



THE LONG DISTANCE SPONSORSHIP WITH ASIA





WHAT IS LONG DISTANCE SPONSORSHIP FOR ASIA

It is a concrete gesture of solidarity to economically support and educate boys and girls, while respecting their culture and identity, in the areas where ASIA intervenes, particularly in the Himalayas.

It is a project that contributes to the development of the most disadvantaged communities in Tibet, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Mongolia, helping people to live in fairer and more humane conditions.

ASIA has been organising Long Distance Sponsorship projects to support children, students, monks and the elderly since 1994.

GOALS

To guarantee **children** the opportunity to complete primary education in qualified schools.

To provide everything necessary in order to study and live in dignity: teaching materials, school uniforms, medical care, bed linen, reimbursement of travel expenses to and from the school and much more. Thanks to this project, the schools ensure that children receive a quality education, taught by skilled and motivated teachers, an educational program which is constantly updated and respectful of the students' language and their cultural roots.

To ensure that children and **monks** who are interested in the traditional Tibetan spiritual path are given the opportunity to study and practice in the Buddhist colleges of Tibet. In these spiritual centres, the students learn the ten main Sciences of Tibetan traditional culture. The project covers the necessary costs to support the students during their studies (meals, heating, teaching materials).

To offer **the poorest and most deserving young Tibetans** the chance to attend high school, university and vocational training courses, in order to build a better future, to compete in the labour market and to contribute to the preservation and development of their culture.

To give **elder Tibetan** refugees, who are left all alone, the possibility to live in adequate and organised structures, to continue to pass on their wealth of knowledge and values to future generations.

HOW DOES IT WORK

Beneficiaries are carefully selected by our local staff, in collaboration with representatives from the scholastic and monastic institutions where ASIA intervenes with the Long Distance Sponsorship project. The project beneficiaries belong to very poor families who experience great difficulty in continuing to support their children's education, or in the case of adult monks and elders, are lonely people with no economic support.

As soon as a request for Long Distance Sponsorship arrives, the ASIA office in Rome selects the most urgent cases from the waiting lists received from ASIA's offices in recipient countries, creating a pairing between a sponsor and beneficiary and activating the sponsorship.

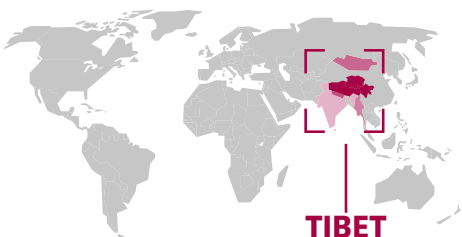
The sponsor will receive an information sheet and photo of the beneficiary as well as some information detailing the project in which he/she is taking part.

Thus a new experience begins: the Long Distance Sponsorship.

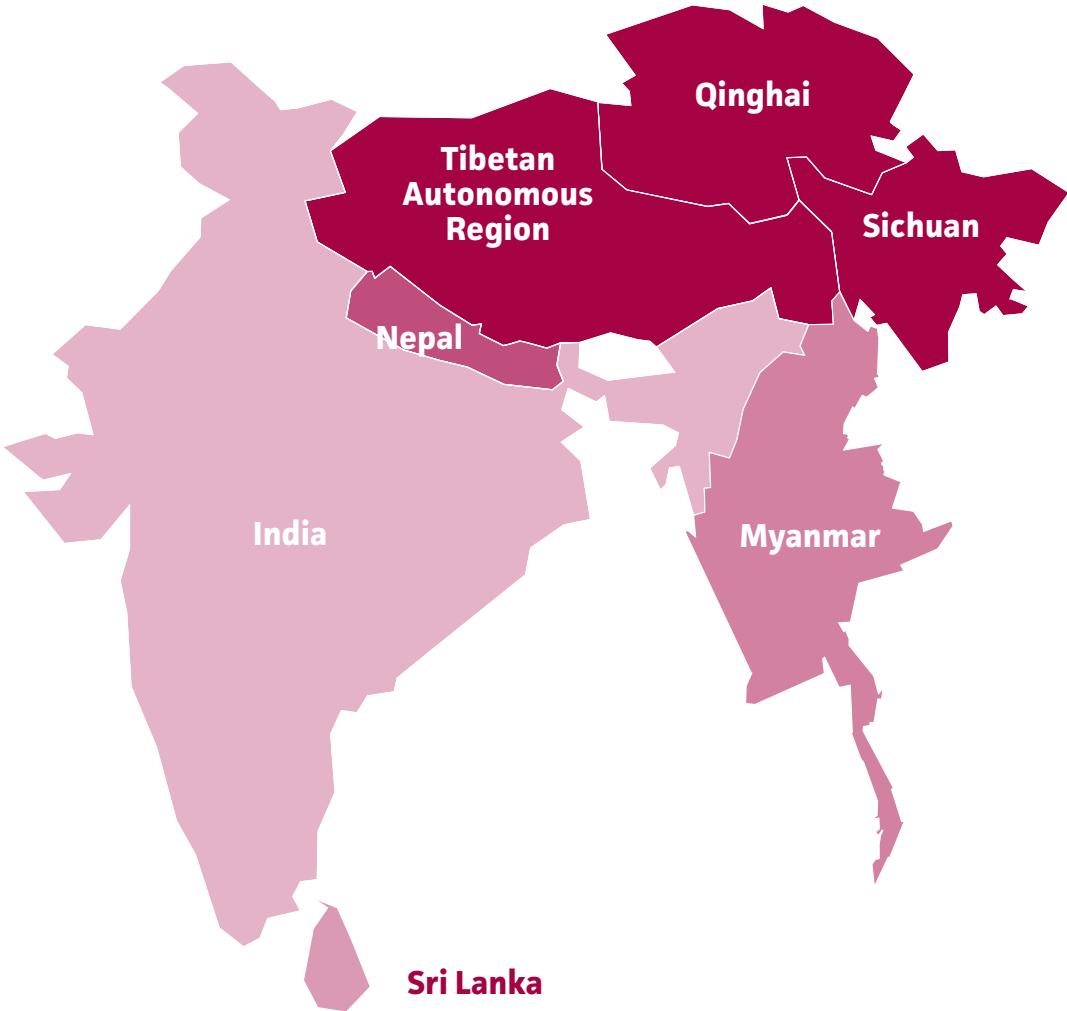
With this project, **a real, personal connection** between the sponsor and the beneficiary is established, through the exchange of letters, photos, small gifts and any meetings in the country where the beneficiary lives.

WHERE WE WORK

The Long Distance Sponsorship Project also participates in the maintenance, improvement and development of schools, monasteries and colleges where ASIA intervenes. Many of the participating schools and colleges were built by ASIA.



TIBET
NEPAL
INDIA
MONGOLIA
MYANMAR
SRI LANKA



INDIA

Tibetan Homes Foundation (THF) - School

The THF School, other than providing primary and secondary education (in English, Hindi and Tibetan), ensures Tibetan children, who arrive with or without their families, receive medical care and a living environment which is as familiar as possible. There is also a scholarship program for university students.

Tibetan Homes Foundation (THF) - Residences for the Elderly

THF residences for the elderly host and offer assistance to elderly Tibetan refugees, alone or ill, who can no longer support themselves.

Central Schools for Tibetans (CST)

It is the first Tibetan school founded in India to accommodate and educate Tibetan refugees (children and youths).

Sambotha Tibetan School Society (STSS)

The schools that make up the STSS first began to be established in the early Eighties, to accommodate Tibetan refugee children and give them an education suited to their traditions.

Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA)

It is the official art institute of the Tibetan Government in exile and has the objective of preserving Tibet's artistic traditions (music, theatre, dance).



Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV)

In the Sixties, the Tibetan government in exile established a network of school-villages across India to ensure refugee children received an education.

NEPAL



Triten Norbutse Bönpo Monastery

This monastery was founded in the Nineties in Kathmandu to preserve the ancient culture and pre-Buddhist spirituality known as Bön. Over the years the Triten Norbutse has become an important reference point for Tibetans living in Nepal and for all Himalayan minorities who follow the Bön tradition. The course of studies lasts 14 years and at the end of the studies, once the monks pass their final exam, they return to Tibet or in remote areas of the Himalayas to continue this tradition.



Manasarovar Academy Foundation

This institute, established in 1999 by two Tibetan women who wanted to educate young Tibetan refugees in Kathmandu, welcomes children from kindergarten to primary school. It is considered one of the best schools of Kathmandu.

The Ganchen Meri School

A part of this school was built by ASIA in a very remote area of Nepal and is accessible only on foot. It is one of very few Tibetan schools in the Dolpo region.

QINGHAI

The Golok School

The school currently stands in an area where there was only a school reserved for boys as it was situated next to the monastery, the Raja Monastery Scholastic Institute. This is why ASIA started the construction of a school to accommodate 560 girls in 2001. The construction works were completed in 2004. It is the only Tibetan school dedicated solely to girls, who study Tibetan language and culture as well as Chinese and English.



Shingkri Monastery

This monastery belongs to the Nyngmapa school, one of the oldest schools of Tibet. The College was built by ASIA and completed in 2011.

The Yungog School

This school is located in a very remote and isolated area, inhabited only by nomads, where Tibetan customs and traditions have managed to stay alive. Here ASIA has restored some buildings and provided books in Tibetan, English and Chinese, equipment for the library, the computer room and installed heating in the children's dormitories and the refectory.

The Genesai School

Genesai is a Tibetan boarding school for the children of nomadic families from Namchen County. This is one of the most remote and poor counties in Qinghai. The school is located at an altitude of 3500 metres in a remote area where there are no other schools. ASIA built an 800 square metre building using bioclimatic technologies in 2011. The building consists of classrooms and offices. Following ASIA's intervention, the local government built dormitories, a kitchen and a refectory.

Khyungmo Monastery

Khyungmo is a monastery which follows the Bön tradition. It currently welcomes one hundred nuns who, thanks to Long Distance Sponsorship, can study their ancient tradition and have access to facilities, equipment and teaching materials. The College was built by ASIA in 2004.

The Dongche School

Dongche was the first school built by ASIA in Tibet and in 1997 was opened in the presence of Namkhai Norbu, the founder and President of ASIA. The primary school consists of 12 classrooms, a canteen, dormitories (for students and teachers), a cultural centre and a library with over 4,000 books in Tibetan, Chinese and English.

The Anchong School

Anchong is located in one of the areas which was affected by the terrible earthquake in 2010 that destroyed much of the Yushu prefecture. Children who attend Anchong are children from very poor families who, despite the terrible consequences of the earthquake, remain in this area.



The Tanggan School

ASIA renovated this school in 2001 and built new classrooms and dormitories, using bioclimatic techniques and respecting the Tibetan architectural style. The children who attend come from very poor Tibetan nomad families.

The Rigmo School

This school is located at 3,500 metres above sea level, in an area where the literacy rate is still very low. Here children, between the ages of 3 and 11 years old, from the eight surrounding villages are welcomed.

SICHUAN



Galingteng Monastery

The Galingteng Monastery was founded in the ninth century AD. It is considered a sacred place and is very important to the people in Derge County. ASIA has been working in the village of Galingteng since 1993: we have rebuilt and enlarged the College, restored historic buildings, built a small school, a clinic, donated equipment necessary for the library and the monastery kitchen, rebuilt dormitories and provided beds as well as restoring the painted murals in a historic temple dating back to the fourteenth century AD. We are currently establishing a College of Practice to implement the spiritual teachings transmitted in this place for generations.



The Trama College

Trama College offers the traditional and practical studies of Derge Gonchen, the largest monastery in Derge County. In 2002, ASIA contributed to the reconstruction of the student dormitories and a kitchen, we restored the old teachers' residences and built a toilet block and a water system.

The Derge School

In 2002, the Abbot of the Derge Gonchen Monastery (Khenpo Sonam), concerned about the cultural impoverishment in the area, began teaching Tibetan language and grammar to the poorest children in the County using an old dilapidated house. In 2009, after noting the difficult situation, ASIA built a new school with six classrooms, dormitories, a kitchen and a canteen.



The Yena School

This primary school was built by ASIA in 2014 in the ancient monastery of Yena. The school covers 220 square metres with three classrooms and hosts students from 6 to 12 years old who come from very poor nomadic families. Here the children have the opportunity to learn the Tibetan language and cultural traditions directly from the monks.



Baiya Monastery

The Baiya monastery is situated on the Tibetan plateau, 3,500 metres above sea level. For centuries, it has been an important cultural centre following the spiritual traditions of Sakyapa, Kagyu, Nyimapa and Gelug. ASIA is building the College's kitchen and refectory.

STUDY GRANTS

For older students who are attending high school or University, the Long Distance Sponsorship Project consists of Study Grants to complete their educational pathway.

Once students have concluded compulsory primary school education, **the expenses required to continue studying are very costly** and inaccessible to the majority of Tibetan families. Study Grants constitute a fundamental form of support to many young people, so they can achieve a higher level of education and access positions of responsibility within civil society.

The most deserving and motivated students, who come from families in financial difficulty, are selected by our on-site staff. The ASIA office in Rome then activates those Study Grants.

The sponsor can also create a direct relationship **through personal meetings and the exchange of letters with high school and University students.**

ASIA supports high school students from Hainan and Guide in Qinghai and students from various universities.



WHY CHOOSE ASIA

Experience

At ASIA, we have been operating in countries in the Himalayan area since **1988** and we are the only Italian NGO present in Chinese regions inhabited by Tibetans. Since **1994**, we have continued the Long Distance Sponsorship project without interruption.

Participation

The projects are managed on the field by local representatives (school principals, abbots of monasteries and directors of homes for the elderly who have been specifically trained by ASIA). With **regular annual monitoring missions**, the people in charge of ASIA's Long Distance Sponsorship verify the management of the project, the use of funds and train and keep the local staff up-to-date.

Transparency

80% of the Long Distance Sponsorship donation is sent to the beneficiaries, while 20% is held by our headquarters to cover operating costs (staff costs, office expenses and correspondence). ASIA's financial statements are annually certified by independent external auditors and are published on our website.



CHOOSE LONG DISTANCE SPONSORSHIP AS



A gift

Long Distance Sponsorship is a unique gift for a birthday, wedding or special occasion and it will forever change the lives of those who receive it.



Companies and institutions

Ethical choices characterise the path of a Business or company and Sponsorship can be an opportunity to unify and share in their own working context.



A group of people

Friends, relatives and colleagues can decide together to start Supporting a child or providing a Study Grant to guarantee Tibetan students a better present and future.



An educational tool

Through Long Distance Sponsorship, a teacher or a parent transmits the value of solidarity to those who will become the adults of tomorrow.

GETTING STARTED

To begin giving through Long Distance Sponsorship, please fill out the form via the following link:

<http://www.adoptibet.org/wp/en/long-distance-sponsorship/> or contact our office in Rome (tel +39 0644340034

email: adozioni@asia-ngo.org).

The requested contribution is **€ 25 per month for children, monks and the elderly and € 41 euro per month for students.**

You can make your donation via:

BANK TRANSFER

The transfer should be made payable to "ASIA" and the payment description must read "New distant support for a child, student, monk or elder".

IBAN: IT 06 F 01030 72160 000000562272

SWIFT BIC: PASC IT MM XXX

PAYPAL/CREDIT CARD

ASIA will immediately receive your donation made on adoptibet.org, and the Long Distance Sponsorship can be activated straight away.

DIRECT DEBIT/ PAYPAL SUBSCRIPTION

To ensure continued support over time, the sponsor can activate an automatic debit payment (mandatory for those who decide to make monthly payments) through their bank or Paypal account. In this way, the contribution will be automatically paid on the agreed date, without having to go to the bank or the post office.

IMPORTANT: in order to speed up the startup process of Distance Support, after paying the first instalment, you must send the payment receipt to our Long Distance Sponsorship Office, by email at: adozioni@asia-ngo.org or by fax at n. +39 0644702620.

To ensure effective and continuous support of the child, student, monk, or elder, we require a commitment of at least three years or, in accordance with eventual possibilities, until the end of the beneficiary's studies. However, you can withdraw from the Sponsorship at any time by giving at least three months notice. This ensures that our Long Distance Sponsorship Office has time to find another sponsor and to avoid leaving the recipient without support.

Tax deduction

Tax deduction is possible for subscribers paying through ASIA's offices in their countries according to national tax laws.

TESTIMONIALS

Sponsors

For some time we had been looking for a way to support the Tibetan monks. ASIA was pointed out to us by friends as a serious organisation, capable not only of ensuring the aid reaches the person in need, but also of keeping us constantly up-to-date on the evolving situation. The possibility of supporting groups of monks in various monasteries has allowed us to create sister-monasteries between monastic communities.

Monks from the Bose Monastery who sponsor some Tibetan monks.

At dusk, the cold Himalayan air reminds us that it is time to say goodbye. The warmth and the sincerity with which the revered elder promises that he will pray for us "every day" and his smile as he watches us depart are imprinted forever in our memory and have given this trip a rare and precious meaning: we feel in our hearts that we have a close friend in this country.

Costantino decided to sponsor an elderly Tibetan gentleman and went to visit him.

Beneficiaries

Dear adoptive father, in a week I'll receive my twelfth-grade diploma. Dear father, it is only thanks to your love and your support that I have come this far, where I never thought possible. If I think about the diploma, I don't know how to explain the emotions which pass through my heart and mind, it's impossible to describe them exactly...

Dolma, a student who attends the Manasarovar school

... I'm writing to thank you for all the help you gave me. It's been four years since I graduated and I've always accepted the challenges I encounter with confidence. After my studies, I started a job that is certainly one of the richest occupations in value, a kind of engineer of human souls: I am a teacher.

I love this job, I realised that teachers are not only people who teach, but they are also guides in life and mentors to the students.

Dechen Tso, proud to have become a teacher.



ASIA – Association for International Solidarity in Asia - was established in 1988 by Prof. Namkhair Norbu. We work to maintain the identity and the historical and cultural heritage of the inhabitants of the Asian continent, paying particular attention to Tibet and the Himalayan area. We promote sustainable development processes that are focused on local communities with their own human, cultural and environmental resources. ASIA works in the Tibetan regions of western China (Tibet Autonomous Region, Sichuan, Qinghai), in India, Nepal, Myanmar, Mongolia and Sri Lanka.

ASIA belongs to two different Long Distance Sponsorship Networks: La Gabbianella and ForumSAD, which have the common goal of promotion, standardisation and control of procedures for the protection and development of Long Distance Sponsorship and of those who choose it as a form of solidarity.

ASIA has also joined the Guidelines of Long Distance Sponsorship developed by the Italian Agency for Onlus Organisations.