



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



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Donation seal

The donation seal is certification of meticulously verified integrity and the statutory use of donations. It has been awarded to Kindernothilfe annually since 1992.

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Kindernothilfe

We consider ourselves an international child rights organisation with Christian values. Since 1959, we have been committed to supporting disadvantaged young people and promoting their rights. In 2025, we were active in 37 countries. Together with Kindernothilfe in Luxembourg, Austria and Switzerland, we empowered, protected and facilitated the participation of more than 2 million girls and boys in 462 projects. We have projects in 34 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. We are a member of the Diakonisches Werk (Social Services Agency) of the Evangelical Church in Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe e. V.

Our vision

We help ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard. Together with girls, boys and their communities, we work to improve their living conditions and, thereby, contribute to the realisation of children's rights. So that they have the chance to enjoy a future that is just and the freedom to develop their personalities.

Our work

We are part of a global movement and believe that we have the responsibility to enable children to gain 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 the needs of people and the environment are awarded equal consideration. This includes a shared working commitment not only during but after humanitarian disasters. Through worldwide dialogue, we learn from the experiences of other organisations working with, and for, children and make our know-how available in training courses and consultancy services. Through advocacy work, political campaigning, development education and public relations work, often in co-operation with our partners and networks, we are able to advocate the realisation of children's rights in our dealings with people in positions of responsibility and decision-makers worldwide.

Our sponsors

Altogether 128,400 people make our work possible: 68,500 of them through long-term funding, including 49,913 through sponsorships and more than 700 volunteers. Several people in the public eye use their high profile to raise awareness of our work. Alongside state and institutional funding, support from the Kindernothilfe Foundation also makes a significant contribution to our project work.

Integrity and transparency

Each year since 1992, we have received the Donation Seal of Approval from the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) in recognition of our responsible management and allocation of donations. Kindernothilfe has also received several Transparency Awards for high-quality and transparent reporting.

Report of the Board of Directors 2025

Kindernothilfe has a finely tuned compass! We consistently place children and their rights at the heart of all we do. At a time of global instability, escalating crises and significant upheaval, there is a need for orientation and hope. The promotion of child protection, education and participation is always at the heart of all we do – especially when the challenges are particularly testing.

The impact and scope of our work

Through our dedicated efforts in 2025, we were able to bring about sustainable improvements in the living conditions of more than 2 million children across 34 countries and 462 projects. These results clearly demonstrate that we are not at the mercy of global developments, and that, together, we can take effective action and make a real difference to children's lives. We can look back with gratitude on the accomplishments and the enormous professionalism and commitment of our staff and partner organisations throughout the world. They make a significant contribution to increasing our impact and ensuring that the resources at our disposal are used efficiently.

Rapid relief in acute emergencies

For example, following the devastating earthquakes in Myanmar, Afghanistan and Pakistan, we were able – through our local partner organisations – to deliver rapid emergency relief in the form of drinking water, food and hygiene kits, and thereby support thousands of affected children and their families. We also achieved considerable progress in collaboration with our partners in Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world: 20,000 children and parents in rural areas participated in a food programme to protect children, above all, against malnutrition by developing local communities, providing water tanks and introducing alternative farming methods. We also enabled children and young people in Burundian refugee camps for families from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to access urgently needed psychosocial support and educational opportunities.

These examples illustrate what it is that motivates us: the ability to create opportunities and make a sustainable impact, even under challenging conditions, through our work in Germany and throughout the world.

Promoting participation

Over the past year, we have moved even closer to our vision of ensuring that the voices of children and young people are integrated effectively into social and political processes. The growing importance of children's participation is reflected in the development of our projects as well as in the targeted refinement and professionalisation of our participation structures.

Setting up the Kindernothilfe Youth Council in Germany has successfully created a sustainable, impact-oriented platform that currently allows 17 enthusiastic young people to collaborate on an ongoing basis, put their ideas into practice and actively contribute to specific issues. The Youth Council of the KinderZukunftsFonds has similarly evolved into a stable, effective platform for participation, in which the young participants exhibit high levels of initiative and a keen sense of responsibility.

We have also created targeted opportunities for involvement in political dialogue: innovative formats, for example during the general election in Germany, enabled young people to talk directly to politicians and self-confidently articulate their points of view.

Youth participation was also a priority at the UN Climate Change Conference in Brazil (COP30). Young people from Germany, Moldova, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Brazil attended the preparatory youth conference in Duisburg, thereby ensuring that their perspectives were included at selected events at COP30.

Organisational development and transparency

We critically examine our structures to ensure the most suitable and effective use of the resources at our disposal. One key priority was the continuing implementation of our transformation process. Our aim is to improve the flexibility, clarity and coherence of Kindernothilfe across national and continental borders. We attach enormous importance to transparency and will continue to improve staff participation in the coming year to help us achieve sustainable results quickly.

Solid financial performance

In financial terms, we can look back on a solid year, with an annual result of 2.1 million euros. The main reasons for this included increased income from legacies (11.2 million euros) and a significant rise in grants and subsidies (+21%), alongside stable income from donations of 53.3 million euros. Overall, total income increased to 79.8 million euros (+9%). Total expenditure amounted to 77.7 million euros, slightly below the previous year's level (–1%), with a slight reduction in programme expenditure.

Sponsorships: critical reflection and further development

Sponsorships are one of the key tools of our work. Multi-phase market research conducted in 2025 shows that the term "sponsorship" is still viewed positively by the German public and considered relevant. However, we are aware of the need to address the associated challenges. From a post-colonial perspective, sponsorships can, indeed, reinforce unequal power dynamics or convey one-sided perceptions. Our goal is to develop our sponsorship model, enabling us to place even greater emphasis on the dignity and self-determination of the children involved. We also want to ensure that our partner countries have a greater say in what we do and present our work in a realistic and analytical manner.



Photo: Katharina Draub

Viewing challenges as opportunities – outlook and words of gratitude

In 2026, Kindernothilfe will need to respond to changing conditions. A shrinking donations market and political instability – including the projected cuts to development co-operation and humanitarian aid – mean that a further diversification of our funding sources is unavoidable. Alongside this, legal obstacles in specific countries may complicate project implementation, requiring us to take more flexible, context-specific approaches. On the other hand, these challenges are outweighed by promising opportunities. Advancing digitalisation opens up new avenues to make processes more efficient and reach additional target groups for fundraising purposes.

Our consistent international focus and the sustained capacity building of local partner organisations help enhance programme effectiveness and sustainability. Furthermore, the growing volume of legacies in Germany offers significant funding potential in the medium to long term.

Last but not least, the thematic scope of our work and the continuous development of our key areas of focus – such as climate resilience and child protection – open up additional opportunities to secure funding. In order to ensure that Kindernothilfe's long-term direction is

shaped proactively and with foresight, we are simultaneously planning the ongoing development of our strategy for the period beyond 2029.

Against this background, Kindernothilfe will continue on its chosen path: maintaining a clear, strategic focus and high quality standards, while pursuing the goal of ensuring children's rights throughout the world are realised effectively and sustainably.

We would like to express our particular gratitude to everyone who supported this work in 2025. Your wide-ranging commitment and enormous solidarity make it possible for children throughout the world to receive protection, education and prospects for the future.

Katrin Weidemann, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Carsten Montag, Chief Programme Officer (CPO)

Timo Pauler, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer (CFO)

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As of: April 2026

Photos of the year



We provided emergency relief following severe earthquakes in Myanmar (photo: Kindernothilfe partner)



Ukrainian partners supported the reconstruction of child centres in the aftermath of drone strikes (photo: Kindernothilfe partner)



Emergency relief measures for children and families following the severe earthquake in Afghanistan (photo: Kindernothilfe partner)



Kindernothilfe's newly founded Youth Council commenced its work (photo: Jens Meißburger)



Children and young people at the G20 Summit called for such things as youth participation in political decisions and an end to child labour (photo: Dioni Playandi)



Young people from our projects attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Brazil (photo: Katharina Draub)



On 1st January 2026, Timo Pauler took up his post as the new Chief Financial Officer of Kindernothilfe (photo: Ralf Krämer)



Our partners provided emergency relief in response to Cyclone "Ditwah" in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Our own projects were also affected (photo: Kindernothilfe partner)



We provided 100,000 euros in emergency relief for children and families following severe flooding in Pakistan (photo: Kindernothilfe partner)



We are the new official partner of the Postcode Lottery, receiving annual funding of 1 million euros (photo: Stephan Rabold)

Project funding 2025 at a glance

Africa

- 1 Ethiopia
- 2 Burundi
- 3 Eswatini
- 4 Kenya
- 5 Malawi
- 6 Rwanda
- 7 Zambia
- 8 Zimbabwe
- 9 Somalia
- 10 South Africa
- 11 Uganda

Asia

- 12 Afghanistan
- 13 Bangladesh
- 14 India
- 15 Indonesia
- 16 Laos
- 17 Lebanon
- 18 Myanmar
- 19 Nepal
- 20 Pakistan
- 21 Philippines
- 22 Sri Lanka
- 23 Thailand

Europe

- 24 Austria
- 25 Germany
- 26 Luxembourg
- 27 Republic of Moldova
- 28 Rumania
- 29 Switzerland
- 30 Ukraine

Latin America

- 31 Bolivia
- 32 Brazil
- 33 Ecuador
- 34 Guatemala
- 35 Haiti
- 36 Honduras
- 37 Peru

Year	Children/Youth
1959	5
1969	4,970
1979	69,460
1989	113,210
1999	120,640
2009	588,700
2019	2,018,800
2025	2,038,625

34 project countries

Continents	2025				2024			
	Countries	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure	Countries	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure
Total Africa	11	145	1,137,863	20.3 m. €	11	153	1,489,069	18.3 m. €
Total Asia	12	179	602,994	13.6 m. €	12	172	488,937	14.3 m. €
Total Europe	4	11	155,526	3.0 m. € ^{*1}	6	17	128,079	4.4 m. €
Total Latin America	7	125	142,242	13.8 m. €	7	130	133,176	14.4 m. €
Worldwide (general)^{*2}		2		0.2 m. €		3	450	0.5 m. €
Total	34	462	2,038,625	50.9 m. €	36	475	2,239,711	51.9 m. €

^{*1} Excluding child protection in Germany (1,228,670 euros)

^{*2} Child protection training for project staff

3 Kindernothilfe alliance countries

Development education work in Luxembourg, Austria and Switzerland



The continental map takes no account of any disputed territorial claims.



Photo: Jakob Studnar

AFRICA



	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure	Working priorities 2025
Burundi Projects since 2007	6	5,787	1,745,517 €	Children gain access to healthy food, healthcare and education. Families are also empowered to attain food security and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
Eswatini since 1979	6	21,970	843,071 €	Operating primarily in rural areas, we are committed to working for inclusive education, food security and a violence-free upbringing for children. And through self-help groups, we support the social, economic and political empowerment of women.
Ethiopia since 1973	36	368,970	6,231,669 €	We enable girls and boys from the poorest families to access basic education and promote inclusion. We protect them against violence, child labour and child trafficking. We safeguard their food security through disaster preparedness, humanitarian aid and the development of their environment.
Kenya since 1974	13	50,398	1,333,699 €	By focusing on education, participation and protection against violence, our projects seek sustainable improvements in the living conditions of children and young people. This particularly includes children with disabilities.
Malawi since 1999	12	64,967	950,842 €	We promote early childhood education as well as the protection and participation of children with disabilities or those living on the streets. Women's self-help groups strengthen families and communities while child protection committees raise awareness of children's rights.
Rwanda since 1994	9	46,258	1,455,717 €	Through self-help groups, we continue to support the social, political and economic empowerment of women. And through a range of child rights-based projects, our partners protect children against violence and exploitation while enabling them to access education and health services.
Somalia 1980–1994, since 2010	8	194,523	981,923 €	Our advocacy work focuses on female genital mutilation. Through self-help groups we empower women, support victims of sexual violence and train communities in disaster preparedness. And through training/educational initiatives for teaching staff, parents and children – including those with disabilities and/or the internally displaced – we protect children's rights.
South Africa since 1968	22	106,046	2,604,836 €	Our primary focus is on children from disadvantaged families, children with disabilities, street children and refugee children. Our partners support families and social networks, are involved in efforts to curtail gender-based violence and work for climate justice.
Uganda since 1981	12	171,142	1,176,580 €	Through self-help groups, our projects support particularly disadvantaged village communities socially, economically and politically. Respect for children's rights is an indispensable part of our work. In addition to this, young people receive needs-based training, for example in farm schools.
Zambia since 1998	16	93,352	1,930,699 €	We support projects that put children's rights to education, health, protection, survival and development into practice. One aim of our advocacy work is to enable children to develop without violence and exploitation. We also combat the impacts of climate change on children's rights.
Zimbabwe 1980–1994, since 2010	5	14,450	731,912 €	We promote child protection through drop-in centres for children and young people experiencing violence as well as projects, where they can learn about their rights. Self-help groups promote the socioeconomic empowerment of women, which benefits families and their communities.
Africa (general)*			291,358 €	
Total	145	1,137,863	20,277,823 €	

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



ASIA



	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure	Working priorities 2025
Afghanistan Projects since 2002	11	14,931	907,005 €	We work with four partners in the provinces of Balkh, Kunduz and Kabul and in the region around Jalalabad. The priorities are child protection and education, especially for children with disabilities. We also provided humanitarian aid following the severe earthquake and for Afghans driven out of Pakistan and Iran.
Bangladesh since 1971	7	12,764	1,059,130 €	Women's self-help groups bolster families in poorer areas and raise awareness of children's rights – particularly education, protecting girls against early marriage and domestic violence. We support street children as well as Rohingya refugees and their communities.
India since 1959	47	79,381	2,829,587 €	We enable children to access quality education and protect them against exploitation, child trafficking and early marriage. We also support urban social work, self-help groups in rural areas and environmental protection initiatives.
Indonesia since 1970	6	5,303	367,052 €	We lobby against serious violations of children's rights and for the protection of children. Our focus is on young people working and/or living on the streets, women's self-help groups and early childhood education.
Laos since 2023	1	785	25,526 €	Through our lobbying and advocacy work, we combat grave violations of children's rights, such as child trafficking and child labour. We also raise awareness of children's rights. Our project in Laos targets rights violations associated with unsafe migration.
Lebanon 1962–1988, since 2013	15	6,017	1,404,419 €	Through our educational projects, we improve the future prospects of marginalised and refugee Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese children. Extracurricular activities and psychosocial support help them overcome violence and war trauma. We also provided additional emergency relief during the conflict in the Middle East.
Myanmar since 2017	2	1,624	150,652 €	Our lobbying/advocacy work helps combat serious violations of children's rights, including child trafficking and child labour. Through community work, we empower women and children and raise awareness of children's rights. And as part of our project in Myanmar, we specifically combat child rights violations in the context of unsafe migration.
Nepal 1972–1977, since 2015	13	13,555	744,537 €	The focus is on women's self-help groups and promoting the rights of women and children, especially the rights of children, who are extremely disadvantaged or affected by unequal treatment based on gender and/or social status (caste).
Pakistan seit 1978	15	56,590	1,358,991 €	Self-help groups empower women, children and communities. Climate advocacy, solar energy, environmental education and climate-adapted/organic farming help them cope with the climate crisis. We conduct lobbying and advocacy work vis-à-vis children's rights violations and disaster preparedness.
Philippines since 1978	24	30,687	1,480,980 €	We empower women, children and communities, particularly through self-help groups and combat serious children's rights violations such as child labour and violence against/abuse of children. Major nationwide issues include preventing teenage pregnancy and climate change adaptation measures.
Sri Lanka since 1978	23	35,154	1,512,045 €	We strengthen communities through women's self-help groups. We also promote the rights of particularly vulnerable children as well as peace and democracy education. Humanitarian aid programmes were launched in response to the aftermath of the devastating cyclone Ditwah.
Thailand since 1983	13	3,863	833,973 €	Through our lobbying and advocacy work, we combat grave violations of children's rights such as child trafficking and child labour. Our project work empowers girls and boys, while simultaneously raising awareness of children's rights. Our Thai partners run projects in Myanmar and Laos to combat rights violations associated with unsafe migration.
Asia (general)*	2	342,340	933,564 €	
Total	179	602,994	13,607,461 €	

* Capacity building of partners, lobbying and advocacy etc.



Photo: Katharina Draub

EUROPE				
				
	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure	Working priorities 2025
Germany ^{*1} since 2017		139,155	3,747 €	We offer training courses and advice on child protection issues for day-care centres, schools, sports clubs and other institutions, helping them to develop child protection systems. We also support educational, voluntary, church and youth work.
Greece ^{*2} since 2020			30,000 €	We wound up our project work in Greece in 2025. Due to reduced financial resources, we are realigning our projects and broadening the scope of our activities. The Common European Asylum System (CEAS) remains a priority, which is why we are extending our efforts to include other movements of refugees in Europe.
Republic of Moldova since 2022	5	8,425	1,028,230 €	We support Ukrainian refugees and the local population, especially mothers and children, with food and donated commodities, shelter, medical care, educational programmes, psychological/psychosocial support, integration measures and job placement.
Rumania since 2022	3	735	1,089,498 €	We support Ukrainian refugees and the local population, especially mothers and children, with food and donated commodities, shelter, medical care, educational programmes, psychological/psychosocial support, integration measures and job placements.
Ukraine since 2022	3	7,211	857,542 €	We provide psychosocial and medical support, supply families with food, empower girls to protect themselves against violence and support the reconstruction of schools. We support particularly vulnerable groups – e.g. the Roma community (especially women and children) – through psychosocial counselling, awareness-raising and educational material.
Total	11	155,526	3,009,017 €	

^{*1} Expenditure on the Training & Consulting programme, amounting to 1,228,670 euros, is listed as a cost under education, information and advocacy work and, thus, not included here

^{*2} Lobbying/advocacy work and project work ended in 2025



Photo: James Rodríguez

LATIN AMERICA



	Projects	Children/ Youth	Expenditure	Working priorities 2025
Bolivia Projects since 1974	21	21,742	1,800,859 €	Our work to prevent domestic and sexual violence reinforces child protection. We support marginalised children and their families living in poverty through our projects on inclusion and development in rural communities.
Brazil since 1971	38	22,415	2,843,831 €	Our work focuses on preventing violence, combating climate change impacts and strengthening local civil society. We promote resilience, self-protection, non-violent parenting and intergenerational dialogue alongside participation, lobbying and the involvement of political actors.
Chile * ¹			299,600 €	
Ecuador since 1979	8	7,303	1,138,505 €	We help families reduce malnutrition, improve incomes and raise their children in a non-violent environment. In our lobbying, we promote the participation of children in all areas of community life.
Guatemala since 1976	26	24,574	2,986,441 €	We improve the lives and living conditions of children in rural areas, e.g., in the areas of health and education. Through advocacy work, empowerment of children and young people and women's self-help groups, we support measures to combat poverty and violence.
Haiti since 1973	8	15,538	1,365,022 €	We help ensure that children can develop in a safe, non-violent environment. Through women's self-help groups, we create access to education and bring about improvements in the social, political and economic environments of children.
Honduras since 1979	11	23,243	1,723,360 €	Our projects to reduce poverty and prevent violence in rural and urban areas reinforce the implementation of children's rights. We support rural communities through the provision of sustainable structures in education, health and social services with a special focus on women.
Peru since 1984	12	14,427	1,028,616 €	We work for the protection of children and young people against violence, exploitative child labour and the social exclusion of those with disabilities. We promote children's rights, encouraging the participation of families, communities and local institutions. We support child refugees from Venezuela and combat the impacts of climate change in rural communities.
Latin America (general)* ²	1	13,000	631,093 €	
Total	125	142,242	13,817,327 €	

*¹ Since 1st January 2023, Chile has been a project country solely for Kindernothilfe Austria and is, thus, not included in the country, project and child statistics of Kindernothilfe Germany. However, since the funds are channelled through us, they are itemised here.

*² Capacity building of partners, lobbying and advocacy etc.

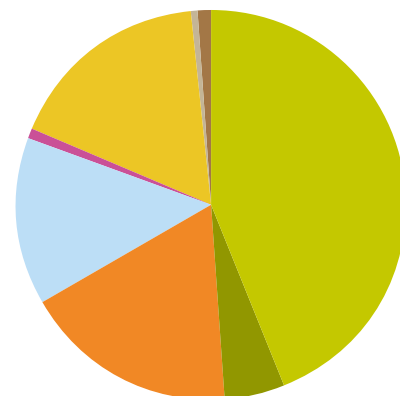
Our finances 2025: an overview

Income

Our income in 2025, amounting to 79.8 million euros, was an increase of 6.7 million euros from the previous year (+9%). This growth was primarily a consequence of an increase of 4.7 million euros (+73%) in subsidies and grants from public donors, and an increase of 2.4 million euros (+21%) in legacies. Income from donations, however, was slightly below the previous year's level (−0.3%).

Income breakdown

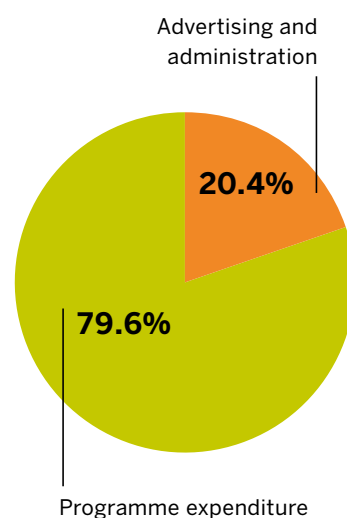
Donations for projects	35,229,197.72 €	44.0%
Donations for humanitarian aid	3,983,405.10 €	5.0%
Non-earmarked and other donations	14,100,462.96 €	17.7%
Legacies & bequests	11,150,667.19 €	14.0%
Income from fines	630,319.00 €	0.8%
Subsidies & grants	13,633,076.00 €	17.1%
Interest & similar revenue	263,244.51 €	0.3%
Other income	864,155.18 €	1.1%
Total income	79,854,527.66 €	100.0%



Expenditure

Total expenditure, amounting to 77.7 million euros, made up primarily of programme costs as well as spending on advertising and administration, was below the level of the previous year (−0.7%). Programme expenditure amounted to 61.8 million euros, a decrease of 575,000 euros (−1%) compared to the previous year. While overall expenditure on project funding fell by 1.1 million euros (−2%), combined spending on project support and on statutory educational, information and public relations work rose by 513,000 euros (+5%). Expenditure on advertising and administration increased by 346,000 euros (+2%) to 15.8 million euros.

Programme expenditure:	61.8 m. €
Project support:	50.9 m. €
Project administration and monitoring:	6.2 m. €
Education, information and advocacy:	4.7 m. €
Advertising and administration: 15.8 m. €	
Public relations and donor services:	10.3 m. €
Administration:	5.5 m. €
Total expenditure according to DZI*:	77.6 m. €
Business operations, asset management, refunding public funds:	0.1 m. €
Total expenditure:	77.7 Mio. €



*German Central Institute for Social Issues

The annual financial statements

The annual financial statements show a positive result of 2.1 million euros: 7.2 million euros higher than the previous year's figure and 5.3 million euros more than the planned result of −3.2 million euros. Total income exceeded the budgeted level by just under 6.2 million euros (+8%), while total expenditure was 818,000 euros (+1%) above the planned level. The net increase in income is a result of the fact that, although income from donations was 3.8 million euros (−7%) lower than the budgeted level, income from legacies and from grants from public-sector donors was higher than the planned levels: 7.8 million euros and 1.9 million euros respectively. Expenditure on project funding was 1.7 million euros (+3.5%) higher than planned, whereas all other expenses were 911,000 euros (−3%) lower than budgeted.

As a consequence of the positive annual result, the association's equity increased to 36.4 million euros. In the process, approximately 5 million euros was added to the association's capital, while 2.9 million euros was drawn from project reserves. The association has liabilities amounting to 6.7 million euros, of which 5.0 million euros relates to project commitments.

Taking account of new acquisitions and depreciation, the association's fixed assets decreased by 418,000 euros compared to the previous year. Current assets rose to 37.2 million euros, primarily as a result of an increase in receivables and other assets arising from the current settlement of estates (+3.5 million euros).



Photo: Christian Nusch

Anti-corruption and child protection as part of our work

The **Anti-Corruption Team** handled four new cases in 2025. In all four cases, no evidence of corruption was found.

The handling of these matters demonstrated how complex and difficult it can be to deal with such suspicions: in part, the allegations overlapped with safeguarding issues – in other words with measures primarily designed to provide protection against sexual harassment and sexualised violence. Despite possible links to the abuse of power, the sensitive nature of such cases requires a distinct approach and psychological expertise.

Similarly, whistleblowers either retracted their allegations or provided statements that were vague and too generalised. In one case, local police launched an investigation but, in the end, officially dismissed the allegations.

As well as handling suspected cases of corruption, our work focuses primarily on the prevention of corruption and risk reduction. As in previous years, we worked closely with colleagues in our project countries. In Pakistan, for example, a workshop was run, in which staff learned to analyse and mitigate the risks of corruption and develop procedures to deal with actual or suspected cases of corruption. Similar workshops are planned for India, Nepal and the Philippines.

Six cases were reported to the **Child Protection Team** in 2025. In five of these, a case management team was set up, joint investigations initiated with the partner organisation and appropriate measures agreed.

These cases involved various forms of physical and psychological violence, and one instance of sexual violence. With respect to the latter, the partner organisation had already launched an investigation, suspended the staff member concerned and reported the matter to local authorities. One case, which had been reported anonymously through the digital reporting system, could not be pursued since the information provided lacked sufficient detail and the whistleblower failed to respond to follow-up inquiries.

Suspected incidents can be reported – by, basically, anyone – to Kindernothilfe in various ways. They primarily come from partners overseas, sometimes through local co-ordination offices or ombudspersons or through our dedicated digital reporting system (kindernothilfe.de/meldesystem). Internal case management procedures are initiated for every reported suspicion. In cases involving staff from our partner organisations, the child protection policy and case management system of the partner concerned also apply. Kindernothilfe can provide support in these situations and receives regular updates on the progress of the case. All partners receive training on how to develop their own child protection systems. Further information can be found in Kindernothilfe's newly revised Child Protection Policy.

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Our Integrity and
Anti-Corruption Policy
at a glance



Our newly revised
Child Protection Policy



Photo: Jakob Studnar

Prioritising children's rights: the key to effective project work

Interview: Katharina Draub

How do you go about designing a project to successfully address children's needs and reinforce their rights? Kindernothilfe's Quality Development Managers, Ariana Frst and Verena Himmelreich, tell us how impact-oriented, child-rights-based project work functions.

The goal of our work throughout the world is to make our projects impact-oriented. What does that actually mean? And how do we ensure they achieve this impact?

Ariana Frst: By impact-oriented, we mean that during planning and implementing, children's rights are at the heart of projects, which should achieve measurable, sustainable changes and results. From the outset, we work with our partners to clearly define the project's objectives, which activities and strategies would improve the existing child rights situation and which indicators should be used to measure results. Implementation is regularly reviewed, for example through project monitoring (observation and assessment), reports, project visits, discussions and evaluations. This is then the basis for any necessary project adjustments and/or improvements.

Verena Himmelreich: We also always orient our activities to the four UN principles of children's rights: participation, non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, and survival and development. In collaboration with our partner organisations, we also use available data and experience to reach sensible decisions and adapt projects to suit the specific local context.

How do we effectively integrate child-rights-based, impact-oriented approaches into our projects?

Ariana Frst: Initially, we and our partners carry out a child rights situation analysis to identify which child rights are being violated and who is responsible for any violations. Our partners run workshops with the children, young people and other stakeholders to gather and analyse information. This is the basis for project planning: we decide which children's rights are to be reinforced and which goals, strategies and activities are required to achieve this. Children and young people are involved throughout the process to ensure the collaborative development of suitable solutions.

Verena Himmelreich: It is important for children, themselves, to have a say in how their daily lives could be changed. The participation of children and young people can ensure that solutions are more relevant to their day-to-day lives. They are the experts with respect to their own lives. In the case of risk assessments regarding protection against violence, the children, themselves, can point out where they see any dangers – e.g. in their everyday lives or in particular places. This can be done in discussions with the children or by letting them draw a map of their local area, for instance when developing child protection policies. Focusing on children's rights also enables the projects to hold governments around the world to greater account.

Can you give any other examples of impact-oriented, child-rights-based work in our projects?

Ariana Fürst: In one of our projects focusing on online safety, young people from Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines jointly drafted recommendations on how they could be better protected online. These recommendations were incorporated into the official "Regional Plan of Action to End Violence" by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and were also shared and discussed with Dr Najat, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

Verena Himmelreich: The children's groups within our projects are another good example. They allow children and young people to raise the alarm, for example, when other boys and girls are unable to go to school or are experiencing violence. Regarded as trusted figures by the other children, they are often able to recognise such problems in their communities earlier than adults do.

Ariana Fürst: I have one other example from Rwanda, where our partners directly asked children and young people how climate change impacts were affecting their lives and what measures they thought would help. One proposal was reforestation in the local project area to protect the soil and crops. Perspectives and ideas like these are directly incorporated into project planning.

Looking back to 2025, was there a particular highlight of our impact-oriented, child-rights-based project work?

Verena Himmelreich: One highlight was the participation of young people from our partner organisations in the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference in Brazil. This was an opportunity for young people living in difficult conditions directly affected by climate-related issues to

present their demands in person to negotiators and speak on an international stage. Such opportunities are, regrettably, something of a rarity.

Ariana Fürst: Another highlight, for me, was an online training course on child rights-based, impact-oriented monitoring. Working with a trainer from South Africa, we helped colleagues from several countries improve their monitoring skills. As well as covering the basic issues, the course included practical exercises and the sharing of ideas and experiences of project monitoring.



Photo: Katharina Draub

As quality development managers at Kindernothilfe, Verena Himmelreich and Ariana Fürst provide the best possible support to staff and partners in their work. They promote joint learning as a means of improving project implementation. To this end, they provide advice on project planning, implementation and strategic issues, supply materials (for example to analyse the child rights situation, project planning, monitoring and evaluation) and co-ordinate internal processes.

Children and young people have their say! At the UN Climate Change Conference in Brazil (photo above), they articulated their demands for climate action. On Safer Internet Day, our partner in the Philippines worked with young people on online child protection (photo below), while, in Kenya, young people called for an end to child labour (photo right).



Photo: Malte Pfau



Photo: Kindernothilfe partner

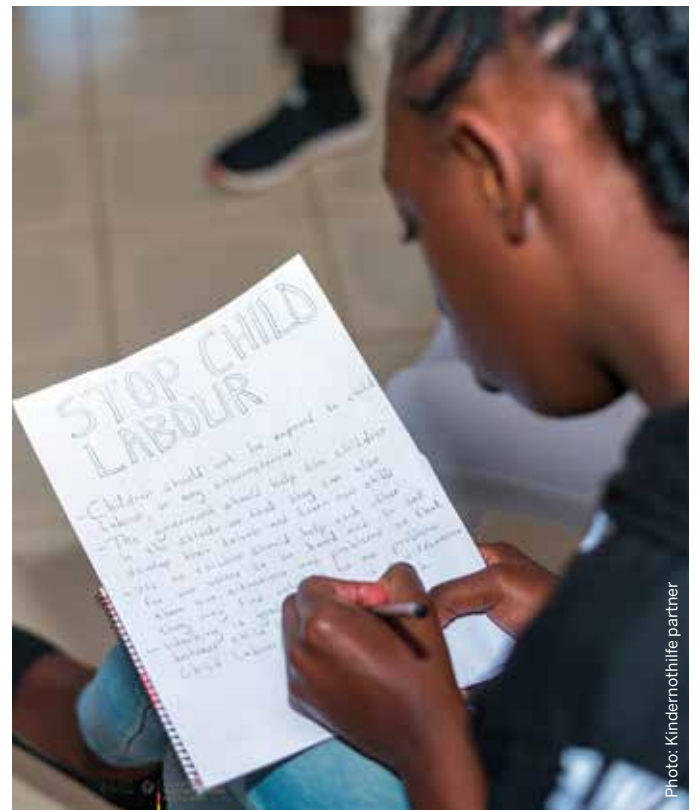


Photo: Kindernothilfe partner

From training to project implementation

Text: Beate Eckerskorn

In collaboration with its partner organisations, Kindernothilfe is committed to ensuring that projects benefiting children and their families have a sustainable, effective impact. Our supporters believe that this work brings about long-term improvements in children's lives and living conditions. To ensure that this is achieved, even in the midst of current challenges such as political crises, war, mounting violence, climate change, displacement and migration, we make targeted investments in capacity building: for example, providing training in financial management, humanitarian aid and ways to systematically incorporate the perspectives of children and young people into project planning.

Children point out problems

Staff from our local partner organisations participating in these workshops receive training in the targeted integration and implementation of the child rights approach in their programme/project work – a practice known as Child Rights Programming (CRP). Partners learn, through careful analysis of the baseline situation, how to recognise violations of children's rights in a new project area, and, above all, to encourage greater participation by children and young people.

In close co-operation with children, young people, their families and key political actors in their communities, they develop sustainable solutions. Children and young people are, thereby, able to analyse their own situations and become actively involved in developing the solutions that are then incorporated into project planning.

An example from Ethiopia: staff members from seven partner organisations took part in workshops focusing on the Child Rights Situation Analysis method in order to jointly lay the foundation for a better future for children. The following year, they conducted analyses in their own project areas, examining children's rights violations. As part of this, the project teams collected valuable information and perspectives from children, community members and local government officials with regard to existing problems and the specific improvements required.

Planning sustainable and effective project work

Giving children a voice was particularly important, for example, in the Community Mapping method, in which children draw a map of their community and mark the different places where they feel safe or unsafe. This could include places on their way to school, in the health centre or at the playground. Joint solutions can then be identified to address each of these challenges. In 2025, further training sessions focused on the concrete planning of new projects.

"The participants were so enthusiastic," says Teshalech Sibhatu, Kindernothilfe's Country Co-ordinator for Ethiopia, "and inspired by the prospect of using good project planning to ensure that their work is even more effective in bringing about real changes in children's lives, such as protecting them against exploitative child labour. The new project proposals demonstrate that we can achieve our goal. Closer co-operation with state bodies and other stakeholders enables us to have more influence on structures and systems. This means that our work reaches more people and that more children and young people benefit from it."



Photo: Beate Eckerskorn

With our partners in Kenya, we initiated an exciting learning process concerning child-rights-based, impact-oriented project planning

Climate change is becoming a burning issue

In Kenya, too, in 2024, we worked with partners to launch an exciting learning process concerning child-rights-based, impact-oriented project planning. Kenya was one of the first countries in Africa to conduct such a process, which specifically addresses the issue of climate change and its impact on the situation and rights of children. "We have all clearly recognised that making sustainable improvements to children's living conditions, especially in view of the growing strain caused by climate change, can only succeed when the various stakeholders work closely together. This includes our partners, the children and their families, and, crucially, the relevant state institutions," says Reuben Mutua, Kindernothilfe's co-ordinator in Kenya.

Children and young people, who were actively involved in the analysis of their problems and challenges, spoke about their experiences: "Sometimes, we've got to walk for hours to fetch water, which often means we're late for school." Teachers confirmed these challenges: "Many of our students drop out of school when their families move away in search of water and pasture. Some never return."

Direct feedback from children

The experiences and perspectives of children and young people play a pivotal role in project planning: "Their direct feedback on the climate-related risks in their day-to-day lives was particularly illuminating; it made the link between climate change and existing violations of children's rights clear to everyone involved," says Karen Pieper, programme manager for Kenya. "The new project proposals demonstrate that the changing climate conditions have a direct impact on the realisation of children's rights", she explains. "As a result, the projects, which grew out of the Child Rights Programming process, place greater emphasis on measures to build resilience as a means of tackling these growing challenges".

To name a couple of examples, support is provided for children's Eco-Clubs, families are given advice on climate-resilient farming methods and parents are being encouraged to be more actively involved in policy-making processes concerning disaster preparedness. Tonny M. Odera, a child rights trainer from Kenya, sums this up: "Kindernothilfe's training sessions have significantly boosted the partners' capabilities. This demonstrates how targeted learning and working co-operation can bring about a sustainable impact and improve the well-being of children and their families."



Photo: Jakob Stüdnar

Through a process known as “community mapping”, children draw a map of their community, marking the different places where they feel safe or unsafe – a method used by our partners throughout the world

At a glance



462 projects
in 34 countries



More than
2 million
children and young
people supported



127
staff in
project countries



363
partner
organisations



37 countries
34 project countries
+ 3 Kindernothilfe
alliance countries
(AT, CH, LU)



43,195
self-help groups
in 21 countries with
600,000 women

79.6%
project work

Expenditure
77.7
million euros



735
volunteers



income
79.8
million euros



Collaboration with
97
sports clubs
(80 grassroots
sports clubs and
17 professional
clubs)

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