



Annual report 2021



I am Masum, Proud Alumni of Sanjiboni School. I was one of the students of first batch of Sanjiboni. I was not like that. I was just a chirping angry bird. I had no communication, no manners and no friends. But now, I am a student of class six in a regular school. I have many friends and I'm doing well in my school exams. My teachers and friends love me a lot. I'm a self Advocate. Last year I attended a Television Program in Channel 7. And these all become possible just because of you all. You people make me to stand here. I want to thank you all of Sanjiboni, Amar Joti, Niketan, Draca. I am very much grateful to all of you.



General data

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Chamber of Commerce	
ANBI status	since 1 January 2008
CBF quality mark	since 1 August 2017
Date of incorporation	6 August 1998
Registered office	Pijnacker

Colophon

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Love, care, appropriate education, information provision, apprenticeship pathways and the promotion of behavioral change are essential elements of our approach, to give children and young people with disabilities a full place in society.

Our approach gives children a better self-image, creates a connection between child and environment and brings about a more involved government.








Legal form: In the Netherlands: foundation with a board. Partner organization in Bangladesh: NGO with an executive committee.

Origin: Private initiative
(Antoinette Termoshuizen)

Registration: Chamber of Commerce : 27173896
ANBI status (public benefit organization) : 807284427
CBF Recognized Charitable Organization

Distinguishing characteristics: Specific target group: children and young people with complex disabilities in Bangladesh. Knowledge organization in the field of providing holistic care for people with complex disabilities in Bangladesh.

Programs:

-  **Early intervention** : Offer parents support and advice when they think there could be problems in their young child's development.
-  **Education** : Provide a challenging learning environment that is based on opportunities and takes the disability into account.
-  **Paramedical care**: Provide care aimed at improving the functioning of the body, providing aids and adaptations.
-  **Socialization**: Actively promote and encourage the participation of children and young people with disabilities in society.
-  **Nutrition**: Raise parents' awareness of healthy eating and the prevention of underweight and nutrition-related complications.

Project-based: The projects are operationally managed by the NGO DRRA and are directed, supported and knowledge is provided from the Netherlands by the Niketan foundation.

Fundraising:	Total	Cost B&A
	2016 : € 359.691	2016 : 1,3 %
	2017 : € 237.466	2017 : 2,8 %
	2018 : € 204.189	2018 : 3,2 %
	2019 : € 206.563	2019 : 3,7 %
	2020 : € 248.681	2020 : 2,5 %
	2021 : € 221.797	2021 : 4,3 %

Operational costs: Project costs 203,038 euros in 2021, implementation costs 19,488 euros in 2021

Financial audit: BAKKER accountants & adviseurs, Ridderkerk

Term: As long as foreign support is needed in Bangladesh to permanently embed care for people with complex disabilities in government and society.

Membership of sector organizations: Partin, a sector organization for small charities in the field of international cooperation and development, and Goede Doelen Nederland, a sector organization for registered charities based in the Netherlands

Social relevance: Helping people with intellectual and multiple disabilities in Bangladesh is often seen as too complex by international NGOs. Private organizations and national NGOs are often better able to provide this target group with access to aid and hold the government and international aid organizations accountable for this. Because, as in all countries, it is ultimately a task of the government, together with various other parties, to ensure a safe environment for vulnerable children.

2021 at a glance



528

Children and young people received support

298 ♂
230 ♀



2.230

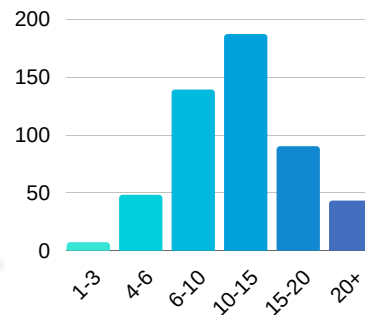
Family members received support



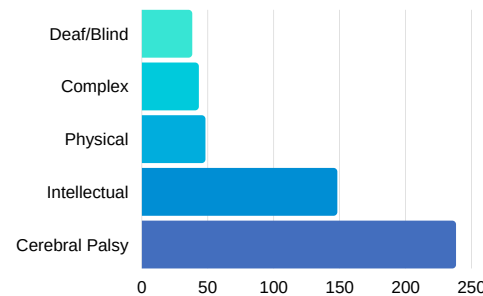
187

Villages

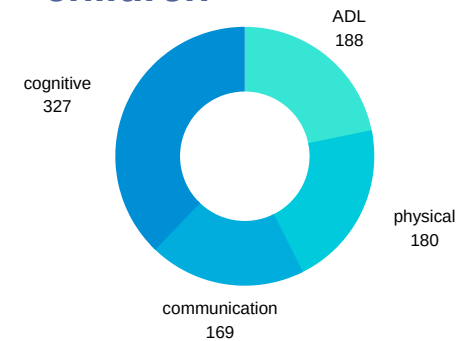
Age children



Disabilities



Development areas of the children



100

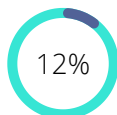
children

In addition to special education, they also attend regular education.

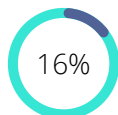
Cost per program part



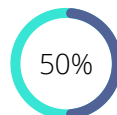
Early Intervention



Paramedical care



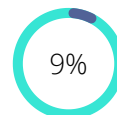
Education



Nutrition



Socialisation



26

children

left the project due to successful intervention.



Impact Award Winner

Foreword

2021 was the second “COVID year”, which obviously, still affected our activities very much. Schools were closed and then reopened again. We couldn’t carry out all the activities as planned.

It was also the year in which Bangladesh celebrated its 50 years of independence. That hard-won independence was slowly followed by more development. In those 50 years, Bangladesh has achieved a lot, both socially and economically. However, as always, that development is not evenly distributed. As in most countries, the gap between rich and poor is widening and, despite all the communication opportunities we have today, it seems increasingly difficult to reach the poorest. As everywhere, people with disabilities are overrepresented in the poorest population groups. That is what makes the work of Niketan and DRRA and all the other organizations working on behalf of these groups so important.

In 2021, despite the pandemic, during which many people in the Netherlands also struggled, we were once again able to count on a lot of support from the Netherlands and Bangladesh. Thanks to the proceeds of the St. Nicholas campaign and a generous donation from the Rotary Ramna of Dhaka, we were able to provide over 100 people, young and old, with new aids. Other organizations have helped us tremendously to transfer the support funds to the families.

In the past year we were also able to launch and present our project ‘My Name is Runa’. A beautifully developed children’s book in Bangla for children in elementary schools near our projects. In it, they read about what life is like for peers with disabilities. How they are bullied, but also what their dreams can be and how they can live together. This helps to change their perception of peers with disabilities.

Our approach during the 2020-2021 COVID pandemic earned Niketan the Impact Award. This award is an initiative of the Netherlands Fundraising Regulator (CBF) and Goede Doelen Nederland, a sector organization for registered charities based in the Netherlands. It is a national award for Dutch charitable organizations that have a keen eye for the effectiveness of their strategies. We found new ways to reach our target groups during COVID. By focusing on the entire family rather than just the child with a disability, we were able to increase our impact. We will continue to use these lessons in the future, without COVID.

As we work on the 2021 annual report, the world is dealing with yet another crisis. The war in Ukraine is not only catastrophic for the people of Ukraine, but will have unprecedented consequences around the world. Again, this will hit families with children with complex disabilities the hardest.

In line with our new policy plan, Niketan will continue to collaborate and connect with DRRA and other partners at the national and local levels. We will continue to make our knowledge and experience accessible to many groups, by making it available to everyone on innovative platforms. Your support will continue to be necessary for this in the coming years. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for your continued support.



Rutger-Jan Schoen, President

Every day we are committed to ensuring that every child receives love, care and education.

In 2021, we put a smile on the faces of 528 children with disabilities and their families, and supported them in taking a step toward a better future.

We would like to thank our corporate and private donors, and volunteers for their support in 2021.



Our dream and approach

We strive to create an equal opportunity society in Bangladesh where children and young people with intellectual and/or multiple disabilities are accepted and can develop because they receive the care and education they need and thus gain self-confidence.

Niketan takes the individual needs of each child and his/her family as its starting point. Niketan supports the children and gives them space to develop at their own pace. We provide the children with education, a nutritious meal and paramedical care. As they get older, we continue to monitor them and adjust our support to meet their changing needs. We help them communicate better, stand up for themselves and develop their talents to the fullest. We help family, caregivers and teachers understand what the child's needs are and how to deal with them. Niketan thus demonstrates how children with complex disabilities in Bangladesh can receive optimal support and care despite the circumstances in which they grow up.

We also make a direct contribution at the district level to the structural quality improvement of all aspects of the children's lives. In doing so, we strive for local initiatives and leadership and sustainable solutions, which in time will make the children less dependent on financial support from private initiatives in the Netherlands and Bangladesh.

'Increasing our impact can only be done through wide-ranging cooperation with all parties: children/young people, their (grand)parents, their living environment, teachers, other NGOs and the different levels of government'

Helping children and young people with intellectual and multiple disabilities in Bangladesh is often seen as too complex by international NGOs. Private organizations and local NGOs are often better able to provide this target group with access to support and they hold the government and international aid organizations accountable for this, as also established in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Because, as in all countries, it is ultimately a task of the government, together with various other parties, to ensure a safe environment for vulnerable children.

Partnership with DRRA

DRRA is the partner/executive party of a large number of Niketan's projects. It provides qualitative and quantitative care to children with motor, intellectual or multiple disabilities in rural and urban areas in Bangladesh. Niketan is co-owner, facilitator (financial resources and knowledge), supporter (monitoring, evaluation, strategic planning) and quality assurer of the projects. Existing DRRA projects are supported with funds. Niketan also shares knowledge and experience with DRRA as further professional training for their staff and to put the children with their different needs at the center of all their activities. DRRA also carries out projects for other donors and can thus gain more knowledge itself and reduce its overhead costs.

Because of the long collaboration that has existed for more than 23 years, Niketan also seeks to contribute to increasing the knowledge and implementation capacity as well as the professionalization of the organization. In doing so, Niketan is helping DRRA to adapt to the changing and more equal rights-based context in which care for disabled people is carried out in Bangladesh.

Afsarul Islam Tamim was born underweight and jaundiced and spent just under two weeks in intensive care. A few months after his birth it turned out that Tamim did not develop as expected and he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. His young parents were greatly disheartened and Tamim spent the first few years of his life lying on a bed. When Tamim was three years old, his parents heard about the Niketan early intervention program. The other parents' stories sparked their enthusiasm and they subsequently visited the center regularly. Tamim has learned to lift his head, roll over, sit up independently and walk with support. He has learned to communicate using supporting signs. He is now seven years old and attends the BRAC School close to his home three days a week. On the other three days he goes to a special school. His parents are very proud of him and believe that their son has a bright future.



Our commitment

The well-being of children with multiple complex disabilities can only be safeguarded sustainably through wide-ranging cross-sector collaboration. It is primarily the responsibility of the government, which must work closely with public and private parties from the welfare, education, health and security sectors and local government. The government in Bangladesh is making very small steps in this regard. It ratified the international treaty stating that all children have the right to education. Niketan, together with its partner DRRA, tries to contribute to these processes to the maximum extent possible, by sharing experience, knowledge and the materials developed by Niketan.

In addition, the first steps toward sharing our knowledge and materials through online platforms and social media such as Facebook and YouTube are helping Niketan become a good knowledge transfer organization. Niketan has committed in its 5-year policy strategy to make significant strides in developing various quality courses. Last but not least, we are increasingly working with local village governments in the villages where Niketan operates. In this way, we make the best use of existing local capacity, which can more quickly become independent of external or international funding. Ultimately, it is also about giving parents and grandparents the knowledge to create a safe environment for their child themselves, within all the constraints of living in a developing country like Bangladesh.

Which Sustainable Development Goals are we contributing to?





Niketan in Bangladesh

Bangladesh

In 2021, Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of independence, 50 years of freedom. In those 50 years, Bangladesh grew from 65.5 million to 165 million people and from great poverty to one of the fastest growing economies in the world. By 2021, Bangladesh has become a middle-income country. But the gap between rich and poor has only grown. There is hardly any equality on the labor market. Without good educational opportunities and connections you won't get anywhere. Human rights are frequently violated because of economic exploitation, poor working conditions and violence. For example, in 2021, violence between Muslims and Hindus flared up again, and there were political riots and protests over non-payment of wages.

Bangladesh is known for its climate-related disasters such as drought, floods and cyclones, which affect the poorest of the poor the most. Farmers are increasingly faced with long periods of drought or, on the contrary, extreme rainfall, causing crop failures and food shortages. As a result, unemployment and poverty are increasingly common in rural areas. In recent years, they have also increasingly been affected by activities by foreign companies, such as coal-fired power plants and textile factories, which involve land grabbing, soil depletion and pollution.

Women in Bangladesh are still heavily oppressed. They are often victims of domestic violence and discriminatory family laws, which during the COVID pandemic only increased. Women take on three times as many unpaid caregiving duties as men. These duties include caring for children, the sick and the elderly, household work such as cooking and fetching water, and growing food. Women increasingly choose, whether or not by choice, to work in the Middle East, where they are lured to with false pretenses and promises of big earnings.

The project area

Bangladesh is divided into 64 districts. Niketan operates mainly in the rural district of Manikganj and the capital city of Dhaka. Manikganj is divided into 7 upazilas (subdistricts), 65 union parishads and 1643 villages. Most of Niketan's activities take place in the upazilas Ghior and Daulatpur. The 418 children supported in Manikganj live across 162 villages in 34 union parishads. Since 2020, we have also supported 7 children in 6 villages in the district of Tangail. These are villages adjacent to the upazilla Daulatpur.

The Badda slum in Dhaka is enclosed by the diplomatic districts of Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani. Children attend school for only a few hours and sometimes end up being child laborers at an early age, working in deplorable conditions in which they are often exploited. Moreover, slums are the ideal setting for social problems, such as crime, drug addiction and domestic violence. Niketan provides care and education to 110 children with disabilities in this slum.



Emergency assistance

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the associated effects of unemployment and hunger, we decided to provide emergency assistance to families again. We identified the families that were most affected and provided them with an income-generating activity (IGA). Rickshaws, cargo bicycles, sewing machines and goats were purchased with a personal contribution (30%) from the parents. This allowed the families to rebuild their lives. They regained their self-confidence and respect and dared to dream again.

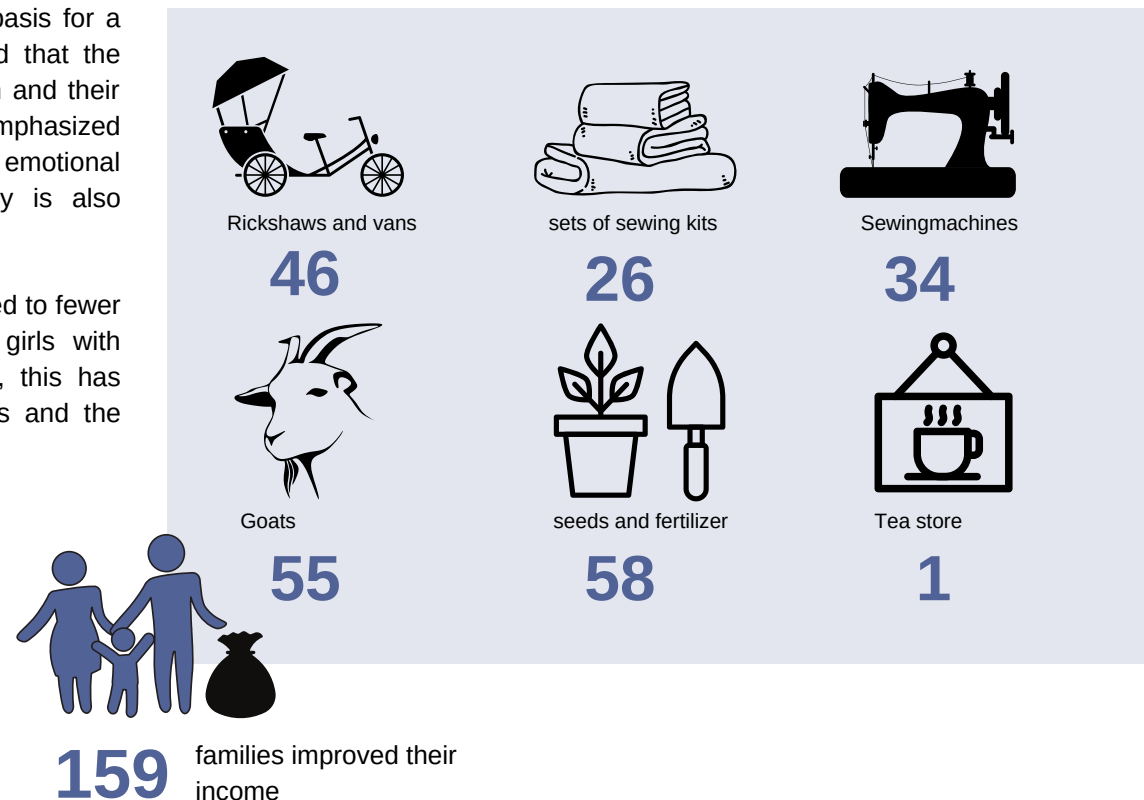
Violence by men toward their wives and daughters (with or without disabilities) decreased. The wishes of women and girls were heard and the girls were allowed to attend Niketan's training sessions again. These results were measured using recurring questions asked on a monthly basis for a period of six months. Our colleagues in Bangladesh confirmed that the financial support and the IGA had a big impact on most children and their parents. It brought happiness, hope and new opportunities. This emphasized once again that in addition to cognitive, physical and emotional development, the economic development of the entire family is also important.

Our staff and parents felt heard and better understood. This has led to fewer concerns about various family members, especially teenage girls with disabilities, and less stress about how to survive. In addition, this has positively strengthened the relationship between our colleagues and the families they support, resulting in more mutual respect and trust.

Our approach during the 2020-2021 COVID pandemic earned Niketan the Impact Award. The Impact Award is an initiative of the Netherlands Fundraising Regulator (CBF) and Goede Doelen Nederland, a sector organization for registered charities based in the Netherlands.



“During the COVID pandemic, many people lost their jobs. But Niketan offered them a helping hand and arranged Income-Generating Activities and support in people's homes. Because of this Niketan has been awarded the Impact Award. This inspires and motivates me and keeps me going”. Akhlas Uddin – project coordinator



I am Shihab Uddin and I live in the Badda slum with my three sons and my wife. I worked as a night supervisor at a company and earned enough to support my family. Because of the pandemic, I lost my job. My colleagues went back to their villages in order to reduce the cost of living. But we couldn't!! We have a child with spastic paralysis and he needs physical therapy. He goes to a special school and my wife is offered training there so that we can also take good care of him at home. I rented a rickshaw to earn some money, but that wasn't enough. We dreamed of owning our own rickshaw, but they are expensive and totally out of my reach. My son's special school reached out to us. They donated a brand new rickshaw in my son Yasin's name. Now I earn enough to support my family. I regained my self-respect and the respect of my family. I am full of energy and dare to dream again.



Care and education

What would be the impact on 'our' children if they were to receive less adapted education and therapy. Would that not compromise their development? Do we have to continue the veranda schools in the 54 villages, observing the local COVID rules? Do we need to continue to provide care and education once a week or cautiously reopen our centers?

Parents would like us to reopen the various schools/centers, but there are also fears of contamination. Having carefully considered all that, we opted for a hybrid solution: 50 veranda schools remained open, but for children living close to a school/center, the school was opened and the school in Dhaka reopened for all children.

Close to the families at home

Our care and special education is focused on emotional, physical, cognitive and creative development, as well as learning social, cultural and physical skills. In normal circumstances, classes are tailored as much as possible to individual needs using various existing theories and methodologies. At the veranda schools, it was more difficult to tailor lessons to individual needs. Our teachers and therapists had to be flexible and creative. There were fewer learning and play materials available, which the children need to develop skills such as the ability to concentrate and to make their own choices, and hand-eye coordination. Teachers and therapists had to make learning and play materials with local resources. And although they sometimes felt guilty that they could not offer the activities they could have offered at the schools, they were also proud that with local resources they could continue to support the children in their development. Our staff unanimously agreed that the most important lesson this year was how to create online lessons and lessons by phone. Some of them may have been computer illiterate before the COVID pandemic, but they are now all able to work with laptops and phones.



"It was not easy at the veranda schools to let children take a test. Grandparents, parents, neighbors and other children all came to watch and interfered with everything. As a result, the children had great difficulty concentrating. In addition, the children often had not been taught all the lessons, because the veranda school was only open one day a week." – Mim, leerkracht



Working in a future-proof manner

The veranda schools seem to be the solution for sustainably embedding care and education in local communities. They create more visibility and more understanding among local residents and therefore less exclusion. The pandemic showed us that parental involvement in their child's development is of the utmost importance. Children who are encouraged by their parents show progress in physical and social development as well as language and cognitive skills. This was also the case during the pandemic and school closure. These developments motivate parents to continue doing the intensive exercises with their child, even in stressful situations.

Children who did not continue to develop have parents who themselves did not go to school when they were young or they live with their grandparents. The (grand)parents often experience physical discomfort themselves and lack an inner drive to make the best of the situation. Training and motivating parents is our top priority. To this end, we have created several online instructional videos in addition to our current training courses. (see also page 38)

"I bought a smartphone so I could stay in touch with my child's physical therapist. She gave me instructions, so I could do exercises with my child. I was so proud that my son's development had hardly been affected when he could finally go back to the center". - Mother Ahil.

Back to school

In September, after 18 months of closure, the Bangladesh government finally gave all schools permission to reopen. Such a joyful occasion! A joy for the children to see each other again after so many months and to have a regular daily routine again.



"Although there were fears around the world about whether children would return to school after such a long closure, our classes were full again from day 1. By bringing care and education close to the families at home for over 1.5 years, we became more visible in the various communities. This resulted in new enrollments of very young children in our early intervention groups and brought families who had given up hope of improvement back to our project". Nizam Uddin - manager

Niketan reopened the three special schools and continued 20 veranda schools. The children immediately picked up where they had left off. They ran to their favorite toy and started playing, or got their workbook out and started working on a new theme. In the groups focusing on structure, the children did have trouble getting back into the former routine and there was some problematic behavior toward classmates and teachers at first. For example, one of the children unexpectedly hugged his classmates or his teacher tightly. This was intended as a sweet and well-intentioned gesture out of sheer joy, but not all children responded well to it.

Santo has Down syndrome and there is a big age gap between him and his siblings. For the first year, the family did not notice that Santo was special. Only when he lagged behind in his development did concerns arise. The family had to make ends meet on what father earned that day, and a day without work was a day without food. So there was also no money to take Santo to a doctor. A neighbor with a child with a disability noticed the difference in Santo's development and suggested his parents go to Niketan's early intervention project. By that time Santo was three years old, could not talk and was very restless. In the early intervention group, he learned to play with other children, wait his turn and focus. He has friends with whom he gets into mischief when he can and has cautiously started to say his first words. His brothers help him at home and play with him; they are overjoyed that Santo has started to become part of family life.



However, it is extraordinary to see that the cognitive, social and physical development of most of the children has hardly been affected. The resilience of these children during such a difficult time is admirable.

In the slum in Dhaka, we ran into different problems. There, many families moved back to their villages. They could no longer afford to pay the rent, because they had lost their jobs. These villages often lack facilities for children and young people with disabilities. To assist the parents and children during this difficult time, we decided to continue to provide education by phone to the children in the transition period and to offer advice to parents with pressing questions. This support by phone and continued involvement is greatly appreciated. It remains to be seen which families will return and which will stay in their village forever.



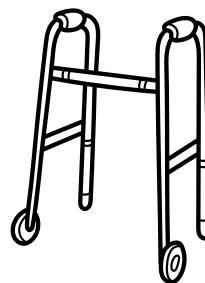
“This year too, because of the pandemic, my lessons were suspended many times. My class was divided into smaller groups of only two children. This made it difficult to achieve the educational and social goals. Some parents did not want their child to go to school. During the lockdowns, we taught online or by phone. This was a challenge, because most of the students do not have a smartphone or access to the internet. Their parents are often illiterate and do not know anything about modern technology. In addition, most of our children have difficulty concentrating and were easily distracted when we taught them by phone”. Sadia Afrin – leerkracht school Dhaka

Training for parents

Over the past year, training sessions were held at various locations for various groups of parents. They focused on topics such as how various resources should be used, why they should be used and what effect they have on a child's development. There were also training sessions about domestic and sexual abuse, what effects it has on a child's development and where you can find help if you are a victim of such abuse. Furthermore, there were specific training sessions aimed at the children's fathers. These focused on how they could communicate with their child better, on the important role they play in their child's development and on better understanding the problems their child may encounter. Another training session focused on what influence (unhealthy) food has on the behavior of children with autism. The training sessions are always well attended and highly appreciated.

Resources

In 2021, thanks to the St. Nicholas campaign and a contribution from Rotary Ramna from Dhaka we were able to provide 117 children, young people and this year also (grand)parents with various resources. In addition, 36 children received epilepsy medication.



117

Aids such as wheelchairs, splints, walking frames, hearing aids and special chairs have been distributed.



Assistive Device Distribution Ceremony

Date: November 26, 2021

Venue: DRRA Regional Office, Manikganj.

Organized By: Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA)

Financial Supported by Rotary Club of Ramna and Niketan Foundation



SERVICE PROJECT 2021-2022

ROTARY CLUB OF RAMNA
Club ID 16135 | RI District 3281 | Bangladesh



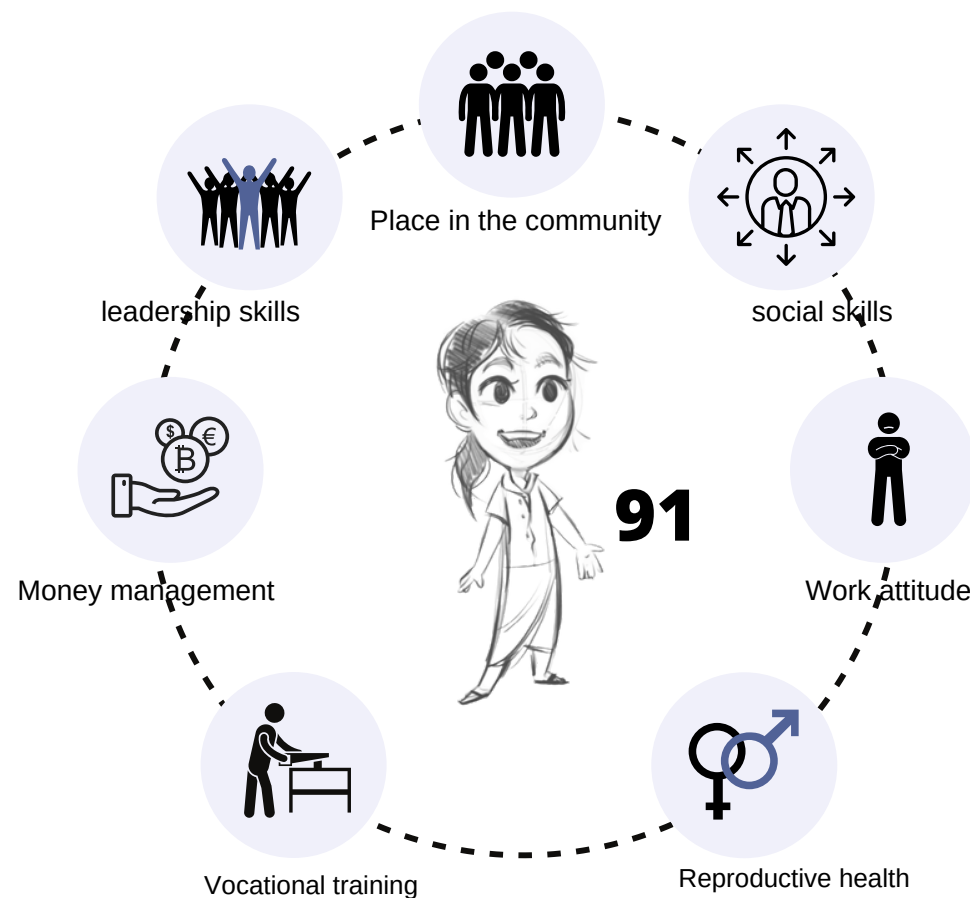
Lifelong learning

Young people with disabilities are usually denied the opportunity to make their own decisions because of preconceived notions and prejudices about their abilities, and sometimes because of barriers in communication. They have developed a negative self-image in childhood and lack self-confidence.

The past year was not an easy one, because it's not easy to give the training sessions focused on social skills and sex education online. The young people concerned often do not have their own phones, cannot speak freely and do not feel safe, and they missed interacting with the teacher and fellow students. Even when we were allowed to give the training sessions in small groups, we missed the group dynamic but were able to share experiences about the lockdown and its socio-emotional impact. Stories of domestic violence, exploitation and sexual abuse were shared. Classmates and former classmates had been married off, some became pregnant immediately, and there were stories of suicide attempts and suicides. We decided to give the young people space to talk about the impact of the COVID pandemic and to connect the training sessions to this where possible.

Training: My Way to Work

Young people with disabilities want to be involved in meaningful activities that are both useful and fun. They want a job, which gives them social status and a place in society. But they sometimes misinterpret or misunderstand the social behavior of others. To help young people improve their social skills, we offer the 'My Way to Work' training, which consists of general skills such as how to ask questions and criticize someone, but also how to dress and behave in the workplace and what your own strengths and weaknesses are. Many lessons of the 'My Way to Work' training could not continue and when we were able to resume, it turned out that the young people had forgotten the lessons learned previously. This meant that many lessons had to be repeated before a new chapter could be started. Nevertheless, there were small individual successes, such as in Rafi's case.



The lifelong learning training package 'The Right to Decide' consists of various modules and subject-oriented training courses and aims to help young people find a place in society.

Rafi Mia is fifteen years old and has a developmental delay. A few years ago he wandered the streets of Shahely. His father, due to his own intellectual disability, had no influence on Rafi and Rafi did not listen to his mother. Community workers spoke to him and took him to a veranda school. Rafi wanted to work, but his lack of social skills prevented him from expressing himself in a socially desired way. He was called names on the street and irritations arose between everyone involved. The 'My Way to Work' training taught him social skills and how to behave in the workplace, and he attended money management training. The community worker organized a meeting in the main shopping street of the village and asked the local shopkeepers to employ Rafi. A snack bar was up for it. Rafi has learned to pour tea and later make snacks such as samosas and singaras. He is now accepted and respected, and earns about 4 euros a day.



Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Training

Intimacy and sexuality are part of everybody's life. Yet there is still a big taboo on the subject, especially when it comes to people with intellectual disabilities. In our training 'It's my body' we teach young people how they can see themselves and how to behave accordingly. We teach them about understanding their own body and that of someone of the opposite sex. We teach them which expressions of sexuality are appropriate, so that they are less likely to be victims of sexual violence, and how they can protect themselves. It's about small amounts of information offered in a clear, correct and positive way by a person they know and trust.

At the residential facility for young people with complex disabilities, the SRHR education training was able to continue as usual during the pandemic. During the 'exam' at the end of the year, it became apparent that the young people had learned a lot about their own bodies, but that for some, the behavior encountered had become more challenging and with fewer boundaries. Therefore, despite the fact that the boys had completed the course, it was decided to spend a few more lessons on resilience and setting and respecting boundaries. A group of 12 girls with physical and/or mild intellectual disabilities were also able to take their exams in December. It turned out that they had learned the most from the lessons on menstruation, pregnancy and how not to become pregnant. These are topics that are still taboo and where myths rule. The girls indicated that because of this training they feel more seen and valued, and they have shared their knowledge with family and friends at school. They also indicated that they feel better about themselves, are more confident because they now better understand their bodies and the intentions of men.



"While giving SRHR education, a girl with an intellectual disability asked me why boys have white blood when they menstruate. Using icons, I told the girl that only women menstruate and that men can lose sperm when they have a wet dream". Dalima Rahman – trainer.



"I'm happy to learn about the difference between a friend and a lover. In our country, nobody talks about that and there are a lot of misunderstandings".

- Popy, student.

Money management training

Learning how to manage money is perhaps the most important responsibility of parents to teach their children. But because most parents in Bangladesh are barely able to manage their own money, they do not teach their children this important skill. And if children have intellectual disabilities, there is no point at all, many parents believe. Niketan offers young people money management training, which includes recognizing the value of money, creating and keeping a household ledger, opening a bank account, saving money and making financial plans for the future.

But... being able to manage your own finances, find a job and thus independence is crucial for young people with disabilities to get out of the cycle of poverty and violence. In September, a group of 10 girls took their exams and passed. Interviews show that the training has boosted the girls' self-confidence. Thanks to their knowledge they have become important to their families, they are accepted and therefore experience less domestic violence. Two other groups have not yet completed the training, due to the students' level and the difficulties surrounding the pandemic.



"I'm Hosnara Begum, Afroza's mother. My daughter is 16 years old and has spastic paralysis. She attended Niketan's SRHR training and money management training, and through her our family has learned a lot. Afroza is now responsible for our family income. She looks out for ways to save money and we have been able to set aside some money for later for the first time. I am grateful to Niketan for these life-changing training courses."

Leadership training

Violence against women is a serious social, cultural and economic problem in Bangladesh, where nearly two out of three women have experienced or are experiencing gender-based violence. Domestic violence is a common, though largely under-reported, problem. Research shows that women with disabilities are more likely to experience domestic violence and sexual assault than women without disabilities (Rutgers). In addition, women with disabilities are generally also faced with emotional and verbal abuse.

During the leadership training girls (a group of ten) are encouraged to speak up and experiences with for instance abuse and oppression are shared. For example, how parents used the girls' benefits for other purposes, such as school uniforms for siblings. How the girls are bullied and always approached in a negative way. To make the training even more relevant, the master trainers obtained information from NGOs specializing in women's rights and legal advice. We educated ourselves to be able to assist girls with disabilities even better. We made a personal plan for the future with each girl and worked (by phone) on their personal goals.

In fond memory

Fatima had completed all training courses, had been given a sewing machine and two goats, was appreciated a little more by her father and was no longer bullied continuously when she suddenly died in the street. Fatima was only 18 years old. We will always remember her



Mila Akhter is 18 years old and attends a mainstream secondary school. Because of her spastic paralysis, she talks and walks with some difficulty. She never dared to stand up for herself properly, because she was afraid of being laughed at. During the SRHR training sessions, she gained confidence and learned about her body. And during the leadership training sessions, she talked openly about verbal abuse and domestic violence and persuaded other girls to share their stories. Her goals for the next few years were written down in her personal plan for the future. One of them is to speak her mind in public without shame. Mila is now sharing her story in focus group discussions and hopes that society will become more understanding and respectful of the challenges that people with disabilities face on a daily basis.



Residential group

During the pandemic, parents who were faced with complex care issues found their way to residential care farm Afroza's Place, a safe haven for 15 young people with complex disabilities. Three new boys with complex behavioral and/or physical issues have found a place with us and have started working on the care farm and in the woodwork group. In December, after more than 21 years, house mother Selena said goodbye to her big special family. She moved to Saudi Arabia to work as a nanny and earn more money. She left a big gap, the boys miss her a lot. The care farm grows organic vegetables and produces enough rice and vegetables to provide healthy meals for everyone at the residential care facility.

"With great pleasure I have worked at the care farm. It's great to see what the boys have learned in the past few years. I'm proud that they have become so independent. They can now perform tasks with minimal support. I hope the government will support the care farm financially. That would be a wonderful recognition of its achievements".

- Selena



Imran is a 20-year-old boy with spastic paralysis who loves to help. When he was a 7-year-old boy he first came to our center for physical therapy and education. Unfortunately, this ended abruptly when his father died at a young age. His mother could not afford to pay for the daily expensive crossing from the islet on which the family lived to the mainland. She had five children to feed and had to make ends meet from a meager harvest. Imran attended the local school on the island, but was unable to keep up with the other children. His siblings spread their wings and Imran wanted to learn a trade. He is currently taking woodwork classes and attending the 'My Way to Work' and SRHR education training courses. It is clear that Imran has some catching up to do, but he is a quick learner, wants to be involved in everything and enjoys interacting with his fellow residents.



Society

Inclusive education

Inclusive education is education where children with and without learning difficulties or disabilities play and learn together. Playing and learning together should start at an early age, at home and in the local community. This way, when children reach primary school age, they can attend the same community school together, with care and support where needed. So they can all develop to their full potential – cognitively, physically and socio-emotionally.

Due to the pandemic and resulting school closures, we were able to encourage 'playing together' in local communities through our veranda schools, but we were unable to do so in school settings. However, we did provide training for teachers and school leaders from 20 elementary schools on inclusive education and thought about improving the classroom set-up. Teachers have also applied for scholarships for their students with disabilities.

To further promote inclusive behavior and understanding of diversity, a lot of time was spent on the 'Stories for Inclusion' project in 2021. As a lobbying tool for inclusiveness, we are going to use the children's book 'My Name is Runa'. This is the true story of Runa who has spastic paralysis. Research has shown that there are hardly any visible role models for and of children with disabilities in children's books and at school. In 2022, children in grades 3, 4 and 5 at 20 mainstream schools will be given the book and teachers will work with the accompanying activity guide.

The road to work

The existing employment sector is commercial and competitive, and young people with disabilities are often not able to compete. In this situation it is imperative to initiate disability-friendly working environments where they get a chance to engage and create a win-win situation for themselves as well as for their employers. Because the difference between hopelessness and a dignified life is often just a question of opportunity. DRRRA and Niketan sensitize companies and local shop owners about equal opportunities and creating a disability-friendly environment. We run a Carpentry Unit for training and employing young people with disabilities, in order to give them the skills of an (assistant) carpenter who can independently produce and repair carpentry items. Apart from the carpentry training, we have established a care farm, which consists of a small herd of cows, sheep, an orchid farm, a paddy field, and vegetable and fruit gardens.

Because the wood workshop and care farm are situated in the grounds of our residential care facility, we were able to continue our activities during the pandemic. In the wood workshop, standing tables, special chairs and walkers were made, old furniture was refurbished and wooden toys were made. At the care farm, the boys took care of the cow, sheep, ducks and chickens, and they worked in the fields. The local government donated seeds and offered practical training.

In the sewing workshop at our school in Dhaka, the main focus was on making face masks, which we sold with the help of another NGO. In addition to our own vocational training, various institutions and organizations offered training to our young people. For example, the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, provided training on making local products and Busy Bee provided training on making wax candles.



Local government

DRRA organized six meetings this year with the Upazila disability rights & protection committee in Ghior and Doulatpur Upazila. Our colleagues have noticed that these committees have become increasingly enthusiastic and involved over the years. In 2021, they were closely involved in prioritizing and realizing online education for children with disabilities. It was also identified where the accessibility of health centers and schools needed to be improved, and the mandate and funding to do this were provided. Finally, a lot of joint lobbying took place to make vaccinations available to people with disabilities and the first vaccinations were distributed.

In three Union Parishad, the DRRA team participated together with parents of children with disabilities in 9 'Standing committee of Health, Education, Women and Children Affairs' meetings in Kolia and Borotia Union Parishad. As a result, in 2021, 97 VGF cards and 46 VGD cards were distributed to families with a child with a disability. 22 children received a disability allowance and 13 children received an education scholarship. In 2021, three families were assigned a home by the Upazilla Nirbahi Offices. A contribution of BDT 10,000 (100 euros) was given to 13 parents for expenses for medicines and two fruit trees were donated to seven children.

Because of the lockdown, the DRRA team was not able to participate in the Union Parishad's budget meetings. However, we did submit a written request for budget being allocated to people with disabilities as part of the total Union Parishad budget.



VGF card -
structural financial
support from
government



financial
compensation



allowance for
disability-related
costs



reimbursement of
expenses for
medicines

Focus group discussions

Awareness should not only focus on the families of children and young people with disabilities. To promote inclusion and help young people establish healthy relationships and enjoy day-to-day activities, we organize interactive focus group discussions in five villages. The focus group (30 people) meets once a quarter. The discussions are about (gender) equality. We discuss common assumptions such as misconceptions about the abilities of people with disabilities, and talk about child marriage, abuse, and emotional and social humiliation.

These discussion groups include parents, police officers, teachers, local spiritual and political leaders, young people with disabilities, villagers, etc. In these five villages we see less (domestic) violence and fewer child marriages.

Villagers now dare to hold each other to account and report (domestic) violence and child marriages to the committee. Because of the success of these discussion groups, we want to organize them in more villages in 2022.



"My name is Md. Abdul Mannan. I'm the Upazilla Social Welfare Officer. In my upazilla live 2565 people with disabilities and we have already been able to give a disability allowance to 1658 of them, and an education scholarship to 112 children with disabilities. I am a member of the Ghior Upazila disability rights & protection committee. I have learned a lot from DRRA about people with disabilities and their rights. Together, we reserved two seats on public transport and two beds at Ghior Hospital for people with disabilities. I'm really proud of that".



Knowledge sharing

To be able to reach more children and young people with disabilities in Bangladesh, we share our knowledge and enter into various partnerships.

Trainings Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection (NDDP) Trust

In 2021, our master trainer Rabeya Yasmin Neela was one of the master trainers of the NDDP Trust. She was asked to provide eight training sessions to 30 special education teachers on Cerebral Palsy, intellectual disabilities and autism. Unfortunately, the NDDP trust has only started working on quality and impact for a few years. In 2022, any interested party may provide training and there is not yet a system to follow the results of the training among the participants. There is still little use of practical exercises. Niketan and DRRA are in consultation with the director of the NDDPT to see whether we can develop new forms of 'blended learning', partly classroom and partly online.



We Care project

The NUFFIC-funded 'We Care' project aims to contribute to strengthening SRRH services to vulnerable women and men, young people, people with disabilities and people from minority groups by developing a curriculum for health workers and their supervisors.

In 2021 too, the pandemic delayed the project considerably, but the curricula for health workers and supervisors have been developed and will be reviewed by the Ministry of Health in Bangladesh in early 2022. Niketan contributes specific expertise to this project to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are consistently included in all project-related activities, starting at the stage of identifying the training needs through to the development of the curricula and the actual provision of training to the target groups. In 2021, Niketan had the opportunity to give several online presentations for Nuffic. In this project, Niketan collaborates with Dutch partners KIT, Rutgers and RedOrange, and with Bengali partners NIPORT and DGFP.

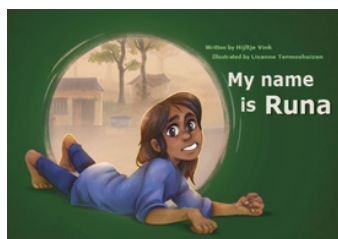
"I thought that people with disabilities have a greater sex drive than people without disabilities. But I discovered that there are many myths about this."
— health worker



Stories for Inclusion

Children with disabilities are often marginalized and excluded from mainstream society and education. This is true in the Netherlands, but much more so in low-income countries. However, the biggest barrier experienced by children with disabilities are negative attitudes and low expectations of what they can do. Children without disabilities are usually unaware of the problems their peers with disabilities face because they rarely meet these children. Nor do they encounter these children in the textbooks they use at school or the books they read at home. Even teachers in mainstream schools do not know what life is like for children with disabilities.

A reason for Biblionef Nederland and Niketan to join forces and start the Stories for Inclusion project. In this project, we advocate for greater awareness, understanding and inclusion by developing stories focusing on a child with a disability. In the first book 'My Name is Runa', which is based on the true story and life of Runa, a young girl in Bangladesh, we tell readers about her living conditions. We show her strength, but also all the challenges she faces every day.



Runa is just like any other girl. Just like any other girl. One thing is not so ordinary. Runa has Cerebral Palsy. That's why she walks with some difficulty and is not able to speak clearly. People who see her say: 'Don't sit next to her in class.' And: 'You don't have to play with her. She's an idiot.' But if no one wants to sit next to you, if no one wants to play with you, if no one remembers your name, what kind of life do you have?

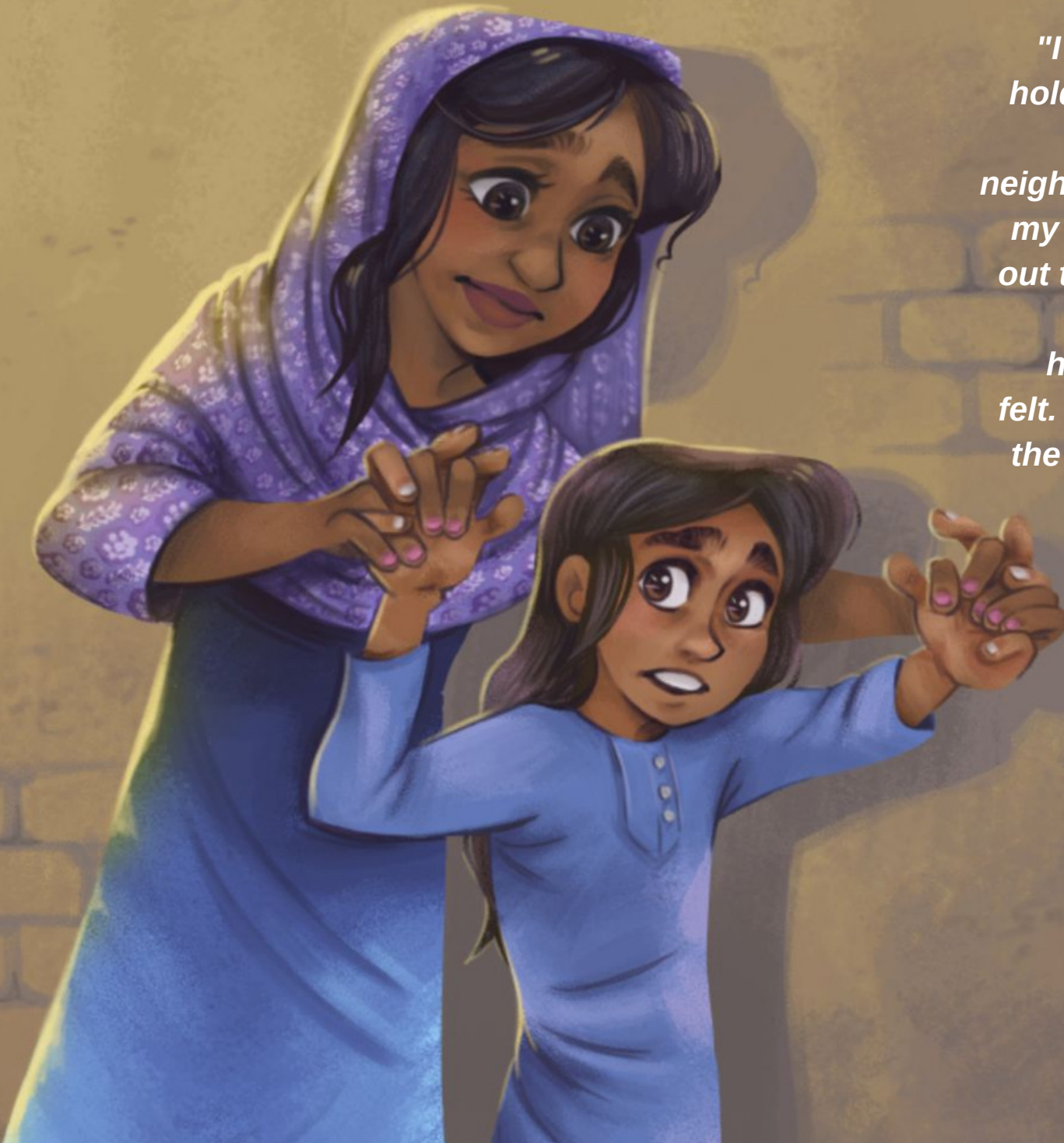
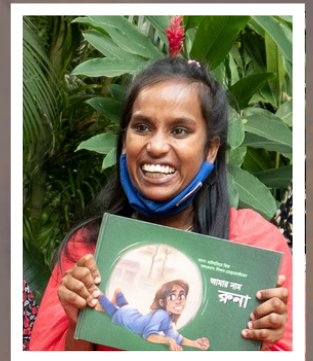
In November 2021, a ceremony was held in the garden of board member Marc Tolud and his partner in honor of International Day for People with Disabilities. During this ceremony, Goodwill Ambassador Dinat Jahan Muni performed and the book was presented to Runa and to EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr. Charles Whiteley.



"I could never have imagined that my neglected daughter Runa could ever make us so proud and happy! Had I known this when she was a child, Runa's life story would have been different. I hope that mothers and families will learn from this story and create a happy childhood for their special child".
Mother of Runa

"I'm so proud. I sleep with and hold the book as if it were a part of my body. My family and neighbors kept telling me to make my story more positive, to leave out the negative aspects. But my answer to that is: I've been honest, you never knew how I felt. It's my life story. Now you're the ones who feel ashamed. Not me".

- Runa



Reaching the Hard to Reach

The COVID pandemic has increased the need for online training opportunities and we saw an increase in viewer numbers of our instructional videos on YouTube on nutrition and on how to stimulate the gross motor skills of children with complex disabilities. Thanks to financial support from the Ineke Feitz Foundation, we were able to further develop the training courses and develop new videos in 2021. We made an instructional video on 'drooling' and one on 'first steps of communication', and the scripts were written for instructional videos on crawling, standing and walking. The videos are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AntoinetteTe> and on our new page 'Disability resources' (<https://www.niketan.nl/en/projects/disability-resources/>)

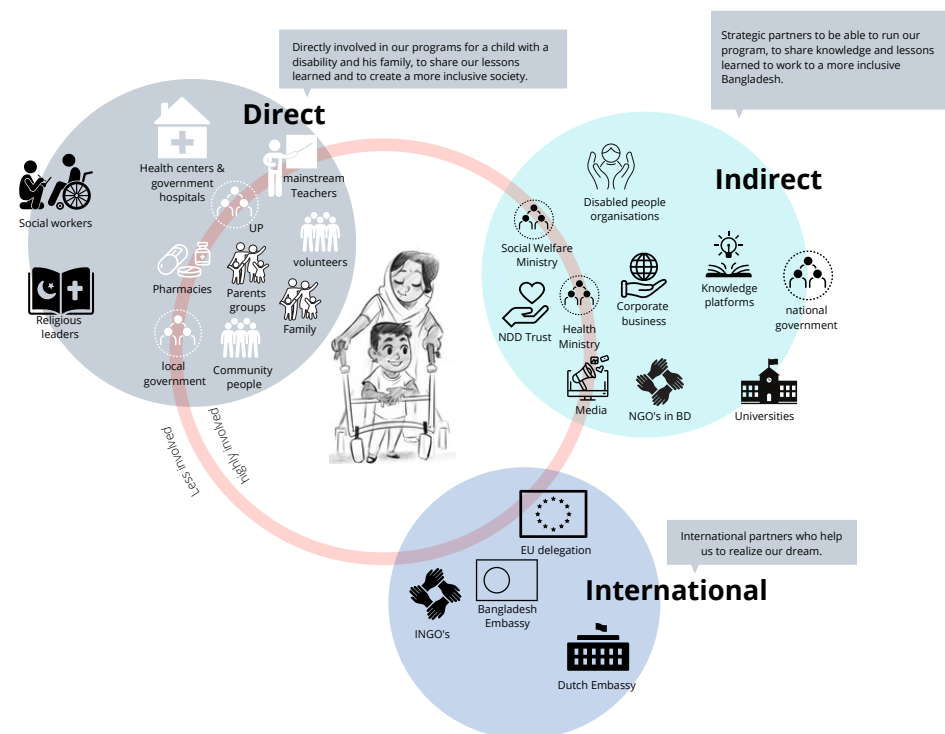
We noticed that the videos are used by parents/semi-professionals in not only Bangladesh, but also in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Pakistan. More and more organizations working with children with disabilities are showing their interest and are using them as part of their own training program. Our master trainer also regularly receives calls from parents who want to be referred to rehabilitation centers and/or want online advice.

Other partnerships

Unilever Bangladesh: Unilever Bangladesh is part of the International Unilever Group and is a global leader in the production of food and personal care products. Unilever supported Niketan's 'Right to Decide' project in 2021. Furthermore, together we are looking at how we can offer young people with disabilities who have completed the 'My way to Work' training a job at Unilever itself and/or a company that is part of the production process. And there are also plans for Unilever employees to help out at the Niketan centers on a voluntary basis. Unfortunately, all this was delayed significantly because of the pandemic.

Gloria Jeans Coffee: Gloria Jeans Coffee is part of the NAVANA Food Limited Group and owns several restaurants in Dhaka. Gloria Jeans supports Niketan's work with 'cappuccino for a cause'. In addition, Gloria Jeans Coffee would like to look into organizing fundraising activities and offering young people with disabilities who have completed the 'Right to Decide' training a job at their cafés.

Perkins International: In 2021, there has been a lot of contact with the US Perkins International and Perkins Asia. Perkins International originated from Perkins School for the Blind and focuses on children and young people with complex disabilities around the world. Niketan and Perkins have become partners. We are sharing our knowledge on their new platform and are thinking about a possible collaboration in developing new materials. See: <https://perkinsglobalcommunity.org/asia/>



Partnership overview



Niketan in the Netherlands

Governance and supervision

Niketan is a non-profit organization with a board consisting of volunteers with professional expertise.



Rutger-Jan Schoen: President, policy development and quality assessment. Board member since February 1, 2014 (eligible for re-election). Rutger-Jan works as communications consultant in the field of international cooperation and development



Antoinette Termoshuizen: General Secretary, contact person for Bangladesh and fundraising. In office since August 6, 1998 (eligible for re-election). Antoinette works as a trainer and counselor.



Joost Kurstjens: Treasurer. In office since September 1, 2019 (not eligible for re-election). Joost is a retired internal auditor and has many years of experience in the finance department of the European Commission in Bangladesh and Azerbaijan, among other countries.



Marion Elzenaar: Contact person for the Jostiband (a Dutch orchestra consisting of musicians with disabilities; Niketan ambassador), volunteer coordinator, development of child tracking system and trainer. Marion works as a work supervisor at care organization Middin.



Els Heijnen-Maathuis: contact person for cluster 2. In office since February 1, 2020 (eligible for re-election). Els is a senior education consultant with years of experience in several developing countries in Africa and Asia.



Marc Tolud: board member, contact person in Bangladesh. In office since July 10, 2021. Marc is an artist and social worker with extensive experience abroad, including in Bangladesh.

Niketan does not have a supervisory body as recommended in the Wijffels Good Governance Code. Since August 2017, Niketan has been a charity recognized by the Netherlands Fundraising Regulator (CBF) (www.cbf.nl). This means that it meets all the requirements set for this, which are audited annually. The recognition passport is available at www.cbf.nl/organisatie/niketan.

The General Secretary of the foundation undertakes all office activities. The Board provides direction for and supervises these activities, and supports their implementation. Board members provide their support without any form of payment. The average time commitment of board members is around ½ to 1 day a week. The General Secretary is involved with Niketan full-time.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides “solicited and unsolicited” advice to the Board regarding Niketan’s activities. The Board and Advisory Board meet once or twice a year. The members of the Advisory Board contribute to Niketan without any form of payment. The Advisory Board consists of:



Felix Piguiet, retired, former President of Niketan and former regional manager for intellectual disability care at Ipse de Bruggen.



Paul de Nooijer, Inspector at the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.



Ella de Voogd, retired, senior policy advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Fundraising and increasing support

In 2021, Niketan worked in various ways to raise its profile and thus raise funds in both the Netherlands and Bangladesh. For example, Niketan organized the St. Nicholas / Giving Tuesday campaign again this year. We entered the competition for the Impact Award and won it thanks to our COVID approach. We were featured several times in newspapers in Bangladesh and contributed to TV programs. We organized a networking meeting with the Embassy of Bangladesh and several webinars with Dutch NGO Wilde Ganzen and Friendship Foundation Sri Lanka. At the Partin-Wilde Ganzen day, we held a workshop on sex education for young people with disabilities. Anton Verhoeven's family organized an exhibition to display and sell their late brother's artwork, with the proceeds going to Niketan.



Artist Anton Verhoeven left the proceeds of all his paintings to Niketan



EU Ambassador Charles Whiteley visited the school in Dhaka



Goodwill Ambassadors Dinat Jahan Munni and Istiaq Nasir visited the project



New agreements signed with Unilever Bangladesh

Niketan: over een servet dat tafellaken wil worden

door Gea Broekema

Niketan heeft na een succesvolle pitch de Impact Challenge Award 2021 gewonnen. Oprichter Antoinette Termoshuizen is als vrijwilliger al 24 jaar dagelijks aan het werk voor Niketan. Een kleine organisatie die tijdens de pandemie het roer snel heeft omgegooid. Ruim vijfhonderd gezinnen konden blijven rekenen op steun. Reden voor een gesprek met deze gepassioneerde oprichter.

Wat is de reden dat je voor kinderen in Bangladesh bent gaan werken?

'Voor de oprichting van Niketan heb ik drie jaar voor het Lilliane Fonds in Bangladesh gewerkt. Niet alles ging toen goed. Ik ben daar neergestoken door een schizofrene man, raakte verlamd en moest terugkeren naar Nederland voor revalidatie. Hoewel Termoshuizen blijvende neurologische schade heeft overgehouden, wilde ze na de herstelperiode toch weer terug naar Bangladesh. Maar het was te zwaar en ze keerde terug naar Nederland. Toch leverde deze periode haar ook wat op. 'Ik ervoer mijn eigen beperking eigenlijk als een prachtige kans om echt te voelen wat de kinderen in Bangladesh doormaken. Nadat ik terug was uit Bangladesh heb ik de stichting opgericht.'

kinderen hun naam kunnen schrijven, leren rekenen en zo zelfstandiger kunnen worden. Er is een methodiek ontwikkeld zodat de kinderen niet elke dag hetzelfde doen, maar écht wat leren. De vorderingen van de kinderen worden bijgehouden; niet alleen op cognitief gebied maar ook op emotioneel en sociaal gebied. In 2014 zijn we naast zorg ook onderwijs gaan geven. We hebben een woonvoorziening met een

zorgboerderij gerealiseerd. Daar is ook een houtbewerkingsgroep gestart.'

'We hebben een 'levenslang lerentraject' ontwikkeld en ook een training gericht op seksuele ontwikkeling. Dat laatste is een moeilijk onderwerp; het heeft een jaar geduurd voordat de begeleiders daarover wilden praten. Uiteindelijk is er een Bengaalse trainer gevonden en



Wat betekent Niketan en wat doen jullie?

'Niketan betekent 'thuis' in het Bengaals: een veilige haven voor de kinderen. Onze organisatie wil dat kinderen en jongeren met een complexe beperking geaccepteerd worden en naar school gaan. De ouders vinden het belangrijk dat

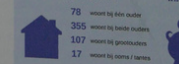
MISSIE NIKETAN

Iedereen wil een fijn leven. Er mogen zijn, geaccepteerd worden voor wie je bent. Een persoon met een beperking, maar met je eigen dromen en wensen voor de toekomst. De kans om naar school te gaan, om op je eigen niveau les te krijgen, van een leerkracht die je begrijpt. Maar wat als die scholen er niet zijn en die kennis er niet is? Voor die kinderen en jongeren in Bangladesh is er Niketan.

2020 in één oogopslag



Leef situatie kinderen



Inkomen ouders (p/m)



Leeftijd kinderen



article in Fundraising trade magazine after winning Impact prize



Workshop Reproductive Health at the Wilde Ganzen - Partin day

Good governance, risk and compliance

The projects in Bangladesh are implemented by our local partner organization DRRA. In close consultation with Niketan, projects are defined, implemented and evaluated.

We are in daily contact with DRRA managers and employees working on our projects. The financial and content-related reports have always been good and board members visit the projects several times a year. During these visits, we work closely with DRRA staff and management, and personally check with our own eyes the quality of the DRRA employees' work. The best interests of the children in our projects are always at the heart of this.

In addition, Niketan consults with sponsors in the Netherlands and Bangladesh for funding. DRRA reports on progress and expenses incurred semi-annually. When the country reopened, the President, Treasurer and General Secretary visited Bangladesh to evaluate the activities during the pandemic and see how activities have been restarted. NGOs in Bangladesh are monitored by the NGO Affairs Bureau, an organization set up by the government in 1990 to make NGOs more flexible in their operations and help ensure the accountability of their activities. See also: <http://www.ngoab.gov.bd/>

DRRA's internal auditor also audits these local administrative records. In addition, the NGO Affairs Bureau conducts specific audits and reviews. Every six months, Niketan also audits the statements of project expenses itself. It compares them with the budgets submitted in advance and reviews, based on random sampling, whether the expenses were justified and actually incurred. In case of deviations, the parties involved must report on them in writing. DRRA, which also implements projects for organizations other than Niketan, has the financial records of the various projects audited annually by a recognized independent external auditor. Niketan has access to these audit reports.

Organizational continuity

Niketan is run almost entirely by volunteers. The stability and continuity of Niketan therefore depends heavily on the quality and continued commitment of these volunteers. The Board is aware that with the current way of working, the composition, involvement and expertise of the Board is important for the continuity of the project. In our 5-year Policy Plan Niketan 2020-2025, we have indicated that we will pay extra attention to this. This is all about the continuity of care for the children we have been committed to for such a long time. In line with the development of Bangladesh, which has become a middle-income country in the past year, a part of the care will have to be taken over by the national and local government together with the private sector. Niketan's contribution will then shift more towards innovation and sharing of knowledge and experience among larger societal groups in collaboration with other parties. Because of COVID, we have not been able to do enough of this and will set to work on this with extra energy in the coming year.

Continuity of our partner organizations

Although Niketan only pre-finances a very small part, it is still important to have a reliable and up-to-date understanding of the continuity of our partner organization DRRA, without losing our independence. To this end, the Board will discuss the financial health of the organization with DRRA's management annually. In addition, the Treasurer will review and discuss available audits with management or auditors.

Employees Niketan / DRRA

6 Voluntary
board members
in the Netherlands

47 Paid project staff
in Bangladesh

6 Flexible
deployable
volunteers in NL

1  Paid
fundraiser



+/- 3.039

hours of volunteer work by
board members.

Risk management

Currency risk

Contractually, contributions for DRRA in 2021 were budgeted in Bangladeshi taka, converted at a fixed euro exchange rate. Payments in euros were converted back into taka upon receipt. As a result, the currency risk was borne by DRRA. From the 2022-2023 budget, Niketan has established the contracts and original budgets in taka, and the amount will be transferred in euros at the exchange rate of the day of declaration. As a result, DRRA is no longer exposed to currency risk and the costs incurred in taka are more closely aligned with the exchange rate fluctuation of the taka.

Risk of insufficient funds

Every year we are faced with the question of whether we can raise enough funds to continue to support the projects. Niketan is pursuing multiple avenues to secure funding:

1. We maintain good contacts with equity funds.
2. Since early 2019, we have been using the services of an external fundraiser.
3. We are focusing more on fundraising in Bangladesh and are increasingly successful at it. The proceeds are deducted directly from the project costs to be paid by us.
4. In recent years, we have been able to build up a financial buffer.

For a steady inflow of funding, we strive for broader name recognition, coupled with interest and social conviction. We will increase the contact between Niketan and its donors and become even clearer in showing results, without reducing our focus on the children.

Investment risk

Our financial resources are such that we can meet the objectives for about a year and a half. Given this short investment horizon, the Board decided to hold the funds exclusively as immediately withdrawable bank balances (current account or savings account).

Political and security risks

2021 was the second year in which there was a pandemic. Niketan and DRRA did continue to focus on COVID education for DRRA staff and for the families.

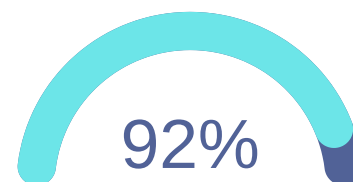
Financial overview 2021

In 2021, Niketan received an amount of 221,797 euros from fundraising. This is 26,884 euros less than in 2020. The costs of running our program totaled 203,038 euros, so Niketan has spent 18,759 euros less than it received in 2021.

Benefit

Private person	€ 29.579
Companies	€ 16.752
Organisations	€ 144.037
Third parties	€ 31.429

€ 221.797



Spent on objectives

Spend



Knowledge:
€ 22.367



Monitoring :
€ 3.136



Management :
€ 8.262



Fundraising:
€ 11.226



Project :
€ 177.535



Corona :
€ 4.517

Please see our financial statements for a complete overview of the financial results.



Lasting impact of the COVID pandemic

COVID continues to heavily impact our activities, delaying certain investments and preventing some training sessions and meetings from taking place. The Income Generating Activities (IGA) project started in 2021. A total of 4,517 euros in support was provided in the form of purchasing rickshaws, sewing machines, goats and seeds for the benefit of the families who lost their income because of the pandemic. This initiative was partly funded by Dutch donors, but a big part came from our local fundraising.



Monitoring, management and administration costs

In November 2021, for the first time in a long time, we were able to undertake a monitoring mission to ascertain the progress made. During this mission, we also continued with the filming of our instructional videos. These aim to support parents and carers in their approach, in the hope of reaching a wider audience or promoting self-help in the future.

The activities in the 2021 financial year were affected to a large extent by the continued weakness of the Bangladeshi taka against the euro, and because of this, the financial results were better than budgeted originally.



Less funds raised, but in strong euro

About 20,000 euros less funds were raised in 2021, but durable care costs were lower. Not only due to the impact of the pandemic, but mainly due to a very positive exchange rate of the euro against the Bangladeshi taka. In this difficult situation, Niketan has fortunately been able to count on the continued support of various funds that have been sympathetic to us, and new funds have also supported us. Meanwhile, significant commitments have been made for 2022 and subsequent years.



Local fundraising

Niketan is receiving increasing support from Bangladeshi donors, both from individuals and from other organizations and companies (including a significant donation from Unilever Bangladesh). These donations are deposited into the local bank account managed by DRRA. The balance at the end of 2021 was about 26,000 euros.

Niketan received support from:

We thank the following donors:



Banyan Trust



Casterenshoeve



ChildRight



Den Brinker



De Wisselbeker



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Stille fondsen



We also thank the many loyal private donors and volunteers who support us year after year.