



2005 Annual Report to the Members' Meeting of Help without Frontiers April 21, 2006

1. Introduction

During the past year we made a great progress in our work thanks to the enthusiasm of our members and the members of the board, but principally thanks to the generosity of the people in Alto Adige, in Italy and in other countries. We are particularly thankful to the Department for State Affairs of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, and to the Bureau for the European Integration and Humanitarian Help of the Autonomous Trentino Alto Adige Region for their support.

In 2005 we had the possibility to increase the number of schools and consequent increase of students to more than 2.000 units. We could continue to sponsor the prosthesis laboratory and the trauma department of the Mae Tao Clinic, several training classes for teachers, to print more than 40.000 text books and to distribute them in inside Burma, to carry out a Tsunami project in South Thailand and to start a Mobile Medical Service in the refugees villages.

The number of members reached 124 (at present 142) also thanks to the Documentary "In Fuga" broadcast on RAI 3 "C'era una volta" program, to which we contributed with suggestions and contacts.

Help without Frontiers has been created also in Germany, due to the initiative of a number of people.

2. Activities during the past year

Last year was the busiest year. We were guests in 26 events, 20 of which were talks on our work with an audience of 2000 and had the chance to contact more than 10.000 people. We improved our Internet site, which is now a three- language site, started an "Adopt a School" project, delivered many press bulletins, started "Help without Frontiers" in Germany and the new office in Wien, sent many letters to possible sponsors, issued 1.500 receipts to sponsors (Thank you, Gitti) and were present in Mae Sot for total 6 months.

Our member Marc Röggl, attended a 2-week work stage in the Euro Burma Bureau in Bruxelles.

Our members worked unpaid for several thousands hours. The president, Benno Röggl, invests approximately half of his time in Help without frontiers, Gertraud Tusch and Gitti Tribus work as a rule 2 hours a day for the organisation. To these hours we must add the months spent in Mae Sot.

The following activities were started:

- **Events and conferences**

On the whole we were guests or organized 26 events. First of all we want to mention the Burma Project of the Wörgl Gymnasium in Austria, to which participate all 700 students, teachers and professors, with great enthusiasm. The great commitment of everybody allowed the BRG Wörgl to collect the money needed to adopt a school and support it for at least 3 years.

Other projects or conferences in schools took place in Munich in Bayern, Bolzano, Bressanone e Silandro.

In addition to the above, we have been guests in various concerts. The most important was the "Rock am Ring" concert with approximately 6.000 contacts.

- **Internet**

The site developed unexpectedly. Toward the end of 2005 more than 400 people visited, as an average, our site every day. The number of the subscribers to the Circular letter increased to 3.500.

The English site has been completed.

We are receiving acknowledgments from everywhere, specifically for our up-to-dateness and transparency.

- **Newsletter**

The number of the subscribers is : 1.800 German, 700 Italian and 1.000 English. We delivered 10 newsletters and 25 "Members' Mail".

- **Mailings**

We sent about 800 letters, 130 of which to leader companies. Of the contacted people about 2 thirds made a donation and 4 companies adopted a whole school.

- **Leaflets and advertising**

Microstore paid the printing of our leaflet. Thanks.

Wolfi Tochterle redesigned our logotype and Corporate Design. Thanks.

- **Media**

We sent press reports regularly.. In 2005 at least 65 articles, interviews, reportages or films has been edited on Help without frontiers and on our work. Among them there are also very well known media, such as La Famiglia Christiana (which dedicated a whole page to our project "Adopt a School"), Espresso, the German Spiegel and the Münchner Merkur.

Also our friends in Germany and Austria worked hard and reached successful results.

- **Trips**

Benno Röggl has been on the spot two times for total 2 months. During one week he visited the villages of Inside Burma and faced a human tragedy of unexpected dimensions.

Gertraud Tush was in Mae Sot for 3 weeks.

Gabi Schaumberger lived with the Karennis for three months, at her own expenses, and our German friends were there for longer than 2 months.

- **Other**

The Euro Burma Bureau gives us a careful and friendly support. Our young member Marc Röggl was in Bruxelles 2 weeks to assist them.

"C'era una volta" is a well known Italian program of documentary films. They shot a film on the refugees to which we cooperated with ideas and suggestions. As a matter of fact, we have been referred to at the end of the film. The film "In Fuga" (In Flight) was broadcast on December 7. As a result 27 new members joined us from all over Italy, but the offers were below those expected.

3. "Schools for the Refugees" Project

Last year we supported 21 schools with more than 2.000 students, 10 of these schools with 800 students are situated inside the jungles of Burma.

For each school our local partners send us a written proposal with a detailed budget. During the year they collect invoices and receipts, write down the accounting records and at the end they send us a written report together with the accounting and all the original documents.

One of these organizations is the KED – Karen Education Department, i.e. a kind of Education Ministry of the Karen in exile. The KED supports a similar school system with lessons in the mother language along the border in Thailand and in Inside Burma. Besides, they organize many training classes for teachers.

The second organization is the Burmese Migrant Workers Education Committee BMWEC, which takes charge principally of schools for refugees in Burma.

Both organizations are formed by Karen and Burmese people in exile. All of them work with idealism and dedication to improve the destiny of their fellow countrymen. We rely on them completely.

The cooperation with these two partners greatly reduces our work since we receive all the data from two sources in a neat and correct way.

Also the "Adopt my school" programme developed satisfactorily. During last year 16 schools with a number of students from 30 to 250 students each have been adopted by firms, associations, schools and town councils. These 16 schools are attended by more than 1.350 children. The sponsor commits himself to support the selected school for at least 3 years.

The following sponsors adopted a school:

Wolf Windows, Leitner Lifts, Nordwal, Bozen Leasing, Trocker bakery, Camping Alpe di Siusi, Kompatscher-Reisigl Family, Brixen Town Council, United World Group in Laion, Woergl Gymnasium, the teachers of the Tschuggmall Professional School in Bressanone, KAOS Youth Center in Klausen, San Zeno Foundation, APC Bau, Hopfen & Co. (Bozner Bier):

For the Kah K'Kyet school we supported a dormitory for 30 students.

With the grants of the Bureau for the European Integration and Humanitarian Help of the Trentino Alto Adige Region we printed more than 40.000 text books and distributed them in the refugees schools in Inside Burma, partially loading them on our shoulders and marching for several days.

In cooperation with the Cassa di Risparmio Foundation in Bolzano we bought 16 computers for the few schools where electricity is available.

4. Project "Prosthetic workshop" and assistance to the victims of mines and other accidents.

The prosthesis laboratory as well as the trauma department of the Mae Tao clinic is a very important institution considering the increasing number of mine victims. Also in 2005 more than 200 prosthesis have been constructed.

The victims arrive from Burma, where they underwent an urgency amputation. For this reason it is necessary to reopen the cut off stump at the Mae Tao clinic, often in cooperation with the Thaiandese clinic of Mae Sot, in order to be able to adapt it to the following application of a prosthesis.

As a consequence it is often necessary a stay of several months both of the victims themselves and of the family members who always accompany them. We take care of all the expenses, including the materials for the construction of the prosthesis, as well as for the necessary equipment.

We have been in a positions to carry out all this only thanks to the generous contribution of the State Affairs Department of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano. The grant is of 30.000 Euro. It is necessary, however, to add to this sum the big voluntary commitment of the staff at the Mae Tao clinic, as well as of the members of our organisation for all what concerns both the awakening of the awareness and the organization and coordination activities, and the relative travels out there.

5. Other projects at Mae Tao Clinic

It had been decided to support completely the new pediatric ward of the clinic with 50.000 Euro. Unfortunately other departments of the clinic did not welcome the fact that this department would have had better conditions than theirs and some of the staff showed their disappointment. After many discussions and claims unacceptable by us, the clinic decided not to accept our support. We are sorry for this decision.

The staff at the maternity department assist the HIV-positive mothers and their new born babies during a period of 18 months teaching them how to attend to their needs by

themselves. Beside the standard visits, they receive food, clothing and the payment of the travel fees for the periodical screenings, and other possible assistance. This project is totally financed by us.

6. „Kathi Zeschg“ Community Health Programme

In cooperation with the Alto Adige Doctors for the Third World and a generous offer from the Zeschg family to remember their dead daughter Kathi, we have extended our Community Health Programme.

The service is run by an Medical Doctor, who hired two medics to assist this unit.

At and around Mae Sot the refugees live in miserable and wretched conditions, undernourished and without what is necessary to live. The Doctor and the 2 medics visit their villages regularly and provide them with the necessary medicines and vitamins. This Service reaches about 7.000 people, who otherwise would be without any medical assistance.

7. Orphanage Hsa Htoo Lei

We love particularly this orphanage and increased, therefore, our support. We pay for food, but also for art or handicraft classes. Computer and other small or large needs. For this we receive a contribution from the AWD Children Institution in Austria.

8. Teachers Training

We continue to support training courses for teachers. The first we wish to mention is Dr. Thein Lwin who keeps weeks-long courses in various locations along the border.

The KED runs, with our support, training courses in Inside Burma. At Deh Buh Noh, distant a 2-day march from the border, we built a training centre formed by a large hut for the lessons and two smaller huts for sleeping, cooking and eating with only 1.000 Euro.

9. Other projects for the refugees

- **Tsunami Relief Project**

Together with the Autonomous Province of Bolzano and the Federation of Trade Unions of Burma (FTUB) we invested 25.000 Euro in a project to support the Burmese families hit by the Tsunami in South Thailand.

With this money we could help to survive more than 100 families of Burmese workers in Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Ranong by buying and distributing blankets, mosquito nets, food and medicines.

For some communities we bought small motor fishing boats (12 second-hand motors), nets, and other equipment for fishing and handicraft.

80 women have been assembled in an income-generating project. An expert taught them how to build traps for squids, which now they produce and sell, and how to make and repair nets.

- **Dormitories**

Many children cannot attend school because they live too far from it. For this reason created a total of 4 dormitories by financing all what is necessary, food included, and also a person who watches the children and cook for them.

180 children live in our dormitories in the whole.

- **Community events**

For Christmas and other events of the community we gave a small contribution to cover the expenses.

- **Borsa di studio**

We pay part of the expenses for the University study in Bangkok of a Karen medic.

- **Computer**

With the support of the Foundation Cassa di Risparmio in Bolzano we could supply 16 computers with monitor, printers and software to the few schools where electricity is available.

Project Madagaskar

Our member Alexander Bisan wants to start a project in Madagascar. He went there for 3 months to study the possibilities. He has already found 1.710 Euro to this purpose and also a sponsor who paid his air ticket.

10. Donations and other revenues

Last year we have been almost submerged by the offers and donations received. Due to the terrible tragedies of last year, such as Tsunami, the flood in the near Tyrol and the earthquake in Pakistan, we feared that the money on hand of people was exhausted. But this was not the case. What surprises is that the average amount for each donor is above 50 Euro procapite.

The campaign "One school year under the Christmas Tree" showed to be the one which best moves the hearts of the people. It is a real proposal for a effective and aimed help, combined with our promise to invest every offer totally and without any deduction in the projects. And this people accept enthusiastically. And we are happy.

In addition we found 16 sponsors who adopt as many schools putting at our disposal about 73.000 Euro.

Donations and revenues for our projects

We received the following donations:

Donations up to 500 Euro	107.190 Euro
Donations above 500 Euro	124.373 Euro,
Total donations for projects	231.563 Euro.

We received the following subsidies from public institutions:

Subsidy for the prosthetic workshop, Prov. Bolzano	30.298 Euro
Subsidy Tsunami project, Prov. Bolzano	18.000 Euro
Subsidy printing 40.000 books, TN-AA Region	16.258 Euro
Total subsidies for projects	64.565 Euro

In 2005 we received 296.128 Euro for our projects. This, as compared to 2004, corresponds to an increase of the 70%. We are thankful.

Revenues and contributions for the management of the Association

We committed ourselves to invest 100% of the offers and donations received in our projects. The additional costs for the management, administration, travels and communications are entered separately and covered by revenues received to this purpose (membership fees, sale of Karen handicraft products and Free Burma shirts, sponsors and public contributions):

Total revenues for the association	24.997,79 Euro
Public contributions, included the printing of a book	16.000,00 Euro

We have at our disposal for the managing expenses, from various proceeds and revenues and from public contributions, a total of: 40.997,79 Euro, corresponding to an increase of 57%.

The following sponsors contributed to the management of Help without Frontiers

- . The apple of the Alto Adige: grant (contribution)
- . Helios, Bressanone: FREE BURMA shirts, Spots
- . Syrius Computer, Frangarto Bolzano: grant
- . Trocker bakery, Castelrotto: contribution
- . Sportler, Bolzano,: Equipment to march in the jungle
- . Microstore, Bolzano: leaflets printing
- . Mediamacs, Bolzano: graphic works
- . Senoner, St. Ulrich: Internet site programming and webmaster, Burmaday.org, Webspace and Server free of charge
- . DND, Bressanone: E-Mail Server and domini ?
- . Alpikom, Trento: E-Mail Server
- . Hotel Città, Bolzano: free overnight stays
- . Cuccia Decorazioni, Bolzano: 2 flags "Aiutare senza Confini"
- . Gardena.Net: Editorial system GN.Red
- . Newport: Domini registration: adottaunascuola.org, etc.
- . Roeggla.it: Office, Internet access, telephone, office equipment

A heartfelt thank you to the following media which regularly follow us by giving space to our enterprises and thus contributing to support our work and the information on the actual situation in Burma

- RAI Bolzano (Radio e TV)
- ORF - Südtirol Heute
- Radio Südtirol 1
- Radio Tirol
- RMI und Südtirol Journal
- Radio Grüne Welle
- Teleradio Vinschgau
- Radio Gherdeina
- Tageszeitung
- Tiroler Tageszeitung
- Kronenzeitung, Ausgabe Tirol

The revenues and all the contributions in 2005, included those for the management of the association, have been of: 337.117,63 Euro, corresponding to an increase of the 70%

11. Projects and other expenses

In 2005 we invested total 218.258,69 Euro in our projects. Such as:

• Prosthetic Workshop Mae Tao Clinic	30.298,00€
• HIV-positive mothers, Mae Tao clinic	14.090,33€
• Community Health Programme	6.000,00€
• CDC school at the Mae Tao clinic	5.000,00€
• KED schools and teachers training	67.413,12€
• Kway Kha Baung School	18.158,42€
• Pha Hite School (in Burma)	4.204,08€
• BMWEC schools and orphanage Hsa Htoo Lei	44.453,76€
• Thein Lwin – Train the Teachers Project	4.262,53€
• Dormitory Rocky Mountain	3.782,20€
• Tsunami project	25.000,00€
• Other small projects	9.686,58€
Total projects	218.258,69€

Some of the projects are still under way, the expenses, therefore, will be entered in 2006. Our principle is not to invest all the offers in the projects, but to keep a reserve to guarantee the continuity in the forthcoming years.

This year we invested in our projects 107.927,71 Euro more than in 2004, for total 218.258,69 Euro. This corresponds to a 102% increase.

On Dec. 31, 05 the cash balance was:	1.166,22€
On Dec. 31, 05 the overall balance of our bank accounts was:	174.860,56€

On Dec. 31, 05 we were public bodies' creditors for 41.545,53 Euro of contributions granted but not yet paid.

The following managing costs for travels and communication for total 13.476,55 Euro are covered by the revenues of membership fees, public and sponsors grants and sale of handicraft products and FREE Burma shirts:

• Leaflets, invitations, posters, informative material	37,96€
• Office supplies	584,07€
• Stamps, Telephone, communication	1.251,47€
• Travels, food and lodging	9.011,84€
• Office and hall rent	1.701,00€
• Banking fees	763,21€
• Other	127,00€

Total managing costs 13.476,55 Euro
= pari ad un incremento del 56%.

(*) Including the trip of Alexander Bisan to Madagascar, covered by a specific offer of a sponsor

In 2005 we bought handicraft products from the Karen women and FREE BURMA shirts to be sold at conferences or events for total 8.928,82 Euro. Approximately half of this amount is covered by an offer from the firm Helios of Bressanone.

We spent 6.335,11 Euro for equipment. In addition to the 4.400 Euro (Province contribution) for the programming of our internet site (used in 2004 but paid in 2005), this amount includes also the purchase of a PC with monitor and printer and one second-hand Laptop computer.

You will find the balance here below. We entered all the movements according to the criteria of a simplified accounting. The report and all the relative documents are submitted to the Department for State Affairs for the necessary controls.

12. Prospective 2006

We received already offers for 40.000 Euro within the end of March. Since the sponsors will pay the established grants only in May, the total revenue is already higher than 2005. We are full of hope but we proceed cautiously. The aim should be to invest money with farsightedness so as to guarantee continuity to our projects.

With the increased availability of capital we will extend our activities in Burma and II double the number of students to 4.000. To this purpose we will support a larger number of schools Inside Burma, where the problem is tragic. We will also develop the teachers training project and the Mobile Health Service.

Participate regularly to events. As a matter of fact we will have a stall with our shirts at the benefit concert organized for us by the KAOS Youth Centre in Chiusa (the proceeds of the event were of 3.800 Euro which are sufficient to adopt a small school in Burma)

Gertraud Tusch is interested in projects in Tyrol. The important project "Burma" at the Wörgl Gymnasium is at its second year and Gertraud will spend several days to talk with the 700 students, parents and teachers. Besides she will organize various presentations in clubs. As consequence of her initiatives, the firm Sandoz granted us, for the second time, antibiotics worth 6.000 Euro for our Mobile Health Service. She started also the process for constitute " Help without frontiers" in Austria.

Gabriele Schaumberger is responsible for the activities in Vienna. She wants to start our activity in the Austrian capital city. Gaby is interested in the Karen people.

The project "Adopt a school" will be extended on an international basis. To this end a specific logotype, concept (always within HWF) and a three-language site will be created.

Benno Röggl is writing a book on Burma which will be published in September (also in Italian).

On September 30, we will organize the big Burma Day 06 at the EURAC in Bolzano. It is an event with exceptional international guests who will participate to the meetings and will keep workshops on the actual situation in Burma. All this informative part will be followed by various entertaining: Burmese music, Burmese food, Burmese teashop, Burmese fairy tales, non-stop films and documentary films (also non-professional), refugees paintings and photos exhibitions, etc. In the evening Benno Röggl will talk about his visit in the villages of the Internally Displaced People. Later there will be a big Party with the music of the "The Satellites" group. In this way we wish to inform on the actual situation in Burma, but also to make the people, the culture and the folklore of some Burmese ethnic groups familiar to the public. The address of the specific site is www.burmaday.org.

The activities of Help without frontiers in Germany are sustained and extended with our support. The HWF Germany site is www.helfenohnegrenzen.de

The number of members should reach 200. Difficult target since about 25 of the present 142 members will pass over to HWF Germany and Austria.

With our new members all over Italy we hope that our activities will be known and supported also on the national territory.

13. Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all the members for the enthusiasm and the commitment during the past year. Everybody contributed to the big result in favour of the refugees. In addition to the membership fee, each donated hour is very helpful to us. Thank you.

A thank you goes to the members of the Board, who showed great generosity and commitment. Without this it would be impossible to keep going an association as large as ours.

A heartfelt thank you to the Department for State Affairs of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, the Department for the European Integration and Humanitarian Help of the Trentino-Alto Adige Autonomous Region, the Cassa di Risparmio Foundation in Bolzano, the Doctors of Alto Adige for the Third World and the Euro Burma Bureau in Bruxelles.

Without the contributions of our sponsors we would not be in a position to cover our expenses. With their support we guarantee that our commitment to invest the 100% of the offers received in our projects will not be modified. Thank you.

Thank you also to the present and future sponsors who adopt schools to give a good and continuous education to many refugee children.

A particularly heartfelt thank you goes to all the sponsors who with their small or large contributions put us in a position to help. Without them, without their solidarity many persons would be in a serious difficulty.

Finally thank you also to our partners out there who in spite of all the suffering are committed to help their people and who assist us with great honesty and sincerity.

Benno Röggl
Chairman

Brigitte Tribus
Treasurer