



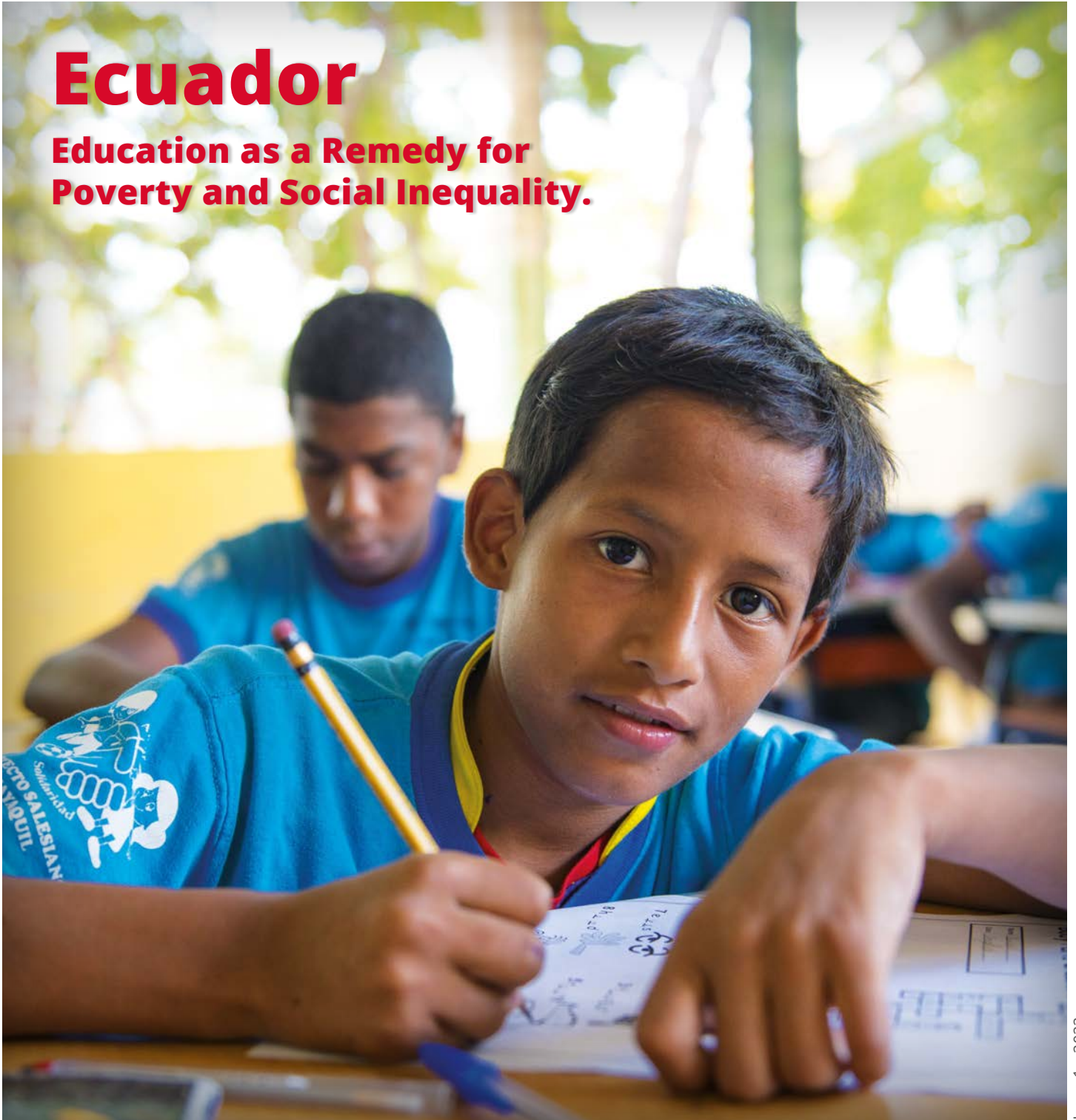
Giovanni



The Magazine from  JUGEND EINE WELT

Ecuador

Education as a Remedy for Poverty and Social Inequality.



Issue 1 - 2022

Street Children

Security and a better future through education.

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450,000 people who fled to Ecuador from Venezuela need emergency relief.

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Nurse Helene Monschein was in the Amazon basin as a Senior Expert.

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Dear Readers,

While preparing this issue of Giovanni at the start of our anniversary year to mark 25 years of Jugend Eine Welt I came across a prayer by the Ecuadorian street children's priest Marco Paredes, whom I have known for nearly 30 years and hold in very high regard. For decades he has been a whole-hearted and uncompromising champion of families stricken by abject poverty, young vagrants and street children. Never tiring. His poignant "Prayer of a street child" set me thinking once again. It also reminds me that, because of coronavirus, more children are now living and working on the streets around the world than in the years before. Every child that has to live on the streets is one too many.

Can we, who live in an affluent country like Austria, really imagine what life is like for such a child? What it thinks? What it feels? Fr. Marco has attempted to cast the thoughts of a street child in the form of a prayer.

Prayer of a Street Child

Hello, God! It's me, a street child. Do you remember me? I no longer have a face or a name, I have lost everything. I am worthless! I don't know if you know that I look for you every day, but you hide your face from me. (...) I searched for the Good Shepherd to throw myself into his arms and tell him about my fears and sufferings, but your shepherds are frightened by the sight of me. God, you said, "Ask and you shall receive, knock and it will be opened." I ask, but people turn away. I knock at doors, but no door opens. Even the gates of the school are closed to me! When I lie down at night on my makeshift bed of cardboard and try to forget my sorrow and anguish, your words echo in my ears: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." But my rest never comes.

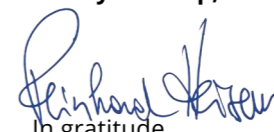
After a paragraph in which the street child asks to be forgiven and for forgiveness for people's failure to end the problem of street children, the prayer ends with the words:

Forgive those who allow me to be hungry, sick and naked. Forgive those who have the necessary means, but do not see my tragic fate.

Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do. Father, forgive all those who do not respond or do not hear the street children's call. Amen.

A prayer that, instead of offering comfort, is the deliberately provocative prayer of a champion of street children who, every day, sees things that are shameful, saddening and shocking. A prayer that probably causes a feeling of disquiet in all of us. But it is also a text that motivates me and all my colleagues at Jugend Eine Welt to continue our determined efforts until the aim of a GOOD LIFE FOR EVERYONE is achieved. Just as Don Bosco put it himself: "For my youngsters I do things that verge on recklessness!"

With your help, we will succeed!


In gratitude,
Reinhard Heiserer

PS: We'd be happy to send you the complete prayer. Call us on +43 1 879 07 07 or email us at: spenden@jugendeinewelt.at. Download here: www.jugendeinewelt.at/strassenkinder



Fr. Marco Paredes (back row), Fr. Francisco Sánchez, Reinhard Heiserer (front row) and children from the programme for street children in Ecuador.

Poverty and Social Inequality

With its Pacific beaches, tropical rainforest and the soaring Andes, Ecuador offers scenery of breathtaking diversity. The population is equally diverse: no fewer than 13 indigenous peoples of Afro-Ecuadorian or European descent live in the South American country and have their own languages. The country at the equator is home to a huge variety of flora and fauna. The famous Galápagos Islands, for instance, are among the world's best-known destinations for naturalists. But away from the tourist attractions, most people lead lives that are challenging and arduous. Extreme poverty and glaring social inequality remain part and parcel of everyday life in the country. The boom in banana and oil production, as well as in the export of cocoa and flowers, brought prosperity to only a privileged handful, and despite the great efforts made in recent years, society in Ecuador is still marked by the wealth of a few and the poverty of many. This social imbalance is driving vulnerable children and adolescents onto the streets and is one of the main causes of child labour. The government estimates that over 375,000 children in Ecuador are forced to work to contribute to their families' meagre incomes.



OUR AID FOR ECUADOR: HELP WHERE IT'S MOST NEEDED

Education and social programmes to combat poverty and social inequality.

In Ecuador, there is not only a great disparity between town and country, but also between rich and poor. This inequality is shown in access to education, health services and clean drinking water, for example. Worst affected are indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian groups, many of whom suffer frequent discrimination in their daily lives. Yet these groups make up the majority of the population – according to CONAIE, the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, 50 per cent of the country's inhabitants are members of indigenous peoples and seven per cent are Afro-Ecuadorians. What is more, the employment situation for most people is precarious. 60 per cent of the population have to try to make ends meet with particularly low wages, and there are no social security services available to them should they fall sick or lose their jobs.

Help for Ecuador's children

Since it was founded, Jugend Eine Welt has been working on behalf of disadvantaged children and young people in Ecuador with the support of our donors. These youngsters

generally come from extremely poor backgrounds and have problematic home lives. Many of them are street children, who can be found on the streets of every town of any size in Ecuador. In most cases their families moved to the town from their rural areas, hoping to find a better life there. But because many of them cannot read or write they have next to no chance of finding work. Instead they live in precarious circumstances in the slums on the town's outskirts. In the cramped dwellings the situation is often so strained that violence and abuse become everyday occurrences. As a result, many children seek refuge on the streets. But there too they are exposed to countless dangers and may, for example, come into contact with gangs of criminals and drugs. The education and social projects supported by Jugend Eine Welt provide these children with somewhere to turn where they are looked after, can behave like children and can go to school or learn a trade.

Small loan schemes, support with ecological farming methods, clinics in remote areas and access to clean drinking water are other activities that open up new perspectives for disadvantaged people.

Facts and figures:



Area: 283.561 km²

Population: 17,6 million

Religion: 93,3 % Christianity (2012; 80,4% Roman Catholic, 11,3% Protestant, 1,4% other Christian)

Capital: Quito (1,900,000), largest city: Guayaquil (3 million)

Urban population: 64,2 %

Official languages: Spanish. The indigenous languages Kichwa and Shuar are also widely spoken.

Human Development Index (HDI): 86th (of 189)

Youth unemployment: 8,71 %

Child labour: Even before the Covid-19 crisis, 375,342 minors had to go out to work. Experts expect the number of child labourers to increase still further as a result of Covid.

Poverty at national level: 32,2 %; in extreme poverty: 14,7 %

Public spending on education: 5 % of GDP

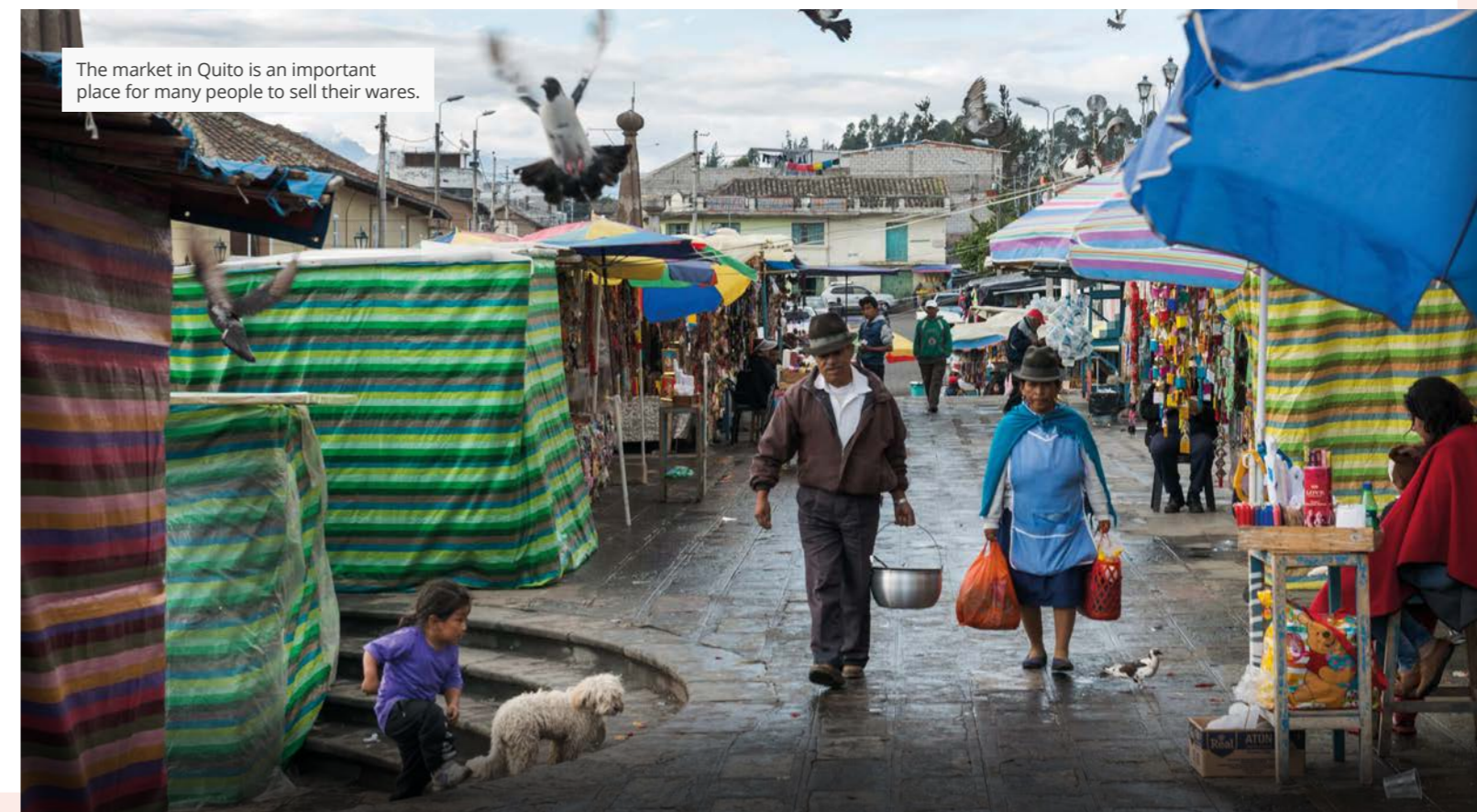
Problems that currently present the country with even more challenges

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic poverty, unemployment and homelessness have all risen sharply. No fewer than 5.7 million Ecuadorians live below the poverty line, and 2.6 million of them in extreme poverty. The situation is made more difficult by the large number of refugees from Venezuela and Colombia who feel they have no future in their homelands. They are stranded in a country that is itself losing many of its native inhabitants who, seeing no prospects for themselves there, head off towards the USA and generally end up in Mexico.

In addition to all this, all schools have been closed in Ecuador since March 2020. "Although the government has instructed teachers to hold lessons online, impoverished families have no computers at home," says Father Naún Tapia, filled with consternation. The Salesian priest goes on: "This means that 35 per cent of all children have had no lessons for one and a half years. That's more than 650,000 children!" The government has, moreover, passed a special law enabling all children to move up to the next grade despite the lack of lessons. Father Naún finds this deeply worrying: "Lack of education will lead to even greater poverty in my country." This is why the Jugend Eine Welt partners have kept their learning centres open throughout, while observing Covid precautions, of course.



The market in Quito is an important place for many people to sell their wares.



FROM THE STREET TO SCHOOL

Security and a better future for Ecuador's street children.



Now rising sharply again, their number was estimated at 375,342 even before the Covid pandemic: working children, who can be found on the streets of every town of any size in Ecuador. Abject poverty, broken homes and, often, exclusion from the education system cause these children to end up on the streets. They are forced to contribute to their families' meagre incomes by cleaning shoes, washing cars, selling sweets or carrying loads, or else they have been left to fend for themselves. Some children live and work on the streets but still return home to their families in the evenings, while others have broken off all contact with their families. Street children have nowhere that would serve them as a refuge: they are in constant danger, driven away, beaten and even abused. Most of them suffer permanent damage to their health because they do not have enough to eat and receive no medical attention.

The nationwide programme for street children, "Chicos de la calle", helps children in need

In order to help these children in distress, the Don Bosco programme "Chicos de la Calle" was launched in Ecuador's capital Quito back in 1980. Owing to the great need the project was subsequently extended to take in Guayaquil, Esmeraldas, San Lorenzo, Santo Domingo, Cuenca, Machala and Ambato. With tremendous patience and dedication, the Jugend Eine Welt partners focus particularly on the children's schooling and vocational training.

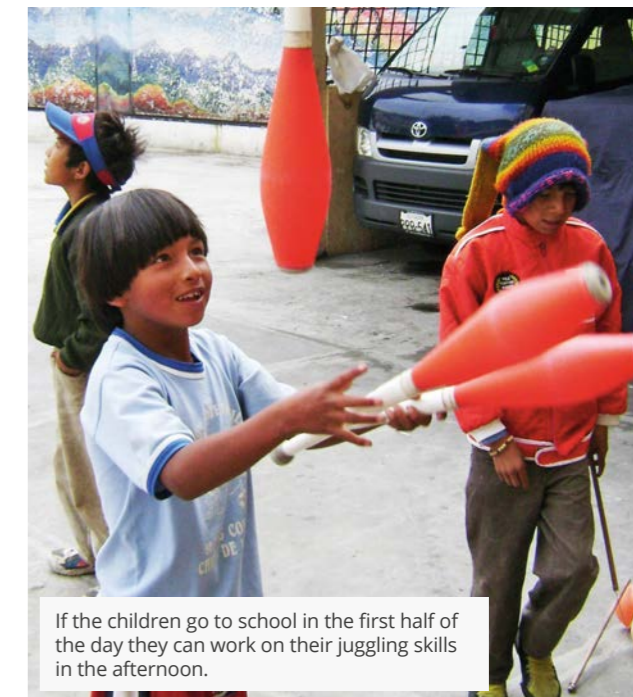
Care in shelters and on the streets

Apart from supporting schooling and vocational training, the programme focuses especially on healthcare and worthwhile leisure activities for these children. One unique feature is that support is offered not only at the youth

centres but also on the streets by social workers who regularly go out to meet the children. Since 2013, Austrian nationals doing their period of alternative community service and volunteers from the organisation VOLONTARIAT bewegt which is run by Jugend Eine Welt have also worked on these projects, providing learning support and help with homework. The aim is to accompany the youngsters, aiding their growth and development, taking preventive measures and giving them the chance of a worthwhile future in line with Don Bosco's educational principles. Many of the children who attend the street children's centres feel safe and looked after for the first time in their lives.

Football as an escape: getting a "wonder goal" with GoI.A.S.O

Owing to the terrible things they have been through and the mistrust this has generated, gaining the



If the children go to school in the first half of the day they can work on their juggling skills in the afternoon.

trust of street children is anything but easy. Free meals or sports events often offer a way in to a first conversation. In their work with street children, the Salesians of Don Bosco have been exploiting children's and young people's interest in football for years. The "GoI.A.S.O Football School" project adopts an inclusive approach in an effort to take children off the streets by organising sports, leisure and educational activities at the four locations Santo Domingo, Ambato, Guayaquil and Cuenca. This project promotes the physical, intellectual and emotional development of disadvantaged children and young people and enables them to develop trust and self-confidence, their skills and their sense of social responsibility. Its name sums up its content: GoI.A.S.O. stands for gol (goal), amistad (friendship), solidaridad (solidarity), organización (organisation) and golaso (wonder goal).

A street-corner circus

To awaken the often timid and distrustful children's interest in education it has often proved useful to be creative and imaginative. This tactic is being used in Quito, Ecuador's capital, for example,

where many of these children earn money by performing tricks for people as they wait in their cars at road junctions. Seeing this led to the idea of offering activities that promote the creativity of children and young people and reflect their interests and experiences. The "street-corner circus" was born! This social and education project gives children lessons in juggling and the performing arts. The most important aspect, however, is that the children must go to school if they want to take part in these lessons. In addition, the youngsters also receive help with their homework. This unique strategy makes it possible to help children who previously showed no interest in attending school.

A hostel for street children

Street children, working children and neglected young people from impoverished families find help at the Fundación Don Bosco in Ambato. This centre for street children was founded in 1998 and is one of the very first projects that Jugend Eine Welt supported. Preventing child labour before children are sucked into it - that is the project team's credo. Every day, around 200 children and young people

„Wir versuchen den jungen Menschen zu vermitteln, dass ihre Ausbildung eine große Bedeutung für ihre Zukunft hat.“

Sr. Narciza Pazmiño FMA

from poor families are given a midday meal. They receive learning support or English lessons. They can use the centre's computers and printers, which for most of the children is something very special. And of course there is plenty of time for fun and games during the afternoon programme of leisure activities. The "Don Bosco hostel" even serves as a temporary home, currently for 40 children.

"We try to make it clear to the children that their training is very important for their future and a life away from the streets," says the centre's director, Sister Narciza Pazmiño. "They should all be able to stand on their own two feet and lead successful lives one day." She still finds it tremendously heartening when these activities produce successes and former street children find their place in society, finish school and a training course and decide themselves what they want to do in future.



They all eat lunch together before, refreshed, they do their homework with professional guidance.



WE'VE DONE IT

The testimony of former street children.

Training every day with GoI.A.S.O to be a footballer

In the Don Bosco centres, support is provided to socially disadvantaged children who would be excluded from education without help from outside. Children like ten-year-old Maria. Until three years ago she was helping her mother to sell fruit. Whatever the weather she would stand at a market stall or at dangerously busy road junctions. Going to school was out of the question. Social workers became aware of the family on their rounds and, following several conversations with Maria's mother, invited the girl to drop into the street children's centre one day. Which she did. Since then Maria has proved a hard-working pupil who has lunch at the centre every day and does her homework there. But what she likes most about it is that, after her lessons, she can play football with the other children. Grinning broadly she says, "I want to be a famous footballer one day." With audible relief she adds, "I only

help Mama with her work at weekends now because I don't have to earn my lunch money by working on the streets any more."

From street child to taxi driver

He is an exuberant, humorous and talkative taxi driver who keeps his passengers hugely entertained. Day in, day out he ferries them swiftly through the streets of Quito, Ecuador's capital. And it was on the streets of Quito that Nelson spent many childhood days. Not for pleasure, but to earn money. Nelson was once a street child who sold small snacks or cleaned shoes for passers-by. Up to the age of six he had had a happy childhood, living with his grandparents in the country. But once they became too old and frail to look after him his mother took him with her to the capital. She had so much to do that she had no time for her son, and Nelson ended up on the street. He was 15 when a Don Bosco street-worker approached him and took him to the St Patricio project for

street children. Nelson still has very fond memories of that time. "I liked it there straight away," he says. "The good food, the nice clothes, the friendly staff. But for me the best things were the outings to the surrounding area – to Cayambe or up Pichincha." This interest in exploring different areas strongly influenced his choice of career very early on. Consequently, Nelson graduated from school and then trained as a mechanic. Following his training as a taxi driver and countless hours spent carrying passengers around he was finally able to fulfil his dream of owning his own taxi and going it alone as a self-employed taxi driver in the capital. His job recently took him past the Don Bosco centre that is supported by Jugend Eine Welt: "When I remembered the happy days I spent there it almost brought tears to my eyes." A father of three, Nelson is especially proud of his middle daughter who is successfully studying medicine.



Maria is one of the hardest-working pupils. She wants to be a famous footballer one day. She now only helps her mother sell fruit at the weekends.



Nelson was once a street child. Now he is a proud father of three and, thanks to his job as a taxi driver, can raise his children in decent conditions.

EDUCATION OVERCOMES POVERTY

Education has proved itself an effective way of reducing poverty, even in the poorest regions such as Esmeraldas.



A group of laughing children chases after a ball.

Gesticulating wildly, they repeatedly shout isolated words to one another. This boisterous scene could be taking place in Austria were it not for the dusty pitch, dilapidated huts and school jerseys that indicate that this is Esmeraldas, one of the poorest provinces in Ecuador. The children playing football here with such carefree abandon are among the lucky ones: they go to school at the local Don Bosco centres where they can learn, play and feel secure. Things that, in Esmeraldas, cannot be taken for granted.

Caught in a vicious circle of poverty

The region is among the poorest in the country. More than half the inhabitants live below the poverty line, some of them without electricity and running water. These pre-

carious circumstances breed crime and violence – also at home. In Esmeraldas there is barely a child who knows how it feels to have an intact family life. And there is barely a child who knows what it is like to go to school: in Esmeraldas, most families simply cannot afford it. Instead the youngsters go out to work. The youngest are barely five years old. The fact that so many children in Esmeraldas do not go to school exacerbates the problem of poverty: Those who cannot afford to attend school have no chance of passing any exams and consequently little chance of landing a fairly paid job later on – a vicious circle that keeps families teetering on the brink of financial ruin for generations.

Education paves the way

Jugend Eine Welt and its longtime project partners in Ecuador, the



Salesians of Don Bosco and the Don Bosco Sisters, are doing everything they can to break this vicious circle. In accordance with the motto "Education overcomes poverty", the



Don Bosco centres in Esmeraldas and many other parts of the country offer thousands of children and adolescents a comprehensive package of support of education activities. The aim is to take them off the streets and into school, to give them intensive support right up to successful graduation and afterwards with their search for work. To achieve this, several youth centres and schools have been set up in Esmeraldas for children of all ages. Here the youngsters can be children, and can learn and develop new values through play that will stand them in good stead for the future. The girls and boys

also receive medical care as well as a warm meal at midday. So that the activities remain effective for as long as possible the Don Bosco social workers also involve the children's parents and provide regular counselling. Because many of the children live miles away from the Don Bosco centres, a network of school transport services is also organised.

Games and sports as an incentive

The youth centres are extremely popular with the children. The "catch": the children and teenagers are only allowed to take part

in the games and sports on offer if they regularly attend school lessons. This is a great incentive for the boys and girls to stick at it and continue their schooling until they can take their final exams. The Salesians of Don Bosco kept their learning centres open even during the coronavirus pandemic. It goes without saying that all Covid precautions were observed. "If we hadn't done this the children would have had no schooling at all for one and a half years and would be spending their days on the streets again," says Father Naún Tapia, director of the Proyecto Salesiano Ecuador – Zona Norte.



GOOD VOCATIONAL TRAINING LEADS TO NEW PATHS FULL OF PROMISE

Education is the key not only to personal development, but social development too.



Good vocational training gives young people the skills and knowledge they need to lead an independent life free of exploitation and escape from the vicious circle of poverty. However, this important opportunity is still unavailable to many young people in Ecuador. As a result, their true potential remains untapped and business and industry lack qualified specialists.

In order to increase the number and scope of professional training programmes, Jugend Eine Welt is funding the VIA Don Bosco scheme which makes a crucial contribution to improving the vocational training opportunities available. The scheme targets needy young people who are at risk of dropping out of the school system and will have great difficulty finding secure

employment as adults in consequence. At VIA Don Bosco these young people not only acquire the requisite theoretical knowledge but also important practical skills that allow them to gain a foothold in the labour market or start up their own businesses in the near future. The branches covered by the courses could scarcely be more diverse, ranging from electrical engineering, car mechanics, cooling technology, construction, plumbing, welding, wood engineering, confectionery, accounting, tailoring, cosmetics, the hotel business, IT and the care professions.

At the same time the various educational institutions in the fields of management, networking and job placement are being expanded and improved for the long term. Because the

vocational training centres actively forge ties with companies in their particular region, young people have every chance of finding work once they finish their courses.

By promoting high-quality education and the young people's personality development the programme supports sustainable development. Apart from Ecuador in South America, the programme is also being carried out in Tanzania, Bolivia, El Salvador and Haiti. In these countries, no fewer than 12,600 young people receive support through the programme. Half of the participants are young women. The aim is to enable young women, who in many countries' education systems still face barriers, to grow in strength and have the prospect of a future they themselves have chosen.

PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Loving care and a safe environment enable girls to regain faith in life.

Every one of them has faced neglect, violence and maltreatment in their own homes. The youngest of them are only five years old. They are the more than 350 girls cared for with great devotion each year at the Dorotea Carrión shelter in Loja. Aside from a temporary home, the Dominican Sisters in southern Ecuador provide a comprehensive package of care and education that

funds for them, and having to send these girls away again broke the sisters' hearts. "It was dreadful when girls – like Valentina who had been with us for six months – were collected by their mothers on their 18th birthdays and taken back home to live with them, their brothers and sisters and their violent fathers," says Sr. Vicenta Camacho, head of the home for girls. In 2018, the Salesian bishop Monsignor Alfredo Espinoza drew the attention of Jugend Eine Welt director Reinhard Heiserer to the Dominican Sisters' urgent need for assistance. With the help of dedicated donors, Jugend Eine Welt has been able to hand over a sum of money to the sisters for an extension to the home. It is now possible for them to take in young women aged 18 and above and offer them support for as long as it takes them to embark on a secure and independent life.

Tackling the roots

Recently the Jugend Eine Welt partners also began to tackle the structural causes of violence and abuse. By implementing strategic measures in the immediate surroundings of those under their care and by cooperating closely with government authorities they are working to ensure that children, girls and young women need never undergo traumatic experiences again. Those families that are most at risk receive preventive support from specially trained social workers who help them improve their economic and social circumstances and so reduce the risk of domestic violence. In addition, workshops are held for the people in the immediate



vicinity to make them aware of the risks of violence towards women and girls as well as of child labour. This leads to greater solidarity in society and the creation of local networks to protect children, girls and women from violence in future. Last but not least, those affected are themselves in a stronger position – in terms of their personality and through education and professional qualifications. This enables them to stand on their own two feet in future and to withdraw from violent relationships at an early stage and with confidence.



helps the girls overcome their past experiences and look to the future with optimism. Currently there are also 30 additional places for girls who need accommodation for longer owing to their especially difficult circumstances.

Scope of assistance increased

The Dominican Sisters were always particularly concerned about young women who had reached the age of 18 because there were no places or



Which types of food are healthy? Even the youngest acquire important everyday knowledge.

EMERGENCY RELIEF DURING THE COVID CRISIS AND FOR REFUGEES

Jugend Eine Welt's partners provide fast and unbureaucratic help in emergencies.

Whenever devastating natural disasters or famine hits, prompt action is always essential to safeguard the population from the worst effects. Jugend Eine Welt's partners are thoroughly familiar with the local situation, and this means that they can provide fast and unbureaucratic help in the event of natural disasters and situations of armed conflict. In such cases, the Don Bosco centres often serve as shelters or distribution centres for food and reconstruction aid.

"Our daily bread" aid campaign

Ecuador is one of the countries hardest hit by the Covid crisis in South America. The pandemic has been particularly hard for the poorest families who lacked essentials. The extreme hardship prompted the Jugend Eine Welt project partners to launch the "Our daily bread" aid campaign to help hundreds of particularly needy families in six cities. They also managed to enter into excellent cooperation with the country's best-known supermarket chains: every impoverished family received several vouchers for EUR 60 for several months, allowing them to buy essentials.



Help for homeless people

The effects of the coronavirus pandemic widened the gulf between rich and poor still further in Ecuador too. While unemployment has risen dramatically, physical or mental problems have also put over 10,000 people on the streets of Quito. These include an increasing number of children and young people who are forced to search for food and a dry place to sleep every day. To make sure the basic needs of these people are met, Jugend Eine Welt's partners are working with volunteers to provide hot meals.

Because people who live on the streets are increasingly being branded as "useless" the Salesians of Don Bosco deem it important to create awareness among Ecuador's inhabitants of the precarious circumstances that homeless people and street children live in.



Help for refugee families from Venezuela and Colombia

"It's terrible to see so many child refugees who are starving," said a disconsolate Father Naún Tapia SDB during his visit to Vienna. To help the refugees who are suffering so much hardship, the Jugend Eine Welt partners in Quito and Guayaquil have set up food distribution centres where destitute people can receive a nourishing and hot meal at least at midday. Father Naún is delighted at the large number of volunteers who are also working in this aid programme and cooking meals for refugees. "We have taken in a lot of child refugees at our learning centres as well," says the Jugend Eine Welt partner. "Having lessons and some sort of routine amid all this chaos does them good. If they didn't have this they'd be spending their days on the streets without any form of protection."





Holding a homemade cardboard sign, this Venezuelan family of refugees asks for help.

Glenn R. Specht's photo / Shutterstock.com

EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES FROM VENEZUELA

Provisions and education for children stranded in Ecuador.

Venezuela has been continually drifting into chaos since 2013, and there are no signs that the country will overcome this severe crisis anytime soon. The economy has shrunk dramatically and the bolívar, the local currency, has been rendered virtually worthless by hyperinflation. The health service has collapsed, as has public order. In consequence, diseases and criminal gangs are proliferating. For a long time now, the majority of the population has been facing a daily struggle to survive. Many families now see no other option than escaping to a neighbouring country. As early as 2020 the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Office for Migration (IOM) predicted that the number of Venezuelans fleeing the country will have risen to 8.13 million by the end of 2021. It is countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that take in 80 per cent of these Venezuelan refugees. The coronavirus pandemic, the loss of their livelihoods and increasing poverty mean that many Venezuelan refugees depend on immediate humanitarian aid.

Ecuador as a country of refuge According to the IOM, no fewer than 450,000 Venezuelans are currently living in the Andean country and almost 11 per cent of them are stranded in the city of Machala. According to a statement issued by Ecuador's foreign ministry in the summer of 2020, Ecuador's commitment to provide for Venezuelan nationals on its territory was subject to growing economic and social pressures which were further increasing owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many Venezuelan refugees, including countless children, live on the streets. They receive virtually no support and try to make ends meet as street vendors or beggars. Despite this they lack even the essentials. Because their status is unclear and precarious many children do not go to school.

Humanitarian aid for refugee families The Jugend Eine Welt partners provide important emergency relief to ensure that these children and their parents are not completely abandoned in their adversity. Apart

from organising food distribution centres in Quito and Guayaquil, the parishioners of La Merced have also been devoting themselves to this urgently needed emergency aid for many months now. In the city of Machala near the border with Peru the children and their families are provided with food and vital medicines. Social workers help the families with questions relating to their rights and with gaining access to other forms of support wherever possible. In addition, teachers are on hand to give the children educational support. All this helps to prevent nightmare scenarios such as exploitation through child labour or trafficking in human beings. But because the emergency is lasting so long the dedicated helpers in La Merced need additional funds. "Please help us with a donation – together we can ensure the survival of Venezuelan families in distress and safeguard their children against exploitation," says Reinhard Heiserer, founder and director of Jugend Eine Welt.

GROWING BY ONE'S OWN EFFORTS

Small loan schemes help low-income families and small farmers achieve long-term self-reliance.

Projects that grant microloans are an important part of the support offered by Jugend Eine Welt to people in Ecuador. They give needy families and older street children the opportunity to earn a living and stand on their own two feet. The borrowers invest either in starting their own business or in continuing their training. The "Don Bosco starter loan" has already helped many people towards financial independence, and it is always gratifying whenever this springboard leads to personal success stories.

A bakery in Puenbo

The story of Luz Elena Galarza Paredes, now 60, is a good example. 18 years ago she found herself out of work overnight and facing a bleak future. "It had been a childhood dream of mine to open my own bakery," she says. "But I knew that hard work alone wasn't enough and that I also needed some capital to make this dream come true." Fortunately, there was the small loan scheme organised by banCODESARROLLO. With her first loan, she bought her

first oven at the age of 42, installing it in a room in her house, and began baking bread and selling it to her neighbours. Her wares proved very popular with her customers, who kept coming back for more. In time, her business really started to take off. One day, Ms Galarza Paredes realised that her appliances could no longer cope with the rising demand. She applied for a second loan, and this allowed her to buy a rotary oven, a mixer and other necessary equipment. She expanded her business, setting up a canteen. Today her bakery, which started out as a childhood dream, has become a flourishing family business.

banCODESARROLLO is often the only chance of raising capital

If the aim is to promote entrepreneurship and an economy that serves the people, access to capital is important for everyone. The Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio FEPP and its development bank banCODESARROLLO are the kind of partners needed for this, granting microloans and other types

of loan to farmers, indigenous, small businesses and family businesses and acting as reliable payment processors. This approach is particularly helpful for the rural and indigenous population of Ecuador and is a major factor in reducing poverty. For many people, the barriers in place for obtaining a loan at traditional banks are often insurmountable. "The small loan schemes are not only about money," says Jugend Eine Welt partner Father Javier Herrán. "What is more important is to have faith in the poor people on the streets and to accompany them in their daily lives. To share challenges and opportunities with them and help them to develop important values such as self-confidence and solidarity, and to live lives characterised by collaborative and social organisation." The objective of the small loan programme is to improve the living conditions of the families and their children who live and work on the streets.

Would you like to know more? Visit the website: jugendeinewelt.at/bancodesarrollo

Luz Elena Galarza Paredes, recipient of a small loan, with her son and her first grandchild.



Founder and director Reinhard Heiserer with the banCODESARROLLO team.



Especially for small farmers, this service is often the only chance of obtaining capital.



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

The clinic supported by Jugend Eine Welt gives even the youngest and most vulnerable access to health services.

Children with a disability receive next to no support in Ecuador. Excluded from society, they often lead lonely lives, unable to make their own choices and deprived of any support with their development. Access to medical care is unobtainable for special needs children from indigenous communities in particular because nearly all such groups live in remote areas.

It is precisely these people that the Jugend Eine Welt partner organisation is targeting with its work. The Fundación Casa Campesina Cayambe offers these children urgently needed therapy within the indigenous community itself and organises trips to its own clinic in Cayambe, Maternidad Mitad del Mundo, where they receive medical attention. Wherever necessary, the children are also given their own therapy chairs and walking aids. The staff also promote the children's emotional, physical and intellectual development with tremendous understanding and patience. Apart from providing the disabled children with everything they need

and caring for them in every respect, the Fundación Casa Campesina Cayambe also places great importance on prevention. To this end, training workshops are regularly organised for women to make them aware of possible health risks during pregnancy. The clinic also holds training courses on key issues for midwives and local health workers to enable them to provide mothers with professional pre- and post-natal care. Courses on general nursing topics are also available to people from the surrounding indigenous communities.

The Fundación Casa Campesina Cayambe has been operating in Ecuador since 1986 with the aim of supporting particularly disadvantaged people in indigenous communities. The city of Cayambe lies at the foot of the volcano that bears the same name, approximately 60 kilometres from Quito, the capital. The canton of Cayambe has the highest density of indigenous inhabitants in Ecuador. Most families live from subsistence agriculture.



POVERTY REDUCTION WITH ECO-FARMING

Sustainable help for indigenous small farmers.

In the heart of the Amazon region a woman stands in a clearing in the dense rainforest. A field stretches away in front of her on which hundreds of little cocoa plants are sprouting. She is dressed poorly, is barefoot, her hands calloused from the hard work on the field, but her face wears a contented expression. The plants are still small but the woman expects a good harvest of her ecologically cultivated cocoa beans which she will be able to sell at a fair price. That was not always the case. The woman is a Shuar, one of the many indigenous peoples that inhabit

the Amazon basin in Ecuador. Like the Achuar, the Shuar have lived from agriculture for generations. In the past, one field yielded just enough to provide for one family. If the harvest was poor there was nothing to eat. Today the small farmers know how to increase their yield using ecological methods of cultivation and how to sell their produce at fair prices. This earns them enough money to send their children to school or to obtain medical care for them in the event of illness.

Poverty reduction with organic produce

The families acquired this important knowledge from training schemes organised by the Fundación Chankuap which is supported by Jugend Eine Welt. This foundation, run by the Salesians of Don Bosco and established in 1996, supports the Achuar and the Shuar, holds courses on ecological cultivation methods, processes the produce,

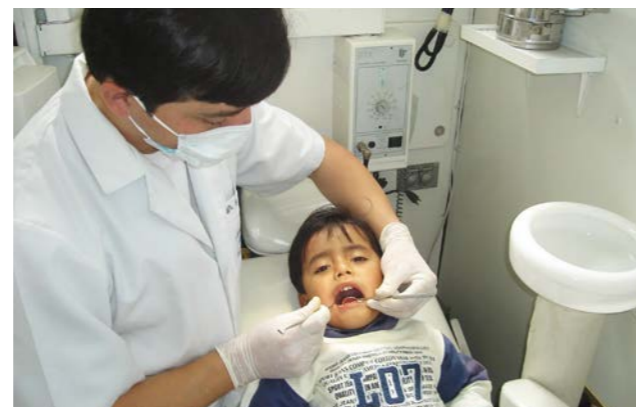
markets the end products and takes care of obtaining international organic and Fairtrade certification. This helps the indigenous peoples to earn a steady income and so makes an important contribution to reducing poverty.

Education, healthcare, agriculture – comprehensive assistance

The Fundación Chankuap supports the Achuar and Shuar not just with agriculture but also works to achieve better medical care and improved access to education. In the course of these activities, the foundation also takes care to protect nature and the culture and traditions of the indigenous peoples. "There are difficulties, to be sure, but these can be overcome if we all strive for the eradication of poverty and maintain the hope that everyone can live in dignity," says Father Silvio Broseghini SDB, founder of the Fundación Chankuap, describing the way forward.

„There are difficulties, to be sure, but these can be overcome if we all feel responsible for the eradication of poverty and the hope that everyone can live in dignity.“

Father Silvio Broseghini SDB, founder of the Fundación Chankuap



WATER IS LIFE

Clean drinking water as a precious resource in one of Ecuador's poorest areas.

No roads, or near impassable ones, steep inclines and extremely low temperatures present farmers in the Páramo region with enormous challenges. Despite this, the families that live there earn their livelihoods principally from small-scale agriculture and dairy farming. Most of the inhabitants of the province of Bolívar, the canton of Guaranda and the municipality of Simiátug live in indescribable poverty. Although it has been possible to improve access to health services in recent years, the majority of the population continues to suffer health problems, most of which are con-

nected to the poor quality of their drinking water. But that should now change, with the support of donors to Jugend Eine Welt: the technology used for drinking water treatment and the outdated water supply network, which regularly experiences burst pipes leading to contamination and wasted water, must be urgently replaced. In addition, the partners on the ground are holding courses for the local population to enable them to manage their water supply themselves. This will guarantee that clean drinking water will also be available to coming generations.



LESSONS ON THE RADIO?

Solar power is a creative response to month-long school closures that enables access to lessons in the Amazon region.



Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in the spring of 2020, all schools in Ecuador have been closed. Officially, lessons are still taking place online. That may be working here and there, but in most parts of the country, especially in rural and rainforest areas, the inhabitants cannot afford computers and, in most cases, have no internet signal anyway. This is true of the numerous pupils from the Shuar indigenous people

in Ecuador's Amazonian region in the southeast of the country. They have neither electricity nor a radio signal. However, there is a solution: using solar-powered radios and learning centres.

The lessons for distance learning by means of solar-powered radios are broadcast from a building fitted with solar panels. A timetable has been drawn up for each community according to which the

pupils follow the lessons and do their homework. In consultation with the parents, the solar panels are installed on the house of the oldest pupil in each community so that he or she, and the parents, look after the equipment. In this way, the Jugend Eine Welt partners can continue to hold lessons for the children and young people in daily broadcasts on the local radio station Radio Tiwinza.



A Nurse in the Amazon

It was a great adventure: Helene Monschein's period of voluntary work abroad as a Senior Expert in Wasakentsa, Ecuador.

"I am deeply grateful for the many things I learned and experienced, during my assignment as a volunteer," says Helene Monschein following her three-month stint as a Senior Expert in the Amazon Basin. "They are gifts that I will forever treasure deep in my heart." She was assigned to the mission station in Wasakentsa, which had been founded back in the 1980s by the Jugend Eine Welt partners and lies in the territory inhabited by the Achuar.

A trained nurse, Helene held first-aid courses and, in cooperation with the local partners, improved the way the health centre was organised. But not only that: the dedicated Austrian also taught English to the Achuar children and provided valuable learning support. "The cooperation with the local partners was marked by mutual interest, respect and a willingness to help," says a happy Monschein. "I had a great deal of freedom to organise my work as I saw fit and was made to feel welcome like a member of a large family."

From start to finish it was a great adventure for the nurse. Just getting there in the first place made staying calm a challenge. "It was pouring with rain, so hard that flying was really out of the question," Helene remembers. "But suddenly there was a break in the clouds and the pilot immediately started the engine. I rushed to the little plane, jumped in, and off we went. I admit I was a little nervous," she says with a smile, having returned to Austria safe and sound. With a fair amount of clattering and bumping they flew

over the endless green expanse of the rainforest, at last touching down safely in Wasakentsa. To welcome her, Helene was given a plate of rice and bananas. The evening was relaxing, but the next challenge was just around the corner: "I hardly slept a wink the first night because of all the strange noises that came through the open window. But the longer I stayed the more I learned to love these sounds – they were truly a symphony concert played by nature," she says, visibly impressed.

The next morning, work began. With her kindly and helpful mentor Father Marcelo, Helene Monschein prepared her lists of tasks for the coming weeks. "I held first-aid courses for small groups," she explains. To help her, she had of course brought visual aids with her to Ecuador. The important thing in her courses is practice, practice, practice. That is the only way to make sure that the theoretical knowledge has genuinely been assimilated. "Each of my attentive pupils had to put on a dressing, do a passive leg raise and practise cardiac massage straightaway," the nurse explains. But her pupils were not the only ones who gained new insights from the experience; the dedicated Austrian also felt that her period spent abroad had benefited her: "For me it was, and will always remain, an experience that allowed me a glimpse of an unknown and fascinating world. Breathtaking wild, untamed landscapes and freedom-loving, strong people full of the joys of living, respect and spirituality who only take from Mother Nature what they really need."



You'd be interested in being a Senior Expert? Visit our website for everything you need to know about periods working abroad:

www.jugendeinewelt.at/seniorexpertsaustralia



In Ecuador – Where it all Started...

Monika Mlinar is a co-founder and current board member of Jugend Eine Welt. She met Reinhard Heiserer for the first time in Ecuador in the 1990s when they were both working there as development aid workers. Back in Austria, Heiserer and Mlinar, together with several Salesians of Don Bosco, former volunteers and development aid workers, as well as other admirers of Don Bosco, founded the organisation named Jugend Eine Welt.

You've been with Jugend Eine Welt from the very beginning. What intentions did you have when you founded the organisation?

Yes, I worked for the Austrian Development Service in Bolivia from 1978 and Ecuador from 1988. In the early 1990s many young Austrians were travelling around Ecuador and expressing a wish to work on an aid project. But there was no infrastructure at all for something like that. It was in Ecuador that we had our first ideas. The idea behind founding the organisation was, on the one hand, to give young people in Austria the opportunity to work as volunteers and, on the other, to raise money so that projects for disadvantaged children and young people, such as street children, could have a steady flow of funds and support. Back in Austria, Reinhard put the concept for Jugend Eine Welt to me and asked whether I'd like to be involved. And of course I immediately thought it was a great idea!

When you look at Jugend Eine Welt today, what do you think it is that makes it so special?

I see that the fire is still alight! That is true both of those working there today and of the founder members who were there at the start. I'm delighted to see the level of commitment and perseverance with which Jugend Eine Welt has grown since those days and how the focus has remained firmly on helping the most vulnerable of all. I am full of admiration for Reinhard and his team for the way they keep finding new ways to support important projects around the world!

You have often been back to Ecuador for Jugend Eine Welt?

I was an auditor for Jugend Eine Welt, from 2017 I was chairwoman of the board and now I'm a member of the board. In the year 2000 I organised a project involving organic farmers from Austria and Ecuador. The aims were a personal exchange and getting to know what life was really like in the other country. We also wanted to raise more awareness of Fairtrade – because fair prices mean less migration into cities. It's always terrible to see when the low prices paid for agricultural produce cause farming families to end up in slums or on the streets. I particularly remember that two female farmers from Ecuador could neither read nor write before the project, but that they immediately enrolled for literacy courses on their return home. With their newly acquired skills they also started to take on more responsibility in the projects. That was empowerment for women in both Ecuador and Austria!



Whenever she is in Ecuador, Monika also always takes time to listen to what the children have to say. But also to simply rejoice in the beauty of the scenery.



This trip then led to more trips for people with an interest in Ecuador?

Yes, on these "friendship trips" it is important to us to promote sustainable tourism and visit the projects supported by Jugend Eine Welt so that we can afterwards show how important they are to the people there. We always went to visit Padre Antonio, who's now 88, in the small town of Salinas, for example. We were able to see how education and social projects were being set up all over Ecuador and how they contribute to a lasting drop in the number of people leaving their rural homes for the cities. The most important thing about these projects is that the support is long-term. Many projects would not be possible if our donors in Austria and other organisations didn't support them for such long periods. I also always found it moving to see the commitment shown by the volunteers from Jugend Eine Welt and VOLONTARIAT bewegt and to see how these young people grow through the tasks they perform!

Was there an incident during all those years that you found particularly touching?

There have been several. I am especially grateful for all the friendships that developed with our local partners over the years and which have allowed me deep insights into the country and its culture. What moves me is the warmth and easy familiarity of my encounters with wonderful personalities – I always feel that my visits to Sister Narciza in Ambato, for example, are like "being allowed home".

What, for you, constitutes the charm of this South American country at the equator?

Its diversity! For centuries, Ecuador has been home to a huge variety of cultures. But the landscape is so diverse too. As a native of East Tyrol the mountains have a particular fascination for me, of course. I also really love the wide range of typical and delicious dishes. The friendliness and cheerfulness of the people and the music always enchant me too! Then there's the resilience of the people: the indigenous peoples in Ecuador have repeatedly succeeded in staving off political reprisals and asserting their rights.



Encounters with personalities like the Jugend Eine Welt partner Father Antonio Polo SDB still touch Monika to this day, even after so many years.



A celebration in honour of the visitors to the Casa Don Bosco community centre in Guayaquil that Jugend Eine Welt and its donors helped to build.



NO TO THE *EXPLOITATION* OF CHILDREN

Using education to actively combat the insidious exploitation of children in Ecuador through child labour.



Instead of going to school they have to go to work every day. We are talking about at least 375,342 child labourers in Ecuador. However, this figure is probably now even higher owing to the coronavirus pandemic that hit the South American country with full force. Emergencies that affect society and the health service, such as the Covid-19 crisis, mean that even more families are struggling for daily survival the world over. Other factors that cause families to send their children out to work are poverty and the lack of jobs for parents that offer work in decent conditions and a fair wage.

The children end up working in agriculture, mining, fishing, as street vendors, in the hospitality trade, in the transport sector or on the streets cleaning shoes and washing cars. The range of jobs that child labourers do in Ecuador is extensive. Of those that have to toil as low-paid home helps, 67 per cent are girls. For these children,

violence and physical and psychological abuse are everyday occurrences.

Child labour that exploits the child or puts it in danger is not only detrimental to the young person's development but also robs it of any prospects. Without school education and vocational training the children have no chance of obtaining any kind of decent work as adults and so remain trapped in the vicious circle of poverty.

Education to prevent exploitation

This is why Jugend Eine Welt is dedicated to protecting the rights of the child, and not only in the current International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and supports important education and social programmes for child labourers together with its donors. Many Don Bosco projects offer these children the chance to go to school or take a high-quality vocational training course so that their

rights are respected, reinstated and safeguarded in future. In addition, they are offered worthwhile leisure activities and psychological support. Over 200 years ago, Don Bosco himself was already fighting to ensure that children and young people are given the chance to lead lives marked by fairness and dignity.

Child labour: Facts and figures

According to the International Labour Organisation's latest estimates, no fewer than 160 million girls and boys are child labourers. This means that they are forced to work in conditions that are in flagrant contravention of their rights. 79 million of these child labourers are exposed to working conditions that are particularly dangerous or exploit them. In North and South America no fewer than 8.2 million children and young people aged 5 to 17 are affected by child labour. Of these, 69 per cent (5.7 million) perform dangerous work that exploits them and puts their safety at risk.

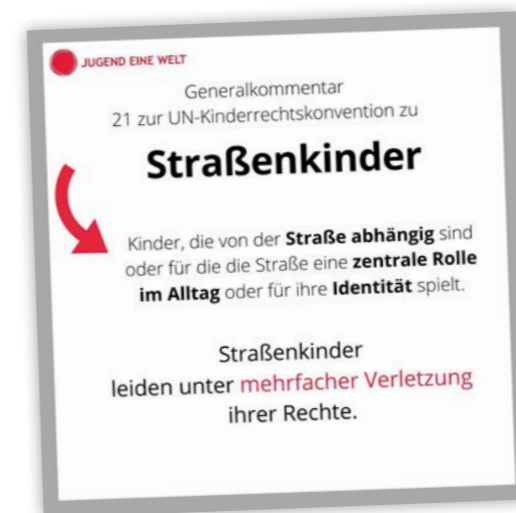
In accordance with the motto "Education overcomes poverty", former child labourers are given the chance of a better life thanks to the high-quality education offered by the education and social projects supported by Jugend Eine Welt.



EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL ON "STREET CHILDREN IN ECUADOR"

"What do you think? Do all street children live on the streets?" Why do children end up on the streets in the first place? These questions are asked by the members of our education team during workshops for schools. Many members of the class have already heard the term "street children". But this is the first time the pupils have thought about what exactly it entails, who street children really are and how they live. What is it like when children

have nowhere to sleep? When they have to work instead of going to school? Using methods of global learning, the Jugend Eine Welt education teams help the pupils to turn the spotlight on a world that is largely unknown to us. In the workshop, the lives led by street children are only one of many topics, and one that goes hand in hand with other important issues such as children's rights and the sustainable development goals.



The reasons why a child lives on the streets differ from one child to another and from one geographical area to another. Many leave their family homes because of the violence there and because their family offers no security. Social phenomena can also hasten the break-up of family and community networks that could otherwise take care of children in times of crisis:

- Urbanisation and the break-up of family and social networks (e.g. migration to cities due to financial straits)
- Extreme poverty and the spread of disease (e.g. children who lose parents to Covid or Aids)
- Wars and violence: the consequences of war and violence include families torn apart and traumatised, poverty, land mines in fields, villages razed to the ground, and insufficient schools and other infrastructure

Ecuador & Street Children: Global Learning to do at Home

Task

1) Watch the YouTube video about the project for street children "Chicos de la Calle" (Spanish for children of the street) in Ecuador and answer the following questions:

Jugend Eine Welt and the „Proyecto Salesiano Ecuador“

- What does the video tell you about the situation of street children in Ecuador?
- What are the project's aims? What things have made it successful?
- What does Father Sánchez say is the difference between a paternalistic educational concept and an integral one?

2) Look on the internet to find definitions of what is understood by the term "street child(ren)" and what the lives of children on the streets can look like. Then write down your findings (main themes and key words) and think about the following questions:

- What do I spontaneously associate with the words "street children" when I hear them?

- What does the term "street children" mean to me personally and how would I define it? When you have answered this question, carry on reading here: Who counts as a street child? (www.jugendeinewelt.at/strassenkind)
- The term can be defined in different ways, then. What does each definition say about it, what aspects do they emphasise? How do the rights, opportunities and dignity of children on the streets differ from those of children who don't live on the streets?
- What makes the term "street child" an appropriate label, what makes it inappropriate? In what ways is it discriminatory? Are there any alternatives?



More details on the free activities offered by the Jugend Eine Welt education team are available for teachers and youth group leaders at: jugendeinewelt.at/bildungsteam. Please also make use of our free digital educational resources: jugendeinewelt.at/bildungsmaterial

Carrying loads, cleaning shoes or collecting rubbish: in Ecuador many children have to work instead of going to school.



Our explanatory video on the Year for the Elimination of Child Labour tells you in only 3 minutes many things worth knowing about the global problem and how you can help Jugend Eine Welt combat child labour: www.jugendeinewelt.at/kinderarbeit. This link will take those who are particularly interested to our dossier of extensive background information on the topic.

From Tyrol to Africa – For the Children’s Future

Interview with Don Bosco Sister Hanni Denifl about her work with disadvantaged children in western Africa.



Sister Hanni, what prompted you to go to Africa?

I had been fascinated by Africa since my teenage years. A slide show about the missionary work of a Daughter of Charity in Innsbruck, where I was going to school at the time, left a deep impression on me. While I was still working as a carer for the elderly the opportunity arose, through my contact with Father Johann Kiesling, to spend a year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There I met Sister Hildegard Litzhammer and the Don Bosco Sisters. After I returned to Tyrol I finally decided to join the order. To begin with I worked in Stams, Vöcklabruck and Innsbruck. I then took my perpetual vows and completed the obligatory year of preparation for missionaries in Rome. In 2006 I came to West Africa.



What African countries have you worked in so far?

For the first two years I was in Ivory Coast, then I went to Mali for a year before working in Benin from 2009 to 2015. After one year in Ghana I returned to Ivory Coast.

What were your main areas of work?

In Benin we set up the “Service DomS” project in 2011 with a team of nine who provide psychological support and social education to young offenders and do important work to prevent young people turning to crime. The project has just celebrated its 10th anniversary. In Ivory Coast we run a shelter for children where girls who are particularly at risk and have already experienced a great deal of violence in their young lives can find refuge.



What are the most pressing issues in the region at present?

What is particularly important to me is that disadvantaged children and young people have the chance to receive good-quality training and the support they need until they can stand on their own two feet. At the same time I have also been working on protective measures for children, also within our facilities. I feel it is vital that the staff and I are always alert to the danger of violence and take steps to prevent it. With regard to grounding the rights of children and protection against violence in legislation, we are lucky that many measures were introduced in Benin as long ago as ten years ago. Ivory Coast still has some catching up to

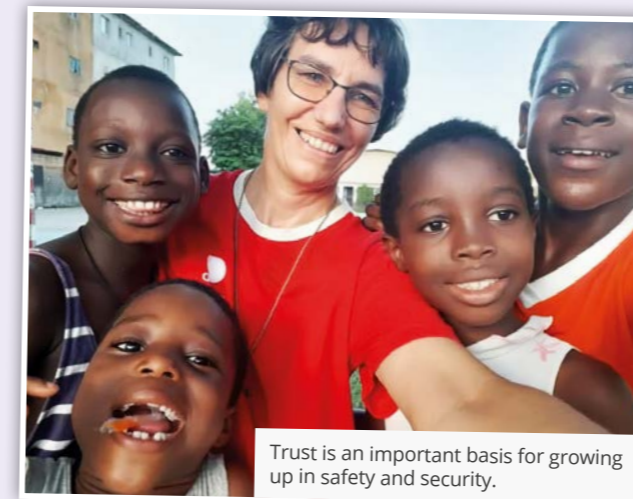
do here, but since new penalties were introduced here in 2019 a fair amount of progress has been made. Specifically, there is now zero tolerance of rape, whether of women or children. Cases of rape are now being reported at last and offenders are prosecuted. In the past it was usual for families to seek redress amongst themselves in such cases and no legal action was taken by the state when violence was inflicted on women and girls. Fortunately, that is now changing and I am hugely relieved to see how things are developing.

Did similar problems exist in the various countries?

What is crucial here is comprehensive psychological support and the provision of opportunities for the affected children to overcome their trauma. That is extremely important to me. It often happens that, on the basis of ancient traditions, children are thought to be “cursed” and this leads to violence towards them. And children who have spent time in pris-



Education overcomes poverty: Sr. Hanni Denifl teaches the children and looks after them day to day with great love, devotion and patience



Trust is an important basis for growing up in safety and security.

on are simply branded. These children in particular need psychologists who know the local culture and help them overcome their experiences. This also includes reconciliation with their parents, of course.

A number of Senior Experts – volunteers from Austria with professional experience and experience of life – have been able to work on your project. Is there a story concerning them that particularly sticks in your mind?

Yes, there was Eva, an Austrian volunteer who took particular pains with one of our girls. This girl absolutely refused to learn and had no confidence in herself. The Senior Expert had experience of teaching, so she drew on her knowledge and skills. The girl insisted that she couldn’t do what was asked of her, that she was too stupid. But Eva was unbelievably patient with her. She sat with her every day and never stopped trying to encourage her. Eventually the girl gained in confidence and succeeded in completing her training with great enthusiasm.

Working for the children of West Africa

Sister Hanni Denifl FMA from Tyrol has been working for the Don Bosco Sisters in West Africa for over 15 years. From a project for imprisoned children in Benin to her work at a children’s shelter in Ivory Coast her primary aim has always been to give marginalised children protection and a future. In the region, the Don Bosco Sisters look after girls and young women who have been particularly affected by violence and abuse or have been disowned by their families. They all find refuge in the shelter for children. They are taken in with great love and affection, can go to school or learn a trade so that they are able to take responsibility for their future themselves. When Jugend Eine Welt stages Street Children’s Day at the end of January 2022, Sr. Hanni Denifl will speak about the many different aspects of her work: on 25 January in Vienna and subsequently in Upper Austria and Tyrol.



Taking the moped to the prison in Abomey-Calavi (visible in the background) to teach girls and young women how to make soap.

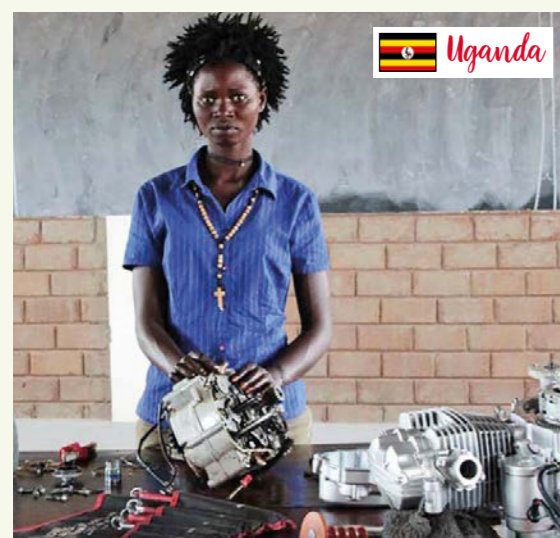


Positive Feedback from Around the World

A great deal has been done in recent months, and the team at Jugend Eine Welt is delighted that they now have the support of a new honorary ambassador. Wonderful success stories have shown us once again that our help reaches those who need it and opens up new opportunities for them. Our Covid emergency relief programme will of course continue until it is no longer needed.

For the future of the young with Chris Lohner

Since September Chris Lohner, broadcaster, actress, author, the voice of railway announcements in Austria and consequently one of the best-known women in the country, has been an honorary ambassador for Jugend Eine Welt and is therefore actively engaged in supporting disadvantaged children and young people all over the world. Her decades of commitment to the environment, culture and especially marginalised and disadvantaged people has been an example to many. On numerous trips to visit projects in developing countries – always in support of humanitarian concerns and always paid for out of her own pocket – Chris Lohner has experienced many encounters and moments that touched her deeply. That has given her the strength to look for and find support and help in Austria as an ambassador for what is good. The current emergency afflicting children and young people in the countries of the South prompted Chris Lohner to take on an honorary position on behalf of Jugend Eine Welt. Together with the aid organisation she will raise her voice for these youngsters, visit projects and help give young people a better future. Jugend Eine Welt is delighted by Chris Lohner's commitment and thanks her most sincerely!



Gladys's dream came true

In northern Uganda, over 53,000 refugees from the war in South Sudan have found shelter in the Palabek settlement supported by Jugend Eine Welt. One of them is the young Gladys. Aged only 25, she is already a mother and a widow. Gladys knew from the word "go" that she would have to work hard to give her son Martin a better childhood than the one she had. The civil war forced her to leave her home country as a refugee. Apart from a life in peace she had only one wish: to get a job as a driver. And so, as the only woman among a large number of men, she took a course in motorcycle repairs at the Don Bosco Technical School in Palabek and passed her driving test. After she had finished her training, a dream came true: in her homeland, South Sudan, she found work as a driver for the United Nations. That at last made it possible for her to give her little son a life in decent living conditions in her home country. She was so happy that she returned to Palabek especially to thank the project partners for the opportunity her training at the Don Bosco vocational school had given her.

Volunteers in India help during Covid crisis

To ease the hardship suffered by the population during the Covid-19 pandemic in India the Jugend Eine Welt project partners at BREADS (Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society) have launched several aid initiatives in recent months. Over 100 volunteers performed invaluable work in the overcrowded hospitals during the most recent major wave of Covid-19 infections. Following a period of training by experts, they assisted nurses and doctors by looking after Covid patients with great diligence. Besides supplying the patients with medicine and food, the volunteers also took the time to listen to them and comfort them. One carer, clearly marked by fatigue, says, "Their helping hands were enormously important to us during this extremely difficult time! Whenever we were in difficulty and asked for help they were there."



Visitors from Around the World



Following the interruption made necessary by Covid, many Jugend Eine Welt project partners started coming to Vienna for discussions again from the autumn of 2021. They brought with them stimulating reports about challenges, advances and setbacks, plus new ideas for helping children and young people the world over even more effectively.

Father Dani Gaurie SDB from Syrien

Education gives hope in times of adversity

No water, no electricity, food shortages. Plus a massive currency devaluation that makes it impossible for the people to pay their living expenses, modest as they are. What Father Gaurie told us about the current situation in Syria during his visit is truly shocking. The Jugend Eine Welt partners have been helping among the local population since 1948 and have never closed their centres, even during the war years. To combat famine they distribute food parcels. Additionally, hundreds of families were issued with vouchers at the Don Bosco centre in Aleppo enabling them to buy staple foodstuffs at the supermarket. For young people, few jobs are available with which they could earn their livelihoods. In order to give them some hope for the future in these difficult times, the Jugend Eine Welt partners have started a wide-ranging jobs scheme that at the same time aims to support reconstruction efforts in the country.



Father Dani Gaurie SDB from Syria

Father Naún Tapia SDB from Ecuador

Words of thanks during a special reunion

"I am happy to have the opportunity to personally thank Jugend Eine Welt and its donors for all their support," says Father Naún Tapia, referring to the many years of help provided for important education and social projects in Ecuador. The current director of the Proyecto Salesiano Ecuador – Zona Norte and founder Reinhard Heiserer first met back in 1993 as dedicated volunteers who were involved in a project for street children in Quito. Their joyful reunion in Vienna was also an opportunity to discuss current projects and possible new support. Another item on the agenda was the continued assignment of volunteers from Jugend Eine Welt and Volontariat bewegt, an activity whose central characteristic was summed up by Father Naún as: "Solidarity! That's the key. Sharing with one another – and it doesn't always have to be money. It is also wonderful to give the gift of time and to make use of skills and talents to help others."



Father Naún Tapia SDB from Ecuador

Father Jorge Crisafulli SDB from Sierra Leone

Meeting with Chris Lohner and a film premiere

Longtime Jugend Eine Welt donors know Father Jorge Crisafulli and his vital aid projects only too well. These donors had the chance to meet the dedicated Salesian priest in person in October 2021 at the Don Bosco Haus in Vienna at a presentation of the film Liberty. This documentary describes the perilous everyday lives of inmates at Pademba prison in Freetown and the efforts made by the Jugend Eine Welt partners on behalf of incarcerated minors. During a personal discussion, Jugend Eine Welt's honorary ambassador Chris Lohner was very impressed by the numerous activities undertaken to help disadvantaged children and young people in Sierra Leone. The documentary Liberty can be watched on the Jugend Eine Welt website: www.jugendeinewelt.at/pademba



Chris Lohner with Father Jorge Crisafulli SDB from Sierra Leone



CALDO DE GALLINA

This typically Ecuadorian chicken soup is truly delicious and revives the body's own resources. It also warms you up wonderfully, which generates a sense of wellbeing especially in the cold months.

Preparation time: 100 minutes

Ingredients for 4-6 portions:

- 1 deboned chicken
- 1 onion
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 carrot
- 1 stick of celery
- 6 medium potatoes
- 1 cup of boiled rice
- 1 cup of boiled peas
- 6 coriander sprigs
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lemon
- ground black pepper
- parsley
- salt

Method:

- 1 Pull the chicken apart into small chunks. 2 Finely chop the onion, cloves of garlic, coriander and celery. Wash and peel the carrot and the potatoes and finely dice them.
- 2 Put the chicken pieces into a saucepan and cover them with plenty of water. As soon as the water comes to the boil,
- 3 add the olive oil, salt and pepper (as much or as little as you like) and boil everything for 20 minutes.
- 4 Then add the onion, the chopped garlic, a pinch of pepper and the celery as well as half the coriander and a dash of lemon juice and leave everything to simmer at a medium heat for another 40 minutes.
- 5 Next, put the potatoes and the carrot in the saucepan and boil for another 20 minutes until soft. In the meantime – after about 10 minutes – add the rice and boiled peas.
- 6 Wait another 15 minutes, then add a little salt before you take the Ecuadorian chicken soup off the hob. Before
- 7 serving, sprinkle a little finely chopped coriander into every bowl. You are now ready to enjoy this revitalising soup!



Enjoy!



For sharp-eyed GIOVANNI readers

Music is an expression of the joy of living. This joy is part of life in Don Bosco projects all over the world! Former Jugend Eine Welt volunteers have brought Don Bosco songs back with them from their assignments in Africa, Asia and Latin America – and recorded them on CD for Jugend Eine Welt. One of them is “Himno del muchacho trabajador”, which translates as “SONG OF THE WORKING BOY”. This song comes from Father Marco Paredes SDB, who lived and worked with Ecuador’s street children for decades. He has made the welfare of these children and young people his life’s work. The lyrics encourage children to fight for something good in life and to leave the streets behind.



Solve the crossword puzzle and win a copy of the CD Don Bosco Songs aus aller Welt.



- 1 In which city in Ecuador was the Don Bosco programme “Chicos de la Calle” launched?
- 2 What job does the former street child Nelson do today?
- 3 From which South American country have a particularly large number of families fled to Ecuador in recent years?
- 4 At the foot of which volcano does the city of Cayambe lie?
- 5 Name one of the two second-most widely spoken languages in Ecuador.
- 6 What is the name of the local radio station on which the Jugend Eine Welt partners broadcast school lessons for indigenous Shuar pupils?
- 7 Like the Achuar, the Shuar have lived from for generations?
- 8 Complete the Jugend Eine Welt motto: ... overcomes poverty.

Hint: All the answers can be found in articles in this issue of Giovanni!

8 2 3

6 8

6 3 7 5

5 1 4

8 4

4 7

1 2

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

How to enter the prize draw:
The shaded letters form a word. This is the competition answer. Email this word to info@jugendeinewelt.at or call us on +43 1 879 07 07. Entries must reach us by – how could it be otherwise? – Street Children’s Day on 31 January 2022. The first five sharp-eyed readers to send us the right answer each win a copy of the CD Don Bosco Songs aus aller Welt.

Terms and conditions of entry:
Please give us your contact details (first name, surname, address) so that we can send you the CD if you win. Your data will not be passed on to third parties. Entry is free and voluntary and does not involve any further obligations. Winners will be notified by email or telephone. The judge’s decision is final; no dispute will be entered into. Prizes cannot be exchanged for cash equivalents. No legal entitlement to a prize may be assumed. Entries are limited to one per household. Competition not open to Jugend Eine Welt employees.

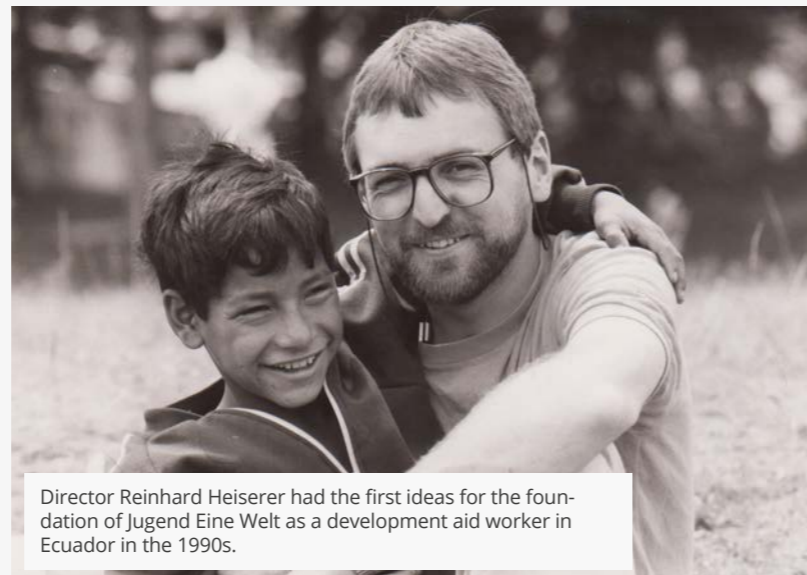


Jugend Eine Welt is 25 – celebrate with us!



From the outset the main idea, was to support projects for children in Ecuador and arrange voluntary work abroad. But the founders also wanted to carry out important education work in Austria to help people here understand global interdependencies. What was begun with great dedication and idealism by Reinhard Heiserer and his colleagues now has a history stretching back a quarter of a century. Today, the opportunity to work on projects around the world is open not only to volunteers but also to Senior Experts with professional experience and experience of life. In this way, disadvantaged children are given new hope for the future, as they are in every project supported by Jugend Eine Welt.

Chris Lohner, the Jugend Eine Welt honorary ambassador. The celebrations will be rounded off by events in other parts of Austria. The Jugend Eine Welt team looks forward to welcoming you at the anniversary celebrations at which we will look back at 25 years of work under the banner of "Education overcomes poverty" and will look ahead to future undertakings with you!



Director Reinhard Heiserer had the first ideas for the foundation of Jugend Eine Welt as a development aid worker in Ecuador in the 1990s.

Save the date

In 2022, we at Jugend Eine Welt celebrate our **25th anniversary** and would be delighted if you could join the celebrations! On **24 June 2022** we will be taking a lighthearted look back at the **Tschauner Bühne** in Vienna in the company of project partners from all over the world, our donors and other supporters as well as



Jugend Eine Welt's honorary ambassador Chris Lohner is also looking forward to joining us throughout this special year.

STREET CHILDREN'S DAY 2022

Helping children shape their own futures.

-- TAG DER --
STRASSEN KINDER
31. JÄNNER

Every 31 January, the anniversary of the death of young people's saint Giovanni Bosco, Jugend Eine Welt stages Street Children's Day to highlight ways in which young people can take their destinies into their own hands.

Jugend Eine Welt continues to support projects for young people who have either run away from home owing to domestic violence or have been cast out by their families. These children are given a new home and, above all, education and training. This year, Tyrol-born Don Bosco Sister Hanni Denifl will speak about her experiences in West Africa where she has been working for 15 years. She helped children in Benin who ended up in prison and are branded for life as a result, as well as girls in Ivory Coast who have suffered violence and abuse. With loving care, psychological support and the chance to learn a trade the young women are able, in time, to shape their futures themselves.

Sister Hanni Denifl will be speaking in Vienna on 25 January and later that same week in Upper Austria and Tyrol.



Sr. Hanni Denifl FMA has always done her utmost to safeguard the wellbeing and the future of former street children.



Street Children's Day Talk with Sr. Hanni Denifl FMA

25 January 2022, 5 p.m.
Curhaus, Stephansplatz 3, 1010 Vienna
Registration: anmeldung@jugendeinewelt.at

Hybrid event: Please let us know if you intend to participate online. You will then be sent a link to access the streamed event.



Don Bosco – A Magician?

Don Bosco was always happy to have an audience, but one thing was important to him: he wanted payment for his little turns. Not in money, but in the form of a shared prayer. In this way he won over any doubters who felt that the young Bosco was too frivolous. His magic tricks had another effect, too: they gave boys who had not learned any trade the chance to show what they could do, and this is why Don Bosco also organised competitions.

In his memoirs he writes this about his performances and tricks: "When they watched me pull beads out of people's noses or when coins, whatever metal they were made of, turned to dust at the mere touch of a finger, one or two of them surely began to wonder whether I really was a magician. My landlord Tommaso Cumini became ever more convinced of it. He had a great sense of humour and I exploited his simple nature to play all kinds of tricks on him. One day he cooked me a chicken, taking great pains to do so. He brought the platter to the table, but when he took off the lid a cockerel leaped out, flapping away and crowing at the top of its voice."

Source: Memories of the Oratory of St Francis de Sales .

Waving a magic wand to change young people's lives for the better

The College of Magic supported by Jugend Eine Welt in South Africa helps children to develop their personalities, find enjoyment in life and grow in self-esteem. And, continuing the tradition started by Don Bosco, the "Magic Priest" helps out. Gert Smetanig is not just a parish priest but a conjurer as well. As parish priest of Burgkirchen and Mauerkirchen and dean of Braunau deanery in Upper Austria he has had close ties with the aid organisation Jugend Eine Welt for many years. Especially in connection with "magic" projects, of course. For instance, the "Magic Priest" is currently helping Jugend Eine Welt to find sponsors and donors in Austria for the school of magic in Cape Town. After all, he himself is a prime example of the way "magic" can change a young person's life.

If you would like to know more about this magic aid project or donate to it, visit our website: www.jugendeinewelt.at/zauberschule or contact us personally on (+43 1 879 07 07, spenden@jugendeinewelt.at).



© Christopher Mavric



Don Bosco (1815 - 1888)
apostle of the young, pioneer of social work

and patron saint of Jugend Eine Welt. His devotion to children and young people is the example we aim to follow. He set up several workshops so that street children in 19th-century Turin could obtain a good education. The dedicated priest also negotiated the first indentures for one of the youngsters in his charge. Today, Don Bosco projects in over 130 countries worldwide provide young people with solid vocational training. That gives them the chance of a better life.



JUGEND EINE WELT ONLINE



www.jugendeinewelt.at

Learn more about our education and social projects around the world.



jugendeinewelt.at/newsletter

You'd like to be kept informed by email? No problem! Register now for "Jugend Eine Welt Aktuell" to receive interesting monthly info about current events and news from the projects we support. What to do: Complete the registration form at jugendeinewelt.at/newsletter, write us an email to info@jugendeinewelt.at, or call us on +43 1 879 07 07.



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With a Facebook like you will always be kept updated. Full information on campaigns, topics and events.



JUGEND EINE WELT INFOS

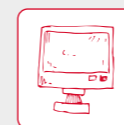
Jugend Eine Welt and WeltWegWeiser

WeltWegWeiser is an independent service point for voluntary assignments abroad. Founded in 2015 and managed by Jugend Eine Welt, WeltWegWeiser supports volunteers wishing to do a period of voluntary service abroad with one of our 19 partner organisations. On these assignments, volunteers do unpaid work on projects in other countries and so support social concerns, development and human rights.

Since its inception, one major objective of WeltWegWeiser has been to promote high-quality work and make a statement against volunteer tourism. To this end, quality standards were defined in collaboration with Jugend Eine Welt and ten other organisations. These standards must be observed by all the assigning organisations in the WeltWegWeiser network and stipulate, for example, that an assignment must last for at least three months. "International volunteers are like bridge-builders because they link societies and cultures, thereby contributing to bringing our ONE world closer together," says Reinhard Heiserer, founder and director of Jugend Eine Welt. "However, to ensure that periods of voluntary work are fruitful and achieve long-term benefits for all concerned, certain structures and basic conditions must be put in place. WeltWegWeiser plays an important role here, ensuring that these standards are met."



If you are interested in doing a period of voluntary work abroad you will find full details here: www.weltwegweiser.at.



Our GIOVANNI is also online on our website: www.jugendeinewelt.at/giovanni
If you're interested, we'd be happy to send you several copies by post. Just send a brief email to info@jugendeinewelt.at or phone us on +43 1 879 07 07.



Scan the QR code and start reading!



Reinhard Heiserer and honorary ambassador of Jugend Eine Welt Chris Lohner



**JUGEND
EINE
WELT**

25 YEARS **EDUCATION
OVERCOMES
POVERTY**

ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2022

WE'RE CELEBRATING "25 YEARS OF JUGEND EINE WELT"

For 25 years, we have all been working together to help children and young people at risk around the world have better future prospects. We would now like to celebrate this with you.

*Save the date of our
anniversary celebration!*

Where? Tschauner Bühne in Vienna

When? Friday, 24 June 2022 from 2:30 p.m.

Updated information and other topics central to "25 years of Jugend Eine Welt" are available at: www.jugendeinewelt.at/25jahre

Our efforts continue to focus on those children who need our help most urgently. We could not do this without your support. Thank you for the trust you place in us!

Donate online at www.jugendeinewelt.at/spenden or use the account for donations: AT66 3600 0000 0002 4000

Jugend Eine Welt, Münichreiterstraße 31, 1130 Vienna
spenden@jugendeinewelt.at, +43 1 879 07 07 - 0
Thank you for your help! Your donation is tax-deductible.

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