

# Annual report for 2023



Member of  
**actalliance**

**Brot**  
für die Welt

## We

- help the most disadvantaged people in the world
- act through partnerships
- advocate justice and peace
- provide help through self-help
- promote participation
- live ecumenism
- are in dialogue with politics and the public

## About us

As a non-governmental organisation and an agency of the protestant churches, Brot für die Welt advocates global justice, peace and education while combating hunger and poverty.

We work together with our 1,500 partner organisations to enable disadvantaged people in almost 90 countries to sustainably improve their living situations through their own efforts.



**Your donation makes  
a difference!**

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



| Peter Nyorsok Executive Director at Anglican Development Services/North Rift  
Dr. Dagmar Pruin, President of Brot für die Welt

## Foreword

### Dear Reader,

For the first time, two of us have the pleasure of welcoming you to this annual report: Dagmar Pruin, President of Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World) and Peter Nyorsok, Executive Director at Anglican Development Services/North Rift. The success of the projects Brot für die Welt supports primarily depends on strong partner organisations that fill them with life.

More so than in previous years, this report attempts to change its perspective: Our map on pages 10 and 11 no longer places Europe at the centre of the world. That is because where people find themselves on our planet changes their perspective on the world.

Responsible bodies from Kenya and Honduras report on the global scholarship support programme that unites recipients from different continents. And the educational work done by Brot für die Welt considers its main task to be a shift in perspective in Germany.

All this would be impossible without the people who perform this work. The project “Aus eigener Kraft den Hunger überwinden” (“The Power to Beat Hunger”), with which we opened the 65th campaign of Brot für die Welt on the first Sunday in Advent ([brot-fuer-die-welt.de/projekte/kenia-hunger](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/projekte/kenia-hunger), in German), has many parents: the people in the Kenyan region North Rift who were able to improve their nutritional situation through their daily work; the employees at Anglican Development Services North Rift who worked with them to find ways to take the right steps, the employees of Brot für die Welt who supported the project’s development, the evangelical regional and free churches and their congregations, our donors and the federal government. All of them have made this work possible. All of these parties form a global network of solidarity demonstrating that a better life is possible when people look for solutions together. We would like to thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts.

Best wishes,

Pastor Dr Dagmar Pruin  
President of Brot für die Welt

Peter Nyorsok  
Executive Director at Anglican  
Development Services/North Rift

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Excited children and adolescents in Santo André play by the rules of "Futebol de Rua", South American street football. Our partner organisation Ação Educativa uses this game as a pedagogical method in the favela near São Paulo: Cooperation, fairness and respect are more important than making goals.







# Report of the Executive Board

## Current challenges

Around the world the civil society helps improve the living conditions of people who are extremely economically disadvantaged. However, the current “Atlas der Zivilgesellschaft” (“Civil Society Atlas”) determined that only two percent of the world’s population lives in nations with unrestricted civil-society freedoms, and more than two in three people live in authoritarian countries or dictatorships.

Central America is an example: Under the dictatorship of Presidents Ortega and Murillo, it is no longer possible to have an organised civil society. Several thousand organisations are forbidden de facto. Long-standing partners of Brot für die Welt are in exile in neighbouring countries, where we are helping them restructure their work.

But there is reason to hope in the region: Guatemala was the paragon of the interwovenness of politics, the judicial system, the military and the economic interests of influential families for a long time. But since January 2024 its new president, Arévalo, has been emphasising democratic rule of law and democracy. New spheres of action for the civil society may emerge.

In China the “NGO law”, which was adopted back in 2017, resulted in considerable difficulties in implementing our partner organisations’ projects. Starting in 2021 new “safety laws” were enacted in Hong Kong, which forced many non-government organisations to disband or relocate to other countries. Since it is hardly possible to carry out work under these conditions, we are going to terminate the programme in China by the end of 2026.

In some African countries, people whose life models deviate from mainstream society’s norms are under particular pressure. At the end of February the parliament in Ghana adopted a controversial law threatening homosexuals, bisexuals and other queer people and their supporters with imprisonment. In Uganda so-called “difficult cases” may even be sentenced to death since May 2023. Our partners report that Tanzania, Kenya and Burkina Faso plan to adopt similar legislation. Brot für die Welt supports partner organisations that fight this type of discrimination.

## Financial situation

The three financial pillars of Brot für die Welt and its work are donations and collections (75.9 million euros), church funds (59 million euros) and, as part of our collaboration with the Protestant Association for Cooperation in Development (EZE) and Dienste in Übersee (Service Overseas), government funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ: 172.9 million euros). In total, Brot für die Welt’s development work had approximately 331.5 million euros at its disposal in 2023 (2022: 337.9 million euros) (see p. 30 et seq.). Primarily on behalf of our project partners, we would also like to thank the donors, parishes, regional and free churches, regional Diakonie associations and the decision-making parties at the church and in politics for their trust in Brot für die Welt and their reliable support.

## Dialogue with the federal government of Germany

The global community has decided to eliminate hunger and malnourishment by 2030 as part of its objectives for sustainable development. However, its progress to date is sobering: As many as 783 million people do not have enough to eat, and more than 3.1 billion people cannot eat a healthy diet. In addition to the consequences of wars and climate change, the main problem here is our global food system, which harms both the environment and people. To eliminate hunger and malnourishment in the long term, it is necessary to strengthen sustainable agriculture based on small farms and oriented towards the needs of disadvantaged groups.

The fight against climate change is also a key policy field for us. We are committed to achieving improvements in dialogue with the federal government. For that purpose, we attend climate conferences together with representatives of our partner organisations. We welcome the progress made during the climate summit in Dubai, even if the process of phasing out fossil fuels was only initiated and not enacted in a binding manner. The future depends on renewable energy sources.

However, efforts made thus far will not be enough to sufficiently protect the poorest groups of the population in the Global South. Acting with less ambition

now only means that we will have to make greater efforts in the future to adapt to climate change and manage damage to the climate. When the global financial goal for the time after 2025 is negotiated at the 29th climate conference in Baku, climate damage must be included in the negotiation package, and financing for adaptations must be increased following a needs-based approach.

This money is needed to address global crises and challenges. It is a fatal sign when the federal government intends to cut funding for development cooperation considerably. Public funding for development cooperation and humanitarian aid has already been cut by about 20 percent since 2022. The Ministry of Finance's plans to reduce funding by an additional 1.3 billion euros or so in 2025 would mean that these grants would shrink by more than 25 percent during a single legislation period.

These drastic cuts would cost people their lives. Such courses of action make Germany lose credibility vis-à-vis its partners in the Global South. Strong global cooperation is needed now more than ever. Investments in sustainable development promote peace and also benefit our safety.

## Digitalisation

Part of our Strategy 21+ is the vision that all people should be able to benefit from digitalisation to the fullest extent possible for purposes of social and political participation. With our collaboration platform "Easy" we have taken additional steps to efficiently structure work processes across national borders and time zones.



*Dagmar Pruin*

Dr Dagmar Pruin, President of Brot für die Welt

We need to phase out fossil fuels.  
Brot für die Welt protested under  
the motto #EndFossilFuels  
on 15 September 2023 in Berlin.







Liliam Castillo and her comrades-in-arms from the Honduran women's rights organisation CODEMUH demonstrate for labour rights.

# Living equitably and safely in dignity

Overcoming poverty, ensuring food security and promoting justice are important objectives for Brot für die Welt. But people can improve their lives and living conditions through their own efforts only if they have access to food, water, education and health care, if their rights are respected and if they can live in peace. This is what we are working for throughout the world – hand in hand with churches and partner organisations.



## Projects by country and continent

### Regional focuses were Africa and Asia

In 2023 Brot für die Welt supported 2,905 projects in 87 countries with a total of 209.1 million euros.\*

Africa and Asia/the Pacific were the regions we focused on. 789 projects in Africa received a total of 83.9 million euros of support, and in Asia 671 projects received about 64 million euros. 417 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean received 34.3 million euros in funding, and 57 projects in Europe were awarded approximately four million euros.

That means 40 percent of the funds awarded went to Africa and 33 percent to Asia and the Pacific region. 16 percent went to Latin America/the Caribbean and two percent to European countries. Nine percent of the funds were allocated to interregional projects. The resources for scholarships, specialists, supervision and evaluation, as well as for domestic work, are not considered in this breakdown.

\* The project statistics have been changed in this annual report, meaning the figures cannot be compared directly with those in the most recent annual report (see p. 13).

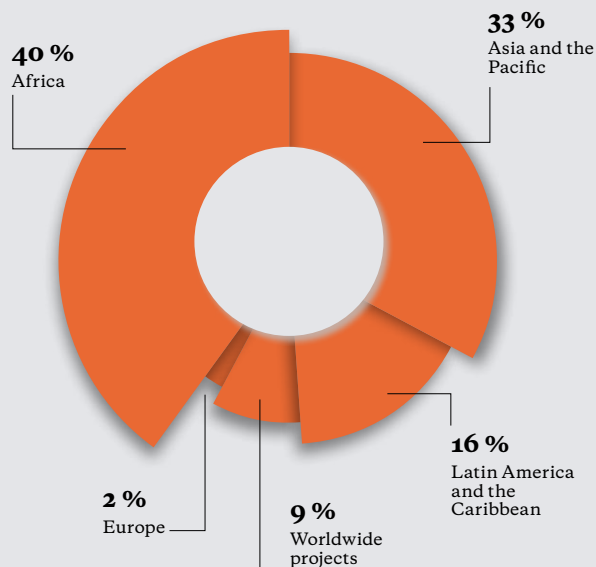
## Projects by topic

### Focus on nutrition and combating poverty

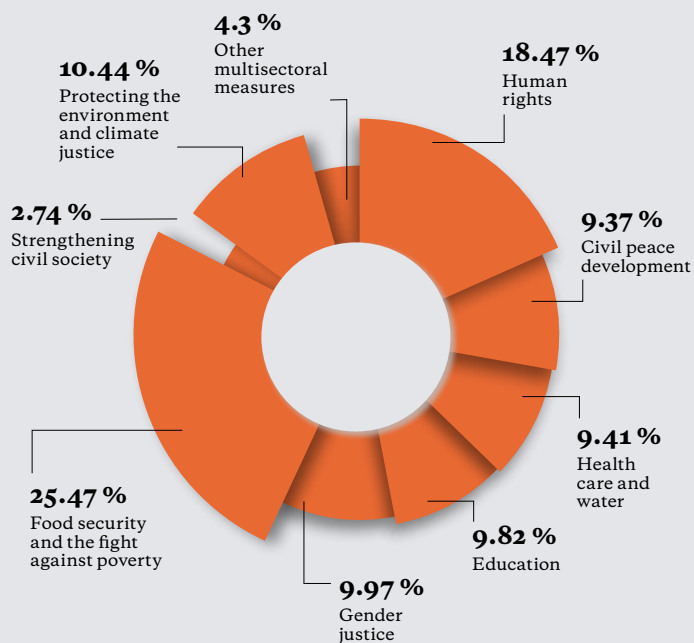
Brot für die Welt's projects often combine several measures that focus on different topics. Securing the food security is thus often addressed by projects focusing on other issues. The distribution in our statistics is based on the main measures of our projects in 2023.

Brot für die Welt primarily approved projects in the following areas in 2023:

- Food security and the fight against poverty
- Human rights and strengthening civil society
- Protecting the environment and climate justice
- Gender justice
- Education
- Health and water
- Civil peacebuilding
- Basic social services
- Other multisectoral measures (including seconding professionals, scholarships, and consulting for partners)



Project expenditure in 2023 by continent in percent

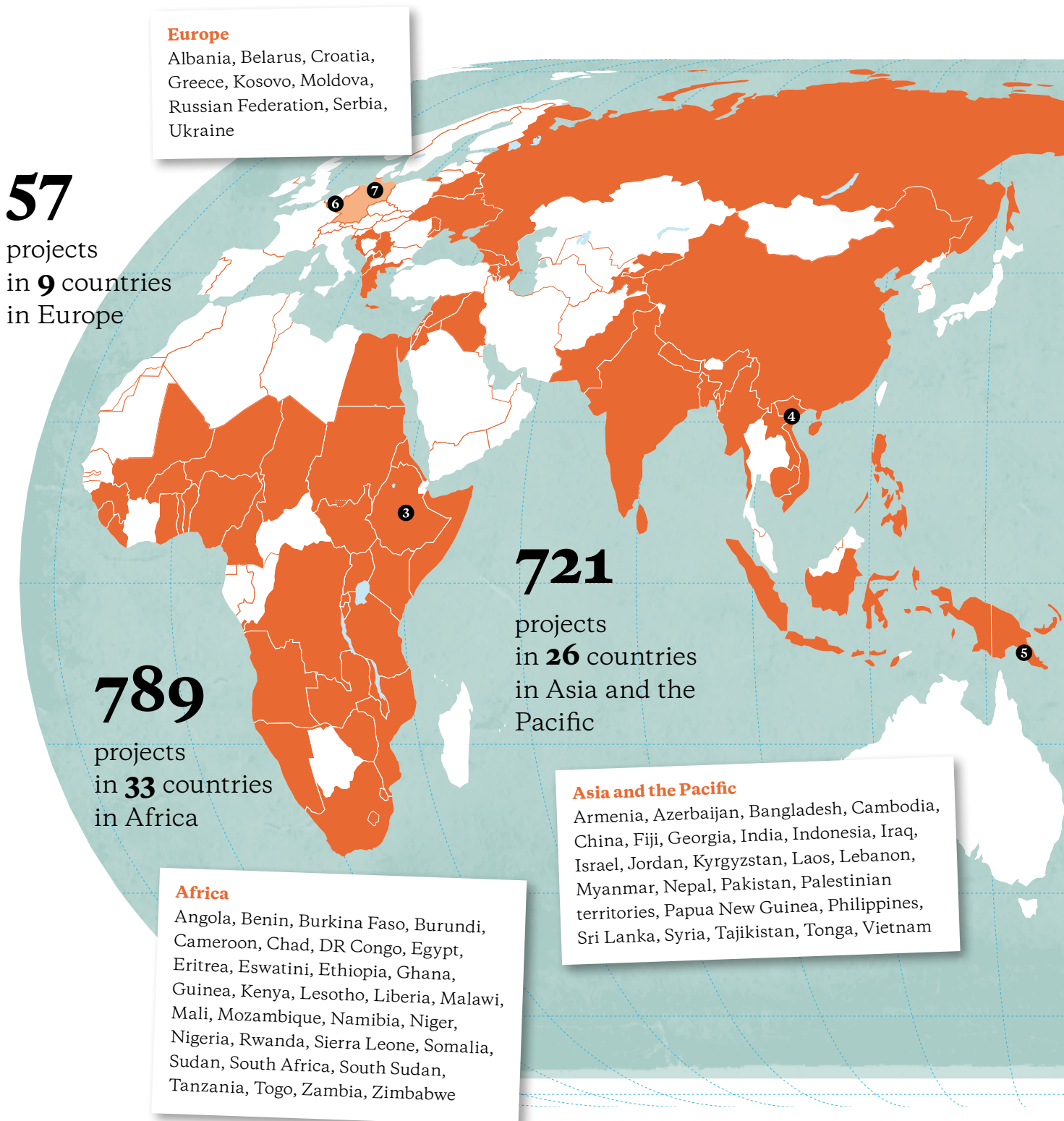


Project expenditure for 2023\* by topic in percent

\*Source of funds: BMZ, KED and donations.

For all figures, see the section on finances starting on page 30.

### Brot für die Welt is active in these countries





Brot für die Welt  
supports

**2,905\***

projects in **87** countries  
around the world

\*with scholarships, support and  
evaluation, as well as specialists,  
Civil Peace Service and educa-  
tional projects in the country

**157**

interregional  
projects around  
the world

**417**

projects  
in **18** countries in  
Latin America

**Latin America and the Caribbean**

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia,  
Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic,  
Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti,  
Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama,  
Paraguay, Peru

**Our offices and regional offices (VEST) abroad**

- ❶ **VEST Central America in San José, Costa Rica**  
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- ❷ **VEST Andes in Lima, Peru**  
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- ❹ **VEST Vietnam/Laos in Hanoi, Vietnam**  
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## Worldwide projects



### Africa

	Approved funds in euros	Number of projects
Africa, continent wide*	9,852,996.43	64
Angola	2,024,925.63	18
Benin	10,266.40	1
Burkina Faso	1,227,419.97	16
Burundi	535,808.50	10
Cameroon	3,315,667.78	54
Chad	2,465,526.31	22
DR Congo	6,375,236.11	43
Egypt	1,423,443.10	12
Ethiopia	10,727,532.64	85
Eritrea	1,964.18	1
Eswatini	293,913.40	8
Ghana	857,132.75	15
Guinea	732,330.00	10
Kenya	5,176,315.93	40
Lesotho	1,074,004.30	10
Liberia	1,612,378.00	14
Malawi	1,821,613.73	18
Mali	1,578,821.87	13
Mozambique	3,180,125.11	28
Namibia	1,326,590.62	18
Niger	917,367.90	14
Nigeria	1,898,467.40	24
Rwanda	861,084.96	9
Sierra Leone	3,208,494.02	22
Somalia	382,549.00	3
Sudan	29,353.80	1
South Africa	4,272,595.34	49
South Sudan	3,268,952.43	14
Tanzania	3,514,670.23	42
Togo	1,753,319.12	22
Uganda	3,590,689.06	28
Zambia	995,854.84	19
Zimbabwe	3,559,149.91	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,866,560.77</b>	<b>789</b>



### Europe

Europe, continent wide*	612,080.00	12
Albania	424,411.40	6
Belarus	121,223.00	4
Croatia	9,650.00	1
Greece	67,000.00	1
Kosovo	685,198.10	4
Moldova	113,800.00	2
Russian Federation	587,282.61	12
Serbia	458,866.13	6
Ukraine	925,073.10	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,004,584.34</b>	<b>57</b>



### Latin America and the Caribbean

America, continent wide*	3,530,406.42	34
Argentina	1,010,366.74	15
Bolivia	2,460,810.15	31
Brazil	8,271,930.55	61
Chile	936.20	1
Columbia	3,316,253.23	42
Costa Rica	107,815.20	2
Cuba	627,743.34	13
Dominican Republic	10,403.80	1
Ecuador	1,420,665.51	21
El Salvador	755,440.26	20
Guatemala	697,717.07	4
Haiti	585,254.34	11
Honduras	994,277.49	14
Mexico	3,799,531.30	61
Nicaragua	530,149.95	6
Panama	29,003.80	1
Paraguay	528,388.07	14
Peru	5,593,619.78	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,270,713.20</b>	<b>417</b>



### Asia and the Pacific

Asia, continent wide*	8,404,538.07	57
Armenia	1,726,897.49	15
Azerbaijan	199,300.00	1
Bangladesh	6,758,415.69	40
Cambodia	3,843,707.50	35
China	942,635.99	12
Fiji	749,803.20	11
Georgia	1,683,158.23	23
India	10,340,163.53	110
Indonesia	6,689,232.13	77
Iraq	82,993.00	1
Israel	2,515,654.74	30
Jordan	527,015.00	3
Kyrgyzstan	455,369.25	7
Laos	1,542,224.90	19
Lebanon	955,557.52	12
Myanmar	4,101,319.70	46
Nepal	2,066,053.31	24
Pakistan	662,006.30	13
Palestinian territories	5,146,246.35	54
Papua New Guinea	1,360,415.39	27
Philippines	2,749,763.04	41
Sri Lanka	806,292.27	18
Syria	50,003.80	1
Tajikistan	80,004.40	2
Tonga	31,000.00	1
Vietnam	4,006,421.07	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,476,191.87</b>	<b>721</b>



## Interregional

	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,503,990.87</b>	<b>157</b>
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## Total projects

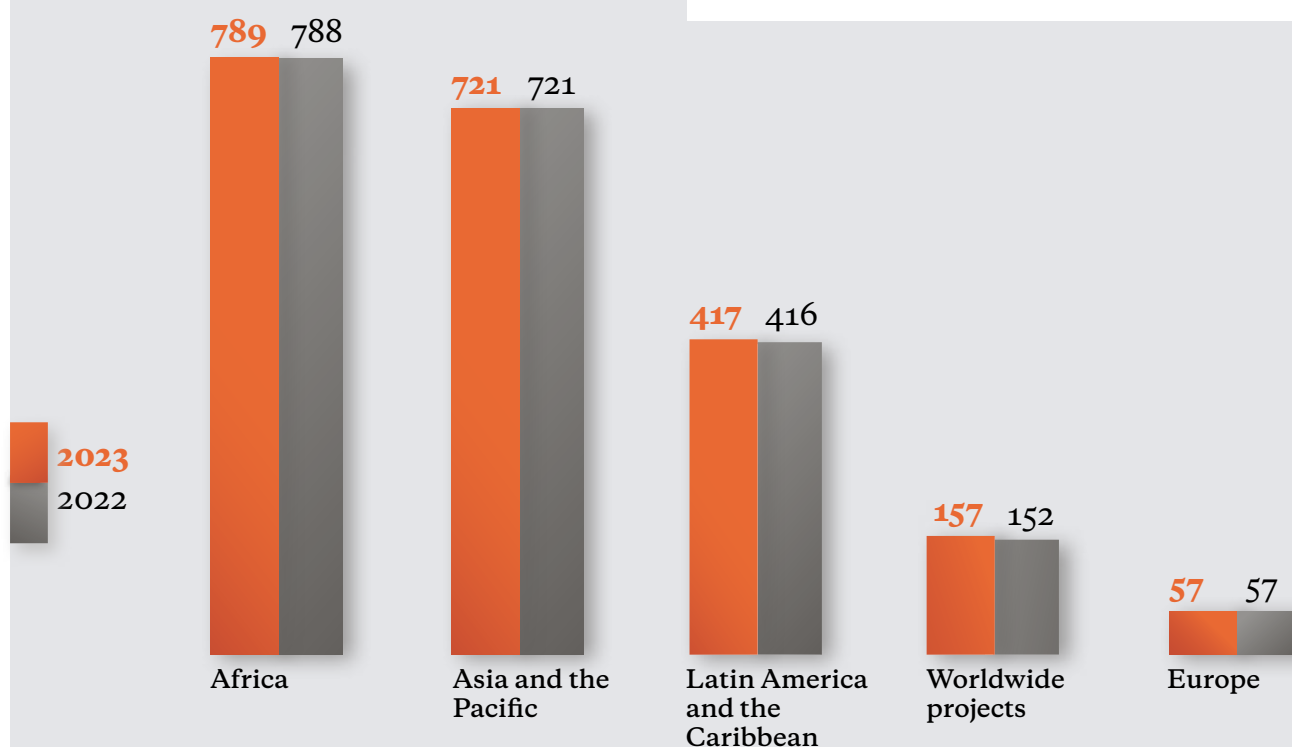
	<b>Total</b>	<b>209,112,041.05</b>	<b>2,141</b>
Scholarships		5,866,252.84	67
International specialists		11,488,588.23	178
Support and evaluation		10,971,292.24	26
Education (in Germany)		6,946,839.10	493
<b>Total</b>		<b>244,385,013.46</b>	<b>2,905</b>

\* This includes funding awarded to several countries on the continent. This includes projects on ecological land use or network activities that benefit small-scale farmers and their families in various countries, as well as projects for which we provide interregional consulting for partner organisations on the continent.

## New presentation of project funding

In past years, we have published figures for the projects **approved** in the year before at this point. With these approvals, Brot für die Welt gives its partner organisations binding commitments to funding for the period of a project, which is generally three years. During this funding period, the funds are paid out based on the progress of the project. Sometimes the money is paid back, for instance, because projects need to be implemented differently than originally planned.

Starting with this annual report, we will publish figures for the projects **funded** in the past year. These may be projects that were approved in 2023 as well as those that were already approved in the year before if their period lasts into 2023. We are making this change because we believe it will illustrate the actual scope of our project work more clearly. Due to this change, the figures for the 2023 annual report in the section “Worldwide project work” cannot be directly compared with the figures in previous annual reports.



## Projects funded by continent – change compared to the previous year

The projects funded for 2022 are also presented. That is why the figures deviate from those in the 2022 annual report.

An additional 764 projects in the field of interregional personnel services, grants, support and evaluation and education (in Germany) were funded.

### Interview

# Peace requires justice

Kathrin Strobel has been Director International Programmes at Brot für die Welt since April 2024. She graduated in international law and has a great deal of experience providing consultation for institutions in the public and social sector. She recently worked for the United Nations' peace mission in South Sudan.

**Last year several wars influenced the international situation. Which challenges did this create for Brot für die Welt?**

**Kathrin Strobel** — The wars in Ukraine and in Gaza have shown how horrendous the immediate consequences of war are: Destruction, trauma, humanitarian crises. In addition we have observed the food crisis and considerable price increases in completely different regions in the world. And we have also seen how resources have been redistributed. Funding cuts in northern Mozambique, where internally displaced people received much less of the support they desperately need, are only one example.

It has also become more difficult to attract political attention. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for instance, the conflict in the eastern part of the country has intensified a great deal over the last 12 months. But hardly anyone is reporting about it. That is a great problem for our partners and the people who are impacted by such forgotten conflicts, as we call them. Additional examples of conflicts like this are in Nagorno-Karabakh, Myanmar and Sudan.

At the same time, the climate and environment crisis is occupying much of our attention and that of our partners. Shrinking space, which is politically motivated administrative restrictions placed on civil society, is also a growing challenge. In India, the government has refused registration to important and highly competent organisations in civil society. In these contexts, our partners' work becomes either much harder or impossible.

**How has Brot für die Welt and its partner organisations reacted to the consequences of these conflicts?**

**KS** — In the scope of our capabilities, we continue providing support in all regions in close cooperation with the emergency aid organisation Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe. Our approach to support includes long-term and reliable funding of partners. In Evaluations, we are repeatedly told that this is a major factor in the effect our work has.

An important aspect of our work in conflict and post-conflict regions, as well as in regions with great social tensions, is our "positive peace" approach. Positive peace means more than the absence of war. It involves social solidarity, social justice and a culture of peace. It is the prerequisite for conflicts not being decided through violence. That is another reason why Brot für die Welt emphasises strengthening civil society. That also includes strengthening church groups and groups affiliated with the church that play an important role in contexts where many people are religious. Especially in places where state development collaboration is not enough or where civil society is subject to restrictions, churches often have more opportunities to support marginalised groups of society.

**To what extent does strengthening civil society have a positive impact on peace?**

**KS** — The truth commission in Columbia is a good example. Civil wars in particular present enormous challenges for long-term social cohesion because they lead to division and mistrust. The truth commission is addressing crimes that were committed during the period of armed conflict. The commission's success was



possible only because civilians expressly demanded an inclusive process and supported the commission's work intensely. We supported partner organisations in Columbia and continue to do this so they can advocate reconciliation in the society.

The Civil Peace Service is another important instrument in promoting peace. We use it to second people with expertise in civil conflict prevention to partner countries and contribute financial resources as well. They work both in countries and across borders, and they create networks that often endure for long periods and strengthen the sustainability of our partners.

These networks also improve the safety of human rights activists. We know of partners who were threatened for a long time and lived in great danger. Networks like the ones created gave them a better system of protection.



| Kathrin Strobel: "Peace is more than the absence of war."

**Conflicts that are solved by force of arms have many different negative impacts on the development of societies. What do you consider to be the greatest difficulties?**

**KS** — Armed conflicts impact every area of life. They mean immediate danger to life and limb, infrastructure is destroyed, and comprehensive insecurity prevails.

And there are indirect consequences: In the Sahel region there are very short time windows for sowing and harvesting owing to the weather conditions there. If people do not feel safe enough to go to their fields during these periods, that results directly in food insecurity. Conflicting parties exploit this situation

strategically, since they know exactly when these time windows are.

The consequences of conflicts often intensify tensions, such as when internally displaced people compete with their host communities for scant resources. Our partners work on addressing and reducing tensions like these in a targeted manner to reduce the risk of additional or repeat conflicts.

It is important to illustrate the complexity of conflicts, their consequences and their causes. Often, conflicts are portrayed as being religiously or ethnically motivated. Generally, however, they are about just distribution, access to resources, the power to make decisions and future prospects.

**You most recently worked on the topic of democratic rule of law as part of the United Nations' peace mission in South Sudan. Which of these experiences were defining for you?**

**KS** — South Sudan is the youngest country in the world and has experienced two civil wars since its independence in 2011. Since 2018 there has been a peace treaty, which is being implemented. I experienced many of the consequences of conflicts at first hand, as well as the incredible strength of the people who are working on leaving this destruction behind them and moving towards a better future.

South Sudan is also strongly influenced by the current conflict in neighbouring Sudan, which broke out while I was living there. I also experienced the cross-border results of conflicts, which I mentioned earlier. Many refugees and returning people, which is to say South Sudanese who previously lived in Sudan, must be provided for and integrated.

I communicated with many people there and learned a lot from them. I took away the greatest respect for the people who stand for warmth, hope and strong commitment in circumstances that are often extreme. One example that I love is the lively art scene in South Sudan. The artists address questions of nationhood and independence in their work. They reflect upon identity, peace, social solidarity and hope in artistic manners. They use the medium of art in a political fashion. That is exceptionally important in a country where more than 70 percent of adults, and more women than men, are illiterate.

## Worldwide projects

**Chan Nheb**

Volunteer in the Süd-Nord-Freiwilligendienst  
(South-North Volunteer Service),  
ESTAruppin e. V. in Neuruppin, Germany



The volunteer service at Brot für die Welt gives me the chance to gain new experience in working with people of different origins and helping other people who need support.



More about Süd-Nord-Freiwilligendienst at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/projekte/freiwillige/freiwilligendienst-sued-nord](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/projekte/freiwillige/freiwilligendienst-sued-nord) (in German).

**Rolando Hernández Reyes**

Small-scale farmer in Ixtepec, Mexico



The stronger the effects of climate change are, the more important access to water becomes. Previously we were able to harvest corn only once a year, but with the cistern we hope to harvest it every four weeks.



More about our commitment to food security at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/food-security](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/food-security)

**We are a reliable partner. Our contribution makes a difference. This is confirmed by people worldwide. Six voices.**

**Oksana Khmelnytska**

Psychologist and Head of the Mental Health Service, Kiev, Ukraine



Through our cooperation, Brot für die Welt supports people in my country who have experienced psychological damage because of the war. I hope there will be peace and an end to the violence in the heart of Europe. It is important to act now so that war trauma does not impact the people concerned, their families and society as a whole in the future as well.



More about our work for justice and peace at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/just-peace](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/just-peace)



**Hyacinthe Niyitegeka**  
Coordinator of the Loss and Damage  
Collaboration, Kigali, Rwanda



Our partnership with Brot für die Welt is an expression of our joint commitment to extending our sphere of influence with stakeholders in the climate sector. Together we have created lasting value for the communities that are impacted by the climate crisis.

**i** More about our commitment to fighting climate change at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/climate-change](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/climate-change)

**Rosemary Viswanath**  
Board member of the Financial Management Service  
Foundation (FMSF), Noida, India



With Brot für die Welt as our partner, we can implement more than just short-term objectives. Together, we set long-term objectives and have considerable latitude, which is characterised by mutual respect, to decide what we want to do and how we want to do it.

**i** More about the Global Reference Group at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/ueber-uns/global-reference-group](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/ueber-uns/global-reference-group) (in German).

**Charlotte Sonomy**  
Nurse from Diécké, Guinea



We received respirators for our clinic. We have already been able to save more than ten babies with them. I feel much better prepared thanks to my further training in obstetrical emergency care.

**i** More about our health work at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/health](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/health)

### Professionals

# Global crises need professionals

The crises of the past year have also impacted the work done by professionals at Brot für die Welt. The ongoing crisis, the climate catastrophe, heads the list. It results in our partner organisations more frequently requesting professionals with expertise on the climate.

A professional was seconded to Jordan, who advises several partner organisations, how they can better handle the consequences of climate change. In Bolivia one professional is working on the topic of resources and the climate at a partner organisation. However, the partners also need highly specialised professionals who can address both digital issues and agriculture. “We are in the process of seconding an agroecologist who was trained in using drones in agriculture to Armenia. We have never procured an professional like this before,” says Fabian Hanschen, Head of the International Personnel Secondment Unit.

The shrinking spaces for action of civil society pose an additional considerable challenge. Above all Brot für die Welt procures professionals for countries whose civil society is either repressed or restricted according to the “Atlas der Zivilgesellschaft” (“Civil Society Atlas”). Joint work by professionals and partner organisations, as well as international attention, is often especially sought after in places like these. At the same time, the organisations and professionals must grapple with administrative requirements.

Several armed conflicts have changed the work opportunities and conditions for seconded personell. After Hamas’ terror attack on Israel and the war in Gaza, the professionals working in Israel had to be evacuated. “The professionals then continued working from home office with a great deal of personal commitment,” according to Hanschen. Since the partner organisations trying to achieve peace and understanding in the region are under especially high pressure in this situation, continuing work has been particularly important.

In times of increasing conflicts, the Civil Peace Service takes on greater importance. Back in 2021,

after the putsch in Myanmar, the Civil Peace Service found a way for professionals to support a partner organisation from a neighbouring country. That is why there is a professional there who teaches the students at a film school and now continues her film production training courses digitally. “It’s not a perfect solution, but we had gained experience with digital collaboration during the corona virus pandemic,” Hanschen continues. “In crisis situations, the importance of international solidarity that professionals make possible becomes clear.”

Brot für die Welt aims that professionals’ passports will no longer play a role in secondment in the future: “We live in a globalised world. Our secondment model should reflect that. Why should professionals’ place of origin be more important than their qualifications?” asks Hanschen. “We are currently working on addressing the legal issues that are regulated by a corresponding law for professionals in the EU.” This model paves the way for the future.

In the Civil Peace Service, the option of so-called south-south secondments was already approved two years ago. An expansion like this throughout the entire development aid service is desirable. Brot für die Welt is not trying to change the “Entwicklungshelfergesetz” (Development Worker Act), which provides a good framework for professionals from the EU. Essentially, professionals’ competence should be the most important: “We don’t care at all whether an professional is seconded from Mexico to Guatemala or from Benin to Guatemala.”



## Interview

# Combining fields and forests generates income

**What is the situation in the project region, and what effects does climate change have on it?**

**Susann Reiner** — Approximately 80 percent of the land in Armenia is impacted by climate change because the soil is being degraded or eroding. The main reason for this is that surfaces have been overgrazed and crop rotation has not been practised sustainably to date. Many farmers do not know how to deal with extreme weather events and how to effectively use the water that is available. This situation will become worse in the years to come as climate change continues. And only eleven percent of Armenia is covered in forest. Outside of protected areas, the existing forests are not sustainably managed for the most part. That is why the forest cannot help protect the soil very much.

The areas families farm are usually not larger than one to three hectares, and communal land is used as pastures. Very few families can earn enough to survive from farming, so most depend on additional sources of income.

**How is the partner organisation Shen NGO reacting to the situation?**

**SR** — With its sustainable projects Shen NGO is helping to improve the living and income situations of families in disadvantaged regions in Armenia. The organisation has supported over 370 rural communities over the years.

One thing its work focuses on is agriculture, and Shen NGO supports organic agriculture and the formation of cooperatives, among other things. It also set a revenue loss insurance programme for farmers in motion.

**How can the organisation help by providing its expertise?**

**SR** — I work as a professional on forests and agroforestry, and introducing farm forestry to Armenia is one of my main focal points. Farm forestry is an agricultural production system that integrates woods into farmed surfaces in addition to cultivation and animal husbandry. It creates landscapes with rich structures that, for example, protect the soil and crops against wind and improve the soil's microclimate and its ability to hold water by building up humus. That lets people earn income in the short and medium terms, and

the woods provide an additional long-term source of income. At the same time, during their lifespan the woods improve the ecological conditions under which agriculture is practised. The concept of farm forestry was previously unknown in Armenia.

As a plant ecologist, I contribute my experience in managing woods and farm forestry. That is how I can support Shen NGO from the planning process to farm forestry system management, and I can also provide important contacts.



Since 2022 Susann Reiner has been working as a forestry manager in Eriwan in Armenia at our partner organisation Shen NGO. The name Shen says it all: It means "thriving village".

## Short & simple

# 147 experts worldwide

In 2023 Brot für die Welt had 84 women and 63 men working on contract and providing service overseas. Of them, 31 women and 21 men worked as experts involved in the Civil Peace Service ([www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/en](http://www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/en)), which was almost 20 percent more than in 2022.

Requests from our partner organisations also reflect this: In particular they have requested support in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-keeping work, climate protection and resilience, fundraising, organisational development, lobbying and advocacy work, sustainable agriculture and, increasingly, psychosocial consultation.

The number of new contracts concluded with professionals is slightly higher than last year's number: In 2023 33 women and 28 men decided in favour of a new secondment to our partner organisations.

## Worldwide projects

### Interview on scholarships

## A global network for just societies

Brot für die Welt has been virtually networking scholarship recipients in the Global South and Germany for over a year. In the scope of digital international support work, three pilot partners and Brot für die Welt's scholarship division meet online. The partner organisations are the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) from Cambodia, the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) from Kenya and the Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales (ASONOG) from Honduras. The participants live on four continents with different time zones, speak three languages and contribute expertise from four different specialist areas.

In November 2023 the first global online scholar meeting on the topic of climate change was held and had about 100 participants. In December there was a joint workshop in Berlin, and both the pilot partners and the scholarship holders travelled to attend it.

### What is your initial experience with digital international support work?

**Lilian Ngaruiya** — It's an exciting experience that opens up new perspectives. Previously we had only worked with scholars from sub-Saharan Africa. Now we collaborate with people from three different continents. Furthermore, it is interesting to discuss with other organisations how they carry out their scholarship programmes, especially in conflict regions.

**Karolina Lara** — The teamwork with people from different parts of the world was most important for us. It allowed us to learn about different cultural, social and educational situations.

### Can you provide an example of successful collaboration among scholarship holders that arose through international support work?

**KL** — The scholarship holders discussed the effects the climate crises has on health, human rights and migration in their countries in the pilot seminar "Von der Verwundbarkeit zum Empowerment" ("From Vulnerability to Empowerment"). They discussed best practices and developed initiatives people can use to gain influence and work together for climate justice.

**LN** — In Kenya seven current scholarship holders met with seven alumni, who helped them develop research skills in the scope of the programme. The experts

from three disciplines are currently writing a joint paper about the effects of the climate crisis on health. That is why we are trying to create long-term connections between scientists from different countries and backgrounds.

### What challenges did this form of exchange pose? How did you address them?

**LN** — The visa requirement for scholarship holders who wanted to participate in the pilot project was the biggest hurdle. One person from the Democratic Republic of the Congo was refused a visa, and a scholarship holder from Cameroon received an appointment to apply for his visa that was four months after the meeting. For future meetings, our team is trying to facilitate the visa application process through our contacts with the German Embassy.

**KL** — The biggest challenges during the online meetings were the time difference, technical difficulties with the Internet connection and the different languages involved. All of the participants needed to be flexible. We also had several simultaneous translators who assisted us.

### What are your ideas for further collaboration?

**LN** — The group was extremely interested in gender questions. It would be good to keep this momentum going.

**KL** — In the future we want to create networks of scholarship holders in each region and on every continent to increase participation in all the programmes and form a global network of scholarship holders and alumni in order to create just and equal societies.



**Lilian Ngaruiya** is responsible for scholarships at the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network.

**Karolina Lara** is Coordinator for Knowledge Management at ASONOG, Honduras.



## Quality assurance

# Partners in Georgia network better

Between August 2022 and April 2023 an evaluation team examined 18 projects in Georgia; eleven Georgian partner organisations support through these projects communities in their development. Six partners have joined forces with additional civil society organisations in the Community Development Coalition (CoDeCo). The goal of this coalition is to exchange skills and experience in the field of communal development, coordinate work and perform joint lobby work.

The partner organisations speak with mayors and people in villages about their most urgent problems. In rural regions of Georgia the infrastructure is often poor: Water conduits, streets and playgrounds are dilapidated. People identify these problems together in workshops and prioritise them.



| The village community of Abchalkalaki repairs a bridge.

The members of the community solve the problems together as volunteers, and the administration provides construction material. Positive experiences often result in these projects being copied. Immediately after the water conduit has been repaired, the village's youth centre will be refurbished. Our partners' foremost goal is always to have the communal administration provide money for the coming years, take on responsibility and remain in contact with the villagers on good terms.

The evaluators have carried out group discussions and interviews during which the organisations and their target groups were interviewed and local

authorities were involved. Additionally, a larger group of people was interviewed online.

The experts determined that the partners were already coordinating their work with other groups, such as parishes and athletic associations. Furthermore, they tried to complement each other in projects within the same communities to avoid carrying out work twice. Their collaboration with local governments and companies varies from region to region. Better coordination could lead to greater success.

### The evaluation recommends three measures that can further improve the work of the organisations in the future:

1. Brot für die Welt should fund a nationwide community development pilot project so the organisations can network better and joint approaches to work and instruments can be developed.
2. The partner organisations should develop a concept paper for community development to achieve sustainable development for the communities. It should develop a common understanding of and common strategy for community development. Additionally they should continue championing effective implementation of the Georgian decentralisation reform and, for this purpose, establish good working relationships with the local governments and companies.
3. One of the most important recommendations for Brot für die Welt and its partner organisations is to further develop the CoDeCo network and institutionalise it so it will be able to improve collaboration and exchanges between stakeholders. Management structures must be created and guidelines stipulated for this purpose. Non-CoDeCo members should join the coalition to strengthen it.

The network has now created a plan of action based on the recommendations from the evaluation. In addition CoDeCo and Brot für die Welt are currently jointly designing the recommended national pilot project for community development.

More about this topic at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/evaluations](https://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/evaluations)

## Governing bodies and staff

The Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. (EWDE, Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development) and its three brands Brot für die Welt, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Diakonie Deutschland are managed by a full-time, remunerated **Executive Board** (Vorstand). The Supervisory Board appoints the members of the Executive Board for a period of six years. Board members are Pastor Dr Dagmar Pruin (Chairperson; President of Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe), Pastor Rüdiger Schuch (Deputy Chairperson; President of Diakonie Deutschland), Maria Loheide (Social Policy), Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt (Finances, Human Resources and Legal Affairs).

The Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. is committed to a Code of Corporate Governance. Among other things, this code requires us to disclose the annual remuneration of the members of the Executive Board of all three brands. In 2023 Pastor Dr Dagmar Pruin received 141,349.66 euros (in addition to 105,166.85 euros in Verka insurance and occupational pension allocation); Pastor Ulrich Lilie 181,777.35 euros (in addition to 84,477.84 euros in occupational pension allocation. Until 31.12.2023 Ulrich Lilie was President of Diakonie Deutschland); Maria Loheide 132,940.31 euros (in addition to 8,997.77 euros in EZVK insurance); Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt 141,976.16 euros (in addition to 9,891.56 euros in EZVK insurance and professional care).

Three committees also determine the work done by Brot für die Welt. Their members work on a volun-

tary basis and receive no earnings: The **Diakonie and Development Conference** (Konferenz Diakonie und Entwicklung) is the supreme decision-making body of Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung. 112 members decide on essential issues regarding the entity. They approve budget plans and financial statements, and they assist the Supervisory Board and the Executive Board. Its Chairperson is Dr Johanna Will-Armstrong, Executive Board member of the Bodelschwingham Institution Bethel (v. Bodelschwingschen Stiftungen Bethel).

The 22 members of the **Supervisory Board** (Aufsichtsrat) monitor implementation of the decisions of the Diakonie and Development Conference, appoint the members of the Executive Board and monitor their work. The Chairperson is Bishop Dr Beate Hofmann, Evangelical Church of Hessen Electorate Waldeck (Evangelische Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck).

The 18 members of the **Development Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee** (Ausschuss Entwicklungsdienst und humanitäre Hilfe) advise the management of Brot für die Welt on development and funding policy, humanitarian aid, communication, fundraising and education. Upon request from the Executive Board, it approves project funds awarded by Brot für die Welt. The Chairperson is Bishop Dr Christian Stäblein, Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia (Evangelische Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz).

Detailed information can be found at [www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/our-agency](http://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/our-agency)

## Staff

### Number of employees

	Employees	Men	Women
Total staff	560	154	406
of which:			
Full-time	337	110	227
Part-time	223	44	179
Limited contract	72	21	51
Unlimited contract	488	133	355

As of 31.12.2023 Brot für die Welt had a total of 560 remunerated staff. This does not include staff working exclusively for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

### Remuneration structure

Monthly remuneration in euros*	Pay grade	from	to
Director	B3	9,152.00	9,152.00
Head of Department	15	6,500.57	8,267.80
Head of Unit	14	5,923.01	7,776.72
Programme Officer	13	4,758.27	6,562.19
Project Officer	10–11	3,712.26	5,426.92
Assistant	8–9B	3,337.07	4,613.72
Secretary	7	3,686.47	3,709.61

\* Employee gross remuneration based on the TVöD pay scale valid from 01.04.2022 to 29.02.2024



# Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V.<sup>1</sup>

**Diakonie and Development Conference** (up to 112 persons)

**Diakonie Committee**  
(20 persons)

**Development Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee** (18 persons)

**Supervisory Board** (22 persons)

## Executive Board

**Diakonie Deutschland**

**Brot für die Welt<sup>2</sup>**

**Chief Executive Social Policy Diakonie Deutschland**  
Maria Loheide

**President Diakonie Deutschland**  
Rüdiger Schuch<sup>\*</sup>

**Chief Executive Finances, Human Resources and Law**  
Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt

**President Brot für die Welt / Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe**  
Dr Dagmar Pruin

**Digitisation / Co-Lab DI Staff Unit**  
N. N.

**Strategic Management Staff Unit**  
Maria Knappstein

**Compliance and Risk Management Staff Unit**  
Rahel Woldemichael

**Internal Revision Staff Unit**  
Nadine Knaack

**Security Staff Unit**  
Dr Sebastian Drutschmann

**Inst. for Quality Development and Labels in Church and Diakonie (IQG)**  
Annette Klede

**European Policy**  
Malte Lindenthal (Brussels)  
Dr Stephanie Scholz (Berlin)

**Lobby-Coordination and Dialogue Staff Unit**  
N. N.<sup>\*\*</sup>

## Brot für die Welt

**Director Finance**  
Torsten Müller

**Director Internat. Programmes**  
Dr Kathrin Strobel<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

**Director Engagement and Communications**  
Martin Krieg

**Director Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe**  
Martin Kessler

**Human Resources Department**  
Patrick Wasmund

**Finance Department**  
Torsten Müller

**Programme Coordination Unit**  
Franziska Hoffmann

**Policy Department**  
Dr Jörn Gravingholt<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>

**Programme Department**  
Michael Frischmuth

**International Development Experts Department**  
Elke Bosch

**Results Management and Internal Project Auditing**  
Simon Lerch

**Capacity Strengthening and Learning Department**  
Robert Mehr

**Communications and Fundraising Department**  
Anne Dreyer

**Finance and Procedures Department**  
Florian Westerholt

**Legal Services Department**  
Lutz Möhring-Lawall

**Africa Department**  
Helle Døssing

**Education Department**  
Lars Bedurke

**Organisation Department**  
Jerg Bosch

**Asia, Pacific and Europe Department**  
Oliver Martin

**Information Technology (IT) Department**  
Norbert Gimm

**Latin America and Caribbean Department**  
Christiane Schulte

- \* until 31.12.23 Ulrich Lilie
- \*\* until 31.12.23 Peter Stein
- \*\*\* until 31.07.23 Petra Berner
- \*\*\*\* until 28.02.23 Dr Klaus Seitz
- <sup>1</sup> Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development
- <sup>2</sup> Bread for the World
- <sup>3</sup> Diakonie Emergency Aid



In June 2023 150 bicyclists travelled to the church congress in Nuremberg in a climate-friendly manner with Brot für die Welt. In their midst: Anna-Nicole Heinrich, President of the EKD synod.

# For sustainability and justice

Whether hunger, poverty, displacement, the climate crisis or human rights violations, Brot für die Welt advocates for the consideration of those in need in national and international decision-making. Together with our international network, the ACT Alliance, and other alliances, we advocate at conferences and in parliaments for concrete steps towards greater justice and participation.

## Focus

# Climate change is a question of justice

The people living on the Pacific islands have nowhere to flee. James Bhagwan described the dramatic situation with this vivid example at the 2023 Kirchentag in Nuremberg. As the general secretary of the Pacific Church Conference, he knows about the situation there. “We can watch the sea level rising.”

James Bhagwan appeared on stage together with Eckart von Hirschhausen at the Kirchentag while the latter delighted over 4,000 guests on the exhibition grounds in Nuremberg during the evening event “Jetzt. Ein sattes Fest des Lebens” (“Now. A fulfilling celebration of life”). Bhagwan reported that salt water now floods farming soil in Fiji on a regular basis. This is comparable to a situation in Germany every two months every river would overflow its banks.

Physician and cabaret artist von Hirschhausen believes air to breathe, water to drink, plants to eat and tolerable temperatures are essential for a healthy life. Everything that is good for people is also good for the planet. He mentioned that temperatures of 41 degrees Celsius have now been measured in Germany: “41 degrees is the highest fever you can have; it doesn’t get any higher than that,” said von Hirschhausen. He concluded, “The Earth can get along fine without us, but not the other way around.”

As in the Pacific, climate change is hitting the poorest the hardest around the world. That is another reason why climate justice was an overarching topic in work done by Brot für die Welt last year. “Climate change is caused by the gaseous waste produced by industrialised countries in the last 150 years. The entire African continent generated less than four percent of greenhouse gasses. How we handle the consequences is a question of justice,” is how Martin Krieg, Director Engagement and Communications, justifies this focus.

Despite the Paris Climate Agreement, which is supposed to promote greater climate justice, the adaptation financing provided for the Global South is not enough. And there’s more: The very people who are hit hardest by the climate crises are not receiving the money. The adaptation index that Brot für die Welt presented at the 28th UN Climate Conference in Dubai ([brot-fuer-die-welt.de/climate-adaption-index](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/climate-adaption-index)) illustrates that. It measures whether international adaptation financing relating to climate risks in countries in the Global South is being distributed fairly. The results are clear and anything but fair. The 14 nations with the highest climate risk are also the 14 most underfunded.

The index therefore recommends giving high-risk countries faster and more effective access to climate funding and focusing on fragile countries to achieve more just distribution.

Climate justice also took centre stage at the educational trade fair didacta, which was held in March in Stuttgart. Employees of Brot für die Welt presented the concept of regenerative education from the partner organisation SCOPE from Malawi to teachers. This concept is supposed to prepare pupils for the challenges of the future. School is conceived as cross-generational and holistic in this concept. This means parents learn something as well, such as managing permaculture gardens. They use their new knowledge at home and, in turn, put their gardens at the disposal of the schools as learning places.



| James Bhagwan: “We have nowhere to flee in the Pacific.”

The “handprint” was also developed for educational work. By now many people know what they can do to live more sustainably. The ecological footprint concept provides good orientation for that. But their efforts to live more sustainably can be frustrated and frustrating when sustainable options are complicated, expensive or not even available.

This is where the handprint comes into play. Framework conditions can be changed so that sustainable behaviour is easier, less expensive or even the standard. For example, in implementing the concept of an “edible city” municipalities make unused urban areas available for urban gardening to give people low-threshold access to healthy, regional and organic food production. The visionary ideas and innovative solution approaches that can be interactively explored at [handabdruck.eu](https://handabdruck.eu) were inspired by partner organisations of Brot für die Welt.



### Political work

# Migration is everyday business around the world.

Migration was one of the main focuses of Brot für die Welt's lobby work last year.

More people were refugees in 2023 than ever before: 110 million were fleeing persecution, war or natural disasters. Most of them, about two thirds, fled within their own countries. 85 percent of those who went abroad live in developing countries.

So much for the hard facts. Once a number becomes a name, we begin understanding what it means to flee. The Russian journalist Angelina Davydova was forced to flee her native city of St. Petersburg in March 2022. She is now trying to fight the Russian government's propaganda from Berlin. When her friends' flats were searched, it was time for her to leave the country. Since 2014 the former head of the Russisch-Deutsches Büro für Umweltinformation (Russian-German Office for Environmental Information) has advised the management of Brot für die Welt in strategic questions as a member of the Global Reference Group. She says, "Exile journalism has become an important facet of the global media world." Exile journalists mostly report on their countries of origin and thus provide insight into their closed societies. The Internet allows them to give people who remained at home information they cannot receive through censored local media. At the same time, the journalists create bridges to their host countries.

But by no means everyone who tries to get to Europe, North America or industrialised Asian states succeeds. Prosperous regions wall themselves off as best they can. Cooperating with third nations in controlling migration movements heading towards Europe has become one of the EU's central pillars in migration policy. Since 2015 it has been trying to coerce African countries like Senegal, Niger and Tunisia to

take responsibility for controlling migration through so-called "migration partnerships". The EU promises concessions in return. Brot für die Welt examined the partnerships with Niger and Tunisia in particular together with Misereor and concluded that these so-called "partnerships" have serious consequences for human rights and economies. However, they could neither stop the migration movements nor put a stop to criminal smuggling and human trafficking networks.



Jeffrey Opoku (Sustainability Week Accra), Siri Hummel (Maecenata Institute), Isa Krischke (Border Violence Monitoring Network) and Silke Pfeiffer (Brot für die Welt) discuss the critical situation faced by migrant defenders in Berlin's Futurium (from left to right).

Advocates for the rights of refugees and migrants are experiencing pressure around the world. The "Atlas der Zivilgesellschaft" ("Civil Society Atlas") that was published for the sixth time in 2023 addressed these migrant defenders. In Greece organisations working

in the field of asylum, migration and social integration must undergo a multi-level registration process before they can become active. It is elaborate, not transparent and, costing up to 25,000 euros, expensive. In Mexico non-government organisations (NGOs) that provide legal consulting for migrants are prevented from carrying out their work, sometimes with violence. Some of their employees are thrown out of the offices of the migration authorities or photographed without their consent and threatened. And the authorities have their eyes on the sea rescuers in the Mediterranean.

Brot für die Welt's research revealed that the 24 rescue ships NGOs sent to the Mediterranean were inhibited a total of 1,116 weeks from 2016 to 2023. That corresponds to almost one third of their possible weeks of deployment. Where the EU is concerned Dagmar Pruin, President of Brot für die Welt, says: "Governments obstruct sea rescue efforts in the Mediterranean on a massive scale. Death is supposed to scare people away. It's a cynical game with human life."

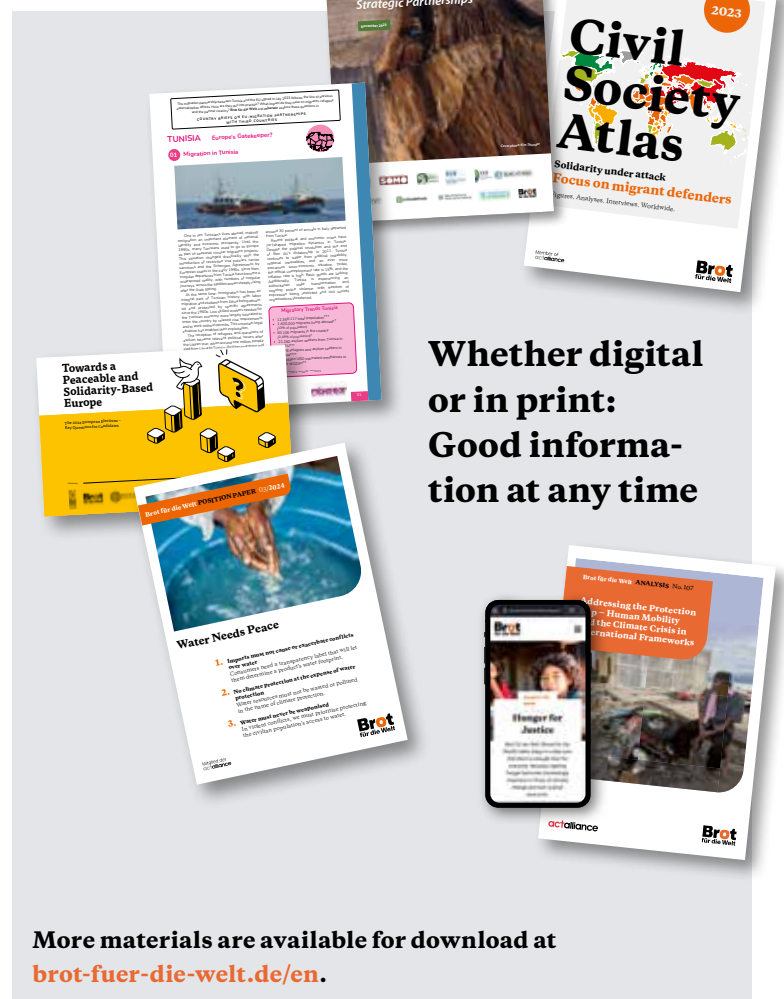
Smartphones have become essential aids for many refugees. They help refugees stay in contact with family and friends, get their bearings while they are on the run and organise help. At the same time, they have become targets of state authorities. They localise refugees' mobile phones, confiscate them or read out data that is saved on them.

The web dossier "Mit dem Smartphone auf der Flucht" ("On the Run with a Smartphone"), which Brot für die Welt published last year, makes it possible to interactively experience everything a smartphone means to people on the run.

But the topic of migration is much bigger: Most people who no longer live in their native countries did not flee. They wanted to study abroad, start a new job or found the love of their life in another country. They bring labour power, skills, ideas and their culture as well. Many destination countries use their potential, especially the ageing societies in Europe. By sending money to their families, migrants also help their countries of origin fight poverty. The global everyday world of migration is therefore not a threat that needs to be fought using fences, walls and restrictive laws; it is a development factor for both countries of origin and destination.

This is clear in the health care sector in particular. The corona virus pandemic exposed the global shortage of health care staff. In Germany, the Deutscher Pflegerat (German Care Council) says approximately 500,000 positions in medical care will be vacant by 2030. In October Brot für die Welt published a policy addressing which prerequisites would be needed to

## Public relations work



**Whether digital or in print: Good information at any time**

**More materials are available for download at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/en](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/en).**

recruit health care professionals from the Global South for Germany.

In that policy we demand that all countries, primarily in a national context, build up sustainable levels of health care professionals. We also demand that Germany support this effort as part of international co-operation. If health care workers are recruited from the Global South, this can happen only taking the "WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel" into account. Additionally, during each recruitment procedure those involved must make sure there is reliable information on the staff supply in the country of origin in order to structure and readjust programmes accordingly. That is the only way the negative effects of third parties actively enticing labour can be reduced as much as possible and migration can make a positive contribution to social development.

More information on Brot für die Welt's Human rights work at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/human-rights](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/human-rights)

### Development-related Educational Work

# Learning from the Global South

The educational work of Brot für die Welt stimulates people to reflect upon their own perspectives and explicitly takes up suggestions from people who do not come from Europe or North America.

“Search for the good” was the motto of the study day at the plenary meeting of scholarship holders in 2023. Participants expressly demanded a social, ecological and economic transformation and a response to the threats posed by climate change, whose effects are particularly palpable in the Global South. Discussions made it clear that the rhetoric revolving around growth, efficiency and increased productivity has reached its limits. “Keep going!” or “a bit different” are not viable solutions for structures of injustice influenced by colonialism and distancing from questions of global injustice.

The search for alternative futures also plays an important role in the seminars offered by the educational unit Bildungsstelle Nord. Seminar titles like “Radikale Zärtlichkeit als Ansatz für kritischen Aktivismus und transformative Bildung” (“Radical tenderness as an approach to critical activism and transformative education”) or “Ermutigung in der Klimakrise – Unterwegs auf neuen (Lern-)Wegen” (“Encouragement during the climate crisis: Taking new paths (of learning)”), which reflect the current developments in Brot für die Welt’s educational work, demonstrate this. The seminars encourage participants to question prevailing knowledge structures and their own patterns of thought and interpretation by critiquing power.

The seminars’ approaches follow those of philosophers with origins in the Global South. For instance, the concept of radical tenderness comes from Dani d’Emilia’s “Radical Tenderness Manifesto”: Radical tenderness means collectivising our hearts so they do not fall apart themselves and from each other. That does not mean becoming resigned, but rather seeking new paths as a global community in the spirit of actively lived hope. The goal is to develop counter-drafts

for ways of life and economic systems that supposedly have no alternative.

A prerequisite for doing so is the willingness to UNlearn by questioning Eurocentric concepts that appear to be self-evident. That strengthens the yearning for a world in which we respect ecological and human limits and understand living space as a common home for different forms of life. It also challenges participants to image numerous different futures, for which we need to add different perspectives and stories to our canon of knowledge. Educational work can build bridges here.



Activists of the Brot für die Welt youth group present the supply chain behind a pair of jeans at Youthtopia in Weimar.

That is why the educational work done by Brot für die Welt tries to incorporate the largest possible number of perspectives and concrete stimuli for acting. It hopes to stimulate children and adolescents to reflect



and encourage them to form their own opinions. With the existing plethora of information, that is not always easy, especially where the categories “right” and “wrong” have become suspect.

Nonetheless, an important power lies in the diversity of opinions, interpretations and perspectives that are shaped by individual experiences, values and cultural contexts. Common spaces of dialogue and exchange that make it possible to become familiar with this variety of knowledge and perspectives promote people’s search for their own truth, one which remains in motion each time new information is added.

We at Brot für die Welt draw upon experiences of partner organisations, scholarship recipients and volunteers from Cambodia, Zambia and Costa Rica in this process. They enrich our knowledge, expand opportunities for action and motivate us to address global questions of justice.

To make these kinds of opportunities known, our website [handabdruck.eu](http://handabdruck.eu) shows how people can make their lives more sustainable together. After they have answered six questions about their motivation and strengths, they receive a tailored proposal for an action that changes structures, such as setting up a school garden, ecologically managing church land or making sure that no more food is wasted.

Brot für die Welt’s domestic programme supported over 600 projects that broaden horizons in the last two years. By focusing support on de-colonialism, it particularly emphasised promoting narratives that question Eurocentric perspectives. These narratives critically address colonial history, which is a major cause of global injustice and distortion to this day.

The domestic programme report for 2022/23 ([brot-fuer-die-welt.de/inlandsfoerderbericht](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/inlandsfoerderbericht), in German) presents some of the initiatives and projects that developed strategies together with activists from the Global South and learn from them in order to bolster solidarity projects in Germany. Especially in times of war, climate change and other disasters, these numerous initiatives, both small and large, help create a more just, solidary and better-informed world.

You can find more information on our educational work in German at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/bildung](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/bildung).

### Strategic consultation

## Joint development

The Global Reference Group (GRG) advises the management of Brot für die Welt regarding strategic questions. The committee is restaffed every four years. At its first meeting with a new group of members, held from 13 to 16 February 2024, the committee focused on anti-racism and de-colonisation, change in the geopolitical landscape and the political shift to the right in many nations; the committee reflected upon their effects on joint work. While collaboration regarding content has been carried out in partnerships on equal footing for many years, discourses on de-colonialism and diversity are contributing fresh perspectives and impetuses for institutional development. The new GRG will provide consultation on what further steps regarding existing points of connection and dialogue could look like.



| The third Global Reference Group at its meeting with the management of Brot für die Welt in Berlin.

James Bhagwan (PCC, Fiji), Angelina Davydova (Russian Rederation), Rosemary Viswanath (FMSF, India) have already been part of the second GRG. The following new members were selected: Ayoko Bahun-Wilson (F2A, Kenya), Renate Gierus (FLD, Brazil), Luis Muñoz (R3D, Mexico), Paula Litvachky (CELS, Argentina), Kenneth Mtata (WCC, Zimbabwe), Jane Nalunga (SEATINI, Uganda) and Marvin Parvez (CWSA, Pakistan). To diversify the perspectives further, Hanzline Davis (IAM, South Africa) and Smutri Patel (GMI, India) are involved as two members who have had no relationship with Brot für die Welt through partnerships; this type of member is on the committee for the first time.



Small-scale farmer Claudine Hashazinyange started a savings group: Inhabitants of the village Buburu in Malawi deposit money on a regular basis so the group can give its members loans for investments. The food security in Buburu has improved since it was founded.

# Three strong pillars of financing

The funding for our work comes from three sources: donations, state and church funds. External auditors and the DZI-Spendensiegel (German Central Institute for Donations, DZI) guarantee our supporters that we carefully and effectively use their money.

## In dialogue

# “Global justice is a tough topic of the future”

## How do you assess the income from donations and collections last year?

**Jörg Kruttschnitt** — The income for the year 2023 included the second-highest level of donations in the history of Brot für die Welt. In 2022 people’s willingness to help was especially great owing to the war of aggression in Ukraine and the hunger crises in Eastern Africa. Our income from donations was slightly lower in 2023 than in 2022. Collections increased considerably again after the corona virus had receded. We are very grateful to our supporters for both their donations and collections.

## Why did Brot für die Welt need to consolidate its budget last year?

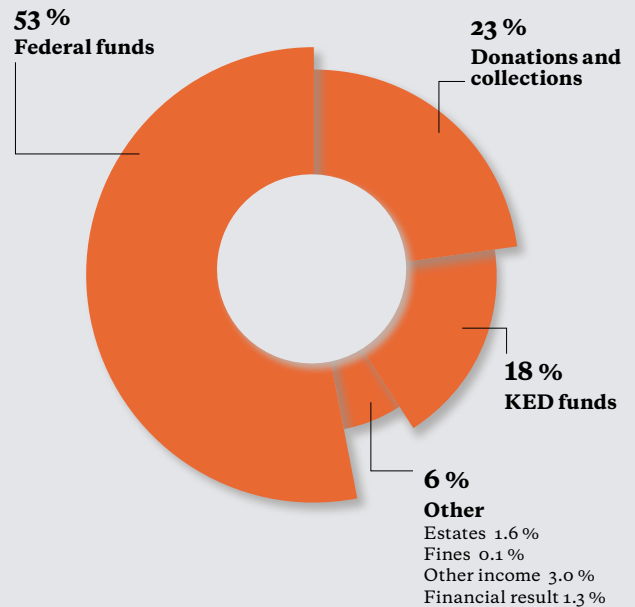
**JK** — The fact that we constantly optimise our work and question whether it is addressing the most important changes is nothing special. These kinds of efforts are an ongoing task. The main reason why we had to make an especially large effort last year is because federal funds for our projects are being cut. Also, since we pay salaries based on the TVÖD pay scale for public service, the historically high wage agreement for 2023 and 2024 plays an important role. That is why we have regrouped and reallocated, consolidated tasks and created additional synergies.

## How is Brot für die Welt reacting to the fact that the money available for projects is decreasing?

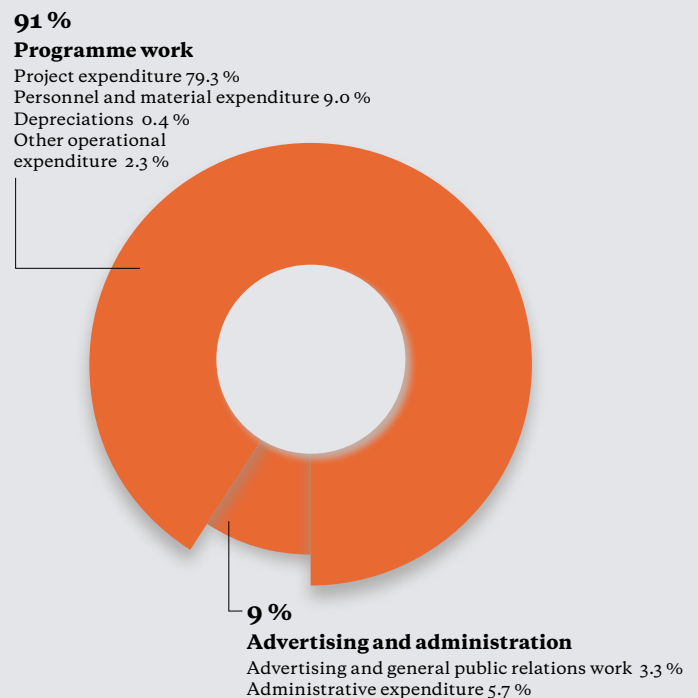
**JK** — Our primary approach is to prevent reductions in funding. Sustainability, global justice and food security aren’t exactly niche issues. They are tough future issues! On an international scale, the federal government has committed to devoting 0.7 percent of the gross national income to public development services. That is increasingly important in a multi-polar and interdependent world. International partnerships require long-term maintenance.



**Jörg Kruttschnitt** has been the chief executive finance, human resources and law since 2012. He studied law and theology and received his doctoral degree in protestant theology. After that, he worked as an economic lawyer and was a member of the executive board of Diakonisches Werk Bayern.



**Sources of funding in 2023**  
Percentage



**Use of funds in 2023**  
Percentage



## Annual accounts

	Brot für die Welt (incl. EZE and DÜ)		Brot für die Welt (incl. EZE and DÜ)	
	2023 in euros	%	2022 in euros	%
Sources of funding				
Donations and collections	75,944,001.54	22.9	75,614,619.01	22.4
of which donations to “Bündnis Entwicklung hilft”	7,960,095.98		5,919,374.39	
Estates	5,249,161.44	1.6	3,519,223.67	1.0
Fines	300,714.88	0.1	356,563.70	0.1
Church Development Service funds	58,952,100.00	17.8	64,594,822.20	19.1
Third-party contributions	176,606,177.33	53.3	186,135,795.88	55.2
European Union	1,337,729.99		1,176,654.30	
State fundings	172,908,293.42		182,098,285.63	
other third-party contributions	2,360,153.92		2,860,855.95	
Other income:	10,041,206.55	3.0	7,443,722.48	2.2
Financial result	4,450,866.02	1.3	244,631.49	0.1
of which financial income	6,162,281.16		5,185,195.26	
of which financial expenditure	1,711,415.14		4,940,563.77	
Total funding	331,544,227.76	100.0	337,909,378.43	100.0
Use of funds				
Programme work	288,090,188.29	91.0	290,561,170.74	92.0
Project expenditure	251,050,291.82		253,043,794.32	
Material expenditure	900.00		34,465.88	
Personnel expenditure	28,540,335.60		30,203,820.83	
Depreciations	1,164,320.85		824,925.50	
other operational expenditure	7,334,340.02		6,454,164.21	
Advertising and public relations	10,508,891.21	3.3	7,496,326.92	2.4
Material expenditure	349,229.05		24,837.23	
Personnel expenditure	2,507,128.35		1,050,144.64	
Depreciations	99,096.02		35,406.76	
other operational expenditure	7,553,437.79		6,385,938.29	
Administration	18,052,587.33	5.7	17,782,072.97	5.6
Material expenditure	0.00		731,401.44	
Personnel expenditure	9,253,741.01		9,326,648.59	
Depreciations	360,989.83		712,749.45	
other operational expenditure, incl. taxes of which 147,325.56 from taxes (previous year: 165,597.17)	8,437,856.49		7,011,273.49	
Total expenditures	316,651,666.83	100.0	315,839,570.63	100.0

### 75,944,001.54 €

Donations and collections

In 2023 Brot für die Welt received over 75 million euros in donations and collections.

### 288,090,188.29 €

Programme work

In 2023 Brot für die Welt spent over 288 million euros on programme work.

There was a system migration to SAP S/4 HANA in the 2023 fiscal year. During this process, the annual accounts were adapted to the currently valid DZI concept for advertising and administrative expenditure. The figures for 2022 were adapted analogously in this report; nonetheless, they are only comparable to a limited extent.

## Sources of funds/Income

### Total income

In 2023, the total income of Brot für die Welt was 331.5 million euros; it was 6.4 million euros lower than it had been the previous year, which accounted for a 1.9 percent decrease.

### Donations and collections

Donations and collections continue to be the bedrock of Brot für die Welt. They are not just financial resources, but an expression of the commitment of church parishes and individuals to our cause and a source of motivation for us. They demonstrate to the state that we are rooted in church and society, and they are why the state trusts us and allocates funds to us. Like the funds from the Church Development Service (KED), they combine our development work with our church mandate. Income from donations and collections amounted to 75.9 million euros, slightly higher than in the previous year. Collections are demonstrating positive development after the considerable reduction during the first year of the coronavirus pandemic. Income from the "Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft" (Development Helps Alliance) increased to 8.0 million euros in 2023 thanks to people's willingness to help after the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and as a result of the war in Ukraine.

### Church Development Service (KED) funds

Brot für die Welt receives Church Development Service (KED) contributions from the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD). These contributions are a proportion of church taxes reallocated by the regional churches for development work. Amounting to 59 million euros in 2023, they are a key source of funding for our project work and for financing the staff and material costs of the development agency.

### Third-party contributions

Third party contributions are primarily funds provided by the state for church-based development work. Of the 172.9 million euros provided by the German Government, 153.6 million euros (page 33) came from the budget of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 17.3 million euros from the German non-profit organisation Engagement Global gGmbH, 0.6 million euros from the German Foreign Office (for foreign scholarship holders) and around 1.1 million euros from the German Ministry of the Interior for a social project in Romania. These

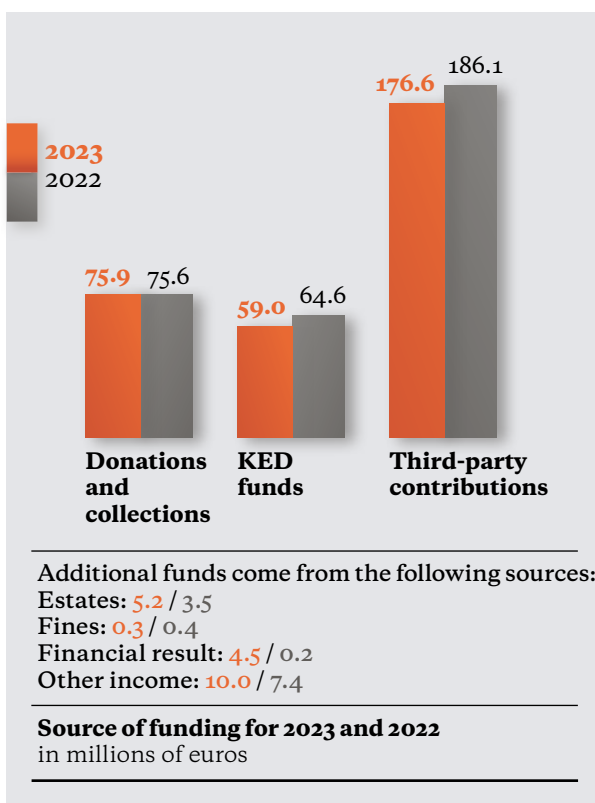
funds are allocated exclusively to project work. Depending on the progress of the project, an application may be made for funds to be paid out, with the amount varying accordingly. We also received 2.4 million euros in other third-party contributions, for example for church-to-church aid projects (1.1 million euros).

### Other income:

Other income in 2023 amounted to ten million euros, a significant increase compared to the previous year. This income primarily comes from the sale of Brot für die Welt merchandise, licensing proceeds and co-operation agreements.

### Financial result

Brot für die Welt receives interest on income because donations are not immediately passed on in full to project partners but released according to project progress. Until they are paid out, the approved earmarked project funding is invested in compliance with ethical criteria. The resulting income enables Brot für die Welt to fulfil important tasks. The financial result in this reporting year increased from 0.2 million to 4.5 million euros.



## Use of funds/Expenditure

### Programme work

Programme work primarily comprises project fund payments amounting to 251.1 million euros (253.0 million euros in 2022) to Brot für die Welt's partner organisations. In addition, all additional staff and material expenses that are required for supporting and evaluating the projects are listed here.

### Advertising and administration

#### • Advertising and public relations

Brot für die Welt uses only means of fundraising donations that are effective, serious and cost-efficient. The costs for advertising and general public relations work amounted to 10.5 million euros in the reporting year, and they thus account for approximately 3.3 percent of the total expenditure (previous year: 2.4 percent). This slight increase compared to the previous year results from a process revision of the DZI corridor assignment during the introduction of SAP S/4 HANA and the associated revision of cost allocations, among other things. We are also investing in online marketing to attract new supporters.

### Publication of annual accounts

The auditor's reports, the annual accounts for the legal entities EWDE, EZE and DÜ, and the certificate from the audit of the annual financial statements will be published after completion of the audit on our website at [www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/ueber-uns/transparenz/jahresbericht](http://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/ueber-uns/transparenz/jahresbericht).

#### • Administration

The administrative expenditure includes the material and staff expenses for the general organisation (e.g. accounting, human resources management) of Brot für die Welt. The expenditure for administration is approximately 18.1 million euros and increased slightly compared to the previous year (17.8 million euros). The administrative expenditure thus accounts for about 5.7 percent of the total result (previous year: 5.6 percent).

According to the DZI criteria, expenditure on advertising and administration was, as in the previous year, "low". That is the best rating that can be awarded.

## Confidential complaint management

Brot für die Welt seeks to protect its staff, partners and target groups both in Germany and abroad against discrimination, sexual harassment, corruption, fraud, abuse of power and conflicts of interest. That is why we decided to adopt a code of conduct, which is also the basis of all partner co-operation agreements.

We have also launched a whistleblower portal where misconduct can be reported (anonymously). The aim of the confidential complaints procedure is to create a working environment based on mutual respect, in which harassment and intimidation are not played down, covered up or tolerated. You can access the whistleblower portal at <https://www.bkms-system.com/ewde>.

## Financial Planning for 2024

Financial planning for 2024	in million of euros		in million of euros
Income	2024	Expenditure	2024
Donations and collections	64.0	Programme work	327.7
Legacies and fines	4.4	Advertising and public relations	5.6
State funding	198.6	Administration	17.8
Church funding	65.9		
Other funding	2.4		
Other income:	13.6		
Financial result	1.7		
<b>Total income</b>	<b>350.6</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>351.2</b>



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## We prevent corruption

Corruption and the abuse of power by organisations or individual members of staff jeopardise project success and the credibility of the implementing partner. Both can lead to even greater poverty and inequality in the countries concerned. Brot für die Welt cannot always prevent the misappropriation or misuse of funds.

But these are rare exceptions. To prevent the funds we allocate to our global partners being embezzled or misappropriated, we rely not only on trust and transparency within our working co-operation, but also on control mechanisms. This protects us and our partner organisations. As early as the project planning phase, we employ independent auditors to ask: Does the partner have an internal monitoring system? Does it have qualified staff to implement the project? In addition, independent auditors regularly examine records to certify whether spending matches up with planned activities.

A team from the Results Management and Internal Project Auditing Department also investigates suspicions of embezzlement and misappropriation and does everything it can to clear up any suspicion. Independent auditors are commissioned to examine the situation on site for this purpose. To continually improve our prevention and educational work, we are in constant communication with other German funding organisations. Details can be found in German at [www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/projekte/qualitaetssicherung](http://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/projekte/qualitaetssicherung).

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## Collaborations and networks

Brot für die Welt is a member of various national and international networks and works closely with other development and aid organisations. This includes the international church network ACT Alliance as well as the Development Helps Alliance and our sister organisation Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

Member of  
**actalliance**

**Diakonie**   
**Katastrophenhilfe**

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a Cultural Committee in Bangladesh, is no  
longer afraid to defend herself when someone  
tries to discriminate against her because she  
is an indigenous person. She is participating  
in a project of the Centre for Capacity Building  
of Voluntary Organization (CCBVO).

**Photos** Kathrin Harms: Titlepage, page 30;  
Jens Schulze: page 3; Florian Kopp: pages  
4/5; Hermann Bredehorst: page 7 (left and  
right); Anne Ackermann: pages 8, 17 (bottom  
right); Dennis Yenmez: page 15; private: page

16 (top left, right), 19; Jonatan Pfeiffenberger  
page 16 (bottom left); L&DC: page 17 (left);  
Michael Klein: page 17 (top right), 29; EPN:  
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August 2024

# Dignity: a must, not a maybe.

Our goal is a world without hunger,  
poverty, or injustice, a world in  
which everyone can live in dignity.

**[brot-fuer-die-welt.de/en](http://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/en)**

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**Dignity for all of humankind.**