

*"Care and love to all..."*



*Annual Report of April 2016 – March 2017*

Dear Friends,

Warm wishes from Regenboog India Foundation!!!

I am happy to finally send you our annual report 2016/2017, which documents already the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Regenboog India Foundation! First of all, I would like to give thanks from the bottom of my heart to all the donors, beneficiaries and well-wishers for their wonderful support. The past year was once again a happy as well as a challenging one. We have been confronted with staff underperformance with consecutive changes of staff and continuous efforts to get training for them, as well as with an ever-increasing amount of administrative work requested by the government.



Another ongoing challenge is the lack of sustainable support for the mobile medical clinic since 2013, which causes many worries. Still, I am glad that our projects have evolved in a very favorable way, as will be described in detail below. What I am also really grateful for is the fact that our local support is steadily growing due to the major media attention received, with a total amount of 331'000 Rs raised this year, compared to 262'000 Rs in 2015/2016.

From 28 Nov 16 – March 17 India was confronted with a national demonetization which fortunately did not cause any major problems for us. This was due to most of our payments are via bank transfers for the last couple of years already, guaranteeing that way a higher transparency of cash flow and enabling our partners (e.g. local farmers) to benefit from bank interests.

For the future it remains our objective to find good staff members, to further fine tune our work and increase the quality of our services, as well as to further increase the percentage of local volunteer and monetary support obtained. Once again thanks a million for all your great support to continue our journey...

With Love & Respect,  
Madhan Mohan and Team Regenboog India



## Core Values of Regenboog India

### Mission

“Regenboog India Foundation was founded to bring smiles and satisfaction to the needy people in the society by providing the necessary services and opportunities for them. It is dedicated to the society and promotes rural health care, children welfare, education and environment care.”

### Vision

It is our vision that one day all persons in our community will receive the education, shelter, health care, love and support that nurtures their full potential to become themselves caring productive members of our society.

### Principles

- ❖ Any service provided is conceived and offered from the point of view of those who receive the service. In other words, always step into the shoes of those receiving and see the service through those eyes.
- ❖ Any service provided is of the highest level of quality possible.
- ❖ All will be treated with equal respect and understanding.
- ❖ All those involved in providing services for Regenboog will remain humble to the gift of serving others.
- ❖ All involved with Regenboog will work together as one family to reach others who are in need of help.
- ❖ Administrative expenses will be kept low in order to extend services to as many beneficiaries as possible.
- ❖ All donations of support, small and large, will be received with equal gratitude.
- ❖ Transparency and accountability in all aspects of our work is required.



## Sarasvathi Children's Village

**Objectives:** Inaugurated in December 2012 after having initially been situated in a rented house since 2006, the Sarasvathi Children's Village (SCV) is a special home for girls in need of a safe place to live due to both of or one of their parents' death or other problems within their family. The girls live in a joyful home atmosphere where they receive unconditional love, good care and a good education for a better future.

**Activities and achievements:** In the beginning of April 16 there were 37 girls living in SCV, in the course of the year 3 of them left due to reintegration into their families and 5 new girls joined so that by the end of March 17 SCV consists of 39 girls living in 4 separate houses, each of them headed by a housemother. There are 3 qualified teachers taking care of the girls' education, with slow learners receiving more personal attention. At the moment, there are 14 girls at primary school (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade), 17 girls at high school (6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade) and 6 girls at secondary school (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade). Two girls frequent university, Sathya attending the first year of Mathematics bachelor degree and Sivashakthi attending the second year of English bachelor degree.



Besides the housemothers and teachers, the SCV team consists of several cooks and caretakers, a gardener and security person as well as a driver and social worker. In the course of the year we had several changes of staff due to underperformance, leading to a certain instability within SCV, which we hope to now have overcome with our current, very dedicated team.



Infrastructure wise SCV has reached a stable situation, but the lacking monsoon in 2015 and 16 left its marks: due to an increasing scarcity of water we had to close down our beloved organic vegetable garden in August 16, and from February 17 onwards the girls had to reduce their daily water consumption, learning about and experiencing

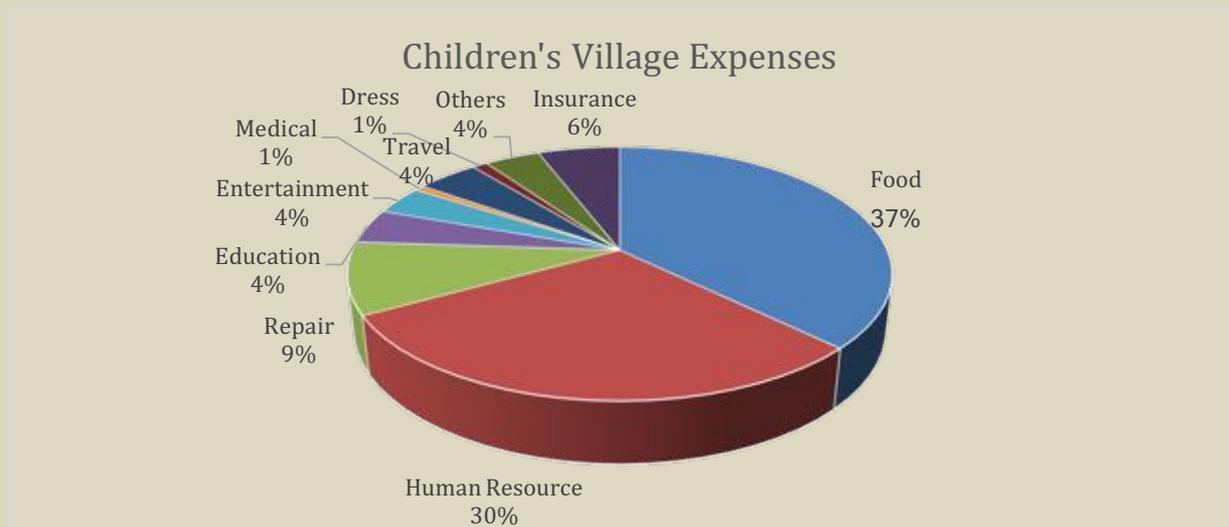
thus the direct impact of climate change. Regarding health, happily we did not face any major issues this year.

As usual we made several trips with the girls, including a 3-day-trip to Rameshwaram where we visited the temple and enjoyed the seaside. During the weekends, the girls continue to

receive lessons of art and craftwork as well as Carnatic singing, Veenai instrumental classes and Bharatham (classical dance) lessons.

**Finances:**

The annual budget for 2016/2017 was 1'827'666 Rs of which we used 1'711'665 Rs. The following graph illustrates our expenses in more detail:



**Conclusions:** Overall, we have succeeded in guaranteeing a safe and loving home for our girls throughout this past year, in line with our objectives. It remains however a challenge to maintain a stable situation within the staff, forming a continuously dedicated team that accompanies our girls throughout the years – we work whole heartedly for the attainment of this important goal.

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**Environment Project**

**Objectives:** In December 2008, we first started our environmental activities by spreading seeds on the holy mountain Arunachala, which had been victim of repeated fires in previous years. Ever since we have been continuously expanding the range of our work, which includes fire prevention and plastic garbage protection of Arunachala together with the Forest Department and the charity organization “The Forest Way” during Deepam festival, when Tiruvannamalai hosts 1.5 – 2 million people.



**Activities and achievements:** During Deepam festival we executed once again our fire prevention and plastic garbage protection activities of Arunachala with success. From September 16 to February 17, Regenboog supported furthermore a local group of young men who had begun to clean several heavily polluted ponds in Tiruvannamalai with the necessary equipment. Later, we unfortunately had to cease this collaboration due to the discovery of corruption within the mentioned group of men. In January 17, in light of the failed monsoon

in 2016 we predicted a draught and therefore decided to install water tanks for forest animals on the foothills of Arunachala to prevent their dying of thirst during upcoming summer. Construction works are yet to be started.

***Personal statement Hariharan, Volunteer:***

*“it is always heartwarming experience when I involve with Regenboog India Foundation for their environment programs. Particularly the work we did on the Deepam festival is meaningful to keep the holy Arunachala Mountain clean and green for the next generation, which is the only natural resource that we have in Tiruvannamalai...”*

***Finances:*** In light of the very low amount of money necessary to run this project, as well as the uncertainty of how much support will be necessary for fire extinction throughout the year, no budget has been made. This year’s expenses, 55’000 Rs in total, were entirely covered by the local donations and the bank interest.

***Conclusion:*** The environment project remains very small when considering its financial requirements. When it comes to its effectiveness in raising local awareness both for its own means as well as for our other projects, however, it is very valuable. As climate change becomes an issue of ever increasing importance, we plan to finally put into action a longtime dream of Madhan: to start a tree nursery, growing and planting as many trees as possible in the future, covering as much of our surroundings as possible with a beautiful green blanket.

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***Mobile Library***



***Objectives:*** Launched in 2011 with a motorbike and from 2013 onwards with a jeep transporting books to schools and evening schools in the surroundings of Tiruvannamalai, this project is meant to bring back the habit of reading to children, lost in the past years due to a lack of availability and the high cost of good books as well as the increased use of television and amount of school homework.

***Activities and achievements:*** It is the mobile library that has been our major focus throughout this past year and we are very happy about its progress. The mobile library has been operating throughout the whole academic year from June 16 to March 17, circulating over 11’000 books in this time period, which represents a major increase compared to last year’s 4000

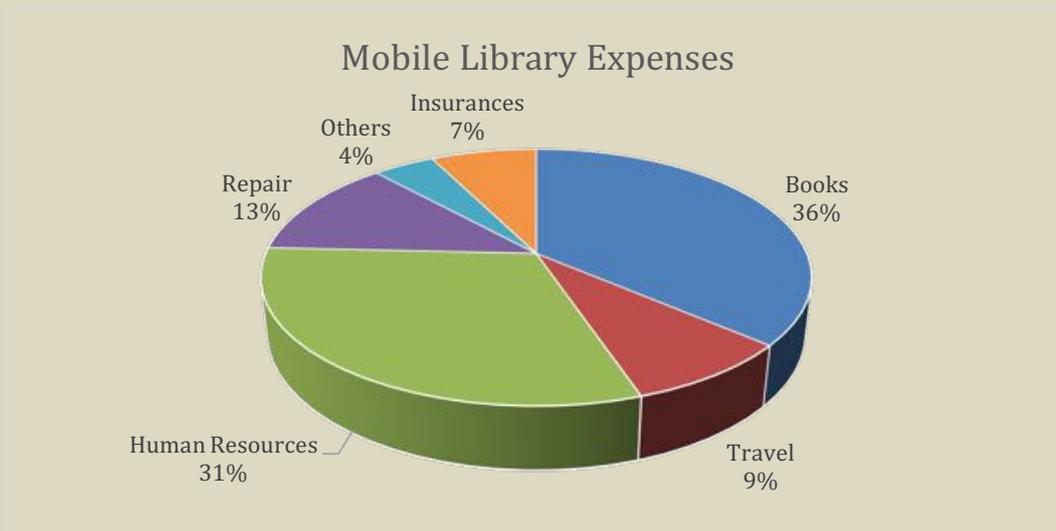
books. We have furthermore implemented a public-address system, letting the children tell through a microphone what they most liked about the book they just read, motivating thereby other children to read it, too.



After the government schools having been rather hesitant not to say dismissive confronted with our project in the beginning phase, they now have gained confidence in light of the visible positive impact on the students. In fact, we have been receiving many requests from government schools that would like to be visited by our mobile library, up to the point that we cannot meet all the requests due to limited time capacity despite our already having saved much time through the complete computerization of our lending of books.

We notice furthermore that we are soon reaching the maximum weight that our vehicle can bare, an issue we will have to consider in light of further expansions of this project. The number of books in stock crossed 7000 at the time being.

**Finances:** Our annual budget was 223'288 Rs, which we exceeded, having invested 335'830 Rs in total. This was due to a bigger quantity of purchased books. More details can be drawn from the graph:



**Conclusion:** As already mentioned we are all in all very happy about the ongoing evolution of this initially very small project. It remains our objective to further increase our efficiency, finding a way to bring books to all children requesting. This could be done by starting to send boxes with books by public bus to far away schools (we have had requests from schools situated up to 32 km distant from Tiruvannamalai). We also wish to further increase our stock of books, reaching 10'000 in the course of the next academic year.

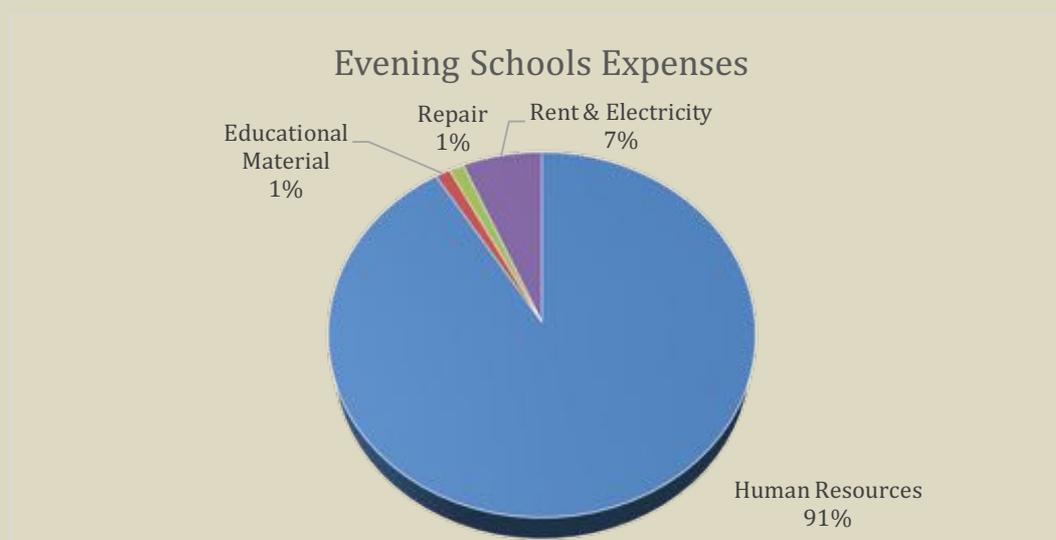
## Arunachala Evening Schools

**Objectives:** Since 2008 several evening schools in Tiruvannamalai and in the Jawadhu hills provide a safe place to study and develop their personal skills to children from the slums region and rural areas, lacking such support due to underprivileged living conditions of their families. Goal is furthermore to diminish the dropout rate out of school, explaining to the parents the importance of a good education.

**Activities and achievements:** As in previous years, there are 5 evening schools in Tiruvannamalai and its surroundings as well as 3 normal schools in the Jawadhu hills, which we support with 8 teachers. In September 16, unfortunately, the house owner of one evening school asked us to leave. While searching for a new place to stay, that particular evening school had to be closed down for 6 months' time until a new location was found. There were some changes of staff, too, but in general our teachers worked very dedicatedly, doing also craftworks and various competitions with the children to help them develop their individual skills. Furthermore, two girls from the evening schools asked for support for higher education after secondary school, which was granted.



**Finances:** The annual budget for 2016/2017 was 941'336 Rs, but instead we spent only 617'727 Rs, which is 34% less than planned. On the one hand this was due to donations of educational material, which we therefore didn't have to buy ourselves. Also, some evening school teachers left in the course of the year and one evening school had to be closed temporarily. Searching for new teachers and a new evening school location there were less salaries to be paid in the meanwhile.



**Conclusion:** As can be drawn from the description above, this project is sometimes affected by challenges such as facility and staff changes, but fortunately we always find a solution. It remains our continuous objective to provide high quality services to our students, as well as to find volunteers that can offer more special activities like computer education, arts and craftworks to the children who otherwise don't have access to anything beyond basic school education.

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### **Educational Sponsorship Program**

**Objectives:** Having evolved seamlessly from our other projects, this program supports those students who are in need of financial aid and moral support to continue and finish their school and higher education until they manage to finance themselves independently. They joined this program either through our evening schools, through the children's village or after having contacted us personally, seeking support.

**Activities and achievements:** Throughout this past year we supported 16 students, 8 of them frequenting secondary school and 8 frequenting university. Throughout the academic year we remain in regular contact with the students through phone calls as well as personal meetings at least twice a year, us being otherwise reachable for them whenever needed.

**Finances:** The annual budget was 516'500 Rs of which we used 339'125 Rs., 34% less than planned. This was due to the fact that some students who initially asked for financial support and were included into the budget, failed their exams to enter university. Also, we restricted the new admission of students in order to be able to guarantee full financial support throughout the studies of all the 16 students already admitted into our program.



**Conclusion:** When it comes to time invested this is a rather small project. Financially however it is going to be an ever-increasing focus of investment since the number of requests for support of students is growing each year. To find sustainable support for this project will therefore be of importance in the upcoming year.

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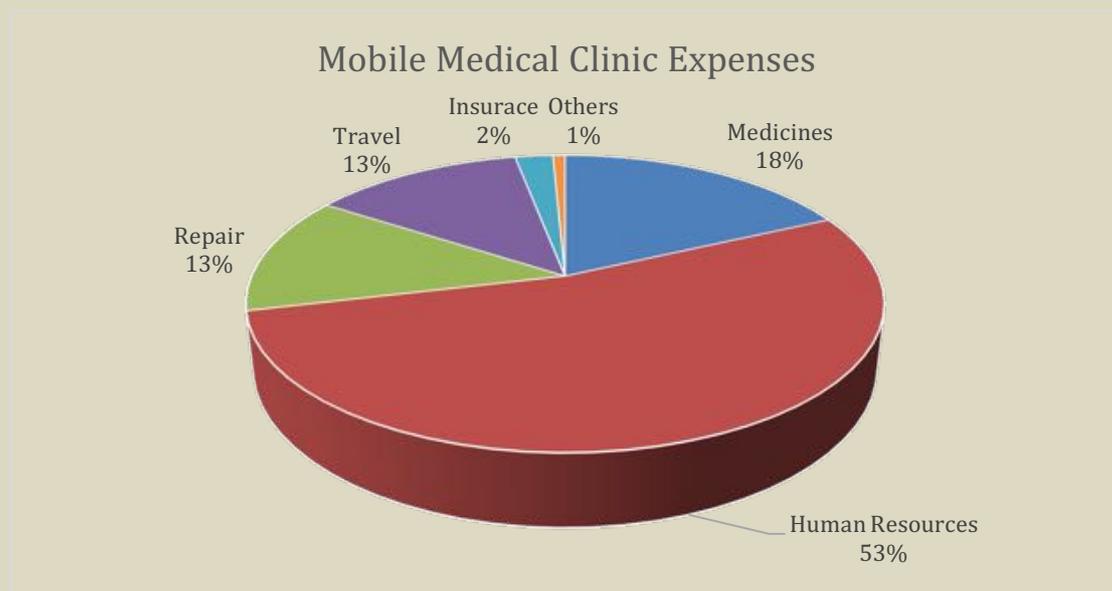
### **Mobile Medical Clinic**

**Objectives:** Launched in 2010 the mobile medical clinic is meant to provide basic health care to the people living in remote rural villages in the surroundings of Tiruvannamalai who don't have any access to medical facilities. It furthermore executes awareness campaigns about frequent diseases and provides regular health education to the public.

**Activities and achievements:** Our medical team provided its services in the plain area with the mobile clinic on 4 days per week, and in the Jawadhu hills with a jeep on 1 day per week, treating 40'490 patients in total. Frequent ailments included colds, skin diseases, wound infections, diabetes, hypertension and gastritis. Our dedicated team consists of one doctor, two nurses, one pharmacist and one driver and social worker; they travelled 17'674 km in the course of this last year. Besides providing basic health care services, the team raised awareness and informed patients about the prevention of vitamin deficiency, the importance of personal hygiene, pregnancy advice and diabetic care as well as prevention of hepatitis and seasonal diseases such as dengue fever and chickengunya.



**Finances:** The annual budget was 1'567'899 Rs, which we slightly exceeded, having spent 1'605'826 Rs. The following graph shows our expenses in detail.

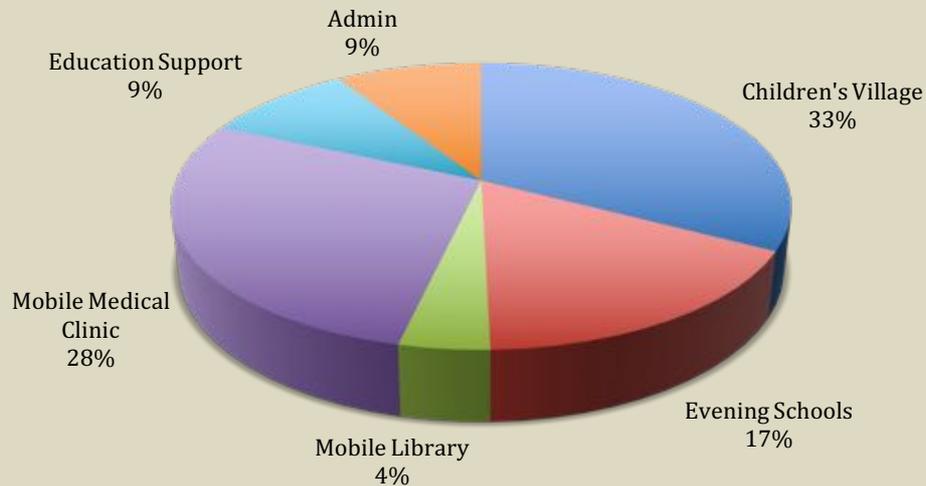


**Conclusion:** While basic health care provision ran smoothly throughout the year, it remains our objective to increase the availability of specialists care for our patients, e.g. by executing dental care or eye care camps. Since specialists usually prefer staying in bigger cities with more comfort, as of now this remains however a dream for. Another important and ongoing issue is finding a sustainable source of financing for this project ever since 2013, when “Medische Kampen India” stopped its support.

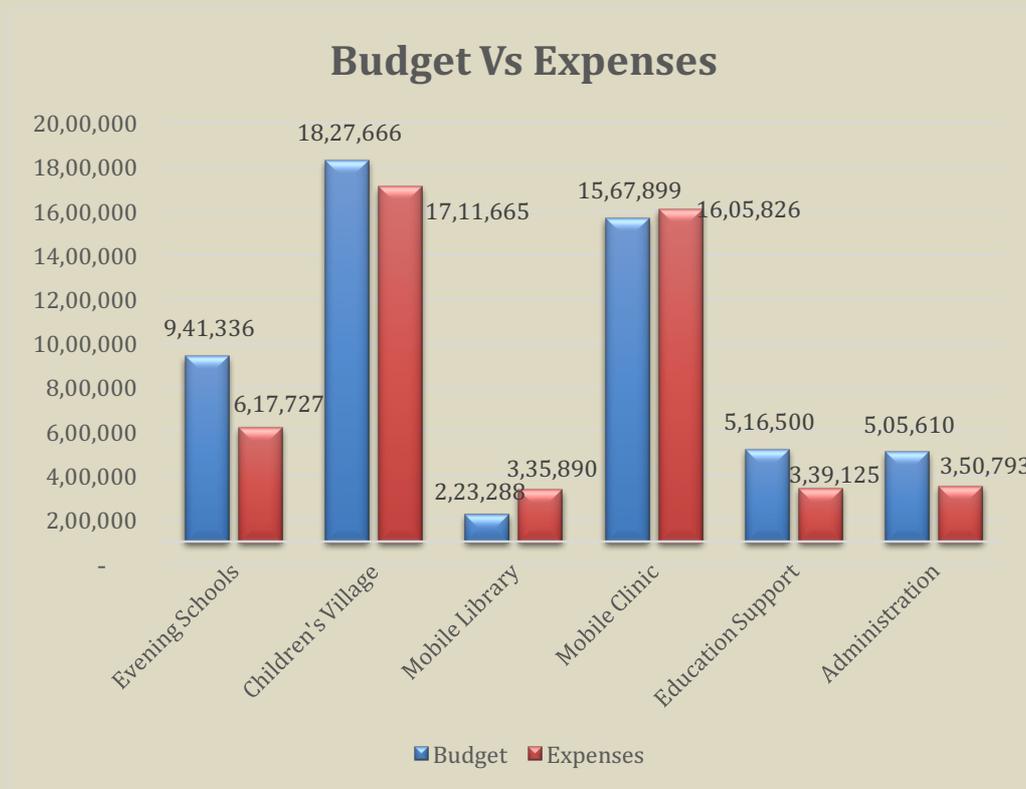
## Overall Finances

Our overall budget for Regenboog was 5'582'299 Rs (= 85'882 CHF) and was planned to be invested as illustrated:

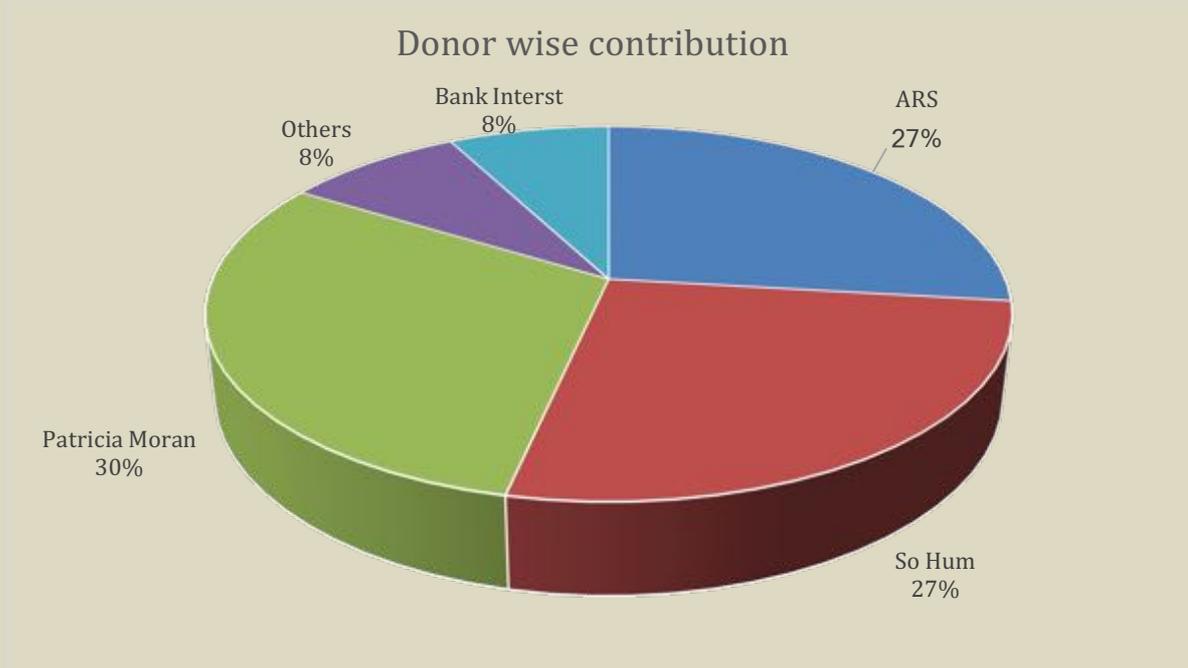
### Regenboog India Budget 2016-17



We spent 4'961'026 Rs in 2016/17, which is 11% below our budget; reasons for this can be drawn from the project descriptions above. The following graph illustrates the investments in detail:



Our projects ran smoothly thanks to the sustainable support of various donors, presented in the following graph:



*(Note: Verein Arunachala Village School offered their support for the children village project in March 2016 itself)*

**Conclusion:**

As another fruitful year comes to its end, we are deeply thankful for all the great support we continue receiving. It remains our biggest challenge to find concrete sustainable support for our medical project and the growing educational sponsorship program, but we are optimistic that with the support and blessings of all the good hearts behind us we will eventually find a solution. A warm thanks to all of you, we are looking forward to another year of bringing big smiles to as many faces as possible.



Regenboog India Foundation, 381, Vedyappanur Village, Adiannamalai Post, Tiruvannamalai  
606604, Tamilnadu, India

Tel: +91 994209507 | [ceo@regenboogindia.org](mailto:ceo@regenboogindia.org) | [www.regenboogindia.org](http://www.regenboogindia.org)