



Giovanni



The Magazine from  JUGEND EINE WELT

Disaster Relief

Help for children and their families in emergencies.



Issue Nr. 2 - 2023

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and disasters

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Dear Readers,

In keeping with the motto of "Education overcomes poverty", Jugend Eine Welt has been working for over 25 years to improve the prospects of socially disadvantaged children and young people all over the world and give them sustainable opportunities.

But also when disaster strikes and in times of crisis we are there for the partners of the Don Bosco network who conduct projects in over 130 countries. Since the organisation was founded, Jugend Eine Welt has lent support to no fewer than **200 relief projects** in every corner of the world – and this work is sadly becoming increasingly necessary. Because the number of environmental disasters, wars, ruinous conflicts and humanitarian crises continues to rise.

When the **war in Ukraine** broke out, Jugend Eine Welt began expanding its resources for disaster relief in order to be able to react even more efficiently to humanitarian crises in future. The measures taken were both in-house and for our **partners** abroad: in November 2022, for example, the aid organisation invited all partners working to provide aid to Ukraine to Vienna for a training session on **disaster relief** that lasted several days. Many project partners took advantage of this event, which marks the start of a series of courses on disaster relief.

In addition, we take pains to ensure that our project partners in countries where the risk is greater are prepared to deal with the type of **emergency** that will in all likelihood recur there. Climate change means that we must expect a further increase in natural disasters, extreme aridity and flooding. But for us, **rebuilding** damaged infrastructure, especially **schools and other educational institutions**, is just as important as disaster relief because it is only by promoting quality education and professional training for young people that countries hit by crises and disasters can experience long-term development and children and young people are given fresh hope!

The following pages present the emergency and disaster relief that Jugend Eine Welt helps to provide. And this help, which would not have been possible without you, is essential to the survival of so many. So I say a huge thank-you to all donors and others who make a financial contribution for your help when children and their families, through no fault of their own, find themselves in difficulty and who work with us and our partners in the field to ensure the survival of those at risk and ease their great suffering.

With warmest regards,

Reinhard Heiserer

Disaster relief is fully tax-deductible for your company in Austria



Regardless of whether a disaster occurs in Austria or abroad, commercial enterprises that donate to disaster relief either in cash or kind can declare these sums as business expenses which are then tax-deductible in their entirety. There is no cap on these amounts. The sole condition is that these expenses are for advertising purposes. Disasters are exceptional occurrences of damage caused by flooding, landslides, flood debris accumulation or avalanches, by large-scale fires, radiation exposure, earthquakes, rockfalls or fire and explosion disasters, terrorist attacks and humanitarian disasters such as epidemics, famine, large movements of refugees, and wars and armed conflicts.

TIP: More information in German on jugendeinewelt.at/100prozent



Fast and Efficient Help in a Crisis.

Time and time again our One World is rocked by earthquakes, fields and villages are swamped by torrential rainfall, typhoons and hurricanes destroy everything in their path and protracted droughts wipe out crops that populations depend on for survival. People are repeatedly fall victim to armed conflicts, wars, terrorist attacks, disease and environmental disasters. Only a few of these make the global headlines, while others, with effects no less devastating, are barely mentioned.

The partners of Jugend Eine Welt work in 132 countries and regularly face such disasters and their consequences. If the disaster is limited to a particular area, municipalities and provinces generally take local measures. But large-scale disasters require a coordinated international response to save the lives of the affected populations.

Thanks to the support provided by loyal donors, funding agencies and grants from trusts, Jugend Eine Welt can help quickly and efficiently when such emergencies strike.

Thank you!



YOUR DONATION SAVES LIVES

In a crisis and when disasters strike, people need help that is fast and unbureaucratic.

Time and again, Jugend Eine Welt receives desperate calls for help from people who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in dire straits. Natural disasters, deadly epidemics or wars have robbed them of everything they have: their loved ones, their homes, all their possessions. Rapid assistance is what is needed here. Emergency accommodation must be set up and a reliable supply of food and drinking water assured. Lives are at stake. The advantage here is that our Jugend Eine Welt partners of the Don Bosco network are already in the country affected so it does not take days to reach the disaster area and set up the necessary logistics. What is more, they know the local conditions and can always rely on a large number of volunteer helpers. And it is precisely these dedicated and reliable project partners with their networks who are our guarantee that the assistance provided reaches those who need it.

Here to stay

Most Don Bosco project partners of Jugend Eine Welt have already been in their country for decades and are totally trusted by the local population. For many people, the Don Bosco centres are the first place they turn to for help in a crisis. Most of the buildings used by Don Bosco institutions are solid structures that can offer shelter to many families in the event of a natural disaster. Our project partners also do whatever they can for the local people, and especially the youngsters in their care, during prolonged humanitarian crises.

Education and help with rebuilding

Although life-saving measures are the priority in the first weeks following a disaster, Jugend Eine Welt and Don Bosco place equal importance on education. Because education overcomes poverty but also plays a role in disaster risk reduction and provides knowledge that can save lives in an emergency. Prompt resumption of educational activities gives children who have lost everything a measure of normality and their days have shape and structure. But rebuilding schools that have been destroyed is also of existential importance to the children and young people affected: it protects them



from child labour and child trafficking. Sadly, there are always criminals who will try to profit from the misfortune of others. In addition, education has the role of giving young people hope in the future and showing them new possibilities.

Digression: How does disaster relief at Jugend Eine Welt work?

- 1) A report comes in of a disaster.
- 2) Don Bosco partners in the country in question are contacted. .
Key questions: What has happened? How are they coping? Are they free to help?
- 3) Experts are sent to the disaster area.
- 4) Appeal to donors to help and search for funding agencies for relief efforts. .
- 5) Processing of donated funds
- 6) Regular communication with partners on the ground.
Key questions: What is the current situation? What do they need?
- 7) Evaluation: What can be improved for the future?



Key terms relating to disaster relief:

What is a disaster?

Depending on what causes them, disasters can be classed as **natural disasters** (earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions) or **man-made disasters** (wars, armed conflicts, environmental disasters). A distinction can also be made between **sudden-onset disasters** (earthquakes) and **slow-onset disasters** (drought). If a disaster strikes a region already affected by political instability or war, the term **complex emergency** is used – an example of this is Syria, which had already been ravaged by war for over a decade before the population was also hit by a devastating earthquake in February 2023. As a rule, humanitarian aid measures are short-term, but some crises last so long that help is needed for many years. This is the case in Sudan and Somalia, for instance.

What is humanitarian aid?

Humanitarian aid has the primary objective of mitigating human suffering. It is granted solely on the basis of need. No group is given preferential treatment and it must on no account defer or be subject to political interests or conditions. It is guided by the “**four humanitarian principles**” of the humanitarian imperative: **humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence**.

What is the difference between humanitarian aid and development cooperation?

Humanitarian aid pursues the short-term objective of ensuring the survival of people suffering as a result of violent conflicts or natural disasters, whereas **development cooperation** aims for a long-term and sustainable improvement of living conditions and the economic, social, ecological and political circumstances so that people are in a position to take responsibility for shaping their own lives unimpeded by material need.



Phases of Humanitarian Action

1

Emergency phase: In the immediate aftermath of a large-scale disaster every minute counts when trying to save lives. The emergency phase focuses chiefly on providing food and drinking water, primary health care, toiletries and hygiene articles, clothing and blankets as protection against the climate, tents or other emergency shelters including sanitation, protection against harassment and attack, psychosocial and psychological support and emergency pastoral care. This phase can last several weeks to several months. .

2

Rebuilding: Once the survival of the affected population has been assured, the rebuilding phase starts. This phase can last from several months to several years. Its aim is to enable the people to return to their previous occupations and stable living conditions. Buildings and infrastructure that have been destroyed are rebuilt, the water and power supply is restored, tools and seed are distributed, and money is made available for employment schemes. In order to be prepared for future disasters, rebuilding follows the principle of “building better than before”.

3

Disaster risk reduction: To ensure that a future natural disaster does not turn into a humanitarian disaster for the affected population, preventive measures are essential. The aim is to avoid any after-effects of natural disasters or at least minimise them. To this end, emergency and evacuation plans are drawn up with the local population, training sessions are held on how to react in the event of an earthquake, first-aid courses are organised, mangroves are planted as storm and flood protection, earthquake-proof buildings are constructed and early warning systems are installed. The aim of all this is to prepare people for future disasters, increase their resilience and so save lives in an emergency.

Source: STREAM OF SOLIDARITY: The emergency response mechanism recommended for SDB provinces and SDB staff, version 12 (October 2017), published by Don Bosco-Network.



WHEN THE EARTH SHAKES...

Earthquakes are often followed by weeks of aftershocks that terrify the traumatised people.

In the early hours of 6 February this year the earth around the Turkish-Syrian border shook. Houses collapsed and tens of thousands of people lost their lives beneath the rubble. Those who survived the devastating quake were left defenceless in the icy cold, their lives in ruins. To provide help in the region as fast as possible, Jugend Eine Welt sent Wolfgang Wedan, its global relief coordinator, to the affected area. That same morning, Sister Carol had set out from Damascus to bring blankets, clothing, medicine and food to her sisters in Aleppo. On the day of the disaster, she told the aid organisation: "The sisters in Aleppo have taken in many families and are helping wherever they can!" After weeks of providing disaster relief, Jugend Eine Welt still supports the Syrian people with their rebuilding efforts (see page 18 for more details).

Red alert: Haiti repeatedly hit by earthquakes and hurricanes

In Haiti, help was given for important rebuilding work along with urgently needed emergency aid. Because when, in 2010, the earth shook for 45 seconds that felt like an eternity, 316,000 people died and the livelihoods of 1.85 million more were wiped out at a stroke. A nightmare began for the people of Haiti, already one of the poorest countries

in the Western world. Jugend Eine Welt director Reinhard Heiserer remembers going to visit the Cité Soleil slum shortly after the earthquake in 2010: "The Don Bosco school complex there had been utterly destroyed and more than 250 people had died. But our partners did not give up, and with our help were able to hold improvised lessons in tents only a few weeks after the earthquake and, later on, to rebuild the classrooms. We remain grateful to our donors who entrusted a total of over EUR 2 million to us at the time." The island country was hit by further earthquakes in 2018 and 2021.

In 2016, more than 500 people lost their lives in Hurricane Matthew, while 35,000 were left homeless. Around 1.4 million people needed immediate emergency relief. During this year's visit by the project partners, the Don Bosco Sisters in Haiti, the important subject of taking precautions to minimise the effects of future natural disasters was again discussed.

Nepal: Rebuilding schools

In 2015, large parts of Nepal were struck by a devastating earthquake that left over 9,000 dead and tens of thousands injured. Hundreds of thousands of buildings were destroyed, including more than 4,000 schools – a disaster

for the desperately poor country where 40 per cent of the population live below the poverty line and at least as many can neither read nor write. In cooperation with its project partners in the country, Jugend Eine Welt provided immediate emergency relief. In addition, the schools in the three villages of Shalvanjang, Dungepani and Malta were rebuilt – now earthquake-proof – with help from Austria. Training was offered to the teaching staff in dealing with children traumatised by the earthquake. Jugend Eine Welt also helped in the wake of the devastating earthquakes in Ecuador, Peru, Chile, El Salvador, Pakistan, India, the island of Java in Indonesia, the Solomon Islands, Albania and Afghanistan.





WHEN A STORM OR TIDAL WAVE CAUSES DEVASTATION...

...the relief efforts organised by Jugend Eine Welt begin immediately in order to save the lives of people who are in desperate straits.



Every year, tropical storms such as hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones

destroy the livelihoods of many people. With wind speeds that pose a threat to life and property, they make landfall on the coasts of North and South America, Africa and Asia, leaving destruction in their wake. Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines in November 2013, was the most powerful tropical storm ever recorded*. It swept away huts, ripped roofs off buildings and snapped trees in half like matchsticks. Over 10,000 people lost their lives and millions lost their homes. The tropical cyclone also caused a storm surge with waves rolling hundreds of metres inland. What followed was disease and plundering.

In this dramatic situation, the existing Don Bosco facilities once again proved their worth. The Sisters took in almost one thousand families who had fled from their devastated villages, providing them with shelter. The Salesians put together 50,000 food parcels and distributed 10 tons of medicines as well as tents, blankets and clothing. After the first weeks of emergency measures it was time to help the people rebuild.

Thanks to the support of the Jugend Eine Welt donors, the homes of hundreds of families in the north of the island of Cebu were repaired. Several families were given new boats; others

received sewing machines, small shops or a pigsty. To be prepared for future disasters, the Don Bosco Sisters also built a shelter in the town of Minglanilla on Cebu (see page 16 for more details). During her visit last year, Don Bosco Sister Sarah Garcia, former provincial of the Philippines and head of the Don Bosco Sisters' Human Rights Office in Geneva since 2019, again underlined the gratitude felt for the help provided by Jugend Eine Welt at that time. Jugend Eine Welt also took immediate action as a supportive partner following the devastating cyclones in South Africa, India, Madagascar and the Solomon Islands as well as after Hurricane Mitch, which caused severe damage in Honduras and other areas in 1998.



New hope for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka

The help provided by Jugend Eine Welt following the biggest tidal wave to date in Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004 was no less important. The tsunami – a giant wave caused by an underwater earthquake – cost 35,322 people their lives. Only one day after the catastrophic flood, the staff at Jugend Eine Welt received an appeal for help, and two new vehicles were promptly financed for the Salesians of Don Bosco to give them the mobility they needed to coordinate their relief work, also in remote areas. Apart from its emergency measures, Jugend Eine Welt concentrated its relief efforts

on building 47 houses for families left homeless after the tsunami and funded 90 new fishing boats and their equipment. A childcare centre was set up in Murunkan with the capacity to take in a total of 220 children orphaned as a result of the tsunami and other child victims. A kindergarten that had been destroyed was also rebuilt, and construction work began on a technical school. These measures gave many of those affected the chance to develop new prospects for the future. The population of the Solomon Islands was also given hope thanks to the help provided by Jugend Eine Welt and its project partners in the country after a tsunami caused extensive damage there in 2007, destroying 13 villages.

**Haiyan was followed by the typhoons Hagupit in December 2014 and Rai in 2021. Jugend Eine Welt helped here too.*





WARS AND RUINOUS CONFLICTS

Helping in disasters means for us, relieving parents and giving children a protected space and a structured daily routine as quickly as possible.

Ukraine aid: Tirelessly supporting children and their families

“The constant threat from the skies takes a terrible toll on children,” explained Father Mykhaylo Chaban SDB, Provincial of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Ukraine during his last visit to Vienna in March 2023. “So it’s important that they continue to go to school and learn.” Thanks to the great solidarity shown by its donors, Jugend Eine Welt has been able to provide vital disaster relief since the war broke out – both in Ukraine itself and in the neighbouring countries Slovakia, Poland, Romania and the Republic of Moldova. In addition, Jugend Eine Welt is supporting a children’s hospital in Odessa with medical equipment and is helping to restore the energy and drinking water supply networks that have been destroyed. The continuation of school lessons is of course particularly important to the aid organisation. Because the children and young people will still have good prospects after the war provided they do not lose out on their education.

At www.jugendeinewelt.at/ukrainehilfe you’ll find our dossiers with regular reports on all the relief efforts.

Ethiopia: First, extreme weather events and now war!

The population of Ethiopia repeatedly suffers from periods of extreme drought and floods. And if civil war breaks out as well a humanitarian crisis is inevitable. Because the food shortage leads to rising prices, meaning that most people can no longer afford to buy food. And while the war in the Tigray region ceased at the end of 2022, at least for now, the situation for the population has not improved. To alleviate the suffering and ensure the survival of a large number of people, Jugend Eine Welt is supporting its longtime project partners by supplying flour. These regular shipments enable the Don Bosco partners in the region to bake bread again and feed the countless needy children, young people and their families at least for a few days.

South Sudan: Flight from atrocities and hunger

South Sudan gained independence in 2011 and is therefore the world’s youngest country. But from late 2013 until 2018 yet another civil war ravaged the African country. After a famine had been declared in 2017, the hunger and refugee crisis escalated still further and the people’s plight reached unprecedented levels. Since then, thousands upon thousands have fled to Uganda and other countries. In Uganda, Jugend Eine Welt has been supporting Palabek refugee camp for many years (see page 13 for more details). But in South Sudan itself the Don Bosco partners did not abandon the people and helped thousands with safe accommodation and direct famine relief. In Gumbo, Jugend Eine Welt’s project partners established a makeshift camp in their own grounds where up to 18,000 people receive assistance. They are given tarpaulins and bamboo for tents, as well as cooking utensils, detergents, toiletries and food.



A RACE AGAINST TIME

At least since Covid-19 plunged the whole world into a state of emergency, the global impact of a pandemic has become deadly reality for all of us. Epidemics such as ebola and cholera remain a threat to the populations in the countries of the South. Endemics such as malaria and tuberculosis are occurring more frequently in particular territories. Effective help to combat infectious diseases requires a well-thought-out emergency plan which must be implemented as quickly as possible.

An example from Haiti shows how precious time is in an emergency: at New Year in 2016, Sister Louisa of Hôpital l'Espérance in the north of the country had 15 cholera patients. Three days later, the number had shot up to 60, and shortly afterwards it reached over 200. Jugend Eine Welt initially provided funds for medicine and patient care, and in a second phase the ramshackle water supply to the hospital and local schools was improved. Cholera is transmitted by contaminated water. For this reason, informing the public of how the disease spreads is crucial. It was particularly important to

Jugend Eine Welt to finance a mobile clinic, which still brings medical care and life-saving medicines direct to the people today.

Ebola as "witchcraft"

Several ebola outbreaks have already posed enormous challenges for our Don Bosco project partners in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ebola haemorrhagic fever is a highly contagious viral infection that is fatal in over 50% of cases. Patients who receive no medical attention have virtually no chance of survival. The longtime and highly competent project partners at the Don Bosco Fambul children's shelter offer a new home as well as schooling and professional training to children and young people whose parents have died of ebola. This assistance, which is provided in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown, would not be possible without the support that comes from Austria. Unfortunately, the superstition that ebola is a "witch's curse" often means that those affected are cast out or go

Life-saving emergency measures against infectious diseases.

into hiding and so receive no medical care. Ebola repeatedly flares up in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, too. To promote acceptance in high-risk areas of the vaccination which was approved in 2019, the campaign for prevention and information continues with our help.

Covid: Hourly appeals for help

All the experience that Jugend Eine Welt has of emergency measures against infectious diseases proved invaluable when it came to squaring the circle: the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic! Amid unprecedented circumstances – the entire team had to switch to working from home overnight – we were initially bombarded by hourly appeals for help from those countries we are in contact with through aid projects. In spite of the lockdown, Jugend Eine Welt was able to distribute financial assistance for medicine, food and toiletries fairly to 33 (!) aid projects around the world and so save many lives.





WHEN TOO MUCH WATER FALLS FROM THE SKY...

In the past, floods and powerful earthquakes have been the natural disasters that hit humanity hardest.

"We need urgent humanitarian support," was the appeal that reached Jugend Eine Welt in 2022 from Father Noble Lal, rector of the Don Bosco Technical & Youth Center of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Lahore, Pakistan.

Unusually heavy monsoon rains in the southeast-Asian country resulted in extensive flooding that caused the deaths of around 1,700 people in the space of four months. Rivers flooded the surrounding area and dams were unable to withstand the historic amounts of water which washed away thousands of buildings, roads and bridges as well as important amenities such as hospitals and schools. There was no longer any clean drinking water and the sewage system collapsed, drastically increasing the danger of disease.

Thanks to its donors, Jugend Eine Welt was able to help following this calamitous flood, as it was after the floods that hit Pakistan in 2010 and after those in India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Ethiopia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For many years, Venezuela has been mired in a major economic and supply crisis. For a long time now, the majority of the population has been facing a daily struggle to survive.* Many people no longer saw any other option than escaping to a neighbouring country. Approximately 6 million people from Venezuela have found refuge in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2.5 million of them in Colombia. Jugend Eine Welt helps its partners in Ecuador to supply the countless children and their families with what they need. Because many of these families lack even the bare essentials. They live on the street, trying to make ends meet as street vendors or beggars.

Because their status is unclear and precarious many children do not go to school. The Jugend Eine Welt partners in the Ecuadorian parish of La Merced in the town of Machala near the Peruvian border provide urgently needed emergency aid. The children and their families are provided with food and life-saving medicines. Social workers help the families with questions relating to their rights and with gaining access to other forms of support wherever possible. 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. In this way, Jugend Eine Welt has often assisted its project partners with important aid for refugees in countries that include Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Angola, Sudan, Pakistan, East Timor and Kenya.

*See page 19 for more details.

FLIGHT IS THE LAST RESORT

The reasons that force people to flee their homeland are many. But those who do so all have one thing in common: they are particularly vulnerable and need help.





Opening Up Prospects in Palabek Refugee Camp

Father Ubaldino Andrade talks to Reinhard Heiserer.

Father Ubaldino Andrade Hernandez has been working for children and young people in Africa as a project partner of Jugend Eine Welt for decades. In 2018, he took on his most challenging task yet: together with other Salesians he is responsible for feeding, teaching and training young people in Palabek, an enormous refugee camp in northern Uganda. Here on the border to South Sudan over 56,000 displaced persons live. More than 80 per cent of them are women and children. For them, Palabek represents a place that can give them hope of a new life.

You have great experience and knowledge of the situation facing displaced persons in Africa. How do you see the current situation in East Africa where you work?

Sadly, the situation is deteriorating more and more. The number of refugees continues to rise. War, hunger and drought are driving people out of their villages. In South Sudan, armed conflicts frequently break out between the different tribes because the drought means there is no longer enough grazing land for the herds of cows, goats and sheep.

The first images we received from the refugee camp in Palabek in 2018 show you teaching children under a tree. How did that come about?

In 2017, thousands of people fled from South Sudan to the Ugandan region of Palabek, a desert territory on the border where the nights are extremely cold and the days extremely hot. Soon after, we Salesians of Don Bosco were given the task of looking after the refugees. Water was scarce and there were no toilets and no electricity. It was tough! But we did not abandon the people and slept on the floor of the straw huts like they did. After a while we were able to provide 750 children with regular meals and began holding lessons for them. Because it is essential that these youngsters have some sort of future prospects, and this is only possible through education! And that's why, in the first months, the lessons took place under a tree.

What started under a tree is now a Don Bosco education facility with a kindergarten, school and vocational training centre. How did you manage that?



Apart from hunger and the lack of water, one of the greatest problems in refugee camps is being condemned to doing nothing. In the spirit of Don Bosco it is therefore immensely important to restore people's dignity to them. Education is the best way to do this. Our vocational training centre is an oasis in the middle of an inhospitable desert. We offer courses in agriculture, motor engineering, tailoring, hairdressing, civil engineering and solar engineering.

Do young people who have been trained in the refugee camp have any chance of leaving it and making a better future for themselves?

Yes, many of them go back to South Sudan after their training and find work there. We're particularly proud of a young lady called Gladys who qualified as a mechanic at our centre. She also learned to drive and is now a driver at the United Nations. Like us, the Salesians of Bosco, Gladys is grateful to all those who help us encourage young people to learn so that they can lead an independent life.



TIP! Click here for the full interview: www.jugendeinewelt.at/partner-im-gespraech

Overview of Jugend Eine Welt's Disaster Relief Around the World



Since it was founded in 1997, Jugend Eine Welt has never abandoned its project partners around the world in humanitarian crises and when disasters strike: the aid organisation has already supported over 200 emergency relief projects. Here is an overview of the most significant events that made help necessary that we were able to provide thanks to the generosity of our donors. In addition to these aid projects, help was also given to people in need in 24 countries during the Covid pandemic. Furthermore, this list does not include our worldwide projects for refugees and combating hunger, events which are generally the result of wars or drought.

1 Ecuador

- Volcanic eruption: 2006
- Earthquakes: 2011, 2016
- Landslide: 2022

2 Venezuela

- Storm disaster: 1999

3 Honduras

- Hurricane: 1998

4 El Salvador

- Earthquake: 2001

8 Ukraine

- War: 2022

9 Romania

- Floods: 2013

10 Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Floods: 2014

5 Peru

- Earthquake: 2007

6 Chile

- Earthquake: 2010

7 Haiti

- Hurricane: 2008
- Earthquakes: 2010, 2021
- Cholera-Epidemic: 2016

11 Albania

- Earthquake: 2019


12 Syria

- War: Help since 2013
- Earthquake: 2023




For more information, visit
www.jugendeinewelt.at/nothilfe
Account for donations:
AT66 3600 0000 0002 4000



13 **India** 
• Earthquake: 2001
• Cyclone: 2012
• Floods: 2015, 2018

16 **Afghanistan** 
• Famine (*takeover by the Taliban*): 2021
• Earthquake: 2022

14 **Sri Lanka** 
• War: 2004, 2005, 2009
• Tsunamis: 2005, 2006
• Floods: 2015


17 **Nepal** 
• Earthquake: 2015


15 **Pakistan** 
• Earthquake: 2005
• Floods: 2010, 2022

18 **Philippines** 
• Landslide: 2006
• Typhoons: 2013, 2014, 2021

19 **Indonesia** 
• Earthquake: 2006



20 **Solomon Islands** 
• Tsunamis: 2007
• Earthquakes: 2010, 2017

21 **Madagascar** 
• Cyclone: 2007

22 **Ethiopia** 
• Drought: 2000, 2006, 2015
• Flood aid: 2006
• War: Hilfe seit 2020

25 **Democratic Republic of the Congo** 
• Volcanic eruption: 2002
• War: 2002

23 **Kenya** 
• Drought: 2012

26 **South Sudan** 
• War & ruinous conflicts: 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

24 **Mali** 
• Landslide: 2006
• Typhoons: 2013, 2014, 2021

27 **Sudan** 
• Ruinous conflicts: 2004

28 **Ivory Coast** 
• Drought: 2021

Education Despite *Crises and Disasters*

Regular school classes take on particular importance in turbulent times.

Although life-saving measures are the priority in the first weeks following a disaster, Jugend Eine Welt places particular importance on education in the context of humanitarian aid, too. Because education overcomes poverty but also plays a role in disaster risk reduction and provides knowledge that can save lives in an emergency. Prompt resumption of educational activities gives children who have lost everything a measure of normality, their days have shape and structure and they are given fresh hope in the future. Furthermore, rebuilding schools that have been destroyed is of existential importance to the children and young people affected: it protects them from forms of exploitation such as child labour and child trafficking. The Jugend Eine Welt project partners also make sure that children can go to school and adolescents can learn a trade in refugee camps in Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan.

Syria: A kindergarten offers comfort amid hardship and tragedy

Only 24 days after the devastating earthquake that struck south-eastern Turkey and north-western Syria, killing over 50,000 people, the kindergarten run by our Don Bosco project partners in the badly hit Syrian city of Aleppo reopened. "It's so important that traumatised children be helped and a smile is put back on their faces," said Reinhard Heiserer, thanking the Jugend Eine Welt donors. "If the children's situation improves a little it's a huge relief for parents too. Thank

you for making it possible with your donation." The aid organisation has supported the kindergarten in the city of Aleppo, which suffered enormous damage in the earthquake, for many years. Even before the quake it was an oasis of peace in the war-torn country. Infants who were separated from their parents



in the calamitous earthquake were taken into the Don Bosco Sisters' kindergarten and looked after. Many of them are so young that they cannot say where they live or what their parents' full names are.

Ukraine: Distance learning for child refugees in Don Bosco facilities

In Ukraine there are over four million children and teenagers who should be in school. But because of the continuing war in

their home country, three out of four Ukrainian children do not go. Many schools have been damaged or destroyed in Russian bombardments, while many of those that are still intact are being used as emergency accommodation. What is more, figures from UNICEF, the UN emergency fund for children,

suggest that over two million Ukrainian children were forced to leave their homeland in 2022 and have found refuge in neighbouring countries. In addition to the emergency aid measures and educational activities launched in Ukraine's neighbouring countries by the Jugend Eine Welt project partners in the summer months of 2022, schoolchildren were given the opportunity to continue their lessons in the Ukrainian education system by means of distance





learning. Demand was huge. For example in Chişinău, capital of the Republic of Moldova. The Don Bosco partners also arranged after-school programmes for the youngsters with free afternoon supervision and learning support in their native language.



Philippines: Safer with knowledge and well-built centres

In regions at risk of natural disasters, Jugend Eine Welt encourages construction of robust school buildings that can serve as shelters for the local population in an emergency. Schoolchildren are informed of potential natural disasters and learn how best to protect themselves when one occurs. Following Typhoon Haiyan, a civil protection centre was built in the town of Minglanilla in the Philippines with the help of Jugend Eine Welt. In the event of another natural disaster, the centre can provide temporary shelter for one thousand people. Currently it is being used as a school for 500 socially disadvantaged girls. This represents a vital chance for them because girls from poor families on the island of Cebu are in constant danger of being forced into prostitution by human traffickers.



Pakistan: Lessons in tents and the open air

In 2005, Pakistan was hit by one of the biggest earthquakes ever to strike the region. According to official figures, more than 76,000 people died and three million were left homeless. Immediately after

the disaster, Jugend Eine Welt was already supporting the first relief operations. Rebuilding schools was part of the Jugend Eine Welt partners' programme of emergency relief and rebuilding from the word "go". Immediately after the earthquake, makeshift lessons were organised in the open air and, as soon as they were available, in specially provided tents. Two sites in the region of Manu Jabra whose schools had been destroyed by the earthquake were chosen as project locations. Thanks to the help provided by Austria, it was possible to



build earthquake-proof schools in both places for up to 500 children and young people.



Afghanistan: Education in a country heading for one of the biggest humanitarian crises in the world

After decades of armed conflicts, recurring natural disasters and severe poverty, the return to power of the Taliban in August 2021 has accelerated the economic decline even more, leading to still greater hunger and insufficient provision

of essentials to the population. It must also be assumed that Afghani girls will fall way behind in their education because they are currently only permitted to go to school for six years. After then, the educational opportunities available to them are virtually non-existent.

Furthermore, female teachers in Afghanistan are only allowed to teach literacy classes. They are also no longer being paid, which means a loss of important money to support their families. Despite this lack of a salary, many of these courageous teachers continue to try to do their job. With great dedication, they secretly teach girls and young women. The AKIS cultural association supports these teachers and their families along with Jugend Eine Welt. The partners in Kabul distribute food parcels containing rice, cooking oil, beans

and flour as well as sugar and tea. The cultural association has also rented a small room where lessons for girls are held – and caution is needed because these activities must not draw too much attention. They are, after all, against current legislation. But their fear of punishment does not prevent these women from continuing to pursue their true vocation – for the future of all girls in Afghanistan!



Courage Can Lead You Astray



Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, Wolfgang Wedan has been working for Jugend Eine Welt as relief coordinator. In this interview, the experienced disaster expert describes his most moving mission and reveals why he loves South America so much.

What exactly is it that you do as a relief coordinator?

My job is to help our project partners organise relief efforts in times of crisis and emergency and make sure they are appropriate for the scale of the disaster. The aim is to use the available resources as efficiently as possible in cooperation with them in order to provide the best possible help for the communities in distress.

Working in disaster relief requires a great deal of courage. What other qualities are important?

Courage is not good because it makes you daring. And you don't want to dare anything. On the contrary, you must calculate the risks every day anew, calmly and coolly, and work out how you can minimise them. What's the situation, what could happen – and apart from your plan A you must always have a plan B. It's also extremely important that you never forget how to learn. You learn something new from every mission, and I always say, 'Take the good things with you that will help you in future and leave the bad things where they are'.

You have experienced so much. Which of your missions made the biggest impression on you?

For a long time I thought that nothing could be worse than the situation in Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. But what I saw during my mission after the earthquake in Syria and Turkey was far more tragic than anything I had known before. Aleppo is a city in ruins – much of the destruction is a result of the war, and now the earthquake has flattened any

buildings that were still intact. The suffering and despair in the city are enormous. The people are deeply traumatised. In temperatures below freezing I saw children, barefoot and wearing nothing but pyjamas, sitting alone at the roadside, crying. The people have simply lost everything and their lives are in tatters. Food prices at the markets skyrocketed immediately and there was no drinking water anywhere. Because the bodies of victims that remained buried under the rubble had already contaminated the ground water after only a few weeks. Medical care is also in desperate straits. Hospitals don't have enough doctors, medicines or medical equipment.

What specific relief efforts are under way, for example in Syria?

We helped with emergency accommodation and handed out food, blankets, clothing and medicines. The Don Bosco Sisters and the Salesians of Don Bosco both immediately opened their institutions to those in need of shelter and sacrificed their own basic needs such as sleep and food. They were there round the clock for the affected communities and passed on everything that was available to those in need – even what they really would have needed for themselves. The region is marked by any number of conflicts, but everyone found a place with us, regardless of their religious affiliation. The Sisters didn't even have time to sit down for a quick meal because there was always someone ringing at their door. You help, and when you receive a smile in return it gives you the strength you need to carry on!



You are currently helping in Venezuela where the population has also been gripped by a protracted humanitarian crisis.

Yes, Venezuela has been continually drifting into chaos since 2013, and there are no signs that the country will overcome this severe crisis anytime soon. I support the "Casas Hogares" there, projects for street children run by the Salesians of Don Bosco whose existence is unbelievably important. According to the UNHCR Global Report, no fewer than 7.2 million people had left their home countries owing to severe hardship by March 2023. Many of them leave their children behind. Life in Venezuela is hard, the crime rate is high and the number of children living on the streets and fending for themselves continues to rise. In the city of Valencia where the Jugend Eine Welt partners also run schools there is the additional problem of a lack of drinking water and an almost complete lack of medical care.

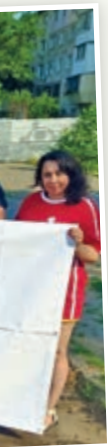
On this mission you also support indigenous peoples.

I also support a large-scale project in Zulia, a state on the Colombian border. The indigenous population there is severely disadvantaged and, as always, it's the children and women who suffer most. The people

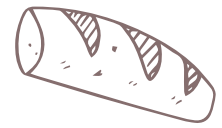
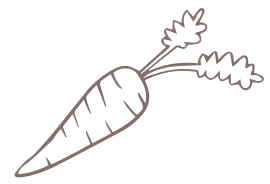
there have absolutely nothing, and the situation is made worse by a whole host of problems including child labour, domestic violence and teenage pregnancies. What's more, the region is controlled not by the Venezuelan government but by paramilitary groups from Colombia. We aim to help the people by starting an agricultural college that also teaches alternative farming methods and by carrying out a photovoltaic project – currently the area doesn't even have electricity.

When you talk about Venezuela your eyes always start to sparkle.

That's right! In the past I worked in Ecuador and Nicaragua and was already in love with the Latin American cultural area then. The people lack everything, but still exude a tremendous zest for life! I love the people's mentality, the beautiful scenery and the fresh fruits. I was already there in winter and had to interrupt my stay in Venezuela in February because of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. The people in Zulia regularly wrote to me telling me how much they were looking forward to my return and saying they would organise a small celebration for me. The warmth of the way they welcomed me into their community is really wonderful!



i **Fast and efficient help for people in need with project partners on the ground:** Wolfgang Wedan studied risk management and disaster management in Vienna. He has held senior positions on missions after earthquakes in Algeria (2003), Morocco (2004), Indonesia (2009), Haiti (2010), Nepal (2015) and Ecuador (2016). Wedan and his expertise were also in demand following the devastating tsunami that struck Sri Lanka in 2004. Since 2022 he has been in the Republic of Moldova, coordinating the Jugend Eine Welt relief work for Ukraine, and most recently supported the aid organisation's partners following the catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Now he is in Venezuela where the population has been suffering for nearly a decade from a humanitarian crisis which has been largely ignored by the media.



WHAT'S IN A FOOD PARCEL?

When people are totally dependent on food aid owing to a disaster or a crisis, the World Health Organization and the United Nations World Food Programme recommend that a daily ration of 2,100 calories per adult be assured. A parcel containing appropriate foodstuffs is essential for maintaining the nutritional status of the people affected. Of these 2,100 calories per person, 10–12 per cent should come from proteins and 17 per cent from fat. They should contain micro-nutrients such as vitamin A, iron, iodine and zinc. In emergencies and refugee crises, the main ingredients of the World Food Programme's food basket are: one staple such as wheat flour or rice; lentils, chickpeas or other pulses; vegetable oil (enriched with vitamins A and D); sugar and iodised table salt.

If the food parcels are not supplied from abroad the life-saving food items are put together according to these guidelines and ensuring the requisite number of calories – depending, of course, on what is available in the region concerned. In the case of the area of Syria hit by the earthquake at the beginning of the year, the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Don Bosco Sisters always made sure that the mixture of nutrients was a balanced one. In consequence, a food parcel always contained the following items: wheat flour, rice, pasta, tomato puree, lentils, nuts, cooking oil, sugar, salt, sardines and sweets (e.g. Turkish honey). Fresh fruit and vegetables were added whenever they were available. Similar food parcels were put together for Ukraine. They were then sent to the Don Bosco Sisters in Odessa in the context of the projects supported by the Austrian Development Agency and Nachbar in Not. From Odessa, they were then distributed around the country to those in need. To cite another example: the Jugend Eine Welt partners provided valuable food aid in Afghanistan in 2021. The combination of war, the Covid-19 crisis and drought has led to a serious food shortage in Afghanistan and, following the withdrawal of international troops and the takeover by the Taliban, the humanitarian situation has worsened dramatically.



Digression: Money instead of food

Food is distributed in areas where it is scarce. Where food is available but unaffordable, needy people can be supported with cash or vouchers so that they can buy nutritious food. These cash transfers allow them to decide for themselves what they need most urgently. In addition, they support the local economy. Ecuador was one of the worst-hit countries in Latin America before the Covid crisis. The desperate plight of the poorest families there prompted the Jugend Eine Welt project partners to launch the aid campaign "Our Daily Bread". The Salesians of Don Bosco were able to cooperate with the country's best-known supermarket chains: every month, 700 impoverished families received a voucher worth EUR 60, allowing them to buy essentials. The supermarkets paid more than half the costs (EUR 35) themselves. The Jugend Eine Welt partners had to finance the remaining EUR 25, and thanks to the generous support of donors and funding agencies they were able to do so.



“I am Hugely Impressed by the Work Being Done There!”

Senior Expert Martina Sordian talks about her assignment with the Jugend Eine Welt partners in the Republic of Moldova, a country marked by help for Ukrainian refugees.

“Living together with the Ukrainians allowed me to share their emotions, especially when bombs were once again falling on their home towns,” says Martina Sordian. The Viennese returned from her three-month assignment as a Senior Expert in the Republic of Moldova with Wolfgang Moser, a former civil servant in the Austrian Foreign Ministry, in early December 2022. “The assignment was tremendously rewarding and a journey into an unknown country which, although it’s in Europe, is further away than we imagine,” says the retired project manager at an Austrian environmental protection organisation who still works as a foreign-language teacher and translator.

During her stay, Ms Sordian lived in the house of the Salesians of Don Bosco in the Moldovan capital, Chişinău – along with many people who had fled from Ukraine and found refuge there. “The work being done there is truly remarkable,” says Martina Sordian. The Salesians not only provide refugees with accommodation but also run a care home on their premises. Martina found the children’s stories very moving: “I was hugely impressed by this project because I could see just how much dedication and love go into looking after the boys round the clock.” She was also deeply moved by the stories and fates of the people who had fled their homeland. “The people were

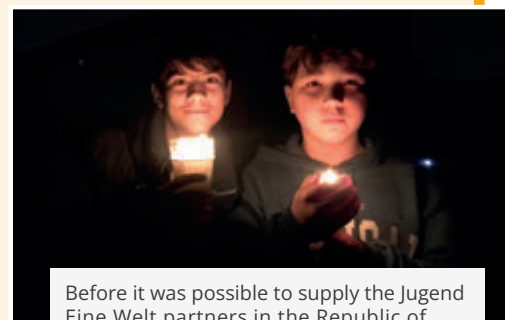
incredible,” says Ms Sordian. The Austrian found the sincere invitation of one displaced lady to visit her home town of Kyiv particularly touching because it was an expression of a great hope – hope for peace!

Important help in the Republic of Moldova: The support provided by the “PLUS Project”, which is financed by the Austrian Development Agency, includes food and shelter for Ukrainian refugee families which are provided by the Jugend Eine Welt partners at the youth centre in Chişinău and CONCORDIA Moldova. There, children and young people receive important psychological support to help them overcome the traumas they suffered as they fled their homeland. The day-care programme also includes help with homework and other important issues relating to their schooling. In addition to that, worthwhile leisure activities such as outings, hikes and the like are organised. Another current project in the Republic of Moldova is “SECURE”, supported by Nachbar in Not and the Austrian Development Agency. This project provides aid not just to people in the Ukrainian city of Odessa but also to Ukrainian refugee families and needy children and their families in the Republic of Moldova. The project activities include the distribution of food parcels, preparation of hot meals, distribution of firewood, help with paying electricity bills, psychological support, afternoon supervision, extracurricular activities and the organisation of a summer camp. Thanks to the acquisition of computer technology as part of the distance-learning programme, Ukrainian children in Moldova also

have the possibility to participate in lessons in their homeland, while underprivileged children in Moldova learn important computer skills. Additionally, our Jugend Eine Welt project partners were supplied with urgently needed power generators last winter.



Martina Sordian shortly before her leaving for the Republic of Moldova.



Before it was possible to supply the Jugend Eine Welt partners in the Republic of Moldova with power generators as part of the relief efforts for Ukraine, the people often had to contend with power outages that could last for hours.

Senior Experts Austria

You’d be interested in being a Senior Expert? Visit our website for everything you need to know about periods working abroad: jugendeinewelt.at/seniorexpertsaustralia



"GREEN DIVERSITY?!"

CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES THE RISK OF NATURAL DISASTERS. SO IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT TO TAKE ACTION TOGETHER ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS FOR OUR ONE WORLD.

"My dream is to bring as many people together as possible – students, teachers, government employees, volunteers and farmers – to restore nature and pass it on to the next generation," says N. Selva Christh, a young and enthusiastic student at the Don Bosco Eco Club in the Indian town of Ariyalur. Together with young people who are doing what they can for climate protection, he made a video of his tree-planting campaign for our digital map of the world. Other young

people talk about their environmental protection projects, too, and explain how their regions are affected by climate change. Said World map is part of the of the European Union funded Erasmus+ project „Green Diversity?!" which inspires young people to engage in climate protection and climate justice. This cooperation with four other organisations in Germany, Italy, Spain and Finland began in March 2022 and has already brought valuable insights for all those involved. Why

climate justice? The effects of climate change are not the same for everyone in the world, nor are they fair. Those least responsible for carbon emissions see and feel climate change and natural disasters earlier and more dramatically than everyone else.

With "Green Diversity?!" we aim to increase awareness of this situation and show how climate change is affecting different regions of our One World and what protective measures young

people are currently taking in their home countries. In addition, all those working with children and adolescents should be given the opportunity to try out interesting and interactive methods. To this end, the participating organisations provide a specially produced handbook for more climate justice. The map provides insights into the everyday lives of young people in different parts of our One World.

"I have a big request to my friends: Protect nature for a good future. Save nature. Save the world. Thank you."

N. Selva Christh, Don Bosco Eco Club Indien.



Our digital world map is available online at: globe.jugendeinewelt.at

For more details, visit www.green-diversity.org



ACHIEVE MORE TOGETHER!

1 Zotter chocolate helps children in Madagascar

Many families in Madagascar live from agriculture and livestock farming. But the cyclones and periods of drought that occur with ever greater frequency, coupled with skyrocketing prices for raw materials, are having dramatic consequences: In the Global Hunger Index for 2022, Madagascar ranks 119th, third from bottom. Every second child in Madagascar is undernourished: the result is stunting and muscle weakness. To provide around 770 schoolchildren with a hot meal every day, the chocolate-making firm of Zotter is supporting the Jugend Eine Welt partners in the African island country. 50 cents of every chocolate-covered banana sold go to making sure that children do not have to learn on an empty stomach! Since the cooperation, named **"Schokolade macht Schule"** (roughly, "chocolate goes to school"), began last autumn, around 50,000 "chocolate bananas" have been sold. The "Schokolade macht Schule" variety is also available from the **Jugend Eine Welt shop** at shop.jugendeinewelt.at.



2 Review: Day for Street Children 2023

Conjuring up a better future for children! For schoolchildren from the slums in particular, a visit from the **"College of Magic"** in South Africa is a chance to change their lives for the better. Jugend Eine Welt has been supporting this unusual project in Cape Town for many years. The 16-year-old "magician's apprentice" Sikelelwa Ndenetya visited Austria with Sinethemba Bawuti, a former pupil of the college and now project manager at this unique school of magic. Master of ceremonies at the well-attended event, which was held at the Churhaus in Vienna on 26 January to mark the Day for Street Children, was Gert Smetanig. The Salesian, parish priest of Burgkirchen and Mauerkirchen and dean of Braunau deanery, has been a keen conjuror since he was a teenager. In the conjuring community he is known as the "Magic Priest". Next October, Smetanig will be raising funds for the College of Magic when he presents his new magic show in his parish of Mauerkirchen. Jugend Eine Welt thanks him warmly for his support! Videos, photos and further information are available at: www.jugendeinewelt.at/zauberschule



3 When aid organisations join forces to help beyond national borders!

Since 1 May 2021, a very special project has been running in cooperation with Caritas and with the financial support of the Austrian Development Agency: "RECOMOSA – Recovery from Covid-19-related effects and strengthening of resilience of vulnerable groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and South Africa". Through the project, food parcels have been distributed to numerous impoverished families and seed parcels to vulnerable families in all three countries. Furthermore, farming courses have been held and seven agricultural associations received support with their foundation, to the benefit of almost 200 families. At secondary schools, campaigns have been organised on safety at school and the promotion of gender equality. In addition, socially disadvantaged young people were helped to find work experience placements as part of the programme and were offered training courses to help them stand on their own two feet in future and start their own businesses. There was a particular focus on women and people with special needs since they often face more obstacles when it comes to learning a trade and finding work that would enable them to support themselves and their families.



With funding from
 Austrian
 Development
 Cooperation

Jugend Eine Welt ambassador Chris Lohner supports the important topic of bequests

Backstage: Filming the New Advertising Campaign.



Künstlerhaus, Vienna. Salon Karlsplatz. The historic room is empty and darkened. All that is heard is a loud rattling. Images flicker. A voice is heard:

"Camera rolling, sound rolling – and action!" In the middle, Chris Lohner sits on a chair. Beside her, an old film projector casts significant scenes from history – such as the signing of the Austrian State Treaty in 1955 – onto the wall. Chris Lohner, born in Vienna in 1943 during World War II, watches with interest. She, of course, remembers these events. They are part of her life.

Bequests

We are in the middle of filming for the Jugend Eine Welt advertising campaign. Chris Lohner, who celebrated her 80th birthday in July, is the Austrian development organisation's honorary ambassador and the star of the new campaign which focuses on the important subject of leaving a donation in your will. In other words, the possibility of sharing a bequest with Jugend Eine Welt and continuing to do good even after passing on and so making an impression on the lives of disadvantaged children.

"I want to give something back"

Chris Lohner, one of the best-known voices in Austria, is leading by example. The TV legend has already left a bequest to Jugend Eine Welt in her own will and, through the campaign, hopes to encourage others to follow suit. "I've been travelling around the impoverished regions of the world for over 20 years and have witnessed many heart-rending stories. I was more fortunate, and that makes me feel that I should give something back. So it is only natural that in my will

I also remember disadvantaged children and young people."

Jugend Eine Welt's honorary ambassador

The successful actress, TV presenter and bestselling writer has been supporting Jugend Eine Welt as its honorary ambassador for nearly two years now. That helping in a social context is a matter of personal importance to her is no coincidence. "I inherited helpers' syndrome from my father," says the award-winning TV personality. "As a child, seeing how he always helped people who came to him greatly influenced me." Chris Lohner's father was director of the adult education centre in Vienna's 5th district. A qualified librarian, he passed on his interest in reading and, later, the importance of high-quality education to his daughter. "As a child I used to read stories to the residents of the old people's home at Christmas," she recalls. "Today, my passion to help comes from my gratitude for the life I've had which, thanks to the appreciation I've received for my work as an artist, has become a good one. So I feel a kind of obligation to give something back."

There is much to do

That is why Chris Lohner, who has been the "voice of the Austrian railways" for many years, decided – as she puts it – "to dedicate the last instalment of my life, however long it may be, to disadvantaged children." And there is much to do. "The little girls forced into prostitution, the child soldiers – they must be rescued from the streets, they must have access to education. Because education is the basis of an independent life and I'm happy to be involved."

FREE TALKS BY SOLICITORS
on inheritance law and making provisions

- **When:** September 2023
- **Where:** Carinthia, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Vorarlberg & Vienna
- **Details & registration:**
www.jugendeinewelt.at/testament

**Book
now!**



We say a big thank-you to Chris Lohner, the Heimat Wien agency, erna Produktion, director Markus Gasser and his team, and star photographer Inge Prader for their work which they all provided free of charge. Many thanks too to the Künstlerhaus Wien / Die Gesellschaft Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler for allowing us to use the Salon Karlsplatz free of charge.



Courage, optimism and zest for life

The Jugend Eine Welt ambassador knows what she is talking about. Visits to projects – always as a volunteer and paid for out of her own pocket – took her to the remotest villages in Africa and Latin America where the people had next to nothing. Many meetings and conversations with children, adolescents and older people remain etched on her memory. “All these people displayed courage, optimism and a zest for life which were contagious and an incentive for me to stand up for the many worthwhile development cooperation projects.”

Help is reflexive

Back to the film. The next scene is being shot. Chris Lohner is now sitting at a desk. The camera follows the pen in her right hand as she signs her name

on her will. Then the camera moves up and the legendary Austrian TV programme announcer comes into shot with her statement. “This signature on my will won’t change the world. But one day it may help children in the poor parts of this planet and ensure that they lead independent lives. That makes me happy, and makes sense. Because no one gets out of here alive.” A postscript with a deliberate touch of humour. Chris Lohner knows very well that the subject of making donations in a will can be a sensitive one. But the certainty that she can continue to provide valuable help when she is no longer with us persuaded her to take this step. “Like everything else in life, I see help as reflexive. If I succeed in rescuing a child from the spiral of poverty, that makes me very happy – I have a sense of achievement.”



Sharing Always Makes Sense

On the life of
Mama Margareta,
Don Bosco's
mother.



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In 1846, Margareta is 58 years old and already an elderly woman and grandmother. She has long since handed her late husband's little farm on to the next generation and after a life of hard work she can look forward to a few years of peace and quiet. But instead she decides to leave Becchi and the little hamlet in the hills of Piedmont and go to Turin. Just over 30 km distant, the city is growing and epitomises the Industrial Revolution in mid-19th-century Europe. The sharp-witted and deeply religious Margareta knows only too well that these developments do not bring only prosperity. Her son, Giovanni Bosco, is a priest. In next to no time, Don Bosco has become a kind of streetworker for the city's numerous street children. He is a workaholic, it is true, constantly out and about dealing with issues relating to social work. But he needs help. A woman's touch is missing from the oratory where he gathers the homeless and defenceless children. As Mama Margareta, she takes on this task and becomes a mother to all these youngsters.

She turns her bridal gown, which she has kept all these years as a souvenir, into altar cloths. She sells her jewellery to buy braid trimmings. It is hard for her to do this, but she has always shared what she has. As when times were less peaceful and victims of political persecution sought refuge in her attic. "If anyone knocks at the door he'll get a bowl of hot soup," she explained to her son Giovanni at the time. And she pursues the same policy at the oratory – even if one of the boys is caught stealing or the cabbages in the laboriously planted garden are used in war games and the vegetables trampled underfoot. Whenever a boy knocks at the door because he has nowhere to sleep she immediately makes him a simple bed of straw. Because no one is sent away from under Don Bosco's roof.

Her life: Margareta Occhiena was born in 1788. In 1812, she married Francesco Bosco, a widower who already had a three-year-old son. In 1813, Margareta bore her first child, Giuseppe. In 1815,

Giovanni followed, the apostle of the young, pioneer of social work and patron saint of Jugend Eine Welt. When her husband died in 1817, Margareta was left alone with her three children and her sickly mother-in-law. She was a single mother in a patchwork family, with all the attendant challenges. She always supported the desire of her son Giovanni to become a priest, even if it caused many conflicts in the family. In 1846, she followed Don Bosco to Turin to support him with his work for children and young people in the city's Valdocco district. Consequently, she is regarded as the first Salesian staff member and a co-founder of the Salesian family. Mama Margareta died on 25 November 1856 at the oratory, deeply mourned by the children. In 2006, the Church declared Margareta Occhiena worthy of veneration. This is regarded as the first step towards her beatification.

Sources: donbosco.at; Anton Birklbauer; Don Bosco. Lebensbild eines ungewöhnlichen Heiligen; Lene Mayer-Skumanz: ... und die Spatzen pfeifen lassen. Geschichten von Don Bosco.



Don Bosco (1815 – 1888) the pioneer of social work and young persons' saint

i

is the 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 Competition



What is the name of the shelter for children in Sierra Leone that took care of so many orphans during the ebola epidemic?

The years 2014 to 2016 were dark days for the population of Sierra Leone. Ebola haemorrhagic fever was rife and caused immense suffering. Jugend Eine Welt stood by its longtime partners with practical assistance. This aid gave children and teenagers whose parents had died of ebola a new home as well as the chance to go to school and learn a trade. As a token of gratitude for this support, home-made net bags were sent to Austria. **Without your donations we would not be able to help those in need**, so now you have the chance to win one of these bags.

How to enter the prize draw:

Send a letter to Jugend Eine Welt, Münichreiterstraße 31, 1130 Vienna or an email to info@jugendeinewelt.at by 30 August 2023 and tell us the name of the children's shelter in Sierra Leone that did not abandon the ebola orphans.

Terms and conditions of entry: Please give us your contact details (first name, surname, telephone number and address) so that we can send you the bag 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. Competition not open to Jugend Eine Welt employees.



JUGEND EINE WELT ONLINE



www.jugendeinewelt.at

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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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Also available in English!

Our GIOVANNI is also online on our website: www.jugendeinewelt.at/giovanni

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