



sameskies

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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Cover Photo: Refugee Learning Nest Team

2016

SAME SKIES

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

“What you do for me but without me, you do it against me” (Ghandi)

A bit less than two years ago, we had the pleasure of meeting Julia Frei as she joined our CERAH (Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action) Distance Learning Program on “Designing strategies and projects for humanitarian action”. The seeds were already well rooted in the ground; a fruitful environment did the rest - Same Skies was able to take off!

As we were going through lessons learned, the ups and downs of humanitarian actions, discussing and building on key stakes such as participation, sustainability, empowerment, resilience, etc. for 8 months, Julia and her colleagues were shaping what represents today one of the most innovative NGOs. So often “Protection” is considered with a paternalist mind: “we protect someone from something”. While in our view, protection is about relationships, about collectively building a conducive environment that allows everyone to live out their rights.

For Same Skies, Protection is entirely related to the concept of capability: How can refugee communities create spaces of freedom (physical, social, personal) to express their capacities? How can they develop power

within their reality by strengthening their self-confidence, their potential to access what matters to them, and their opportunities to lead their present as well as define their future?

Same Skies’ approach is “very simple”: People own their own lives, whatever their situation. Hence, Same Skies values, strengthens and encourages effective and inclusive participation. Simple... yet very innovative! Same Skies does not have “target populations” or “beneficiaries”, they have partners! It is all about what people can do for each other. Their approach is not about “what is needed”, but rather about “who has which potential”.

Same Skies builds on the experiences of its members, convinced that there is so much more to be done, so much better! And here they are... with dedication, strength, patience, method, the founders of Same Skies have decided to show whomever is willing, challenging his/her own beliefs and representations, and demonstrating that there is a different and better way to alleviate suffering and enable people to live in dignity.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WHOLE SAME SKIES TEAM!



Sandrine Delattre
Advisory Board Member



Edith Favoreu
Advisory Board Member

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Same Skies started as a result of the founders sharing lessons learnt from previous experiences in refugee protection. Refugees are too often perceived as vulnerable or even “a burden”. Needs are too often defined by outside “experts”. And expensive, disempowering projects are too often the consequence. Even though words like “participation” and “empowerment” are part of every strategy, they are far from being a reality.

While we acknowledge that certain people can be more marginalised and therefore more vulnerable than others, we do not consider vulnerability a fixed condition. Vulnerabilities - perceived or otherwise - are often caused by the lack or inefficiency of legal frameworks, along with a distorted Western perspective of who refugees are. Many transit countries for instance, have not signed the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and there is no domestic law that protects refugee rights. Thus, they have to wait in limbo for many years with limited access to education, health care and livelihood. At the same time, there is often a high level of underutilised and disorganised capacities in refugee communities because they are not allowed to work.

I believe that the global perspective can be shifted to recognise the strengths, resourcefulness and resilience of refugees. We need creative approaches that can address enormous global challenges, while at the same

time genuinely empowering refugees. They should be allowed to partner meaningfully in their own protection. Accountability should be first and foremost to them.

At Same Skies, we harness existing capacities. We do not permanently base foreigners in the field, to encourage ownership and prevent dependency. Instead we use an innovative approach of remote support and oversight that other actors have so far only used as a last resort. What makes us unique is that we involve refugees in all phases of management. We do not just “let them participate”; rather they are actively in charge of every step. When our support ends, they are able to design, plan and manage regular, relevant and sustainable activities.

Apart from the benefits for participants, our utmost achievement is that we help communities to lift themselves out of a state of inactivity, situational depression and trauma. The transformational effect on their lives has been incredible. The volunteers continue to grow and improve every day. And along with the social benefits, utilising existing capacities enables us to be more cost-effective than common approaches. Remote management allows us to coordinate most work from home to operate without significant administrative costs. Furthermore, the involvement of refugees in all stages of project management generates activities that are culturally sensitive, context-specific and relevant for the communities.

**NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU, OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS,
AND FOR THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK YOU!**



Julia Frei

Executive Director & Co-Founder

ABOUT SAME SKIES

Same Skies is a non-religious, politically neutral Swiss non-profit organisation.

We support refugees and asylum seekers in transit, while they wait for the processing of their asylum claims and resettlement to third countries.

Currently our regional focus lies on **Indonesia** because it is an important transit country for refugees.

The communities with whom we work comprise single men and women, couples, families with children, elderly people and unaccompanied minors. Among them are people from diverse educational and social backgrounds. They range from university graduates to adults who have never learned to read and write. Since they are not allowed to work, the skills of many go unutilised while they wait. At Same Skies, we make use of this by:

- Assisting in the **prioritisation of needs & mobilisation of skills**.
- Strengthening refugee groups through **organisational capacity building**.
- Facilitating the set-up of **community resilience centres** where refugee volunteers provide services to support other community members.
- Not permanently basing foreigners in the field to prevent dependency, and encourage ownership and durability. We assist through ongoing **remote support** and regular training & monitoring visits.
- Designing projects with **sustainability** and exiting in mind. Ideally, our support is phased out after self-sustaining changes in the community have been realised. Therefore, our focus lies on **training & empowerment**. From the beginning, we are very clear about our time-bound commitment, and refugees are actively in charge of every step.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sameskies.org

Twitter: www.twitter.com/same_skies

THE TEAM



EDITH FAVOREU - Advisory Board Member

- ❖ **Deputy Director at CERAH** (Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action) in Geneva.
- ❖ Broad experience with different NGOs and **UNESCO**.
- ❖ Degrees in **Public Law, International Law** and **Political Science**.
- ❖ Professional Master in **Humanitarian Action**.
- ❖ Research Master in **Protection & Humanitarian Security**.
- ❖ PhD in **Comparative Public Law**.



SANDRINE DELATTRE - Advisory Board Member

- ❖ **Independent Consultant & Professional Trainer**.
- ❖ Experience with humanitarian organisations, such as **ICRC, Handicap International** and **Médecins du Monde**.
- ❖ Bachelor in **Economic Sciences**.
- ❖ Diploma in **Marketing & Management**.
- ❖ Masters in **Humanitarian Aid, Development Aid** and **Adult Learning**.
- ❖ Certificates in **Facilitation & Project Management**.



JULIA FREI - Co-Founder & Executive Director

- ❖ International experience with humanitarian organisations, such as **Red Cross, Save the Children** and local NGOs.
- ❖ Experience supporting refugees in **Case Management**, as well as in **Project Design & Development**.
- ❖ Masters in **Anthropology, International Humanitarian & Human Rights Law** and **International Relations**.
- ❖ Certificate in Designing Projects & Strategies for **Humanitarian Action**.

THE TEAM



LAURA O'NEILL - Co-Founder & Training Manager

- ❖ Experience in numerous **Emergency Response, Development and Education** projects throughout Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ Experience working for small community-based organisations, as well as larger international organisations including **Red Cross, Save the Children** and **UNHCR**.
- ❖ Masters in **International Development** and **Refugee Research**.



BRADLEY SHORT - Training Manager

- ❖ **International Teaching Experience**, including in refugee camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.
- ❖ Experience with **Teacher Training** and **Curriculum Development** in a wide range of scenarios.
- ❖ Graduate Diploma of **Education**.
- ❖ Bachelor of **Professional Writing** and **English Literature**.



SONEEL RAM - Public Relations

- ❖ Experience in the **Media Industry** for almost a decade.
- ❖ Extensive experience in the **Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law**.
- ❖ Bachelors and Postgraduate Diplomas in **Economics, Management** and **Public Administration**.
- ❖ Diploma in **Humanitarian Diplomacy**.

THE TEAM



JEREMY WILSON - Research

- ❖ Coordinating and conducting research on the **Backgrounds, Migration Routes, Needs and Resources of Refugees in Indonesia.**
- ❖ Proficient in the **Indonesian Language.**
- ❖ Keen interest in **Indonesian Affairs** and **Refugee Advocacy.**
- ❖ Bachelor with Honours in **History** and **Politics.**



TOM BROWN – Research, Monitoring & Evaluation

- ❖ Based at Parahyangan Catholic University in Bandung (Indonesia), **Researching Relationships between Host Communities and Refugees in Indonesia.**
- ❖ Significant **In-Country Experience** in Indonesia.
- ❖ Degrees in **Statistics, Economics** and **Development.**



MONIKA FREI - Secretary

- ❖ **Financial and Administrative Responsibilities**, Collection of **In-Kind Donations** and **Awareness Raising.**
- ❖ International Work Experience and keen interest in **Shared Social Responsibility.**
- ❖ Background in **Commercial Education.**
- ❖ Diploma in **Business Administration.**

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES

THE FIRST YEAR of Same Skies' operation has been filled with excitement, happy faces and children's laughter, but also hard work and challenges. Over the course of the year Refugee Learning Nest steadily improved their activities, worked on a suitable organisational structure and continuously renegotiated roles and responsibilities. We maintained daily communications with them, monitoring the internal challenges and guiding progress through group exercises and activities for personal and professional development. Differences in cultural, social and educational backgrounds, gender roles and power dynamics had to be continually addressed in a sensitive manner. We also conducted regular visits to provide training in Project Management, Teacher Training, and many other topics.

....IT ALL STARTED IN NOVEMBER 2014

Same Skies holds 2-day community consultation workshop in Indonesia

Participants: 60 Afghan, Pakistani and Iranian Refugees.

Needs identified:

- Education for refugee children;
- English lessons, vocational activities and meaningful engagement for adults;
- Access to health care.

→ **Recruitment of refugee volunteers** to establish a community centre and address these needs.



MILESTONES IN 2015

FEBRUARY....

Same Skies visits the team in Indonesia

- **Delivery of in-kind donations**, such as books, laptops, arts & crafts, and sports equipment;
- **Training workshops and intensive support**;
- **Relationship-building** with local partners;
- **Q&A session** with local artists for a community project under the theme of refugees.

Refugee volunteers negotiate a lease agreement for the Nest, hold meetings with Indonesian community leaders and recruit volunteer teachers and instructors.

APRIL....

Activities start at the Nest

- Non-formal education for 37 children;
- English lessons and handicraft classes for women;
- Sports training.

Supporters Franziska Denzler & Fabian Seeger deliver a first aid kit & training.



MAY....

The Nest holds a formal opening ceremony

Guests: The Indonesian chief of village, members of another refugee learning centre, parents and other community members.

JUNE....

Same Skies visits the Nest

Training workshops and intensive support in Project Management, First Aid, Teacher Training, Child Protection, Inclusion, Sustainability, as well as Welcoming Suggestions & Feedback.

SEPTEMBER....

The Nest celebrates 6-months anniversary

Refugee volunteers negotiate a renewal of the lease

- Rent again supported by Same Skies;
- One extra classroom;
- Parents level the outside playing area in order to provide a suitable space for sports and exercise activities.

→ **The Nest recruits extra volunteers to accommodate for the extra class.**

Same Skies volunteer and teacher Leila Reilly visits the Nest to deliver more books and teacher training sessions.





OCTOBER....

Executive Director Julia Frei and Training Manager Bradley Short visit the Nest,

accompanied by Same Skies supporter Mirjam Schnepf.

- **Training workshops and intensive support** in cross-cultural sensitivity, budgeting and sustainability, web design, and teacher training.
- **Delivery of two brand-new sewing machines** from a Swiss corporate supporter and other in-kind donations.
- **Same Skies is approached for assistance with funding and training by a newly formed refugee group called Refugee Learning Center.** → A potential agreement starting from 2016 is being negotiated.

Tailoring classes start at the Nest, enabling participants to fix and make their own clothes.

DECEMBER....

Training Manager Laura O'Neill visits the Nest together with Same Skies volunteer Emily Seaman, an

experienced humanitarian professional with qualifications in child protection.

- **Training workshops and intensive support** in child protection and self-care, as well as trial yoga and meditation;
- **Distribution of in-kind donations.**

REPORT FROM THE NEST

THE NEST was established after many meetings of community members and volunteers. The first community meeting was in **November 2014**, where refugees met three foreigners, Ms Julia Frei from Switzerland, and Mr. Brad Short and Ms Laura O'Neill from Australia. These three people asked questions and listened to refugees' problems, needs and challenges in Indonesia. The majority of the refugees who attended raised children's education as a priority.

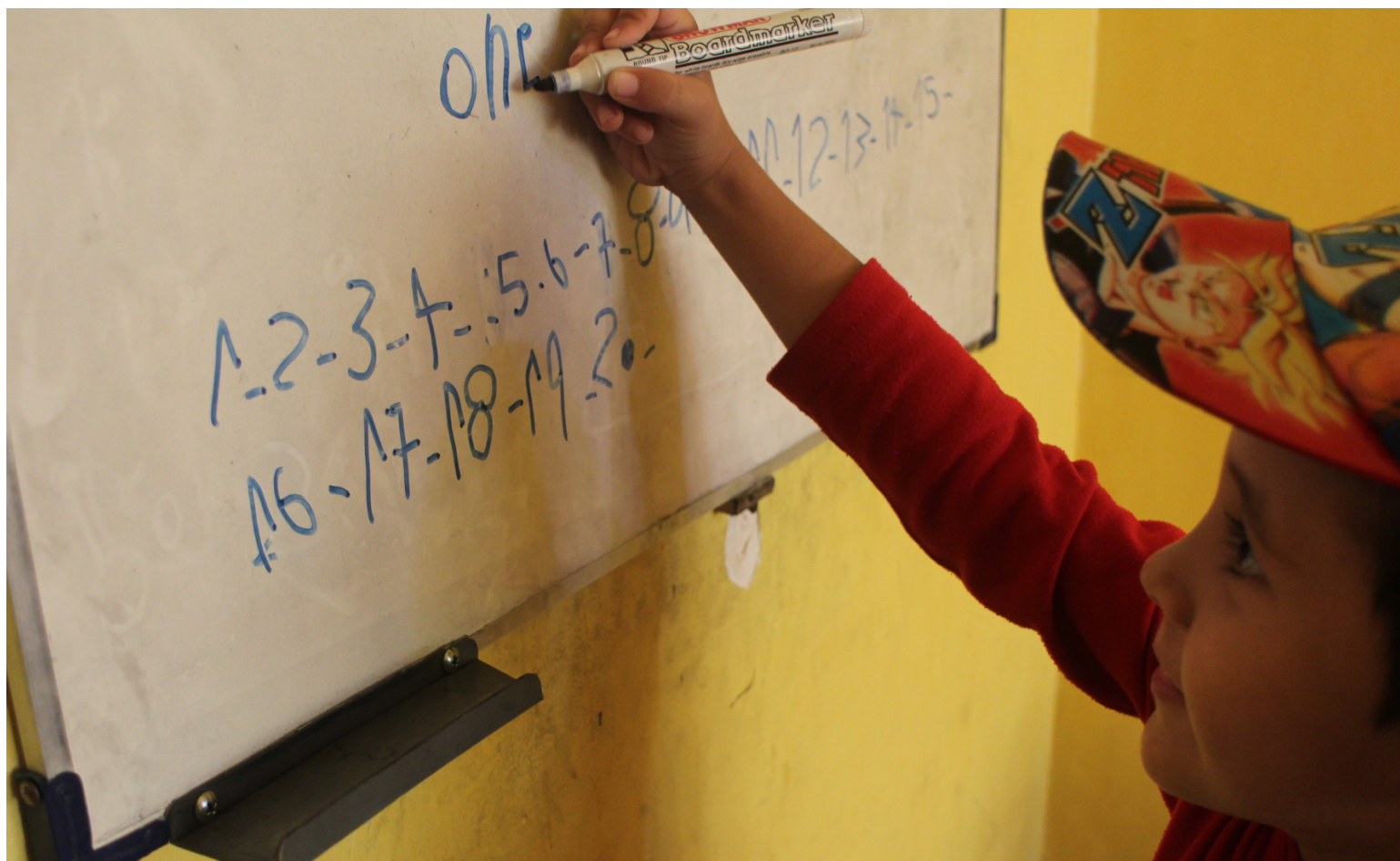
A group of seven volunteers started the Nest on **20th March 2015** when a villa was rented for 6 months for IDR 19 million (approx. AUD 1900). Same Skies paid the rent and provided the materials needed for the Nest to start its activities.

There were many **different roles** to be filled in this community-run learning centre; like Manager, Principal, Communication Officer, Accountant, Photographer, Sports Coach, First Aid Officer, and Senior and Junior Teachers. These posts were distributed among all the volunteers, who are from different countries and cultures.

We received **formal and informal assistance** from Same Skies and its donors. There was financial support, educational support, workshops on different topics, books for the library, laptops, cameras, wool and other materials for sewing and handicrafts. Besides this, there was some entertainment and refreshment supports provided too, like excursions, free sports, visits with different people for better communication etc.

There are a large number of **refugees benefitting** from the Nest. Children getting education, women learning sewing and handicrafts, and women benefitting from literacy English classes. The refugee community made use of the library books and also a large number of females were enjoying sports. The Nest did not only provide education to children but also taught them social behaviour, spread awareness in the community and strengthened the communication between refugees and international people and organisations.

It was quite a **big challenge** to bring different people together and encourage them to accept each other. To make the project sustainable was another challenge: regeneration of volunteers and keeping volunteers working with interest and enthusiasm. The Nest has been overcoming these challenges with the assistance of experts from Same Skies through workshops and Skype meetings.



AFTER THE BOATS STOPPED

- **59.5 Million forcibly displaced people (highest number ever):**
 - **1 in 122 people is an asylum seeker, refugee or internally displaced person** (UNHCR).
- **Southeast Asia produces and hosts a large number of refugees.**
- **Few countries in the region are signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention or 1967 Protocol**, and as such do not provide durable long-term solutions for refugees.
 - Cambodia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste are the only ASEAN states signatory to the Convention, but host very few refugees.
 - Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia host the majority of refugees in the region, but are not signatories to the Convention or the Protocol.
 - Indonesia hosts a relatively small number of refugees in comparison to Thailand and Malaysia, but numbers are significant and have increased dramatically in recent years, quadrupling from 2,882 in 2010 to 11,181 (UNHCR).
- **Changes to Australian Immigration Policy** transformed Indonesia's role:
 - **Before:** Indonesia was primarily a transit country, used by refugees onwards to Australia.
 - Now reluctantly hosting more and more refugees but unwilling to integrate them permanently.
 - Refugees are spending more time in Indonesia, facing long and uncertain waits for resettlement;
 - **Now:** Bottleneck for refugees in limbo: an uncertain period of time awaiting a durable solution.
- **Indonesia: 13,138 persons of concern by May 2015**
 - **Highest number registered with UNHCR Indonesia in the past 15 years.**
 - 7,920 asylum seekers and 5,218 recognised refugees;
 - 3,189 female and 9,949 male;
 - 1,221 children of which 148 are unaccompanied (UNHCR South-East Asia).
 - Most come from outside the Southeast Asian region: almost half from Afghanistan, and the next largest populations from Iraq and Iran (see Figure 1).
 - **Relations with host communities** are limited to necessity with a fragile peace persisting.
 - **Lack of access to education & employment**, as well as **cultural & linguistic barriers** and **unclear protection guidelines**, prevent meaningful improvement in relations.
 - **Peace is threatened** by the influence of Islamist and anti-Shiite groups, who promote religious intolerance with impunity.

LIVING IN LIMBO

Refugees & Asylum Seekers in Indonesia

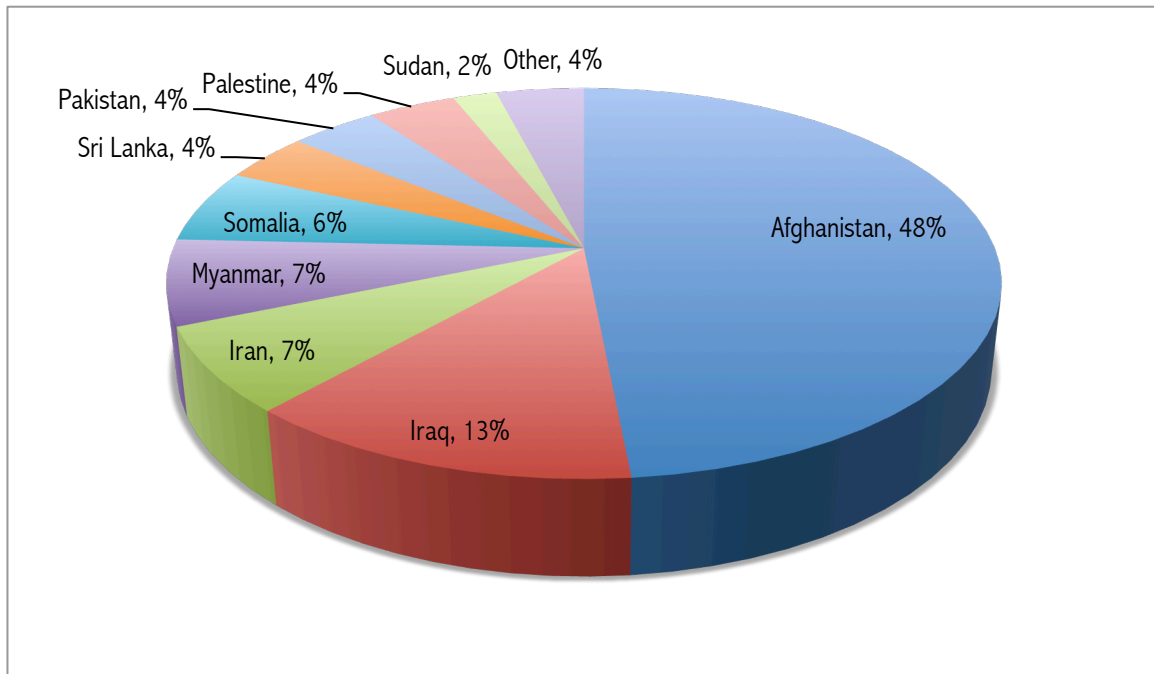


Figure 1: Country of origin of refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia, 2014 (UNHCR).

- For recognised refugees, there are **3 internationally accepted durable solutions:**

- Voluntary repatriation;
- Local integration;
- Third country resettlement.

→ **Indonesia is not willing to integrate refugees**, and as such repatriation and resettlement are the only options. However, it may be a long time before conditions allow for refugees to return to their countries of origin, and in some cases this is simply not an option. That leaves **resettlement as the primary durable solution.**

- **UNHCR is overstretched in Indonesia**

→ **The resettlement process is far from straightforward** and is taking an increasing amount of time.

→ Refugees are forced to spend years **simply waiting.**

- **Refugees are vulnerable to extortion and harassment** by local Indonesian authorities and members of the community.

- They are **not permitted to work**, and have **limited access to education and healthcare.**

- **Only about 50% of urban refugees receive support** from the UNHCR, IOM, or NGOs, and many survive on limited remittances from family members.

→ There has been a trend in recent years of those living in the community becoming so desperate for money that they **“sacrifice their freedom for food”** by asking to be detained in a facility.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The statement below reflects all income and expenditures from 1 January until 31 December 2015. All supporters are private donors, mainly based in Switzerland and Australia, thus all our income is unrestricted.

In line with our annual plan, these funds have allowed us to support Refugee Learning Nest with set-up costs (furniture, educational resources etc.), as well as twelve months rental payments.

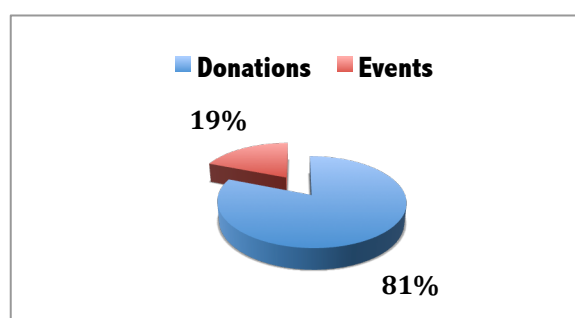
We have not paid salaries to anyone involved; all activities have been made possible through the generous commitment of international volunteers. At the end of 2015, we started to reimburse Same Skies volunteers who conducted training and monitoring field visits for costs associated with visas, travel and accommodation.

It will be the objective that the Nest starts to raise its own money and becomes financially independent from Same Skies as of March 2016. Therefore, we have agreed to support a second refugee-run community empowerment centre (Refugee Learning Center) from January 2016 onwards.

In the coming year, the emphasis will be on pitching our innovative methodology and the evidence of impact to diverse international funders to expand our budget and capacity. We will also focus on improving our external communications, social media and online presence to raise the public profile of the organisation. Furthermore we will work on the restructuring of the board to guarantee objective governance and strategic decision-making, and incorporate Same Skies as an association in Australia (in addition to Switzerland).

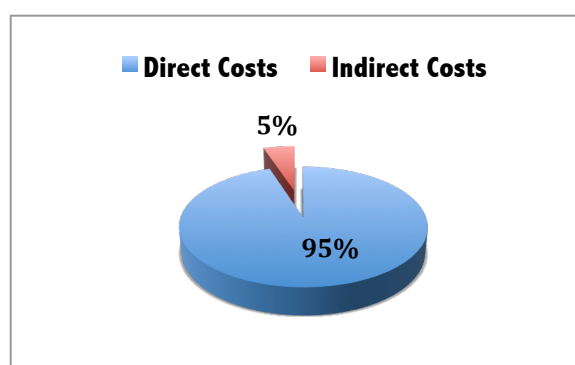
Income (in CHF)

Private Donations	7,086
Events	1,665
TOTAL INCOME	8,751



Expenditures (in CHF)

<u>Community Centre Contributions</u>	
Set-up Costs	3,249
Rent	3,176
Shipping In-kind Donations	12
<u>Capacity-Building Activities</u>	
Workshops	262
Transportation	81
Visa	36
Accommodation	110
<u>Administration</u>	
Communications	182
Bank Fees	174
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,282



SURPLUS **1,469**

Auditor's Report

As auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of Same Skies, which comprise the balance sheet, Income & Expenditure Accounts, Cash Flow Statement and notes, for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Management's Responsibility

The management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law and the association's articles of association. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The management is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 comply with relevant laws and the association's articles of association. In addition, we confirm that an internal control system exists which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the association's General Assembly. We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.



Syed Wasi Haider

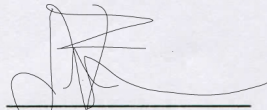
Cost & Management Accountant

July 02, 2016

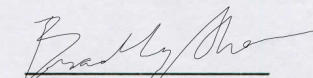
SAME SKIES
Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 2015

	CHF
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash & Bank Balance	1,951.20
Receivables & Prepayments	4,096.89
	<u>6,048.09</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>	
Equity	
Reserves	4,579.32
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,468.77
	<u>6,048.09</u>

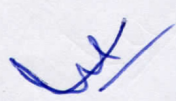
The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



Executive Director



Treasurer

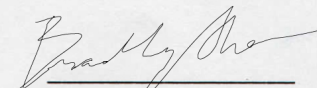


SAME SKIES
 Income & Expenditure Accounts
 For the year ended December 31, 2015

	<u>Note</u>	<u>CHF</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Private Donations	1	7,086.11
Fundraising Events		1,664.94
Bank Interest		0.68
Total Income		8,751.73
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Community Centre Contributions	2	6,436.10
Capacity-Building Workshops	3	261.94
Field Visits	4	228.30
Administration	5	356.62
Total Expenditures		7,282.96
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,468.77



 Executive Director



 Treasurer

Lee

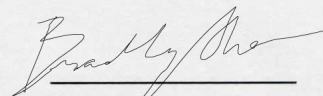
SAME SKIES
Cash Flow Statement
For the year ended December 31, 2015

	<u>CHF</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</u>	
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	1,468.77
Movement in Working Capital	
Increas in Receivables & Prepayments	(4,096.89)
Increas in General Reserves	4,579.32
Movement in working capital	1,951.20
Net cash generated from operating activities	1,951.20
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Net cash (used in) investing activities	-
Cash Flows from Financing Activities	
Net cash generated from financing activities	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,951.20
Cash and cash equivalents as at January 01, 2015	-
Cash and cash equivalents as at December 31, 2015	<u><u>1,951.20</u></u>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



Executive Director



Treasurer



Notes to the Accounts

CHF

1 **Private Donations**

Donations PayPal	4,876.10
Bank Deposits	2,100.00
Cash Donations	110.01
Total	7,086.11

2 **Community Centre Contributions**

Set-Up Costs	3,248.67
Rent Payments	3,175.73
Shipping In-Kind Donations	11.70
Total	6,436.10

3 **Capacity-Building Workshops**

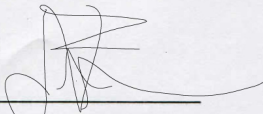
Workshop Materials	44.71
Refreshments	217.23
Total	261.94

4 **Field Visits**

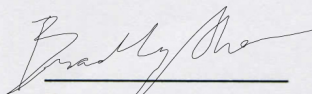
Transportation	81.02
Visa	36.81
Accommodation	110.47
Total	228.30

5 **Administration**

Communication & Visibility	182.62
Bank Charges	174.00
Total	356.62



Executive Director



Treasurer



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT*

PostFinance

Account Name: Same Skies

Schiblerstrasse 10

8444 Henggart

Switzerland

Account Number: 89-506036-1

IBAN: CH76 0900 0000 8950 6036 1

BIC: POFICHBEXXX

*** Your donations are tax-deductible in Switzerland.**





Fathauallah R.N
Art Teacher
J.K.