



[www.friendsofhumanity.ch](http://www.friendsofhumanity.ch)



# Annual Report 2016-2017

**Friends of Humanity**

Rue des Pâquis 51, 1201 Genève, Suisse

## Summary

<b>I. About the organisation.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II. Location of the projects supported by FOH in 2016 - 2017 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>III. Summary of Activities 2016 - 2017 .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>IV. Projects supported by FOH in 2016 - 2017 .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Alice Project Universal Education Schools – India .....	6
2. Maison Shalom - Rwanda .....	7
3. Uganda Disabled Women Association (UDWA) .....	8
4. JIPE MOYO Secondary School in Tanzania.....	9
5. Primary School for disadvantaged children from North Cameroun .....	10
6. Rosy Touch Initiative for Development in Nigeria .....	11
7. Mongolia - Lamp of the Path .....	12
<b>IV. Events .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>V. Project of 2018 initiated in Decembre 2017 .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## I. About the organisation

**Friends Of Humanity (FOH)** is a non-profit organization based in Geneva, created by Graziella Zanoletti and Russell Brice in May 2007 with the aim of improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable people.

FOH supports projects adapted to the local culture, which respond to the real needs of the population and promote sustainable development in four key sectors:



**Education and Training**



**Human Rights**



**Women Empowerment**



**Healthcare**

FOH projects are mainly based in Asia and Africa. We support initiatives, find funding and act as intermediaries supporting humanitarian projects that are consistent with FOH's statutes and objectives. In addition, communication and public awareness are an integral part of FOH's mission.

## II. Location of projects supported by FOH in 2016 - 2017



**Total Contribution of FOH in 2016 - 2017: CHF 121'000**

### III. Summary of Activities 2016 - 2017

At **FOH**, the years 2016 and 2017 were devoted to monitor ongoing projects in the areas of education and women empowerment, as well as supporting refugees.

Indeed, in recent years, the world has experienced several political and economic crises, resulting in an unprecedented massive migration crisis. FOH supports Burundian refugees in Kigali and in the "Mahama refugee camp" in Rwanda, with our partner the international NGO Maison Shalom, to set up the construction project of the learning and training "Elite Center".

FOH continues to support the "**Alice Project Universal Education Schools**" in **India** and to promote this educational model in other Western institutions and countries that are confronted with violence and bullying in public and private schools.



The Alice School in Bodhgaya, India

In Africa, FOH has helped to promote education by supporting the **JIFE MOYO Middle School in Tanzania**, which aims to provide access to higher education for girls, and by supporting the construction of a free primary school in Northern Cameroon, where the school enrollment rate is less than 40%.

FOH also supported two projects to empower women: one in Uganda, by the **UDWA Association** whose goal is to contribute to improving the quality of life of women with disabilities and their families by giving them access to small loans to start their own businesses; and a second in Nigeria, by the local NGO **Rosy Touch Initiative for Development**, which runs training workshops on women's rights and courses to strengthen their socio-economic capacities to play an important role in the development of their society.



## IV. Projects supported by FOH in 2016 - 2017

### 1. Alice Project Universal Education Schools – India

Graziella Zanoletti, President of Friends of Humanity, used her knowledge of BioGeometry in the construction and harmonization of classes at Alice Project's new schools.

In 2017, she traveled to India several times with the film director Øystein Rakkenes to make a film about the methodology used in the three schools of the Alice Project in Sarnath, Bodhgaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

This film was essential for the presentation of this unique model of education to His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the first Bodhgaya Lecture "Ethics in Education" in February 2018. His Holiness several times congratulated the founder Valentino Giacomini for creating and implementing the educational method based on "who am I", allowing each individual to find his place in a solidarity and compassionate society.

Link to the film : <https://vimeo.com/299420959>  
(Password : Sarnath2018)

Cost of the film covered by FOH = CHF 30'000



*Alice Project at Sarnath - Inde*

## **2. Maison Shalom - Rwanda**

Originally created in 1993 by Marguerite Barankitse to provide a refuge for orphans of the civil war in Burundi in the 1990s, Maison Shalom had to redefine its fields of intervention by helping its compatriots in exile.

Since 2015, following the political crisis in Burundi, 430,000 Burundians have fled their country and have taken refuge in neighboring countries, such as Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. Being a refugee herself in Rwanda, Marguerite Barankitse established the headquarters of Maison Shalom in Kigali by creating the "Community Center Oasis of Peace" to provide emergency assistance to Burundian refugees. Some of the activities of the center are:

- Intellectual and cultural education for 3-5 year old children
- Vocational training in sewing and culinary arts for young refugees
- University and secondary scholarships to burundian refugee students in Rwanda and France
- Computer sciences courses
- Language courses for refugees
- Sociocultural and sport events
- Education for peace
- Psychosocial support
- Socio-economic support for families through micro-credits that allow them to create economic activities

The "Oasis of Peace Community Center" is a place for healing memories for refugees traumatized, raped, and survivors of various forms of torture related to the political crisis in Burundi.

**FOH support to Maison Shalom – Rwanda in 2016 – 2017 = CHF 40'000**





### ***3. Uganda Disabled Women Association (UDWA)***

Established in 1986 by women with disabilities, the UDWA Association, based in Jinja and Wasiko, Uganda, contributes to the process of improving the quality of life of women with disabilities and their families while continuing to raise public awareness about the situation of disabled people in Uganda.

People with disabilities in Uganda have long been put aside by society because of various superstitious beliefs. FOH supports the UDWA Association led by Mary Bizike Nalongo, by giving them access to small loans to start their own businesses.

The UDWA Association helps to reduce unemployment and poverty among the most vulnerable people in society by helping them to become self-reliant and thus become active participants in the economic development of their country.

UDWA is also doing a lot of outreach to stop cases of torture against people with disabilities in Uganda, and at the same time to make society and local communities understand that "a disabled person is not an incapable person".

**FOH support to UDWA in 2016 - 2017 : 5'000 CHF**





#### **4. JIPE MOYO Secondary School in Tanzania**

In Tanzania, many children do not have access to education because usually the nearest school is too far from their place of residence. In addition, girls are often sexually abused in secondary schools in the Kagera region.

To face this dramatic situation, and in a context where cultural and economic conditions do not favor the education of girls, the Jipe Moyo Association initiated the project to build a center dedicated to protecting them from the dangers that prevent them from completing their studies.

The Jipe Moyo Secondary School is in a remote area of rural Tanzania (Kishuro, Muleba district, Kagera region) where most of the population is very poor. The school has 258 students, including 163 girls.

With this initiative, rates of sexual abuse, undesired pregnancies, as well as AIDS have been reduced considerably.

**FOH support to the JIPE MOYO School in 2016 – 2017 : 6'000 CHF**



### ***5. Primary School for disadvantaged children from North Cameroun***

In Cameroon, more than 37% of the population, that is 8 million people of a total population of 22 million, live below the poverty line (living with less than \$ 1.90 a day).

Since 2013, Cameroon has faced an unprecedented humanitarian and security crisis, with nearly 350,000 refugees and asylum-seekers having fled conflict in the Central African Republic and Nigeria, as well as over 210,000 Cameroonians who have had to abandon their village, their land and their houses because of the abuses of the Boko Haram group.

In northern Cameroon, children are mostly affected by poverty, malnutrition and lack of schools within a radius of 200 km. To cope with this serious situation, in 2017 FOH supported the construction of a free primary school in northern Cameroon by setting up 3 classrooms that allowed 70 schoolchildren from 4 to 8 years old to be accommodated. In addition to the Cameroonian National Education Program, English and Arabic classes are taught to students from the preparatory class.

This school gives hope for a better future to these children and their families by opening them the doors to education.

**FOH support to this project in 2016 - 2017 : 5'000 CHF**



## ***6. Rosy Touch Initiative for Development in Nigeria***

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with a population of 158 million. Women make up the bulk of the labor force in the agricultural sector and play a vital role in rural development.

However, Nigerian women, especially in rural areas, are in a position of subordination and discrimination against men because of many religious, cultural and legal factors.

In this delicate context, FOH is supporting the local NGO Rosy Touch Initiative for Development, which is organizing training workshops on women's rights for 300 women in six villages and thus strengthening their socio-economic capacities to make them play a greater role in their society.

In the long-term, this training will promote exchanges on issues relating to the place and role of women in Nigerian society.

**FOH support to Rosy Touch Initiative for Development in 2016 - 2017 : 7'000 CHF**



## **7. Mongolie – Lamp of the Path**

Lamp of the Path is the humanitarian section of FPMT (Foundation for the Preservation of Mahayana Tradition), a Buddhist organization active in Asia. They started working in Mongolia in 2003 and are active in several areas including health, creating workshops where the local population can acquire technical skills such as sewing and embroidery, as well as helping the homeless.

Soup Kitchen was the first project started by Lamp of the Path in 2003 in a building created for that project in Ulaanbataar: the Dolma Ling Community Center. Since its opening, this center has provided one meal a day to an average of 80 homeless people.

After the main sponsor has retired, FOH has decided to contribute to the Soup Kitchen project, to ensure the continuation of this service and specially to ensure a meal a day and a warm place for the homeless people of Ulaanbataar.

**FOH support to Lamp of the Path in 2016 - 2017 : 8'000 CHF**





## IV. Events

### **Marguerite Barankitse and Maison Shalom, Aurora Prize Laureate 2016**

In April 2016, Friends of Humanity President and Founder Graziella Zanoletti traveled to Armenia for the 2016 Aurora Prize, supporting Maison Shalom's founder Marguerite Barankitse, for her humanitarian work.



The Aurora Humanitarian Award went to Marguerite Barankitse and Maison Shalom, which FOH has been supporting since 2008.

## V. Project of 2018 initiated in December 2017

Following the call for help from Marguerite Barankitse and the tragic situation of Burundian refugees, FOH responded by supporting the creation of a vocational training center for Burundian refugee women in the Mahama camp in Rwanda with the aim of making them economically autonomous. More than 70,000 refugees live in Mahama camp, most whom are women and children. The work will be supervised by "Maison Shalom" and its charismatic founder and president Marguerite Barankitse.

In December 2017, Graziella Zanoletti with Brigitte Burgisser (Founder of eShortRental Sarl and sponsor of FOH), visited the Oasis of Peace Community Center of Maison Shalom in Kigali and the Mahama refugee camp in Rwanda.

During this trip, we had the chance to lay down the foundation stone of this training Center, during the visit to the Mahama refugee camp on January 2, 2018. This center will allow refugees to receive professional training and thus acquire an important number of useful skills.

**FOH support to Maison Shalom for this project in 2016 - 2017: 20'000 CHF**

**Graziella Zanoletti and Brigitte Burgisser laying down the foundation Stone of the Mahama Elite Center last January 2018**



You can see the video of the visit to the Mahama camp and the construction launching ceremony of the center by visiting the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3kRP5CBHYg>