

Report on the activities of the Maria Theresia Scherer Foundation Ingenbohl Year 2023

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 2023, the Foundation Council met thrice. The Foundation Council discussed those applications which were granted amounts of more than Swiss franc 5,000.

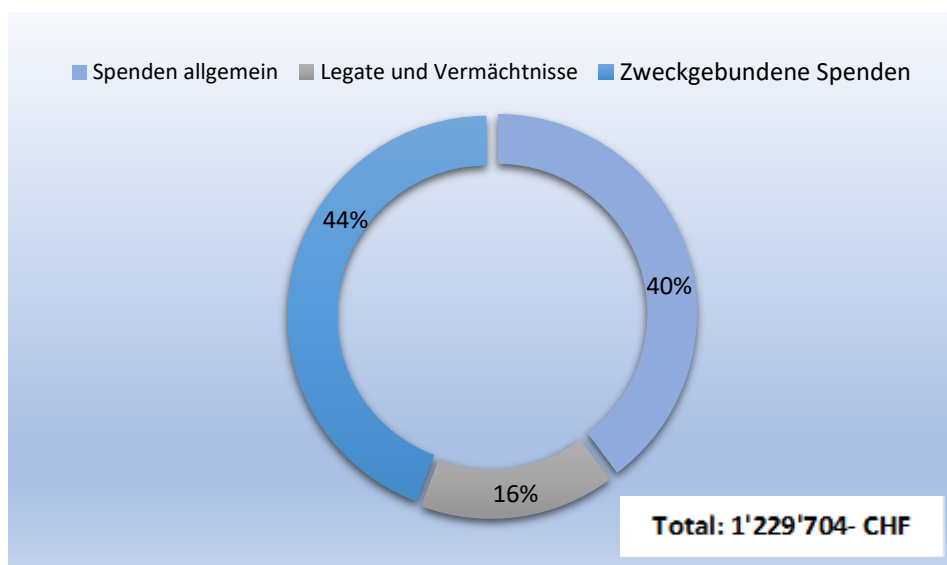
The Executive Board is nominated by the Foundation Council; it consists of four members and carries out current transactions. In 2023, the Executive Board, in four sessions, based on its statutes, granted amount for support of up to 5,000 Swiss franc. All the applications were previously examined through 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 2023.

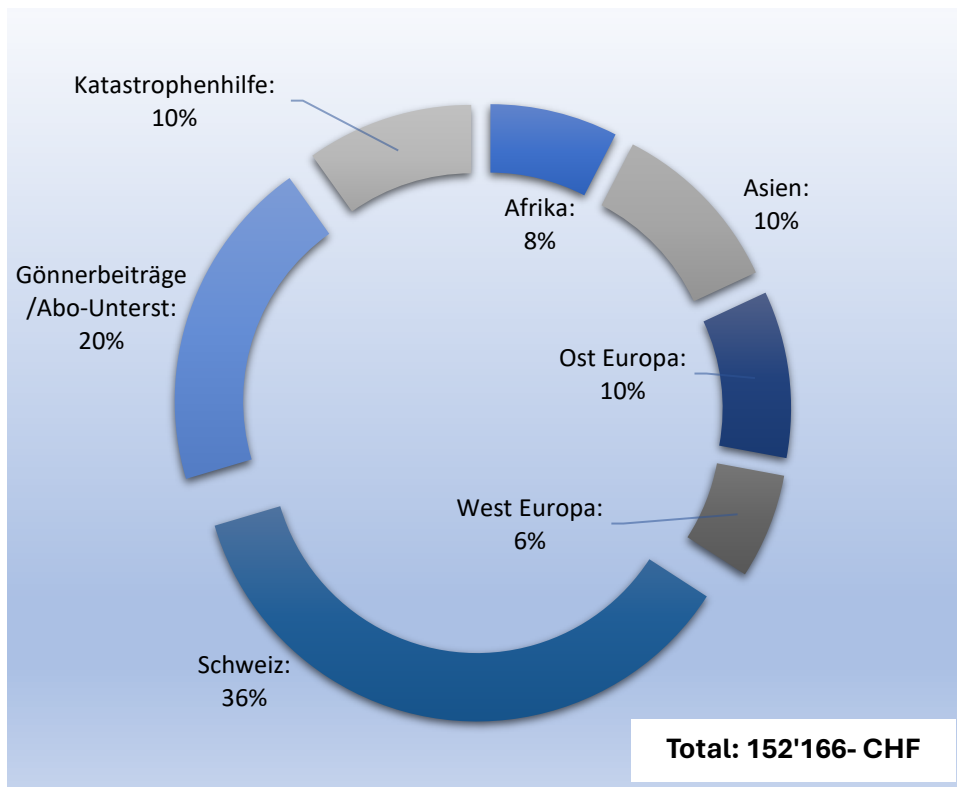
In 2023, 30 applications were dealt with and approved; Asia: 9, Africa: 6, Latin America: 0, Eastern Europe: 8, Western Europe: 4, natural disasters: 3.

The following graph shows an overview.

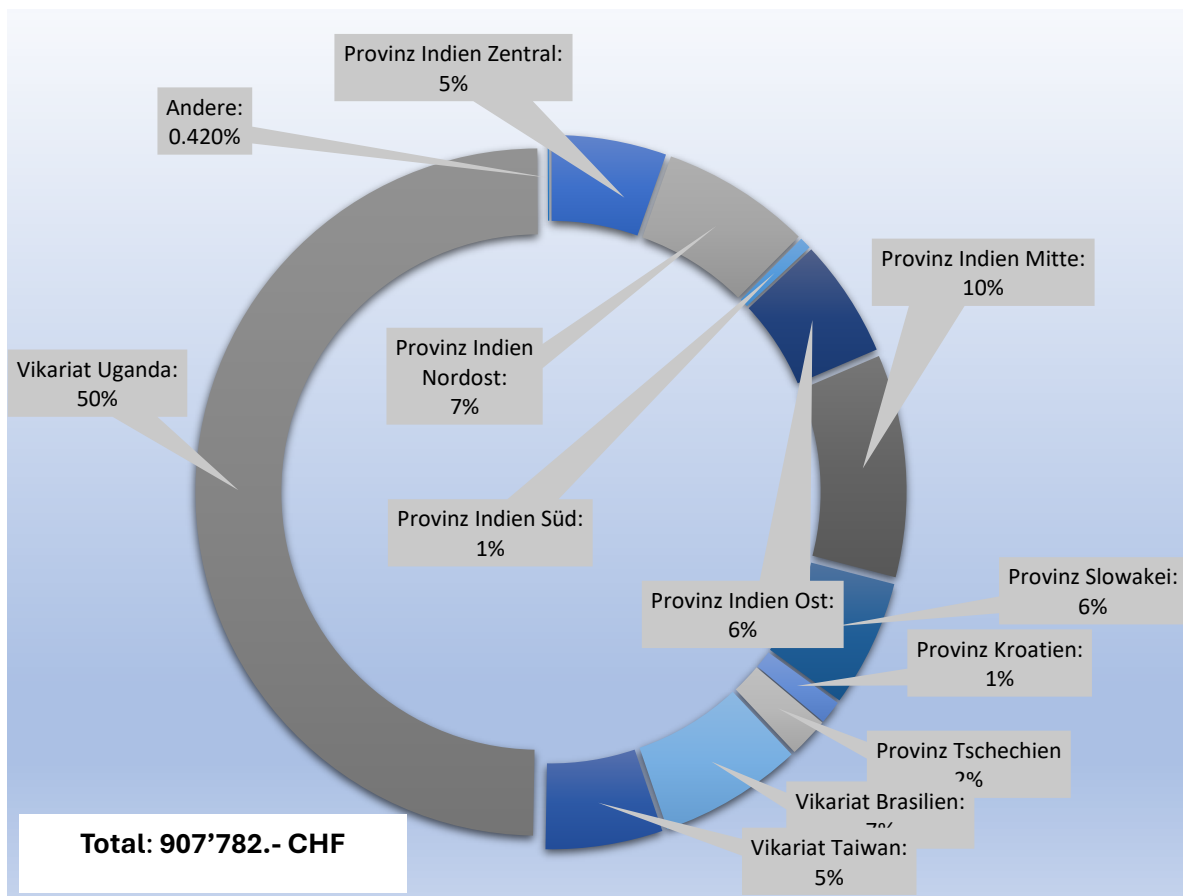
Donations and Legacies



Support to third parties



Supports, donations to provinces/vicariates/establishments



As examples of aid with sustainability, we mention seven applications from the year 2023:

1. Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Kroměříž, Czech Republic:

Wage costs for 3 women from Ukraine (No. 19 RL CZ 2023)



Since the beginning of March 2022, when the Russian military invasion of Ukraine began, the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross have given shelter to refugees from Ukraine in their provincial house in Kroměříž (Czech Republic). They offered accommodation, food, support in negotiations with the authorities and other forms of help, especially to mothers and their children in the convent. Initially, it was mainly about humanitarian aid, providing their basic needs, processing their refugee visas

etc.

As the sisters felt it was important for these women to have a job and thus be able to live at least partly financially independent, they helped them to find work.

Thanks to the Maria Theresia Scherer Foundation Ingenbohl, the sisters received a grant to cover the wage costs for three women, who now had the opportunity to work part-time. Their employment in the provincial house also enabled them to care for their young children. Without this support, it would not have been possible for these women to find employment due to their language barrier and because of little children. The sisters continue to support them in their search for suitable accommodation and in improving their language skills.

2. Caritas Switzerland, Lucerne:

Emergency aid for people particularly affected by the drought in Ethiopia (No. 17 GS KF 2023)



With over 120 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is one of the most populous countries in Africa. Although there has been strong economic growth in recent years, mainly in urban regions, agriculture remains the main source of income for most Ethiopians, especially in rural areas. Ethiopia is currently facing multiple shocks in terms of food security. The severe drought conditions affect an

environment in which conflict, insecurity and economic challenges - such as the lack of grain imports from Ukraine - are massively endangering and burdening the livelihoods of the rural population. Around 12 million people across the country are affected by acute food insecurity, with over 23 million people in need of humanitarian aid. Due to climatic conditions, the food

situation is particularly serious in southern Ethiopia; the fifth consecutive "bad" rainy season from October to December 2022 once again led to complete crop failures that caused terrible livestock deaths and hunger.

This emergency aid project supports women and young people and their families who are badly affected by the drought. The focus is on measures to cover the immediate basic nutritional needs of the population and thus prevent a further deterioration in their nutritional situation.

3. The Parasolka Association, Reiden:

Vilshany Orphanage - A home for people with disabilities who have fled war zones (No. 14 MJ OE 2023)



Since the beginning of the war, the children's home and orphanage in Vilshany has provided a new home for groups of people with disabilities who had to flee from war zones. At the moment, more than 20 extra people (currently 193 in total) live in the already cramped rooms. The groups of people accommodated together are overcrowded and the staff has been decimated. Lessons at school and work in the workshops are continuing more or less as usual. But the mood of the staff is under strain as they have to work a lot more. They also receive less pay, as all bonuses have been cut and the women are separated from their husbands. All this puts pressure on staff morale.

In addition, the store project in Vilshany is to be specifically planned and implemented this year. Unfortunately, it was not possible to continue working on this project last year due to the war. Transcarpathia, Ukraine's 'inland vacation destination', is currently being considered for this project, as it is safe there. The project

would fill a gap in this area and provide good work for the people living in the children's home and orphanage.

In spring 2022, the Vilshany residential home was awarded four 'new' buildings by the Oblast Council. These are located next to the river running alongside the home and were part of the former psychiatric hospital. These buildings are to be extended and converted for the institution, as the Vilshany children's and young people's home is bursting at the seams with the new arrivals (and even before). In addition, surveys in the neighboring municipalities of Dragovo and Koločava, where 98 children and 1055 adults with disabilities are registered, show that the need for social services and improvements in living conditions will be great in the coming years.

4. Ursuline Girls' Secondary School, Nyombo, Tanzania

Antrag auf finanzielle Unterstützung für die Fertigstellung einer Mauer für die Sicherheit der Mädchen (08 SK AF 2023)

Ursuline Girl's Secondary School, Nyombo had no proper compound walls. It had only a temporary wall made of timber. But it was not a safe option as the school was growing. And it often needed maintenance. Sisters were having a hard time because girls were getting out illegally through these temporary walls. They had received instruction and warning from the authorities to construct a proper secure wall around the school, otherwise they would ask the sisters to close down the school.



So, the management was really at risk of losing the opportunity to care for their girl children and build their bright future.

The land being slope, the major challenge of this project was getting enough finance to complete the huge wall that had to be built around the compound for the safety and protection of the girls. This led to a slowing down of the completion of the project. The contribution from the Foundation was a boost to the accomplishment of the project.

Now Ursuline Girls Secondary School has a safe place to live without fear of danger from the outside. The completion of the project also allows them to assure the education department and other concerned authorities of the government about the safety of the girls under their care.

They could meet all the objectives of the project and will continue to experience the benefits of this project for the years to come.

5. People's Awareness and Literacy 533 (PAL), St. Antony's Street, Kaviloor, Tirupattur TK & District – 635601 Tamilnadu, India:

Changing socio-economically deprived state of 30 poor and vulnerable adolescent girls of Tirupattur block (Nr. 03 RK AS 2023)



PAL successfully drew attention to the plight of around 30 adolescent girls between the ages of 17 and 20. They live in eight villages in the district of Tirupattur. A proposal was then submitted to the Maria Theresia Scherer Ingenbohl Foundation entitled "Changing the socially and economically disadvantaged situation of poor and vulnerable adolescent girls in Tirupattur district

through vocational computer skills and employment". In response to our proposal, the Maria Theresia Scherer Ingenbohl Foundation supported PAL with a donation.

With the allocated budget, PAL has taken an important step and purchased five computer systems for the adolescent girls. As part of the selection process, three offers from different suppliers were carefully examined to ensure the best quality and value for our beneficiaries.

The inauguration ceremony of the computer learning center took place on 09.05.2023. We thanked the Maria Theresia Scherer Ingenbohl Foundation for supporting the adolescent girls and giving them the opportunity to learn computer skills.

PAL's commitment is based on the conviction that teaching these young girls life skills and English will pave the way to a promising and fulfilling future.

6. West Bengal Holy Cross Sisters Society, Provinz Indien Ost:

Financial Support for higher education and job oriented trainings (Nr. 06 RK IO 2023)



The India East Province of the Holy Cross Sisters has become a beacon of hope for the poor boys and girls from the hills and tea gardens. In 2023, they have selected the neediest students who have completed their secondary education and are sitting at home because they have no means to pursue education. The sisters from different communities have helped to find the needy students.

General midwifery training

The sisters found four girls who showed interest in the training. However, Sr. Teresa Dorjee, who is the project coordinator, first had to obtain all the

papers and documents and identify the girls. Only then could they be sent to the Holy Cross Nursing School in Kunkuri for midwifery training. They started classes in October 2023.

Secretarial training 5 students are sent to Holy Cross Institute, Kurseong for the Secretarial course (four girls and one boy) for the Secretarial course. They are doing well.

They had begun their training from 1st July 2023. They have already finished their half year. They are on winter holidays. They will be joining their classes by 4th week of February. Their training will be over by June 2024.

Pre-primary Teachers' training:

There are five girls sent for Pre-Primary teachers training at Holy cross Vocational training, Hazaribag. Their classes began by 15th of June 2023.

They have finished their one teaching practical and by April or beginning of May 2024 their training will be over.

Higher secondary:

We also have 4 students who are doing their higher secondary studies in two of our schools namely Holy Cross school Dalkhola and Holy Cross School Rajganj.

7. The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Province India North-East:

Purchase of a ventilator for the neonatal intensive care unit of the Tripolia Social Service Hospital, Patna, Bihar. (No.21 PM INO 2023)

Tripolia Social Service Hospital, Patna, belongs to the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, North-East Province of India. The hospital was established in 1968 and has 250 beds and has developed into an advanced nursing care facility. It has 20 departments including obstetrics, gynecology, neonatal unit and neonatal intensive care unit.

Most patients come from obstetrics and gynecology as well as pediatrics, as the hospital used to be known as a maternity hospital but has since expanded to include many departments. An average of 1400 LSCS operations (lower segment caesarean section) and several other general operations are performed each year.

The mission and aim of the hospital is to provide the best medicine and care to all those who come to this hospital, irrespective of their caste, creed, gender and status. Most of the patients who visit the hospital are poor and unable to pay the minimum charges. Many poor people benefit from the fact that the medical care in this hospital is cheaper than that of the private hospitals in the area.



The sisters have recognized the importance of keeping healthcare accessible and affordable for critical patients, especially for poor people, and they have therefore set up a MICU (medical intensive care unit) with 6 beds in 2023. Therefore, they have asked for financial support to purchase a ventilator. This ventilator will be helpful for the critical patients like newborns and children and will save their lives. They are grateful for the financial support they have received.

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

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

A big thank you to all those who support our foundation with their donations and thus make this help possible. Thank you for your loyalty over many years.

Brunnen, 08.02.2024

Sr. Marie-Marthe Schönenberger
President

Sr. Gabriele Schachinger
Vice President