



TAPRIZA VEREIN Bahnhofstr. 35 CH-8001 Zürich  
 mail@tapriza.org www.tapriza.org

## NEWSLETTER 2022



Even the little ones could return to school in August.

### Tapriza in brief

Since 1998, the Swiss Tapriza NGO has supported the Tapriza School as well as health projects, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the improvement of infrastructure in the remote district Dolpo in northwestern Nepal. Since the beginning our local partner organization TASHI-D has been responsible for the management of the school and projects. Its board consists of parents and locals. The Tapriza School is recognized and supported by the Nepal government. [www.tapriza.org](http://www.tapriza.org)

**Your donation helps shape the future of the children in Nepal.**

Credit Suisse IBAN: CH18 0483 5029 8535 9000 0

Postfinance IBAN: CH30 0900 0000 8752 2110 0

### Event

#### Tapriza General Assembly:

The Tapriza General Assembly is on Friday, May 20, 2022, at 7pm in the Quartiertreff Hirslanden, Forchstrasse 248, 8032 Zürich. Tram 11 to Burgwies.

**Photos:** Unless otherwise noted ©Semduk Lama, Tapriza Team



*Happy Losar*  
*We wish you all the best in the powerful*  
*Wasser-Tiger year*

### Another year under the influence of the pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic determined life in Nepal and at the Tapriza School in 2021. After the winter break, our teachers reached the school. They stayed in quarantine for a week and cleaned the school grounds. The school children followed at the end of March under strict hygiene precautions. But it soon became apparent that this would yet again not be a normal school year. At the end of April another lockdown in Nepal started that would last four months.

#### All tenth graders passed their school leaving exams with flying colors despite Covid-19 and school closure

But before that, the Tapriza School managed a feat: Normally, the district board of education administers the final exams for the tenth graders. This year, as an exception, the exams were to be taken at the respective schools and the deadline was extended to June 2021 in order to allow the schools to finish the required cur-

riculum. Because the Tapriza School managed to complete the syllabus before the lockdown, the exams were conducted right at the beginning of the school year. All the tenth graders passed with flying colours. However, their future remains uncertain as attending lessons of eleventh and twelfth grades in Kathmandu was only possible to a certain extent for these students from remote areas, hampered by the renewed lockdown and online classes.

Around mid-June, the remote Tapriza School began teaching the younger students in their respective villages with “travelling teachers”. This has proven itself successful in the previous year. At the same time, from grade six upwards, the students were allowed to come to school under strict protective measures. From August 2021, the school was finally able to resume regular operations.

Last years Class 11 and 12 students, who we continue to support, had travelled to Kathmandu for the exams in March 2021 – as requested by the government. This happened despite the fact that the entire school year had



The final exams held at the school this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



The teachers prepare the school garden during quarantine.



The successful vaccination campaign.



Ramchandra Budha and Dawa Dolma Bajjee distribute medical supplies.

taken place online. Due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, the exams were then cancelled. The school management and the parent's committee decided to let the youth return home for their own safety. However, seven of them tested positive before leaving and were isolated. Luckily, no one had severe symptoms. Only when they had tested negative again, all of them travelled back to Dolpo together. There they spent ten days in isolation outside their respective villages in order not to put the local population at risk. So far we have not had any Covid-19 cases among the students on the school campus.

### Medical help thanks to donations

The second Covid-19 wave in spring and summer 2021 hit the Himalayan state hard. Initially, Dolpo lacked everything. However, thanks to the generous support of Swiss and US donors, we were able to make an important contribution to alleviating the disease. Semduk Lama, our gifted project coordinator, quickly managed to organize the essentials in Kathmandu and arrange their transport to Dolpo: antigen tests, masks, disinfectants, protective clothing for the health workers, medicines, as well as oxygen concentrators and nebulizers.

Thanks to our donations, the district hospital in Dunai could also be supplied with medicines and nebulizers. Initially, there was not enough protective clothing for the staff.

### Taprizia alumni fought against the spread of the corona virus in Dolpo

In Phoksumdo and at the school, our health workers used the material immediately. Together with former Taprizia students, they took responsibility for different villages, informed the population, and distributed protective masks. In this year, Kalsang Nyima Lama's voluntary work was central again. We support him in his bachelor in public health administration. Together with our health staff, he organized a successful Covid-19 prevention and awareness campaign in the villages. This was particularly important as there was still little knowledge of virus transmission. As soon as the government made the vaccines available, the Taprizia health team, together with the government health assistant, started inoculating the population immediately, also thanks to all the protective material we provided. They split up and were able to vaccinate everyone above 18 years in the various villages simultaneously. The

cooperation between the Taprizia health team and the government was excellent for the first time ever this year. Kalsang Nyima and Dawa Dolma also received reimbursement from the government for their work in the vaccination campaign. There is talk of a vaccination rate of 95% for the Phoksumdo region.

Although there are also cases of Covid-19 in Dolpo, no news of serious cases reached us from the school and the surrounding villages of Phoksumdo.

### First doctor from Phoksumdo in Switzerland

*In autumn 2021, the newly qualified doctor Yungdrung Magli travelled to Switzerland. Together with other partners, we supported her in her medical studies. Dr Hans Marty reports on her visit for the Taprizia health team.*

In August 2021, Yungdrung Magli from Ringmo Village was the first in the region to successfully complete her medical training. She was able to visit Switzerland at my invitation. The trip took her abroad for the first time and gave her the opportunity to meet her supporters in Switzerland. During the first few days I showed her the small hospital in Zweisimmen and the Inselspi-

tal in Bern. She was able to make valuable connections to Nicole Niquille from the hospital in Lukla and to the Rotary Club Saanenland. Then she travelled to Chur to see Serena Hartmann, who contributed to her living expenses. She visited Air Zermatt with Ceynur, Rahel, and Markus from the association Dolpocare before visiting Ursula Taugwalder from the FEM Foundation that also supports the young medic. After a trip to Paris, Peter Abbühl, current medical advisor of the Taprizia health team, showed her his rural general practice. BergFrau Claudia Schmid and the social anthropologist Marietta Kind from the Taprizia Verein were her last hosts. They took her through the Swiss mountains and into the ethnographic research on Dolpo.

Filled with new impressions, Yungdrung Magli returned home, grateful for what she had experienced. In the meantime, she has started her practical year at the Gandaki Medical College in Pokhara, where she enjoys having valuable experiences with patients on a daily basis. We wish her continued success in her life and medical profession.



Outdoor lessons.



Semduk Lama on the way to Dolpo with oxygen concentrators.



Yungdrung Magli (2nd from right) visits Air Zermatt. Photo: Dolpocare



Yungdrung Magli is the first female doctor from Phoksumdo. Photo: Hans Marty