



# ANUAL IMPACT REPORT



# Content

Photo: Martin Bondzio

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## Donation Seal of Quality

Kindernothilfe handles donations in a trustworthy manner. Every year since 1992 this has been officially confirmed by the Seal of Quality for charitable organisations awarded by the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI). This certifies its financial responsibility and statutory use of donations.

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# Kindernothilfe

We regard ourselves as an international child rights organisation with Christian values. Since 1959, we have been campaigning on behalf of disadvantaged young people and their rights. In 2022 we were active in 39 countries. Together with Kindernothilfe in Luxembourg, Austria and Switzerland, we have empowered, protected and enabled the participation of more than 2.1 million girls and boys in 523 projects. We have projects in 36 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. We are a member of the Diakonisches Werk of the Evangelical Church in Rhineland-Westfalen-Lippe e. V. (Diakonie RWL).



## Our vision

Each child has the potential to change our one world. That is why we help towards ensuring that children's voices are heard. Together with girls, boys and their communities, we work to improve their lives and living conditions and, thereby, contribute to the realisation of children's rights. They have the opportunity to have a future that is just and the freedom to develop their personality.

## Our work

We are part of a global movement and believe it is our responsibility to provide children with an education, protect them against violence and economic exploitation and uphold their right to participation. We support locally initiated projects and are actively involved in programmes for particularly disadvantaged children. We help create a fairer living environment, in which equal consideration is given to human and environmental needs. This includes a concerted commitment during and after humanitarian disasters. Through worldwide dialogue, we learn from the experiences of other organisations working with and for children and make our own know-how and experience available through training courses and consultancy services. Through advocacy, development education, political campaigns and public relations work – often in co-operation with our partners, in alliances and networks – we advocate the realisation of children's rights in our dealings with people in positions of responsibility and decision-makers throughout the world.

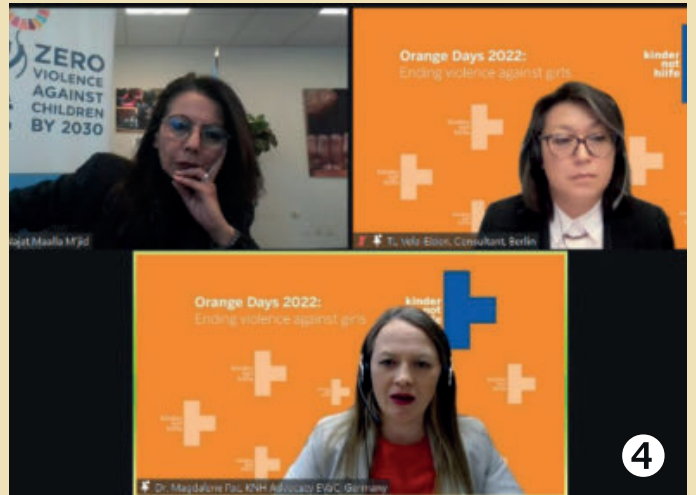
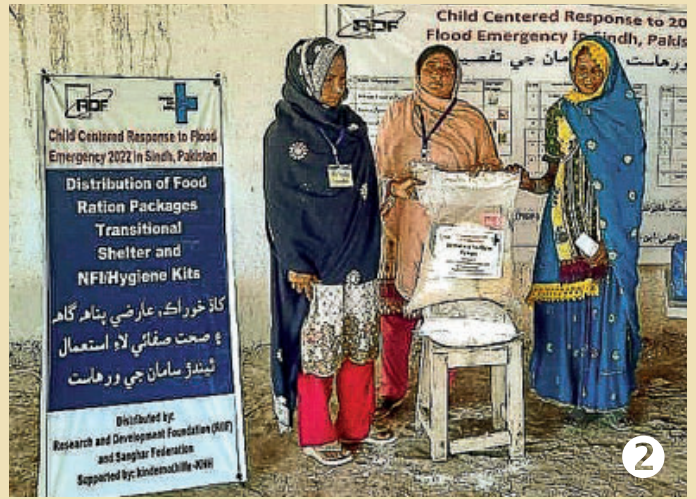
## Our sponsors

Around 216,600 people make our work possible: 66,000 of them on a regular basis through long-term funding, 53,200 of them through sponsorships, and a further 1,000 as volunteers. A number of public figures use their high profile to raise public awareness for our work. The Kindernothilfe Foundation, state subsidies and institutional funding also make a significant contribution to our project work.

## Integrity and transparency

Every year since 1992, we have received the seal of quality for donations from the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) in recognition of our responsible use of donations. Within the scope of the PwC Transparency Awards, Kindernothilfe has received several awards for the high-quality and transparency of our reporting.







# Report of the board of directors 2022

## Challenges for children and their rights

After two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the accompanying school closures and social isolation, we all hoped that the situation of children and young people would improve in 2022. But that is not how things turned out. We will remember 2022 as the year, in which Russia launched its war of aggression against Ukraine, the full impact of which is impossible to foresee. A war with no end in sight. Many countries experienced grain shortages, inflation rose throughout the world, while food and energy prices exploded.

The war also had severe impacts on the families in our project countries, while the costs of our work increased. In the wider public perception, the war at the heart of Europe greatly overshadowed the many other crises and disasters afflicting the Global South: East Africa's worst drought for 40 years, global hunger, escalating violence and the humanitarian crisis in Haiti or the once-in-a-century flood in Pakistan that left 33 million people homeless. In the summer of 2022, after weeks of protests, the Sri Lankan government collapsed. And following the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, women and other vulnerable groups were systematically marginalised.

These developments, and the other dramatic impacts of the climate crisis, are forcing millions of children and their families to leave their homes. The consequences: widespread violence against children, growing numbers of working children and too many girls and boys

either not going to school in the short term or being forced to drop out altogether. They are deprived of a fair opportunity to enjoy a good childhood and healthy development. The progress made on children's behalf in recent decades of hard work is being seriously jeopardised. We are constantly adapting our projects to ensure that our efforts to realise children's rights remain effective in the future and give girls and boys a good start in life.

### Our working priorities

Our working priorities are based on the four focal areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. By basing the development of our global programme strategies on these core concerns, we are responding to the central challenges of our time: ever-advancing climate change, the global intensification of displacement and migration movements, the increasing authoritarian governance in many countries and the growing influence of digitalisation on access to information. "A voice for every child" is the leitmotif of the joint global commitment of all actors and agencies involved in the work of Kindernothilfe and its partners to realise children's rights.

### Humanitarian assistance and the right to education

In March 2022, in response to the war in Ukraine, we immediately launched our project work in the neighbouring countries of Romania and the Republic of Moldova and, shortly afterwards, started working

## Pictures of a year

- 1 **Hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa:** Our partners are supporting children and their families in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, providing, e.g., drinking water, food, supplementary food for children and breastfeeding mothers. *(Photo: Kindernothilfe partner)*
- 2 **Flood in Pakistan:** Our project partners worked tirelessly, distributing tents, food, ready-to-eat meals, medicine and mosquito nets. *(Photo: Kindernothilfe partner)*
- 3 **Three new partner countries:** For the first time, we helped families in Ukraine as well as refugee children and their mothers in the Republic of Moldova and Romania. *(Photo: Christian Nusch)*
- 4 **Online meeting with UN Special Representative:** Together with more than 30 partners, our advocacy officer, Dr Magdalene Pac, discussed the issue of violence against children with Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative for Violence against Children. *(Photo: Screenshot)*
- 5 **Visit of former sponsored children:** Samuel S. Mankhin, Bishop and leader of the Church of Bangladesh, and his wife Monita, a former secondary school principal, expressed their gratitude for the support they received as sponsored children. *(Photo: Ralf Krämer)*
- 6 **Chile:** Conclusion of our project work after 53 years *(Photo: Jürgen Schübelin)*
- 7 **Global conference on the elimination of child labour:** In Durban, South Africa, working children, including young people from our projects, participated for the first time in discussions at an official event. *(Photo: Kindernothilfe)*
- 8 **Parliamentary discussions in Berlin:** Together with Kindernothilfe staff members, Efi Latsoudi from our Greek partner, Lesvos Solidarity, spoke to members of the German Parliament (Bundestag) about the situation of refugee children and young mothers on Lesbos. *(Photo: Joaquin O'Ryan, Kindernothilfe partner Lesvos Solidarity)*

with a partner organisation in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. The aid focused on supporting families caught up in the war zone and ensuring that the displaced women and children had food, a safe roof over their heads and access to psychosocial support. A Kindernothilfe study also documented the large number of Ukrainian children, who had been abducted to Russia. The International Criminal Court responded by indicting Russia's President Vladimir Putin for alleged war crimes. In these new locations, as in our other project countries, we also put structures in place to ensure disadvantaged girls and boys have access to basic education.

In our advocacy work, we campaign at national level through the Global Education Campaign alliance for the right to education. This has proved effective: at the donor conference of the UN Global Fund for Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises in February 2023, Germany pledged 210 million euros over the next four years, thereby, topping the list of donor countries (see page 12).

### **Right to participation**

Our goal is to give weight to children's voices by:

- increasing their participation in international, child rights-based alliances and networks, thereby, enabling us to be even more effective in making our case to policy and decision makers for the realisation of children's rights;
- facilitating the active participation of children and young people in our worldwide programme work and other relevant working areas in Germany.

In May 2022, the city of Durban, South Africa, hosted the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour. For the first time, children were allowed to participate, something we have long been calling for. The young participants included girls and boys from our Dialogue Works campaign. This was a huge achievement for our efforts to increase children's participation in issues that affect them (see page 13).

### **Right to protection against economic exploitation**

In 2022, we will continue our work with partners, projects, children and young people to tackle exploitative child labour. Within the scope of the Dialogue Works campaign, funded by the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), we jointly hosted a conference in Rwanda in early 2023 for working children from 16 countries, to give them the opportunity to develop demands calling on their respective governments to eliminate the exploitation of minors (see page 14).

### **Right to protection against violence**

Protecting children and young people against violence as well as supporting and empowering girls and boys, who have experienced violence, is another priority. We commissioned a study in 2022 on the issue of "Children's right to protection against violence". A team interviewed 80 Kindernothilfe staff members in Germany and overseas as well as 99 partner organisations and examined the projects of eight partners on three continents. The results were very positive (see page 15)!

## **Conclusion of our project work in Chile**

After 50 years of successful project work in Chile, Kindernothilfe ended its working commitment in the country at the end of 2022. A commitment triggered by the devastating Valdivia earthquake and subsequent tsunami on the 22nd of May 1960. Together, these disasters claimed almost 1,700 lives and left around a quarter of Chile's population homeless. From the beginning of 2023, Kindernothilfe Austria will continue supporting the work of our long-standing partner, Fundación ANIDE, for a further five years.

## **Competitiveness and effectiveness**

The long-term financial viability of Kindernothilfe is a basic prerequisite to achieving our strategic goals. Overall, we are emerging stronger from the crises and the resultant challenges of the last three years – particularly with regard to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. In co-operation with our partners, we demonstrated our operational viability. We ultimately closed the 2022 financial year with a positive annual result of 2.2 million euros. In case the contributions for humanitarian assistance are not taken into account, this results in a deficit of around one million euros (see financial report).

## **Thank you!**

The many crises and challenges have demonstrated that the need to ensure that girls and boys grow up protected and that their rights are guaranteed is more urgent than ever. We work closely with strong partner organisations throughout the world, supported by tens of thousands of donors, volunteers, corporate partners and the BMZ. We are most grateful for your support. Together, we are addressing the burning issues and problems and, thereby, moving – step-by-step – closer to achieving our vision: A voice for every child – a voice that can be heard!

**Katrin Weidemann,**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

**Carsten Montag,**

Chief Programme Officer (CPO)

**Jürgen Borchardt,**

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

**Contact:** [vorstand@kindernothilfe.de](mailto:vorstand@kindernothilfe.de)

As of: May 2023



# Financial report 2022: an overview

Last year, Kindernothilfe registered a record level of income: 72.3 million euros. Compared to 2021, this is an increase of 6.3 million euros (+ 4.6 %), the organisation's second-best result ever.

**Text:** Guido Osswald

**Income** consists of donations, subsidies and grants as well as other revenue. All sectors recorded growth compared to 2021: donations increased by 1.9 million euros (+3.5 %) – due partly to the success of our appeals for donations for projects in, and related to, Ukraine; state funding rose by 2.5 million euros (+43.6 %); while legacies increased by well over 1.3 million euros (+42.4 %).

**Overall expenditure** increased significantly by 7.7 million euros (+12 %) compared to the previous year's level. It consists of expenditure on programmes, advertising and administration as well as on commercial operations and asset management. Expenditure on our programme work, amounting to 55.7 million euros, was up by 12.5 % compared to the previous year, while we increased our project funding by 5.4 million euros (+12.9 %). Expenditure on advertising and administration increased by almost 1.5 million euros (+11.6 %) due to higher material costs for public relations and fundraising as well as further essential investments in IT support for processes and digitalisation.

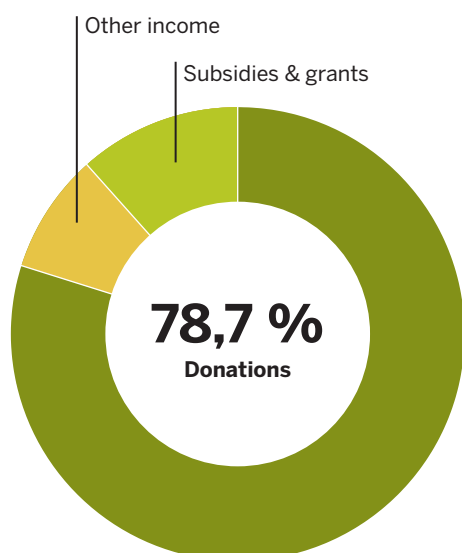
**The annual financial statement** shows a positive result of 2.2 million euros (rounded up), although the budget had provided for a withdrawal of 4.7 million euros from reserves. The principal reason for this is that overall income was 6.9 million euros higher than planned. In contrast, expenditure remained on target: in the areas of project funding and head office operations we spent 545,000 euros and 533,000 euros less respectively than planned.

In accordance with legal requirements of the German Commercial Code (HGB), we have voluntarily submitted the annual financial statement and the management report for the year 2022 of Kindernothilfe e.V. for audit. The independent auditors, Hamburger Treuhand Gesellschaft Schomerus & Partner mbH, have issued an unqualified certificate with no reference to extraordinary circumstances.

This financial report is not the report in its legal form. The full financial statements for 2022, consisting of balance sheet, profit and loss account and notes, together with the management report 2022, are available on our website [www.kindernothilfe.de/jahresbericht](http://www.kindernothilfe.de/jahresbericht) (only in German).

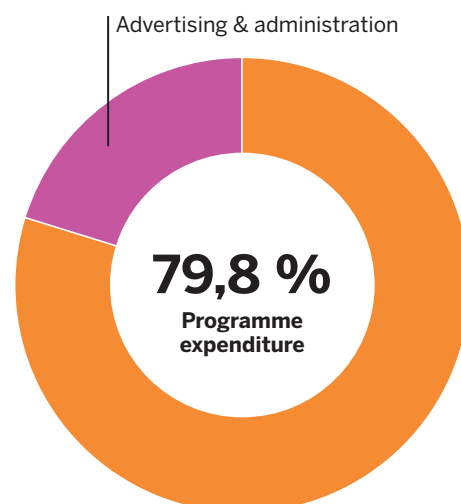
## Income breakdown

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| > Donations          | 78.7 %         |
| > Subsidies & grants | 11.6 %         |
| > Other income       | 9.7 %          |
| <b>Total:</b>        | <b>100.0 %</b> |

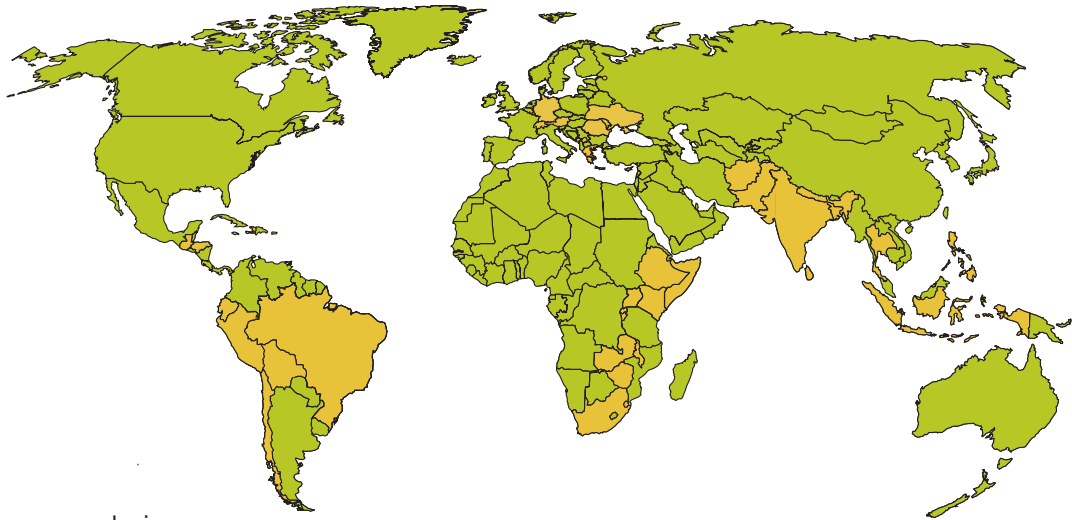


## Expenditure breakdown

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Programme expenditure:</b>            | <b>79.8 %</b>  |
| > Project support                        | 67.5 %         |
| > Project administration & monitoring    | 7.3 %          |
| > Education, information & advocacy      | 5.0 %          |
| <b>Advertising &amp; administration:</b> | <b>20.2 %</b>  |
| > Public relations & donor service       | 13.6 %         |
| > Administration                         | 6.6 %          |
| <b>Total:</b>                            | <b>100.0 %</b> |



# Project Funding 2022



## 36 Project countries

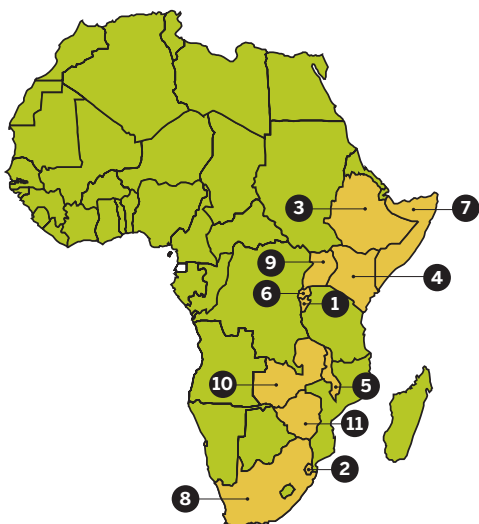
| Continent                  | 2022      |            |                  |                     | 2021      |            |                  |                     |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|---------------------|
|                            | Countries | Projects   | Children/Youth   | Expenditure         | Countries | Projects   | Children/Youth   | Expenditure         |
| <b>Total Africa</b>        | 11        | 150        | 1,701,500        | 17,455,000 €        | 11        | 152        | 1,849,400        | 16,226,000 €        |
| <b>Total Asia</b>          | 11        | 225        | 206,400          | 13,037,000 €        | 11        | 253        | 208,400          | 11,695,000 €        |
| <b>Total Europe</b>        | 6         | 17         | 184,700          | 1,818,000 €         | 6         | 8          | 180,200          | 603,000 €           |
| <b>Total Latin America</b> | 8         | 129        | 69,400           | 13,805,000 €        | 8         | 116        | 74,200           | 12,584,000 €        |
| <b>International</b>       | 0         | 2          | 500              | 990,000 €*          | 0         | 1          | 450              | 625,000 €*          |
| <b>Total Global</b>        | <b>36</b> | <b>523</b> | <b>2,162,500</b> | <b>47,105,000 €</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>530</b> | <b>2,312,650</b> | <b>41,733,000 €</b> |

\* Costs across all continents for "Dialogue Works" as well as for a global programme to improve child protection and children's rights, particularly protection against Internet-based violence

## 3 Kindernothilfe Alliance countries

Development education work in  
Luxembourg, Austria, Switzerland

### Africa



| Country                          | Projects   | Children/Youth   | Expenditure         |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1 Burundi</b> since 2007      | 8          | 85,200           | 1,594,569 €         |
| <b>2 Eswatini</b> since 1979     | 5          | 33,900           | 839,044 €           |
| <b>3 Ethiopia</b> since 1973     | 38         | 679,700          | 4,107,832 €         |
| <b>4 Kenya</b> since 1974        | 16         | 46,800           | 1,715,536 €         |
| <b>5 Malawi</b> since 1998       | 10         | 127,600          | 1,171,492 €         |
| <b>6 Rwanda</b> since 1994       | 12         | 201,800          | 1,249,467 €         |
| <b>7 Somalia</b> since 2011      | 5          | 78,700           | 675,830 €           |
| <b>8 South Africa</b> since 1979 | 22         | 38,000           | 2,258,774 €         |
| <b>9 Uganda</b> since 1981       | 16         | 328,300          | 1,235,296 €         |
| <b>10 Zambia</b> since 1998      | 13         | 48,800           | 1,784,058 €         |
| <b>11 Zimbabwe</b> since 2010    | 5          | 32,700           | 781,554 €           |
| <b>Africa (general)*</b>         |            |                  | 41,591 €*           |
| <b>Total Africa</b>              | <b>150</b> | <b>1,701,500</b> | <b>17,455,043 €</b> |

\* International co-ordination of women's self-help groups



## Asia

| Country                                 | Projects   | Children/Youth | Expenditure         |
|---|------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>12 Afghanistan</b> since 2002        | 3          | 1,100          | 360,663 €           |
| <b>13 Bangladesh</b> since 1971         | 7          | 7,500          | 603,415 €           |
| <b>14 India</b> since 1959              | 130        | 96,100         | 4,351,277 €         |
| <b>15 Indonesia</b> since 1970          | 5          | 2,500          | 477,073 €           |
| <b>16 Lebanon</b> 1962–1988, since 2013 | 7          | 1,700          | 878,494 €           |
| <b>17 Myanmar</b> since 2017            | 2          | 900            | 85,052 €            |
| <b>18 Nepal</b> 1972–1977, since 2015   | 8          | 13,400         | 595,699 €           |
| <b>19 Pakistan</b> since 1978           | 14         | 25,000         | 1,857,847 €         |
| <b>20 Philippines</b> since 1978        | 26         | 42,700         | 2,222,900 €         |
| <b>21 Sri Lanka</b> since 1978          | 11         | 9,700          | 877,328 €           |
| <b>22 Thailand</b> since 1983           | 11         | 5,800          | 700,420 €           |
| <b>Asia (general)*</b>                  | 1          |                | 26,732 €*           |
| <b>Total Asia</b>                       | <b>225</b> | <b>206,400</b> | <b>13,036,900 €</b> |

|  |           |                |                    |
|--|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>23 Germany</b> since 2017             | 1         | 163,800        | 635,917 €*         |
| <b>24 Greece</b> since 2020              | 3         | 300            | 165,687 €          |
| <b>25 Kosovo</b> since 2000              | 2         | 700            | 154,417 €          |
| <b>26 Republic of Moldova</b> since 2022 | 4         | 8,200          | 550,360 €          |
| <b>27 Romania</b> since 2022             | 5         | 400            | 422,308 €          |
| <b>28 Ukraine</b> since 2022             | 2         | 11,300         | 525,636 €          |
| <b>Total Europe</b>                      | <b>17</b> | <b>184,700</b> | <b>1,818,408 €</b> |

## Development-related educational work in Europe

|  |
|--|
| <b>23 Germany</b> – Kindernothilfe, since 1994                 |
| <b>29 Luxembourg</b> – Kindernothilfe Luxembourg, since 2009   |
| <b>30 Austria</b> – Kindernothilfe Austria, since 1996         |
| <b>31 Switzerland</b> – Kindernothilfe Switzerland, since 2004 |

\* Capacity building of partners, lobbying and advocacy etc.

\* The costs of the Training & Consulting programme, amounting to 635,917 euros, are listed under head office's educational and information work (funded for example by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft)

## Latin America

| Country                         | Projects   | Children/Youth | Expenditure         |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>32 Bolivia</b> since 1974    | 19         | 10,800         | 2,005,815 €         |
| <b>33 Brazil</b> since 1971     | 36         | 9,200          | 2,712,343 €         |
| <b>34 Chile</b> 1969–2022       | 4          | 300            | 356,969 €           |
| <b>35 Ecuador</b> since 1979    | 6          | 2,900          | 864,314 €           |
| <b>36 Guatemala</b> since 1976  | 26         | 12,600         | 2,933,578 €         |
| <b>37 Haiti</b> since 1973      | 14         | 19,500         | 2,216,996 €         |
| <b>38 Honduras</b> since 1979   | 10         | 7,900          | 986,079 €           |
| <b>39 Peru</b> since 1984       | 13         | 6,200          | 1,304,324 €         |
| <b>Latin America (general)*</b> | 1          |                | 424,834 €*          |
| <b>Total Latin America</b>      | <b>129</b> | <b>69,400</b>  | <b>13,805,252 €</b> |

\* Capacity building of partners, lobbying and advocacy etc.

The continental maps take no account of any disputed territorial claims.



Thousands of children in Ukraine, but also in the neighbouring countries of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, have been in urgent need of help since bombs started falling again in Europe. All three countries were added to our list of project countries in 2022; this is the first time that Kindernothilfe has worked in Ukraine, a country that has been turned into a battleground.

When war broke out at the end of February 2022, the sole consolation, despite all the horror, was the hope that the fighting would soon be over. Yet, many months later, Kindernothilfe has regrettably been proved wrong: "Providing humanitarian assistance is something of a marathon," said Katrin Weidemann, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in August. The structures to support refugee children and their families in two countries have long been in place. Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly mothers with their children, have fled to safety across the closest borders: to the Republic of Moldova and Romania, both neighbours in the poorer regions of Eastern Europe.

### People providing help despite their own poverty

Staff from the Moldovan and Romanian aid organisations, with which Kindernothilfe swiftly established working relations, were there to welcome Ukrainian families, taking them to nearby villages and ensuring they received what they needed most: a bed, a roof and food. A shower, a toilet and a bar of soap. Many of those providing help have, themselves, very little. Moldova is considered the poor-house of Europe, its projects hitherto supporting disadvantaged young people and unemployed adults. But they, too, are helping out, contributing what they can spare, caring for the children and making room in their own modest flats. As one caregiver put it, they are allowing the families "to feel they are being protected". But they also share the fear: even as far away as Moldova, the bombing can sometimes be heard.

Families can meet, eat and wash in the house run by the DEMOS organisation in Edineţ in northern Moldova, which, for years, has been taking in children from the streets. Many come here to sleep or warm up, while children can use it as a base to go to school or participate, at least, in what a dedicated pastor refers to as the "fight against non-education". In Câmpulung in Romania, a makeshift classroom is being set up, a playground prepared, and a building renovated in co-operation with Caritas to cater for refugees. In Odobeşti, also in Romania, children are learning Romanian, while the village community is kindly caring for the new arrivals from Kherson, Kharkiv and Odessa. The reception centres in Bucharest have charity clothing stores, help refugees deal with government offices, issue meal vouchers and organise children's games in the afternoon. Musicians teach them how to drum, clowns make them laugh: all providing a welcome distraction. And although the staff are accustomed to confronting difficult circumstances, they also share their tears.

### Kindernothilfe empowers its partners in terms of content and finances

Kindernothilfe also supports its new partners through content-related assistance, helps set up humanitarian assistance structures, provides advice on children's and human rights and helps raise donations, from which Romania and Moldova, up to now, have rarely benefited. In September, close ties were established with the newly founded aid organisation, Myrne Nebo (Peaceful Heaven). In areas close to the Russian border experiencing fierce armed conflict, children needed, and continue to need, immediate support: food, warm clothing and





## Three new project countries: Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova



**Text: Annika Fischer; lead photo: Ralf Rottmann / Funke Photo Services**

blankets as well as medical and psychosocial care. Many children are frightened – day and night. They no longer play and, when they do, they play “war”. Together with Kindernothilfe, Myrne Nebo creates the much-needed space to play, if only for two or three hours.

When it became clear that the war was not going to end any time soon, Kindernothilfe also had to make longer-term plans. For some time, now, our project partners have been looking for permanent accommodation, arranging employment and organising language courses. Its staff visit the people, giving them vouchers so that they can buy what they need most. Above all, they create “child-friendly spaces”, where children can play and forget their fears. Psychologists help them come to terms with their trauma.

Kindernothilfe quickly started organising laptops so that the children could participate in online lessons and their mothers could learn English or Romanian to enable them to look for a job. But it was also able to help by providing mobile devices in Kharkiv. “The educational situation of the children is a major concern,” says Katrin Weidemann. Most schools in Ukraine are either closed or destroyed, the Internet connection is weak and unstable, while many teachers have either left the country or are fighting on the frontline. Unfortunately, since there is no end in sight to this horror, our support must continue.

*Staff working with CONCORDIA Social Projects in the Republic of Moldova were there to welcome the refugees at the border with Ukraine.*

*(Photo: Benjamin Kaufmann for CONCORDIA Sozialprojekte)*



*Together with the local population, our partners in the Republic of Moldova and Romania provided accommodation for Ukrainian mothers and their children*  
*(Photo: Angelika Böhlting)*



# Our commitment to education



Although 268 million children and young people worldwide still have no access to education, huge progress has been made over the past ten years. This demonstrates that, in global terms, enormous improvements are possible when the international community pursues common goals. However, the corona pandemic and the various conflicts and crises have wrecked this progress.

**Text: Malte Pfau; photo: Jakob Studnar**

Kindernothilfe works at various levels to secure the right to education for all. At an international level, we made the case during a panel discussion at the Transforming Education Summit (TES) of the United Nations in 2022 for governments to invest more money in early childhood education. This lays the foundation for the rest of one's life, helps compensate for disadvantages and has a preventive impact on potential difficulties on an individual's educational path.

Through the Global Campaign for Education alliance, we lobby at national level for the right to education. And this has proved effective: at the donor conference of the UN Global Fund for Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises in February 2023, Germany was the biggest donor country, pledging 210 million euros over the next four years.

The project work carried out by our partner organisations helps extend opportunities and educational equality within their own countries. The programmes are tailored to the specific target group and project format. One good example of this is the "PlayMat" programme in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa. The first three years of life are the most significant period of brain development. This is also a time, when children from socially

disadvantaged backgrounds are mainly cared for at home. Our partner organisation, Dlalanathi, provides caregivers with the practical skills they require to enable their children to benefit from early learning in their home environment. The "PlayMat", itself, is a large coloured blanket with a waterproof base given to all participants. It has become a metaphor for play, nurturing relationships and learning together in the family. The toys are made from recycled household packaging to reduce costs, allowing parents to sustain early learning even after the programme ends. We also involve government stakeholders in the project, for example the Department of Health, the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Social Development in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4.7), all learners should acquire the knowledge and skills required to promote sustainable development by 2030. The efforts to combat global poverty can only succeed through changes in behaviour, which is why such a development requires the committed participation of many well-informed individuals. That is why Kindernothilfe regards education for sustainable development as part of its development policy mandate.





# Our commitment to participation

What do children think about having to work? What do they need to grow up safely? These questions and many others affecting children's lives should actually be answered by the children themselves. We are working to ensure that girls and boys can exercise their right to participate – at a community, political and social level.

**Text: Laura Goldschmitt; photo: Jakob Studnar**

Together with the children's rights organisation, terre des hommes, we initiated the international campaign, Dialogue Works, in 2020. It supports working children and young people from 15 countries to actively participate in, and help shape, processes that affect their lives with the aim of improving their situation and that of other girls and boys. To help them achieve this, they work regularly together in children's committees.

But child participation does not only take place at local level. In May 2022, the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour took place in Durban, South Africa, organised by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the South African government. This normally provides a setting, in which government officials, members of trade unions and civil society organisations meet to discuss international guidelines and develop policies to combat exploitative child labour. Working children and young people, themselves, have never been invited, although Kindernothilfe and others have been demanding this for several decades. Thus, the fact that 55 working children and young people from across the globe, including five young people from the Dialogue Works campaign from Guatemala, Zambia and Kenya, were able to participate for the first time in discussions at this conference, was a huge step forward. The young people exchanged views and ideas and formulated political demands.

The highlight was the children's forum in the main programme, prepared jointly by the girls and boys. In a panel discussion, young people – including Dialogue Works members 18 year-old Kabwe from Zambia and 15 year-old Ashley from Guatemala – debated



with representatives of the South African government and the ILO. Much of the focus of the discussion was on access to education and social security systems for working children and young people – core Kindernothilfe demands for many years. Kabwe got to the heart of a key issue: access to education and training is certainly crucial – but this must be backed up by fairly paid non-limited employment opportunities and fewer jobs in the informal sector – for children and their parents. Without this, the fundamental problems will remain unaltered. Ashley called on the ILO delegates and governments throughout the world to use state scholarship programmes and targeted support strategies to finally bring about long-term improvements in the access of working people to school and occupational training.

There is still a long way to go before children's right to participation can be enshrined in such conferences and global political dialogues. We will continue working with our partners to ensure that the voices of girls and boys are heard and considered at a local and global level.



# Our commitment against **exploitative child labour**



Millions of children throughout the world have to work, so that they and their families can survive. We are working to ensure that they are not exploited and can continue going to school even if they do work. This ensures that families can survive and young people have the chance of a better future. **Text: Lea Kulakow; photo: Martin Bondzio**

Child labour is the best-known violation of rights resulting from corporate activity and is still far too prevalent today. Across the globe, around 152 million children between the ages of five and 17 work in conditions that deprive them of their childhood and dignity and jeopardise their physical and mental development. Many of them work directly or indirectly in the context of international supply chains.

Achieving effective protection for children's rights in production and supply chains requires well-functioning preventive and compensation mechanisms that are oriented to the best interests of the child. It is decisive that capacities and know-how are developed along the supply chain together with the corresponding child-welfare orientation of systems, processes and structures, e.g. hiring/recruitment, procurement, contract management or dealing with suspected/confirmed cases of child labour. Decent, dignified working conditions and living wages for parents and caregivers are just as important, as are equal access to free, inclusive, high-quality education and a reinforcement of social security systems. The German Act on Corporate Due Diligence came into force on the 1st of January 2023: something that human and children's rights organisations, including Kindernothilfe, have long fought for.

In Germany, schools, classes and groups were also actively involved in 2022 in the fight against exploitative child labour through our Action!Kidz campaign. With the help of our teaching material, they can find out about the situation of working children in the countries highlighted by the campaign: Zambia, India, Haiti and Indonesia. Through odd jobs or sponsored runs, they raise donations to ensure that working girls and boys are no longer exploited and can go to school.

They campaigned, for example, on behalf of "Restavèk children" in Haiti: minors, often from poor villages, are sent by their parents to work with better-off families in the cities and, thereby, improve their educational opportunities. In reality, however, many are treated like slaves, working around the clock in households. Kindernothilfe partner, RESEDH, is working with villages, municipalities and state decision-makers, to set up a child protection system for these girls and boys. "Children's rights clubs" raise children's awareness of their rights and give them the opportunity to actively participate. This establishes a child protection system – that also includes adults with a say in the matter – to help overcome the Restavèk tradition.





# Our commitment against violence

Unfortunately, violence against children is an everyday occurrence: three out of four children worldwide will become victims of violence.

Also in places where they should be safe: at home, at school, in a club. We are committed to protecting girls and boys against violence.

This is the only way we can prevent the spiral of violence from being perpetuated into future generations.

**Text: Katharina Draub; photo: Christian Nusch**



To ensure that children and young people do not become victims or perpetrators of violence, they need safe spaces. In 2022, a project run by our Brazilian partner, Casa de Assistencia Filadelfia (CAF), for example, offered such a safe space to around 140 girls and boys: for a short time, they could forget their traumatic experiences; and if they found themselves in a dangerous situation, they had the phone numbers of the official children's crisis hotline and the private number of a female member of staff. "Some were so scared they locked themselves in the toilet. I could hear adults in the background, screaming and banging on the door," the social worker said. She would then phone the mother to calm her down and arrange for a volunteer to drive by in person.

However, violence is not only perpetuated at home or on the streets but also, increasingly, on the Internet. During the corona pandemic, the risk of children and young people becoming victims of sexualised violence, in particular, increased significantly. Weaknesses in national child protection systems and legal loopholes make it easy for perpetrators to prey on minors. To enable children to protect themselves better against cyber violence and encourage them to claim their rights, our Philippine partner, Stairway Foundation, for

example, ran training courses and workshops on cybercrime. It offered e-learning platforms for children, teachers, child protection staff and government officials, thereby making a major contribution to ensuring that the issue of "digital competence" is anchored in school curricula. The Stairway Foundation and our partners Voice of Children in Nepal and PKPA in Indonesia worked together to protect children against cybercrime at a national and global level. This included closing legal loopholes, involving girls and boys in political activities and decisions as well as high-profile global advocacy measures and media campaigns.

The Training & Consulting unit in our head office in Duisburg ran training courses to anchor protection concepts within our projects. In 2022, we were able, with the help of the pilot project funded by the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), to run training courses on "Cyber Safety", "Protection for Children with Disabilities" and a further module on "Non-violent Educational Methods" in Ethiopia, South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and India.





# Are we doing **enough**?

A study on the protection of children against violence

We regularly carry out studies into the effectiveness of our work in key working areas. In 2022, we selected an issue that could not be more pressing: children's right to protection against violence. Our appointed research team interviewed 80 Kindernothilfe staff members in Germany and around the world as well as 99 partner organisations and, through detailed case studies, examined the projects of eight partners on three continents.

**Text: Barbara Winker; photos: Christian Nusch**

*Protection against all forms of violence is one of the priorities of our projects. Mural in a project in Malawi*



We commissioned the consulting agency, Blomeyer & Sanz, to document our work in Germany and throughout the world and evaluate it against the background of internationally recognised anti-violence strategies. Most importantly, the voices of the children, their families and the staff working with our partner organisations should be heard. The aim of the study was to highlight strengths and weaknesses, identify effective approaches to preventing violence and helping children affected by violence and make specific recommendations for future work.

## One billion children every year become victims of violence and neglect

According to estimates of the World Health Organisation, one billion children every year experience violence and neglect. The COVID-19 pandemic, numerous natural disasters and climate change-driven migration, as well as the growing economic hardship facing families, have increased children's risk of being subjected to violence worldwide. At the same time, high levels of government spending and debt are constraining the measures required to end the violence and jeopardising the progress made over the years.

The right to protection against violence is one of our four core working areas. In 2022, more than 200 of our projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe supported the Sustainable Development Goal to end abuse, exploitation, human trafficking and all forms of violence against children. More than 120 partner organisations, sometimes in difficult circumstances, worked to improve the protection of girls and boys. We supported their efforts from our head office in Duisburg, not only financially, but also through campaigns, advocacy and training courses in child protection and child rights-based, impact-oriented project work.

The study team looked at all these aspects and held intensive discussions with the leaders and staff of eight partner organisations. It was also possible in some cases to hold consultations with children and young people and their parents. State representatives in Bangladesh, Brazil, Guatemala and Kenya also agreed to be interviewed.

## The key results

**The children and young people interviewed confirmed that the project work was heavily oriented towards their needs and expectations. They mentioned the following:**

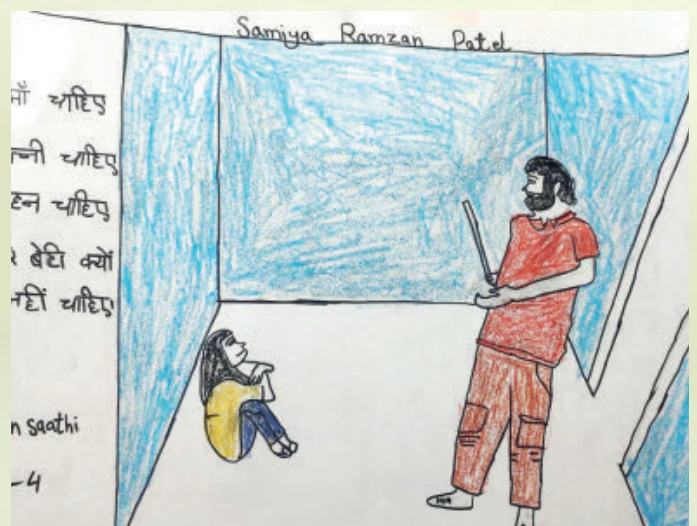
- the creation of safe spaces, in which they can move around safely, express themselves through play and have someone on hand, with whom they can share their concerns,
- the psychological/medical help and legal support received after experiencing violence,
- the use of interesting, engaging activities to raise awareness of serious issues such as protection against sexual violence, early marriage and exploitative child labour,
- the guidance enabling them to recognise different forms of violence and acquire skills to prevent violence, and
- the opportunity to raise their voices in an adult-dominated environment and to speak up publicly to advocate their concerns.

**The team also reviewed our work against the background of internationally recognised strategies to prevent violence by:**

- promoting legislation to protect children,
- changing social norms and attitudes that tolerate violence,
- creating a safe environment,
- supporting parents and caregivers in their child-rearing responsibilities,
- providing economical assistance for families,
- assisting people affected by violence, and
- providing education and passing on life skills.

## A positive judgement: the work of our partners is particularly effective

Although all our partners work on all these strategies, the individual partners pursue different approaches: while most organisations work with parents, children and young people with respect to educational issues and life skills acquisition, just over a third are also involved in providing psychological, medical and



Children living near a large garbage dump in Mumbai, India, use a project painting competition to protest against different forms of violence. (Photos: Kindernothilfe partner)





*In this project in São Paulo, Brazil, mothers learn how to spend time with their children – without shouting at, or hitting, them.*

legal support or efforts to boost families' income generation. The study was, nonetheless, able to confirm that our work does indeed contribute to all key areas.

The study team was impressed by the fact that most organisations deliberately chose hotspots of violence for their projects. They work with, and on behalf of, disadvantaged people neglected by governments and major international organisations. In the consultants' opinion, the work of our partners in providing services to underserved communities and raising the awareness of administrative and governmental bodies for children's concerns has proved to be highly effective.

## Strengths and weaknesses

When asked which aspects of our co-operation support their work most, partner organisations made special mention of the long-term flexible project financing, the project work utilising the child rights approach as well as the accompanying training courses and concept papers. Communication with Kindernothilfe staff is also highly appreciated. Partners would like more support, for example, in capacity building in the areas of fundraising, impact orientation and the participation of children and young people.

Significant contextual factors affecting the impact and outreach of our work are difficult to control: in many project countries, organisations are confronted with overwhelming levels of violence against children. At the same time, their freedom to carry out rights-based work is being increasingly restricted while working for the realisation of children's rights is putting them more and more at risk. From the local population's point of view, child safety has to take a back seat to addressing rampant poverty and the failure to meet their basic need for water, food and medical care.

## Opportunities to improve – what is already – excellent work

Although we currently give partners ample opportunity to have a say in the analysis of the child rights situation and project implementation, they are insufficiently involved in project planning, monitoring and evaluation. The study also recommends further conceptual work on the issue. For example, Kindernothilfe could co-operate with its partners on impact chains to reduce violence or on integrating effective strategies into project concepts. We could use suitable platforms to simultaneously facilitate the sharing of partner organisations' extensive technical knowledge and the frequently expressed desire for an exchange of views and mutual learning. Since many organisations do not know how to address the dangers facing children on the Internet, this should also be integrated into our country strategies. The latter should be updated regularly to ensure they adjust quickly to developments in the child rights situation.

## How we use the results of the study

We would like to address the issues identified in the study, so that, together with our partners, we are in a position to promote successful approaches, reinforce our conceptual work and use the funds at our disposal as effectively as possible to protect children. This also involves making the study report available to our partners. They, in turn, have shown great commitment in contributing to the survey and case studies. Together with our country co-ordinators, we are exploring how we can quickly implement constructive recommendations. We are using the study within our public relations work to inform donors and sponsors about this important issue. Finally, within the framework of our alliances and in communication with political activists, the study can help make a contribution to our advocacy work to protect children.



*As a child, Keliane was beaten by her mother.  
At CAF she learned how to raise her young daughter  
without violence.*



# At a glance



**523** projects  
in 36 countries



More than **2.1** Mio.  
children  
and young people  
supported



**39** countries

36 project countries and  
3 Kindernothilfe network  
countries (Austria, Luxem-  
bourg, Switzerland)



**373**  
partner  
organisations



**32,000**  
self-help groups  
in 22 countries



79,8 %  
project work

Expenditure  
**70.2**  
million euros



**72.3**  
million euros  
in income



**1,000**  
volunteers

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