

Report on the activities of the Maria Theresia Scherer Foundation Ingenbohl Year 2022

The Foundation Maria Theresia 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 2022, the Foundation Council met twice. The Foundation Council discussed those applications which were granted amounts of more than Swiss franc 5,000.

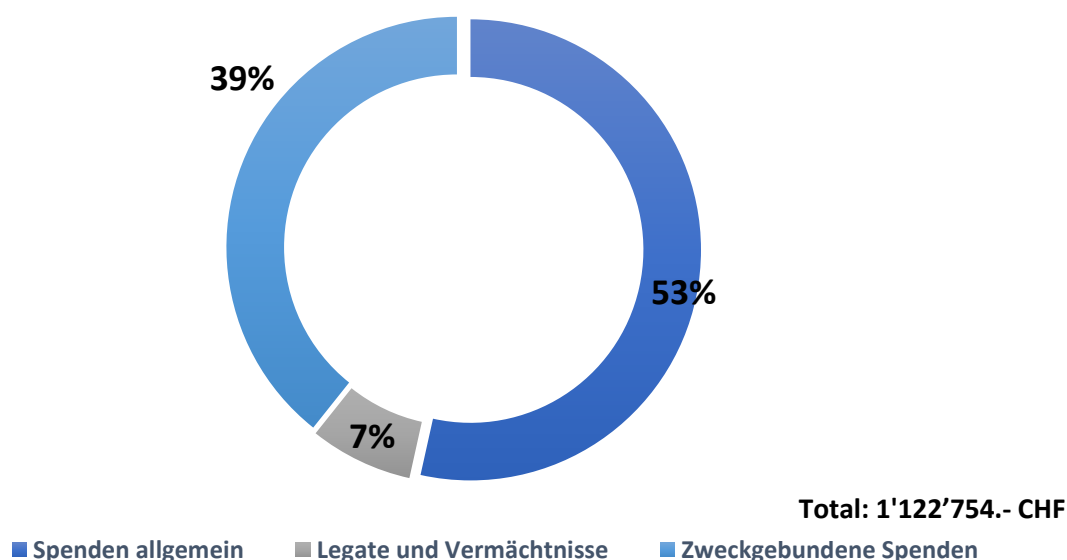
The Executive Board is nominated by the Foundation Council; it consists of four members and carries out current transactions. In 2022, the Executive Board, in six sessions, based on its statutes, granted amount for support of up to 5,000 Swiss franc. All the applications were previously examined through 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 2022.

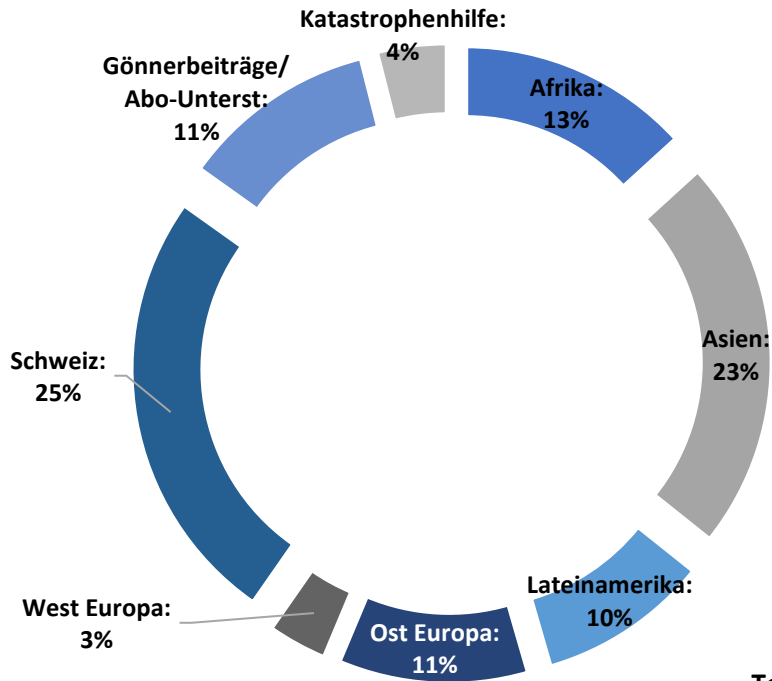
Donations and Legacies

In 2022, 45 applications were dealt with and approved; Asia: 16, Africa: 13, Latin America: 3, Eastern Europe: 8, Western Europe: 3, Natural disasters: 2.

The following graph shows an overview:

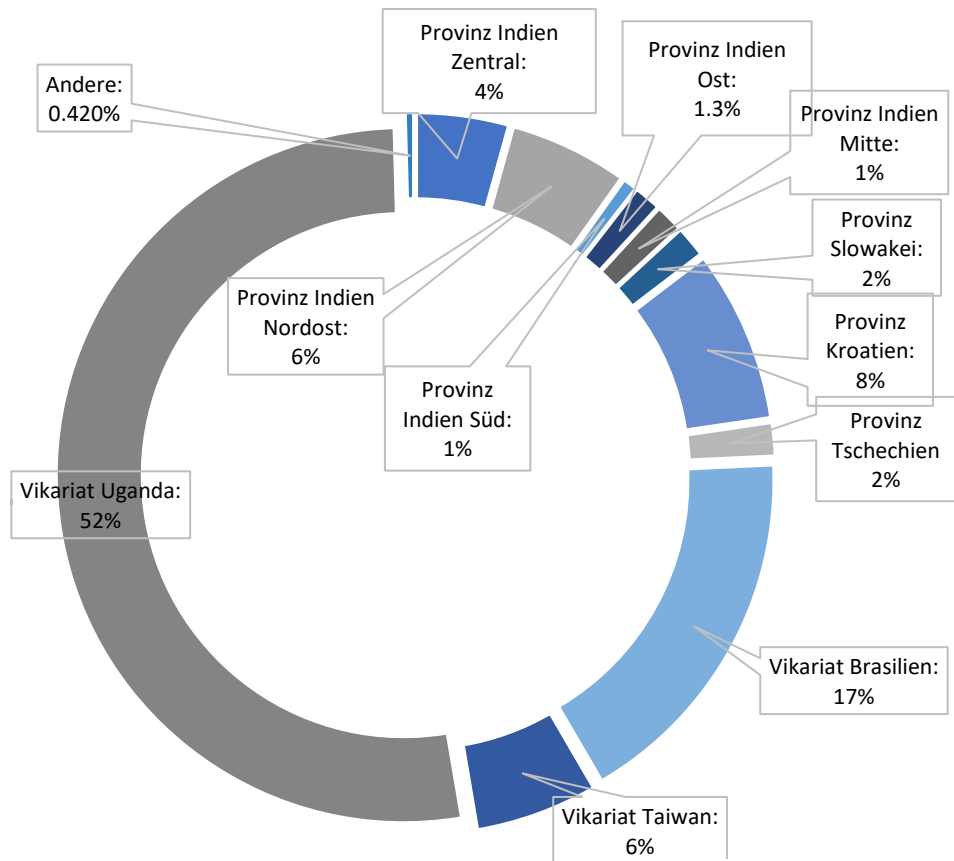


Support to third parties



Total: 252'337.- CHF

Supports, donations to provinces/vicariates/establishments



Total: 874'807.- CHF

As examples of aid with sustainability, we mention seven applications from the year 2022:

1. **Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Namugongo, Kampala, Uganda:** Purchase of a school bus for the Holy Cross School in Bulimbo, Kenya. (Nr. 29_SK_UG_2022)



The "Junior School" in Bulimbo, Kenya, is taking small steps toward development. 300 children from kindergarten to sixth grade are studying in the school. There are no safe means of transportation for the children in the area. On the way there are many accidents caused by fast motorcycles. It was difficult for the young children to walk to the school, as they had to cover long

distances, even in torrential rains, for instance. They were susceptible to various diseases and became weak. Therefore, Sr. Deepa, the Principal of the school, and other staff members expressed their need for purchasing a school bus. The number of students grew year by year as they sought a good, value-based school education. Sr. Deepa began to collect a small amount each month to purchase a school bus. However, the amount collected was not enough.

Sr. Deepa expressed her request to the authorities to buy a school bus. As a result, an application was made to the Maria Theresia Scherer Foundation Ingenbohl and it was approved.

The bus has a capacity up to 30 pupils. The joy of the school children and parents was doubled after they saw the school bus. Since November 2022 the school bus is fully utilized to bring the children to school.



In the months of November and December, about 22 children took the bus every day.

With the purchase of the school bus, the number of school enrollments also increased.

The goal is that the school is able to promote a good education for more children, near and far, and make it possible for the needy children to have adequate and convenient transportation.

2. **Missionary Sisters of the Very Holy Sacrament, Beit-Hebbak, Jbeil, Libanon:** Food, clothing and medicines for poor and orphan girls and abandoned children (Nr. 09_EA_AS_2022)

Since October 2019, Lebanon has been hit by an economic, financial and socio-political crisis, worsened by the Covid 19 pandemic and the explosion on August 4, 2020 in the port of Beirut.

Through this project, the sisters aim to provide food and other relief supplies to hungry children and poor families. Their goal is to help 700 poor families and about 1000 needy children from more than 31 rural villages. The families in the rural villages receive very little support from the government.



3. **Centre for the Development of Rural Women, Mugaiyur, Tamil Nadu, India:** Renovation of the damaged building of «R.C. Middle School» in Kodungal village. (Nr. 06_SK_AS_2022)

Kodungal is a small village with 250 poor families and 225 farmers and some landowners. The poor people are daily wage earners and unskilled laborers who work in the farms of rich landowners. Their work is seasonal. There is hardly any work in the village, so it is difficult for them to feed their children. They live below the poverty line.



There is a middle school in this area that is very badly damaged. The people in this rural area are unable to repair it. The women's organization of this place has come forward to secure the lives of the children in this school. The school building is severely damaged, so much so that the children who attend the classes are afraid. Therefore, classes are held under a tree in

the school compound. Some children stay at home because of the condition of the school.

For this reason, it is urgent to find a suitable solution.

The total number of students is 194. There are 8 teachers in the school. There is a large damaged hall divided into 7 rooms, including an office room for the Principal.

The aim of this project is to renovate the school in order to secure the life of poor rural children, so that they can continue their education without having the fear of the damaged building, and to prevent the classes from being overshadowed by trees the whole day.

4. **Caritas Schweiz, Luzern:** Emergency aid for the people from Ukraine (Nr. 05_JK_KF 2022)

The war is plunging Ukraine into a humanitarian catastrophe. Bombs, violence and destruction are already a bitter reality for people in many parts of the country. They are desperate and are extremely terrified. Many have already fled and sought shelter within the country or tried to escape across the border to neighboring countries.

Caritas Ukraine, with the help of the Swiss Caritas, provided people with the necessities of life - safe places to sleep, food, clean drinking water, hygiene items and medicines in their



existing centers throughout the country. In addition, Caritas provided psycho-social assistance. In neighboring countries such as Poland, the Caritas is also there with emergency aid for the people who have fled.

In this catastrophic situation, Ukrainians are in urgent need of support. Maria Theresia Foundation responded to this need with a financial contribution and expressed its solidarity with them.

5. **Verein ACT212, Bern:** Support to the Reporting Office. A contribution to compensate the "Contact person in Ukraine". (Nr. 22_JK_WE 2022)

ACT212 is committed to combating human trafficking and exploitation in Switzerland. For six years, the association has been operating at the national reporting office, which can be contacted in cases of suspicion - even if it is anonymous.

More than 50,000 refugees from Ukraine have now arrived in Switzerland and more are on their way. They are mainly women, children, young people and the elderly. They are at great risk of becoming victims of human trafficking and exploitation - especially sexual



exploitation. The association wants to protect them from this. By employing a Ukrainian, the National Reporting Office against human trafficking and exploitation can help trafficked

persons in their national language. Communication is also in Ukrainian, so that people on the move can be contacted in a way that is suitable for the addresses of those involved.

The Maria Theresia Scherer Foundation Ingenbohl has made a contribution to the costs incurred by the association through the expansion of its field of activity.

6. **Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Ruzova 4, 917 02 Trnava, Slovakia:** Expansion of the capacity of the day care center for the children of St. Elisabeth and renovation of the sanitary facilities. (Nr. 26_LZ_SK_2022)



After the outbreak of war in Ukraine and the arrival of a large number of refugees to Trnava, West Slovakia, under the leadership of the Holy Cross Sisters, the kindergarten of St. Elisabeth in Trnava tried to accept some children from Ukraine. Unfortunately, due to the lack of sanitary facilities, they could accept only 7 children.

Another reason was that, despite the Ministry of Education's regulation, day care centers for children in

Slovakia do not receive financial support from the state for the upbringing and education of Ukrainian children. Elementary and secondary schools are financially supported by the state. Ukrainian children do not pay any fees to the kindergarten. Thus, all the costs incurred by the kindergarten are covered from the reserve fund, which is slowly being exhausted.



From the new academic year, the kindergarten wants to accept more children, these mainly from Ukraine. The sanitary authority granted permission on the condition that the sanitary facilities must be expanded and renovated by September 2022.

Our day care center for children wants to create a peaceful and stable atmosphere in which children are able to grow in every way, despite the ongoing war and insecurity.

7. **Associação Esperança E Vida, Projecto Thallita, Carmen Lucia dos Santos, Maceió, Alagoas, Brasil:** Singing community life. A psychological and cultural integration. (Nr. 10_EA_LA_2022)



The Thallita Project develops holistic, community-based educational work that promotes the autonomy of families, adolescents, and young people through educational, cultural, and psychosocial measures.

It is about strengthening the sense of society through comprehensive education of adolescents and young people with the aim of com

bating social inequalities, preparing them for the labor market and giving them access to the cultural and social world.

The Foundation works in a targeted and transparent manner and demands accountability for the funds donated.

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

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who support our foundation with their donations and thus make this help possible. Thank you for your loyalty all these years.

Brunnen, 03.02.2023

Sr. Marie-Marthe Schönenberger
Präsidentin

Sr. Gabriele Schachinger
Vizepräsidentin