Contents

03 Kindernothilfe
04 Report of the Executive Board
07 Self-commitments
08 60th anniversary of Kindernothilfe
10 Hands-on help
13 Expenditure on specific areas
14 The path of donations
15 Our advocacy work
16 Project example: protection against violence
17 Project example: protection against exploitation
18 The right to education and training
19 The right to participation
20 Impact monitoring in our project work
22 Child rights analysis in Asia
26 Financial report 2019
27 Anti-corruption report 2019

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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.
Kindernothilfe is one of the largest Christian children’s rights organisations in Europe. Founded in Duisburg in 1959, it is a member of the Diakonisches Werk of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland. For more than 60 years now, we have been working on behalf of disadvantaged children and their rights in developing countries. In 2019, Kindernothilfe provided support and protection to more than 2 million girls and boys, enabling them to participate in 595 projects in 32 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Our work
All projects are implemented through local partner organisations. Human rights, children’s rights and Christian charity form the basis of our work, while help towards self-help, participation and sustainability are our guiding principles. At the same time, we take a stand as a child rights organisation both within society and the world of politics as well as working in national and international networks – as a member, for example, of the Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (Alliance Development Works). We provide information and raise public awareness of development cooperation issues and, through our lobbying activities, remind politicians of their responsibility to make children’s rights a reality throughout the world.

Our goal
We achieve our goal whenever children and their families are able to live in dignity with real prospects for the future – free of poverty, hardship and violence. This includes securing their basic needs and rights as well as enabling them to take their development into their own hands together with their families and communities.

Our sponsors
Around 205,500 people support our work, 67,900 of them regularly as sponsors and another 1,000 on a voluntary basis. They are active in associations, groups, companies, schools, foundations, church congregations or as individual donors. People in the public limelight take advantage of their celebrity to raise our public profile, support us through donations and their appearances at events and in the media. The Kindernothilfe Foundation and Kindernothilfe organisations in Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland also raise our public profile in German-speaking countries, reach further target groups and promote our project work.

Integrity and transparency
Every year since 1992, the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) has awarded the seal of approval to Kindernothilfe for its responsible use of donations. In the context of the PwC Transparency Prize, Kindernothilfe has received several awards for its high-quality transparent reporting.
Bangladesh: Over 300,000 euros in donations raised for Rohingya families through a joint initiative with the German newspaper, Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung.

Lesbos, Greece: Corona prevention in Camp Moria.

Peru: Influencer Dillan White reports on our work on YouTube.

Ethiopia: Sold children are the ActionKidz theme 2019/2020.

Pictures of the year.
Dealing with the corona pandemic
The corona pandemic has challenged us both in our work in our head office in Duisburg and in the 595 projects in 32 partner countries. In the first quarter of 2020, much of our attention was focused on the essential switchover to almost complete reliance on digital communication and the many additional measures required to combat corona in our projects. Our endeavours were met with considerable interest and the wide-ranging solidarity of supporters for the children, young people and their families in the projects – despite the necessary social distancing restrictions in our face to face encounters.

Financial development
Even up to the start of December, it looked as if we would not receive the funds required to implement our budget. Yet, despite all our cost-saving measures, we managed to allocate 2.2 million euros more (+5 %) for project funding than in the previous year. We were, therefore, able to support more than 2 million children and make an effective contribution to realising children’s rights.

We then benefited from a surprising turnaround in December: we received 15.1 million euros in donations, grants and legacies, the most we have ever received in any December. This ultimately enabled us to close the year with a positive annual result of just under 1.7 million euros. Funds we will urgently require, since the corona crisis is presenting special challenges to our partner organisations and the people involved in the projects. We will do all we possibly can to make an effective contribution to mitigating the diverse impacts.

Our global commitment to children’s rights
The unfolding crisis in the social, political and economic situation in many countries, highlighted again and again by Kindernothilfe, further intensified in several regions in 2019. We all still recall the scenes of so many people in flight, seeking refuge. While the number of asylum seekers in Germany has fallen significantly, more than 70 million people were displaced in the past year. We are too well aware of the extremely difficult, violent and unbearable conditions on the ground. And, for children and young people especially, the global corona crisis poses an additional existential threat in these places.

In a worldwide survey, we asked our partners to identify their needs with respect to improved advocacy work. One topic we will continue to address as part of our national and international campaigning is the increase in violence perpetrated against children in many of our partner countries.

Nevertheless, there are also encouraging developments and examples – for instance in Ethiopia: we are confident that the extensive reforms, including the plan to “End forced child marriage and female genital mutilation” will improve the situation of children. Together with our partners, we campaigned for these developments and, in many places, specifically promoted the participation of children and young people in social transformation processes.

"Development works!" campaign
In the attempt to raise awareness for the significance and impact of development co-operation, we joined forces with four other NGOs to develop an online campaign to put more focus on the success of our work in project countries. Between September and December, the Development works! campaign was extensively promoted, reaching a total of 220.9 million users.

The 60th anniversary of Kindernothilfe
Two landmark anniversaries stood out as the overriding theme and common thread running throughout 2019: the 60th anniversary of Kindernothilfe and the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. With the motto, “Children’s rights must not remain a dream”, dozens of small and large-scale initiatives continued with the building of the living bridge, which, from 1959 to 2019, empowered and protected more than 7.1 million children in 5,300 projects and enabled their participation. From the New Year fun-run with over 1,000 participants, an anniversary celebration with Dr Auma Obama, numerous activities by volunteers, a worship service televised by ARD at the end of May, the central 60-kilometer hike through the sprawling Ruhr conurbation to the Kirchentag in Dortmund, up to the media awards in November, many people were busy throughout the year, mobilising others with a range of campaign-related activities.
Children's rights in Germany
Our efforts to realise children’s rights in Germany are another key aspect of our work. As part of our Action!Kidz campaign, we reached 74 schools and 20 communities in Germany and, through an international youth conference, reached thousands of young participants from Germany, South Africa and Colombia. We also successfully expanded our advisory services for setting up comprehensive protective concepts and structures in sport, irrespective of the size of the club concerned or its level of professionalism. To mark the 30th anniversary of the convention on the rights of the child, we formulated a number of demands with respect to increasing children’s participation in social and political processes and presented them, on their behalf, to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Outlook
The digitalisation of operational procedures is currently enabling staff in Germany and in the coordination offices to tackle the huge challenges posed by the corona pandemic and to continue working – predominantly – from home. We have to adapt our activities, reschedule projects and initiate emergency aid programmes without losing sight of long-term, structure-building measures.

Within the scope of communications with the general public, digitalisation is also opening up enormous opportunities for our promotion of children’s rights and the prevention of child rights violations. We will be developing a digital communication strategy in 2020 that allows the voices of children and young people to be heard on the issue of social engagement not only online, but also in the real world. The aim is to encourage direct, personal dialogue between generations, cultures and social milieus and create a global platform for improved social cohesion.

Strategic planning for the period up to 2025 will also be largely carried out online this year. Based on the global trends analysis, our aim is to work in closer cooperation with international players as a means of improving our response to humanitarian crises and developing long-term prospects for the support and empowerment of children throughout the world.

Katrin Weidemann, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Carsten Montag, Chief Programme Officer (CPO)
Jürgen Borchardt, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Contact: vorstand@kindernothilfe.de

May 2020
Self-commitments

Effective work requires a solid foundation, a reliable framework and diligent monitoring. Kindernothilfe has defined guidelines and committed to applying existing external good practices guidelines. The goal is to ensure that our work is becoming even more transparent, accountable and efficient.

Kindernothilfe statutes
Who: Kindernothilfe committees
When: since 1961 – revised 2018
What: Defines orientation of our international and national work; composition and tasks of the bodies of the Association

Diaconic Corporate Governance Code
Who: Kindernothilfe, since 2007 – revised 2018
What: The code complies with the German Diakonie standards on governance and compliance with rules and laws. The focus is on compliance, description of the tasks of the Association bodies, combating corruption, clear separation of responsibility between the board of trustees and executive board, transparency in communication and fundraising, monitoring of work; The objective is efficient, clearly regulated collaboration across all levels of Kindernothilfe

Child Protection Policy
Who: Kindernothilfe, since 2013 – revised 2019
What: System in operation throughout the worldwide work of Kindernothilfe to protect children against all forms of violence, including such preventive measures as codes of conduct for different groups, standards for communication and human resources, a case management system and standards for training partner organisations

Transparent Civil Society Initiative
Who: Kindernothilfe and VENRO members, Transparency Deutschland e.V., Bundesverband deutscher Stiftungen, DZI, Deutscher Fundraising Verband, Deutscher Kulturrat, Deutscher Naturschutzing, Deutscher Spendenrat, Maecenata Institut für Philanthropie und Zivilgesellschaft, since 2010
What: 10 basic items of information, which each civil society organisation should provide on its website, including its statutes, names of executives, as well as information on the sources and allocation of funds, and staffing structure

Integrity and Anti-corruption Policy
Who: Kindernothilfe, since 2008 – revised 2019
What: Obliges all Kindernothilfe staff and committee members to: act with integrity and in accordance with high ethical standards, prevent and combat corruption, report any manifestation of corruption and help resolve any suspicions of corruption. The policy includes rules to protect whistle-blowers as well as anyone suspected of corruption, case management guidelines clearly stipulating how to deal with any suspicions and appoint an ombudsperson

VENRO Code
Development-related public relations
Who: Kindernothilfe and VENRO members, signed in 1998
What: Sets professional and ethical standards in communications with the press and donors as well as transparent, efficient, responsible use of financial resources; prohibits the sharing, sale or trading of donor addresses; ensures that people in need are not presented in Kindernothilfe texts and photos in an undignified manner, and that child sponsorship information is not presented in catalogue style or extreme formulations used to compel donations

VENRO Code of behaviour
Who: Kindernothilfe and VENRO members, since 2018
What: Unified standards, stronger monitoring and proven professionalism; greatest possible transparency; defined generally applicable development organisation standards; strengthened independent supervisory authorities such as the Deutsche Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen (DZI) (German central institute for social issues)

VENRO Code
Protecting children against abuse and exploitation in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance
Who: Kindernothilfe and VENRO members, since 2009
What: Obliges all members, e.g. to: protect children against sexual, emotional or physical abuse, exploitation or neglect; create an environment guaranteeing compliance with children’s rights and human rights; actively involve children in measures concerning them; raise awareness of the issue within one’s own/partners’ organisations; ensure that the dignity of the child is guaranteed in all press, educational and public relations activities

Transparency International Deutschland
Who: Kindernothilfe and members of Transparency International Deutschland, since 2019
What: Further development of standards to combat corruption in the global context of Kindernothilfe

Charter4Change
Who: 35 international organisations, supported by 232 organisations from the global South, since 2016
What: The role of Southern NGOs, i.e. with their headquarters in a country of the global South (not in an OECD country) – should be strengthened
It all began in 1959 with five sponsorships in South India. Since then, we – as Kindernothilfe – have supported disadvantaged children towards securing an independent, self-determined life. The support provided by the founding fathers and mothers quickly gained momentum. The number of sponsorships – 255 already by the end of 1960 – has grown impressively over the last 60 years: in co-operation with local partners, we have carried out over 5,000 projects and, thereby, reached more than 7 million children and young people.

Globally, children are better off than they were 60 years ago. The proportion going to school has increased significantly: 70 percent of all children worldwide now have access to early childhood and primary education. Child mortality is less than half of what it was in 1990. The early marriage of underage girls has fallen by almost half. Yet, too many children are still living under appalling conditions. More than 72 million girls and boys have to work under very tough conditions, while an estimated 30 million were living as refugees or as internally displaced persons at the end of 2018.

The adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the United Nations in 1989 was a key milestone. It combines the protection, support and participation of children. Children are, at last, being regarded as active individuals with their own voice. The establishment of the State Reporting Procedure enables us to point out shortcomings, directly and critically. As a civil society organisation, we can influence and exert pressure on decision-makers in national and international politics.
We are currently supporting and empowering children in 32 countries. Funding for our projects through diverse forms of sponsorship is supplemented by corporate donations and grants from private and public foundations. In some countries, individual projects are supported by German federal funding, especially from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Over the course of the last six decades, Kindernothilfe has continuously developed its work, and now takes an increasingly holistic approach encompassing all areas of children’s lives. As part of our comprehensive working commitment on behalf of children’s rights, we now take account, on the one hand, of such factors as poverty and hunger. Humanitarian assistance projects intended to alleviate acute need following natural incidents, disasters or crises are an integral component of our long-term development cooperation strategy. On the other hand, we also give consideration to the social and legal structures, in which children live. Furthermore, providing protection against sexual abuse and economic exploitation as well as access to education and social participation are the underlying driving forces of our programme work today.

When a mother is empowered by a self-help group, regains optimism about her future and, with the help of a small loan from the group, is able to generate her own income, her entire family benefits. This is what the self-help approach stands for: help that has positive repercussions, not through fostering dependency, but activating people’s inner potential. For example, in Africa: our partners in ten countries have been working with the self-help group approach since 2002. Up to 350,000 women are organised in around 20,000 self-help groups. This, in itself, enables more than one million girls and boys to be reached and supported.

For over 30 years, we have been campaigning for children’s rights, increasingly at a political level, both directly and as part of alliances and networks. We succeeded, for example, in securing the right for children to have their own individual complaints procedure within the United Nations. We see ourselves as the “advocate” of children and child rights. We simultaneously call for and promote the direct participation of children. Together with our partners, we give children a voice.

In recent years, we have extended our work to Germany, providing child protection training within child and youth support structures, day-care centres, schools and (sport-) clubs. We also work in an advisory capacity in relation to the development of child protection concepts, and are able to make effective use of our extensive overseas experience in our work with refugees. Our experienced trainers have trained over 700 organisations in 34 countries to integrate child protection systems into their work.

A review of the past 60 years provides ample evidence that, together, we can achieve so much. And this also applies to the future. We can make a difference in a world, in which children’s development opportunities are threatened in many ways. For the very reason that each child has the right to grow up healthy and protected, to be encouraged and find his or her place in society.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Children/Youth</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>since 2007</td>
<td>5 103,800</td>
<td>1,358,388 €</td>
<td>Nutrition, rural community development, self-help group programme, life skills, lobbying/advocacy, human rights education, self-empowerment, emergency relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eswatini</td>
<td>since 1979</td>
<td>5 30,800</td>
<td>723,856 €</td>
<td>Rural community development, self-help group programme, integrational school education, occupational training courses in rural areas, nutrition, agriculture/livestock, early childhood development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>since 1972</td>
<td>40 606,000</td>
<td>3,201,900 €</td>
<td>Nutrition, health, education, rural/urban community development, self-help group programme, human rights education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>since 1974</td>
<td>15 71,200</td>
<td>1,519,509 €</td>
<td>Rural community development, basic education, occupational training, psychosocial rehabilitation, rehabilitation of people with disabilities/community-based rehabilitation, early childhood education, lobbying/advocacy, human rights education, self-help group programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>since 1999</td>
<td>10 140,800</td>
<td>1,190,465 €</td>
<td>Assistance for people affected by HIV/AIDS, health, basic education, rehabilitation of people with disabilities/community-based rehabilitation, nutrition, psychosocial rehabilitation, early childhood education, small business promotion, self-help group programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>since 1994</td>
<td>11 234,100</td>
<td>1,180,054 €</td>
<td>Rural/urban community development, violence prevention, early childhood education, gender-specific project work, self-help group programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>1980–1994, since 2010</td>
<td>4 26,500</td>
<td>592,049 €</td>
<td>Disaster risk reduction, lobbying/advocacy against female genital mutilation, water supply, rural community development, self-help group programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>since 1968</td>
<td>21 11,400</td>
<td>1,452,968 €</td>
<td>Life skills, psychosocial rehabilitation, self-empowerment, health, nutrition, assistance for people affected by HIV/AIDS, small business promotion, lobbying/advocacy, human rights education, rehabilitation of people with disabilities, basic education, early childhood development, parenting programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>since 1981</td>
<td>13 338,300</td>
<td>1,287,158 €</td>
<td>Nutrition, assistance for people affected by HIV/AIDS, rural community development, life skills, lobbying/advocacy, self-help group programme, life skills, human rights education, self-empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>since 1998</td>
<td>14 97,000</td>
<td>1,313,638 €</td>
<td>Rural community development, rehabilitation of people with disabilities/community-based rehabilitation, human rights education, nutrition, legal assistance, environmental protection, self-help group programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1980–1994, since 2010</td>
<td>12 90,600</td>
<td>1,274,340 €</td>
<td>Psychosocial rehabilitation, legal assistance, basic education, rehabilitation of people with disabilities/community-based rehabilitation, rural community development, reproductive health, self-help group programme, environmental protection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General**

131,636 €

**Total**

150 1,750,500 15,225,963 €

*International coordination of self-help groups*
## Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Children/Youth</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44,600</td>
<td>430,469 €</td>
<td>Self-help group programme, inclusion, peace education, life skills, lobbying/advocacy, education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10,100</td>
<td>1,647,740 €</td>
<td>Disaster risk reduction, basic education, self-help group programme, health, psychosocial rehabilitation, community development, lobbying/advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>65,900</td>
<td>5,505,633 €</td>
<td>Self-help group programme, education and protection for street children, protection against child trafficking and exploitative child labour, inclusion, climate change adaptation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>492,341 €</td>
<td>Early childhood education, combating serious child rights violations (sexual exploitation of children, street children, child workers), life skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1,737,676 €</td>
<td>Basic education, early childhood care and education, life skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>84,674 €</td>
<td>Community development, self-help group programme, combating causes of flight and migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>297,706 €</td>
<td>Self-help group programme, lobbying/advocacy on behalf of children’s rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10,700</td>
<td>1,915,611 €</td>
<td>Self-help group programme, environmental protection (climate change), lobbying/advocacy, disaster risk reduction, basic education, life skills, human rights education, rehabilitation of people with disabilities, school education/occupational training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28,500</td>
<td>1,399,569 €</td>
<td>Self-help group programme, community development, protection against abuse and sexual exploitation, lobbying/advocacy on behalf of children’s rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>667,810 €</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of people with disabilities, lobbying/advocacy, community development, psychosocial rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8,700</td>
<td>386,544 €</td>
<td>Self-help group programme, community development, protection against abuse and sexual exploitation, lobbying/advocacy on behalf of children’s rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90,613 €</td>
<td>* Costs in the context of the child protection policy and international analysis of the child rights situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>324</td>
<td>181,900</td>
<td>14,656,386 €</td>
<td>* Costs in the context of the child protection policy and international analysis of the child rights situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Children/Youth</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Child protection training and advisory services, capacity building for organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>120,927 €</td>
<td>Occupational training, life skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td>120,927 €</td>
<td>* This relates to the training &amp; consulting programme, the costs of which are not listed under project support, but under head office’s educational and information work (financed for example by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Photos: Jakob Studnar / © Kindernothilfe
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin America</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Children/Youth</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9,300</td>
<td>1,682,994 €</td>
<td>Poverty reduction, child protection, violence prevention, rural community development, rehabilitation of people with disabilities, inclusion, health, school education/occupational training, lobbying/advocacy, psychosocial rehabilitation, early childhood education, legal assistance, life skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10,200</td>
<td>2,699,110 €</td>
<td>Violence prevention, human rights education, self-empowerment, life skills, lobbying/advocacy, psychosocial rehabilitation, early childhood education, legal assistance, gender-specific project work, rural community development, rehabilitation of people with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>414,741 €</td>
<td>Early childhood education, violence prevention, life skills, lobbying/advocacy, human rights education, psychosocial rehabilitation, strengthening partners’ lobbying activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>714,480 €</td>
<td>Rural community development, nutrition, health, basic education, violence prevention, life skills, psychosocial rehabilitation, human rights education, lobbying/advocacy, programmes for street children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12,200</td>
<td>2,921,322 €</td>
<td>Violence prevention, poverty reduction, rural community development, women’s empowerment, peace education, health, basic education, human rights education, psychosocial rehabilitation, legal assistance, early childhood education, self-help group programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20,400</td>
<td>2,040,620 €</td>
<td>Basic education, violence prevention, poverty reduction, self-help group programme, child protection, disaster risk reduction, children’s rights, women’s empowerment/gender issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11,100</td>
<td>1,066,627 €</td>
<td>Poverty reduction, violence prevention, child protection, rural community development, life skills, lobbying/advocacy, human rights education, psychosocial rehabilitation, legal assistance, early childhood and school education/occupational training, health, civil society development in the field of children’s rights, self-help group programme, women’s empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>1,155,169 €</td>
<td>Violence prevention, early childhood education, small business development, child protection, lobbying/advocacy, rehabilitation of people with disabilities, inclusion, disaster risk reduction, human rights education, civil society development in the area of children’s rights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General* | 12,338 € |

Total | 117 | 74,700 | 12,707,401 € |

* Costs within the scope of ONG-IDEAs
### Expenditure on specific areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10,391,649 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political and legal support</td>
<td>7,572,607 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty reduction</td>
<td>5,048,496 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality development</td>
<td>4,519,149 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3,801,066 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychosocial work</td>
<td>3,349,617 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian assistance</td>
<td>3,068,575 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence prevention</td>
<td>2,598,158 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security</td>
<td>2,138,775 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>937,820 euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,425,912 euros</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education**: Vocational training, early childhood education, basic education, promoting life-skills, secondary education

**Food security**: Nutrition, agriculture, livestock and forestry

**Health**: Health care and preventive measures, HIV and AIDS, hygiene, rehabilitation of disabilities, reproductive health, water supply

**Humanitarian assistance**: Construction, disaster risk reduction, emergency relief, reconstruction

**Political and legal support**: Gender-specific project work, lobbying and advocacy, human rights education, legal assistance, civil society, development, e.g. self-help groups

**Poverty reduction**: Supporting small enterprises, micro-credits, rural/urban community development, environmental protection

**Psychosocial work**: Psychosocial rehabilitation, strengthening self-confidence and personality

**Quality development**: Capacity building of partners

**Violence prevention**: Peace education, preventing all forms of abuse and neglect, child protection
The path of **donations**

**81.3%**
Programme expenditure

**18.7%**
Public relations and administration

We allocate **81.3 cents** of every euro donated to programme expenditure. Of this, **70 cents** go towards projects supporting children, their families and communities. We use **7.3 cents** to finance the administration and monitoring of projects by country experts in Duisburg. They ensure that donations bring about sustainable improvements in the lives of children and their situation.

A further **4.0 cents** are allocated for long-term changes to structures and framework conditions. This is the only sustainable way to combat poverty and injustice against children. We influence politicians through our advocacy and campaign work, and raise awareness for issues of global concern through our work in education and public relations. For example, many products are cheap only because they are produced by children in poor countries. Thus, consumer behaviour in Germany does indeed have an impact on the problem of child labour. Recognising and acting on these global interconnections is the only way to ensure permanent change.

Kindernothilfe invest **18.7 cents** in other areas: we spend **6.1 cents** on administration. Our staff ensure that the work is carried out smoothly and efficiently – for example, through professional accounting, monitoring or up-to-date data processing. We, thereby, ensure that your donation is put to good use for girls and boys worldwide. **12.6 cents** from every euro donated is allocated to public relations and donor services. Donations account for more than 79 percent of Kindernothilfe financing. But we need to continually attract new donors to support our work if we are to sustain our help for boys and girls in our programme countries in years to come. Hence, these costs are an investment that, ultimately, benefits children.
Advocacy on behalf of children's rights

Growing inequality, extreme poverty and violence, demographic challenges, rapid urbanisation and climate change are global trends that threaten the realisation of children’s rights. Putting a stop to these trends and creating sustainable structures to realise these rights is one of the core tasks of our advocacy work and an integral part of many overseas projects. If we are to improve our effectiveness, it is vital that this work is (inter)linked and coordinated with that of our partners to allow us to take advantage of valuable synergies.

That is why Kindernothilfe surveyed all overseas partner organisations in the summer of 2019 with respect to their advocacy activities.* Most were interested in cooperating in this area. Based on their responses, we developed working areas that will shape what we do in the future: in the context of children’s rights, almost all partners stressed that the violation of the right to protection against violence was in most urgent need of being addressed, and the one that jeopardises all other positive developments. The right of children and young people to participate in all matters concerning them is also gaining in importance among partners. This is a right that must be fulfilled, if we are to achieve targeted, meaningful improvements. Children and young people want to stand up for their own rights; we must ensure that they are given the opportunity to do so.

The survey also clearly revealed that, in many countries, civil and political rights are being increasingly restricted. This means that civil society organisations are confronted with shrinking spaces in which they can operate. Joint strategies and support through work within alliances and networks create new opportunities for political participation as a means of improving the situation of children. For example, in 2019, the Philippine government wanted to lower the age of criminal responsibility for children from fourteen to nine. It can be problematic for local child rights organisations to openly challenge the government. Thus, Kindernothilfe launched a worldwide campaign to support its partners. The government subsequently reviewed its decision and is now proposing to lower the age of criminal responsibility to twelve. Kindernothilfe and its partners are still contributing actively to the debate.

In 2020, we will start the systematic implementation of specific advocacy initiatives through joint activities at all levels, from local to global – with Kindernothilfe alliance partners in Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland, our country coordination offices, our partners, other advocacy alliances and networks and, last but not least, with the children and young people themselves, e.g. by supporting their self-organised initiatives.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2019. It is one of the cornerstones of our work and plays a vital role in shaping our political activities. Through our advocacy work, we can raise the awareness of political decision-makers for violations of children’s rights and, together with local and global actors, improve the situation of children.

* The results are detailed in the study (only in German), ”Thirty years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – children’s rights must not remain a dream”, which can be ordered free of charge from head office.

Text: Frank Mischo, photos: Kindernothilfe, Jakob Studnar / © Kindernothilfe
Protection against violence:
Protection centres for Rohingya children in Bangladesh

Four hundred thousand children are marooned in Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh – one of the largest refugee camps in the world. Kindernothilfe is building centres to protect them against violence, fear and the effects of traumatisation.

Text: Hubert Wolf, photo: Jakob Studnar / © Kindernothilfe

T wenty-eight young girls are sitting in a large room, their teacher standing in the middle, boards hanging on the walls. On one, the words: "The alphabet", followed by the individual letters. Or on another: "The diseases: fever, diarrhoea, malaria ...", specifying what the children can do to protect themselves. Desperately little, apart from hand-washing and good hygiene.

One million Rohingya refugees are stuck on the outskirts of the city of Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh, driven from their homes in neighbouring Myanmar, which will not allow their return. At the same time, Bangladesh refuses to allow them to move on from this camp near the border.

Together with local partners, Kindernothilfe maintains nine child protection centres. Here, the girls and boys have the opportunity to learn, for the buildings, relatively solid structures situated among countless hillside huts, are a sort of school – the only kind that exists. Or they can play with skipping-ropes or fly kites in the front yard. The protection centres also function as a children’s day-care centre. Eleven-year-old Arif is going to school for the first time in his life. And, then, there is Ismail. "Here, he has a schoolbag and pencils," says his mother Setara Begum happily. Ismail is twelve and is now able to write his name.

"Too few organisations are helping children in such crisis situations," says Jörg Denker, Kindernothilfe expert for Asia. Children like Marufa, 14 years old, who, after being driven from her home, lived on a football pitch and then in another camp, where her mother died. Psychologists from the child protection centre helped Marufa deal with her trauma. Two years ago, she was alone and scared. Now, as part of a youth group, she helps other girls. "We go from hut to hut," she says, "letting people know about children’s rights and the risks we face here. Violence, abuse, forced marriage".

Project information
Project partners: ACF, AMURT, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK), Samaj Kalyan O Unnayan Shagstha (SKUS)
Total duration: 01.12.2017 – open ended
Target groups: 51,245 people – Rohingya – as well as poor local families, teachers, religious and political leaders in camps in Cox’s Bazar and outside the camp
Example of activities in 2019: School lessons, games, sports, psychological counselling for traumatised children, hygiene education, raising awareness of parents and teachers for children’s rights and non-violent child-rearing, maintenance/repair of drinking water facilities, washing cubicles and communal toilets
Sustainability: Converting programmes in the children’s centres into school programmes, since, in the short term, the Rohingya are unable to return to Myanmar; involvement of surrounding village communities
Risks: The propagation of violent child-rearing and ignorance of children’s rights within sections of the population – our partners focus on continuous dialogue and further training as a means of raising awareness for children’s rights.

Total project budget: 1,355,351 euros
Outflow of funds 2019: 874,072 euros
Outflow of funds 2020: 403,800 euros
Contact: ute.rabenau@kindernothilfe.de
Protection against exploitation: The children from the quarry

In Guatemala, thousands of children have to work under exhausting, exploitative conditions. Yet, CEIPA, a Kindernothilfe partner, ensures they can still go to school and, thereby, improve their chances of finding a way out of exploitation.

Text and photo: Malte Pfau / © Kindernothilfe

Despite the searing heat, 12-year-old Ricardo is wearing a long-sleeved sweater as protection against the scorching sun. Sweat runs constantly into his eyes as he carries heavy boulders out of the quarry in Quetzaltenango. His older brother hammers long iron stakes into a rock the size of a small car, breaking it down, piece by piece.

Despite the gruelling work, Ricardo, as he himself says, is proud he can make some money here. Not so much because he likes the job but because he knows that, without his help, his mother, a single parent, could not provide for her family.

With no mouth or eye protection, eight-year-old Magdalena works on smaller rocks with a pick and sledgehammer, breaking them into smaller and smaller pieces. Juan, also eight years old, then puts this material through a large sieve to separate the finely ground rock from the pebble-sized pieces. His hands and face have turned white from working with the stone dust, which is also damaging his lungs.

The only opportunity these children have to receive an education is in the school run by Kindernothilfe’s partner, CEIPA. Ricardo and his friends can study towards a state-recognised school-leaving certificate. But, they must still be available to work mornings and weekends. Instead of fighting to abolish child labour, CEIPA is trying to improve the type of work on offer, i.e. seeking less demanding work for children on the job market.

Project information

Project partner: Centro Ecuménico de Integración Pastoral (CEIPA)
Total duration: 01.03.2019 – 31.01.2024
Target group: 450 working children and young people from poor families
Example of activities in 2019: 80 working children went to an alternative CEIPA school – 11 of them passing their final exams. CEIPA raised the awareness of 82 parents, teachers and community leaders for the specific issue of working children and their rights. Magdalena no longer has to work in the quarry and is in year four of primary school. Ricardo still needs to work to support his family financially, but he goes to school every day and is sticking to his goal of studying medicine one day.
Sustainability: Children learn to stand up for their own rights and improve their living situation. CEIPA efforts have led to a change of attitudes within the authorities and local government. They now take account of young people’s protection and development.
Risks: A lack of adult interest in children’s rights, a deteriorating social situation and, therefore, reduced participation by children

Total project budget: 265,000 euros
Outflow of funds 2019: 51,540 euros
Outflow of funds 2020: 49,946 euros

Contact: maren.cruz-wallens@kindernothilfe.de
The right to education and training:
Farm schools in Uganda

Most people in Uganda live from agriculture. Yet, traditional farming methods have leached the soil, no longer producing sufficient yields to feed families. But through mobile farm schools, the Kitovu Mobile Project is showing young people how sustainable agriculture works.

Text and photo: Katharina Drzisga / © Kindernothilfe

The city of Masaka is the capital of Masaka District in southern Uganda, and has one of the highest HIV and AIDS prevalence rates in the country. Many children grow up as full or half orphans. Although parents often leave them a plot of land, they do not pass on knowledge of sustainable farming methods. Countless children are either malnourished or undernourished.

For the last twenty years, farm schools have offered a solution to this precarious living situation: each farm school remains in one location for a three-year period, passing on skills the young people need for sustainable, organic agriculture. The local community provides a building for classes and accommodation. The community contributes food and helps select the young people, who must come from a poor background. This ensures that locals regard the schools as ‘their’ project.

John, 16 years old, is a half-orphan. He has put all he has learned into practice: the fields behind his family’s humble home are filled with cabbages, onions, tomatoes and banana trees. He has goat pens and chicken coops and has excavated deep pits to be used to make compost. His family now has a balanced diet and can sell any surplus on the market.

John is proud to be able to support his family. His role model is Nelson, who attended the first farm school in 1998. Since then, the 38-year-old has built up a large operation, harvesting, for example, up to 100,000 pineapples per year. Nelson has eight children, five of them orphans he took into his family. All eight go to school. Alongside his work on the farm, he is doing his high school diploma. He wants to go on to study economics and open an agricultural institute for young people, who, otherwise, would have no opportunity to study. “Not all former students become successful large-scale farmers,” says Justus Rugambwa, director of Kitovu Mobile. “But, step by step, the families are being enabled to escape poverty. Through their own efforts. And that, after all, is the goal.”

Project information
Project partner: Kitovu Mobile
Total duration: 01.06.2016-31.05.2021
Target group: 753 farm students, 7,535 orphans and other disadvantaged children
Example of activities in 2019: Opened 3 farm schools; set up/trained 75 community groups in such areas as children’s rights, inclusion, domestic violence; supported around 5,500 girls and boys in schools/groups. Out of 753 students, 625 completed training and are now putting their training to practical use. Out of 622 former farm students, 489 doubled their income and 587 were able to afford three meals a day. Initiatives to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS reached 4,011 children and young people.
Sustainability: Participation of all involved in decision-making; support for business start-ups; enabling farm students to access small loans; passing on their knowledge to others
Risks: Threat to harvests/income as a consequence of climate change

Total project budget: 500,000 euros
Outflow of funds 2019: 81,160 euros
Outflow of funds 2020: 94,786 euros
Contact: monika.ries@kindernothilfe.de
In India, parents of children with disabilities receive very little support. A Kindernothilfe project in Patna helps them support and care for their children in a way that enables them to participate in life.

Text: Katharina Nickoleit. photo: Christian Nusch

Juhi says nothing when Pushpa Singh enters the small, dark room. Yet, the 25-year-old therapist from Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra, Kindernothilfe’s partner organisation in Patna, India, is the only person who can get through to Juhi. When Pushpa looks at her directly and speaks to her in a loud voice, Juhi’s eyes suddenly light up. Pushpa points at people or objects in the room and says their name. This is repeated by Juhi. After a few rounds, Pushpa, with no other prompting, points again and Juhi says the name out loud. She laughs heartily when the neighbours applaud.

Pushpa will be able to work with Juhi for six months, probably all the professional therapy the girl will ever receive. Her parents could never afford to pay for a therapist, and have no health insurance to cover the cost. Even the project does not have the means to provide therapy on a permanent basis. These six months must, therefore, be used as effectively as possible. That is why Pushpa mainly works with Juhi’s mother. “I teach her how to talk to Juhi and show her exercises she can practice with her at home”. Thus, enabling her to support her daughter herself in future.

The session is over, Pushpa gets onto her scooter and drives to her next patient. Seven-year-old Raj has been disabled from birth. He, too, does not speak, cannot eat unaided or go to the toilet. But after Pushpa, through physiotherapy and massage, has managed to loosen up his muscles, he can take a few steps with the support of his mother. “I never thought that would be possible,” she says. Her whole face lights up, when Pushpa tells her she is confident her son will soon be able to walk unaided. Even if six months of therapy do not sound like very much – it can be enough to change an entire life.

**Project information**

**Project partner:** Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra  
**Total duration:** 01.01.2017 - 31.12.2021  
**Target group:** For example, children with disabilities and their mothers in Patna  
**Example of activities in 2019:** 7 children underwent short-term therapy, 6 received aids/appliances to improve their mobility, 13 went to school and a further 13 received occupational training. Their mothers learned how to apply for a state disability pension and basic health insurance. Satish (15) has a learning disability. He can now talk, count up to 100 and perform many everyday tasks. Jaya (9) also didn’t speak. Now, she can say the alphabet and answer questions. Abha (8) has learning disabilities and cerebral palsy. She used to spend all her time in bed, but can now walk and complete many everyday tasks on her own.  
**Sustainability:** Receipt of state funding, greater participation of children in day to day life through therapy and, where possible, going to school  
**Risks:** Superstition and misinformation among the population; lack of cooperation by the authorities – our partner’s efforts include the provision of information and scientific evidence and raising the authorities’ awareness

**Total project budget:** 258,074 euros  
**Outflow of funds 2019:** 49,779 euros  
**Outflow of funds 2020:** 52,465 euros

**Contact:** stefan.ernst@kindernothilfe.de
Projects can only be successful in the long term if the effects in all phases – from planning, through implementation, to completion – are systematically planned, monitored and controlled.

1. **Project initiation**

   Partners submit a brief outline of the planned project: this provides a rough résumé of the problem, the target groups, the changes to be achieved through the project together with the potential strategies to be considered. This is then discussed with Kindernothilfe, and if basic approval is granted, the next step follows:

2. **Project planning**

   This begins with a systematic analysis of the child rights situation in the project area. This is used as the basis for the formulation of goals that specify the changes to be achieved through the project. These changes are developed into an "intervention logic" (log frame), which formulates project goals, strategies and activities. Furthermore, indicators are formulated to measure the progress in achieving goals during project implementation.

3. **Project approval and implementation**

   The submitted project application is then discussed and negotiated with Kindernothilfe. Once the project has been approved, the actual implementation of the project can begin.

4. **Project monitoring and control**

   Project monitoring enables the partner to monitor the attainment of project goals: data relating to indicators specified in the project proposal is regularly collected, analysed and, where possible, discussed with target group representatives and conclusions reached for ongoing project implementation. All projects are visited regularly by Kindernothilfe staff, whereby the focus is on progress made towards achieving goals, the appropriateness of project design as well project management and the quality of the implementation of activities.

5. **Participation in planning and monitoring**

   Only when target groups – children and young people, in particular – are allowed to participate intensively in project planning, are we able to ensure that projects are relevant to them and that their knowledge is incorporated into project design. And we also seek the greatest possible involvement of target groups in the impact monitoring and running of the project. Groups and committees are active in many projects, setting their own goals for the changes they wish to achieve and regularly monitoring progress using simple, often visual, methods. This is how we choose to respect and promote the human right to participation.

6. **Reporting**

   The annual project reports have a standardised structure and provide information on the implementation of the activities and impacts achieved, partly on the basis of the indicators in the project proposal. They reflect on both the successes and problems encountered and make suggestions as to how project strategies and activities can be adjusted. These reports serve as the basis for the reports received each year by our sponsors.
Professional networking and joint initiatives

In VENRO’s Impact Monitoring Working Group we share experiences and ideas with colleagues from other organisations, organise joint training courses, develop position papers and hold discussions with government ministries and politicians to take advantage of our combined influence. We represent civil society interests within the advisory board of the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval). As a member of the German Evaluation Society (DeGEval), we participate regularly in conferences and working groups.

Albert Eiden and Ariana Fürst
Quality Development Manager

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7. Evaluation

Evaluations are strategically initiated, e.g. where project design requires further readjustment. Following each evaluation, our partners have the opportunity to comment on the conclusions and propose any necessary adjustments to the project design and/or subsequent phases. We also commission cross-project strategic evaluations that are vital for our programme orientation, e.g. the gender impact of the SHG approach. All projected evaluations are put out to tender and carried out by external, independent experts. The benchmark for this is our evaluation concept. The consistent use of evaluation results is important, not only as a means of enhancing the impact of individual projects, but also for the work of Kindernothilfe as a learning organisation.

Capacity development

Planning and monitoring impacts is a huge challenge. Determining whether planned activities have actually been carried out, or elements learned in training are being put to use, is relatively simple. However, measuring the tangible changes in people’s lives and the extent to which a project has actually contributed to this, is often much more difficult. That is why we provide training for our staff and more than 80 partners in 14 countries. We have also developed a broad range of material on specific aspects of impact-oriented project planning and project monitoring, for example, the development of indicators. But, the accompanying dialogue with partners also increases both their, and our, understanding of impact orientation.

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In an Asia-wide survey, Kindernothilfe looked in detail at child rights violations. For the first time, children and young people were active participants. An important learning process for all involved.

The 16-year-old Alisha, of Muslim origin, lives with her family in a slum in the city of Patna in Bihar, one of the poorest states in India. According to tradition, Alisha has actually long since reached marriageable age. Her family is seriously considering marrying her off. The fact that this would be an illegal child marriage is not something anyone wants to talk about (see box on page 24).

A lack of schooling, child trafficking, child marriage: since the youngest members of society are unable to escape such situations without external assistance, Kindernothilfe supports around 182,000 children and young people in 324 projects in 11 countries throughout Asia. The work is based on strategy papers that are updated every five years. And always with the primary objective of improving the living situation of children.

Thinking outside the box
A cross-border analysis of the child rights situation sought to finely hone and improve strategies across Asia – all the way from the Philippines to India and Pakistan. To this end, our partner organisations not only made use of the usual secondary data, but also spoke to parents, teachers, doctors, the authorities, media representatives and to the children themselves. Altogether, including staff, more than 6,000 people were involved in the operation, almost 3,000 of them children. "We wanted to identify which countries had overlapping child rights violations and which exhibited significant differences. And we wanted to do this with the active participation of the girls and boys concerned," explains Jörg Denker, Kindernothilfe’s head of department for Asia. "We wanted to find out what they were thinking and involve them actively in the process. A high level of participation like this is unprecedented." Kindernothilfe was supported by an
Partners learn from each other across national borders

In several respects, the child rights situation analysis in Asia represented new ground for Kindernothilfe. For the first time, for example, the surveys were carried out in all project countries in Asia simultaneously. Guido Falkenberg, Programme Manager for India, reports that, “Even in one, large country like India, generating data is difficult, in itself. That is why we were so grateful for the cooperation of our partners on the ground. E-learning courses, workshops and interim reports ensured that staff and partners were well prepared and that the surveys and results were consistent with each other. This provided an opportunity for countries to work as a team, to collect and analyse data together, and to learn from each other and share their experiences.”

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as underlying framework

The working basis for the child rights situation analysis is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child from 1989. In the intervening years, opportunities for millions of children throughout the world have improved. But new challenges have to be surmounted, as discussions have shown. A good example of this is the increased access to digital media that has also led to internet pornography becoming a real threat to children and young people. Families, village communities and teachers are greatly concerned, because they simply no longer know how to fulfil their responsibilities. Today, children run the ever-increasing risk of being subjected to cyber bullying and blackmail through the sharing of intimate images.

The survey also revealed that the natural disasters and climate change impacts currently being witnessed in Asia are another major challenge. Rising sea levels, severe flooding or earthquakes are depriving people of their livelihoods, claiming lives and leaving girls and boys unprotected: “This has an impact on the rights of girls and boys,” says Peter Dixon. As well as disaster risk management, preventive measures and environmental protection projects, the governments themselves are called on to act. Early warning systems, for example, already provide protection by forecasting imminent disasters. Something that also benefits children.

Workshops in India, September 2019: staff from partner organisations discussed the child rights situation in their regions. The children themselves were also actively involved in the preceding surveys.
Looking at things through the eyes of children

One other new aspect for Kindernothilfe was the active participation of the girls and boys throughout all phases of the operation – from the survey, itself, to drawing up the final document. To create an atmosphere of trust among the children and young people, child-friendly rooms and survey methods were prepared meticulously. This, in Guido Falkenberg’s view, was an indispensable feature in the effort to obtain valid results: “If you want to hear an authentic voice speaking about the child rights situation in a country, you have to get down to the level of the children themselves. You have to listen to them and involve them actively in the process.”

For Jörg Denker, head of department for Asia, the children’s active involvement was a key element in the child rights situation analysis. “The use of secondary data is a sound basis for strategies and developments in project countries. But by listening to the children, themselves, we can gain a first-hand insight into their problems and, thereby, improve our ability to effectively address child rights violations.” This represents a change in perspective and one that has opened the eyes of many local partners.

One issue affects all countries: the early marriage of underage girls

After eighteen months of work, the results of the child

Rachel Thomas, project coordinator with Kinder-nothilfe India, told us the following story from her experience of interviewing children during the child rights analysis in Patna:

Alisha (16 years old) is a Muslim living with her family in a slum in Patna in Bihar – one of the poorest states in India. According to the traditions and customs of the society, in which she is growing up, Alisha reached marriageable age some time ago. Her family, too, is considering marrying off their daughter. “My uncle, in particular, is putting pressure on me and my family,” Alisha says. “He is convinced that girls of my age should have been married long before now.” The fact that this would amount to illegal child marriage is not something anyone here wants to discuss. Under pressure from relatives, Alisha’s father is contemplating marrying off his daughter after she completes basic schooling. But Alisha’s dream is to get a college degree and a job. “I want to be independent. I can’t even imagine getting married at 18.”

For Alisha, it is a desperate struggle against a patriarchal culture, religious norms and traditional attitudes. She has been trying to persuade her parents that studying would be better for her and that she can still get married when she is over 20. She often believed she had managed to convince her father. “But every time my uncle visits us, he poisons my parents’ thinking,” she complains.

This makes Alisha’s attempts at persuasion increasingly difficult. Her own mother does not have much to say in the family. “People like my uncle think that girls don’t need education or school. Because there would then be a danger of us fighting relentlessly for our rights. And this would mean that our parents could no longer control us, and that we would refuse to get married and stay at home with our husbands."

Rachel reports that another reason for forcing girls into underage marriage, is that a lower dowry payment is required: parents pay less dowry for the marriage of a child than for that of an adult woman. Some parents worry that they will be unable to afford the dowry later and that their daughter will thereby remain unmarried.

The United Nations estimates that twelve million underage girls are married each year
rights situation analysis are now available. As it turns out, the surveys actually corroborate many of Kindernothilfe’s long-held priorities: investing in child education, supporting street children, tackling child trafficking and environmental protection are part of the solution, constituting active protection of children’s rights. However, one issue that did come as a surprise, runs like a common thread through Asian countries: the early marriage of underage girls – a serious violation of children’s rights, forcing millions of underage girls to leave school prematurely. Although underage boys are also married, girls are much more likely to be affected. Parents are usually the driving force behind child marriage. Acting in response to their own poverty, they may genuinely want the best for the children. But the reality usually turns out to be something entirely different: early pregnancies with higher mortality rates or the risk of developing sexually transmitted diseases, domestic violence, sexual abuse or forced labour.

Jörg Denker: “All countries in the region have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that no child or young person under the age of 18 may be married. And yet we see that many Asian countries, even within the framework of national law, disregard this.” In Bangladesh, for example, the marriageable age has been reduced to 14, while, in Pakistan, marriage at the age of 12 is not uncommon. “The children and young people were quite clear in telling us to do more to incorporate the issue of child marriage into our community projects and implement awareness-raising measures. And that’s what we will do.”

Increasing children’s involvement in the processes
From Kindernothilfe’s perspective, the survey across all project countries proved successful in several ways. The collected data allows country strategies and the projects concerned to be revised and improved with respect to children’s rights. But the most decisive impact was the learning process experienced by local partners. Guido Falkenberg: “Basically, we managed to get our local partners to change their attitudes towards children and look at challenges through their eyes. We should also be open in future to increasing the involvement of girls and boys in our processes; not just interviewing them, but involving them in discussions on progress and concrete measures.”

Today, all teams have the capability to incorporate their concepts into future projects and continuously develop them. One thing is certain: the future will again bring new challenges.

We discussed the results of the analysis in November 2019 at a joint conference with our Asian country coordinators in Duisburg. It quickly became clear that, in many cases, there was a marked similarity in the child rights violations observed in the individual countries. The results will also serve as the basis for the new country strategy papers we are currently developing for the years 2020–2024.
In 2019, income amounted to 63.8 million euros, and expenditure to 62.1 million euros. One quarter of project expenditure was allocated to educational projects.

Income
Donations fell by approximately 290,000 euros, because of a reduction of 785,000 euros in donations received for humanitarian assistance. Following significant increases in previous years, subsidies and grants for the co-financing of projects from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) rose again in 2019 by 2 million euros (+36%). As a consequence of the high level of legacies received, other income also increased, by around 2 million euros.

Expenditure
Expenditure amounting to 62.1 million euros comprises programme expenditure as well as spending on public relations and administration. Programme expenditure rose by 2.7 million euros (slightly under 6%), since we were able to allocate more resources to project funding. Expenditure on public relations and administration rose by 1.6 million euros, as a consequence of activities to mark our 60th anniversary and investments made to secure our future viability.

Annual result
We finished 2019 with a net profit of just under 1.7 million euros. We generated 2.4 million euros more in funding (+4%) than planned and spent approximately 2 million euros less (-3%) than budgeted. For tax purposes, around 2.5 million euros were transferred to the association’s capital and a further 810,000 euros withdrawn from reserves. Correspondingly, the association’s capital has increased to 41.8 million euros.
In 2019, with the adoption of a completely revised integrity and anti-corruption policy, the establishment of an anti-corruption team and a comprehensive case management system, Kindernothilfe laid down new cornerstones in its working commitment on behalf of integrity and against corruption.

Together with Dr Marie-Carin von Gumppenberg, we developed a workshop concept for partner organisations that would enable partners to identify themselves with their corruption risks and develop their own appropriate preventive measures. The first two workshops took place in Ethiopia and Somalia in late 2019 and early 2020.

Stephan Konrad, a lawyer from Bielefeld, was appointed by the Administrative Board as ombudsperson with the task of preventing and combating corruption. Whistle-blowers can contact him directly to report suspected cases – also anonymously with guaranteed protection of personal rights – at ombudsperson.kindernothilfe@gmail.com.

Six cases of suspected corruption were reported to the anti-corruption team in 2019, compared to fourteen in 2018. A further six cases were reported by April 2020. Of the cases of suspected corruption reported in 2018, six were either not confirmed or could not be proven. Of the six cases reported in 2019, three are still under investigation, while in the other three cases, the suspicions were either not confirmed or could not be proven. In 2020, examination of two cases has been completed: suspicion was not confirmed. Investigation of the remaining four cases has begun.

When investigating cases of suspected corruption, whistle-blower protection is just as important to us as the presumption of innocence principle. The investigation of suspected corruption is normally complex and time-consuming: are the accusations sufficiently specific to justify an on-site inspection by staff from Kindernothilfe’s country coordination office or an external auditor appointed by Kindernothilfe? Is there sufficient evidence to enable a judgement to be reached and/or justify the imposition of sanctions?

Sanctions may include the repayment of misappropriated funds, the dismissal of staff of the organisations concerned and the immediate termination of working cooperation. Fundamentally, the latter would come into effect when corrupt and corrupting behavior has permeated an entire organisation and the respective committees and/or committee members are involved (systemic corruption).

Anti-corruption report 2019

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At a glance

- **595 projects** in 32 countries
- **2,0 million** children and young people supported
- **20,300 self-help groups** in 22 countries
- **62,1 million euros** in expenditure
- **81,3%** programme expenditure
- **1,0 million** children benefit from self-help groups
- **1.000 voluntary staff**
- **63,8 million euros** in income
- **300 partner organisations**