time in this work is filled with the pure love of the kids and unbelievable people and nature around us, which made our work meaningful and happy!!!

Let us review 2013-14 in detail now. We welcome your valuable comments, feedback and suggestions, which definitely help us to evaluate our work and improve the quality of our service in the field.

With Love & Respect,
Madhan

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world”
- Gandhi



Arunachala Mobile Library Project

Aim:

This project was started to bring back reading to the lives of children in Tiruvannamalai. The lack of availability and cost of good books, and too much television and school homework have all combined to take children away from the habit of reading. The Mobile Library makes 3,000 books available every 15 days free of cost to children around Tiruvannamalai to motivate them to read various interesting topics.

Plan:

From July till December, books were distributed by a motorbike. This approach had many problems such as an carrying only a small quantity of books and reaching places during rain periods. So, Regenboog built a mobile library vehicle with the support of Verein Arunachala Rising Sun and Mr.Dominik Kulsen, Switzerland. This vehicle is now carrying more than 3,000 books and reaching the kids Monday to Saturday with a librarian and social worker.



Impact:

In 2013-14 financial year, the library service was offered to 9 different places such as all 5 evening schools located in Tiruvannamalai, Sarasvathi children’s village, Wide children’s home, Rainbow home and Shanthy tuition kids. Many kids from these places got a chance to read books for the first time.

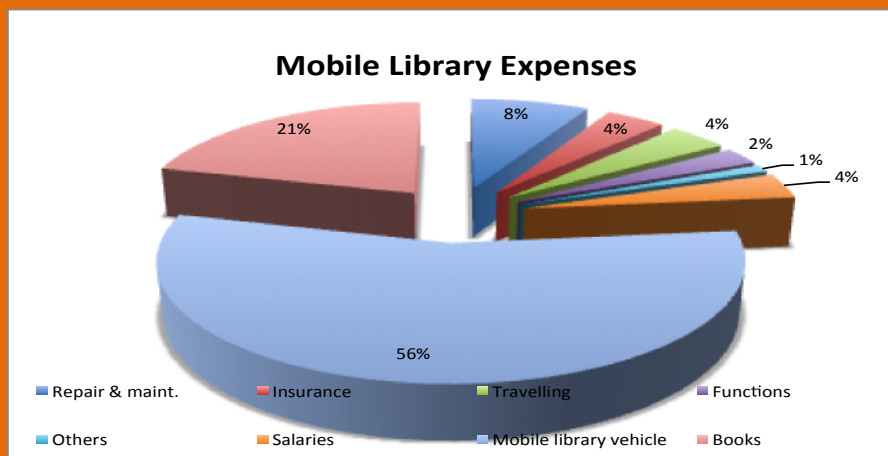


Many children are now highly motivated to read and feel free to take books to their homes to read. Initially they were a bit hesitant to take books because they were afraid the books would be lost or get damaged by their siblings at home. But we said don’t worry, just take the books home first and try to keep safe so that the books can travel and reach many other kids.



Slowly their fears lifted and a great eagerness started developing in them. Also when they bring the books to return, they are asked to talk about the interesting part of that book among the kids randomly and this motivated and triggered other kids to read that book.

A good effort was taken in this year to increase the number of books in the library. Many good titles were purchased and the team put their effort to get the books at well-discounted prices, which enabled us to buy more and more books for the project. We are so grateful to all those publishers for their generous support in this. Seventy two percent of these books are in Tamil language and the rest (28%) are in English. Now we started getting many books as donation from our friends and well-wishers which also is motivating us.



Success:

A well-equipped mobile library was built at the budget of around Rs.300,000 and this was inaugurated on 25th December 2013 as a Christmas gift to all kids. In a joyful function, Verein Arunachal Rising Sun's Treasurer Mr. Richard Häne and Secretary Mrs. Annemary inaugurated the mobile library project.



In 2013-14, 1,508 books were distributed to kids totally in 7 months time and this is just a starting figure only. But in the coming periods it will reach more kids and give them the great knowledge of our culture, literature and history.

Failures & Solutions:

- We couldn't start the project from June 1st onwards, due to finding the right person to run the project. But now this issue is completely sorted out by forming good team and volunteers.
- There were a few places where we couldn't motivate the children to read books since the teachers and their school system stopped the children spending time for book reading. We are trying to convince the students and their parents to solve this issue.
- We couldn't give books to adults since our time in the evening is only enough for the kids. We are working on it and from next year onwards we will try to adjust the timing so that the adults can also get books.



Jayaraman and Suresh together did excellent work for this project. They both amazingly understood of the needs of kids and they never cared if the children delays. Their hard work simply attracted many kids towards the books. Now this small cute vehicle is a best friend for many children, where the relationship is very strong!!!



Staff - Jairam's experience:

I never managed the problems but the books...

"There were problems I faced in this work but I never managed anything but the books are. I started loving books after my involvement in this work. My only worry was I couldn't able to give books to adults since our time is limited and enough for the kids only but I hope it is possible to give them too in future..."

Arunachala Village Medical Program

Aim:

To provide basic health care to the people living in remote rural villages, who don't have any access to medical facilities.

Plan:

A well-equipped mobile clinic van with an experienced doctor, two nurses, two pharmacists and a driver cum social worker team visits various routes and covers villages from Monday to Friday on a regular basis.

**Impact:**

The Medical Project completed its 7th year of service in 2013 December. Mobile clinic is in the field from Monday to Friday and one Saturday in a month. They visited the AVS School for regular medical checkups for the kids and their relatives. The medical team started visiting the villages near Puliur region of Jawadhu Hills on Fridays by a Jeep.

This year was very challenging for the mobile clinic project. It started with problems and ended with problems too. Delays in getting the required financial support from the donors created unnecessary panic in the early period of the year but the great understanding and timely support from the other donors and people and team helped us to manage the situation. Secondly, the nurses left the job due to personal reasons in February last and so we were not able to visit the field without nurses. It was so hard again to find good nurses, but after 5 weeks time we appointed the nurses and the project started working again.

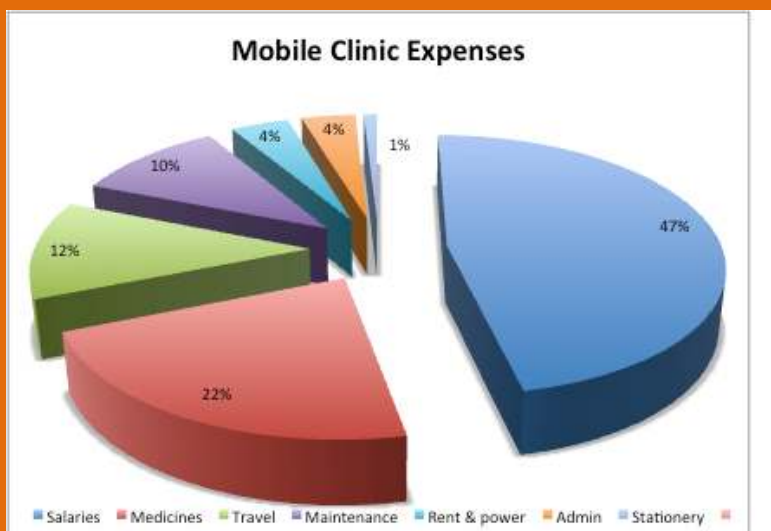
Also the medical support was extended to few more villages in the Jawadhu Hills since the team started visiting every Friday. The team also served the Government schools and hostel inmates in that region, and they started giving health education and hygiene tips to the students and the management of those institutions.

In November 2013, medical project reached the milestone of treating its 200,000th patients. This milestone was achieved with the great efforts of the dedicated team, generous support of all donors and well-wishers.

Diseases like fever, hypertension, diabetic, gastritis, skin disease, wound infection, anemic and many other basic health issues are handled in the field. Also the mobile clinic visited other villages too on the request from the Village Presidents or the school management to give health treatment and awareness programs on various issues.

Eva Rahn from Switzerland and Karin Peelen from Netherlands worked as volunteer nurses with the mobile clinic team. Their experience in the nursing field helped the team to learn from them, which is already starting to reflect in the fieldwork.

Mobile clinic team performed very well again in their field work and they worked like one family to achieve this and the total credits goes to Anantha Krishnan (Project In-charge/Pharmacist, Dr.Chandrasekaran, Prema (Nurse), Priya (Nurse), Chandramohan (Pharmacist), Krishnamurthy (Driver cum social worker) and Prabhu (Admin).



Success:

- 39,441 patients were treated in 2013-14 financial year period.
- More than 214,000 patients have been treated since this project began

Failures & solutions:

We were not able to find a doctor for the Jawadhu Hills. Most of the doctors don't want to work in the Jawadhu hills since there is no electricity, communication facilities or other facilities. But we are still trying to find one and start the continuous service there at least in the coming years.

We were unable to find replacement nurses in advance of nurses leaving. This caused almost no treatment for one month in the field. Now we have alternate sources for all positions so this won't happen again.

Sarasvathi Children's Village

Aim:

To give a joyful and loving place for girls who are in need of such environment by giving the unconditional love and support with great care to them.

Plan:

Sarasvathi Children's Village (SCV) was created in 2012 and the girls are living in three families together with a housemother and care taker. All children are given the opportunity to go to school. Special teachers are appointed to teach the kids classical dance (Bharatham), classical music (Karnatic), ABACUS and craft works during their free time. Kids are also involved very much in the management of the Children's Village.



Impact:

All children started enjoying their new campus since the children moved in to the new campus only in December 2012. They were so happy to have such a huge campus with all basic facilities offered inside.

Last year there was 33 kids living in the children's village, but as per the Government's direction 6 boys and two girls are integrated with their family again and now the Children's Village is only for the girl children. In 2013 June 11 new girls joined the Children's Village, making a total of 36 girls currently at the Children's Village.



Health wise there were some problems this year. But the children are given proper medical care immediately for their issues. Our mobile clinic visited the Children's Village regularly and gave treatment and also the hygiene lessons to the staff team too. Children are offered a variety of nutritious food.



Education wise there was a big problem since from the beginning with the children studying in the Government schools due to the lack of proper attention they get at their schools. This was addressed by appointing three part-time teachers to take care of the education part in the evenings. This started giving a good result slowly and also the children are starting to enjoy their lessons without fear. Seventeen children are studying in primary schools, 16 children are studying in high school and one girl is doing her Bachelor degree in B.Sc., Computer Science in Tiruvannamalai. Sivsakthi and Ramya scored 90% in their class 10 examination; this was a great motivation for other girls.

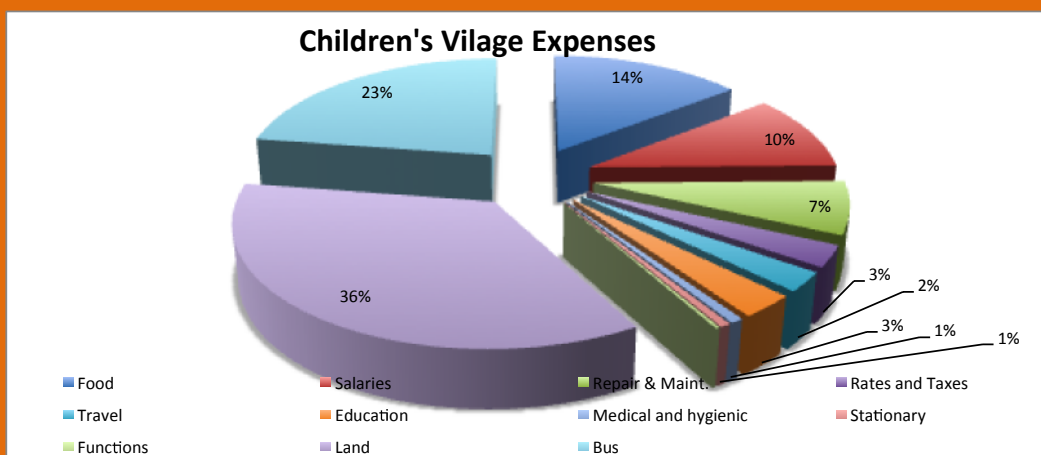
Sakthi Dinakaran, an ABACUS (Chinese Mathematics system) offered to teach ABACUS during Sundays as a volunteer. This was a great step ahead since all kids started to love to learn ABACUS. Now they never want to miss even a single lesson. His wonderful teaching methods made the kids to complete the first level of the course easily. This helped the kids to develop their confidence in learning at schools too.

The girls can read books from the mobile library project regularly. Good entertainment chances are created at the Children's Village for the kids. Kalaiselvi and Manimaran were teaching Bharatha Nattiyam and Karnatic music respectively.

Children were taken to Kishkintha (water theme park) in Chennai, Gingee Fort and many other places this year. They celebrated all festivities and functions in a joyful environment. Mr. Bharathi organized an Orchestra program on the new eve again in this year too.

A well-equipped play area ground was set up in this year for the kids. A small football ground was also created where they love to play every evening. They received some training lessons for football from Colin Walder, a volunteer from Switzerland. Also Beryl Zah (Switzerland) helped the staff as a volunteer at the Children's Village for a while. Prof. Patricia Moran (USA) trained the staff and few older girls in jewelry making, which is the idea for a vocational training center for women in the future.

Board members of ARS, Annemarie Lehmann and Richard Häne from ARS visited the Children's Village in December together with Regula Völkle and Kurt. Peter Diener and Silvan Diener visited Children's Village in October. During 2013-14, the Children's Village became more independent in their activities. The staff and older girls discussed budgets and expenses together. They are given opportunities to be involved in the administration of the Children's Village.



Successes:

- Children re-integrated with the families again are given with educational support and they are all continuing their school education from their family itself. Enough monitoring and regular visits are taken place to ensure their safety and needs.
- Both Education and counseling were increased to a remarkable level.
- Older children started being involved in the administration and this gave them a chance to realize their leadership abilities.
- The older girls are having a clear view of what they want to do with their lives and expressed their willingness to take over the projects after their education is completed. This shows how our works impressed these kids and they started thinking of the future of the works we do.
- A new mini-bus was purchased with the help of **Jürg Weber Foundation & Arunachala Rising Sun**, Switzerland for the transportation of the Children's Village.
- Additional land 0.77 Acre was purchased with the help of Arunachala Rising Sun and Arunachala Village School, Switzerland. This gave the children a big play area.



Failures & Solutions:

- Training of the Children's Village staff did not happen as we planned. This will be definitely executed in the coming months without fail.
- We were not able to creating a few more play ideas that we had planned.
- Finding a few more staff members wasn't achieved this year since this is the biggest challenge always.

Arunachala Evening Schools

Aim:

To support the children's education, who are missing the support at their school, so that the school dropout rate is less. Also, give children an opportunity, to develop their personal skills and motivate their parents to support the children to complete their higher education without any hassles.

Plan:

Evening schools were started in 2008. They are open every school day evening from 5.30 pm till 9.00 pm. The routine schedules of the evening schools are – ask the kids, how was the day? What did they learned at school? Is there any homework and do they need any help to finish the homework? And then they teach them every day different subjects. Apart from this, the kids are offered lessons about craft works, computers and other activities. More importantly the kids are being taught very much about the moral and ethics in the classes.



Impact:

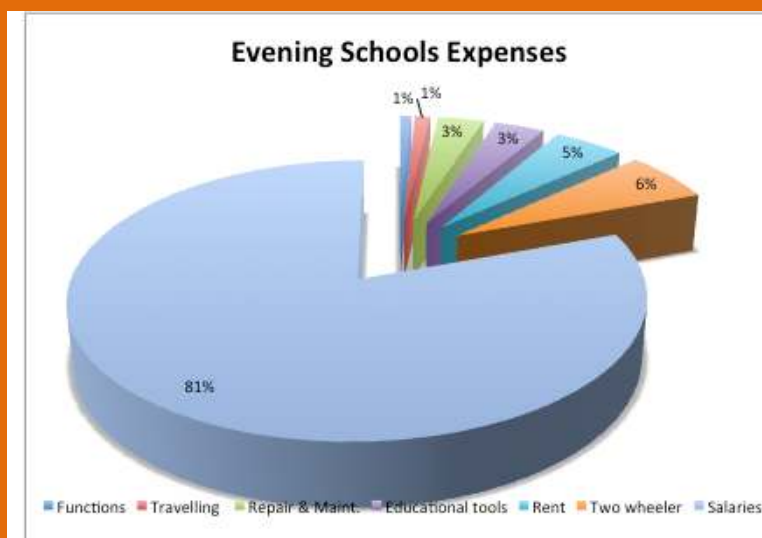
In 2013-14 8 evening schools supported an average of 530 students. In this year, two new evening schools were started in Vedyappanur village and Bavaji Nagar in Tiruvannamalai town. So Vengikkal village, Vedyappanur, VOC Nagar, Adhi Sheshan Nagar and Bavaji Nagar centers are located in and around of Tiruvannamalai. Puliyyur, Kovilur

and Vilamuchi are located on the Jawadhu hills region. These three schools are regular schools managed by the Forest Department of Government of Tamilnadu. These schools don't have enough teachers and so we are providing teachers on their request and supporting the kid's education.

All these evening schools are not only just giving educational support but a lot more than education. Their activity limits are endless simply. As a primary goal, moral and ethics lessons are given to avoid many problems that are caused in the society. They are also offered painting, drawing, paper pulp art work, literature, etc. Cultural events are organized by all schools during the special such as Independence Day, Republic Day, and Sarasvathi Pooja. During these events, all parents and public in that area are invited to see the performances of the children. These events make the parents proud of their kids and also motivates them a lot to support their child's education without any disturbances.



Also students at these schools had the chance to access our mobile library and so their reading habit started growing naturally. A discussion was also conducted with the parents and staff of these schools to understand the students and what we are doing with their kids. This also helps the parents to understand what they have to do for their kids.



Success:

- Children studying in important classes like 10th and 12th stayed even longer time to study since there are too many disturbances at their home (because of the television and their parents).
- In Vengikkal, even students and staffs gathered in the early morning 4.00AM for a group studies. This shown everyone the interest of the children and also the dedication of the staff team.
- Children in the evening schools are told about the hygienic conditions of their living area and they have started cleaning up the surrounding of their homes.
- The children performed an awareness play about environmental issues in their areas.
- Children are offered support also in the mornings during the examination times. This made them feel more confident to face their exams.
- Mathilde, a volunteer from Netherlands visited Vengikkal evening school and gave lessons to make sculptures from the paper pulp. It was very encouraging for the children and helped a lot increase their creativity.



Failures:

- In Vedyappanur evening school initially there were more than 80 students but slowly it came to almost 20-25 students only. Because the kids are stopped by the Government school teachers and they told the kids not to go to evening schools anymore. So the parents stopped the kids from attending. We tried our level best to bring back the children but parents also didn't cooperate with us. This lead us to close the evening school also since the other 20-15 kids also wanted to stop coming from next academic year since their parents don't want to send them any more from June onwards.

- Parent's cooperation was a biggest challenge in this year too. It takes time for them to understand their child's educational dreams. But we never give up upon the parents and we keep on talking to them.
- We planned to give a tree sapling to every kid on their birthday but we were not able to implement this in last year due to transportation and few other practical reasons. But we will be trying again doing this in next year onwards.

The staff team including Indhiragandhi (Project Incharge), Alarmelu, Rekha, Sathya, Malar, Rajendiran and Kumaresan are dedicatedly fulfilled the needs of the children and taken good care of them. Without them this project is nothing!!!

Environment Care

This project is carried out completely by the support of local donors. This year also our team participated in efforts to protect the holy Mountain Arunachala from the plastic waste and forest fire together with The Forest Way, our partner organization in the field. In December we worked together with the District authorities, Police and Forest department to get involved in the Deepam festival works on the Mountain. We have gathered with all our volunteers and created few check points on they way to the hill and checked every single devotee that was climbing the Mountain to seize plastic materials, fire crackers and any other flammable materials from them. It was a joint effort of both organizations with the support of all Government agencies. This was a great success this year and there was far less garbage throughout the Mountain after the Deepam festival.



Also our staffs and volunteers team participated in the efforts to put out the forest fires that happened at the Mount Arunachala often in this year. Now it is an idea to raise more support in Tiruvannamalai for the planting on the mountain and also for the fire line creation.

Finance:

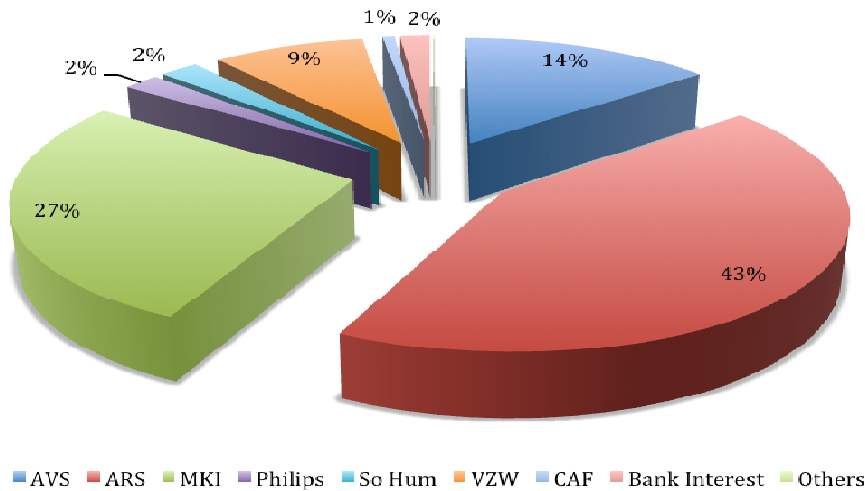
The generous support of donors made our work smooth this year. An effective cost saving system followed in all projects while spending for the activities.

Books are audited by an independent audit firm Sreevathson V Associates from Chennai and audited financials are published for the public view at all project works places, office and website too. For any further clarification the audit firm can be reached at workdesk@svaca.in. All donors are sent the same. Income Tax returns and an FC6 return was filed with the Home Ministry of Government of India within the prescribed time.

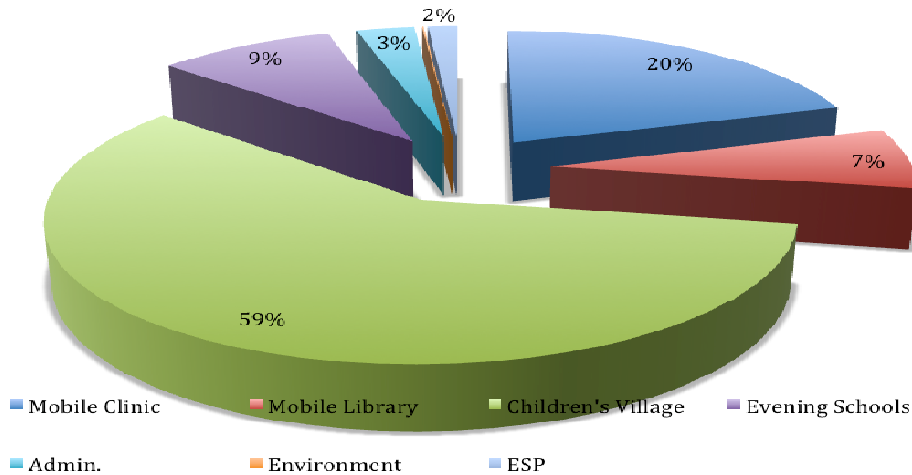
Overview of finance:

- The staff and older children made the staff made budgets and Children's Village budget.
- Budgets were approved by the Regenboog board and also the donor organizations and received the donations.
- AVS, ARS and MKI supported the Children's Village project this year. Money received from MKI is for the 2014-15 year running cost.
- MKI, Philips India and So Hum Foundation, USA supported mobile clinic.
- ARS supported the Evening schools project, Educational sponsorship program and mobile library project.
- Environment program expenses are met with the local contribution from India.
- Evening schools project exceeded the planned budget and the same was informed to ARS and after the justification of the budget they approved the excess budget.
- Administrative cost was kept as low as 3%.

Regenboog's Donations Overview



Regenboog's Expenses Overview



Conclusion:

Regenboog India succeeded in our mission to bring hope and happiness to needy people living in and around Tiruvanmalai. We touched over 40,000 lives this past year by providing medical care, educational support, a loving place to call home, or simply a good inspiring book to read. In addition, we helped to preserve the sacred environment of the Holy Mountain Arunachala. We are deeply grateful to all those who support our efforts and we strive always to reach our highest goals of the best possible service to our beneficiaries.



Regenboog India Foundation,

381 Vedyppanur Village, Adi Annamalai Post 606604, Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu, India

Mobile Phone: +91 7373 0696 77 / ceo@regenboogindia.org / www.regenboogindia.org

Partners:

Verein Arunachala Rising Sun, Switzerland - www.arunachala-rising-sun.ch

Verein Arunachala Village School, Switzerland - www.village-school.ch

Jürg Weber Foundation, Switzerland

Stichting Medische Kampen India - www.medsichekampen.nl

So Hum Foundation, USA - www.so-humfoundation.org

Microsoft, India

Philips Electronics, India