

Report on the activities of the Foundation Maria Theresa Scherer, Ingenbohl Year 2018

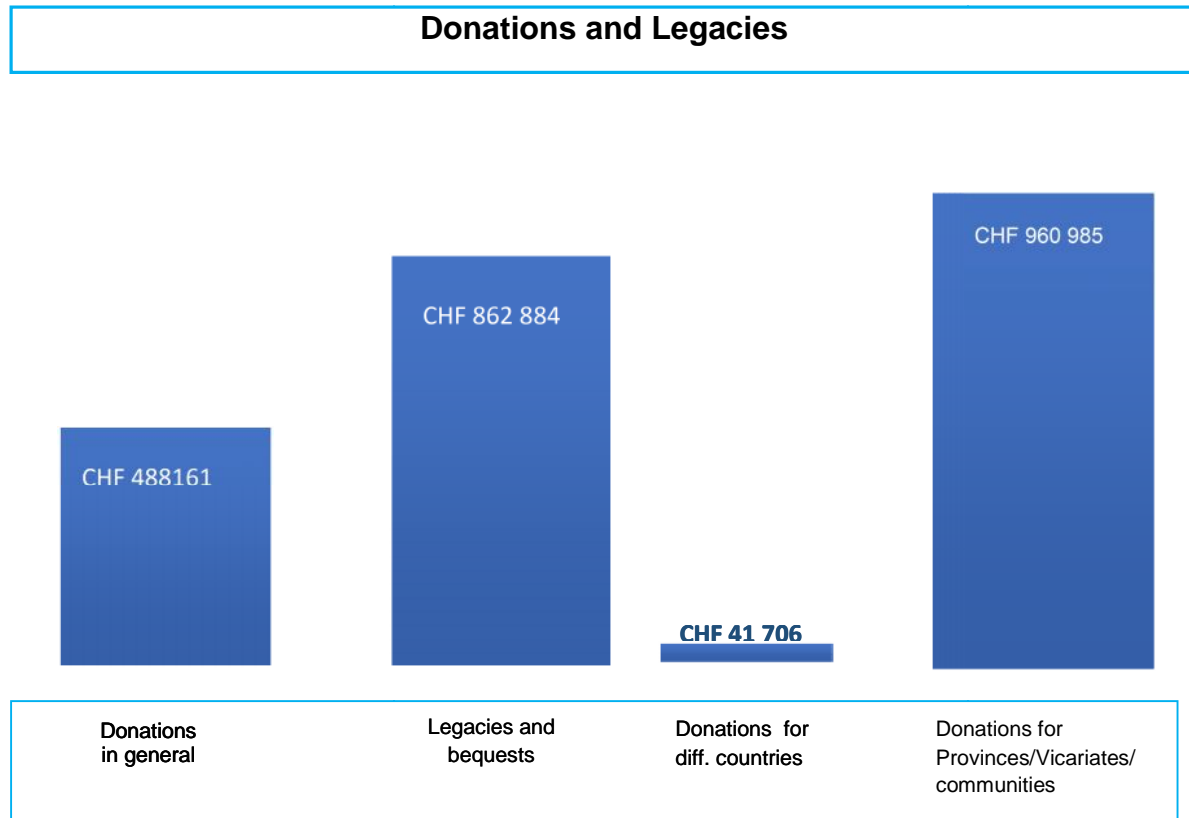
The Foundation Maria Theresa Scherer, Ingenbohl was established on 7th March, 2013. It has its Headquarter in Ingenbohl and it aims at promoting, supporting and granting non-profit humanitarian aid in accordance with the way of life of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross Ingenbohl-Brunnen, including emergency relief in ecclesial and secular tasks at national and international level. The Foundation may grant aid to third parties and to the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross.

Relief of all sorts of human need was and remains the special task of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross. This requires us to be open to the needs of the time. Fr. Theodosius Florentini, our Founder, said: *“As long as there is a poor child in the world, I cannot rest”*.

The highest authority of the Foundation is the Foundation Council. It consists of eight members who work on an honorary basis. In 2018, the Foundation Council met twice. The Foundation Council discussed those applications which were granted amounts of more than Swiss franc 5,000.

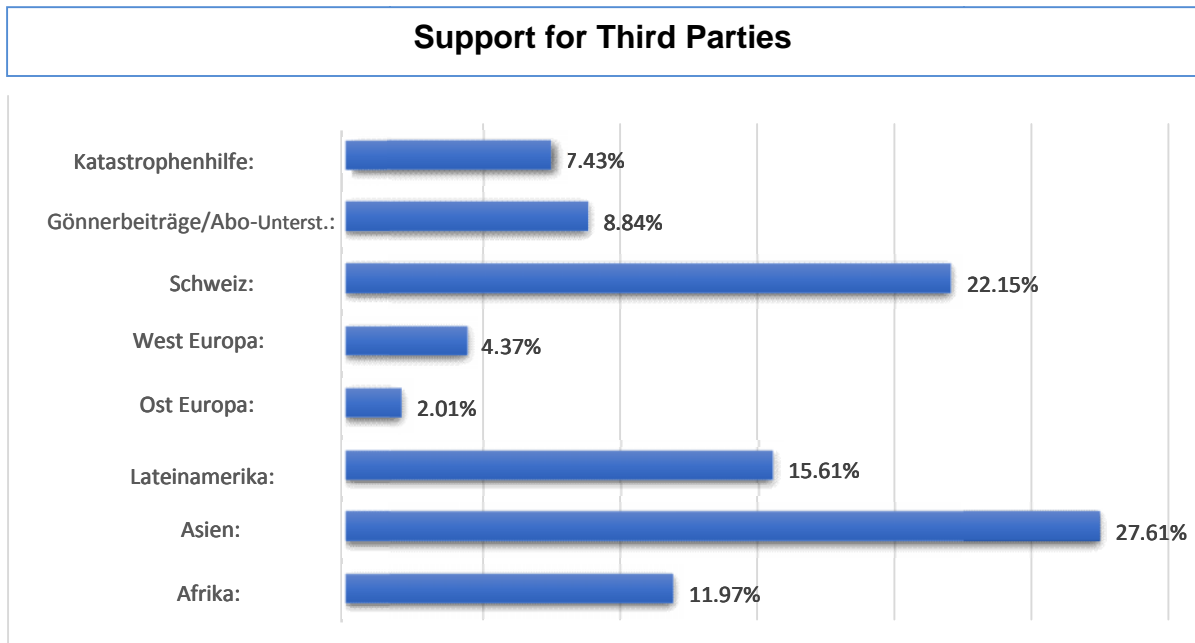
The Executive Board is nominated by the Foundation Council; it consists of four members and carries out current transactions. In 2018, the Executive Board, in six sessions, based on its statutes, granted amount for support of up to 5,000 Swiss franc. All the applications were previously examined through personal or written contacts with the applicants. The members of the Executive Board are assigned defined areas (provinces, vicariates, countries) to deal with. Applications that exceed the competence of the Executive Board were presented to the Foundation Council.

The most important tasks of the Executive Board are the screening and dealing with applications as well as the statements of accounts from the part of the applicants. These, moreover, stand in personal or written contact with the donors. The graph shows the survey on the allocation of donations in 2018.

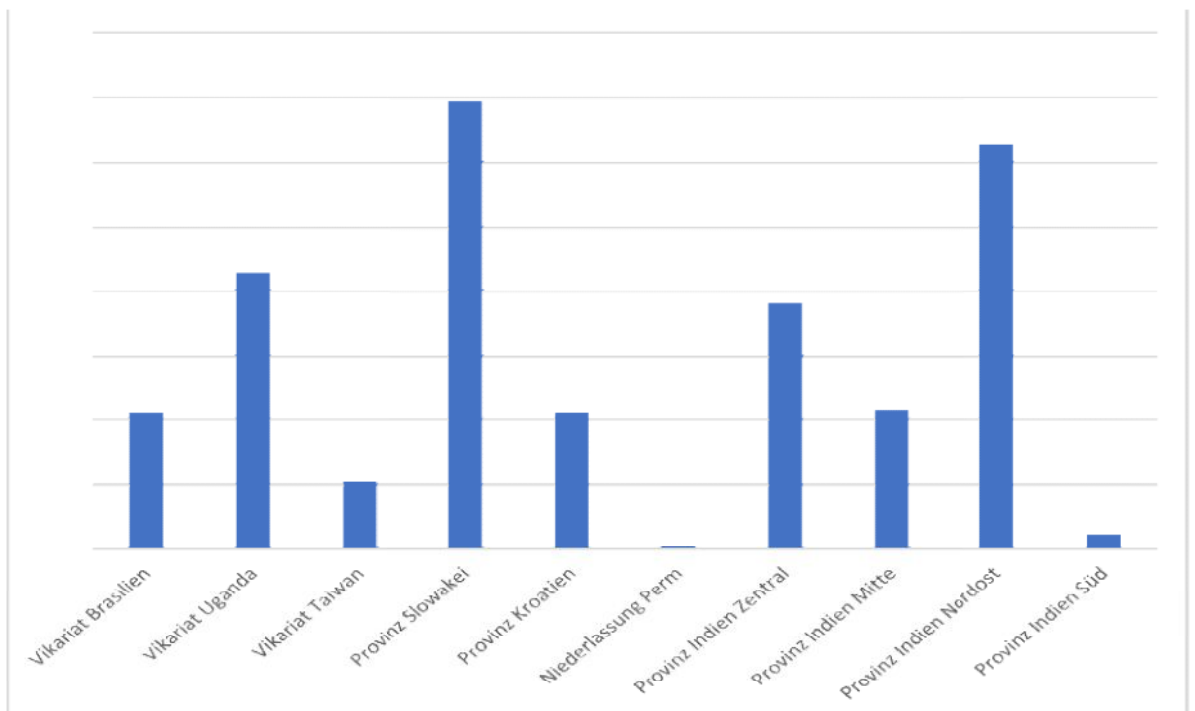


In 2018, 76 applications were dealt with, out of which 73 were granted; Asia: 39, Africa: 17, Latin America: 2, Eastern Europe: 4, Western Europe: 9, Natural disasters: 5.

The following chart provides an overview.



Supports, Donations for Provinces/Vicariates/Establishments



As examples of help with sustainability, we now mention nine applications from 2018:

1. **Provincia Nossa Senhora Das Neves, Rodovia BR, Pranamirim-RN, Brazil:**

Renovation and Extension of the House for the Elderly Sisters in the Province of Our Lady of the Snow (No. 4_EA_LA_2018)



The request for support concerns the accommodation of elderly sisters of the Congregation "Our Lady of the Snow" in Parnamirim, Brazil.

It is impossible for the Provincial Leadership to meet the legal requirements for the nursing home.

It involves the extension and renovation of the existing facility for 30 sisters aged between 60 and 100. The rooms available at present are unsuitable and inappropriate for the elderly sisters.

The kitchen and cafeteria urgently need to be renovated. Renovation work is also needed on the roof, windows and doors, sanitary and electrical installations, load-bearing and non-load-bearing walls.



2. **Holy Cross Social Service Centre, 34/35 Mukherjee Nagar, West Delhi, India:** Short stay to protect victims of human trafficking. (No 11_EA_INO_2018)



The application for support for one year is intended to enable victims of sexual violence and exploitation to receive professional help, protection and legal advice. It concerns children, young people and women who fall into the clutches of human trafficking, pimps and forced labour. There are 77 brothels in the vicinity of the centre alone.

In the centre, which was opened in September 2017, four committed Holy Cross sisters are working as social workers to ensure that 'rescued' people experience protection, rehabilitation and reintegration. This includes sheltered housing possibilities, where those affected can be admitted for a few months.

Of the utmost importance are sensitization and education activities, networking with various organisations and NGOs, contacts with the police and legal advisors.



The sisters work on a voluntary basis, on behalf of and with the support of their provinces. The support for those affected, however, is not possible without additional financial means.

3. **Congregation of the Brothers of Sacred Heart, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India:** Support for drilling a deep bore well to provide drinking water to the children of Lawrence School Muliipatty (No. 32_SK_AS_2018)

Mullipatty is a village in Trichy District, State Tamil Nadu, India.



The Brothers of the Sacred Heart community established a primary school in 1997 and upgraded it to high school a year later. The school is not financially supported by the government. The main costs of the school are borne by the community, since the parents of the pupils are usually only able to pay a normal fee. The school has proven to be a great blessing for the area. Therefore this school offers necessary and quality education in the rural area.

The area where the school at present with 400 pupils is, very dry, with no river nearby. Due to the absence of monsoon rains in recent years, the situation has become increasingly precarious. Drinking water is lacking. The groundwater level has drastically gone down. In order to get to water, at least 300 m deep bore-well must be drilled. This requires a powerful 7.5 HP pump.



4. **Vicariate Uganda, Namugongo, Kampala, Uganda:** Construction of the obstetrics clinic in Kikyusa (No 20_SK_UG_2018)

The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross established themselves in 1993 in Kiziba, Uganda, with four Indian sisters. Today their presence has extended to five locations.

The sisters are involved in health care, education and early childhood education, social and pastoral ministry.

Seeing the suffering of the people in the rural surroundings of Kikyusa, the Holy Cross Health Center has been opened here. It is the only functioning health center in the surrounding area for a rural area of approximately 25,000 inhabitants



In particular, the focus is on improving the safety and security of pregnant women, mothers and children. Today's maternity ward consists of a single small room, which is more than just inadequately furnished. A functional and better equipped maternity ward is urgently needed.

Many mothers come from distant villages for delivery. They come on foot or by motorbike - often too late. If complications arise, the women have to be taken to the nearest hospital

which is 70 kms away, a very long way in poor road conditions and it is often a race against time - often enough it is no longer possible to help.

Very depressing is the fact that some mothers cannot afford to go to hospital because of poverty. Then they are dependent on all kinds of miracle healers with their practices and often with bad consequences.

Many births are still assisted by untrained helpers at home with unhygienic instruments or inappropriate methods - the consequences are terrible.

In connection with a rapidly growing population, the number of pregnant women is also increasing. That is why it is very important for us to provide mothers and newborns with professional care and competent treatment by building a maternity clinic.

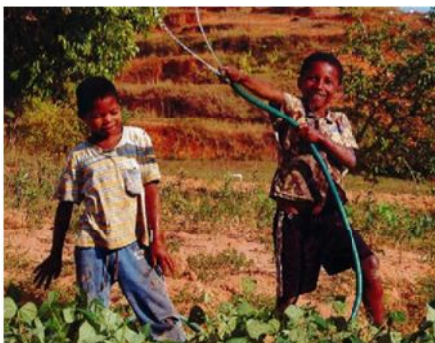


Construction work has already begun. Unfortunately, the financing has not yet been secured.

5. **Aqua Alimenta, Zurich:** Rano Mamelona – Water for food in Madagascar (No. 39_EA_AF_2018)

The project of the association 'Aqua Alimenta' - is related to the vision 'One World' "Free from Hunger and Poverty".

The majority of the people are small farmers, whose yields are highly dependent on rain. 80% of the 24 million inhabitants live in extreme poverty.



'Aqua Alimenta' promotes irrigation solutions that meet local needs in order to grow vegetables in the dry months and to survive unexpected dry seasons without harvest losses or failures. The goal for 2018 is to once again equip 270 small families and 13 primary schools with adapted small-scale irrigation systems (simple pumps, simple water delivery and distribution systems). It is an initiative against extreme poverty and hunger

and to secure the livelihood of these families. In irrigated school gardens, around 1000 children learn what it takes to grow vegetables.

In the last 5 years, 700 families have been supported in this way, especially in the highlands, in the western lowlands and in the north of the island.



6. **Caritas Switzerland, Lucerne:** Emergency aid for needy families in Jordan and Homs (No. 17_JK_KF 2018)

The encounters with people maltreated by the war make us sad and angry at the same time; they challenge us to help generously.



In Homs, Caritas Switzerland helps the families to pay the rent for their flat, ensures that the children can finally go to school and that the mother regains some hope.

Even in the eighth years of the war, the people of Syria desperately ask not to forget them. They live their lives in inhumane ways in ruins and cellars. In the face of the militant's ever new horrors, many displaced people have lost hope of returning to their homeland.

That is why Caritas is involved in emergency and survival aid. In Homs and Jordan, Caritas supports families so that they can buy food and clothes and pay for a safe roof over their heads. In Homs, Caritas provides emergency aid for 6400 people. In Jordan, it helps 9500 refugees and needy local people to make ends meet.

Caritas Switzerland again asks for support and solidarity. Caritas is dependent on help so that it can continue and expand its programmes and be in a position to provide urgently needed survival assistance.

7. **SAH Central Switzerland, Lucerne: Offer Partnership "SAH blitzblank Vermittlung"**

(No. 34_JK_WE_2018)



"SAH blitzblank Vermittlung" offers job-seeking women (in future also men) without work experience a chance to enter the Swiss labour market. They attend an internal training course which prepares them for working as cleaning staff. They also learn German, with a focus on cleaning and personality development. The aim is to

prepare as well as possible for work in private households or offices. After completing the course, the persons work in a legal employment relationship, receive a fair wage and are insured.

In order to continue to operate the "SAH blitzblank Vermittlung", in order to help and secure jobs for those affected, they are dependent on financial support.



8. **Milosrdne sestre sv. Kriza, Djakovo, Croatia: Conversion of the house Betanija in Veli Losinj into a spiritual centre for tourists** (Nr. 53_LZ_HR_2018)



The island of Losinj is a health resort especially for respiratory and lung patients. In 1945 it was expropriated and confiscated by the communist government and in 2003 it was returned to the province of Croatia in a very desolate state.

The place Veli Losinj was rediscovered by tourists because of the healing climate. The sisters see an

opportunity to offer people the spiritual dimension for their rest and have decided to renovate the Betanija house and adapt it to today's needs.

Since 2011 the house has been renovated and renewed in stages. It is not possible for the Province to cover the costs of all necessary renovation measures from its own resources. It is dependent on the support and help of donations.

The foundation works in a targeted and transparent manner and demands accountability for the donations made.

At the end of our report we would like to express our joy that we have the possibility without administrative costs through our foundation, to alleviate suffering with financial support and give hope.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who support our Foundation with their donations and make this help possible! Thank you for your loyalty over many years.

Brunnen, 11.4.2019

President of the Foundation

Sr. Marija Brizar

Member of the Foundation Council

Sr. Jaroslava Kotulakova