



POVERTY IN PARADISE LIGHT AND SHADE IN THE CARIBBEAN



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Issue no. 1 - 2025

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Contact

Jugend Eine Welt Österreich
Münichreiterstraße 31, 1130 Vienna
www.jugendeinewelt.at
    Jugend Eine Welt
+43 1 879 07 07
info@jugendeinewelt.at
Register number: ZVR 843744258

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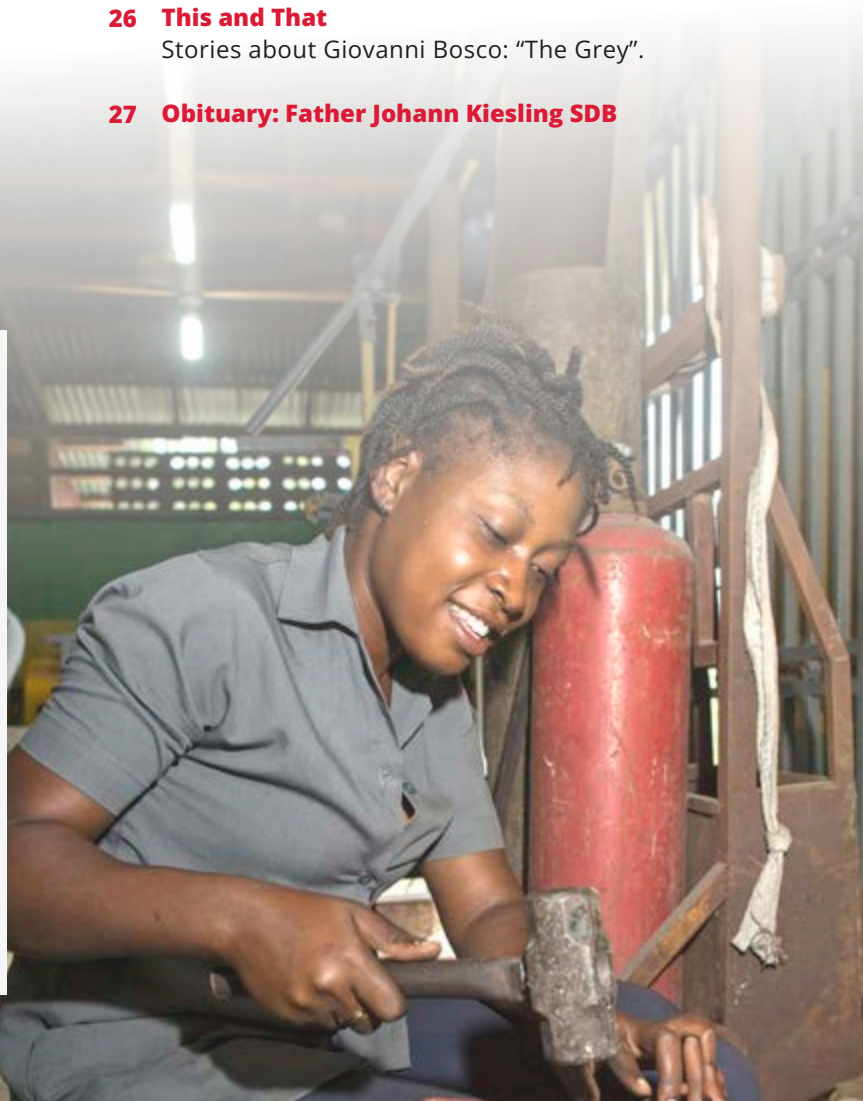
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Director and responsible for the content:

Reinhard Heiserer
Editors: Karoline Hausmann-Koschutnig, Sophie Lauringer, Karin Mayer-Fischer, Corinna Mittlbach, Johannes Pernsteiner, Ernestine Tesmer, Johannes Wolf, Thomas Zach.
Layout: Sebastian Pichlmann
Illustrations on pp. 23 and 24: Karoline Hausmann-Koschutnig
Coordination and organisation: Karoline Hausmann-Koschutnig
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Note: For ease of reading, personal pronouns refer to all genders. Disclosure in accordance with § 25 of the Austrian law on the media: Reporting on national and international activities undertaken by Jugend Eine Welt.





Dear Readers,

When we think of the Caribbean and the countries that surround it our heads are often filled with images of beaches, palm trees and seas of the deepest blue – images that frequently come from movies and are associated with emotions like exuberance, joy, relaxation and adventure.

But that's just one side of the coin. The Caribbean is also marked by devastating hurricanes, chaotic states such as Haiti, corruption, waves of refugees crossing Central America, youth gangs and children begging on the streets, as well as by the battle for mere survival in the face of hunger and poverty. Desperation, fear and anxiety fill the everyday lives of the people in the region.

But in the midst of all this there are dedicated women and men with big hearts who just roll up their sleeves and get on with things. People with faces alight with joy and an unshakeable optimism who devote themselves to others and make the best of any given circumstances. Be it alone or as part of, or in cooperation with, communities of partners such as the Don Bosco Sisters and the Salesians of Don Bosco who receive regular support from Jugend

Eine Welt for their educational, social and development work. This issue of Giovanni presents some of the projects and initiatives in the Caribbean and the surrounding countries that Jugend Eine Welt is able to support thanks to your donations and assistance – echoing the words of Don Bosco: "Do whatever is possible. God will do the rest!"

All the help that you'll read about in this issue of Giovanni was made possible by YOU, our readers! Your assistance is topped up by resources provided by, among others, the Austrian Development Agency, foundations and companies that we continually canvass and do our utmost to win as funding agencies. Thanks to your contributions we are in a position to give financial support to important projects and programmes in the social hotspots of the world!

THANK YOU for being a supportive partner whose help makes it possible to do good!

Reinhard Heiserer
Director Jugend Eine Welt

The Caribbean: Life Beyond the Tourist Paradise

Fabulous white beaches stretching for miles on end, an azure sea, shores lined with magnificent palm trees. This is what comes to mind when we think of the Caribbean. But the people in Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico face enormous challenges. In Haiti, political instability and natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes destroy the population's lives. El Salvador and Honduras are plagued by violence and criminal gangs that force many to abandon their homes. In the Dominican Republic the people are struggling with extreme social inequality. Venezuela is gripped by a severe crisis that has led to a shortage of food and medicines. Colombia and Mexico are battling drug cartels and high levels of violent crime that threaten their social stability.

Despite all these problems, the partners of Jugend Eine Welt try to give children and their families courage and hope. They provide vital food aid and health care, offer emergency accommodation and provide young people with prospects by means of education and training. Because education is the key to a better future – for every individual and for the world as a whole.

But there is still a long way to go: many children and young people are still waiting for their chance. Jugend Eine Welt aims to do everything it can to support the young generation so they can go some way to improving their own lives and their country later on. **Our sincere thanks to everyone who helps us in this endeavour!**



***Learning and reading –
even amid the devastation
education must not
be neglected.***

(Haiti earthquake)



THE CARIBBEAN AND
SURROUNDING AREA:

POVERTY IN PARADISE

Working for the children and young people of our ONE world: How donations help us provide vital relief and support and open up new opportunities through education.



The countries of the Caribbean and Central and South America contain a breathtaking variety of landscapes, exotic vegetation and colourful cultural traditions. .

That is one reason for these countries' popularity as holiday destinations. But away from the tourist routes, problems including poverty, social inequality and violence are widespread. The locals are forced to live in the most difficult conditions imaginable. Children and adolescents have no realistic prospects.

That is why Jugend Eine Welt attaches such great importance to assisting the young generation in particular, which we do with the support of our donors. Thanks to our Don Bosco partners in the regions themselves, young people have the chance to go to school or learn a trade. In addition, the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Don Bosco Sisters provide rapid aid in the event of a disaster. The people in Haiti are struggling not only with the conse-

quences of major natural disasters but also with the destabilisation of the entire political system in a country where poverty and desperation are widespread. Our Don Bosco project partners, with whom we have worked for many years, provide around 16,000 young people with a daily meal as well as important school lessons.

Similarly, the Jugend Eine Welt partners in Venezuela assist children and their families. The once prosperous South American country has been suffering from a humanitarian crisis for a long time now. Those who can, leave. Those who remain depend to a large extent on food aid. In their centres, our partners have set up emergency kitchens. A particular worry is that the number of street children, whom they look after as best they can, has skyrocketed. Jugend Eine Welt staff member Wolfgang Wedan, who is currently in Venezuela, describes the dramatic situation: "The currency here is worthless, the people are eating

what they can find in the rubbish, no one can afford to buy drinking water and the tap water makes you ill." In El Salvador and Honduras, too, many families see no option but to abandon their homes owing to the violence caused by criminal gangs. They want to start a better life in the United States of America, but that country's restrictive immigration policy means that they get stuck across the border in Mexico. But here, too, social stability is under threat from a high rate of violent crime linked to drug cartels.

In the Dominican Republic the Jugend Eine Welt partners are fighting a daily battle against child labour. Although Colombia has made progress in the fight against drug trafficking, many challenges, such as armed conflicts, remain. The vocational training organised by our partners for former child soldiers and young people from the slums represents a glimmer of hope that the country's development will take a positive turn.



Giving working children a chance. They are known as "canillitas": they clean shoes or cars or take on other casual work on the street in return for a few euros.

The girls and boys work to help their families, most of whom live in one of the slums where they fight a daily battle for survival. According to the Coalición de ONGs por la Infancia (Coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations for Childhood) the number of children affected by child labour in the Dominican Republic stands at over 340,000. Life on the street is dangerous, and these children are frequently beaten up, abused or even killed. To help the large number of street children, the Salesians of Don Bosco have founded the "Red Muchachos y Muchachas con Don Bosco" (Network for Boys and Girls with Don Bosco). Since 1985, they have worked together with the government, business and civil society to rescue no fewer than 93,000 working girls and boys from exploitation. The important experience gained by the Jugend Eine Welt partners even led to their cooperation with the National Council for the Protection



CHILDLABOUR WHERE OTHERS SPEND THEIR HOLIDAYS

340,000 children work on the streets of the Dominican Republic.

of Children and Young Persons and influenced the drafting of the new Protection of Young Persons Act.

How does the programme for street children work?

Once social workers have made contact with the children, the youngsters are invited to the centre for street children. Here they can play games and attend lessons. It is important that these children are given a safe space where they can quite simply be children, without having to worry or be afraid. If all goes well, they spend more and more time at the centres and less and less time on the streets. Eventually, they

reach the point where their new daily routine has completely taken over and they leave working on the streets behind them. Then the children are either encouraged to finish their schooling or are helped

» **Canillita is someone who moves their legs to earn a living on the street.**

to find a suitable trade or profession to learn. Many businesses in the Caribbean country even give preferential treatment to young applicants who were educated at a Don Bosco facility.

Filmtipp



Documentary showing the daily lives of street children in the Dominican Republic

The 21-minute documentary Canillitas presents the perilous daily lives led by street children in the Dominican Republic as well as their hopes and dreams. The film, in Spanish with German subtitles, is by Raúl de La Fuente and can be watched on YouTube and at jugendeinewelt.at/kinderarbeit.

Additional accompanying material, including a dossier and an explanatory video about child labour, is available here.

TO THE
FILM



Haiti: It's hard not to lose hope...

Day after day, inhuman demands are made on the population of Haiti. Together with the project partners in the country, Jugend Eine Welt can help. Since it was founded 27 years ago, Jugend Eine Welt has supported a

the United Nations, half the eleven million inhabitants are suffering from severe hunger. Apart from providing food to the children and their families, support in the form of education is essential. Because education is the key to a better future – for every child

free of charge. The water purification tablets were distributed to people sheltering in camps. These relief supplies made it possible to provide 50,000 children, young people and adults with medical care and clean drinking water.



huge number of aid projects in Haiti. Most of them have focused on education and training as well as emergency relief. Because Haiti is a country often hit by natural disasters. And as if this was not adversity enough for the predominantly impoverished population, they have also been terrorised for several years by heavily armed criminal gangs. The number of kidnappings and murders has soared. This violence makes the supply of essential goods, which was unreliable enough before, even more precarious. According to

and for Haiti as a whole, considering that no less than 40 per cent of the population is younger than 25.

Emergency relief: Medical supplies and drinking water

In January 2010, 280,000 people lost their lives in a devastating earthquake. With the support of the organisation Apotheker helfen e.V., Jugend Eine Welt supplied essential medicines and water purification tablets to hospitals in the Caribbean country where they were used to treat destitute patients

Food security for orphans

The 2010 earthquake, of a severity that only occurs once a century, also destroyed the girls' home run by the Don Bosco Sisters. Thanks to the support of our donors, Jugend Eine Welt was able to help, and a new orphanage was built, along with a training centre, in Croix de Bouquets outside Port-au-Prince. During the reconstruction work a filter system for clean drinking water and a self-contained sewage system were installed. This resulted in vast improvements to the previously unsatisfactory water supply and sewage disposal, permanently reducing the risk of a cholera infection, a disease that repeatedly breaks out in Haiti. It also made farming possible on the site, thus providing food security for 200 girls. At the same time, the home can cut the amount of money spent on food.



Giving street children a new home

At the LAKOU LAKAY centre for street children, the Salesians of



Don Bosco try to be a family for up to 600 young people. An additional 270 children can learn a trade there. The children and adolescents are given a bed, training, something to eat and the chance to take part in leisure activities. Following the earthquake, the walls of the centre collapsed and several buildings were damaged. In these first days after the quake, hundreds of refugees came to the centre looking for shelter and safety. Health care and meals were made available to them. One of the most important concerns was to find something to occupy the youngsters as soon as possible so that they could face the future with a little more optimism. The activities in the training workshops were swiftly resumed and in the months following the earthquake, psychosocial support was offered alongside the relief measures to aid in overcoming trauma.

Expansion of a school in Hinche

The city of Hinche stands on a central plateau in the only part of the country not prone to major natural disasters. For this reason, more and more people are moving here so that they can live in safety at last. However, their economic

circumstances are precarious: the little money they earn comes from animal husbandry, farming or small-scale trading. Finding enough food to eat every day or sending the children to school poses a big challenge



© Kurt Hörbst

to many families. The elementary school run by the Don Bosco Sisters provides high-quality education in the locality and awards scholarships to children from impoverished families. A particular emphasis is placed on education for girls who account for around 70 per cent of the pupils. Education gives them the chance to escape their poverty one day and support themselves.

Emergency Covid relief and a community radio

The Covid-19 virus did not spare Haiti. From their base in Haiti's capital city Port-au-Prince, our Jugend Eine Welt partners organised and

coordinated the relief measures. Food parcels and packages of personal hygiene articles were distributed to various centres run by the Salesians of Don Bosco all over the country, who used them to help



around 3,000 families. To keep the residents of the small town of Petit Bourg de Borgne informed about the virus and possible precautions, Father Snell A. Nord set up a small radio station. An innovative idea that gave the people a sense of safety in a time of great uncertainty. And the radio project continues to play an important role now that the Covid crisis is over. It is easier to broadcast local news and organise communal activities.



**YOUR SUPPORT MADE IT POSSIBLE
TO CARRY OUT THIS RELIEF PROJECT
AND MANY OTHERS IN HAITI.**

VENEZUELA: HELPING WHERE IT'S MOST NEEDED

Securing survival and providing new opportunities through education

Since 2013, Venezuela has drifted inexorably into economic and political chaos and it seems unlikely that the country will overcome this severe humanitarian crisis in the near future.

Although the country has the world's largest oil reserves, it had to close down its refineries because the state could no longer afford to maintain them. Now, the country relies on petrol imports from Iran. The systems of state as well as the vital health service no longer function. Having to fight every day just to survive, initially a phenomenon found only in the slums, is now a problem for the entire country. The incidence of crime and violence has risen astronomically. The sense of desperation felt all over the country has prompted many people to go abroad. Sociologists at a research centre in Caracas, the capital city, estimate that in recent years no fewer than 8.5 million Venezuelans have left their homeland.

The number of street children in the cities continues to rise

It sounds unbelievable, but parents looking for jobs in neighbouring countries to secure their families' survival must leave their children

behind. Ideally with relatives, but many children are left to fend for themselves. As a result, gangs of children are a common sight on the streets of the capital, Caracas. To help the large number of street children, Jugend Eine Welt supports the "Casas Hogares" run by the Salesians of Don Bosco. In the emergency kitchens, homeless children and children from destitute families are given one meal a day. And the queues at the canteens are always long. "Even if circumstances are extremely difficult, we are there for the children and young people – like a family," says Salesian priest Felipe Colmenares. He is in charge of the Don Bosco centres for street children in Venezuela: 600 underprivileged children and adolescents currently attend the eight centres in the country, and around 250 of them can spend the night there. Group activities and education serve to give these young people some sort of hope in the future.

School, training and help with learning

The educational and social projects that Jugend Eine Welt supports in the cities and rural areas range from creating a safe environment for

children and young people to accommodation, food distribution points, schooling, vocational training, sport and leisure activities. The Don Bosco Sisters in the city of Barquisimeto, for instance, give children and teenagers from poor backgrounds the chance to go to school and learn a trade. The Salesians of Don Bosco in the little town of Duaca have founded a youth centre, the "Centro Juvenil Domingo Savio". All children are welcome here, including those who have to rummage through a rubbish dump a few kilometres away every day with their parents in search of anything that could be useful – because their survival depends on it! Jugend Eine Welt helped to buy a bus that takes the children to the centre and back in safety. This enables them to escape from their miserable daily lives so they can forget their cares and play. They also receive help with their lessons.





Important Help for the Indigenous Population of the Amazon

In the state of Zulia further north the population is affected by a water shortage. In the small settlements of the indigenous Wayuu people near Camama and the El Tastu region not a single drop of rain falls, even though it is the rainy season.

The public drinking water supply was stopped years ago because it was no longer possible to maintain the waterworks in Maracaibo. Since then a lorry has delivered water twice a month. However, the drivers demand an illicit payment of one US dollar per litre. Hardly any of the Wayuu living here have enough cash for this, if they have any at all.

What is more, the region is anything but safe: criminal organisations are engaged in human trafficking, causing great fear amongst the population.

Because it is the children who are particularly badly affected, Jugend Eine Welt helped our project partners to buy a school bus last year so that children who have a long walk to school can be picked up from home and brought back again safely. Jugend Eine Welt also supports the Salesians of Don Bosco with project management measures for their aid programme in favour of the Wayuu to ensure that the available resources are used as efficiently as possible. The goal is to preserve the environment that is home to the indigenous peoples and their children, to protect it from exploitation and to insist on the locals' rights.

Yanomami hit by increasing violence

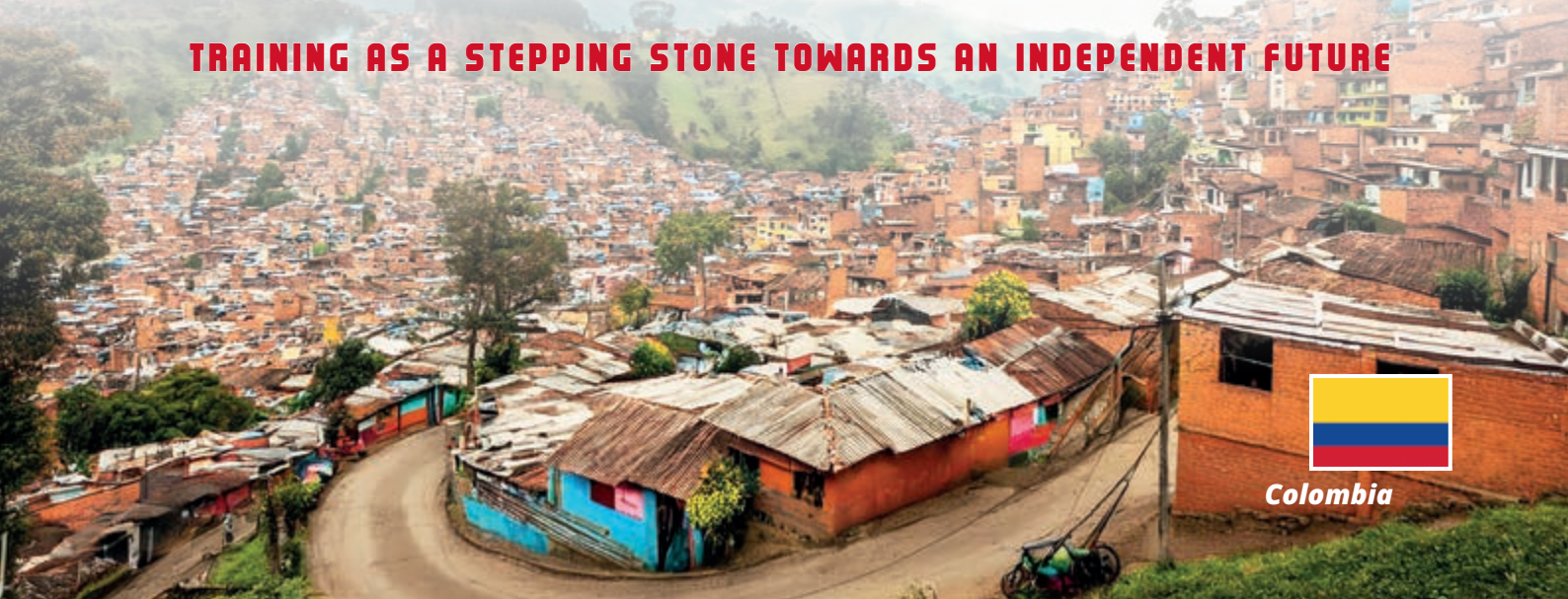
The Yanomami, an indigenous people living in the Amazon rainforest,

repeatedly fall victim to violence perpetrated by gold-diggers who also contaminate the territory, which is actually a conservation area. They use mercury to mine the precious metal, and this poisons the water, kills the fish and destroys the forest – and with it, the livelihood of the indigenous population. Jugend Eine Welt helps the Don Bosco Sisters to continue the life's work of the Austrian sister Maria Wachtler: originally from the province of Burgenland, this Don Bosco Sister devoted over 40 years of her life to helping the vulnerable indigenous people of the rainforest. With schooling and health care and as a spokeswoman for the Yanomami on legal issues, she made a particularly valuable contribution to the welfare of these people. And this work is being staunchly continued today.



OF DREAMS AND TRAGEDIES

TRAINING AS A STEPPING STONE TOWARDS AN INDEPENDENT FUTURE



The 1,600 kilometres of Caribbean coastline in northern Colombia are without doubt one of the most fascinating and breathtaking landscapes in South America. With its stunning beaches, exotic vegetation and picturesque towns, this region is a paradise for nature-lovers and tourists.

But this picture-postcard façade conceals deep-seated social problems that affect not just the Caribbean part of the country, but all Colombia. Poverty, violence and social inequality hinder access to resources and opportunities. But the most serious problem, as it has been for decades, is the high crime rate. Sadly, Colombia's Caribbean coast is a hub for the drug trade and organised crime and, as a result, the local population lives in fear and uncertainty. Conditions for the indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are particularly difficult: they are severely disadvantaged and have to fight to retain their identity. Their hopes rest on social reforms which are, however, extremely unlikely as long as armed conflicts keep breaking out in many parts of the country. Despite peace negotiations with the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) and ELN (National Liberation Army) guerilla groups and the economic progress that has been made in recent years, the country is still deeply divided between the political right and left. The transformation expected

following the last presidential election in 2022 has so far failed to materialise. President Gustavo Petro, a former guerillero, is cautious: his primary concern is to stabilise the economy.

As everywhere else in the world, it is Colombia's children and young people who suffer terribly from the political and social situation. The large number of adolescents who have not learned any trade and are consequently without work is alarming. Without vocational training, unemployed adolescents are at great risk of drifting into crime and falling into the clutches of the drug mafia.

This is why Jugend Eine Welt has been working closely with the Salesians of Don Bosco in Colombia for many years to help young people on their way to a better life. We support the work of our Don Bosco project partners in 5 sectors all over the country:



1. Educational opportunities: Children and teenagers are given the chance to learn reading, writing and arithmetic at schools and educational institutions.

2. Vocational training: Acquiring practical skills and qualifications from professional training courses helps young people fulfil their dream of finding employment and earning a living.

3. Social support: Many young people who benefit from the projects funded by Jugend Eine Welt are from families affected by poverty, violence or drug abuse. For them to be able to overcome their traumatic experiences, psychosocial support is essential.

4. Promotion of life skills: Acquiring life skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving helps young people find their place in society.

5. Prevention of crime and drug abuse: Constructive pastimes, creative activities and promoting individual talents go a long way to preventing unlawful activities.

The Jugend Eine Welt aid programmes in Colombia are as varied as the scenery between the Caribbean and Pacific coastal plains, the Amazon territory, the cordilleras and the highlands of the Andes. Despite that, all Jugend Eine Welt projects share a common aim: to support vulnerable children and young people as they progress towards independent lives in dignity!

Offer for businesses and groups in Austria:

Sponsor a training course in Colombia!

Scan the QR code to see more details.



Vocational Training as an Escape Route from Life on the Streets

On the way to becoming a circus performer!

In the "Ciudad Bolívar" slum in the Colombian capital Bogotá most of the inhabitants live below the headline. In this part of the city, access to education and health care is severely limited, crime is everywhere and even small children are forced to work and live on the streets of the slum.

The Don Bosco Obrero circus school, funded with the help of Jugend Eine Welt and the Pöschl family, accepts street children and minors who have fled from Venezuela. The critical situation in Venezuela has prompted approximately 2.8 million people to escape to Colombia where most of them are living in the poor districts of the major cities. The training at the circus school proved immensely popular and was overbooked in no time at all. In a large circus tent, the pupils learn a variety of tricks such as juggling, riding a unicycle or tightrope walking.



A better life with a trade

To combat the high level of youth unemployment in Colombia, the Don Bosco project partners run a vocational training centre in the middle of the slum for 3,500 young people, training them in 18 professions. An impressive 85 per cent of the youngsters who complete their training at "Juan Bosco Obrero" go on to find employment. The dedication of the Jugend Eine Welt partners has played a crucial role in improving the social situation in the slum.

A new life for child soldiers

The recruitment of children as soldiers in Colombia has made many young people victims of unscrupulous guerilla fighters, paramilitary units and armed members of the drug mafia. Once they have been rescued they face enormous psychological and physical problems and need urgent professional help to get back to a "normal" life. The "House for Special Protection" run by the Salesians of Don Bosco in Medellín is the starting point of a new life for them. At this facility they are given intensive psychosocial support, healthy food, a safe place to live and the chance to finish school and a vocational training course. This is the only way that these severely traumatised children can successfully reintegrate in society.





DRIVEN OUT BY DESPAIR

In 2023, 450,000 people were left stranded in Tijuana, Mexico, after leaving to find a new life in the US.

They were running from the poverty, violence and political crises in their homelands. Every week, thousands of people in Central and South America begin the perilous journey to the United States. But most of them get no further than Tijuana, a city in northwestern Mexico.

Most of the children have already been travelling with their families for months and have covered thousands of kilometres – on foot, with people smugglers or on the notorious train “La Bestia” (“the monster”). This means of grabbing a lift is free, but extremely dangerous: too often it leads to the deaths of those trying to jump on board the moving freight train.

A border where dreams are shattered

The border between Tijuana and San Diego is over 3,000 kilometres long

and, at many points, closely guarded. In 2023, 562 people died trying to cross this forbidding border fence. Some fell to their deaths from the nine-metre high fence while others were swept away by the powerful ocean current as they tried to swim round it. Most, however, remain in Tijuana where shattered dreams are to be found at every turn along with trafficking in people and drugs.

Hope amid despair

Despite all the difficulties and dangers, they have now made it to Tijuana – exhausted children and their families, who often have nothing with them but a small rucksack. The Jugend Eine Welt project partners offer them emergency shelter and a breakfast. They also provide medical care, legal advice, psychological help and emotional support. School lessons are organised for children and young people, as are leisure activities.

Football plays an important role since the sport promotes togetherness and team spirit. The children learn about responsibility, honesty, respect, tolerance, discipline and striving to achieve goals. In many



towns and cities around the world, the Don Bosco partners use football as a way of attracting children away from the streets and so protecting them from drifting into crime.

Many kinds of help in Mexico

Thanks to the contributions of our donors, Jugend Eine Welt is able to support the dedicated efforts of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Don Bosco Sisters in Tijuana, Ciudad Acuña, Mexico City and Guanajuato time and time again. This may be by funding emergency supplies for migrant families, schooling, educational sports activities or training workshops for underprivileged young people – the types of help are extremely varied and often vital to the youngsters’ very survival.



Return to the Most Beautiful Place in the World

Hope needs people who embody it and show concrete commitment.

In an outlying district of the Moloch that is Tijuana, surrounded by hills and ravines, beside hovels and not far from the huge maquiladoras and their production lines, lies what I consider the most beautiful place in the world, a little piece of heaven: the "Domingo Savio" oratory of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

I was there in 2001 as a "volontario", and I returned there every summer during the university holidays. It was also there that I met my wife; we married in 2005, before we came to Austria. Since then I have followed the oratory's ups and downs through a handful of visits but mostly from a distance. I have shared in its joys and sorrows like the other volunteers. Because all of us have left a piece of ourselves there. As part of the community of Salesians and volunteers we shared the everyday lives of the people who took us in to their homes and families. We gave, often receiving more in return, learned to



has changed in the "barrio": some of the roads have been tarmacked, some houses have been enlarged, others crushed by landslides. The youth gangs and addicts have disappeared from the streets, but appearances are deceptive: everyone is living in fear because the drug cartels have the area firmly under control. Murders, kidnappings and protection rackets are part of everyday life. And the oratory? It has

restart. "When we heard that it was due to be closed we founded a youth group," the oratory children of back then, now parents themselves, tell us. That volunteers have now come even from Spain is a hopeful sign: people feel it is safe enough to come here again. But the path to establishing trust is stony. For our friends from the neighbourhood, who accompany us as "bodyguards" when we go to mass and to play at the oratory, it is also the first visit for many years.



The Pernsteiner family

I leave Tijuana at the end of the summer with mixed feelings. Many of the seeds I planted as a volunteer have withered; not much has come to fruition. Others have reaped the harvest, just as I was once able to reap what others had sown. People are always needed who show commitment and continue Don Bosco's work even when times are tough. Since we returned to Austria we have started to pray for the oratory and the people there. Because, in the end, the success of all these efforts is not in our hands.



Johannes with his wife Azucena (right and 2nd from left) and friends in Mexico.

give concrete form to our faith and we walked away profoundly altered.

In 2023, we returned to Tijuana for the first time in eleven years, now with our children who were already teenagers, to stay for two whole months. Much

a terrible reputation. We are told that it is not safe there. Almost everything came to a halt with Covid. There are not even any volunteers there any more and there are plans to sell it to the diocese. The sports ground is overgrown with weeds and a meeting place for drug dealers. When we arrive there – our knees trembling – we are pleasantly surprised: Padre Gabo, a newly ordained Salesian, is there. He has made it possible to use the sports ground again, has restarted the football league and breathed new life into the place. He is starting again virtually from scratch with great amounts of idealism, sweat and faith in God. Numerous small steps preceded the

Find out more about voluntary assignments here.

Jugend Eine Welt and the Salesians of Don Bosco in Austria have shared responsibility for VOLONTARIAT bewegt, the voluntary assignment agency, since 2013.





„Our daily efforts to help the poor are the best protection against becoming victims of violence ourselves.“

Maintaining hope that the future will bring a life worth living when faced with unremitting violence and brutality – no easy thing for the people of Haiti.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. Yet neither the severe poverty, combined with galloping inflation, nor the natural disasters that repeatedly strike the country are currently the Haitians' biggest problem.

That is the murders, rapes, kidnappings, blackmail and destruction by criminal gangs that are everyday occurrences in the Caribbean country. In this “climate of terror”, Jugend Eine Welt’s long-standing partners make extraordinary efforts to help no fewer than 16,000 young people by providing quality education and training to prepare them for a future worth living in. Last year, the Don Bosco Sisters Jolicoeur Rose Monique and Pierre Myrlène Félix visited Jugend Eine Welt in Vienna and talked about their everyday lives and the work they do for their children and teenagers. How does the current situation, pervaded as it is by violence, affect the children?

Most of our children are traumatised. They have had to witness acts of violence committed against their family members or kidnappings. We try to use the time we spend with them each day to boost their self-confidence and psychological resilience. We teach the children values such as solidarity and compassion, thus showing them an important alternative to what is happening every day on our streets.

How do you help the young people believe in a bright future?

Our children are the ones who can actively change tomorrow’s reality, and that’s what we tell them, too. They are our most important asset for a bright future! We can help them achieve this by giving them the chance of quality education and training. We tell

them that although we must learn to cope with all the suffering around us today, there are happier times ahead. In this way we try to do important preventive work, because the criminal gangs even recruit children as young as twelve.

There have been many instances of priests or religious being kidnapped or even murdered. Aren’t you afraid?

Of course we’re afraid and we try to be careful. But our best protection against becoming victims of violence ourselves is our daily work – our efforts to help children, young people and their families. The gang members – who are usually severely traumatised themselves – see that we are there for the people. Because they also have little brothers and sisters or cousins who attend our school or one of our training courses. They know that we want to help people and that we share everything we have with the poor. That is our protection. And Jugend Eine Welt helps us with that!

You have been working with Jugend Eine Welt for many years now.

Yes, the main reason for our visit to Vienna is to thank Jugend Eine Welt in person! Apart from the support it gives our educational and training projects, your aid organisation was immediately on hand following all the natural disasters of recent years – whether it was the earthquakes in 2010 and 2021 or the hurricane of 2016 – and helped us in our direst emergencies.

Mèsi!

(“Thank you” in Haitian Creole)



Vocational training is the key to development

Since its foundation, the aid organisation Jugend Eine Welt has worked to help disadvantaged girls and boys and give them access to education. Secondary school qualifications, the ability to read, write and do maths, are a prerequisite for an independent life.

But before young persons can realise their full potential they need the knowledge and skills that only vocational training can give them. To make such training opportunities available, Jugend Eine Welt also supports the “Skilling the World” scheme run by VIA Don Bosco. This programme exists in many countries of our ONE world: in the Caribbean and the surrounding countries of Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras. Help is given to underprivileged young persons who are in danger of dropping out of the education system, which would make it difficult for them to find regular employment as adults. Half of those participating are young women. Because girls – still at a disadvantage in the education systems of many countries – should also be

able to look forward to a future for which they are equipped to stand on their own two feet. In total, no fewer than 12,600 young people receive support under this scheme. Thanks to “Skilling the World”, disadvantaged young people acquire not only the requisite theoretical knowledge but also important practical skills that help them join the labour market or set up their own business after completing their training. The branches that training is offered in could scarcely be more varied: they range from electromechanics and car maintenance to electrical engineering, refrigeration, construction, water supply installation, welding, confectionery, accounting, tailoring, cosmetics, the hotel trade, IT and the care sector. Because the training centres actively seek partnerships with local businesses the youngsters have an excellent chance of finding employment on completion of their training. And by supporting quality vocational training the scheme also promotes long-term social development.

The “Skilling the World” scheme run by VIA Don Bosco and supported by Jugend Eine Welt gives hope for a brighter future and prevents poverty.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND COLOMBIA



In the “Espíritu Santo Fe y Alegría” school in the Dominican Republic, Jugend Eine Welt also supplied funds for a computer laboratory in which over 300 socially disadvantaged young people receive instruction in computer science and EDP. An important requirement in today’s labour market! Solar generators were installed at the lab to guarantee an environmentally friendly and reliable power supply.

In Colombia, Jugend Eine Welt supports the “Juan Bosco Obrero” vocational training centre. In the heart of “Ciudad Bolívar”, a problem neighbourhood in Bogotá, Don Bosco runs a vocational training centre where 3,500 adolescents can learn one of 18 trades. See page 12.



COMMITMENT IN RETIREMENT

Volunteer work for youngsters at risk in Venezuela.

After a successful career as a teacher and principal you would expect retirement to be a time of peace and relaxation. But for many dedicated retirees, like Gertrude Brindlmayer, it is just the start of a new chapter.

Mrs Brindlmayer made use of her professional experience to help young people during a voluntary assignment as a Senior Expert in Venezuela. She spent several months teaching English in Los Teques. In the process, she not only familiarised the youngsters with a foreign language but also built bridges between different cultures and helped the pupils give their dreams more concrete form.

An assignment in difficult conditions

Virtually forgotten by the rest of the world, Venezuela is currently in the grip of the worst social and economic crisis in its history. Hyperinflation has made its currency all but worthless, plunging millions of people into extreme poverty and causing widespread malnutrition and hunger. Describing the situation in the country, Mrs Brindlmayer says: "Although Venezuela is said to have the world's second largest oil reserves and also has fertile arable land, pastures, spring water and other natural resources, massive economic mismanagement and corruption mean that most people are living below the breadline. Everyday commodities such as food and personal hygiene articles are very expensive. People can barely afford them and they're very hard to come by. For example, I was looking for sticking plasters and, of the six pharmacies I went to, only two had a couple of tiny plasters."

Migration out of desperation

Low wages and a constant food shortage force the people to abandon their homes. To date, approximately 8.5 million people have left the country, a figure virtually unmatched by any other region in the world. The dedicated Senior Expert says: "In recent years, an estimated 20 to 25% of the population have left the country. The result of this exodus is abandoned shops and staff shortages in schools, hospitals and utility companies such as those supplying power and water. Wages are low. A teacher

at a state-run school earns between EUR 4 and EUR 9 a month – the price of a kilogramme of meat. As a result of this meagre salary, children only have lessons on two or at most three days a week. On the other days, the teachers have to work as taxi drivers or private tutors for wealthy Venezuelan families so that they can support themselves and their families."

Mrs Brindlmayer's unpaid work demonstrates in impressive fashion the lasting difference the dedication of experienced experts can make in other countries. If you would like to share your professional experience and knowledge with people abroad, we would be delighted to hear from you.

einsatz@jugendeinewelt.at
Phone +43 (0) 664 14 57 803



Find out more about Senior Experts Austria here.

As Senior Experts, people with professional experience and experience of life have the chance to share their knowledge with non-profit organisations and educational institutions around the world. Their unpaid work contributes to development cooperation and makes help towards self-help possible. Assignments last several months and generally take place in areas where Jugend Eine Welt supports projects implemented by members of the Don Bosco communities.

jugendeinewelt.at/seniorexpertsaustria



The World Comes to Visit Austria



Once again, project partners of Jugend Eine Welt came to Vienna this year for an exchange of views and information.

They brought with them fascinating reports of challenges, advances and new ideas for helping children and young people around the world even more effectively. Below, Ukraine, Sierra Leone and Ecuador serve to illustrate our partners' projects and aims.



**Father Mykhaylo Chaban SDB
from Ukraine**

Playing football as therapy for war invalids

The football team being taken through its paces on the sports ground at the Don Bosco centre in Lviv in Ukraine is an unusual one. One player is missing a leg, another an arm. "They are war invalids," explained Father Mykhaylo Chaban SDB during his working visit to Vienna. "Football is being used here as a form of therapy." For the young men, who have suffered horrific injuries, the training is part of their rehabilitation programme. Most of them were soldiers, but a few are civilians who were wounded when rockets exploded. All of them were treated in the "Unbroken" hospital, the national rehabilitation centre in Lviv which also receives support from Jugend Eine Welt. The hospital specialises in manufacturing and adapting prostheses (robotic artificial limbs). Chaban: "The sport inspires them, helps them regain willpower, stops them losing all hope and opens up new perspectives." Father Chaban had the idea for this life-affirming project while attending an inclusive tournament in Switzerland.



**Sister Narciza Pazmiño from Ecuador
A life dedicated to helping neglected children**

"Madre Narciza" is the name fondly given to the head of the "Fundación Don Bosco", the shelter for street children, working children or neglected children in Ambato, Ecuador.

Sr. Narciza Pazmiño founded the shelter in 1998 with the Salesian "Padre Pepe". Every day, a good 200 children are given a warm meal and help with learning and can take part in leisure activities. For some, it is only a temporary shelter. "We try to teach them that their education is important for their future, for an independent life away from the streets," explained Sr. Narciza during her visit to Austria. The shelter is one of the first projects that Jugend Eine Welt supported. Among the most dedicated donors in Austria is the Ecuador action group in the parish of Christkindl near Steyr in Upper Austria. So of course a visit to Christkindl was a must for Madre Narciza, where she was greeted with a charity concert and by former volunteers from Austria.



**Father Piotr Wojnarowski SDB
from Sierra Leone**

Protection for girls rescued from human traffickers

Police officers rescued seven girls from the clutches of human traffickers, taking them straight to the door of the Don Bosco "Fambul" youth shelter. A scene played out on an almost daily basis, as Father Piotr Wojnarowski, the current head of Fambul in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown, explained during his most recent visit to Vienna. If the police had not rescued the girls they would probably have been sold somewhere as slaves, forced into prostitution or even have fallen victim to the illicit trade in human organs. Now the severely traumatised girls live at Fambul's own girls' shelter where they receive therapy, attend school lessons and can learn a trade. Explaining his motivation, the Polish priest says, "Somebody must stand up for children subjected to abuse, there is so much injustice." He has been working in West Africa for over 20 years. The "Fambul" centre has been supported by Jugend Eine Welt for more than 25 years.



Father Chaban (3rd from left) with war invalids in Ukraine.



Sr. Narciza from Ecuador at a church service in the parish of Christkindl.

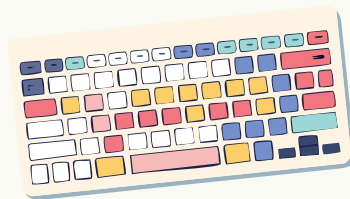


Father Piotr from Sierra Leone with director Reinhard Heiserer.



Competence and energy at work

Media work is a window to the outside world and draws attention to important aid projects.



He has already had a varied career in the media sector, including many years' experience in radio and TV. We're talking about Thomas Zach who, since 2022, has been head of the PR department at Jugend Eine Welt where his responsibilities include media work. No matter how many disasters and emergencies simultaneously strike the countries where Jugend Eine Welt supports projects, he is always calmness personified and immediately sets about informing various media.

Thomas, why is public relations so important to Jugend Eine Welt?

PR is practically the window to the outside world. It gives us the opportunity to present our numerous projects to a large audience. This can be in newspapers and magazines but also on the radio, on television or online. Without media work, the likelihood of attracting the public's attention and reaching potential donors is smaller.

Your work for Jugend Eine Welt is extremely varied. Can you describe a typical working day?

My career in journalism means I'm very interested in current affairs and for this reason I keep myself up to date with what's happening in the world even when I'm not working. So I'm already browsing online news pages as I travel to work and making a note of the main stories. If one of our projects deals with issues relevant to the day's hot topics, I try to find angles through my media work and offer them to journalists. Examples might be interviews with project partners in countries where Jugend Eine Welt works. Besides active PR, my working day also includes reporting on partners' visits to our organisation in Vienna, research, advertising upcoming events and campaigns and looking after our social media channels. If disasters or emergencies strike in our project countries it is vital that no time is lost.

Is there one such event that particularly sticks in your memory?

I particularly remember the major earthquake that struck the border region of Turkey and Syria in February



2023. Following an immediate appeal for donations for the affected populations I supplied Austrian media with up-to-the-minute statements by our project partners in the area. At the same time, our relief coordinator Wolfgang Wedan travelled to the disaster area where he was much in demand for interviews with TV channels such as ORF, ServusTV and Puls4 as well as widely read daily newspapers such as Kronen Zeitung or Salzburger Nachrichten.



Is there a project or issue that Jugend Eine Welt supports that is especially close to your heart?

As a father of three, it is natural that images of starving children stay in my memory for a long time. Here I'm thinking particularly of the dramatic situation in Tigray, the crisis-torn region in Ethiopia where, for two years, millions of people suffered owing to a savage civil war and where – partly because of climate change – there is simply no more food. This is a humanitarian crisis that is practically ignored by the global community. That's why it's particularly important to me that reports about it appear in the media so that a willingness to help the people in need is created.



Insights into Jugend Eine Welt's work in India



In mid-November, Jugend Eine Welt director Reinhard Heiserer and press officer Thomas Zach set off for India with a group of journalists.

The aim was to show the media representatives the diversity of the projects supported by Jugend Eine Welt there. The itinerary included projects for street children, orphans and children from families living in poverty, as well as visits to vocational training centres for girls and boys and programmes for the promotion of women in the two megacities Hyderabad and Vishakhapatnam.

Help for street children

Unemployment, malnutrition, hunger and desperation are driving ever more people out of rural areas and into major cities. Don Bosco India and Human Rights Watch estimate that between 18 and 20 million street children live in the slums of India's megacities. Hyderabad is one such megacity. Many children set off for the pulsating metropolis on their own, hoping for a better life there. "As soon as they arrive here in Hyderabad they are left entirely to fend for themselves," says Father Noel Maddhichetty SDB, a Jugend Eine Welt project partner of many years' standing. "They have to beg for food, sleep on the pavement and fight every day just to stay alive. Thanks to the help we receive from Jugend Eine Welt we can rescue these children from the streets,

take them in at our shelters and give them a school education so they have a chance of a better future."

Your help makes its mark

Santosh and Lokesh are just two of many examples of how the help provided by Jugend Eine Welt and Don Bosco reaches those who need it. As a child, Santosh lived at a railway station where he lost an arm and a leg in a horrific accident with a train. Today, he is a qualified social worker and the dedicated head of a Don Bosco facility. Lokesh also lived on the streets as a child and was taken in by Don Bosco. Today, he is a well-known actor and artist in India.

Deep gratitude

But it is not only success stories like these that bring a smile to the face of Jugend Eine Welt director Heiserer. The gratitude of the many girls and boys who receive a vital education in the schools supported by the Austrian development organisation is plain for all to see who visit the projects. Says Heiserer, "Without the help we receive from you, our donors, our work in India would not be possible. For that, we say thank you!"



STOP CHILD LABOUR

FOR FAIR SUPPLY CHAINS AND AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



Together with young adults, Jugend Eine Welt promotes projects that combat child labour and support fair supply chains. The aim is to create awareness of these important issues in society and work towards a good life for everyone.

ACTION GROUPS AGAINST CHILD LABOUR



The action groups against child labour in Vienna and Linz offer teenagers and young adults the chance to campaign for the rights of the child. In workshops they find out what causes child labour and how they can highlight the interests of disadvantaged groups most effectively.

The workshops encourage critical thinking and discussion of global problems. They foster a spirit of togetherness and motivate the group to bring about change through their united efforts. The group members learn how to launch campaigns themselves and take an active role in their own communities.

The action groups organise regular meetings. One highlight was the "living library" event on 24 November in Vienna at which experts from various fields shared their views on child labour and supply chains, becoming "living books" that the visitors could consult.



**FIND OUT
MORE**

The national campaign "Kinderarbeit stoppen!"



The activities of the action groups are part of the "Kinderarbeit Stoppen" (stop child labour) campaign, an initiative of Jugend Eine Welt, Dreikönigsaktion, Fairtrade, Kindernothilfe, Solidar Austria and the Butterfly Rebels.

For more details, go here:
www.kinderarbeitstoppen.at



ERASMUS+ PROJECT: GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN



In our Erasmus+ project "From Chains to Bridges", the Jugend Eine Welt team collaborates with partners from Germany, Poland, Romania and Spain. The project aims to give those responsible for young people an opportunity to examine the topic of global supply chains in detail. It offers them the chance to take part in online training, workshops and international conferences. A fact-finding visit to Brussels provides insights into fair production conditions and the political processes they require.

The project also promotes the development of innovative educational strategies designed to encourage young people to think more about their behaviour as consumers and so understand better how it affects global supply chains. Practical examples show the participants how even small steps help bring about major changes. In addition, a series of online training sessions started at the end of October 2024 in which experts talk about how supply chains affect human rights and the climate.



**FIND OUT
MORE**





DIRI AK PWA

Rice and bean dish from Haiti

“Diri ak pwa”, also known as “diri kole ak pwa wouj” is Haiti’s national dish. It originates from the days of slavery when rice and beans were the only things slaves were given to eat.

This classic Haitian dish is popular all over the island: as the locals say, “A meal is not a meal unless you have rice and beans with it.” Although it is tasty enough on its own, Haitians often serve it with a sauce or combine it with chicken.

Preparation time: approx. 50 minutes

Ingredients for 2 people:

- 200 g tinned kidney beans
- 200 g long-grain rice
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 1 clove of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tsp thyme
- 100 g bacon bits (or dry-cured ham)
- 1 tbsp parsley, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp oil
- Salt, pepper
- Chilli powder to taste

Method:

- Prepare the rice.
- Heat the oil in a large saucepan or frying pan. Lightly fry the onion, garlic, thyme, parsley and bacon bits for approx. 5 minutes.
- Add the rice and beans and heat with a little water.
- Add salt, pepper and chilli powder to taste.



Enjoy!



FOR THE YOUNG WITH CHRIS LOHNER

Chris Lohner, TV presenter, actress, author and, not least owing to her voice, one of the most famous women in Austria, is Jugend Eine Welt's honorary ambassador. Together with Jugend Eine Welt she speaks up for young people so they have a chance of a better future. "We are delighted about her fantastic commitment and thank her most sincerely for it," says director Reinhard Heiserer.

Charity event in Vienna's Ehrbar Saal

At the beginning of October, numerous friends of Jugend Eine Welt were treated to a light-hearted evening of contemporary history with Chris Lohner in the Ehrbar Saal in Vienna. Together with Toni Matosic, the man behind the cult Viennese band Monti Beton, she presented her show "Bazooka and Four in a Jeep". At a signing session afterwards, guests had the chance to obtain a highly prized signature from the well-known presenter, author and actress. All the proceeds of this charity event went to Jugend Eine Welt. A big thank-you to Cathrin Chytil for allowing us to use the Ehrbar Saal, this beautiful venue, free of charge.



(left to right) Toni Matosic, Chris Lohner and Cathrin Chytil (manager of the Ehrbar Saal) with Reinhard Heiserer (director of Jugend Eine Welt).



© Ludwig Schedl

Chris Lohner received the Fundraising Award together with Reinhard Heiserer (left, director Jugend Eine Welt) and Markus Wieser (right, head of Heimat Wien) from Ruth Williams (chair, Fundraising Verband).

Recognition for Jugend Eine Welt

At the Fundraising Awards, Jugend Eine Welt's current television commercial starring Chris Lohner won first prize as "TV Commercial of the Year". The advert shows our honorary ambassador signing her will in which she remembers Jugend Eine Welt. This large-scale advertising campaign for Jugend Eine Welt appears on posters, in print, online and on TV and radio and focuses on the opportunity to do good once life has ended. Bequeathing money in your will can make important educational projects for underprivileged children possible. We say a big thank-you to all those who worked on the commercial free of charge: Chris Lohner, the Heimat Wien agency, erna Produktion, Inge Prader, director Markus Gasser and his team and the Künstlerhaus Wien / Gesellschaft Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler.

Guesting at the Vergissmeinnicht initiative

Bequests were also the subject of an information meeting at the Salvatorians' summer refectory. Apart from an informative talk by a solicitor on inheritance law, wills and preparatory measures, a reading by Chris Lohner from her bestseller Ich bin ein Kind der Stadt – Wienerin seit 1943 was a particular highlight that delighted not just her fans.



New explanatory video on street children

Why does football play such a large role in the projects implemented by our partners in the Global South and how can a football save lives even as part of work done to help street children? If the voice in our explanatory video seems familiar: it belongs to our honorary ambassador Chris Lohner! Many thanks to SteinHof Sound & Musikproduktion for giving us free studio time to record the soundtrack.





PROTECTING CHILDREN IN WEST AFRICA: A LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN DISTRESS

Early 2025 brings a visit from Brother Lothar Wagner. The charismatic Salesian brother comes armed with many fascinating accounts.

Lothar Wagner's vocation has become his profession. He has devoted his life to God and the Christian faith. The 50-year-old Salesian brother is compassionate and likeable, down-to-earth and unconventional. A dedicated streetworker who has been battling poverty, violence and human trafficking in the world's crisis regions for decades.

Whether it is in Sierra Leone, Liberia or South Sudan: he helps street children, girls and boys who have suffered abuse, young prison inmates and Ebola orphans. Brother Lothar was only 19 when he decided he would join a religious order – specifically the Salesians of Don Bosco. He once recounted how he made the acquaintance of a monk who worked as a master baker with adolescents displaying behavioural problems: "That impressed me enormously. I wanted to be just like that."

Protection and help for young people who have been forgotten

So he studied social work and theology and worked for several years as an educator before leaving for Ghana. From 2008 to 2016 he was

head of the "Don Bosco Fambul" ("family") children's shelter in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. Apart from the street children's centre and a nationwide 24-hour hotline for children, many other forms of assistance are available, such as the "Don-Boscomobile". This is a converted bus on which the staff travel around the streets of Freetown every night, offering medical and psychological support to the street children.



STREET CHILDREN'S DAY 2025

Protection and support! A life for the children of West Africa. A talk by Brother Lothar. Come and listen!

For more details, see the enclosed invitation or visit www.tagderstrassenkinder.at.



Children and teenagers in South Sudan also benefited from Brother Lothar's extraordinary dedication. In the small town of Kuajok he and his fellow monks built a centre for street children and former child soldiers. In the summer of 2020 he returned to Liberia for a second time to work on behalf of street children and teenagers held in Monrovia's central prison. This is important work because living conditions at the prison are appalling: daily life is characterised by violence, hunger, a lack of medical

care and overcrowded cells. Brother Lothar and his colleagues provide water, food, medical assistance, therapy sessions and legal advice.

HOPE FOR STREET CHILDREN

In the countries of West Africa, abandoned children can rely on the support of our Don Bosco partners. These partners of Jugend Eine Welt run children's centres in **Nigeria and Sierra Leone as well as in Ghana, Ivory Coast and Benin**. All these centres give young people at risk the chance of a successful and independent future by offering them education and training.





“The Grey” Don Bosco’s Faithful Friend

November 1854: Once again, Don Bosco is out and about. As ever, he has much to do. But two shadowy figures are lying in wait, ready to attack him. At that moment, a dog appears, barking loudly, scaring the two assailants off.

The dog stays at Don Bosco’s side, making sure he gets home safely. And continued to trot alongside the priest time and time again, so the story goes. The imposing wolfhound was soon given the name “Il Grigio”, “the grey”. He never went inside the house, but was always on hand when needed, becoming a kind of animal guardian angel for the young people’s saint. The youngsters at the oratory in Turin also got to know Grigio. He never drank any of the water they gave him, but did allow them to stroke his rough coat. Neither did he ever touch the well-filled bowl of food set out for him. Instead, he simply disappeared and could not be found, no matter how hard they looked for him. There’s one other anecdote that was often related:

One evening, Don Bosco had a job to do. But the huge grey dog lay down in the doorway and would not let him pass. He even nudged the priest back towards the house with his nose. It turned out that on this evening an armed man was lying in wait for the pioneer of social work. He had been given money by persons unknown to scare Don Bosco off and even had a pistol with him. On another occasion, Don Bosco wished he had Grigio at his side to go with him on a long journey. Straight away, the dog came towards him, tail wagging, and accompanied the priest to his destination. He always seemed to know when Don Bosco was out and about.

The Grey went on to help his master for several decades. Some wondered at this: surely a dog cannot live so long? Perhaps it was one of his descendants? In his memoirs, Don Bosco writes the following about “the grey”: “He was the subject of much discussion and investigation. I was never able to find out who he belonged to. I only know that the animal had genuinely been chosen by providence as my protector in the many dangers I faced.” Countess

Barolo, the great benefactress of Don Bosco’s work, asked him what he thought about the grey dog. He replied, “Well, it would be funny to say he was an angel, wouldn’t it?”

The story of Grigio does not end until 1959 when some of Don Bosco’s remains were taken to Rome. It is said that some of the time a wolfhound was seen running beside the coffin. A friendship for life – and beyond.

Street children – animals help build trust

Their bad experiences mean that street children usually find it hard to trust adults. This is why it is not uncommon for our Jugend Eine Welt partners to enlist the aid of animals in their work with street children. In some of the Don Bosco facilities for street children, contact with dogs or cats is used as a deliberate strategy for social rehabilitation. Traumatised street children develop feelings such as responsibility for the animals and open their hearts more readily to new experiences and positive relationships with other human beings.



Don Bosco (1815 - 1888) pioneer of social work and young people’s saint,

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 the youngsters in his charge. Today, the numerous Don Bosco projects in over 130 countries worldwide provide young people with solid vocational training. That gives them the chance of a better life.

A Quiet Hero is No More



Remembering Father Johann Kiesling SDB, project partner, friend and staunch associate of Jugend Eine Welt.

On 22 October 2024 our dear friend, project partner and associate of many years' standing, Father Johann Kiesling, passed away at the age of 90 in Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was born in 1934 in southern Moravia. He knew what it means to be an orphan, because he himself grew up as one.

Before he was able to start studying he worked as a metalworker for several years. Later on, his practical skills helped many families in the Congo. But even more valuable was his calling to improve the terrible living conditions of children and young people in the country. He devoted himself to this task with great dedication. For decades he did pioneering work in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo where there is virtually no functional infrastructure. If his car ever got stuck in the mud as he was driving to the next town, a journey that took hours, it was not uncommon for him to have to wait two days for

someone to come along who could help. On one occasion he had to spend the night on the roof of his car following such a mishap in the jungle, which left him with pneumonia. But the permanently good-humoured priest told even this tale of woe with a smile: "God never let me down." Father Kiesling's greatest concern was always for the children, and he was tireless in his efforts to find support for them. Jugend Eine Welt will do everything possible to maintain Father Kiesling's legacy and enable vulnerable children in the countries of Africa a better future.

DEAR JOHANN KIESLING, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.



Campaigns and Events for our ONE World



CHOCOLATE GOES TO SCHOOL

Enjoy chocolate of supreme organic quality and give underprivileged children a school dinner: Zotter and Jugend Eine Welt can look back on a successful joint campaign: 50 cents of every SchokoBanane sold went to a school in Madagascar.



CHOCOLATE AND CINEMA

Pupils in the bilingual classes at the high school in Ried, Upper Austria, collected donations for small-scale farmers and their families by selling chocolate they had made themselves as part of the "Cinema under the Stars" event.



FOOTBALL-THEMED SERVICE

Ever fancied attending mass in a football stadium, possibly in your football shirt? Last summer, parish priest Joe Reisenhofer and the parish of Hartberg invited parishioners to a football-themed church service in Hartberg stadium.

Donate now and help children around the world!

Account for Donations Jugend Eine Welt: AT66 3600 0000 0002 4000

Donate online: www.jugendeinewelt.at/jetzt-spenden

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

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Chris Cowen



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