




2023

# Annual report

German Doctors e.V.



In Kilifi, one of the poorest regions in Kenya, our focus is on mother-and-child health. Lilian Choga (centre) gave birth to her second child, a healthy boy, a few weeks ago. Volunteer Health Worker Isabela Odoyo (left in the picture) and Community Coordinator Rebeka Kailuh (right in the picture) are now making a home visit to the young mother. It is a great benefit for the patients, that the medical work of the German Doctors is so closely interlinked with the often voluntary commitment of healthcare professionals at community level.



*The German Doctors run meaningful projects that also provide long-term benefit to the employees and not just to the people in need.*

Quote from a German Doctors donor

## Our projects 2023

Humanitarian aid has become an important part of our work.

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## Chronicle

40 years of service by the German Doctors

8



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## Faces and their stories

Our patients and colleagues



## FACES AND THEIR STORIES

Volunteer doctor Dr. Jenny Hergeth diagnoses Kito\* with pneumonia - still one of the most common causes of death among children under the age of five in Kenya. His mother's only response to the urgent advice to take the boy to a hospital in Kilifi County is a sad shake of the head. Too far away and, above all, too expensive. With mixed feelings and the right medication, Dr. Hergeth tells the mother to bring the little boy back the next day, but Kito doesn't turn up. Worried, the doctor makes a home visit. The father, however, is at church with his son to pray for money for Kito's hospitalisation. A few days later, everyone is relieved because Kito comes to the consultation. He feels better. The medication has worked. Thank goodness the German Doctors are there!

\*Name changed



Dr. Elisabeth Kauder,  
President



Dr. Christine Winkelmann,  
Member of the Executive Board



Dr. Harald Kischlat,  
Member of the Executive Board

## Dear readers,

In 1983, the first volunteer doctors in Kolkata and Manila committed themselves to treating people who had no access to medical care. Every individual counts - then as now; this idea underpins our commitment. Looking back over four decades, the figures are impressive. A total of 3,715 German Doctors have been on voluntary medical missions and provided over 13 million medical treatments.

At the anniversary meeting in September 2023, which was attended by numerous dedicated volunteer doctors, we not only looked back, but also discussed current problems with the attending partners' representatives. The climate crisis is exacerbating living conditions for many people in the Global South, making healthcare provision even more difficult.

In our anniversary year, we launched a new project that builds on our beginnings. We are continuing our commitment that began in Kolkata in Jhargram in rural India. People in rural areas need us more than those in the city today. We are focussing our aid on this change and would like to thank all of you who have made the project possible with your support.

There were so many creative, impressive fundraising activities.

We were able to further expand our medical aid in many places. A new outpatient clinic was built in Korogocho, a settlement along the largest rubbish dump in Kenya. Our training projects are beginning to bear fruit in Uganda and Sierra Leone. We are thus ensuring that medical knowledge is brought into the country and stays there. In Europe, the focus was on medical care for refugees. Floods in Greece worsened the already difficult situation of the young people being cared for by our partner. In the absence of government initiatives, we will continue to be involved in sea-rescue operations for people fleeing across the Mediterranean.

Together with our partners, we take on various tasks at all locations. This also includes providing humanitarian aid when necessary. For example, we continue to support our partners in Ukraine. This is all a huge joint effort, and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this from the bottom of our hearts. This strong support makes us confident that we will be able to do a lot together in the coming years – for a fairer world.

Dr. Christine Winkelmann and Dr. Harald Kischlat  
(for the Executive Board)

Dr. Elisabeth Kauder  
(for the Steering Committee)

# Our operational areas in 2023

*We provide medical aid for people living in great poverty in structurally weak regions all over the world. Our projects generally run for several years. Due to climate change, wars, and the resulting streams of refugees, we are also increasingly involved in emergency relief.*

## Greece

Our work in the first European German Doctors project focuses on unaccompanied refugee minors. Together with a local partner organisation, we have been providing refugees with better access to basic medical services since 2021. We vaccinate them, educate them about health issues and distribute food and hygiene products as needed.

## Sierra Leone

We have been training paediatric specialists in Sierra Leone since 2021. The West African country has one of the highest child mortality rates in the world. One of the main reasons for this is the lack of medical professionals.

## Mediterranean Sea

We have been cooperating with the civilian sea-rescue organisation Sea-Eye e.V. by providing medical care to rescued boat refugees in the Mediterranean Sea since the beginning of 2021. We regularly provide a volunteer ship's doctor for the medical missions.

Mediterranean Sea

Sierra Leone

## Kenia

We have been providing basic medical services in Mathare Valley, one of Nairobi's largest slums, for 27 years. We have also been working in the nearby Korogocho slum right next to Kenya's largest rubbish dump since 2021. Our programme for around 3,000 HIV-positive patients and those with AIDS has won several awards. Our nutrition centre for mal- and undernourished children is an important complement. During the coronavirus crisis, we opened an outpatient clinic in the industrial city of Athi River, a contact point for around 70,000 families in scattered slums, and we started our work in the coastal district of Kilifi. The focus of the outpatient clinic there is on obstetrics and mother and child health.

- Medical projects
- Humanitarian aid projects

The German Doctors e.V. has been involved in humanitarian aid and partner projects, as well as supplementary programmes in several other countries, during the reporting period. More detailed information can be found in the annual financial statements from page 48 onwards.

## Ukraine

Since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in early 2022, we have been providing comprehensive humanitarian aid with various partner organisations.

## Turkey/Syria

After the earthquake in the border region between Turkey and Syria, we provided emergency accommodation for the people affected, rebuilt damaged healthcare facilities and delivered urgently needed medicines.

## India

Our rolling clinics provide medical care for people in the remote rural and structurally weak regions, the Sundarbans Delta and the Jhargram district. We aim to improve the extremely difficult living conditions of the people in both areas by educating and training local health workers.

Ukraine

Turkey/Syria

India

Greece

Bangladesh

Uganda

Philippines

Kenia

## Uganda

We have been active in the East African country since 2022. We support a hospital that primarily cares for women with high-risk pregnancies, mothers and children. Our volunteer doctors train the local staff in the fields of obstetrics, paediatrics, surgery and internal medicine.

## Bangladesh

We have been serving marginalised people in the slums of the port city of Chittagong since 2000. We have been active in the metropolis of Dhaka since 1989, and today we are primarily concerned with textile workers who live in extremely difficult conditions. German Doctors have been working in the Srimangal tea region since 2022. We also trained health workers there in 2023.

## Philippines

We have been active in the Philippines since the organisation was founded in 1983 and now treat people on the islands of Mindoro, Luzon and Samar. Our main focus is on providing basic medical services in remote, hard-to-reach regions. The second pillar of our work is the training of local health workers.

**The birth of our association** In the beginning, it was called "Doctors for the Third World". The founding idea was to provide basic medical services to more people in need in countries of the Global South by giving doctors the opportunity to work for a comparatively short period of time. Six weeks are roughly equivalent to the duration of an annual holiday, so no doctor has to take time off work in Germany for a longer period of time or even quit working to help people far away from home. This concept has remained unchanged over the 40 years of our existence! The first teams spent six weeks working in Kolkata and Manila.



## FOUNDATION | 1983



## PRIZE MONEY | 1993

**Chancellor Helmut Kohl presents us with 90,000 German marks**, the prize money for the Jawarlal-Nehru-Award for International Communication. It is the highest honour that India can bestow.

**Our organisation was one of the first recipients of the DZI Donation Seal.** The seal proves that we deal responsibly with the money entrusted to us. We have been awarded it continuously since 1992.



## DZI SEAL | 1992

# 1983

# 1993

## START OF THE VACCINATION CAMPAIGN | 1987

**As part of a World Health Organization programme, we launched the first of three extensive vaccination campaigns in the Philippines.** The programme ran for a total of twelve years. It was co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) twice and by the European Union once. In 1996 we were honoured for this exemplary campaign with the Helmut-Stickl-Prize for the promotion of immunisation.



## FIRST ROLLING CLINIC | 1985

**Our first Rolling Clinic is picking up speed.** On the Philippine island of Mindanao, a team treats up to 70 people every day in extremely remote villages. The mobile clinics are equipped with the essentials for basic medical care. Dentists also regularly accompany the tours, as many people in the Philippines suffer from poor dental health due to a lack of hygiene and poor nutrition.





## HELMUT STICKL PRIZE | 2007

Our long-term doctor in Kolkata, Dr. Tobias Vogt, was awarded the Helmut Stickl Prize for Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine endowed with 10,000 euros by the German Academy.

Our doctor has been working in the Kolkata slums to improve the paediatric immunisation rate since 2002. Just one year later, Tobias Vogt was also awarded the Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation's Sponsorship Prize for his tuberculosis programme.



**Maria Furtwängler, physicia and actress, goes on assignment for us in Nairobi, Kenya.** Moved by her

experiences in Mathare Valley Slum, she continued with her growing popularity to make our organisation better known.

Two years later, she travelled to Kolkata accompanied by a film team. The German television station (ARD) produced several features there about her second humanitarian mission. In the same year, Maria Furtwängler became President of our Board of Trustees.

## MARIA FURTWÄNGLER | 1998



# 40 Years German Doctors

## 2003



## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | 2004

**The President of the Bundestag, Wolfgang Thierse, is the keynote speaker at a belated anniversary celebration in 2003.** Angela Merkel and Rupert Neudeck, among others, deliver personal greetings.

## 25 YEARS GERMAN DOCTORS | 2008

In the year of our 25th anniversary, former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer praised the extraordinary commitment of our doctors in a speech. We also become a partner in "Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft" and an associate member in 2015. The alliance provides bundled aid in acute disasters as well as in permanent crisis areas.



## BAMBI FOR CHARITY | 1998

**German Doctors – then still Doctors for Developing Countries – are honoured with the Bambi for Charity at the annual Bambi awards ceremony.**



We renewed our organisation structure in terms of both personnel and structure. We also realigned our strategy and entered into various voluntary commitments. The aim was to more effectively implement important topics, such as child protection.

## NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE | 2010

## EBOLA IN SIERRA LEONE | 2014

We are active in Sierra Leone, which was also affected by the largest Ebola outbreak in history.

Thanks to the courage and the commitment of our local employees, our long-term doctor and other German Doctors, we were able to maintain the hospital in Serabu as the only one in the entire country to function normally.



## HUMANITARIAN AID | 2020

Our work is suddenly affected by the corona pandemic. Humanitarian aid suddenly becomes not the exception, but the norm.

Doctors from Germany, Austria and Switzerland are no longer allowed to enter the project regions. Fortunately and thanks to our previous investment in training and education, our local employees in almost all projects were able to offer at least basic medical care almost without interruption – sometimes with telemedical support from Germany. They even established new projects in Kenya's Athi River, India's Sundarbans and on the Philippine island of Samar!



# 2013

## HENDRIKJE FITZ HELPS | 2015

Hendrikje Fitz, actress and German Doctors project sponsor, is terminally ill with cancer. She gives a touching interview before the camera on the topic of dying in Africa and in Germany. A short and the long version can be found online at: [www.german-doctors.de/hendrikje-fitz-hilft](http://www.german-doctors.de/hendrikje-fitz-hilft).



## CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS | 2011

Our circle of supporters, a combination of companies from different sectors and of different sizes, was formed under the patronage of Maria Furtwängler.

They contribute money, material resources, knowledge and staff so that we can expand our medical projects and further develop the organisation itself.



## DEVELOPMENT AID IS EFFECTIVE | 2019

As part of the "Development aid is effective" campaign and together with other aid organisations and many celebrities, we show the general public that cooperation in development aid makes a difference for the people on site. Well-known personalities, such as Peter Maffay, Til Schweiger and Stefanie Giesinger praise the positive effects of our work in poverty-stricken regions.



## 44 GOOD-NIGHT STORIES | 2020

As part of our solidarity campaign **“Dreaming helps”**, 44 celebrities brought bedtime stories to children’s rooms across Germany and food parcels that were urgently needed due to the coronavirus pandemic to the slums in our project regions. They read their favourite stories, filmed themselves with their smartphones and posted the videos on their Facebook channels. All the clips can still be viewed on our YouTube channel: [www.german-doctors.de/youtube](http://www.german-doctors.de/youtube).

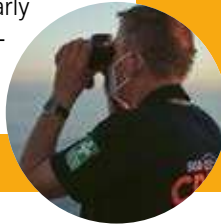


## JHARGRAM | 2023

We were able to open a new project in rural India to mark our 40th anniversary thanks to numerous fundraising campaigns. From now on, 20,000 people in the remote region suffering from the effects of climate change will receive basic medical care. Together with our strong partner, we are providing training on topics like hygiene, family planning, nutrition and improving the water supply.

## SEA RESCUE | 2021

For the first time, a volunteer German Doctor is on board the civilian rescue ship **Sea-Eye 4** as the ship’s doctor. Since then, a doctor has regularly accompanied the rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea.



# 2023

## UKRAINE | 2022

We immediately began providing humanitarian aid to the inhabitants of Ukraine and refugees near the border after the Russian attack. We are able to achieve this on a large scale thanks to our membership in the humanitarian aid alliance “Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft” and the generous support of the Deutsche Bahn Foundation. The global impact of the war is also dramatically increasing the need of people in our other project regions.



## ANNIVERSARY | 2023

**125 volunteer doctors attended our anniversary celebration.** The special thing about this event was that nine country representatives, employees of project partners and country managers from Kenya, Sierra Leone, Greece, India and the Philippines also attended our anniversary celebration at the University Hospital in Bonn.



# 40 Years



# Our projects in 2023



India



Our comprehensive approach includes training of local health workers and provision of school meals in addition to medical care in Jhargram.

## Jhargram

2023

3

Start

Medical missions in 2023

**Patient contacts in 2023** 8,068

**Partner** the NGO Kajla Janakalyan Samity (KJKS)

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care
- » Train local healthcare professionals
- » Provide health education and counselling
- » Secure nutrition
- » Create access to clean drinking water and sanitary facilities

ember. We had already treated over 8,000 people by the end of the year. Our mobile clinic travels to ten locations on a rotating basis and treats around 20,000 people in 49 villages.

### Holistic approach

The holistic approach of the project also includes the training of health workers. A total of 98 health workers - two per village - are being trained to ensure basic medical care in the long term. Because many people do not have access to sufficient information on health-related topics, the first awareness-raising events have already taken place in the villages. We support the village communities in planting and cultivating model and school gardens to counteract the widespread malnutrition. However, since this cannot

### A mobile clinic for the people

Our needs analyses have shown that people in the rural regions of India need our help even more urgently than those in the metropolis of Kolkata. Many people in rural areas suffer from massive poverty and have hardly any access to healthcare services. The district of Jhargram is located around 170 kilometres west of Kolkata. Indigenous peoples live in the densely forested area in small, isolated villages where public transport is completely absent.

Thanks to many successful fundraising campaigns in our anniversary year, we were able to launch the Jhargram project with a ceremony in September. Two volunteer German Doctors have always been on site together with one or two Indian doctors since No-

**» The state of health and nutrition can only be described in one word: catastrophic! The people urgently need medical help. In addition, their living conditions must improve overall. «**

Nathalie Rans,  
volunteer doctor

immediately solve the urgent problem of malnutrition and undernourishment, we provided around 770 children with a nutritious school breakfast six days a week in the third quarter.



India



The lack of clean drinking water leads to many diseases in the Sundarbans. Education is important!

## Sundarbans Delta

2022

Start

20

Medical missions in 2023

**Patient contacts in 2023** 19,462

**Partner** the NGO Association for Social and Humanitarian Action (ASHA)

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care
- » Train local healthcare professionals
- » Provide health education and counselling

### More sick children treated

We travelled alternately to 47 villages in the Sundarbans Delta with the mobile clinic to provide the inhabitants with basic medical treatment. Two German doctors together with an Indian doctor hold medical consultations. We have treated more sick children than ever before since the middle of the year and sometimes more seriously ill patients. One of the reasons for this is the increased presence of health workers in the communities. A large proportion of our patients suffer from diabetes. We have initiated a special programme for them including training courses on healthy lifestyles, counselling and home visits to check medication intake.

A new training plan was developed to train healthcare professionals in the Sundarbans. A group of German and Indian doctors worked on a curriculum that could

also be used for other training projects. The weekly training sessions for the healthcare workers are progressing well, and the volunteer doctors on site are delighted with their commitment.

### Safe food and clean water

The agriculture and nutrition project in cooperation with the Welthungerhilfe Organization continued to make an important contribution to combating malnutrition in the Sundarbans in 2023. The project was evaluated in the first quarter, and the results indicate that it should be continued. Thanks to the interlinking of the nutrition project and medical aid, we now only occasionally see malnourished children during our consultations. They are referred to the mobile clinic by the project staff.

A project co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) aims to sustainably improve the water supply in the region. This is important because many serious diseases are caused by contaminated or inadequate water (see pages 34 and 35).



Watch the video about the project!  
[german-doctors.de/sundarbans-clip](https://german-doctors.de/sundarbans-clip)



## Bangladesh



Without medical care, a flu-like infection can quickly turn into life-threatening pneumonia in malnourished children.

## Chittagong

2000

Start

16

Medical missions in 2023

**Patient contacts in 2023** 31,781

**Partner** Caritas Bangladesh

### Project goals

- » Basic medical care
- » Nutrition programmes and preschool for malnourished and undernourished children
- » Training for income-generating measures
- » Training courses and workshops on medical and social topics

### Consultation hours at five locations

We were able to continue our medical aid as usual at five locations in and around Chittagong (Chattogram) until October. The **Medical Centre for the Poorest of the Poor** (MCCP) is located in the Patharghata district; two other health centres are also located in inner-city slums. There is also a weekly medical consultation centre on the outskirts of the city in Solimpur and in the rural region of Banshkhali. Due to the unrest during the run-up to the elections in January 2024, we had to fly our volunteer doctors back to Germany in November because their safety could no longer be guaranteed.

### Improving access to state benefits

We commissioned an evaluation of our projects in Chittagong and Dhaka in the spring. One important result was that many health services in the large cities are now provided by the government and that people would benefit more in the medium and long term if they had access to government programmes and facilities and a good referral system were established. We discussed this with our partner, Caritas Bangladesh, in October and initiated the development of a concept that deals with how the recommendations derived from the evaluation can be implemented. Aside from the link with government agencies, we want to include family planning in our project.

**» I see many emaciated young mothers with a child too small for its age on their hips; the sibling also small. Her complaints: tired, listless, fever in the evening, back pain. «**

Dr. Rosemarie Pichler,  
volunteer doctor



## Bangladesh



In addition to mothers and children, our target groups also include people from the queer.

## Dhaka

1989  
Start

16  
Medical missions in 2023

**Patient contacts in 2023** 16,320

**Partner** Caritas Bangladesh

### Project goals

- » Basic medical care
- » Advice for pregnant women, mothers and the chronically ill
- » Physiotherapy for textile workers

state programmes and facilities. Family planning will also be included in the project.

We also launched a project with our partner, the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research Bangladesh (icddr,b), to provide economic and psychological support to former drug users and trans women. 230 people received training to strengthen their life skills and psychological counselling. 162 people were supported in setting up their own small businesses, and a further 68 people started vocational training. The project is co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## Medical aid continues

We travel to each of our three outpatient centres once or twice a week. They are located in the industrial region of Savar, north of Dhaka. The team consists of two volunteer German doctors, a Bangladeshi doctor, translators, pharmacists and nurses. In Dhaka we also focus on treating people on the margins of society. These are mainly workers in textile factories who cannot afford medical care, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women.

## Evaluation with clear results

We commissioned an evaluation of our projects in Dhaka and Chittagong in the second quarter (see page 15). According to its recommendation, we will continue to focus on helping patients gain access to

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*The heat and power cuts made the daily consultations particularly strenuous for everyone.*

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We also had to withdraw the volunteer doctors from Dhaka in November because we could no longer guarantee their safety due to unrest during the run-up to the parliamentary elections. We are delighted that we were able to appoint our new country representative, Gorkey Gourab, for the German Doctors in Bangladesh in December.





## Bangladesh



The life of the tea pickers is hard; medical help is in great demand!

## Srimangal

2022

Start

12

Medical missions in 2023

**Patient contacts in 2023** 11,541

**Partner** the NGO Bangladesh Nazarene Mission (BNM)

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care
- » Train local healthcare professionals
- » Provide health education
- » Set up self-help groups for women
- » Build sanitary facilities and provide access to clean water

### Some obstacles to overcome

We entered into a partnership with the local health authority, which provided contraceptives for distribution in the project. Unfortunately, the cooperation was later cancelled by the health authorities due to structural problems with our partner BNM.

We spent a long time looking for a suitable institute to train health workers and were finally able to reach an agreement with the Bangladeshi government. This enabled us to train a second group of health workers in 2023.

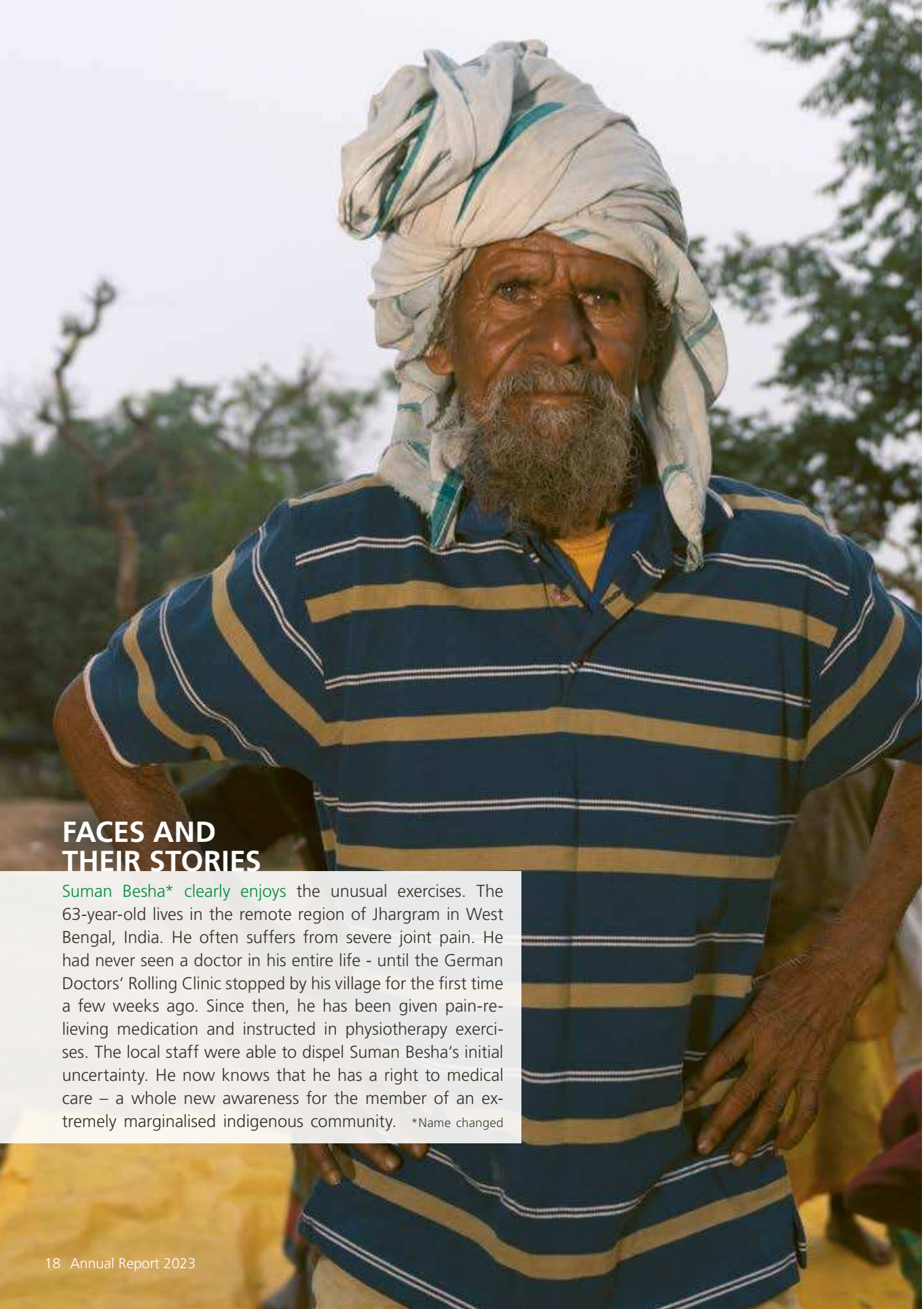
Due to the unrest during the run-up to the parliamentary elections in November and December 2023, we also sent no short-term doctors to Srimangal.

### Medical aid for the tea pickers

In the huge tea-growing region of Srimangal in north-east Bangladesh, we were able to hold medical consultations at all planned locations - twice a week at the Noagaon project site and in Kalighat, Ashidron and Rajghat on the other days. The tea pickers are highly dependent on the plantation owners, and especially pregnant women and children suffer from poor working and living conditions. Registering German doctors is very complicated and time-consuming, so that often only one German doctor could be on site to work together with the Bangladeshi doctor in the project.

**» I remember the many tea pickers, marked by the hard working and living conditions with a body weight almost always between 35 and 45 kilos, some with even less. «**

Dr. Johann Pielmann,  
volunteer doctor



## FACES AND THEIR STORIES

Suman Beshha\* clearly enjoys the unusual exercises. The 63-year-old lives in the remote region of Jhargram in West Bengal, India. He often suffers from severe joint pain. He had never seen a doctor in his entire life - until the German Doctors' Rolling Clinic stopped by his village for the first time a few weeks ago. Since then, he has been given pain-relieving medication and instructed in physiotherapy exercises. The local staff were able to dispel Suman Beshha's initial uncertainty. He now knows that he has a right to medical care – a whole new awareness for the member of an extremely marginalised indigenous community. \*Name changed



# Philippines

Our patients' villages on Samar are extremely remote.

## Samar

**2021** | **15**  
Start | Medical missions in 2023

**Patient contacts in 2023** 8,589

**Partner** Sentro ha Pagpauswag ha Panginabuhi Inc. (SPPI)

**Project goals**

- » Provide basic medical care in remote regions with the Rolling Clinic
- » Train local healthcare professionals

### Meeting with healthcare professionals

Heike Lunau worked as a long-term doctor in Samar until the middle of 2023. She recently supported the training of local healthcare workers. A major event, the "Healthcare Worker Convention", brought together more than 270 healthcare workers who had already received training. Topics included the role of healthcare workers and the national health strategy. It was the largest gathering of community healthcare workers to date.

### Our mobile ambulance

The Rolling Clinic has become well established in Samar. We reach a total of 60 remote villages with around 135,000 people. In the municipality of Gamay, we had to suspend our on-site consultations temporarily because the military wing of the Communist party in the Philippines, the New People's Army (NPA), was active there. Through various measures we can keep the security risk to a minimum. We are in regular contact with a security advisor from the German Association for International Cooperation, and our partner, SPPI, is very well connected with the local communities. The team obtains official permission to visit the villages for each Rolling Clinic tour. Newly arrived doctors also introduce themselves personally in the communities to ensure their safety.

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*It is mostly women from the villages who learn how to treat simple illnesses and recognise whether a patient needs further medical help during their training as healthcare workers.*

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## Philippines

The doctors from Germany would not be able to work on site without the support of the local healthcare workers.

## Luzon

2018  
Start

13  
Medical missions: 2023

Patient contacts 2023 9,857

**Partner** Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries Inc. and the SPUP-Community Development Centre Foundation Inc.

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care in hard-to-reach mountain villages with the Rolling Clinic
- » Train local healthcare professionals

bile ultrasound machine and the new ECG device was also put on the curriculum for the local staff.

### Healthcare professionals help during medical consultations

A further 157 healthcare workers completed their training in 2023. Since then, many of them have been regularly assisting during the Rolling Clinic's medical consultations. They help with patient admissions, take vital signs and assist with the dispensing of medication. This is a great win-win situation in which the healthcare professionals can apply their knowledge and support our German Doctors.

### Pharmacists Without Borders on site

Starting from the medical centre in Abulug, our Rolling Clinic travelled to 40 locations according to a fixed schedule. Unfortunately, the medical centre was broken into in the summer while the team was on a Rolling Clinic tour. This was one of the reasons why we moved; the medical centre has since been in a new, and hopefully safe, location - in Turod in the Luna municipality.

We were delighted to receive support from Pharmacists Without Borders (Apotheker ohne Grenzen e.V.). The organisation sent two German pharmacists to check the stock and use of medicines in our Philippine projects and to train the local pharmacy staff. Dr. Arianne Alvarez, our medical director, was also on site and offered training. How to use the mo-

We are facing some major organisational challenges in the Philippines because the voluntary Board of the Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries can no longer fully meet the growing demands with its limited resources. The number of projects and their complexity have increased too much. We are therefore working on a new organisational structure.

**» A six-year-old boy, an eleven-year-old girl and a 40-year-old patient came to the Rolling Clinic for a medical assessment for the first time in their lives because they had been deaf since birth. «**

Dr. Christine Nitschke,  
volunteer doctor on Luzon



## Philippines



Nona Sikada Felia (on the right in the photo on the left) is one of 174 healthcare workers trained on Mindoro in 2023.

2002

Start

16

Medical missions: 2023

**Patient contacts 2023** 14,488

**Partner** Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries Inc., an official non-governmental organisation registered in the Philippines

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care in remote regions with the Rolling Clinic
- » Contain tuberculosis
- » Train local healthcare professionals

## Humanitarian aid after the oil spill

Our Rolling Clinic also travelled to a total of 38 locations in the mountains of Mindoro in 2023. An oil spill occurred on the coast of the province of Oriental Mindoro in March. We provided humanitarian aid through our partner Citizens Disaster Response Centre. Among other things, we distributed food parcels to 550 families in need in the municipality of Pola.

## Graduation ceremonies for new healthcare professionals

We trained a total of 174 healthcare professionals during the year. Highlights during the year are the

graduation ceremonies at which the healthcare employees receive their certificates and a health kit with the necessary equipment for their new job - namely a blood-pressure monitor, initial medication and dress-

**» I gained a lot of self-confidence through my training as a healthcare worker. When I received my final diploma, I was happy and very proud. This motivated me to continue my current vocational training. «**

Nona Sikadan Felia, trained healthcare professional in the village of Sitio Badyangg

ing materials. During the reporting period, graduation ceremonies were held in the communities of San Teodoro, Mansalay and Baco. It is pleasing to note that the volunteer healthcare workers, who are generally women, receive a small allowance from the communities for their commitment. The newly graduated healthcare workers from Baco gained further practical experience as part of on-the-job training at the state health centre in Mansalay.

## Many Mangyans now have birth certificates

The joint project with our partner organisation Ideals Inc. has been very successful. A total of 6,707 people from the indigenous Mangyan community have applied for a birth certificate since the start of the project. The certificate is urgently needed to gain access to the state health and education systems.

# Our year 2023 in figures



**482**

companies, foundations and associations donated to our work.



**6,132**

pregnant women were safely accompanied until birth.



**40,396**

children under the age of 5 were treated by us.



**243,083**  
patient contacts



**51,240**

German Doctors' working hours



**244**

medical missions were performed by 231 doctors.



Approximately

**173,000**

people received our humanitarian aid.

**97 %**

of German Doctors said they wanted to perform further medical missions.



Approximately

**47,000**

chronically ill people were treated.



**780**

tuberculosis patients were treated during consultations.



We provided people with health information and advice approximately

**180,000**  
times.



**37**

online fundraising campaigns were organised in our anniversary year.



**160,000**

people followed us on social media.



**988**

local healthcare professionals were trained.



**145**

donation tins were returned filled with money.



**320**

participants attended our four online events.



**39** people requested donations for us when someone died.

**14** people left us bequests.



**13,4 million**  
patient contacts in 40 years

**8,152**

first-time donors



**5,507**

permanent donors



**60**

people requested donations on their birthdays.



**3,715**

German Doctors have been working on a voluntary basis since 1983.



## Kenya

The Nairobi River is a breeding ground for disease-causing germs. It regularly overflows its banks during the rainy season.

# Nairobi

1997 Start | 43 Medical missions: 2023

**Patient contacts 2023** 46,432

**Partner** Baraka Health Net is registered as a sponsor, HIV programme in cooperation with Coptic Hope Centre Kenya, dental care with Dentists for Africa

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care in the Mathare Valley slum
- » Treat chronically ill patients
- » Care for people infected with HIV and suffering from AIDS
- » Improve the nutritional situation of children
- » Provide counselling for underage expectant mothers

Our Kenyan doctor, Dr. Janet Okeyo, and Country Director, George Audi, spoke at the anniversary forum about the precarious nutritional situation and its impact on our medical work. Dr. Janet Okeyo spent three weeks as a visiting doctor at the Dermatology Clinic at

*» I particularly remember some elderly people living alone who were undernourished. Some only had some cornmeal porridge every two days. I never experienced anything like this during my previous assignments in 2021 and 2022.«*

Dr. Gabriele Becker-Hassemer, volunteer doctor

Cologne University Hospital before the forum meeting. She will apply the knowledge she acquired there to new dermatological consultations in Baraka.

## New counselling centre for family planning

We launched our new Family Planning Clinic together with the Baraka Health Net in the autumn. Our aim is to reduce the number of unwanted teenage pregnancies that are so common in Kenya.

We struggled with a shortage of tuberculosis medication and contraceptives in Mathare Valley, Korogocho and Athi River at the end of the year due to a lack of supplies from the Kenyan government. We temporarily had to cover the costs of contraceptives for the new Family Planning Clinic ourselves.

## An increasing number of malnourished people

An increasing number of malnourished people asked for help from the nutrition programme, which is linked to our health centre. The extreme drought in East Africa and the food-price increases resulting from the war in Ukraine have exacerbated the food situation. The cooks at the Feeding Centre, which is run by our partner, Baraka Health Net, served around 400 meals every day. We also distributed food parcels and continued to offer cooking courses for (expectant) mothers.





Kenia



Around 200,000 people live on and from Kenya's largest rubbish dump.

## Korogocho

2021

Start

43

Medical missions: 2023

The German Doctors from the Mathare Valley slum in Nairobi work one day a week in Korogocho

**Patient contacts 2022** 4,077

**Partner** Baraka Health Net, Ayiera Initiative

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care in the Korogocho slum
- » Treat chronically ill patients
- » Provide advice about family planning

### Consultations next to a huge rubbish dump

We have held a consultation once a month in the Korogocho slum on the edge of Nairobi's largest rubbish dump since 2021. An estimated 200,000 people live here crowded together in makeshift dwellings without a sewerage system and fresh water. Several hundred patients sought medical help from us on these days.

### New: daily medical consultations

In view of the huge need, we are delighted that we could move into some rooms in the building of our partner, the Ayiera Initiative, on a permanent basis in the middle of September and equip them accordingly. This was also possible thanks to the successful

fundraising campaign organised by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, F.A.Z. "Leser Helfen". Hamilton Ayiera, who grew up in a slum himself, set up a youth centre in Korogocho with sports and educational activities. Volunteer German Doctors from the Baraka outpatient clinic in the Mathare Valley slum have been going to Korogocho on a rotating basis from Monday to Friday since September and, together with the permanent local team from our partner Baraka Health Net, treat around 50 sick people a day.

### Philipp Danne is our new ambassador

Actor Philipp Danne - known from the German TV series "In aller Freundschaft - die jungen Ärzte" - travelled with us to Kenya at the end of May. He is our new ambassador and was impressed by the commitment of the local professionals and the volunteer German Doctors. He says, "What they do here during their annual leave or retirement is really impressive. Once you've been there and seen the reality of people's lives - the tiny tin huts, the stinking, open sewage channels and this unbelievably huge rubbish dump that people live on and next to - you want to help. I have seen how important and effectively organised the work of the German Doctors is."




See also the video of Philipp Danne's visit to the project.  
[german-doctors.de/philipp\\_danne](https://german-doctors.de/philipp_danne)



## Kenia

Volunteer doctor Dr. Eva Bauer explains the principle of the Rolling Clinic to actor Philipp Danne.

 Watch the video about the project!  
[german-doctors.de/athi-river](https://german-doctors.de/athi-river)

# Athi River

<b>2020</b> Start	<b>27</b> Medical missions: 2023
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**Patient contacts 2023** 45,353

**Partner** Baraka Health Net

**Project goals**

- » Provide basic medical care in scattered slums
- » Treat HIV-infected patients and patients suffering from AIDS
- » Strengthen preventive healthcare through volunteer health workers
- » Provide advice on family planning

## The Rolling Clinic is an important addition

In addition to the medical consultations in our stationary Fanaka outpatient clinic, we have also been travelling to Athi River with a Rolling Clinic since the end of 2022. As the slum settlements in this industrial city are widely scattered, many people find it difficult to reach the fixed outpatient clinic. The high number of patients who came to the Rolling Clinic for treatment in 2023 shows just how great the need is. On average, 40 to 50 people a day are treated by a volunteer German Doctor. On some days, however, up to 90 people visit our mobile clinic at two of the four locations we visit. An additional German Doctor or Clinical Officer from the Fanaka outpatient clinic is now supporting the Rolling Clinic team to absorb

these peaks and guarantee good medical treatment for patients.

Since the spring, our Rolling Clinic has had a new truck, which we were able to purchase thanks to the commitment of our long-standing supporter, Dr Ausbüttel & Co GmbH. The truck has two small treatment rooms and a room for infusions. Enough material can also be transported to carry out all the examinations and treatments for an entire day.

## Large crowds of patients

The state health facilities in the Athi River region changed their price structure in 2023, which meant that even fewer people than before could afford to visit them, and very few have health insurance. As a result, our Fanaka outpatient clinic also experienced a large additional influx of patients. More than 200 people a day regularly visited our health centre, where they were treated by our dedicated team of German Doctors and the staff of Baraka Health Net. The well-being of the children we treat is very important to us. We therefore used World Children's Day in November to address the issue of children's rights in a playful way. 700 people, including 595 children and young people, took part in the festival, which was organised together with the "Doors of Hope" organisation.



Basic medical care for patients and training of local specialists – these are the two pillars of our work in Kilifi.

## Kilifi

2021

Start

20

Medical missions: 2023

**Patient contacts 2023** 15,186

**Partner** Community Health Promotion Fund (CHPF), Kenyan government, North Coast Medical Training College (NCMTC)

### Project goals

- » Provide basic medical care in rural areas
- » Build health structures for village communities
- » Strengthen mother-child health
- » Provide prevention and education



Watch the video about our project!  
[german-doctors.de/kilifi-clip](https://german-doctors.de/kilifi-clip)

## More safe deliveries

The number of patients in Kilifi County increased significantly from autumn onwards. We also recorded more deliveries in October, 24 children were born in the delivery room, which is connected to the Boma-ni-Malde Dispensary Health Centre, and as many as 32 in were born in December. We see this as a result of the continuous training of our partner NCMTC's students by the German Doctors and the associated quality improvement. Our volunteer doctor, Dr. Dana Seifert reports, "A particular personal highlight is the exchange of knowledge with the local staff at the college and the lessons with the students. My focus is on ultrasound diagnostics, which is also used in the health centre and is routinely applied for pre-

natal check-ups of pregnant women, among other things. Instructing a student who is able to independently and safely show an expectant mother her unborn child and its strong heartbeat on ultrasound for the first time is hard to beat in terms of the student's sense of achievement and the mum's beaming at the sight of her baby."

## Education and family planning

Our family-planning project, which we initiated together with our partner NCMTC, got off to a good start. The first educational events for young people took place in specially erected tents spread across the entire project area. The Kenyan Ministry of Education had banned external organisations from access to schools, so we moved the activities to other locations within the communities, which was successful.

We are delighted that Lizzie Kebeyu Kadu was appointed to the position of Project Coordinator. Following anti-corruption training for the German Doctors' teams and the CHPF by a trainer from Transparency International Kenya, an anti-corruption policy is currently being developed.



Sierra Leone



Regular communication among all project participants is important – in person and online (left). Former circumcisers are turning away from the harmful practice (right).

## Nationwide

2021

Start

15

Medical missions: 2023

**Partner** Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), CapaCare and Partners in Health, School of Clinical Sciences Makeni, Commit & Act Foundation

### Project goals

- » Train local medical professionals to become clinical officers in the field of paediatrics and counteract the massive shortage of healthcare professionals
- » Reduce infant mortality
- » Curb the practice of female genital mutilation

### First students to graduate

In September, Emma van der Harst, a specialist in tropical medicine with a focus on mother-child health, replaced Merel Boom as Medical Coordinator of our paediatric training programme. The first five students in this programme, which we run in partnership with the government of Sierra Leone, passed their exams in October and are now writing their final theses. They will then be able to work as clinical officers at state hospitals. A new group of students started in March and September, so that by the end of the year there were 28 trainees.

The situation in Sierra Leone was tense in 2023. Due to high inflation, many people were barely able to

make a living. We therefore provided humanitarian aid for the rural Masanga Hospital, our base for paediatric training, in the form of food and medicines for the paediatric and maternity wards. Our country representatives, Fanta Daboh and Santigie Kamara (Administration and Finance), visited our projects in Kenya in June. It was a successful exchange that will make our project organisation even more efficient.

### Active against genital mutilation

As part of our collaboration with the Commit & Act Foundation, which has been running since October 2020, the second [“Girls Conference”](#) on the prevention of female genital mutilation took place in January 2023. All 800 girls in the project, as well as representatives from ministries and the media, took part and sent a strong signal for a fundamental change in values in Sierra Leonean society. We also trained teachers, parents, religious authorities and pupils on aspects of sexual and reproductive health.

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***There are only 150 doctors for the eight million inhabitants of Sierra Leone. Child mortality there is one of the highest in the world. That is why our training programme is so important.***

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## Uganda

Further training was a central component of our work in Uganda – and in Germany.



See also the video about the project!  
[www.german-doctors/uganda-fortbildung](http://www.german-doctors/uganda-fortbildung)

# Kolonyi

**2022** | **5**  
Start | Medical missions: 2023

**Partner** Salem-Kolonyi Hospital, which is operated by the NGO Salem Brotherhood Uganda Ltd.

**Project goals**

- » Accompany pregnancies
- » Strengthen mother-child health
- » Continue training medical professionals
- » Protect children from malnutrition and educate mothers about nutrition

the affiliated nursing school and teams from neighbouring state healthcare facilities. A total of 163 people participated. In addition, three Ugandan hospital employees spent time at German hospitals. Clinical officers Andrew Namusima and Wilson Mukisa, as well as administrative specialist Martina Kaanyi, were delighted to have the opportunity for further training and exchange with colleagues in hospitals in Aachen, Cologne and at the German Doctors' office in Bonn.

## Continued further training

The Salem-Kolonyi Hospital in the rural district of Mbale is an important, often life-saving point of contact for around 30,000 people. In 2023 we once again sent volunteer doctors there to train the local staff in ultrasound, paediatrics and emergency medicine. Among them was ultrasound expert Dr. Ruth Thees-Laurenz, who carried out sonography training on site for the second time, this time involving not only hospital staff, but also employees from our projects in Kenya. In addition to imparting knowledge, this enabled a very fruitful exchange of knowledge and experience.

Dr. Romy Palmer and Dr. Thomas Schroeter were on site for their second assignment in October. They focussed on practical training in emergency medicine, which was attended by hospital staff, students from

## Renovation of the operating theatre

The renovation of the operating theatre began in March after receiving approval from the authorities. Moisture and mould had taken their toll on the old building, and it lacked modern equipment. Completion of the new operating theatre and maternity ward is planned for October 2024.

## Food project: first own harvests

The paediatric ward in Kolonyi has a special unit for severely malnourished children. The food situation in Uganda has further deteriorated due to the drought and the rise in food prices. We were able to counteract this development by supporting the creation of model gardens and sensitising people in our nutrition project. Some schools have already harvested maize and vegetables from their gardens to supplement the school meals.



## FACES AND THEIR STORIES

Lilian's\* tears can now dry. The cut on her right hand has been expertly treated by volunteer doctor Dr. Alexander Thumbs, who also reassured Lilian's worried mother. A scar will probably remain, but fortunately nothing worse happened. While playing on the unpaved path in front of her parents' hut, the two-year-old tripped and fell on broken glass. No wonder, as there are mountains of glass bottles and lots of broken glass piled up there. Lilian's parents work as waste collectors at Kenya's largest rubbish dump in the Korogocho slum and specialise in used glass. The German Doctors outpatient clinic at the foot of the rubbish tip is a blessing not only for little Lilian, but for all the residents of Korogocho. \*Name changed



 **Greece**

The underage refugees are given access to their traumas in a playful way. This is a first step to overcome their experiences.

# Thessaloniki

**2021** | **17**  
Start | Medical missions: 2023

**Patient contacts 2023** 9,185

**Partner** ARSIS (Association for the Social Support of Youth)

**Project goals**

- » Improve medical care for refugees
- » Enable children and young people to cope with traumata
- » Provide health education

This is why the comprehensive - and psychological - support provided by our partner is so important. Our volunteer German Doctors treat and immunise the refugee children and youths in the shelters at regular intervals. They need the relevant medical certificates to attend school. Without our help, the often traumatised girls and boys would have to wait several months in the overburdened asylum system to see a doctor and would not be able to attend school during this time

## Consultations in the refugee camps

Our volunteer doctors also treat people in the refugee camps in the wider Thessaloniki area, in Nea Kavalla on the North Macedonian border, in Ioannina, Diavata, Vagiohori and, since December 2023, also in Filippiada. In Diavata, a suburb of Thessaloniki, aid organisations are denied access to the camp, so we work in a building next to it. Two volunteer German Doctors are always on duty together in Greece and support the local doctor Marina Kemeridou.

## Shelter surrounded by flood water

Heavy rainfall caused devastating flooding in central Greece at the beginning of September. Two locations of our partner ARSIS were directly affected. The situation immediately after the floods in the small town of Makrinitza was particularly dramatic. 21 unaccompanied refugee children and youths live there in a shelter. Together with their carers, they were trapped for days without electricity and with only a few supplies. They were eventually rescued and, together with ARSIS, safe accommodation was organised for the time after the flooding. In addition to their often traumatic refugee experiences, the children and young people experienced another exceptional, life-threatening situation.

**» Some refugees complain of stomach pains, but have already been thoroughly examined with negative results. We have to explain that there are also physical complaints that indicate a suffering soul.«**

Dr. Angelika Leist, volunteer doctor



## Mediterranean Sea



It is shocking when, despite all efforts, people can only be rescued dead from the escape boats.

## Sea rescue

2021

Start

6

Medical missions: 2023

**Patient contacts 2023** 394

**Partner** Partner Sea-Eye e.V.

### Project goals

» Provide primary medical care for refugees

### Rescue ship was temporarily detained

We cooperate with the aid organisation Sea-Eye and send out volunteer doctors on board the civilian rescue ship Sea-Eye 4, where they provide initial medical care when refugees are rescued from distress at sea in the Mediterranean and taken on board. A total of six German Doctors were on the Sea-Eye 4 in 2023. Another planned medical mission in the spring had to be cancelled because the rescue ship had been detained by the Italian authorities. On its return from the subsequent mission in the summer, the ship was again placed in administrative detention for three weeks when it returned to the Italian harbour.

### Adhere to fundamental humanitarian values

Human traffickers often send refugees in overfilled, unseaworthy boats across the ocean. If these boats get into distress at sea, people have no chance of surviving in the waves. Despite this dramatic situati-

on, European governments are restricting sea rescue and focussing on isolation. Civilian sea rescue is increasingly being criminalised. As German Doctors, we uphold the fundamental humanitarian values of the European Union and international law. Furthermore, it is beyond question that we want to save people from drowning. This is demanded by humanity and medical ethics.

### Exhausted and traumatised

Dr. Barbara Held was on board the Sea-Eye 4 as a volunteer doctor in autumn 2023 when 51 people, including twelve unaccompanied children, young people and a baby, were rescued from distress at sea.

Barbara Held reports, "We treated some burns caused by the corrosive mixture of salt water and petrol, as well as many people with head and body aches. The refugees had spent two days on the small boat without being able to move and were completely exhausted. At least we were able to give them respect, hope and safety, as well as medical care."

**» I was saddened by the reports of torture in Libyan prisons, the orphans who were on the run all alone and the families who had been torn apart. «**

Dr. Barbara Held, volunteer doctor





## Humanitarian aid in Syria

# Devastating earthquake

*At the beginning of February 2023, the earth shook in the border region between Syria and Turkey. Following the terrible natural disaster, more than five million people are dependent on humanitarian aid. Together with the Kurdish Red Crescent, we are alleviating the suffering in Syria.*

As a result of the severe earthquakes during the night of February 6, 2023, over 57,000 people died in Turkey and Syria. The situation was particularly difficult for the survivors in Syria due to the political conflict and civil war. Access to the earthquake area was blocked, and initially only a few relief supplies reached the affected people. There was a lack of medical supplies, fuel and electricity. "Without the outstanding solidarity of the people in Europe and the rapid response of our partners, the consequences would have been even more devastating," says Sipan Ditwar, project manager of our partner organisation Kurdish Red Crescent in Aleppo.

### Emergency accommodation for 1,000 people

At the time of the earthquake, there were already two reception camps in the north of Aleppo for people who had fled the Syrian civil war. A further 2,500 people who had lost their homes in the earthquake were accommodated there. Our partner provided 400 emergency shelters for a total of 1,000 people and supplied 400 families in the camps with hygiene parcels.

Our partner was able to provide medical care thanks to our support; ten healthcare facilities damaged by the earthquake were rebuilt. It also operated mobile clinics and ambulances and provided urgently needed medicines. "The humanitarian aid has also given the population a little hope. Because we were on site, people realised that they had not been forgotten," says Sipan Ditwar.

### We act quickly in a crisis

We German Doctors normally organise our projects on a long-term basis. It is important to create sustainable change and ensure that people receive better lasting healthcare. However, in the case of unforeseeable events, such as wars or natural disasters, it is just as important for us to help quickly and at short notice so that people can survive the acute crisis, like after the devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey and Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine. Therefore, we support and accompany the measures of locally well-networked partner organisations.



Partner project: safe water in rural India

## No health without water

*Our volunteer German Doctors experience the catastrophic effects of a lack of or contaminated water on health in the Indian Sundarbans Delta every day. That is why we are committed to providing clean drinking water – working closely together with the Indian aid organisation ASHA and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).*

The seasonal workers and day labourers in the Sundarbans Delta perform strenuous physical labour in temperatures that are over 35 degrees, often even over 40 degrees, all year round. But the labourers drink as little as possible because water is scarce. And they often have to choose between drinking no water or water contaminated with arsenic. The naturally occurring, toxic semi-metal arsenic is washed out of weathered rock in the region. At best, there are test laboratories around 30 kilometres away. The tragic consequence is that arsenic-contaminated water continues to be drunk. Girls and women suffer even more than the men due to the lack of water,

as they often save the little clean water available for the men.

### Bathing, washing, drinking – there is only one pond

In the 80 remote villages in the Basirhat district in the Sundarbans, there are only a few functioning deep wells and no water pipes. The people have no choice but to scoop drinking water from ponds in which they also bathe and wash their laundry and dishes. As a result, many suffer from infections caused by amoebae and other parasites. Serious stomach and intestinal



See also the video about the project!  
[german-doctors.de/de/sicheres-wasser](https://german-doctors.de/de/sicheres-wasser)

diseases develop, and women and girls in particular suffer from painful urinary-tract infections and itchy eczema because they have to bathe in public and are not allowed to take off their clothes. The wet fabrics then dry on their skin.

### Serious illnesses arise

During the seven-to-eight-month dry season from December to July, the ponds in the villages consist almost entirely of mud. The lack of water and the arsenic contamination have a lasting effect on people's blood pressure, which either skyrockets or plummets. The dehydration also causes persistent constipation, severe kidney disease and weakness. In times of need, the children - mostly young girls aged seven and over - are sent to fetch water from the deep public wells, which are at least two kilometres away. They are unprotected on the way, there are repeated accidents and sometimes sexual assaults.

### Create hope

Together with our partner organisation ASHA, we are raising awareness of the dangers posed by contaminated water among people in remote villages. Of course, this alone is not enough. We are also setting up interest groups to form a strong lobby together. The main aim is to lobby the government to provide clean drinking water and establish arsenic test laboratories. Initial campaigns and extensive media coverage have had considerable success (as of January 2024). 29 villages have received water pumps for deep groundwater that is uncontaminated by arsenic. Water tanks have been installed and filled by the government, and 57 villages have already been connected to new water supplies. 2,160 households now receive clean water from the tap twice a day, and water pipes are being installed in the other villages.



## Promoting health in our partner projects and complementary programmes

In addition to our medical work, we provide extensive assistance to improve or maintain people's health in the long term. We generally implement these projects with specialised partners. The water project in the Sundarbans described above is one example. Our work against female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone together with the Commit & Act Foundation (see page 28) is another. Educational projects, such as the establishment of pre-school classes for children without access to education in Bangladesh together with NETZ Bangladesh, DASCOP and JCF are also part of this. Poverty is one of the biggest risk factors for children's health, and education offers the best chance of escaping this poverty. We implemented a total of 93 partner projects and supplementary programmes in 14 countries in 2023. Some of these projects are financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



# Help for people with sickle-cell anaemia

Evaluation of our project in Kenya. How effective are the measures?

*Sickle-cell anaemia is an incurable hereditary disease that is particularly prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa. Together with the Children's Sickle Cell Foundation Kenya, we have set out to improve the situation for those affected. We take stock after three years.*

Sickle-cell anaemia is hardly known in Europe, but many people in southern Africa suffer from this hereditary disease. The red blood cells are altered in sickle-cell anaemia, and the body can no longer be supplied with sufficient oxygen. Those affected feel joint pain and weakness and are tired and, in the worst case, the low oxygen content can lead to death. If the disease is recognised and treated early, those affected can lead an almost normal life and reach adulthood. However, in many African countries 50 to 80 per cent of children with the disease die before the age of five. The disease has not yet received sufficient attention in Kenya. There is a lack of reliable data, diagnostic equipment and trained health personnel. The population knows hardly anything about sickle-cell anaemia. This is where the project of the Children Sickle Cell Foundation Kenya (CSFC) in cooperation with German Doctors comes in. Our goals are to raise awareness of the disease and significantly improve health and quality of life of those affected.

## New sickle-cell centres established

The project ran for three years in the districts of Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa. Following the example of our outpatient clinic in Nairobi, sickle-cell centres were set up in Mombasa and Kisumu. We also educated people in the project regions about the disease. An evaluation confirmed our success when the project was finished at the end of 2023.

### How those affected benefit

- The three sickle-cell centres in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu are established and offer health services in accordance with national standards for sickle-cell patients.
- The centres are well received by those affected. They come regularly to the check-up appointments, whereby the symptoms improve, and the typical pain crises are reduced. The patients' quality of life improves.



Treatment is essential for those affected by sickle-cell anaemia. The employees of our partner, the Children Sickle Cell Foundation Kenya, educate them about their disease in a playful way from an early age.

- The healthcare staff - a total of 72 healthcare professionals and 116 multipliers - have been trained and now feel confident to recognise and treat the disease. Educational talks are also held with affected patients.
- Self-help structures have been established to facilitate dialogue among those affected. This promotes a sense of belonging and gives them a strong voice to express their concerns in clinics or at health events.
- The disease has been discussed on radio and television, bringing it to the attention of a wider public - also with the aim of reducing stigmatisation.

### A strong lobby is effective

Close collaboration with political decision-makers was a central component of the project. This proved to be particularly successful. The CSCF prepared position papers and presented data on the disease in the project regions. Together we organised discussion forums with representatives of the Ministry of Health and local governments, among others.

We raised the issue at key events. This enabled us to make our voice heard and strengthen political commitment to the diagnosis, management and treatment of sickle-cell anaemia at local and national levels.

### Our successes:

- The government has verbally agreed to cover the costs of two new sickle-cell centres and to offer training in the future. It has also promised to make Hydroxyurea, an important treatment medication, available.
- The local government in Kisumu has signed an agreement that confirms the close cooperation with our partner CSCF. The agreement with the local government in Mombasa was about to be signed at the time this annual report went to press.
- The central stakeholders recognise the need for action. They are convinced by the approach of the two sickle-cell centres and want to transfer it to other regions in the country. The first steps have already been taken, and a new centre is planned in another region.
- Thanks to the many lobbying and advocacy activities, our partner has gained considerable influence and reputation. This is reflected in the fact that CSCF has been invited to speak on the topic at various prestigious conferences in Germany and abroad.



## Strong commitment during our anniversary year

*2023 was all about our 40th anniversary. Many supporters used this occasion to perform outstanding service. There were many great sporting events especially to raise funds for the German Doctors. The focus was on our new project in Jhargram, India, and many people were involved in its successful launch. Since space is limited, we unfortunately can only present a selection of the activities. Our heartfelt thanks go to all those who have shown such commitment.*



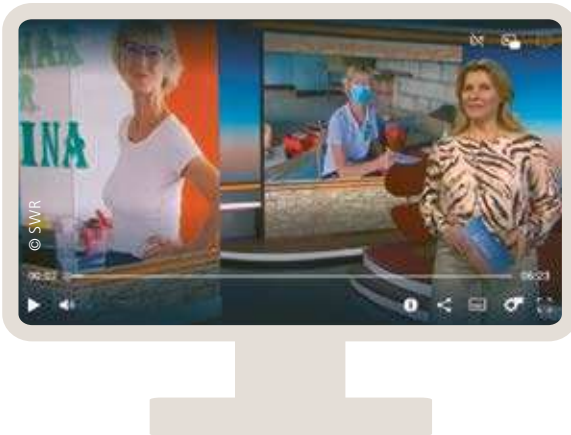
© Michael Braunschädel



"We gave it our all!" After 14 hours and 1 minute, the four amateur swimmers reached their goal. **Volunteer doctor Dr. Gabriele Becker-Hassemer and three friends crossed the English Channel in August, collecting more than 34,000 euros** in donations for the new project in Jhargram. This fantastic achievement was matched by the special commitment of our long-standing partner, Dr. Ausbüttel & Co. GmbH. The company doubled all donations for anniversary campaigns for the new project in Jhargram over a longer period of time. Thank you very much for your great support!



Hansjörg Tamoj, a lawyer specialising in inheritance law, answered many questions on the topic of inheritance in two online presentations. They dealt with the legal framework, the drafting of a will and tips on what to consider when leaving a legacy to charitable organisations.



Our volunteer doctor **Dr. Regine Proell** was a guest on SWR's **Landesschau Rheinland-Pfalz radio programme** at the beginning of the year. She gave an impressive report on our work in Nairobi and on the Philippine island of Samar.



Sehen Sie auch das Video in der Mediathek des SWR!

Pupils from the **Schloss Belvedere Music High School in Weimar** turned the dress rehearsal for the regional "Jugend musiziert" competition into a charity concert. There were 120 guests who not only applauded enthusiastically, but also donated **565 euros** for the German Doctors. In the summer, a further **2,500 euros** were raised when the pupils completed many 500 metre laps in the Belvedere Castle Park in a charity run.



© Musikgymnasium Schloss Belvedere



The **Kiwanis Club Heilbronn Neckartal e.V.** welcomed our volunteer doctor **Dr. Ayesha Sattar** to a club evening. She reported on her work in Nairobi and received a donation of 1,000 euros.



**Nathalie Rans** has already volunteered **ten times for the German Doctors**. She reported on her experiences and impressive encounters in the Sundarbans and in Jhargram in an online event.

## Activities in Germany 2023



The cult band "Die Ärzte" auctioned off the prize they won for their new album and donated the money to the German Doctors. "Donating makes you happy, and in this case also saves eyes, teeth, limbs, or even lives," says Farin Urlaub, the band's singer and guitarist.

In September, 125 volunteer doctors accepted our invitation to the anniversary forum in Bonn. Several country representatives of the German Doctors from Kenya, Sierra Leone, Greece, India and the Philippines also attended. In the run-up to the forum, they took part in workshops and worked intensively with the project officers from the Bonn office on the further development of our projects. The two days of the forum were then once again packed with workshops, presentations and fruitful dialogue.



Bright sunshine at the **2023 Medical Championships**: the German Doctors were there for the third time when medical students came together. The programme included lots of sports and a big party. Students could play duck fishing and make donations at the German Doctors stand. The final result: **19,859 euros were donated** by Mediserv Bank. Thank you for the great support!



Marc Ludwig and his Karma Calendar team have once again put together a beautiful calendar. The new motifs are by Thorge Berger. **All proceeds from the sale of the 2024 edition went to the German Doctors.**





© Rikh Mukherjee

Our **volunteer doctor Dr. Arno Brickenkamp** used the anniversary year and the donation doubling by our partner Dr. Ausbüttel & Co. GmbH for a very successful fundraising campaign. The target was more than reached with **27,445 euros** for the people of Jhargram.



The ZDF documentary "Fast Fashion" illustrates the **extremely difficult situation of textile workers in Bangladesh**. Our volunteer doctor Dr. Oswald Karl Bellingier is interviewed on the subject in the documentary.



See also the documentary!  
<https://www.zdf.de/dokumentation/37-grad/37-fast-fashion-100.html>

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**Dr. Eva Bauer took part in the marathon** in Bremen as a charity runner and raised **2,810 euros** for our aid in Athi River. The doctor has already volunteered there twice.



© NDR

**NDR television** showed a moving report in which our **volunteer doctor Dr. Sabine Mahncke** reported on our **paediatric training in Sierra Leone**.



See also the video from minute 15:04 in the NDR media centre!



German Doctors e.V.

The employees at our Bonn office pedalled and took part in the **"City Cycling" campaign organised by the Climate Alliance**. This commitment is intended to inspire others to switch to cycling and thus actively contribute to climate protection. We see the devastating effects of climate change in our projects.

## Activities in Germany 2023

© German Doctors e.V



We participated in the **Paderborn Easter Run** as a charity partner for the 11th time. A total of **3,341 runners** made their way across our donation mat. The local building-materials store Happe donated an additional 2.50 euros for each crossing. In the end, the proud sum of **almost 20,000 euros** was raised for our aid in **Nairobi** and **humanitarian aid in Ukraine**.



The "**Collegium Pedale Cantorum**" choir goes on a choir tour by bike every year and stopped off at the church in Riedebeck in Brandenburg for the second time in 2023. The ensemble gave a highly acclaimed **charity concert** there to raise money for the German Doctors

© Dr. Sybille Kraft



**Dr. Sybille Kraft** gave an exciting online presentation about her volunteer work on the **Philippine island of Samar**. The online format made it possible for many interested people to take part. They heard first-hand what the medical consultations achieve in the remote villages.



"We are there where health is unaffordable." In 2023, **City Light posters** were once again displayed in many German cities to **draw attention to the work of the German Doctors**.



© Angelina Beer

The **Sächsische Zeitung** newspaper reported extensively on the **voluntary work of paediatrician Dr. Angelina Beer in Sierra Leone**. She was active there as part of our training in paediatrics.



From Kenya to Kassel: **Dr. Janet Okeyo**, the **medical director of our Baraka slum clinic in Nairobi**, ran in a German Doctors women's relay team at the **Kassel Marathon** cheered on by our celebrity ambassador, **actor Philipp Danne**. Both collected 2,550 euros for the people in Nairobi's poor neighbourhoods. We rolled out the donation mat again, which was crossed by a total of 1,000 runners. **Kassel's Engelsburg-Gymnasium** also sent many highly motivated pupils into the race. Many thanks to all of them!



© privat

Extra running sessions were organised by the **employees of the Bonn office**. Together with **long-term doctor Dr. Tobias Vogt from India**, two relay teams completed the Bonn Marathon. This achievement was honoured with **3,500 euros** in donations.



© Chantal Neumann

The **Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung** reported on our project in Korogocho and **asked its readers for help**. The response to this **Christmas Fundraising Campaign** was overwhelming, and at the beginning of 2023 the final donation amount was clear: a total of **315,000 euros** had been raised! With this support, we were able to open the **new outpatient clinic in Korogocho** in the autumn.



**Heart-warming:** at the career orientation day at the Maria-Furtwängler School in Lahr, the pupils became **"Teddy-Docs"**. They offered examinations for beloved stuffed animals and imparted health knowledge in a playful way. Donations for the German Doctors were requested as "payment" to support our **training of paediatric specialists in Sierra Leone**.

### Project meetings 2023

<b>11.03. + 12.03.</b>	Cross-regional project seminar, online
<b>24.06. + 25.06.</b>	Cross-regional project seminar in Bonn
<b>18.11. + 19.11.</b>	Cross-regional project seminar, online



Swiss Doctors 2023

## Awareness is growing

*Swiss Doctors 2023 was able to present the diverse aspects of its work at numerous conferences and events. President Dr. Gudrun Jäger reports on an active year.*

Doctors from Switzerland were in various project countries in Africa and Asia, as well as Greece in 2023. The focus is on Sierra Leone, where we once again taught paediatrics as part of the training programme, where 26 students are now enrolled. Numerous Swiss doctors also took the opportunity to inform themselves before signing up for a mission with Swiss Doctors and to obtain more detailed information about the projects.

### Many lectures in front of an expert audience

During the conference of the Society for Tropical Paediatrics and International Child Health (GTP) at the conference held in Bonn on May 16, Swiss and

German Doctors presented their work in the training project in Sierra Leone with a poster. It was very pleasing that Michael Akpoke, a paediatrician from Sierra Leone who helps teach in the training programme, could also take part in the conference thanks to a scholarship.

In June, the Swiss Doctors were invited to speak about their work at the annual conference of the Swiss Paediatric Society in Interlaken. As part of a workshop entitled "As a paediatrician on a humanitarian mission", we presented our work alongside other organisations, putting us in prestigious company. The participating doctors were very interested in performing a medical mission.



From left to right: The paediatrics programme team; guests at the conference of the Society for Tropical Paediatrics and International Child Health; group of committed Swiss Doctors at the Zurich New Year's Eve run; Christoph Niederberger all sporty

In addition to these lectures for specialists, we were also invited to give a guest lecture on the topic of "Global Health" at the closing ceremony of the Swiss health insurer "Santé Suisse". Overall, these events and the enquiries made to Swiss Doctors show that our profile is growing and that we are being found on the Internet more often than before.

## Making good use of the Christmas period

We once again used the Advent season to take part in the traditional Christmas market in St. Gallen with a stand. The set-up was challenging because it had snowed heavily the night before, making the atmosphere truly wintry. For the first time, we were authorised to sell mulled wine and punch - and with great success. We would have liked to see even more sales of the beautiful items from Sierra Leone, India and Bangladesh, but the financial income for the projects was very pleasing. We rounded off the year with the traditional New Year's Eve Run in Zurich, in which a group of Swiss Doctors once again took part and ran around the city of Zurich over various distances.



In addition to our events and public-relations work, we intensified our exchange with the German Doctors at the Executive-Board level last year and further expanded our cooperation and structures. A joint meeting in Zurich in December enriched the exchange and was very successful in terms of cooperation.

Swiss Doctors stand at the Christmas market in St. Gallen



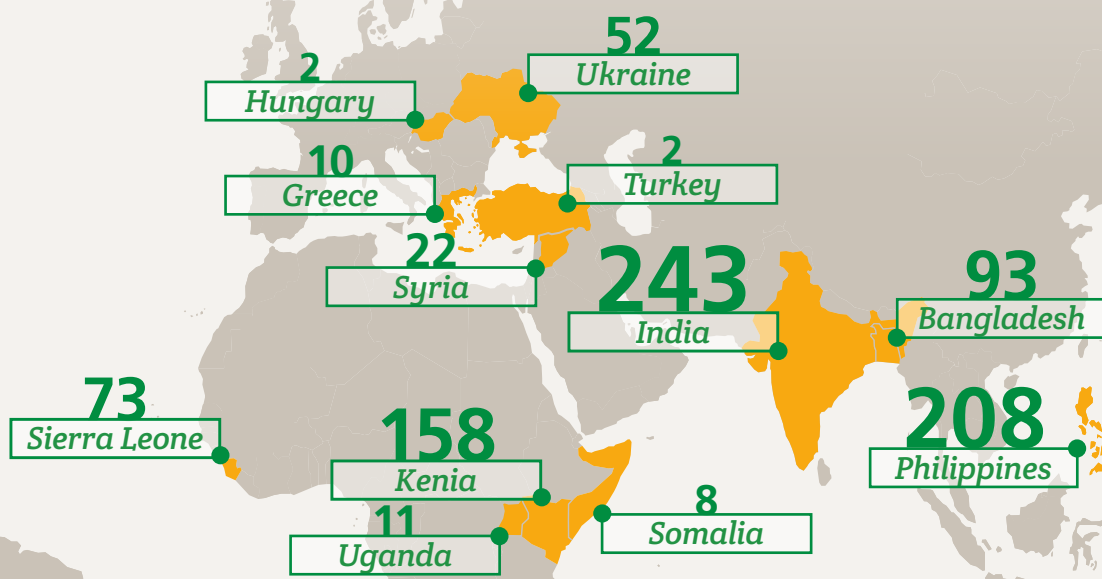
## FACES AND THEIR STORIES

**"I can now prepare herbal medicine** - Lagundi syrup for colds and coughs, Akapulco ointment for itching and a homemade rehydration solution for people suffering from diarrhoea," reports Rosie Yamuan Herilla proudly. The young woman is one of many hundreds in the Philippines who have been trained as health workers by the German Doctors. After 33 days of training, she is now able to provide basic medical care to 20 families in her immediate neighbourhood. "It gives me particular pleasure to accompany men, women and children suffering from tuberculosis on their path to recovery, as I was also infected with tuberculosis, twice in fact. It is an arduous journey, and no one should have to face this battle alone."

# Strong together

## Hand in hand with 882 local specialists

231 doctors worked on a voluntary basis under the umbrella of German Doctors e.V. in 2023. They alone would not have been able to achieve much on site without the local doctors, clinical officers, pharmacists, translators, drivers and many other people. Our work in the various medical, partner and humanitarian aid projects could only succeed thanks to the specialists who are permanently employed by our local partner organisations and thanks to four German Doctors country representatives. 882 people in twelve countries performed various services for the well-being of their fellow human beings during the reporting period. They make our work on the ground possible and sustainable. We would like to thank them, as well as the many volunteer health workers in the projects worldwide, whose numbers are not included here. They also ensure that many patients receive basic medical care on a daily basis.



Number of employees in the various types of projects	
Doctor projects	367
Partner projects	415
Humanitarian aid	96
Country representatives	4

Gender distribution	
♀ Women	487
♂ Men	391
👤 Diverse	4

# I. Annual financial statements 2023

The Executive Board voluntarily prepares annual financial statements consisting of a balance sheet, income and expenditure statements, appendix and status report based on the general commercial accounting regulations pursuant to Sections 238 to 263 HGB and the regulations for small corporations in terms of Section 267 (2) HGB according to Sections 264 to 289. The accounting and valuation methods applied comply with the provisions of the German Commercial Code (Sections 238 to 263 HGB). The income statement is prepared according to the total expenditure format.

## I.1 Balance sheet

The annual financial statements of the association, including the bookkeeping, are regularly audited by an auditor appointed by the General Assembly to the extent customary in the profession. The 2023 annual financial statements were audited accordingly by Bansbach GmbH, and the unlimited audit certificate can be downloaded as a PDF file from our website at [www.german-doctors.de](http://www.german-doctors.de). Below you can see some relevant data from the 2023 annual financial statements.

### Assets in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
Fixed assets	4,850	4,874
<b>Current assets</b>		
Other assets	1,313	1,065
Bank balances, cash in hand	6,878	7,425
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	18	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,059</b>	<b>13,384</b>

### Liabilities in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

Reserves	10,650	12,012
Provisions	587	99
Liabilities	1,822	1,273
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,059</b>	<b>13,384</b>

Note: Differences in the single-digit thousands range between the totals shown and the result of adding the rounded individual values are due to rounding differences.



The reserves developed as follows in the 2023 financial year.

#### Reserves in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	01.01.2023	Withdrawals	Allocations	31.12.2023
Free reserve in accordance with Section 62 (1) No. 3 AO	4,979	-2,421	0	2,557
Reserve in accordance with Section 62 (3) No. 1 AO	7,033	0	1,060	8,093
<b>Summe</b>	<b>12,012</b>	<b>-2,421</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>10,650</b>

The net loss for the year of 1,361 thousand euros was compensated by a withdrawal from the free reserve. Furthermore, 1,060 thousand euros was transferred to the reserve from bequests. This amount was also withdrawn from the free reserve. While the free reserve is subject to the requirement to utilise funds promptly, this restriction does not apply to the reserve from bequests.

## I.II Profit and loss account

#### Income statement in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2023	2022
Association income	12,934	11,491
Other income	91	62
Personnel expenses	-1,957	-1,673
Depreciation and amortisation of fixed assets	-80	-64
Other expenses	-12,420	-11,404
Other interest and similar income	79	14
Depreciation and amortisation of securities and accounting losses	-8	-171
<b>Net loss for the year (-)/net profit for the year (+)</b>	<b>-1,361</b>	<b>-1,745</b>
Transfer to reserves	-1,060	-448
Withdrawal from reserves	2,421	2,193
<b>Retained earnings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

As a non-profit and charitable organisation, we are mainly financed by donations, funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and other government agencies, as well as income from fines. We again received large legacies in 2023. The costs for administration, public relations and fundraising totalled 17.34 percent of all expenses during the reporting period. This decrease (previous year: 19.25 percent) is partly because more project activities were carried out in the reporting year than in the previous year.

### I.III Yields

Income (association income, other income and interest) breaks down as follows:

#### Income statement in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2023		2022	
	TEUR	%	TEUR	%
Monetary donations	5,760	43.95	6,525	56.41
Contributions from other organisations	4,329	33.04	2,743	23.71
Government grants (BMZ)	1,244	9.49	1,101	9.52
Fines	243	1.85	139	1.20
Yields on site	176	1.34	229	1.98
Inheritances	1,065	8.13	641	5.54
Doctors' own contributions	103	0.79	98	0.85
Donations in kind	14	0.11	15	0.13
Other	170	1.30	76	0.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,104</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>11,567</b>	<b>100.00</b>

5,774 thousand euros, the total cash and non-cash donations from our donors, was lower in 2023 than in 2022. However, donations from other organisations exceeded the previous year's figure. Bequests again exceeded the long-term figures, and fines also increased. We can only influence these revenues, like earnings from special activities, to a limited extent. The income from federal funds is in line with planning and higher than in the previous year.

Income from general donations is not identical to cash inflows. Incoming donations for a specified purpose which must be repaid if the purpose is not fulfilled are not listed as income, but are initially passivated.

We received 5,605 thousand euros from general donations and 5,230 thousand euros from other organisations in 2023, totalling 10,835 thousand euros. Of this amount, 1,470 thousand euros was from earmarked donations and therefore passivated. The total amount of earmarked donations in 2023 (1,647 thousand Euros) also includes those from previous years amounting to 177 thousand euros.

## I.IV Expenditures

The total amount of expenditures (personnel expenses, depreciation and amortisation and other expenses) amounted to 14,465 thousand euros in 2023 (previous year: 13,312 thousand euros). In accordance with the cost-organisation procedure recommended by the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI), our expenses in financial year 2023 are broken down as follows:

### Expenditure on programme work, public relations/fundraising and administration in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	Total	Programme work	Public relations/ fundraising	Admini- stration	Asset management
Personnel expenses	3,511	2,539*	640	332	0
Material and other expenses	10,954	9,018	1,331	205	400
<b>Total expenses according to income statement</b>	<b>14,465</b>	<b>11,557</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Total expenditure in %</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>79.89</b>	<b>13.63</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>2.77</b>
Previous year in %	100.00	79.23	14.46	4.79	1.52

\* Personnel expenses for programme work include 1,554 thousand euros in personnel expenses for local project staff.

Of the expenses for programme work, the following are attributable to:

### Expenditure on programme work in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2023	2022	Change
Doctor projects	4,360	4,120	240
Supplementary programmes for medical projects	1,655	2,139	-484
State-funded projects	1,532	1,393	139
Other partner projects	2,812	1,961	851
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,359</b>	<b>9,613</b>	<b>746</b>
Expenses for project support	1,198	935	263
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,557</b>	<b>10,548</b>	<b>1,009</b>

## II. Doctor projects in figures

### Costs of the medical projects

Medical projects with voluntary doctors are the focus of our activities. We supported 20 projects in seven countries in 2023. The scope and focus of these projects vary greatly, which is also reflected in the amount of funds we spent on them. Here is an overview of the expenditures incurred for the projects from 2021 to 2023:

#### Expenditure in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

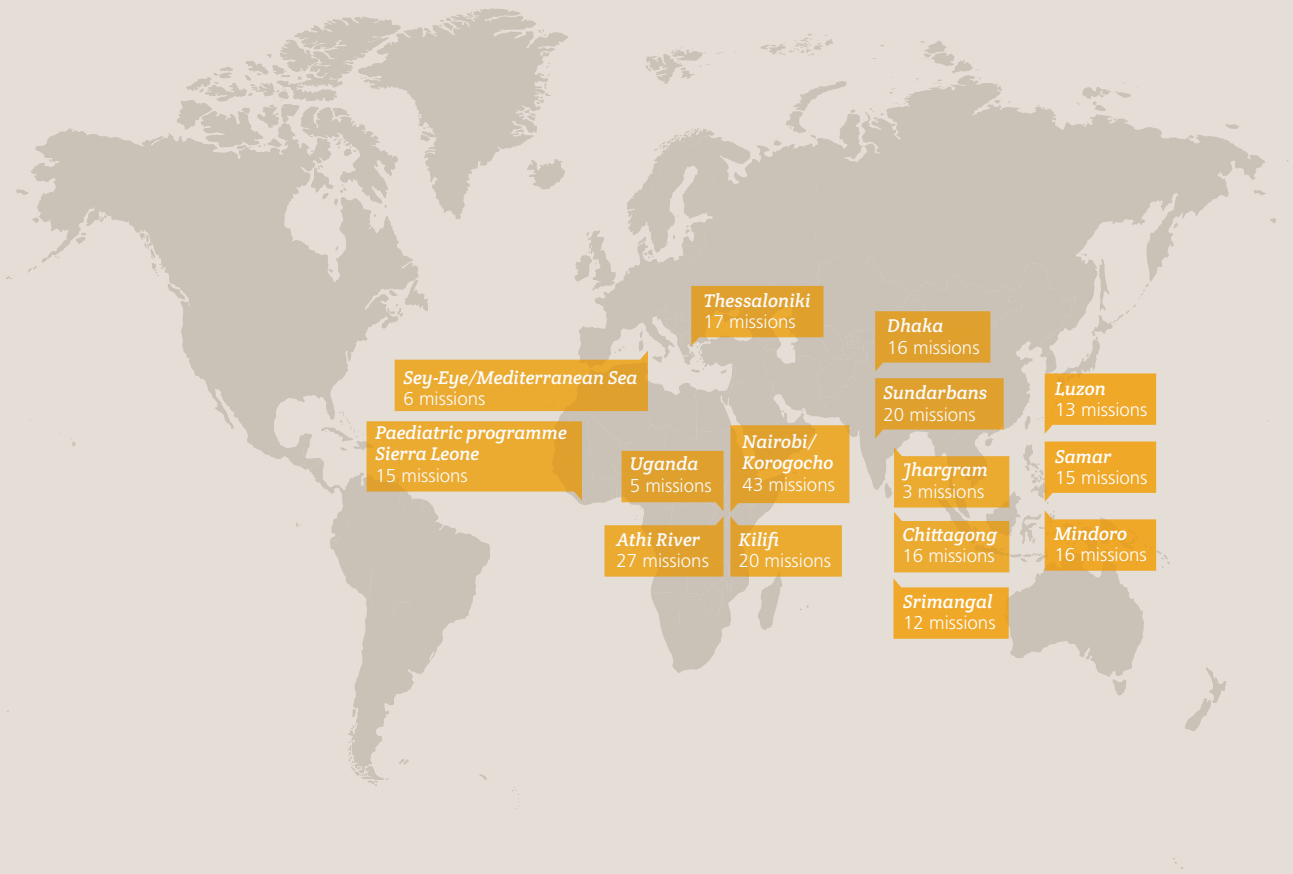
	2021	2022	2023	2021 – 2023
Manila (Head Office)/Philippines	0	170	185	355
Mindanao/Philippines	20	0	0	20
Mindoro/Philippines	263	352	243	858
Luzon/Philippines	84	148	97	329
Samar/Philippines	114	108	97	319
Kolkata/India	415	437	128	980
Jhargram/India	0	0	150	150
Sundarbans/India	0	40	219	259
Dhaka/Bangladesh	142	168	162	472
Chittagong/Bangladesh	243	306	278	827
Srimangal/Bangladesh	2	46	102	150
Nairobi Mathare/Kenya	870	1,016	835	2,721
Nairobi Korogocho/Kenya	0	0	119	119
Athi River/Kenya	254	372	438	1,064
Kilifi/Kenya	233	322	323	878
Serabu/Sierra Leone	317	0	0	317
Paediatric training/Sierra Leone	0	222	210	432
Kailahun/Sierra Leone	0	0	50	50
Clinic partnership/Uganda	0	39	369	408
Refugee aid/Greece	137	184	212	533
Sea rescue/Mediterranean Sea	50	103	84	237
General medical project costs	37	87	59	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>4,120</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>11,661</b>

# Doctors on duty

Our volunteer doctors have carried out 8,113 medical missions since the founding of our organisation 1983. These have been performed by 3,715 doctors, many of whom have worked repeatedly in the projects. Map I shows the number of medical missions in the individual projects for the year 2023.

Map II shows the total number of medical missions in the current projects. Map III shows the doctors' missions in completed projects and their special missions. (Status: December 31, 2023)

**Map I: Number of medical missions by our doctors in 2023**

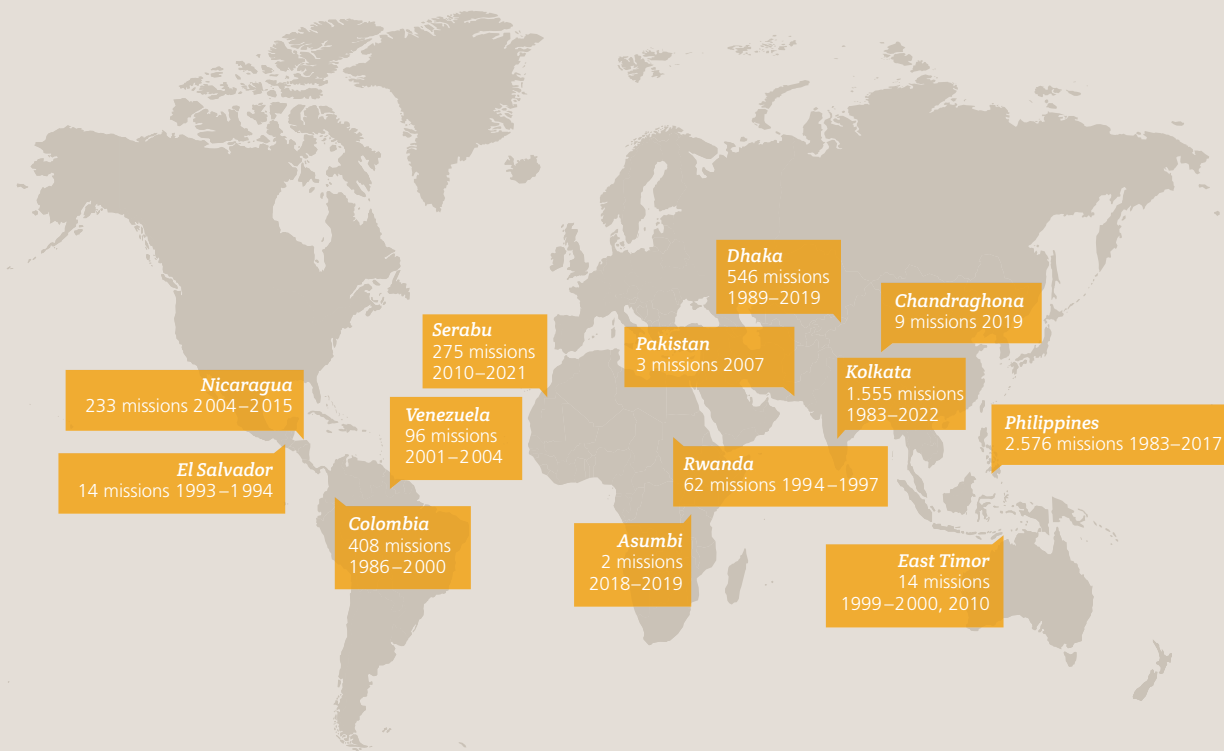


In 2023, 231 doctors carried out 244 medical missions for people who would not have been able to afford to visit a doctor or receive any medication without help from Germany. The number of medical missions per year always includes those that began in the previous year continued into the following year.

**Map II: Number of missions from 1983 up to and including the current projects in 2023**



**Map III: Assignments in completed projects and special assignments**



# III. Complementary projects

## III.I Expenditures on medical project-related complementary projects by country

In addition to the medical projects, German Doctors e.V. is also involved in 23 complementary projects that are closely linked to the medical work of our doctors in terms of subject matter and location. These include, for example, the project against female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone, the tuberculosis work in Kolkata and our HIV programme in Nairobi. Expenditures on complementary projects over the last three years, broken down by recipient country, are as follows:

Expenditure by country in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2021	2022	2023	2021–2023
Bangladesh	113	72	0	185
India	609	553	507	1.669
Philippines	286	283	194	763
Kenya	181	471	417	1.069
Sierra Leone	227	564	427	1.218
Uganda	0	86	44	130
Greece	0	110	66	176
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>5,210</b>

## III.II Expenditures on medical project-related complementary projects by topic

The expenses are organised by topic as follows:

Expenditure by topic in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2021	2022	2023	2021–2023
Health and healthcare-related programmes	1,295	1,835	1,449	4,579
School/training projects	114	75	19	208
Social work	7	7	20	34
Refugee aid	0	111	66	177
Women's rights	0	111	101	212
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>5,210</b>

## IV. Partner projects

In addition to the aid provided by the association as part of the medical projects and the complementary projects closely linked to these in terms of topic and location, we provide extensive aid through partners in the areas of health, education and training, agriculture and the environment, women's rights, humanitarian aid and disaster relief, refugee aid and social work currently in 39 partner projects in 15 countries.

The support ranges from one-off aid of a few thousand euros to a four-year development-cooperation project with a financial volume of over 500,000 euros. The large partner projects are co-financed by the state development-cooperation organisations, primarily the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). As a rule, the BMZ provides 75 percent and the association 25 percent of the funds. Other projects are financed by companies or private supporters. We visit the projects regularly wherever possible.

The local anchoring of the projects, the technical expertise of our partners and the direct approach with the beneficiaries ensure that our measures are aimed directly at the needs and requirements of our recipients and that the funds are used efficiently.

### IV.I Expenditures for partner projects 2021–2023

The table below provides an overview of projt expenditures by topic for the last three financial years:

**Expenditures on partner projects 2021–2023 in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)**

	2021		
	BMZ, GIZ, AA <sup>1)</sup>	Other	Total
School/training projects	224	95	319
Income-generating measures/small loans	0	0	0
Health and health-related programmes <sup>2)</sup>	441	483	924
Women's rights	0	141	141
Agricultural and environmental protection programmes	0	43	43
Social work	0	9	9
Humanitarian aid and disaster relief	0	756	756
Refugee aid	0	19	19
Other (including reclaims of project funds)	215	17	232
<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>2,443</b>



Our partner projects have been focused on the Philippines, Ukraine and Kenya over the past three years. The following tables are organised by continent and country.

<sup>1)</sup> BMZ = Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ = German Society for International Cooperation, AA = Federal Foreign Office

<sup>2)</sup> Our health and health-related programmes involve more than just the provision of curative activities by doctors and medical staff. They also provide access to comprehensive health services for all. This is achieved, among other things, by training health professionals, providing WASH-infrastructure for access to clean (drinking) water, educating the population on nutritional issues and supporting lobbying and advocacy activities to obtain funding for healthcare systems from national governments. This also includes support in obtaining birth certificates, as the existence of a birth certificate can be a prerequisite for the utilisation of state health services.

<sup>3)</sup> Also included payments for humanitarian aid and disaster relief in 2022.

	2022			2023			2021–2023
	BMZ, GIZ, AA <sup>1)</sup>	Other	Total	BMZ, GIZ, AA <sup>1)</sup>	Other	Total	
	222	102	324	91	45	136	779
	31	0	31	0	0	0	31
	1,140	398	1,538	1,475	354	1,829	4,291
	0	137	137	0	132	132	410
	0	78	78	0	34	34	155
	0	32	32	0	84	84	125
	0	0	0	0	1,885	1,885	2,641
	0	1,210 <sup>3)</sup>	1,210	0	242	242	1,471
	0	4	4	-34	36	2	238
	<b>1,393</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>4,344</b>	<b>10,141</b>

## IV.II Expenditures for partner projects in Africa

Expenditures Africa 2021–2023 in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2021		
	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total
Kenya	25	413	438
Cameroon	0	4	4
Madagascar	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	0	116	116
Somalia	0	0	0
Uganda	0	170	170
Simbabwe	0	26	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>754</b>

## IV.III Expenditures for partner projects in Asia

Expenditures Asia 2021–2023 in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2021		
	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total
Bangladesh	278	245	523
India	0	249	249
Iraq	0	11	11
Philippines	577	293	870
Syria	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>1,653</b>

## IV.IV Expenditure for partner projects in Latin America

Expenditures Latin America 2021–2023 in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2021		
	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total
Nicaragua	0	27	27
Paraguay	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>

## IV.V Expenditure for partner projects in Europe

Expenditures Europe 2021–2023 in EUR thousand (thousands of euro)

	2021		
	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total
Greece	0	9	9
Turkey	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

2022			2023			2021–2023
BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	
252	71	323	277	123	400	1.161
0	3	3	0	0	0	7
0	3	3	0	16	16	19
153	1	154	387	70	457	727
0	0	0	0	96	96	96
0	217	217	0	174	174	561
0	28	28	0	24	24	78
<b>405</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>2,649</b>

2022			2023			2021–2023
BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	
223	37	260	241	6	247	1.030
53	197	250	82	193	275	774
0	0	0	0	0	0	11
712	295	1.007	545	202	747	2.624
0	0	0	0	420	420	420
<b>988</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>1.517</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>4,859</b>

2022			2023			2021–2023
BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	
0	23	23	0	22	22	72
0	0	0	0	9	9	9
<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>81</b>

2022			2023			2021–2023
BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	BMZ, GIZ, AA	Other	Total	
0	0	0	0	56	56	65
0	0	0	0	10	10	10
0	1.088	1.088	0	1.390	1.390	2.478
<b>0</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>2,553</b>

# Transparency and control are important to us!

*What are our goals? Where do our funds come from? How do we use them, and who decides? There are no standard publication requirements for non-profit organisations in Germany. Nevertheless, we always endeavour to create transparency about our work and our guidelines.*

## **Audited use of funds**

Handling the funds entrusted to us responsibly is a matter of course for us. For example, we take our non-profit status into account when remunerating our employees and the two members of the Executive Board. Remuneration is also in line with the industry norm. Employee remuneration is based on the responsibility of the respective position held, experience and the amount of time spent working, as well as length of service and age. In 2023, German Doctors e.V. employed staff in four pay groups in addition to four temporary employees, who are listed here with their average annual gross salaries (based on full-time positions). Administration: 38,837 euros, departments/staff positions: 48,381 euros, team leaders: 67,931 euros, Executive Board 83,785 euros. The actual individual gross annual salaries are not published here for data protection reasons.

The German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) has awarded us the donation seal of approval every year since the German Doctors was founded in 1992 to confirm that we plan, implement, account for and monitor our project work correctly and that we budget the necessary expenditure for administration, public relations and donor support. We are also committed to complying with the requirements of the VENRO Code of Conduct for Development-Related Public-Relations Work, the VENRO Code of Conduct on Transparency, Organisational Management and Control, the VENRO Code of Conduct on Children's Rights and the Declaration of Commitment of the Transparent Civil Society Initiative.

## **Public relations and fundraising**

The purpose of our public relations work and fundraising is to make our organisation known to the public and to increase the volume of donations that our projects need to be maintained.

Our expenditures in this area amounted to 13.63 percent of the total expenditures in 2023. A detailed list of all expenditures can be found on page 49. To achieve high efficiency, we place some areas of public relations and fundraising in the hands of external service providers. The most important partners here are Trebbau Direct Media, Direct Mind and Teledialog. We do not pay performance-related remuneration for fundraising.

## **Avoiding corruption**

The General Assembly adopted a "Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Corruption and Conflicts of Interest" in mid-2013. The code, which applies in particular to our members and all full-time and voluntary employees, defines corruption, corrupting and corrupt behaviour and their areas of application, as well as providing guidelines for avoiding corruption. These include, for example, the prohibition to offer or accept gifts, hospitality or reimbursement of expenses if these could influence the realisation of business transactions and exceed the scope of reasonable and appropriate expenditures. As a rule, members of the Steering Committee and companies or organisations associated with them generally may not perform any paid work for us. With regard to the selection of applicants for paid employment or service contracts, members and volunteers, as well as organisations and companies associated with them, may not be favoured over other applicants. To ensure economy and efficiency in the use of the association's funds, we obtain comparative offers before awarding major contracts. Our ombudsperson is the point of contact for suspected cases of corruption in the projects.

## **Monitoring the use of funds**

As in previous years, the 2023 annual financial statements under commercial law, including the balance sheet, income and loss statements, appendix and sta-

tus report, were audited by Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft Bansbach GmbH (again in accordance with Section 53 of the German Budgetary Principles Act) and received an unqualified audit opinion. With regard to the use of the funds channelled into our projects, we carry out ongoing checks of the project accounts and review the use of funds during project visits and by comparing the results with the budget earmarked for the planned measures. The project accounts are also audited on site by sworn auditors. In accordance with the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) Donation Seal Standard No. 4b, we carried out a total of 25 visits to the doctor and partner projects in 2023, during which, among other things, the project accounts were checked and the use of funds reviewed. A member of the Executive Board and/or the respective officers travelled four times to Sierra Leone, India and the Philippines, three times to Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganda, and twice to Ukraine and Greece. Measures to check invoices and receipts were intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, as was online communication. Medication consumption was documented in the doctors' projects and sent to the head office in Bonn on a monthly basis. We prevent misuse by comparing this with the patient numbers and the doctors' diagnoses. Monitoring and evaluation were also an integral part of German Doctors' work in 2023. In Bangladesh, a situation-and-needs analysis was carried out to expand project work in the country in the future. A feasibility study was also carried out for a planned project in Bangladesh. The results have already been used to develop the project idea. As in the previous year, data on the initial situation was collected for new projects in Bangladesh, Kenya and Sierra Leone, among others. Project-accompanying research was initiated for a project in Sierra Leone. Several projects were able to evaluate their work internally and externally in 2023 and thus identify opportunities for improving project work. The discussion of the evaluation results in the team in Bonn is an integral part of learning from the insights gained across projects.

The data system introduced in 2022 was expanded in 2023, and further training courses were held for all partner organisations. Further M&E topics were discussed as part of the collegial exchange for German Doctors partner organisations.

## Child protection measures

As representatives of a medical, social and humanitarian aid organisation, our voluntary doctors and local project staff come into contact with countless children, so we are committed to active protection against child abuse. This means that we ensure that all employees have not been guilty of child abuse in the past. We have also developed a code of conduct that all our employees, volunteer doctors and project visitors must sign. For example, they can only treat children in the presence of a second adult and an accompanying adult and must report any suspicion of abuse by other employees. We hold regular training courses and seminars on correct behaviour towards children, as well as child protection audits. We have been a member of the Keeping Children Safe Network since 2023.

We assume ecological responsibility for our air travel by making compensation payments to the atmosfair organisation.

You can find more information on our website: [www.german-doctors.de/transparenz](http://www.german-doctors.de/transparenz)



[www.dzi.de](http://www.dzi.de)



[www.venro.org](http://www.venro.org)



[www.transparency.de](http://www.transparency.de)

# Organisational structure and network

German Doctors e.V. (until May 31, 2013 "Ärzte für die Dritte Welt - German Doctors e.V.") is a non-profit and charitable association registered with the Bonn District Court under the number VR 9695. Our bodies are the General Assembly, the Steering Committee and the Executive Board. The Steering Committee can set up an Advisory Group and appoint its members. The Steering Committee has exercised this right..

## Organisational structure

The associational structure corresponds to the resolution passed by the General Assembly on November 20, 2010. It fulfils both the requirements of the Association of German Development Non-Governmental Organisations (VENRO) for organisational management as set out in its Code of Conduct on December 10, 2009, and the similarly worded requirements of the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) donation seal. The General Assembly sets the guidelines for the work of the organisation, approves the annual financial statements and the annual report, among other things, and elects the members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of the President, the Vice President and three associates. Its members work on an honorary basis and are elected by the General Assembly by a simple majority of the members present for a three-year term of office. The Steering Committee is responsible for implementing the resolutions of the General Assembly; in particular it decides on the association's strategies and the principles of project funding. It decides on the appointment and dismissal of members of the Executive Board and advises and monitors the Executive Board in its management of the organisation. The Executive Board consists of the Secretary General and at least one other person. Its members work full-time for the organisation. We do not pay any expense allowances to the members of the Executive Board.

## German Doctors Foundation

Our dependent foundation has existed since March 31, 2002 - founded at that time under the name "Doctors for Developing Countries Foundation". It

was renamed the "German Doctors Foundation" in 2015. The purpose of the foundation is to serve the exclusive and directly charitable and benevolent purposes of the German Doctors e.V. through idealistic and material support.

## Network and supporters

The following should be emphasised:

### Memberships

The German Doctors e.V. is, among other things, a

- » Founding member of VENRO, the Association of German Development Non-Governmental Organisations
- » Associate member of the Development Works Alliance
- » Member of the Keeping Children Safe Network
- » Member of the Action Alliance against Aids
- » Member of the Year of Remission Initiative
- » Member of AKLHÜ e.V. - network and specialist centre for international personnel cooperation
- » Member of the German Network against Neglected Tropical Diseases (DNTDs)
- » Member of the WASH-network
- » Alliance partner at UNITED4RESCUE
- » Member of the association "Hilfe, die bleibt e.V."

### Circle of supporters

The German Doctors Support Group has been in existence since April 7, 2011. Together with this group of committed entrepreneurs, we develop projects to help the people in our project countries even better and to raise additional funds for our work in Germany.

### Hilfe, die bleibt e.V.

In March 2018, doctors from Switzerland involved in our projects founded the Swiss Doctors association. We also worked closely with this sister organisation in 2023 in the superordinate "Hilfe, die bleibt e.V." association..

## Steering Committee



### President

Dr. Elisabeth Kauder



### Vice President

Dr. Marion Reimer



### Associates

Nathalie Rans

Klaus Ritsche

Susanne Weber-Mosdorf

- » responsible for implementing the resolutions of the General Assembly
- » advises and monitors the Executive Board
- » 3-year term of office

gives account

appoints and controls

appoints

advises

## Executive Board



Dr. Harald Kischlat (Secretary General)

Dr. Christine Winkelmann

conducts day-to-day business

leitet

legt Rechenschaft ab

gives account

## Advisory Group



Dr. Maria Furtwängler (Chair)

Prof. Dr. Peter Eigen

Acts as an advisory body

## Office



18 full-time employees

20 part-time employees

4 temporary staff

8 volunteers

Project work, public relations, organisation and administration

elects

## General Assembly



17 members

adopts fundamental resolutions

Status: December 2023



full-time



honorary

# Risk assessment

As in previous years, we have managed and controlled the association's financial situation by means of budgeting. This has enabled us to utilise our funds in a targeted and planned manner. We see significant risks to our work in the following points:

- a. Sufficient availability of funds for our physician and partner projects
- b. Enough volunteer doctors to continuously perform medical missions
- c. Unhindered and safe work for our doctors in the projects
- d. Weaknesses in the governance structures of local partners, resulting in increased susceptibility to corrupt behaviour

Our experience shows that we have a loyal circle of private donors as well as companies and foundations that support us, to whom we owe a steady flow of donations. To secure the work of the association in the long term, one of the most important tasks in the coming years will be to increase the volume of donations and funding and stabilise the association's assets at an appropriate level. This is the only way we can guarantee the long-term financing of our medical, partner and humanitarian aid projects.

We have access to a large pool of committed doctors for our medical assignments. From this perspective, nothing stands in the way of our relief work in the foreseeable future.

Unfortunately, however, the bureaucratic effort involved in obtaining entry permits in individual countries has increased significantly compared to previous years. We are closely monitoring the political situation in all countries of operation and are in close contact with various internationally active institutions to get well-founded assessments of the respective security situation. To continue to be as broadly positioned as possible, even if individual project locations are cancelled, potential new areas of operation are being identified throughout and included in the association's project work, subject to the availability of resour-

ces. German Doctors also supports the local partner organisations with the development of expertise in the administrative area. This includes regular anti-corruption training.


## Increasing demand for humanitarian aid and disaster relief

After we had hoped that our work would be able to return to normal once the coronavirus pandemic had subsided in early 2022, Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022 very quickly dashed these hopes. In 2022, it was possible to resume the six-week deployment of doctors to all project regions almost in full and to resume the routine processes on site. However, as a direct consequence of the war, food and transport prices rose so rapidly worldwide that we had to distribute additional food aid and provide further humanitarian aid at numerous project locations in 2022 and 2023. Thanks to the full membership in Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft acquired on January 1, 2024, the association will have more funds available for humanitarian aid and disaster relief in the future if required. In the project work, the establishment of further structures is planned to be able to better respond step by step to emergency situations. German Doctors will therefore continue to support the population in Ukraine in 2024 and beyond.

After the severe earthquake in the night of the 5th to the 6th of February 2023 in south-eastern Turkey and north-western Syria, the situation in the affected regions was still very fraught several months later. More than 57,000 deaths have now been confirmed, and a total of 5.2 million people are still dependent on humanitarian aid. Together with the Kurdish Red Crescent, German Doctors have provided humanitarian aid to the affected population in northern Syria. This aid will be continued in 2024 and extended to Turkey. Further emergency relief interventions with local implementation partners were carried out in 2023 in the Philippines, India, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Greece. It can be assumed that additional humanitarian aid measures will also be necessary in 2024.



# THANK YOU



"I thank the German Doctors and the ASHA staff for everything I have learnt from them," says Rinku Bachar. The young woman is one of 156 highly motivated and dedicated health workers that we trained together with our established local partner organisation in the Indian Sundarbans project in 2023. "It is such a good feeling to be able to help the people in my village with advice and support when they have health problems. I am also very happy to pass on my knowledge about family planning, menstrual hygiene and healthy eating. I really have the feeling that a lot has changed for the better since ASHA and German Doctors became involved in our region. And it's nice to know that people in Germany are donating to improve the lives of many Indians."

# Association Details and Website Credits

## Contact us at:

German Doctors e.V.  
Löbestraße 1a | 53173 Bonn  
Tel. +49 (0)228 387597-0  
Fax +49 (0)228 387597-20  
E-Mail [info@german-doctors.de](mailto:info@german-doctors.de)  
[www.german-doctors.de](http://www.german-doctors.de)

## Picture credits:

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3: top Christian Nusch, centre Chantal Neumann  
bottom German Doctors e.V.  
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8/9: 1983/1985/1987/1992 German Doctors e.V.,  
1993 United Archives/Frank Hempel, 1998 Malte  
Ossowski/Sven Simon, German Doctors e.V.,  
2004 Deutsche Telekom AG, 2007 Olaf Krüger,  
2008 German Doctors e..  
10/11: 2011 German Doctors e.V., 2014 Eva-Maria  
Schwienhorst/KNA [www.kna-bild.de](http://www.kna-bild.de), 2015 Boris  
Lajos, 2019 Lutz Meyer and Company, 2020 private,  
2021 Sea Eye e.V., 2022 German Doctors,  
2023 Rikh Mukherjee, Chantal Neumann  
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18: Christian Nusch  
19: Hartmut Schwarzbach

20: Chantal Neumann  
21: left Fabian Gruber, right Leon Selorio  
24/25/26/27: Chantal Neumann  
27: Mayk Wendt on the right  
28/29: German Doctors e.V.  
30: Chantal Neumann  
31: German Doctors e.V.  
32: Pietro Bertora  
33: Ahmed Ibrahim.  
34/35: left ASHA, right Christian Nusch 36:private  
37: Chantal Neumann  
44/45: Dr. Gudrun Jäger  
46: Leon Selorio  
65: Christian Nusch  
67: Hartmut Schwarzbach

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**YOUR DONATION COUNTS!**



[german-doctors.de](http://german-doctors.de)

## Help and inform yourself online!

Would you like to find out more about us and our projects? No problem! Keep up to date with the activities of German Doctors online. You can find out everything you need to know on our website, in our newsletter and via our social media channels. Of course, you can also donate easily online, become a project sponsor and get in touch with us.



[german-doctors.de](https://www.german-doctors.de)



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## Donation account:

German Doctors e. V.

SozialBank

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Keyword: Medical assistance