

## Report on the Activity of the Maria Theresa Scherer Foundation, Ingenbohl Year 2017

The Maria Theresa Scherer Ingenbohl Foundation was founded on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. It has its registered office in Ingenbohl, and aims to support and provide charitable and humanitarian aid, guided by the spirit of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross Ingenbohl-Brunnen, which may be routed through church or secular agencies within the country and abroad. The Foundation may extend the services through the agency of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, or through other selected third parties.

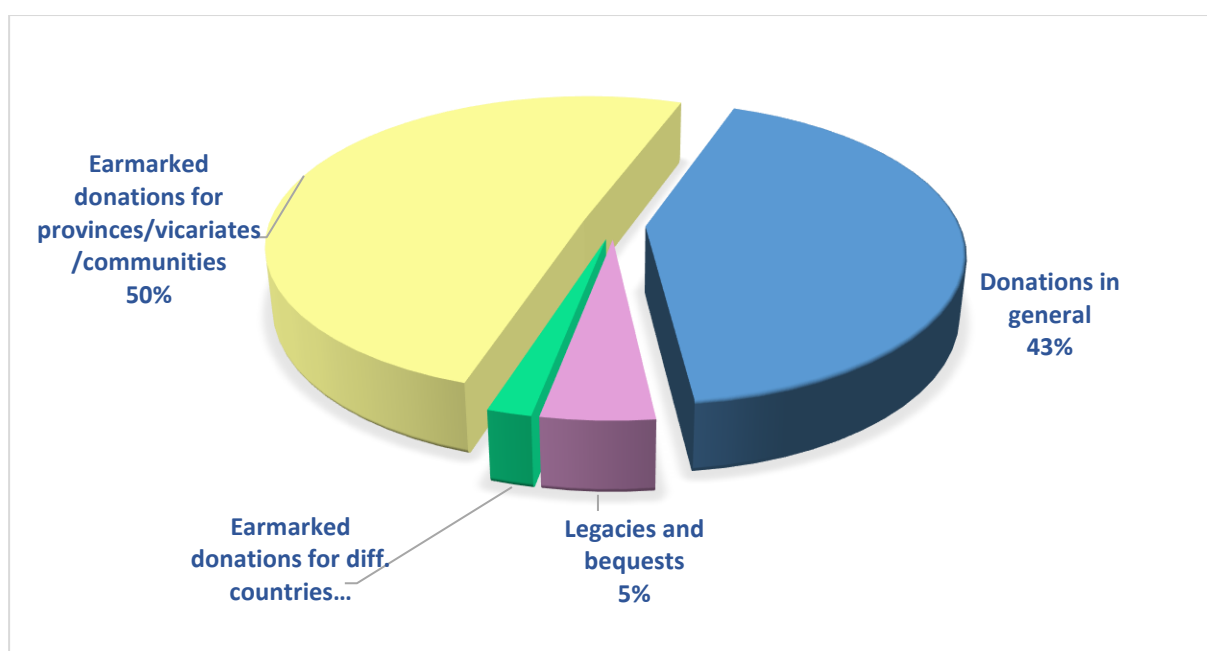
The alleviation of every kind of human suffering was and continues to remain the special call of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross. This obliges us to be open to the needs of the time. Fr. Theodosius Florentini, our Founder, said, *"I will not rest as long as there is a poor child in the world."*

The governing body of the foundation is the Foundation Board. It consists of eight members who work on a voluntary basis. In 2017, the Foundation Board held three meetings. The Board discussed those applications which it had received and processed aid requests in excess of CHF (Swiss Francs) 5,000.

The Executive Board is appointed by the Foundation Board, consisting of four members which manages the regular activities. In 2017, there were seven meetings at which the Executive Board in keeping with the articles of incorporation approved aid up to CHF 5,000. All applications were verified in advance by personal or written contact with the applicants. The members of the Executive Board are assigned defined areas for processing applications (provinces, vicariates, countries). Applications that exceed the limits set for the Executive Board have been submitted to the Foundation Board.

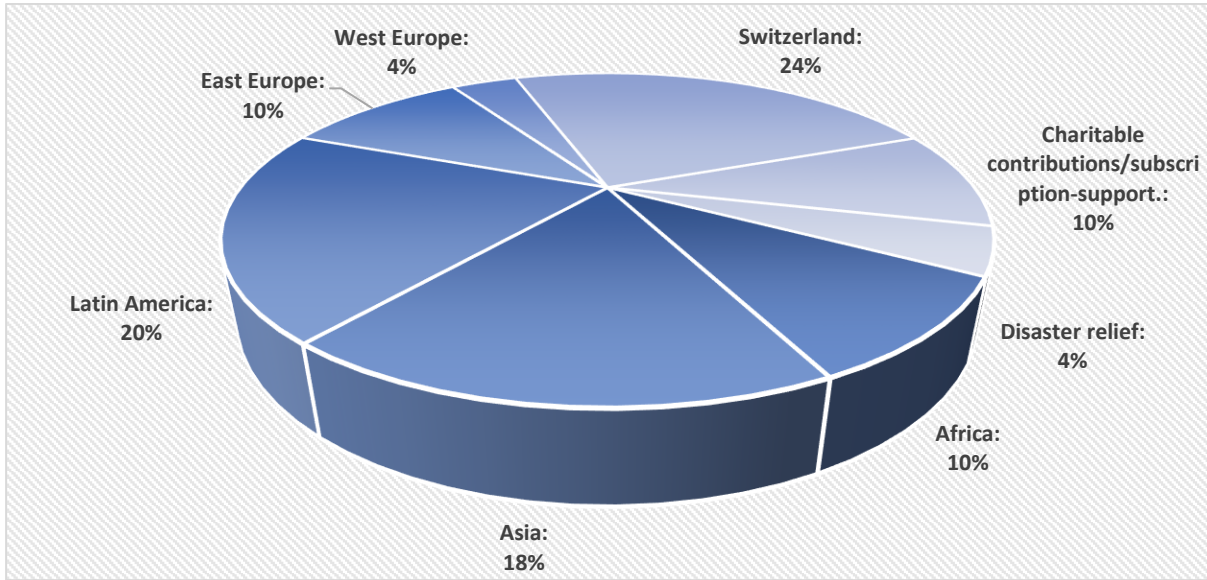
The checking and processing of the applications, including the financial reports by the applicants, are the most important task of the Executive Board. They are also in personal or written contact with the donors. The graph shows the overview of donations in 2017.

### Spenden und Lega

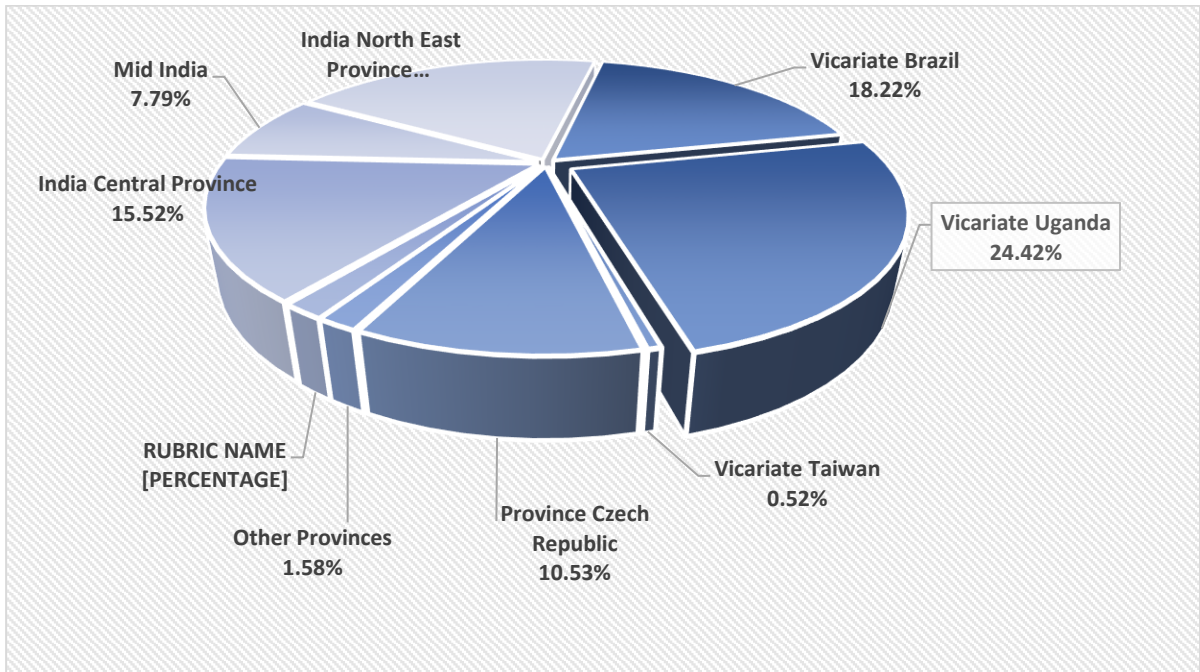


In 2017, 65 applications were processed, 62 of which were approved; from Asia: 22, from Africa: 17, from Latin America: 4, from Eastern Europe: 8, from Western Europe: 7, and for natural calamities: 7. The next graph shows an overview.

**Unterstützungen an Dritte**



**Unterstützungen, Spenden an Provinzen/Vikariate/Niederlassungen**



As examples of help with sustainability, we mention nine applications from the year 2017:

1. **Holy Cross Krishi Vigyan Trust, Hazaribag, Jharkhand, India:** Improving the quality of life and nutritional status of peasant women

Jharkhand is one of the poorest states in India. Therefore the women have to earn something and contribute to the livelihood of the families. They are supported by the HOLY CROSS KRISHI VIGYAN TRUST (KVK) and empowered to start their own businesses through practical guidance and assistance.



KVK is an institution for basic vocational training in order to bridge the gap between the available technologies on the one hand and their application and implementation for improved production on the other. KVK pays special attention to rural women so that they can increase the yield of their work for their livelihood through sustainable agriculture.

Poultry farming in the backyard with a stronger, better chicken breed can be a profitable business for women of the self-help group (SHG), and for poor marginal farmers. Training programmes have been conducted to provide the participants with a comprehensive experience.



From March to May 2017, 8-day training programmes were conducted for 50 rural women, most of them of indigenous tribes. Each trainee received as basic essentials 12 one month old chickens of a better breed, and 10 kilos of chicken feed. KVK scientists provided counselling services, vaccinations, and treatments.

The women in their villages have started their own unit in a small room or shed. The people in the villages are very happy with the chickens. Then the women should bring back 3 chickens or 10 eggs to give to other women to spread the poultry farm among more people. To improve the poor nutritional condition, women are advised to give the eggs to their own children instead of selling them.

2. **Kumbakonam Diocese Society, Tamilnadu, India:** Construction of a sanitary facility for the school in Malathankulam

Malathankulam is a missionary parish of the Diocese of Kumbakonam in Tamilnadu. The people there are socially very poor and backward. Most villagers are landless farm labourers, construction workers, weavers, or day labourers. Most people in the villages are illiterate or poorly educated. This leads to various social problems such as poverty, inter-caste violence, unemployment, community conflicts, terrorism and sexual abuse. Since there is no possibility for higher education in the area, the number of those who drop out of school, is very high.

The diocese therefore opened St. Joseph's Primary School, where children between the ages of 6 and 10 are taught. 140 girls and 115 boys from 19 surrounding villages receive an excellent basic education here.

The St. Joseph's Primary School, which takes care of all the needs of the students, is kept neat and tidy, but there was a lack of proper toilets for the boys and girls studying here.

The diocese was able to financially support the construction of the classrooms, but not the urgently needed toilet block at the School.



### **3. Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Uganda: equipment of the laboratory**



The Holy Cross Secondary School was built in 2014 and registered with the Ministry of Education and Sport in Uganda as a non-profit organization.

This is a pilot project that will enable 200 students to gain more experience in science-based education.

In the target group of students, knowledge in the scientific subjects is currently very limited, because the chemicals needed for the practical work (learning by doing) and other work material are not available.

Many students cannot attend well-equipped schools for financial reasons. In addition, parents with a low level of education often find it unimportant to spend money on education.

The main purpose of this project was to create laboratories and to equip them with the necessary chemicals and materials so that students can complete their internships in the natural sciences - physics, chemistry and biology.



The students are both collectively and individually encouraged and trained to organize themselves in their peer groups, to sharpen their attention and to discover hidden talents that could positively promote their future.

36 laboratory tables and 72 laboratory stools, chemicals and equipments were purchased (see picture).



4. **Colombian Center for Epilepsy and Neurological Diseases Foundation-FIRE, Colombia: the establishment of a bakery can help to ensure the continuity of a pioneering epilepsy centre in Colombia**



The FIRE is an institution for people suffering from epilepsy. The number of patients with epilepsy in Colombia is around 800,000. 30% of them have great difficulties in learning and working. Many of them cannot be treated with medication and therefore have to undergo surgery. For this reason, the FIRE offers medical and surgical treatment, as well as the rehabilitation programs that are extremely important for them.



The Epilepsy Centre has been working continuously with people in these life situations for 52 years. In the meantime it has developed into a large institution. The FIRE Institute also trains students in the area of rehabilitation and medicine.

Currently, the center is facing major difficulties because the Colombian state cannot, or only partially can sustain the funding of health programmes. To continue the programs in the epilepsy centre, other ways must be sought. The management of the centre is convinced that a bakery could provide a great financial help.

Fortunately, the FIRE Institute owns a large property on which a neurological hospital and the rehabilitation centre are located. It is located in a zone with a rather underprivileged population.

A market study has shown that there is no bakery in the entire neighbourhood of the FIRE. The bread could be sold to the institute's own hospital as well as to other Cartagena hospitals. Personnel costs and salaries could be fully earned. Cartagena has a good state apprentice institute, whose staff could provide advice and assistance. In addition, this bakery could offer apprenticeships to adolescents with epilepsy disease.

The plans for the new building are available. However, the Institute FIRE is in need financial aid for its construction.

5. **Care and Children's Home of Kimuela, Diocese of Boma, Congo, Africa: Improvement of the nursing home of Kimuela.**



The Kimuela Home for Nursing and Children was founded in 1987. Located in the diocese of Boma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaïre), Africa, in a rural area, the home has served the local population since its foundation. Unfortunately the facilities available at the Care Home are very limited. Since there is only one

common room for the admission of patients, the risk of infection is very high, especially for small children.



The beds are miserable, many sleep on the ground.

People live below the poverty line.

The project aims at providing better facilities such as beds and cupboards to improve the conditions.

## 6. **Mahesmunda Holy Cross Sisters Society, Giridih, Jharkhand, India: Renovation and reconstruction of the Belatanr hospital**

In 1974 the Holy Cross Sisters started their work in Belatanr, District Giridih, Jharkhand State in India. Initially it was a health centre where the sick were cared for. This developed into a hospital, the construction of which was completed in 1983.

Since then, the number of patients with various diseases, including leprosy and tuberculosis, has been very high.

This 70-bed hospital offers medical services to all people, regardless of their cast affiliation, ethnic group, religion, skin colour or their economic status. In addition, a wide-ranging consultation program was developed for the people in the villages. The uncomplicated attention of physicians and nurses attracts many patients, including those from distant villages.



Due to the poverty of people, many are also treated free of cost.

There is a great shortage of space. The existing building is inadequate for the growing number of patients. The current conditions are no longer in compliance with official requirements.

Renovation of the existing facility, with an extension is an urgent necessity. The conditions must be created to enable doctors to help and treat even in critical situations. This includes a room for X-rays and sonography, the possibility of dialysis, an intensive care unit and a children's ward.



**7. Pro-integration - Association for the Promotion of Occupational Integration of Refugees in Schlieren: Support of the professional integration project for refugees**

The current refugee situation calls for rapid vocational integration of recognized or provisionally admitted refugees. Unfortunately, the existing projects are rarely targeted at people with higher education and those with mental health problems. Many existing projects are also standardized. They do not respond to the skills and needs of the individual refugee.



The Pro-integration Association considers it essential for the success of integration that the program is adapted to the requirements of the participant. The association was founded by professionals who have been active in professional integration and rehabilitation work for many years and with great success. This applies both to project development and to the implementation of projects. The

association wants to help refugees efficiently. The Executive Board is committed to this on a voluntary basis.

The care and coaching of the refugees should be carried out by experts who are compensated for this demanding and time-consuming task.

The goal is the preservation of the workplace, by confirming interns to permanent positions. If internships did not lead to permanent positions, the clients will continue to be always assisted by job-seeking interns.

**8. Greek-Catholic Theological Academy Uzhorod, Minaj, Ukraine: Purchase of new beds with mattresses, sheets and pillows for the Greek-Catholic Theological Academy of Blessed Theodor Romzha**

Near Uzhorod, in the village of Minaj, there is the Greek Catholic Theological Academy of Blessed Theodor Romzha, which is a formation and educational institution for the Greek Catholic Eparchy. At present 72 candidates for priesthood are trained in this academy.

The building also includes the Institute of Catechetics and Education and the Institute of Church History. Various courses are conducted here, such as cantor, and icon painting courses. Many activities organised by the diocese especially for young people take place here. Some cultural events, such as actions to protect the environment or to promote a healthy and tolerant way of life, are prepared and organised here with the help of the Academy.



Throughout the whole year this house is used almost continuously, and the consequent wear and tear is substantial. The beds and mattresses especially are in a very miserable condition. They have to be changed urgently. However, the Academy doesn't have enough funds. A small contribution from local benefactors is possible.

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

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

Many thanks to all those who support our foundation with their donation and make this help possible! Thank you for many years of your loyalty.

Brunnen, 19.4.2018

President of the Foundation

Sr. Marija Brizar

Member of the Foundation Board

Sr. Jaroslava Kotulakova