



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





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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 see 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 2023, 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 2.2 million girls and boys in 503 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).

Photo: Jakob Studnar



## 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 210,200 people make our work possible, 65,000 of them with permanent funding, including 51,500 with sponsorships and a further 1,000 as volunteers. A number of public figures use their high profile to raise public awareness for our work. Support from the Kindernothilfe Foundation alongside state and institutional funding also makes 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.



# Photos of the year



Video: looking back at 2023 (in German)



# Report of the Board of Directors for 2023

## Challenges facing children and their rights

The year, 2023, was challenging for children and young people. It was dominated by wars and conflicts, the ever-advancing climate crisis, escalating living costs and a lack of political resolution. And the fact that, throughout the world, 350 million children are living in poverty. They frequently have to go hungry, have to work hard, often have no roof over their heads, are subjected to violence and have very limited opportunities to go to school.

Like any other year, Kindernothilfe did everything within its powers in 2023 to improve children's lives and living conditions, to incorporate their opinions and perspectives into its decision-making and to create a more humane world. By doing so, we were able to make a decisive difference in the lives of more than 2.2 million girls and boys. We did this by working in co-operation with local partner organisations and through the vital support of our private and public donors. For this, we say a big thank you!

### Financial situation

Last year, our income of 69.4 million euros fell by 2.9 million euros (or 4 percent) from 72.3 million euros in the previous year. After three years of steady growth in the willingness to donate, the income situation is now back to pre-corona levels. There was a positive development in grants and subsidies. Here, income rose by 12 percent to 9.4 million euros (previous year: 8.4 million euros). Although the German federal government has announced severe cuts in its development policy budget, we hope that the important work of civil society will be exempt from these cuts and expect further moderate increases in the future. In view of the multiple crises and challenges, we believe this would be more than appropriate. We are pleased that,

compared to 2022, we were able to increase the share of expenditure on project funding by 5.9 million euros in the reporting year. In total, we allocated almost 53 million euros to finance our project and programme work (previous year: 47.1 million euros).

### Programme priorities

Looking back at 2023, the impacts of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and its global impact played a major role in our working concerns. Millions of children and their families are still displaced inside and outside Ukraine. In recent months, we have been able, for example, to provide food, school supplies and access to psychosocial care in safe places to thousands of families in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, thereby giving them effective support at this difficult time. In future, protecting children and giving them the chance to learn despite adverse circumstances will continue to be at the heart of our work, and we will take account of their perspectives in all decisions that affect them.

The impacts of the climate crisis on the countries, which, themselves, contribute least to the crisis, are dramatic: up to 3.6 billion people worldwide live in regions experiencing some of the worst impacts of climate change. More than 1.5 million children under the age of five die each year as a consequence of environmental damage, heatwaves and floods. For this reason, Kindernothilfe has prioritised its strategic goal of Global Programme Strategies for Climate and Children's Rights. Within the scope of locally initiated projects and international advocacy measures, we are empowering children and their families to help them cope better with the impacts of climate

- 1 Malawi:** Providing emergency relief following Cyclone Freddy. (Photo: Kindernothilfe partner)
- 2 Guatemala:** The well-known German TV presenter and journalist, Johannes B. Kerner, visiting a project run by our partner, CEIPA, for working children. He reported on his visit as part of a TV gala. (Photo: Martin Bondzio)
- 3 Afghanistan:** After the earthquake, we distributed emergency relief and then winter relief with our partner, SERVE. (Photo: Kindernothilfe partner)
- 4 Ukraine:** Following the destruction of the Kakhovka Reservoir, we provided emergency aid in co-operation with our partner, Myrne Nebo. (Photo: Myrne Nebo)
- 5 Global children's conference:** Working girls and boys from children's committees of the Kindernothilfe/terre des hommes Dialogue Works campaign in 16 countries discussing their rights in Rwanda. They also presented their demands at the African Children's Summit in Kenya. (Photo: Jakob Studnar)
- 6 Online escape games:** With "Flight to Europe" and "Find Farah" we introduce young people to the issue of "flight and displacement". (Photo: Kindernothilfe)



change: for example, by building water cisterns, reforesting mangroves, creating school gardens, where even young children can learn alternative cultivation methods, or writing petitions calling on politicians to provide better climate compensation for particularly badly hit countries and regions. In total, we initiated and implemented 503 projects in 2023.

Long-standing complex crises – such as the situation in Haiti that flared up in 2024, or the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan, where about two-thirds of the entire population are dependent on aid – go virtually unnoticed by the media and public. The ever-present water and food shortages in the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa are also largely ignored. Yet, in these crises, it is the children, who are hardest hit. Through its partner organisations, Kindernothilfe does everything it can to provide humanitarian aid and protection to alleviate the suffering of children and their families. We spent 5.3 million euros on this last year.

Kindernothilfe is continuously evolving, both as an organisation and in terms of its focus: a key goal of the strategic project, Kindernothilfe International, is to ensure that cross-border co-operation plays a more prominent role in our future decision-making and strategies. We have looked critically at our 65-year role as an organisation involved in development co-operation and believe we should now place more emphasis on our role as part of a movement of organisations on equal terms, working for children's rights.

## Outlook for 2024

This year, around half of the world's population – more people than ever before – will go to the ballot box. We hope that our growing concern about a potential shift to the right in Germany and in many other countries is unfounded. And together with large numbers of people, both here and around the world, we stand up for democracy, tolerance and respect – the cornerstones of a world, in which children can grow up safe and protected.

We are firmly convinced that, after the last few challenging years, 2024 will once again be a year for children and children's rights. The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which we are celebrating this year, is a reminder of this. We have the opportunity to give even more young people access to education, to appreciably improve the survival chances and safe upbringing of children and to listen to the very many different voices of girls and boys. Because every child has the potential to change our world.

We are striving to achieve sustainable financial stability by continuing to increase our income and manage our expenditure more efficiently. In spite of a forecast shortfall of 8.7 million euros, we have confidence in our ability to improve our financial situation through targeted measures and investments. Compared to the 2023 financial year, we have planned a modest reduction in project and material resources for our programme work; in the years 2024 to 2026, around 16.5 million euros will be provided from equity. Continued investments in the future viability of Kindernothilfe will enable us to maintain our programmes and projects, while simultaneously pursuing innovative approaches to improve our work.

Our principal goals for 2024 include the continuing development of our global programme strategies to address child rights violations in connection with the impacts of climate change and in the context of flight and migration. We are also committed to combating the growing violence against children – also in many places in Germany – by expanding the counselling services and training provided by our Training & Consulting department. Alongside reinforcing our local programmes, we will expand our international advocacy work to bring about lasting change.

### **Katrin Weidemann**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

### **Carsten Montag**

Chief Programme Officer (CPO)

### **Jürgen Borchardt**

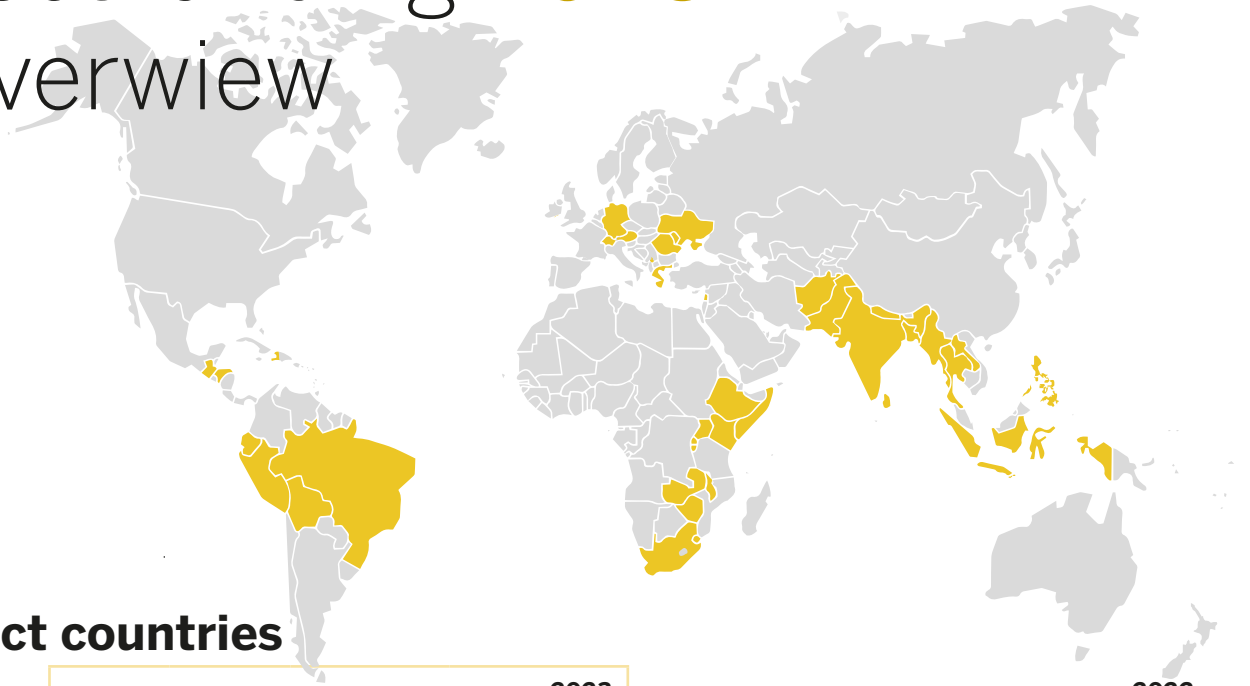
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

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

As of: May 2024

- 7 Christmas donation campaign:** The German newspaper, Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, reported on projects for children in and from Ukraine. Readers donated 262,269 euros. (Photo: Jakob Studnar)
- 8 Climate crisis? Climate justice!:** We organised an international youth conference in Duisburg and a nationwide tour of seven schools. In the German pavilion at the World Climate Conference in Dubai, three of the young people discussed the impacts of climate change. (Photo: Finn Schäfer)
- 9 Kindernothilfe study:** We documented the abduction of Ukrainian children to Russia. (Photo: Christian Nusch)
- 10 PR Image Award 2023 from "newsaktuell":** Our photo "Hope for Hagaya" (autumn rainy season in Ethiopia) by photographer Jakob Studnar was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> from more than 500 images submitted by around 180 companies and organisations.
- 11 Sea rescue ship:** We financed the equipping of a protected space for refugee women and children on the ship, SOS Humanity. (Photo: Max Cavallari/SOS Humanity)
- 12 50 years of project work in Ethiopia:** Celebrating an anniversary with our partners in Addis Ababa: The German ambassador Stephan Auer opened our partners' photo exhibition. (Photo: SARA Events & Marketing)

# Project funding 2023: an overview



## 36 project countries

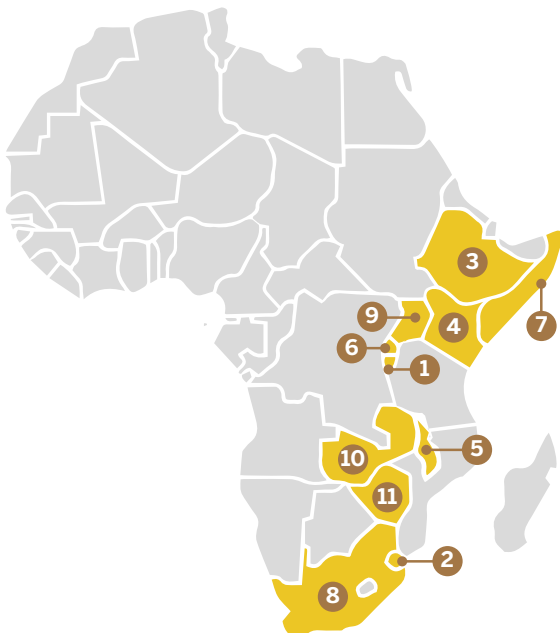
Continent	2023				2022			
	Countries	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure	Countries	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure
<b>Total Africa</b>	11	152	1,611,200	20,191,000 €	11	150	1,701,500	17,455,000 €
<b>Total Asia</b>	12	205	315,000	13,546,000 €	11	225	206,400	13,037,000 €
<b>Total Europe</b>	6	16	164,710	2,991,000 €	6	17	184,700	1,818,000 €
<b>Total Latin America</b>	7	126	113,000	15,328,000 €	8	129	69,400	13,805,000 €
<b>International*</b>		4	1,300	914,000 €	0	2	500	990,000 €
<b>Total Global</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>2,205,210</b>	<b>52,970,000 €</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>2,162,500</b>	<b>47,105,000 €</b>

\* Costs across all continents for violence prevention, advocacy, lobbying etc.

## 3 Kindernothilfe Alliance countries

Development education work in Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland

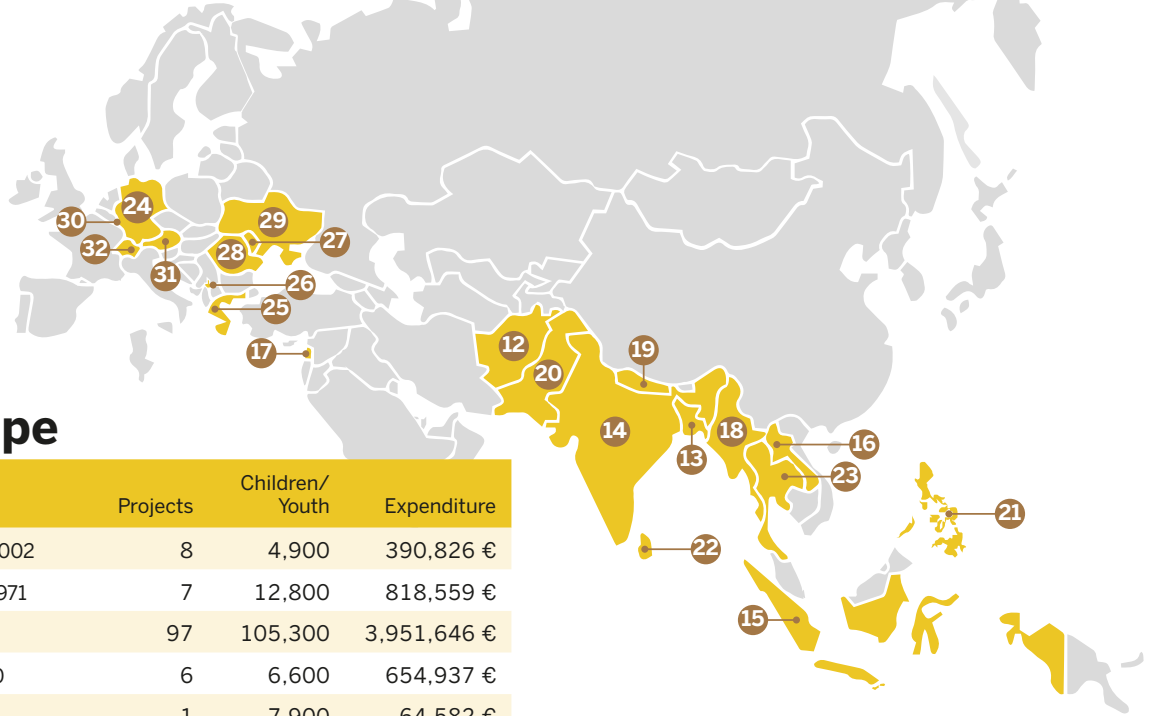
### Africa



	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure+
<b>1 Burundi</b> since 2007	9	69,800	1,863,717 €
<b>2 Eswatini</b> since 1979	6	42,100	719,833 €
<b>3 Ethiopia</b> since 1973	38	753,600	4,895,774 €
<b>4 Kenya</b> since 1974	17	39,800	1,828,720 €
<b>5 Malawi</b> since 1999	14	152,300	1,729,986 €
<b>6 Rwanda</b> since 1994	12	182,300	1,423,704 €
<b>7 Somalia</b> 1980–1994, since 2010	5	94,700	792,361 €
<b>8 South Africa</b> since 1968	21	36,900	2,289,456 €
<b>9 Uganda</b> since 1981	12	139,000	1,275,673 €
<b>10 Zambia</b> extended	14	70,400	2,079,782 €
<b>11 Zimbabwe</b> 1980–1994, since 2010	4	30,300	950,553 €
<b>Africa (general)*</b>			341.318 €
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,611,200</b>	<b>20,190,878 €</b>

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





## Asia / Europe

	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure
<b>12 Afghanistan</b> since 2002	8	4,900	390,826 €
<b>13 Bangladesh</b> since 1971	7	12,800	818,559 €
<b>14 India</b> since 1959	97	105,300	3,951,646 €
<b>15 Indonesia</b> since 1970	6	6,600	654,937 €
<b>16 Laos</b> since 2023	1	7,900	64,582 €
<b>17 Lebanon</b> 1962–1988, since 2013	12	15,500	1,098,952 €
<b>18 Myanmar</b> since 2017	1	600	56,283 €
<b>19 Nepal</b> 1972–1977, since 2015	12	17,500	592,367 €
<b>20 Pakistan</b> since 1975	11	30,800	1,598,895 €
<b>21 Philippines</b> since 1978	28	101,700	1,861,803 €
<b>22 Sri Lanka</b> since 1975	10	6,600	1,237,074 €
<b>23 Thailand</b> since 1983	11	4,800	708,595 €
<b>Asia (general)*</b>	1		511,948 €
<b>Total Asia</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>315,000</b>	<b>13,546,468 €</b>

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

<b>24 Germany</b> since 2017	1	151,000	760,445 €* €
<b>25 Greece</b> since 2020	1	10	135,000 €
<b>26 Kosovo</b> since 2000	2	500	129,443 €
<b>27 Republic of Moldova</b> since 2022	4	8,500	1,043,371 €
<b>28 Romania</b> since 2022	4	500	764,046 €
<b>29 Ukraine</b> since 2022	4	4,200	919,083 €
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>164,710</b>	<b>2,990,943 €</b>

\* The costs of the Training & Consulting programme amounting to 760,445 euros are listed under educational, information and advocacy work and not here.

### Development-related educational work in Europe

- 24 Germany** Kindernothilfe since 1994
- 30 Luxembourg** Kindernothilfe Luxembourg since 2009
- 31 Austria** Kindernothilfe Österreich since 1996
- 32 Switzerland** Kindernothilfe Schweiz since 2004

## Latin America

	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure
<b>33 Bolivia</b> since 1974	18	20,300	2,238,744 €
<b>34 Brazil</b> since 1971	36	19,400	3,270,999 €
<b>Chile*<sup>1</sup></b>			311,362 €
<b>35 Ecuador</b> since 1979	8	3,600	1,020,554 €
<b>36 Guatemala</b> since 1976	26	18,600	2,728,709 €
<b>37 Haiti</b> since 1973	12	17,200	2,379,567 €
<b>38 Honduras</b> since 1979	12	18,900	1,307,819 €
<b>39 Peru</b> since 1984	13	7,700	1,408,020 €
<b>Latin America (general)*<sup>2</sup></b>	1	7,300	662,025 €
<b>Total América Latina</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>113,000</b>	<b>15,327,800 €</b>

\*<sup>1</sup> Chile has only been a project country for Kindernothilfe Austria since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, which is why it is not included in the country, project and child statistics of Kindernothilfe Germany. However, since the funds are channelled through us, they are listed here.

\*<sup>2</sup> Capacity building of partners, lobbying and advocacy etc.



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

# Our active commitment to climate justice



Photo: Jakob Studnár

Human-made climate change is the greatest threat to our planet. But, given our current standard of living and lifestyles, especially in industrialised countries, it is no longer something we can stop. But we can restrict it. And, together with our partners, we can fight for climate justice. Text: Katharina Draub

Throughout the world, up to 3.6 billion people live in regions that are particularly impacted by climate change. Floods, cyclones, droughts and heatwaves not only cost lives, they make day-to-day living more difficult. Between 2010 and 2020, these disasters led to mortality rates in these high-risk regions that were 15 times higher than in other areas.

As stated in the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate justice is a key component in the efforts to combat the impacts of the climate crisis and to support and alleviate the burden on countries that are actually contributing least to climate change. As a children's rights organisation, we are also working with our partners throughout the world to reinforce climate justice. "The fatal impacts of climate change are violating children's rights across the globe," insists our CEO, Katrin Weidemann. "Children have a right to life, a healthy environment and good health." Something clearly underlined by General Comment No. 26 – a resolution of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which has established binding measures for the protection of children with respect to the climate.

**"If the climate tipping points are reached, none of the other goals can be achieved"**

The affected children and families often have no alternative: to survive, they have no choice but to adapt to the changing climate. For example in Bolivia. Our partner, Nor Sud, shows children and young people various ways to construct low-smoke ovens that use less wood or how to improve water provision. The most important task of these Climate Kids is looking after their greenhouse. Its transparent plastic walls ensure that heat stays inside, offering plants protection against cold temperatures. As ambassadors, they pass on everything they have learned to families in their region.

## **Climate Kids in Bolivia have their own greenhouse.**

Photo: Christian Nusch





**Edemealem Wanegnaw from Ethiopia makes her own compost**

Photo (left): Kindernothilfe partner FC

**Rainwater is collected and filtered in cisterns**

Photo (right): Kindernothilfe partner HUNDEE



“No poverty, no hunger, access to clean water, good health – these are all highly important goals. But the most important goal of all is climate protection measures. Because, if the climate tipping points are reached, none of the other goals is achievable,” says Sindy from the Climate Kids in an interview with journalist Katharina Nickoleit. She sums the situation up: “If all human beings were to live as modestly as the Andean population, there would be no climate change. It is one of the great injustices of our time that those contributing least to the crisis are the ones, who are suffering most”.

In Ethiopia, too, people are being forced to deal with climate-related challenges. Long periods of drought are leading to countless crop failures. The people are losing vital food sources and important income sources. Our partner, FC (Facilitator for Change), shows farmers how to increase yields despite the difficult conditions. At an FC training course on organic farming methods, Edemealem Wanegnaw from Ethiopia learned about the proper use of fertiliser and compost “Organic farming produces high-quality crop yields that are much better than those produced using chemical pesticides and fertilisers,” she says. She now grows wheat, corn, teff (dwarf millet) and vegetables. She no longer has to worry as much and has an income for her five children.

**Adapting and finding new approaches**

Our partner, HUNDEE, in Ethiopia supported the construction of a water collection cistern. Community members were actively involved, looking for suitable locations, providing materials such as stones and sand and helping with construction. The partner covered the costs for materials such as cement, wire and contractor fees. During the rainy season, water is collected and filtered in the cisterns. This gives 1,250 people in the town of Saba access to clean water, especially in dry periods.

We have specifically asked our partners in India to send us project ideas that could be eligible for future funding. “Up to now, our partners’ focus often had nothing to do with climate issues,” ex-

plains David Kowertz, Programme Manager for India, “but they, too, are affected by the climate crisis and have clear ideas.” The Indian partners’ ideas frequently include agricultural adaptation methods including the introduction of climate-resistant seeds or disaster management measures.

**Children with disabilities are particularly badly hit**

In the efforts to combat the impacts of climate change, we must not forget the people, who are already facing other challenges in their lives: children and young people with disabilities. In the event



**Heavy rains destroy the streets in Malawi. This is a major impediment, especially for children with disabilities**

Photo: Kindernothilfe partner

of a disaster, they are more likely to be abused and neglected or suffer from serious illness. Limited access to food, clean water and medical care has a detrimental impact on their health. “Last year, early heavy rains destroyed many of our crops in the fields. This was followed by a persistent famine. Many children with disabilities



were affected by the food shortage, including my daughter, Jovita,” reports Isabel from Malawi. Together with Jovita, she is now actively involved in projects run by our partner, Saint John of God Hospitaller Services, to promote and include children with disabilities. The long-term support for the children and their families also helps them cope with the challenges posed by climate change. For two-year-old Jovita, however, her physiotherapy sessions now take longer because of her malnutrition.

Fourteen-year-old Wezi from Malawi also has a disability. He loves school, but when it rains so much, he has to stay at home. “Sometimes, when I try to cross the swollen rivers, I slip and fall into the water. I’m putting my life at risk,” he says. Deforestation and devastating floods are depriving children of their rights. “I want to tell the government that they have a duty to repair the broken bridges and build new ones where we live. And they should do more for nature restoration,” Wezi demands.

## Rainfall is increasing, harvests are failing

Wezi is not alone. Many other young people have clear demands on the governments. But not all of them have the chance to be heard. The “Dialogue Works” campaign, a joint initiative of Kindernothilfe and terre des hommes, gives at least some of them the chance to have their say and participate in political decisions. In Rwanda, for example, where 63 working children and young people from 16 countries, who are members of Dialogue Works children’s committees, took part in the “Global Gathering” to discuss their rights with government representatives. Although the event focused on child labour, the climate crisis was also a key issue. The young people drew up a list of demands, which they presented to representatives of the Rwandan Ministry of Labour and Family Affairs – and, sub-

sequently, at the “African Children’s Summit” in Kenya to Dr Najat Maalla M’jid, the UN Special Representative for Violence against Children. The paper says, “The climate crisis, migration and displacement, health pandemics, conflict, environmental damage and corruption push us into new struggles that need to be dealt with.”

## Flight as the only option

We also managed to increase media interest in our work to combat the impacts of climate change. We travelled to Bangladesh, for example, with a journalist from the German newspaper, the Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ). We quickly recognised that, even in their own homes, children and their families have inadequate protection against the impacts of the climate crisis. In fact, the opposite is true, as our country co-ordinator, Shubhomoy Haque, told the WAZ reporter: “Whoever stays at home, dies!” The devastating cyclones and floods that destroy all worldly possessions, make life “at home” impossible. “People are leaving the coastal region and moving to the cities to look for work. Child labour is becoming an issue here again,” says Haque. In the Philippines, one of our project countries, which is experiencing rising sea levels and typhoons that are increasing in frequency and severity, children and their families are losing their homes and are left with no secure future. The rising sea level is accompanied by increasing soil salinisation, which is why the local population has insufficient food and lacks clean drinking water. Families, who have lived from fishing from one generation to the next, no longer have enough money to survive.

## Disaster protection plans should help

Our partner, SIKAT, helps local people adapt to climate-change impacts. They work together to create coastal protection areas to



reforest mangroves, protect seagrass areas and coral reefs and combat illegal fishing. SIKAT works with the authorities to draw up disaster protection plans – for example, as a response to potential flooding. Efforts to safeguard the supply of drinking water include creating rain collection points or desalination plants. Volunteers test the water quality regularly to ensure that it remains clean in the long term.

Within Kindernothilfe, we are also critically examining our own sustainability. You can find out about our measures and goals in our transparent sustainability report (in German):



**A young girl fishing for shrimp larvae on the edge of the Sundarbans. Child labour is also a consequence of climate change.**

Photo: Jakob Studnar



” Whoever stays at home, dies! ”

Shubhomoy Haque, country co-ordinator for Bangladesh, in conversation  
Photo: Lars Heidrich





Gemeinsam  
Kinder und  
Jugendliche  
schützen,  
fördern  
und stärken

Kinderschutz und Kinder  
rechte in Kitas, Schulen  
und Organisationen

# Our commitment to combat violence

Photo: Katharina Draub

In their own home, on the streets, in church buildings, in the schoolyard or day-care centre or on the Internet. The list of places, where children can be affected by violence, is long. Everywhere across the globe. We are working together with our partners to combat this immense, global violation of children's rights.

**Text: Katharina Draub**

We are doing what we can to promote child protection both in Germany and in our project countries. Overseas, we prioritise online safety, non-violent parenting and protection for children with disabilities. "Violent parenting is often not regarded as problematic, and many parents have no or little knowledge of non-violent parenting methods," says Katrin Schmidt from Kindernothilfe's Training & Consulting (T&C) team. Regional trainers run training courses (online and in-person) on our prioritised issues. National trainers and local Kindernothilfe partners help the organisations with the subsequent practical implementation of this newly acquired know-how. "I can now reflect on and analyse the religious and the traditional beliefs that influence my own parenting," was the feedback from one participant.

In Ethiopia, there has been so much interest in child protection that organisations have set up a network to protect children with disabilities. Among other things, this "Community of Practice" seeks to improve co-operation among all community members as a specific means of promoting child protection in different regions.

Participants in training courses reflect on how to recognise when children and young people have been subjected to violence. Bumps and bruises are not the only obvious sign.

## More protection for children on the Internet

In Asia, we are continuing the global programme "Stopping cybercrime: more safety and protection on the Internet" run by the organisations, Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak in Indonesia, Voice of Children in Nepal and the Stairway Foundation in the Philippines. These partners are working hand-in-hand with children to improve national online safety laws. On International Safer Internet Day, they organise a range of events in schools and communities focusing on sexual abuse and the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet.

## Children suffering under the impacts of war

We are also continuing with our campaign against violence in Ukraine, where, in 2023, 915 cases of general sexualised violence against children were registered. But, the true extent will only become known in the years to come. This is revealed by our study, "Enabling children to talk about it", which we published in early 2024. Our partners in Ukraine, Romania and the Republic of Moldova help Ukrainian children by providing psychological and medical support, access to education and protection against all kinds of violence. We are working in the long term with these organisations to implement a project and advocacy strategy focusing on these child rights violations. We also raised the issue at the reconstruction conference for Ukraine in Berlin in June.

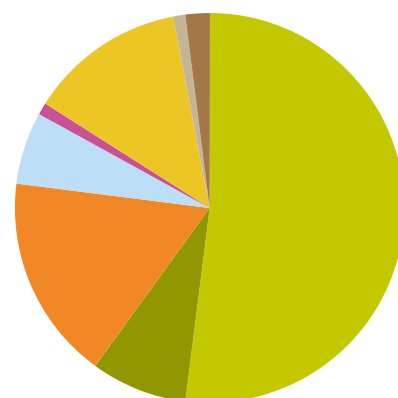
# Our finances 2023: an overview

## Income

In 2023, our income amounted to 69.4 million euros, 2.9 million euros less than in the previous year. This fall was primarily the result of a reduction in donations, which were 3.2 million euros (-6%) lower than in 2022. In contrast, subsidies and grants increased by 984,000 euros (+12%). With respect to other income, higher interest income (+399,000 euros) could not compensate for the decline in legacies (-408,000 euros) and other operating income (-679,000 euros).

### Income breakdown

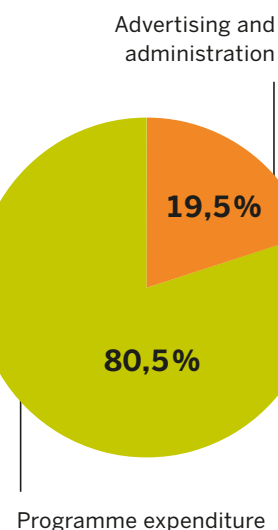
Donations	36,142,753.70	52,1 %
Donations for humanitarian aid	5,791,344.83	8,3 %
Non-earmarked and other donations	11,709,395.76	16,9 %
Legacies & bequests	4,128,366.44	6,0 %
Income from fines	648,516.34	0,9 %
Subsidies & grants	9,355,383.05	13,5 %
Interest & similar revenue	437,402.28	0,6 %
Other income	1,162,158.95	1,7 %
<b>Total income</b>	<b>69,375,321.35</b>	<b>100,0 %</b>



## Expenditure

Our expenditure of 78.3 million euros was 8.1 million euros (+11.5%) more than in the previous year. Expenditure on programmes rose by 7 million euros (+13%) to 62.7 million euros. This was mainly due to the fact that we increased project funding by 5.9 million euros (+13%) – for projects in the areas of development co-operation and humanitarian aid. The increase in advertising and administration costs (+1.1 million euros, +8%) was primarily a consequence of higher personnel costs together with further investments in digital information and communication technologies.

<b>Programme expenditure:</b>	<b>62,7 Mio. €</b>
Project support:	53,0 Mio. €
Project administration and monitoring:	5,7 Mio. €
Education, information and advocacy:	4,0 Mio. €
<b>Advertising and administration:</b>	<b>15,2 Mio. €</b>
Public relations and donor services:	10,1 Mio. €
Administration:	5,1 Mio. €
<b>Total:</b>	<b>77,9 Mio. €</b>
Business operations, asset management, refunding public funds:	0,4 Mio. €
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b>78,3 Mio. €</b>



## The annual financial statements

We closed the year with a deficit of -8.9 million euros, which was 1.9 million euros less than planned. Total expenditure was 3.5 million euros (-4%) and income 1.6 million euros (-2%) below what was planned for 2023. This was because expenditure on personnel expenses (-851,000 euros) and on humanitarian aid projects (-2.4 million euros) was less than planned in the 2023 budget. The shortfall in income can be attributed to the fact that donations were lower than planned (-3.6 million euros), whereas income from legacies was more than the levels planned (+1.2 million euros).

To finance the shortfall, we withdrew funds from our equity capital: 2.6 million euros from the association's capital, 5.3 million euros from project reserves and around 1 million from free and other reserves. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, our equity capital amounted to 39.4 million euros.

# Have a say, be involved, help decide



An evaluation of the participation of working children in decision-making processes

Throughout the world, 160 million children and young people under the age of 18 are classified as working children. For nearly half of them, this work is a risk to their health and development. But what do they really want and what are they interested in? What demands do they make of politicians and how can their voices be heard? Kindernothilfe and terre des hommes have been exploring these questions since 2016 in two consecutive projects co-financed by the BMZ.

**Text: Barbara Winker**



Photo: Martin Bondzio





As part of the project, “Time to talk – Children’s views on children’s work” (2016-2020), we asked 1,822 children and young people between the ages of five and 18 in 36 countries what they thought about their working lives and helped them set up children’s committees to stand up for their interests. The follow-up project, “Dialogue Works – anchoring working children’s participation in social and political processes” (2020-2024), builds on this. It works with children and partner organisations in 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America for the implementation of the UN children’s right to participate in social and political decision-making processes.



*Uttar Pradesh/India: a Dialogue Works event in 2023 involving children from 18 districts and the state’s leading child protection authority. The topics covered included child labour, educational opportunities, housing conditions and the working conditions of parents.*  
Photo: VIGYAN

succeeded in enabling families to live an economically secure life. They, therefore, also recommend that project partners should work specifically with parents and encourage them to work together in their countries and communities to achieve improvements at the political level. They also emphasise the project’s relevance in a setting, in which governments, international organisations, trade unions and civil society represent very different standpoints. The demands of the diverse sides range from a complete ban on work for those under 18 to the establishment of a child’s right to decent work.

This spectrum of opinions is also reflected in the partners involved in the project and, even, in the children’s committees. That is why “Dialogue Works” assumes a neutral role here, which, in the evaluators’ opinion, the project should articulate even more clearly: its aim is to enable working children to exercise their right to social and political participation. In an interview with the team, the UN Special Representative on Violence against Children, Dr Najat Maalla M’jid, stressed the importance of raising awareness of this

Local, national and international decision-makers continue to question the relevance and feasibility of involving children and young people – or simply do not know how to put participation into effect. By thinking like this, though, they are not only violating a key children’s right, but also ignoring the significant contribution that children and young people can make towards achieving a better understanding of their situation and developing solutions.

## Evaluation questions and methodology at a glance

Is “Dialogue Works” on course to achieving its goals? Is it pursuing the appropriate strategy to do so, or do some measures need to be changed, reinforced or supplemented to enable it to achieve the best and most sustainable effects possible? These were just some of the questions requiring answers in an interim evaluation, which experts from Mainlevel Consulting AG were commissioned to carry out. From autumn 2022 to spring 2023, they scrutinised numerous project documents and conducted online interviews with project participants in Germany and the project countries. A large global project event was held in January in Kigali, Rwanda, where the evaluator team also held discussions with 30 children from the children’s committees and international experts. All the information collected was subsequently evaluated with respect to the specific questions.

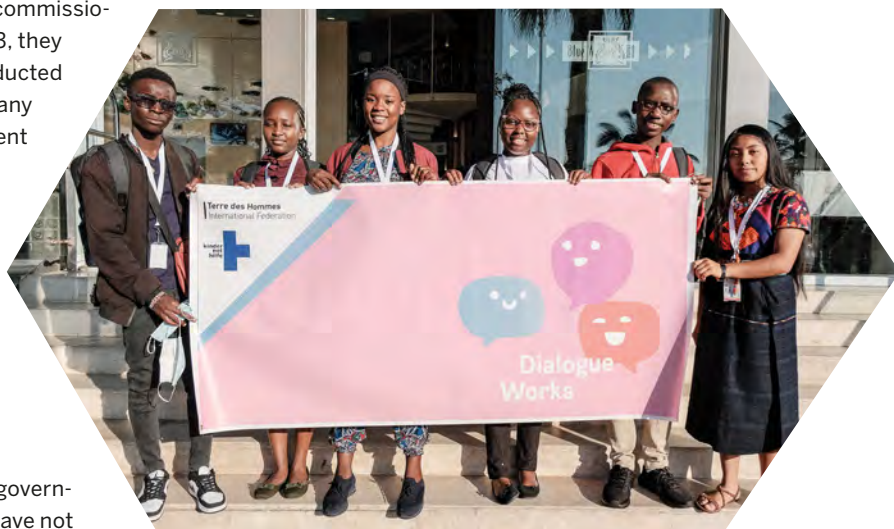
## Evaluation results and recommendations in a nutshell

The evaluators believe that the failures of national governments are the primary cause of child labour: they have not

issue among people around the world: “There are fears about disrupting the status quo. States generally believe that children aren’t capable of doing much. And there is a historic lack of trust in children. And we also can’t ignore the generational aspect: a child, who makes his or her own decisions, is questioning the authority of parents and other adults. This can lead to conflicts.”

The evaluators have confirmed that the project takes appropriate account of the concerns of the girls and boys. The children’s

*Durban/South Africa, the 5<sup>th</sup> ILO World Conference on the Sustainable Abolition of Child Labour – five of the young people were delegates from Dialogue Works*  
Photo: Lea Kulakow





*In 2023, 63 working girls and boys from 16 countries met at a Dialogue Works conference in Rwanda to draw up demands to be presented to their national governments.  
Photos: Jakob Studnar*

committees are safe spaces, where they can talk openly about their experiences and wishes. Here they can acquire knowledge and skills that enable them to stand up for their rights. As one interviewed child put it: "We believe that lobbying is very important, not just locally, but at a global level. Our committee provides the help we need to influence local organisations and gain their recognition. The children are proud to be part of the committee and feel privileged to be associated with it." The project has successfully integrated young people with special needs into the committees, for example children with disabilities, girls and boys, who have been sexually exploited, and members of ethnic minorities.



A great deal has already been achieved: children know about their rights to protection and participation as well as the relevant national legislation and the status of implementation. Despite some remaining obstacles, contacts with key local actors have improved. At an international level, more visibility has been created for the concerns of the girls and boys. One interviewee said: "It was the first time that children were able to attend an International Labour Organization (ILO) conference. Considering the difficult circumstances and underlying tensions, the result was very positive and something we can build on."

Project participants were able to appreciably reinforce their contacts with various international stakeholders. They held political dialogue, for example, with the ILO, the South African government and the associations of working children in Africa, Asia and Latin America. There were also discussions with the chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Ministries for Development Co-operation and Labour and Social Affairs, the Association for International Co-operation as well as NGOs. Members of the children's committees participated in regional

consultations in Asia and Africa. The project creates conducive conditions for networking by giving children the opportunity to exchange ideas at national and international level, formulate demands and work together to identify solutions to their problems.

A series of project publications also enables the concerns of working children to be heard. In their declaration, "Our World, Our Voice", adopted in Kigali in 2023, they called for poverty reduction and the safeguarding of basic needs, satisfactory work for parents, good quality education, decent, appropriate work for children, protection against exploitation, danger, violence and discrimination, participation and the global implementation of children's rights. They invite national and international actors to work with them to achieve these goals.

The evaluation confirmed that the project is making an important contribution to the implementation of children's right to participation. However, there is still a long way to go before the goal is fully achieved. Changing the social and political framework will require a



*Philippines: a children's committee invited the regional director of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, various government agencies and employers to a press conference, at which it presented the Kigali Declaration. All guests signed the demands in the declaration.  
Photo: Kindernothilfe partner*



*In Nepal, too, young people presented the Kigali Declaration to politicians and discussed their demands with them  
Photo: Manita*

lot of patience. Many project results have been positive, but its overall impact has been limited. Structural changes and long-term commitment are essential if key actors, including local governments, schools and NGOs are to be permanently involved in the process of acting as advocates for working children.

## Strong alliances for greater sustainability: implementing the recommendations

To reinforce sustainability, the evaluation report recommends the intensification of key activities, such as increasing the number of network meetings or running capacity-building training courses. Expanding contacts with other actors could help establish strong national and international alliances. "Dialogue Works" project partners are already implementing these recommendations. The co-ordinators of the children's committees met in Istanbul in January of this year to reinforce their joint work and pool their capacities. Exchanges at country and regional level are also being intensified through more frequent meetings. Partner organisations are using national forums to give children the opportunity for their demands to be heard as formulated in the Kigali Declaration. The project responded to the evaluation team's recommendation for the committees to be networked online by setting up a new youth media group.

One other recommendation concerns the continuity of work in children's groups. Young people, who leave for reasons of age, should be supported in the selection and induction of successors. A practical guide containing helpful tips was drawn up for this purpose. To reinforce the anchoring of the specifically created participation structures, the project management extended the project duration and increased the number of children's committees.



*The children's committee in a project run by our partner, CESIP, in Peru, jointly decides with other children which demands of the Kigali Declaration they should address first  
Photo: Kindernothilfe partner*

Through "Time to talk" and "Dialogue Works", an international network has been created that helps anchor the rights of working children. This network will be further expanded and reinforced in a follow-up project. The wishes and demands of girls and boys will again be the focus. The project work is an example of how the political participation of children and young people throughout the world can be effectively promoted.

# At a glance



**503** projects  
in 36 countries



More than  
**2.2** million  
children and young  
people supported



**116**  
staff in project  
countries



**39** countries  
36 project countries +  
3 Kindernothilfe network  
countries (AT, CH, LU)



**355**  
partner  
organisations



**36,500**  
self help groups in  
22 countries with  
600,000 women

80.5 %  
project work



**78.3**  
million euros  
in expenditure



**69.4**  
million euros  
in income



**1,000**  
volunteers

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