

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Another year has passed, and the Benchen Free Medical Foundation has now been in existence for 23 years.

The purpose of the association is, as is well known, to raise funds for the free healthcare and medication that is offered to all who visit the Benchen Free Medical/Dental Clinic.

The clinics are situated next to the Benchen Monastery in the Kathmandu Valley. In addition to caring for the residents of the monastery, the clinics are, under normal circumstances, open to local people from all over who all receive free treatment and medication.

Just like for the rest of the world, 2020 has been an unusual year for Nepal. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent mutations, the Benchen Monastery grounds have been closed to the outside world since March 2020. This measure was necessary in order to protect the residents of the monastery from the risk of infection. For this reason, both the medical clinic and the dental clinic have been closed to the public, and Dr. Tsering and Dentist Karma Dolma have been focusing on the needs of the residents of the monastery. In addition to this, they give medical advice and provide treatment via web-cam over the internet.

During the course of the pandemic, COVID-19 test results have been collected from those of the Benchen Monastery residents who show signs of infection, and steps are taken to keep them in isolation.

The dental clinic, for which we took over the financing in 2016, is run by Karma Dolma who has a university degree from Poland. Under normal circumstances she would work at the clinic five days a week from 8 am to 12 pm together with her dental assistant. Two afternoons a week they would also work at other monasteries with their portable dental equipment.

The medical clinic is, under normal circumstances, visited by about 30 patients daily. It also has a branch office in Pharping, a small town situated some 40 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, where Dr. Tsering would have surgery twice a week, attending to a large number of patients. Furthermore, our contributions to the clinic has made it possible for patients with special needs to receive medical care at other health institutions, such as physical examinations, surgical procedures and inpatient care.

The funds contributed by us in 2020 have been spent on appliances and wages for the dental clinic, vaccine for the residents of the monastery, and inpatient care, including medical examinations and surgical procedures.

The Board of Benchen Free Medical Foundation Denmark