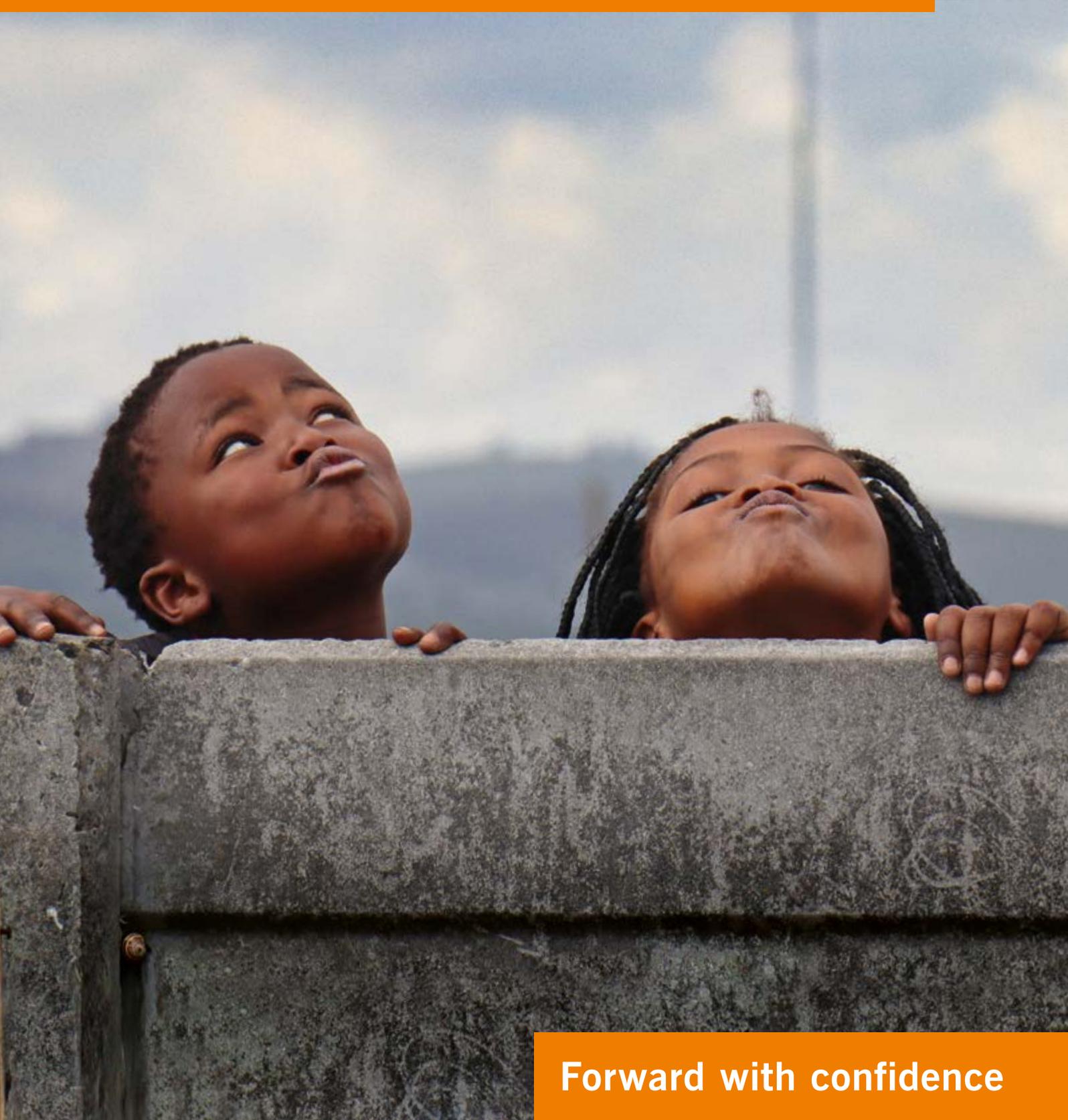




# ROKPA TIMES



**Forward with confidence**

# Editorial

Dear ROKPA Friends,

Extraordinary times bring forth creative ideas and solutions, and the pandemic has given rise to exciting new projects at ROKPA. In putting these new projects in place, we maintained our focus on the sustainable use of funds in order to be able to offer people a long-term perspective for the time after the pandemic. In Nepal, for example, a mobile clinic was set up that travels to villages around Kathmandu sealed off by the lockdown and also to more remote areas, providing medical care to local people. The demand is huge and the mobile clinic will certainly be on the road in the Nepalese countryside for a long time yet. You can read more about it on page 5.

Most of the newly conceived projects will remain in place and be expanded, because what arises from need has a future. We have come out of this time stronger: relationships have been strengthened, and beneficiaries as well as former ROKPA children have remembered their origins and are now giving something back to those who need it most. The great suffering the pandemic has caused has made us all realize how important our work is.

I thank you for your loyal support and hope you enjoy reading.

Best wishes from myself and the whole ROKPA team.

Yours,

Lea Wyler  
Co-Founder and President of ROKPA INTERNATIONAL



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### ROKPA online

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# My dream job



"When I grow up, I want to be an actress and make a living from it. For me, an actress is a person who embodies a very specific character in her performances. I want to make people happy and evoke emotions with my perfect and amazing performance."

**Ehani (19), Nepal Children's Home**



"I want to become a computer engineer. In the future I think there will be more job opportunities in the computer field than in other fields."

**Faneel (19), Nepal Children's Home**



"I want to become a teacher. Then I can help people become smart and teach them what is right and what is wrong in life."

**Melokuhle (4), South Africa Crèche**



"I want to be a doctor one day, then I will earn a lot of money."

**Trevor (13), Zimbabwe Community Centre**



# Moving forward together

The idea was already there: in collaboration with UNIMA (South African Association of Puppetry), a Community Centre in a township of Cape Town is being expanded. When so many people lost their jobs and were in need due to the pandemic, the ROKPA UNIMA Centre for Life project started with the distribution of food. This saved well over 100 families from hunger. In return, the beneficiaries committed themselves to actively participate in the Centre. Through their cooperation and meaningful work, a stable and committed community was created.



The core idea of the Centre for Life is to offer people an outlook and to give them back the joy of life, since most of them are struggling just to survive. The prospect of helping others motivates them to get involved in the Centre. The joint work and exchanges strengthen their co-existence and the self-confidence of each individual. The knowledge acquired is then passed on to others. For example, several community gardens have been established in the area, from which other families benefit.

The beneficiaries support the cooks in the Soup Kitchen, learn to make Waldorf dolls and wooden toys, or are trained in sustainable gardening and lend a hand in the vegetable garden. The activities are closely linked. The toys made are sold or donated to needy children and the proceeds are invested in the Community Centre. Those who are active in the Centre benefit in turn from hot meals from the Soup Kitchen, which cooks nutritious dishes using the garden vegetables twice a week, feeding hundreds of children and adults.

**With your donation you can make a big difference to the ROKPA UNIMA Centre for Life! In the coming year, the offer will be sustainably expanded:**

- Analogous to the start-up project in Nepal, those most in need – mainly women – will be given start-up capital to become self-employed, enabling them to become independent and to provide for their families in the long term.
- Committed volunteers will be trained to take on more responsibility in the Community Centre.

If you wish to donate to the ROKPA UNIMA Centre for Life project, please indicate **payment reference: No. 12020.**



# On the road with the mobile clinic

At 7 o'clock in the morning, the five-member team meets at the ROKPA office in Kathmandu: everyone is ready for a long day. Together they load the car with their equipment, medicines and liters of disinfectant. After an eleven-hour drive through the Nepalese hinterland, they reach their destination.

Since mid-June, our mobile clinic has been on the road visiting remote villages in Nepal. There, people have practically no access to basic medical care. For a simple check-up, they have to take the long road to the next town, which has been made even more difficult by the corona-related curfews.

Our team of experts therefore regularly travels to these remote areas to examine the people on site and provide them with care.

The mobile clinic's operations are planned and carried out in cooperation with the local authorities. The communities inform the population and provide schools or public buildings where the clinic is temporarily set up and supported by local volunteers.



## The project in figures (for three months)

- 1 car with driver
- 1 doctor
- 2 nurses
- 1 assistant and 2 volunteers

- 42 localities
- 5,275 beneficiaries
- 412 hours of work
- 183 hours of travel

- 12,600 protective masks
- 30 liters of disinfectant
- Various medicines, including vitamins, antibiotics, painkillers and remedies for diabetes, high blood pressure, allergies and fungal infections.



**With a donation of CHF 150, you enable around 50 people to access medical care.**

For medical support in Nepal **Payment reference: No. 5955**

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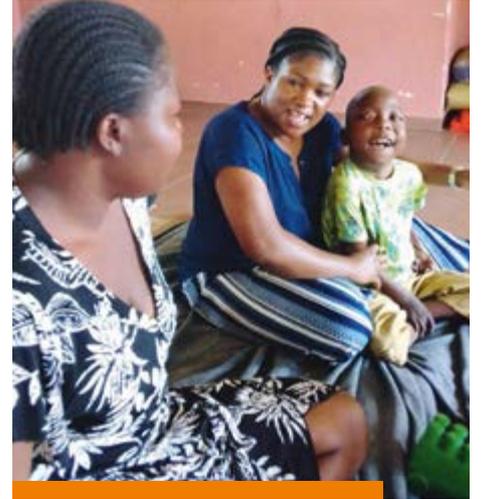
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## Ellen Bembere

I am a social worker at Chitungwiza Community Centre in a suburb of Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. I joined the ROKPA Support Network (RSN) in 2018 because I wanted to support people in difficult circumstances. Having lived in an impoverished suburb for many years myself, I know the living situation of people in Chitungwiza. Every day I advise families who are looking for medical help, educational opportunities and food. I invest a lot of time in getting to know our

beneficiaries so that we can help them in the best possible way. Sometimes, as part of the ROKPA team, we also visit their homes to better assess their living conditions and needs. I am driven by the will to help and to make people feel better. Our centre is known by many as a source of hope.



## Naresh Bista

For five years I have been involved in the ROKPA Soup Kitchen in Kathmandu, Nepal. I coordinate all the tasks on the premises of the Soup Kitchen. Since the beginning of the year, these have also included the food distribution point, the start-up project and the Medical Ambulatory, which is now being run all year round due to the pandemic. Every day, many people come and tell us about their difficulties.

We try our best to help them. Sometimes we also visit people at home to check their living conditions and make sure that the donations are used in the right place. I like working at ROKPA because my journey started here. I grew up in the ROKPA Children's Home after losing my family and having to struggle on the streets. Because of my past and background, I am familiar with people's worries and how to deal with them.

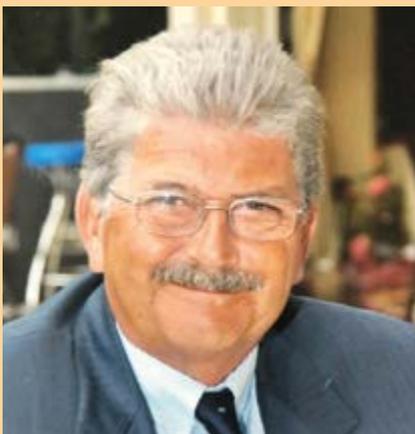


Photos: © ROKPA INTERNATIONAL, provided by the Leumann family



## Gerry Leumann (1944-2021): In Memoriam

Former President of the ROKPA Executive Board



"Gerry Leumann was my friend. I fell in love with him when I was 14. We 'went out together' until he left me for someone else. My first heartbreak. The decades passed. 35 years later, I happened to see his picture in a documentary.

He appeared to be a leader in empowering women in the workplace. That inspired me to send him an email introducing ROKPA. He could make up for the pain of my break-up at the time by making a donation! It was half meant as a joke – but there was also the hope that he might donate 50 or even 100 swiss francs, because times were hard. Three days later, 100,000 swiss francs landed in our account for my street children in Nepal. That's the kind of person Gerry was. He became President of the Executive Board and served ROKPA for 10 years, always helping where help was needed.

Thank you Gerry - from all of us!" **Lea Wyler**

## Become part of the ROKPA team!

### We need your support at our Zurich headquarters!

We are looking for helping hands in the following areas:

- IT-Support
- Administration & Statistics
- Archiving & Post-production of our video footage

Would you like to volunteer at ROKPA and do something meaningful? Then send us your application, we look forward to hearing from you!

**Daniela Fadel**, Administration

Phone no.: +41 262 68 88 E-Mail: [info@rokpa.org](mailto:info@rokpa.org)



## The ideal Christmas gift for the little ones in your family



High in the mountains of Canton Valais, a group of 15 women make a wide variety of Waldorf puppets according to the pedagogy of Rudolf Steiner. Each puppet is unique and lovingly made by hand. This community project was initiated by Marlis Lüscher in 2010 after a major earthquake in the Tibetan highlands caused much suffering. Since then, all proceeds go to needy children in the ROKPA project countries.

**Bring a smile to the faces of those supported by this project by buying a unique puppet.**

You can find all models online at [www.rokpa.org/walro](http://www.rokpa.org/walro) and they can be ordered directly from Marlis Lüscher: [marlisluescher@netplus.ch](mailto:marlisluescher@netplus.ch)

## Merry Christmas

In these uncertain times, we wish you a truly restful and contemplative festive period with your loved ones. May the coming year bring you much joy and good health.

**Lea Wyler and the entire ROKPA team in Zurich, Nepal and Africa**



# ROKPA

Helping where  
help is needed.  
Sustainable,  
for over 40 years.

## Standing on their own two feet

When Maya and her husband Suman were still working as employed tailors, their wages were not enough to cover their daily needs, let alone pay the rent. Due to the pandemic, they both lost their jobs and were left with nothing.

With the support of our start-up project, the couple were able to buy their own sewing machine in the spring and start their own business. Today, Maya and Suman earn enough every day to meet their needs. They mend old clothes, sew Nepalese garments and are happy that they no longer depend on others to make ends meet.

**The ROKPA start-up projects in Nepal and Zimbabwe support former beggars on their way to independence. The beneficiaries are assisted until they can stand on their own two feet.**



Photo: © ROKPA INTERNATIONAL

This is how you can support the ROKPA projects in Nepal, South Africa and Zimbabwe

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[www.rokpa.org](http://www.rokpa.org)

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### Urgent ROKPA Projects

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**Many thanks for your generous help!**

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