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Magazine for Novartis associates in Switzerland

# live

Novartis in Switzerland  
**New edition of the  
"Novartis Passport"**

Menveo®  
**The launch  
of a new vaccine**

Novartis associates show great solidarity

## How we help

 **NOVARTIS**



# Dawn of a new life after the great flood

In 2005 Novartis and its associates in Switzerland donated 220 000 francs to BASAID for the victims of the Asian tsunami. Now, five years later, the reconstruction projects in Sri Lanka financed by the money have come to an end: Twenty families have a new home, a part-destroyed orphanage has been rebuilt and extended, and a new preschool is providing around 25 children with a safe environment in which to learn and flourish.

The disaster on December 26, 2004, left around 226 000 people dead and 1.7 million homeless across 13 Asian countries. The devastating earthquake that hit Haiti early in January reminds us of the images we saw then of desperate people wandering the ruined streets, having lost family members – and often their homes and entire livelihoods.

In a campaign similar to that for the victims of the Haitian earthquake, fund-raising for which has just come to an end, Novartis associates in 2005 demonstrated immense solidarity with the communities hit by the tsunami. Donations, including those from the company under its matching program, totaled 220 000 francs.

## livefacts

### Global solidarity

After the tsunami in 2005, Novartis associates worldwide donated over 1.1 million US dollars. Together with the medicines donated by Novartis, the amount totaled 10.7 million US dollars. The Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development donated 200 000 francs for food, accommodation and emergency aid in Sri Lanka.



Valachchenai, Sri Lanka: happy faces thanks to the orphanage extension.

### Careful evaluation

Before the aid was delivered, a taskforce subjected all the projects and partners to a painstaking process of selection and evaluation. The projects had to be able to deliver long-term benefits and address the basic needs of the population. Then, as now, there was a conscious decision to focus on medium and long-term reconstruction assistance. Dr. Sasank Mohanty, a member of the BASAID steering committee, sums up the challenges as follows: "It wasn't easy identifying and implementing suitable projects in all the confusion following the tsunami; BASAID set itself and its partners high standards in terms of project content, the way a project was implemented, and the integrity of local partners. We were fully aware of the fact that Novartis associates had put a great deal of

faith in us with their donations, and we want to let them down. Uppermost in our mind was the need to use these donations wisely in particular, to provide long-term benefit for the victims."

From an initial shortlist of ten projects, three were selected. Now, five years later, all four construction projects have been completed. Dr. Mohanty is upbeat about how it all went: "I am very pleased, and also rather proud, to see the effect the donations have had on the people of Sri Lanka they were intended to help. Thanks to the solidarity shown by Novartis associates, more than 20 families are now enjoying bright prospects. An orphanage that had been partly destroyed was reinstated and extended, and the provision of a preschool means that, every day, around 25 four- to six-year-olds from the poorest backgrounds are getting a chance of education."

### New hope

Most of the Novartis donations were used for the construction of homes for people who had lost everything as a result of the tsunami. BASAID worked hand-in-hand with HANDAID, a small organization based in Aesch founded by a Sri Lankan teacher working at the International School in Basel. The government of Sri Lanka donated the building land to the aid project. To keep costs down, the houses were all built with the help of volunteers from Europe. The help – some of them Novartis associates – committed themselves to a two-week stint on the bu-



ing site and paid their own way in terms of travel costs, food and accommodation. The project has proved a success. None of the rehoused families has sold on its house or plot, as has happened with some of the other organizations' projects. Thanks to the generosity of Novartis associates, 15 families in Bandadaragama have a new roof over their heads, which has given them new hope. Mohanty, who was at Sandoz/Novartis for many years and now works for Syngenta in their compliance department, has used his own vacation time to spend several days in Bandadaragama checking the progress of the project – all paid for out of his own pocket, as is usual with BASAID. "The homes for the people in need were built in stages. Only when we were personally convinced of the success and effectiveness of the project and the seriousness of the project partners did we release further tranches of the donated money." BASAID also contributed to a German-led initiative in the south of the country by building five further houses, resulting in a total of 20 houses built using donated funds.

#### **Making sure children grow up in safety**

BASAID also took part in a third project, which involved the building of a preschool in Amparai, on Sri Lanka's eastern coast. The school, with its child-friendly grounds, was erected with the

help of a Swiss-based Sri Lankan exile organization; it was provided with sanitary facilities as well as with learning and teaching materials. This project emerged out of a conviction that children from poverty-stricken backgrounds, whether as a result of the tsunami or the war, must be provided with a nurturing environment – somewhere where they can grow up in safety, go to school and play with their friends.

The fourth project, in Valachchenai, involved rebuilding and extending an orphanage that had been partially destroyed. Around 35 orphans used to live in this former private house with its four rooms, kitchen and two toilets. The 15 youngest children slept in one eight-square-meter room, the other 20 children in a 21-square-meter room. Extending the accommodation meant the children now had more space. They also received additional showers and toilets. A local organization is taking care of the long-term maintenance of the building.

The help from Switzerland does not end there. Under the motto "helping people to help themselves," a follow-up project in Bandadaragama is currently contributing to the establishment of a milk processing facility. The intention is to improve the economic prospects of the residents in the newly built villages. Whatever was left of the donated funds was used to buy more teaching materials for the preschool. CB



Bandadaragama, Sri Lanka: fifteen homeless families receive new homes.

## livefacts

### **The four BASAID projects:**

#### **Construction of 15 homes in Bandadaragama, Sri Lanka**

Project costs: 127 000 francs

Project partner: Tsunami Handaid, Switzerland

Result: Fifteen families received new homes after the tsunami had swept away everything they had. The government donated the land, and volunteers from all over the world helped build the houses under professional supervision.

#### **Construction of five homes in Aivissavella, Sri Lanka**

Project costs: 40 000 francs

Project partner: "Verein Bessenbach hilft," Germany

Result: Five poverty-stricken families without possessions or a roof over their heads received a new home. A drinking water supply system was also installed.

#### **Orphanage extended in Valachchenai, Sri Lanka**

Project costs: 10 000 francs

Project partners: Roland Hodel Family; associates at Novartis Stein, Switzerland

Result: The children now have more space thanks to the extension added to the orphanage, and hygiene has improved due to the inclusion of additional showers and toilets.

#### **Provision of a preschool in Amparai, Sri Lanka**

Project costs: 30 520 francs

Project partner: Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO), Switzerland

Result: Around 25 four- to six-year-olds from the poorest families now have a safe place where they can learn and flourish thanks to the provision of a preschool complete with fittings and furniture, as well as learning and teaching materials, sanitary facilities, electricity and a play area.





After the tsunami of 2004, Novartis supported reconstruction projects.



Campus Basel, Fabrikstrasse 10: free view of scientists and lab innovations.

## Doing good

Novartis is of great economic significance to Switzerland – something that is clearly demonstrated once again by the facts and figures in the new edition of the “Novartis Passport”. The article on page 8 presents the data as an overview.

Novartis associates help people not just through the part they play in the work of Novartis as a global healthcare company. The reaction we had to the request for donations for Haiti in the last issue of *live* shows just how much you all care. We collected 320 000 Swiss francs up until the end of March – money that is desperately needed. Read about the company’s commitment to people who need help in disaster areas in the article starting on page 12.

The article on page 28 takes a look at just how prolific Aargau is as a source of innovation. RMMs – Rapid Microbiological Methods – are procedures that promise to revolutionize the manufacturing processes in the pharmaceutical industry. The Stein site has taken on a pilot role within the Novartis Group with its RMM program.

The Expats column at the end of the magazine, which has given us lots of interesting insights over the last two years, is now being replaced by a new series. People and their experiences are still at the heart of this article but the new focus is very much on aspects from Diversity & Inclusion. In this issue: generational diversity.

I hope you enjoy reading this new issue of *live*.

Armin Züst  
Head of Novartis Switzerland