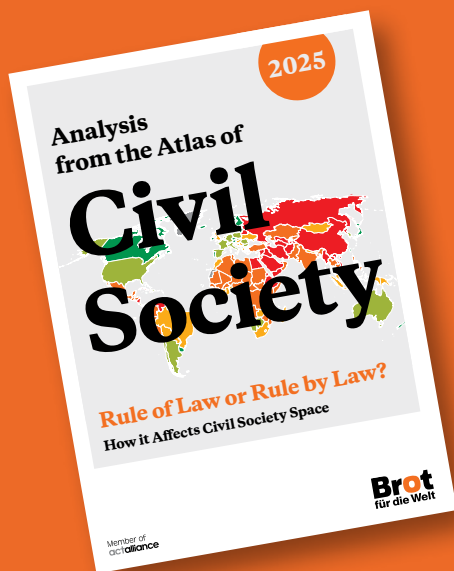


# Annual report

## 2024

Member of  
**actalliance**

**Brot**  
für die Welt



Civil society actors worldwide have alarmingly little room for action. Only three and a half per cent of the world's population live in states with unrestricted civil society freedoms, while more than 72 per cent live in countries with suppressed or closed civil societies.

In many states, institutions of the rule of law are denied the legitimacy to control the executive branch or protect minority rights. At the same time, the law is increasingly being used for repression: Governments are abusing existing laws or creating new ones in order to combat civil society actors or to hinder journalists in their work. Our report shows the situation around the globe and how the rule of law is coming under pressure worldwide.

You can find more information on this topic at  
**[brot-fuer-die-welt.de/analysis-atlas](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/analysis-atlas)**

## About us

Brot für die Welt is part of a global movement committed to bringing about worldwide change: we advocate for a world where everyone can live in dignity, enjoy equal rights, resources are shared fairly and planetary boundaries respected both now and in the future.

Our Christian identity defines our commitment and gives us hope that we can make a difference. Alongside our more than 1.600 partner organisations, we empower marginalised people in over 80 countries

to take control of their lives and use their own resources to improve their long-term prospects. We believe in human rights, peace, a vibrant democracy, and universal access to education, health and water. We fight hunger, poverty and the adverse effects of climate change. To this end, we raise our voice for global justice.

We are more than just a charity – we see ourselves as an active part of global civil society and truly believe that united we can make a difference.



**Your donation makes  
a difference!**

**[www.dzi.de](https://www.dzi.de)**



Dr Dagmar Pruin and  
Gloria Nimpundu, Director  
of Ripple Effect Burundi

## Foreword Dear Reader,

The world seems to be falling apart, and a glance at the news leaves many people feeling hopeless. Brot für die Welt's projects, on the other hand, tell stories of hope and motivate people to stand up for each other and for the next generation. To make this clear, Brot für die Welt launched the campaign "Schreib die Welt nicht ab, schreib sie um" ("Don't write off the world, rewrite it") last year: We dare to try new things, exchange visions for change and remain confident. And hope, trust and confidence are at the heart of the Christian faith.

That is why we are looking for ideas that change the world. Everyone can participate. Courage and courageous intervention are needed to make the future better. Because there is good news: the number of people suffering from hunger has fallen by around 200 million since 1990, even though the world's population has grown by 2.7 billion people since then. The number of children who die before their fifth birthday is only half of what it was three decades ago thanks to better healthcare. Development cooperation and the work done by Brot für die Welt have contributed to this.

To ensure that this success story continues, organisations such as Ripple Effect Burundi, a partner organisation of Brot für die Welt, are fighting every day to make poverty and hunger a thing of the past for more and more people. Ripple Effect helps small-scale farmers and their families to provide themselves with sufficient and healthy food. The employees focus primarily on women, who receive seeds or small livestock, for example, and the start-up capital to lease a field. With the knowledge acquired in training courses, the families can increase their production, sell the surplus and diversify their sources of income. The current project benefits around 3,000 small-scale farmers and their families.

In order to continue achieving such success, structures and mindsets must be changed. Colonial continuities remain prevalent in global and national systems, organisations, minds and hearts. As a development actor from the Global North, Brot für die Welt has a special responsibility to call this problem by its name and courageously strive for change. And we do this in the knowledge that, as an organisation in Germany and as a partner organisation in the country, we can only accomplish this work together and that Brot für die Welt relies on the knowledge and wisdom of its partners.

We want to rewrite the world together with you!

Best wishes,

Dr Dagmar Pruin  
President of Brot für die Welt

Gloria Nimpundu  
Director of Ripple Effect Burundi

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Working together, celebrating together: Church service in the Catholic church in Gisozi in the project area of the partner organisation Ripple Effect Burundi.



# Report of the Executive Board

## Current Challenges

The year 2024 was challenging for Brot für die Welt, but it also pointed the way ahead. We are very concerned about the increasing influence of autocratic regimes around the world. The fact that social spaces for engaging in civil society are becoming increasingly restricted (“shrinking spaces”) affects us and our partner organisations to a considerable extent. In many partner countries, human rights defenders, church actors and civil society organisations are being threatened and restricted by new laws. In Paraguay, an “anti-NGO law” came into force that places civil society organisations under general suspicion, undermines their independence and violates the right to freedom of association. Similarly repressive legislative initiatives have been introduced in the parliaments of Peru and Zimbabwe. This development reflects a deeper crisis: the progressive division of societies along political, economic and ethnic lines of conflict.

Societies in the Global North are also highly polarised. Fundamental democratic values are coming under fire, as the “Atlas der Zivilgesellschaft” (Civil Society Atlas) clearly demonstrates. The election of Donald Trump as President of the United States was followed by a sharp turnaround in US foreign and development policy when he took office in early 2025. The US President’s disruptive policies are reinforcing a trend: Internationally, development cooperation has been under pressure for years, especially in countries that have, traditionally, been very dedicated, such as the UK and the Scandinavian states. In Germany, too, development cooperation is being publicly defamed - fuelled by right-wing populist forces that are stirring up resentment against international solidarity (see page 26).

As a church-based development organisation, Brot für die Welt is committed to justice and human dignity and works with its international network to counter these types of developments. We will continue to resolutely fulfil our role as a bridge builder and advocate for human dignity and social justice.

## Financial Situation

The tense global political situation also has an impact on the financial framework conditions under which we work. In 2024, the funds received by Brot für die Welt from the German federal budget fell to 168 million euros (2023: 172.9 million euros), and a further reduction in the amount of public development funding has

been announced by the new federal government for 2025. It is not yet clear how this decrease will impact the financing of the work of church development organisations. The reduction in funding creates uncertainty and makes long-term planning more difficult - especially in regions where sustainable development work and promotion of peace are urgently needed.

Against this backdrop, Brot für die Welt has stepped up its fundraising activities and launched new third-party funding initiatives. In doing so, we rely on alliances with ecumenical networks, foundations and civil society actors worldwide. One example is the project “Territorial Resilience and Revitalisation of the Citizenry” in Honduras, which began in March of 2025. It is receiving a contribution of 900,000 euros from the European Union and is being implemented by our Central America Regional Office and two partner organisations. It contributes to sustainable development and promotes human rights and democracy in the Central American country.

Thanks to the increased income from other third-party funds (6.1 million euros; 2023: 3.7 million euros) and church funds (62.7 million euros; 2023: 59 million euros), as well as slight increases in donations, collections, bequests and fines (82.3 million euros; 2023: 81.5 million euros), Brot für die Welt had 332.3 million euros available for its development work in 2024 - almost unchanged compared to the previous year (for details, see page 30 et seq.).

## Development Cooperation as Peace Policy

We understand development cooperation not only as fighting poverty or providing economic support, but also explicitly as peace policy. Our projects promote social cohesion, strengthen local dialogue structures and create prospects for disadvantaged groups. One impressive example of this is the Congolese partner organisation Communauté Baptiste au Centre de l’Afrique (CBCA) in Goma. In an environment shaped by crises and war, it strives to continue training young people in agricultural and skilled trades and to help them set up their own businesses. This gives them an economic alternative to joining the militias. CBCA also runs numerous healthcare facilities, which also treat many patients with gunshot wounds and women who have been raped. Trauma management and peace education are taken into account at every point along the way. Church organisations in this area reach people where state structures no longer suffice. CBCA works tirelessly to create a dialogue between



Josephine Fyfy learned metalworking at the training centre of our partner organisation CBCA. Now she teaches young people in the metalworking shop herself.

different population groups and political decision-makers, thus enabling conflict resolution across cultural, religious and political boundaries without armed violence.

The close link between humanitarian, development and peace policy approaches is a unique feature of our work. We see it as our responsibility not only to alleviate symptoms, but also to play an active role in transforming the causes of conflict – through education, equal rights and economic participation, as well as by strengthening democratic structures.

### Long-standing Partnerships

This clearly illustrates the unique contribution made by church-based development cooperation. Our long-standing relationships with local partner organisations, often in regions that are difficult to access, allow us to act flexibly and with trust.

Especially in times of social division and growing uncertainty, the principles of charity, solidarity and universal human dignity remain the cornerstones of our actions. Our objective remains to keep spaces for freedom, human dignity and peaceful development open and to expand them where they are threatened.

I would like to thank all the employees of Brot für die Welt and its partner organisations, the Protestant regional churches and free churches along with their congregations, our donors and the German government for their efforts in this joint endeavour. Together, we shape change – with courage, principles and solidarity – and thereby have a life-changing impact on millions of people.



*Dagmar Pruin*

**Dr Dagmar Pruin, President of Brot für die Welt**



Participants in a savings group in the village of Buburu are working on the field that they have leased as a community with the support of the partner organisation Ripple Effect Burundi. They are terracing the uneven ground and planting fast-growing grass at the edge of their field to keep out the wind and prevent erosion.

# 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.

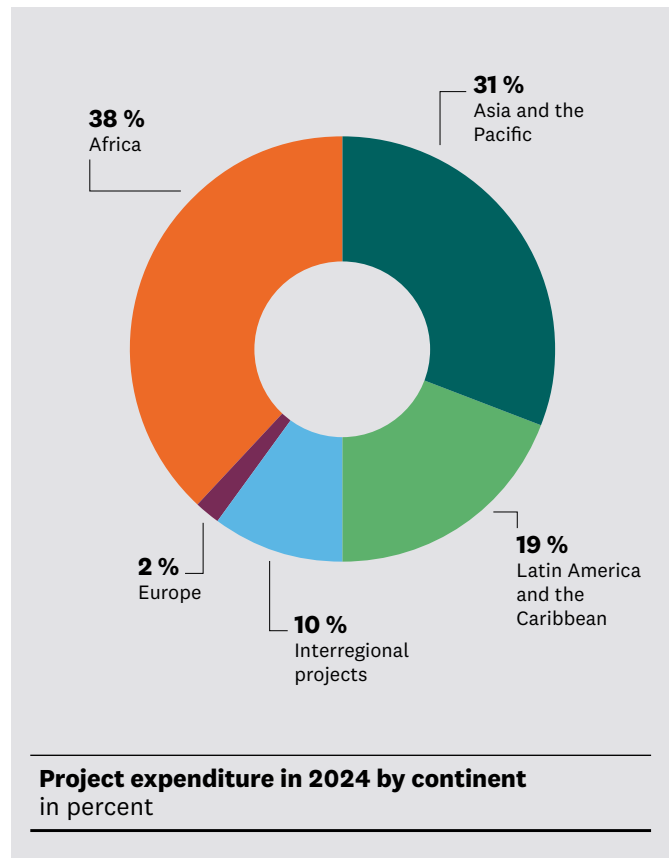
## Projects by Continent

# Regional Focuses Were Africa and Asia

In 2024 Brot für die Welt supported 2,107 projects in 80 countries with a total of 207.6 million euros.

Africa and Asia/the Pacific were the regions we focused on. 791 projects in Africa received a total of 78 million euros of support, and in Asia and the Pacific region 699 projects received 65.3 million euros. 407 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean received 38.5 million euros in funding, and 53 projects in Europe were awarded 4.9 million euros.

That means 38 percent of the funds awarded went to Africa and 31 percent to Asia and the Pacific region. 19 percent went to Latin America/the Caribbean and two percent to European countries. Ten percent of the funds were allocated to interregional projects in 2024. Project funds for scholarships and specialists are not included in this percentage calculation.



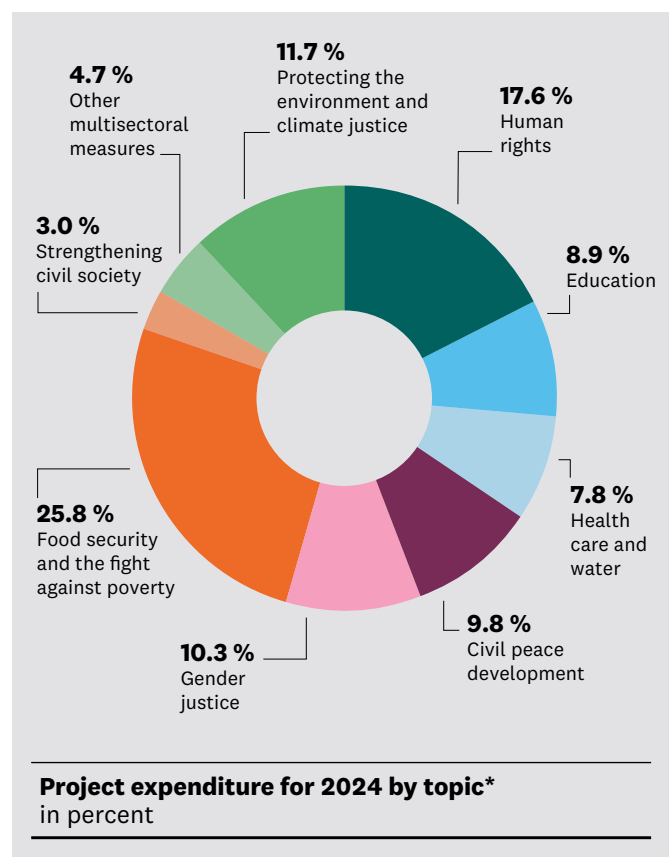
## Projects by Topic

# Focus on Food Security and the Fight Against 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 2024.

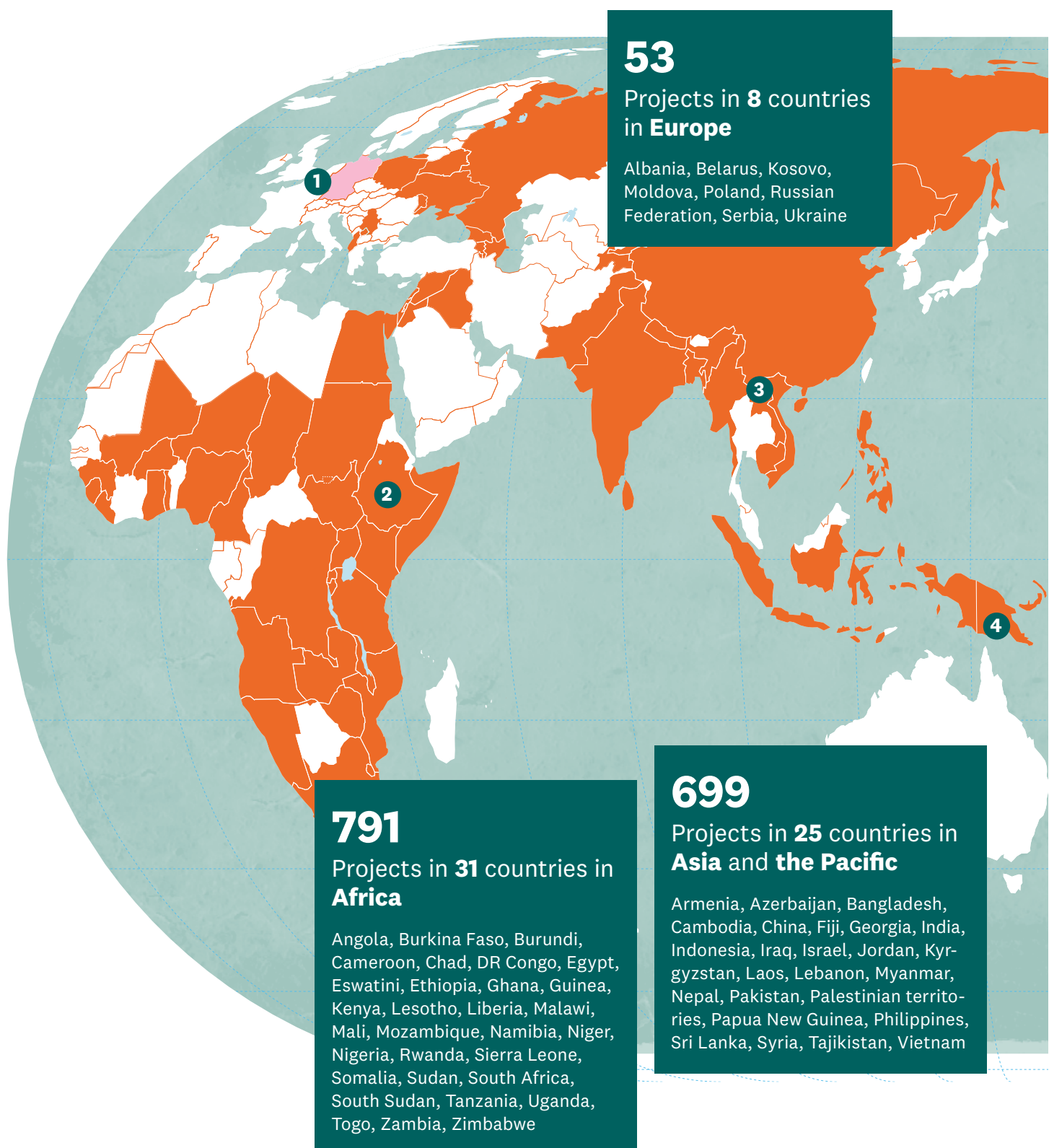
Brot für die Welt primarily approved projects in the following areas in 2024:

- Food security and the fight against poverty
- Human rights
- Protecting the environment and climate justice
- Gender justice
- Civil peace development
- Education
- Health care and water
- Strengthening civil society
- Other multisectoral measures (including seconding specialists, scholarships, and partner consultation)



\*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





# 2.919\*

projects in **81** countries  
around the world

\*with scholarships, support and  
evaluation, as well as specialists,  
Civil Peace Service and educational  
projects in Germany

## 157

interregional  
projects **around  
the world**

## 407

Projects in **16** countries  
in **Latin America and the  
Caribbean**

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

Our offices and regional offices (VEST) abroad

- 1 EU Office of Brot für die Welt**  
advocacy@brot-fuer-die-welt.de
- 2 VEST Horn of Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
bekele.mulatu@padd-africa.org
- 3 VEST Vietnam/Laos in Hanoi, Vietnam**  
frau.uke.peters-barisic@brot-fuer-die-welt.de
- 4 VEST Pacific in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**  
t.czerwinski@vest-pacific.org
- 5 VEST Central America in San José, Costa Rica**  
barbara.kuehlen@brot-fuer-die-welt.de
- 6 VEST Andes in Lima, Peru**  
adrian.oelschlegel@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

# Worldwide Projects



## Africa

|                         | Project expenditure<br>in euros | Number<br>Projects |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Africa, continent wide* | 10,209,302.96                   | 64                 |
| Angola                  | 1,610,486.30                    | 18                 |
| Burkina Faso            | 1,428,094.10                    | 15                 |
| Burundi                 | 772,619.19                      | 11                 |
| Cameroon                | 2,982,455.74                    | 44                 |
| Chad                    | 2,047,913.80                    | 18                 |
| DR Congo                | 5,076,570.35                    | 50                 |
| Egypt                   | 1,471,087.40                    | 10                 |
| Eswatini                | 492,713.37                      | 8                  |
| Ethiopia                | 8,715,845.56                    | 85                 |
| Ghana                   | 666,697.06                      | 13                 |
| Guinea                  | 852,400.20                      | 12                 |
| Kenya                   | 5,754,718.42                    | 44                 |
| Lesotho                 | 648,412.30                      | 9                  |
| Liberia                 | 1,394,469.65                    | 18                 |
| Malawi                  | 1,585,761.19                    | 21                 |
| Mali                    | 1,223,334.40                    | 13                 |
| Mozambique              | 3,201,484.92                    | 27                 |
| Namibia                 | 1,209,946.18                    | 18                 |
| Niger                   | 654,770.65                      | 10                 |
| Nigeria                 | 1,753,922.51                    | 24                 |
| Rwanda                  | 568,467.07                      | 10                 |
| Sierra Leone            | 2,874,340.26                    | 25                 |
| Somalia                 | 1,079,941.80                    | 5                  |
| South Africa            | 4,869,885.30                    | 45                 |
| South Sudan             | 2,098,281.96                    | 12                 |
| Sudan                   | 676,188.00                      | 7                  |
| Tanzania                | 3,579,871.40                    | 44                 |
| Togo                    | 1,200,788.10                    | 20                 |
| Uganda                  | 3,623,672.89                    | 33                 |
| Zambia                  | 828,183.18                      | 15                 |
| Zimbabwe                | 2,845,474.35                    | 43                 |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>77,998,100.56</b>            | <b>791</b>         |



## Europe

|                         |                     |           |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Europe, continent wide* | 883,366.40          | 11        |
| Albania                 | 357,981.70          | 6         |
| Belarus                 | 91,532.00           | 2         |
| Kosovo                  | 421,145.90          | 6         |
| Moldova                 | 181,379.47          | 4         |
| Poland                  | 17,000.00           | 1         |
| Russian Federation      | 755,820.56          | 9         |
| Serbia                  | 494,507.00          | 6         |
| Ukraine                 | 1,692,727.50        | 8         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>4,895,460.53</b> | <b>53</b> |



## Latin America and the Caribbean

|                          |                      |            |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| America, continent wide* | 4,313,905.36         | 38         |
| Argentina                | 1,284,351.80         | 17         |
| Bolivia                  | 2,329,232.04         | 33         |
| Brazil                   | 8,025,366.62         | 49         |
| Columbia                 | 3,534,865.26         | 41         |
| Costa Rica               | 356,430.52           | 7          |
| Cuba                     | 772,941.86           | 12         |
| Dominican Republic       | 1,534.99             | 1          |
| Ecuador                  | 1,493,143.12         | 19         |
| El Salvador              | 1,238,080.17         | 16         |
| Guatemala                | 2,484,476.91         | 5          |
| Haiti                    | 484,270.37           | 9          |
| Honduras                 | 1,328,304.70         | 19         |
| Mexico                   | 3,669,200.92         | 56         |
| Nicaragua                | 590,356.70           | 6          |
| Paraguay                 | 634,693.05           | 10         |
| Peru                     | 5,922,607.54         | 69         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>38,463,761.93</b> | <b>407</b> |



## Asia and the Pacific

|                         |                      |            |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Asia, continent wide*   | 7,632,801.78         | 64         |
| Armenia                 | 1,583,338.98         | 17         |
| Azerbaijan              | 26,498.00            | 1          |
| Bangladesh              | 6,495,163.71         | 42         |
| Cambodia                | 4,262,038.63         | 41         |
| China                   | 414,048.10           | 8          |
| Fiji                    | 977,074.73           | 9          |
| Georgia                 | 1,641,892.81         | 21         |
| India                   | 8,514,627.88         | 102        |
| Indonesia               | 6,509,003.65         | 77         |
| Iraq                    | 3,203.80             | 1          |
| Israel                  | 1,348,932.64         | 21         |
| Jordan                  | 175,015.20           | 2          |
| Kyrgyzstan              | 1,414,357.53         | 7          |
| Laos                    | 1,668,510.10         | 18         |
| Lebanon                 | 893,987.00           | 12         |
| Myanmar                 | 4,043,832.72         | 41         |
| Nepal                   | 2,250,547.85         | 28         |
| Pakistan                | 1,458,577.40         | 13         |
| Palestinian territories | 3,100,228.21         | 46         |
| Papua New Guinea        | 2,868,806.05         | 32         |
| Philippines             | 3,294,930.36         | 40         |
| Sri Lanka               | 709,844.28           | 14         |
| Syria                   | 169,264.20           | 2          |
| Tajikistan              | 116,515.20           | 1          |
| Vietnam                 | 3,753,095.55         | 39         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>65,326,136.36</b> | <b>699</b> |

## Interregional Projects

|       |               |     |
|-------|---------------|-----|
| Total | 20,930,618.46 | 157 |
|-------|---------------|-----|

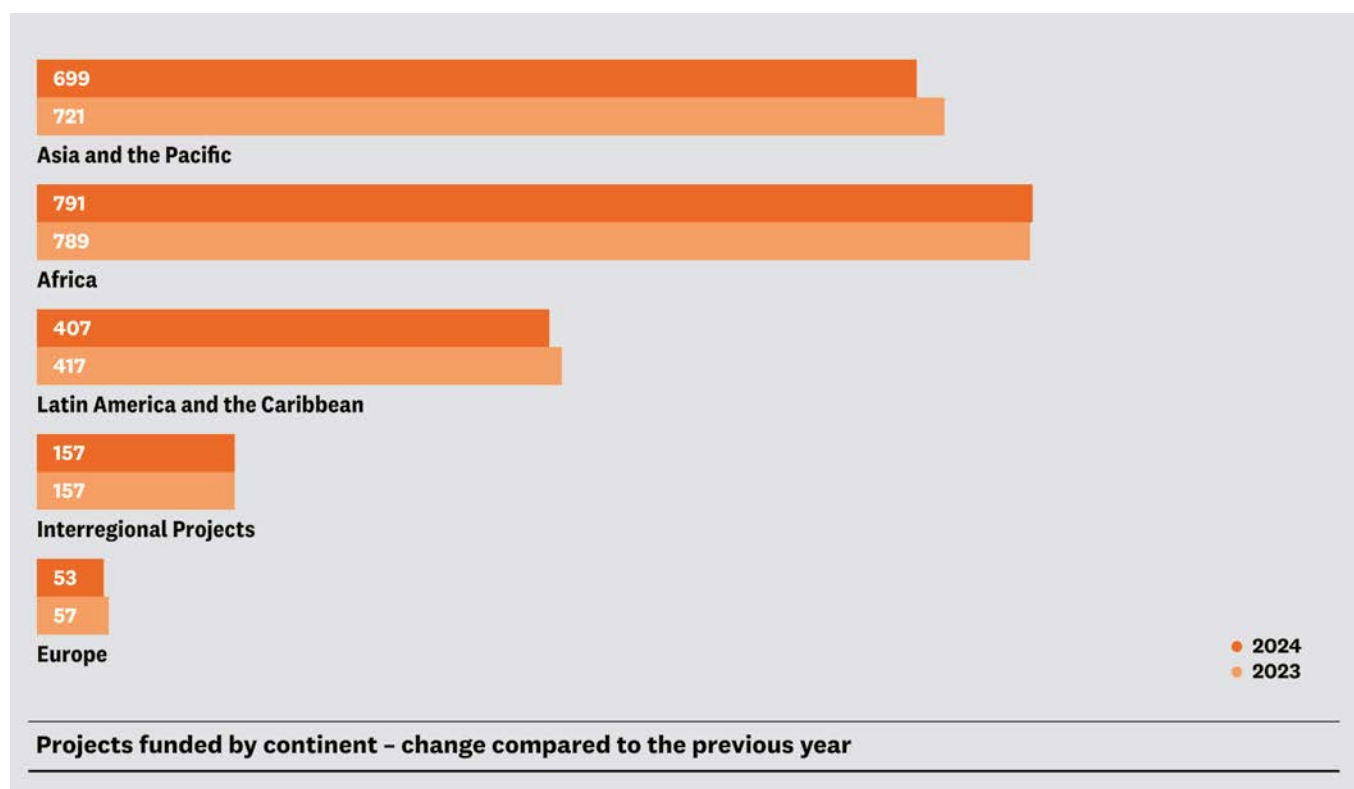
## Total Projects

|                           |                       |              |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>207,614,077.84</b> | <b>2,107</b> |
| Scholarships              | 5,054,440.26          | 71           |
| International specialists | 10,332,286.71         | 181          |
| Support and evaluation    | 10,594,015.68         | 24           |
| Education (in Germany)    | 8,264,384.08          | 536          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>241,859,204.57</b> | <b>2,919</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 supra-regional consulting for partner organisations on the continent.



We publish a separate annual report on the support we provide for development-related educational work in Germany. In 2024, concrete practical examples were presented that showed how democracy, decolonisation and global learning are interlinked. [www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/inlandsfoerderbericht](http://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/inlandsfoerderbericht) (in German)



An additional 812 projects in the field of interregional personnel services, grants, support and evaluation and education (in Germany) were funded.

## Worldwide Projects

### Impact Orientation

# Cooperation Works

Over the past two decades, development organisations around the world have increasingly focused on measuring the impact of their work. A climate adaptation initiative of the Bangladeshi partner organisation AOSED is a good example of how outcome and impact orientation improves project work.

In the coastal region of Bangladesh, people are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Salt water penetrates the frequently flooded soils and groundwater, and the fish population is decreasing due to the altered ecological conditions. The local population, which mainly sustains itself through farming on small stretches of land and fishing, must adapt to the changed situation. The organisation “An Organisation for Socio-economic Development” (AOSED) has launched a project to help more than 2,500 fishing families and over 1,000 small-scale farming families in the Khulna district to adapt.

In this project, one thing the employees of AOSED focus on is providing people with equipment for seafaring or materials for agriculture. Fishermen, some of whom are at sea for months at a time, are being given life jackets and ship tracking devices so that they are less likely to lose their catch or even their lives. They also receive particularly robust tents so that they do not have to use the wood from the mangrove islands to build makeshift shelters along the way. Farmers receive support with seeds and fertiliser or composting facilities to increase their yields and secure food for their families.

AOSED also focuses on imparting knowledge about climate-adapted agriculture. This includes the organisation working with the small-scale farming families to test new seeds that are better able to cope with the salty soils and changing climatic conditions. AOSED also helps people organise themselves into teams so that they can help each other and make their interests heard by local politicians and authorities.

To better assess the impact of this work and be able to adapt the measures if necessary, AOSED has paid greater attention to monitoring and measuring the impact of project activities in recent years. This process

was supported by Brot für die Welt’s Consultancy International Programmes Unit. During impact planning and subsequently impact monitoring, a distinction is made between different impact levels that combine to form an impact chain.

Here is one example: If a fisherman has received a life jacket, this is a project output. But only when the life jacket is put on (use of output) is this a contribution to the defined objective of concretely improving the living conditions of fishermen. The benefit (outcome) of this is that fishermen can work more safely at sea, have fewer accidents and are therefore able to bring their catch home. In this way, the overall objective (impact) of improving the nutritional situation of families can be achieved in the long term.

### Outcome and Impact Orientation Influences Project Work

“Once we adopted outcome and impact orientation, everything changed,” says project employee Mohamed Salahuddin explaining the changed view of project work. “We looked beyond just the outputs and paid attention to whether people actually use what we have provided and how they use it. For example, at the end of the project we used to simply state that we had trained a hundred farmers. Now we dig deeper into the matter. How many of these people are using the new techniques? Have their crop yields improved as a result or not? Are incomes increasing or not?”

To review this, AOSED uses both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to obtain a complete picture of impact during and at the end of the project. On

a quantitative level, for example, standardised questionnaires are used to ask the participating farmers which types of grain, vegetables and fruit they grow, in what quantities and what income they generate as a result. These types of studies are carried out at the beginning of the work in a project region in order to establish the starting point for the project. “We first assess the level of knowledge and experience of the target groups or the yield of an economic activity,” says Shamim Arfeen, Director of AOSED, while explaining the procedure. Once some project activities are completed, the results are reviewed. “We then find out what prices the beneficiaries can sell their food at on the local market and how their own nutrition and income has improved.”

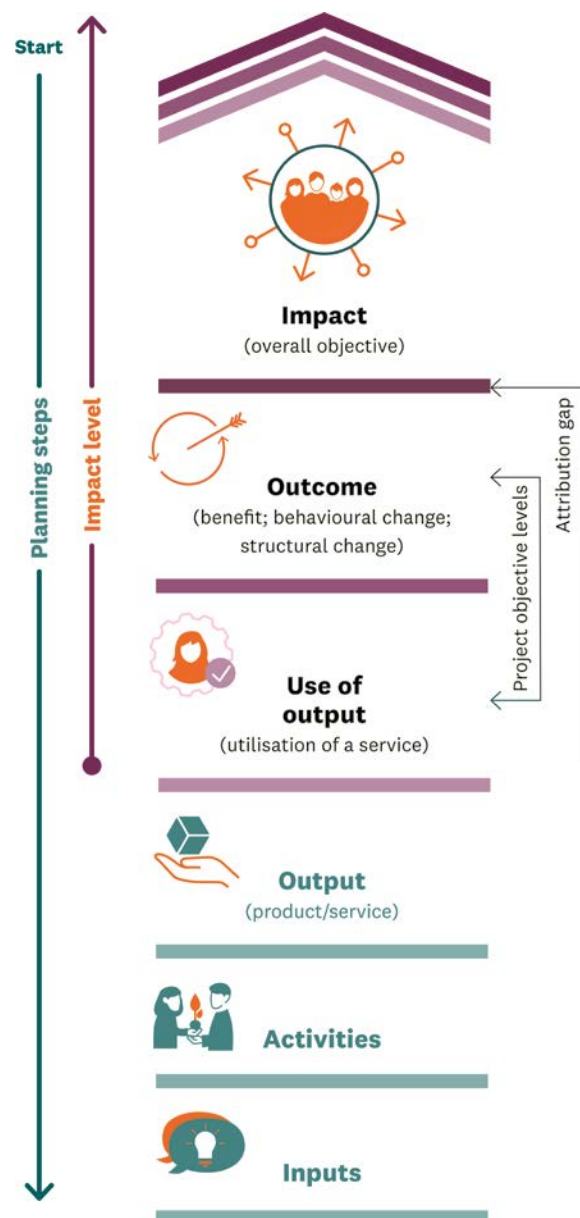
### Participation Improves the Impact

On a qualitative level, interviews and discussions are held with villagers to hear directly from them how the project affects their lives. Participatory methods are also used, and the community is involved in planning activities from the outset. Mohamed Salahuddin describes the impact this has on the implementation of the project: “The communities are now active partners and no longer just recipients. We involve local people in planning and monitoring, which strengthens their ownership and ensures solutions that fits their needs.”

Once this information is available from the project areas, it must be processed so that conclusions can be drawn jointly. “We use data visualisation tools to make the findings clear for everyone involved and for reporting purposes as well. It’s not just about understanding what is happening, but also why and how. In this way, we can also learn from practice and improve it,” says Mohamed Salahuddin.

Projects don’t always follow a straight line. Sometimes there are surprises, and an approach doesn’t work as well as expected. For example, the wives of the fishermen were given materials to make fishing nets and sell them on the local market. “At that time, the demand for fishing nets fell, and so did their price. Because we were monitoring effects, we quickly recognised this issue, and other income-generating activities were started instead,” Salahuddin continues.

The fact that impact orientation has received greater attention in recent years is important for accountability to donors and taxpayers, and it also helps us reflect on our own strategies and approaches. Knowing what works best in certain contexts helps us to design projects so that people receive the greatest possible benefit from them.



For Director Shamim Arfeen, the data from the project region forms the basis for making the right strategic decisions: “Life is always a learning process. We want to utilise the resources available to us so that they help us achieve our objectives in the best possible way.”

# Worldwide Projects

**Lieu Ban Thi**  
Spokeswoman for the Women's Union  
in Giang Cai, Vietnam



In the past, I never would have dared to speak in front of other people. Today I represent the women in my village. And we women are the driving force behind the project.

**Honorine Isingizwe**  
Coordinator of the "New Generation Program"  
of the Climate Leadership Initiative,  
Kigali, Rwanda



Brot für die Welt helps us make the voices of those who are most affected by the climate crisis heard in climate negotiations. This allows us to move forward with negotiations on losses and damages.

**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)

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

**Félicité Mugombozi**  
Law lecturer at the ULPGI University,  
Goma, DR Congo



My doctoral thesis examines the extent to which judicial and extrajudicial reparations can contribute to the final termination of the conflict cycle in the eastern part of the DR Congo. As a multiplier, this approach will be one of the focal points of my teaching activities: International law should be pragmatic and offer solutions to problems.

**i** More about the "Leadership for Change" scholarship programme at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/scholarships-leadership](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/scholarships-leadership)

**Juan Carlos Ruiz**

Coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples Unit,  
Instituto de Defensa Legal, Lima, Peru



Because our work is coming under severe pressure due to Peru's new non-governmental organisation law, the political and financial support from Brot für die Welt is of fundamental importance to us. This support allows us to continue helping indigenous communities assert their rights.



More about Brot für die Welt's political work at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/lobby-advocacy](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/lobby-advocacy)

**Javier Quispe Valle**

Small-scale farmer from Huanimpampa, Peru



We cannot stop climate change.  
But we can catch what little rain there is and make better use of it.

**Mieke Wolter**

CPS professional at the Centro de  
Desarrollo Humano in Tegucigalpa, Honduras



I am moved by the question of how we can dissolve unjust structures and power relations. Conflict transformation is a daily challenge that requires trust, shared visions and different perspectives.



More about the Civil Peace Service at Brot für die Welt at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/civil-peace-service](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/civil-peace-service)

### Interview

# In Cameroon Peace Is Catching on in Schools

In Cameroon, poverty and a lack of political participation are leading to violent conflicts in the north and south-west of the country. In the north, Boko Haram is terrorising the population. The Civil Peace Service (CPS) is counteracting this by strengthening the capacity for dialogue in the society.

#### **What are the challenges facing the CPS in Cameroon?**

**Florentine Fandio** — We are working with the CPS to change people's attitudes and behaviour, as well as structures in society. This is not easy in a country like Cameroon, where patriarchal structures still play a very large role. It starts with our upbringing: we grow up in a culture of silence. Older people call the shots in families and also at a government level. However, more than half of the population is under thirty years old. And this half has hardly any opportunities to express its needs. Our objective is to make it possible for young people and women in particular to address their interests freely and equally in society.

#### **How can I imagine this in concrete terms?**

**FF** — Because young people have few prospects, some of them become violent. The media report almost daily on violence in schools: Pupils against pupils or against teachers. We are trying to change this with our partners and organise regular training sessions for them. We are asking the question: "How can we resolve existing conflicts without violence?"

In all ten regions of Cameroon, we have researched exactly why and where violence occurs in settings involving young people. As peace workers, we have very little influence on people's prospects. However, we can provide young people with very good support when they raise their concerns. During one of our awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns involving young people in the Mayo Sava Department, more than a hundred young people from very different social groups were present. We create spaces for dialogue between young people and state institutions so that they can formulate their needs.

#### **What do you look for when selecting target groups?**

**FF** — Taking the diversity of society into account is part of our "do no harm" approach and helps us strengthen social cohesion.

For example, in the extreme north we worked with internally displaced people who had fled from Boko Haram. There, in consultation with the Lamido – a traditional Muslim leader – we set up a grain mill in front of a camp, because otherwise the women always had to walk many kilometres to the nearest mill. And it's not just refugee women who come to this mill, but also women from the vicinity. This brings people from different population groups together and allows them to get to know each other.

In some cases, we have managed to get women to sit alongside men in some royal houses as "notables" – and this in the northern region of Cameroon, which is conservative Muslim. Since then, more conflicts have been resolved because women are involved in the discussions.

#### **Cameroon is a large country, bigger than Germany.**

##### **How do you organise the work of the CPS?**

**FF** — The CPS works all over Cameroon, and the partner organisations have achieved great changes through their committed work at the local level and are well established there.

The CPS began its work in Cameroon in 2011, initially at a grassroots level. Four years later, I took on my role as coordinator. In 2021, at our annual meeting with 16 partner organisations, we developed a strategy on how we can establish peace education throughout Cameroon. To do this, we had to come to an understanding about what holds us together as a society and where we come from. For example, schools do not provide a complete picture of Cameroonian history, of what

happened during the colonial period. It is important that we develop a common understanding and a critical awareness that unites us.

This comprehensive process of strategy development and the resulting advocacy campaigns, which we have been working on for three years, have created trust. The partners now see themselves as a large national network for peace work.

### What partner organisations does the CPS work with in Cameroon?

**FF** — One third of Brot für die Welt’s work is with Protestant church organisations, and two thirds are with civil society organisations. Around 30 per cent of the people in Cameroon are Muslims, and they live mainly in the north. To ensure that we also reach these population groups, we have reached an agreement with the Islamic Union of Cameroon, which has a local presence there. But our colleagues from AGIAMONDO have also been providing peace education at Catholic schools for years. So we are working with all faith communities in Cameroon and are in the process of preparing a new generation that deals with conflict differently.

### What kind of peace education is provided in schools?

**FF** — Pupils in Cameroon don’t normally speak out directly about what concerns them. But the new methods have changed the atmosphere in the classroom. Young people are learning to be critical, they are reflecting on what they need themselves. We dream of a society in which people don’t simply do what they are told, but we still have a long way to go.

That’s why we wanted to tackle this at a national level. We want to work with the educational ministries to ensure that they introduce new curricula in the long term. In the Protestant schools we support, teachers are being trained in new pedagogical methods, and we have seen great results. The teachers now see themselves as “facilitators”, and they enable dialogue.

Of course, the results are most important for the children. Many conflicts that are brought into schools come from the private sphere. For example, if a pupil arrived late, that means he was beaten earlier. If the conflict is now analysed using the methods of non-violent communication, it turns out that the reasons for the pupil’s late arrival were problems at home, and the problem can be addressed. The teachers are now trained in mediation, as are the pupils themselves. Two weeks ago I was in a school like this, and a child said: “I mediate when there are problems with my parents. I am a student of peace.”



Florentine Fandio has been coordinating the work of the CPS partner organisations and peace experts in the Central African country for ten years.

## Short and Simple

### 25 Years of the Civil Peace Service

For 25 years, the Civil Peace Service (CPS) has been helping to promote dialogue in conflict situations and balance social interests so that violence is avoided. Since 1999, around 1,800 international CPS professionals have worked in more than 60 countries. Last year, around 380 CPS professionals worked together with 700 local colleagues and 580 CPS partner organisations in 45 countries. Of them, 23 women and 16 men were placed by Brot für die Welt.

### 147 Experts Worldwide

In 2024 Brot für die Welt had 86 women and 61 men working on contract and providing services overseas.

In particular our partner organisations have requested support in the fields of conflict prevention and peacekeeping work, climate protection and resilience, and they have done so increasingly often for fundraising and organisational development, sustainable agriculture and psychosocial consultation.

The number of new contracts concluded with specialists is slightly higher than last year’s number: In 2024 42 women and 26 men decided in favour of a new secondment to our partner organisations.

# Worldwide Projects

## Scholarships

### Learning, Living, Sharing Knowledge

Together with local partner organisations, Brot für die Welt supports more than 1,100 young people during their academic training in the Global South. They include disadvantaged, committed students who would not have the opportunity to study without a scholarship and aspiring leaders from partner organisations. The scholarship holders receive financial aid and support in their personal development through an accompanying programme.

In Peru, the indigenous partner organisation CHIRAPAQ, which is responsible for a regional scholarship programme with 35 scholarship holders, organised a meeting for scholarship holders from Colombia and Peru in October 2024. For the young people, who often come from small mountain villages or remote rainforest regions, it is important to broaden their view of the world. During their exchanges, they learn that there are similar problems with poverty, the destruction of livelihoods and racism in other parts of the world as in their regions of origin.

To kick off the meeting, the students split into groups of two to get to know each other better. They shared their personal educational paths and life stories with each other. Based on their conversations, they made portraits that artistically depicted a defining aspect of the other person. The resulting drawings were then presented in the plenary session.

The participants also exchanged views on their disciplines and on the similarities and differences between the higher education systems in Peru and Colombia. The presentation by Celestino Quinchisa, a young Asháninka, was

particularly impressive. His educational path, which led to a Master's degree, is still the exception for an indigenous Peruvian – an example that inspired many of the scholarship holders present.

The climate crisis and food security were the central topics of the subsequent expert exchange. A Colombian ecology student gave a vivid report on environmental problems in his home village, which he is making the subject of his final paper. He hasn't been there for over ten years – it was not possible owing to his studies. When asked by project coordinator María Amalia Ibáñez Caselli how he was able to study his research subject from a distance, he said that he was able to do so with the help of his close ties to his family and friends. "They send me photos of the lagoon and the forest on a regular basis." His statement shows: Research can thrive, even at a distance, if connections to communities of origin are not severed.

A highlight of the exchange was the joint visit to the "Jornada de Cultura Viva" ("Day of Living Culture") in Ayacucho. The event, organised by CHIRAPAQ, offered communities and students a platform to present their projects. The scholarship holders presented their work – including research projects on medicinal plants and a mushroom collection from the rainforest – at numerous exhibition stands.

The presentation by Peruvian Celestina Taboada, who is studying to be a teacher, attracted particular attention. In her final paper, she focussed on the linguistic identity of primary school children. A boy from her home community attended the presentation. He spoke Quechua and presented what are called Watuchi – traditional riddles – to the audience. "I was particularly moved by how naturally he spoke Quechua," reports María Amalia Ibáñez Caselli. "His natural use of his mother tongue also motivated other Quechua speakers to use their language more confidently."



## Quality Assurance

# Climate Projects Show Impact

The consequences of the climate crisis are hitting people in the Andes particularly hard: Melting glaciers and a lack of rain are drying up water sources. Soils are drying out, harvests are poorer, and some families suffer from hunger at times. However, communities can adapt to climate change through better water management, reforestation and protecting natural resources. In four villages in the Peruvian Andes region, the “Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres” (PREDES) has shown how targeted investments in climate resilience improve people’s lives. From its very start in 2020, the project was planned together with the communities. The risks posed by the changing climate, such as droughts, heavy rainfall and erosion, were systematically recorded. Both the knowledge of the village communities and scientific climate data were incorporated into this participatory analysis.

The project team had set itself the objectives of reforesting 20 hectares, building 14 traditional water reservoirs (“qochas”) and regenerating more than 70 hectares of soil. These measures secure the water supply in the long term and improve families’ nutritional situation. PREDES planned an extensive workshop programme for communities and schools to raise awareness of the effects of climate change and the adaptation it necessitates. It also aimed to support the village councils in their regulations for protecting natural resources, and to systematically strengthen the participation of women in decision-making.

One aspect that project planning is based on is the current situation. As the framework conditions often change during the implementation of a project, the project partners review the circumstances and the impact of the project and adapt the activities accordingly (see page 14).

For instance, the start of the PREDES project was marked by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. PREDES employees and the villagers therefore switched to telephone contact and virtual meetings where possible. Training in small teams with mandatory masks was only resumed in October 2020. In addition, programmes on climate resilience were broadcast in Spanish and Quechua in collaboration with local radio stations. Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, the project objectives were largely achieved by the end of 2022 thanks to adapted and increased activities in the subsequent period.

The PREDES project was one of 191 projects that were examined as part of the current funding area evaluation focusing on “climate resilience and climate protection”. Projects totalling over 100 million euros were funded worldwide in this funding area.

The evaluation examined whether the selected project approaches effectively support particularly affected population groups in dealing with climate change and make a tangible contribution to improving their living conditions. In addition, the extent to which Brot für die Welt’s internal structures and processes are coherently geared towards strengthening climate-related funding practices and effectively supporting partner organisations was assessed. To this end, project planning documents and reports were analysed, and selected employees and representatives of the target groups of 167 partner organisations, as well as employees from Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, were interviewed.

The results are encouraging: The climate projects of Brot für die Welt and its partners are having an impact precisely where people are suffering the most from the consequences of the climate crisis. Projects that take a holistic approach to climate resilience and combine various fields of action – such as the protection of natural resources with income security and the development of strong community structures – are particularly effective. The evaluation shows that these kinds of projects not only improve living conditions, but also strengthen personal responsibility and long-term resilience.

The evaluation also shows how the climate projects that Brot für die Welt supports can become even more effective in the future. It indicates that successful methods such as participatory climate risk analyses should be disseminated more widely, partner organisations should receive support for accessing weather and climate data, and the international exchange of knowledge should be expanded further. The evaluation also recommends strengthening cooperation within Brot für die Welt so that expertise from different areas of work can be pooled more effectively and so that project experiences can be systematically evaluated and disseminated. Experiences from projects such as the one in Peru can thus make an even greater contribution to helping people around the world deal with the challenges of the climate crisis.



More about the funding area evaluation at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/FBE\\_Klima](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/FBE_Klima) (in German)

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 **Executive Board**. The Supervisory Board appoints the members of the Executive Board for a period of six years. Members of the executive board are Pastor Rüdiger Schuch (Chairperson; President of Diakonie Deutschland), Pastor Dr Dagmar Pruin (Deputy Chairperson; President of Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe), Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt (Finances, Human Resources and Law) and Maria Loheide (Social policy, until 31.12.2024).

The Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V. is committed to a Code of Corporate Governance. Among other things, it stipulates disclosure of the total annual earnings of the Executive Board of all three brands. The total gross remuneration for the four board members – Pastor Dr Dagmar Pruin, Rüdiger Schuch, Maria Loheide and Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt - amounted to EUR 577,328.21 in 2024, as well as EUR 221,255.98 in pension contributions and contributions to supplementary pension funds. Due to the small number of people involved, we have refrained from presenting each person in order to protect their personal rights.

Three committees also determine the work done by Brot für die Welt. Their members work on a voluntary basis and receive no earnings: The **Diakonie and Development**

**Conference** is the highest resolution 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, ex-Executive Board member of the Bodelschwingh Institution Bethel (v. Bodelschwinghschen Stiftungen Bethel).

The 22 members of the **Supervisory Board** 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** 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, Protestant Church of Berlin, Brandenburg and 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        | 558       | 150 | 408   |
| of which:          |           |     |       |
| Full-time          | 323       | 105 | 218   |
| Part-time          | 235       | 45  | 190   |
| Limited contract   | 62        | 23  | 39    |
| Unlimited contract | 496       | 127 | 369   |

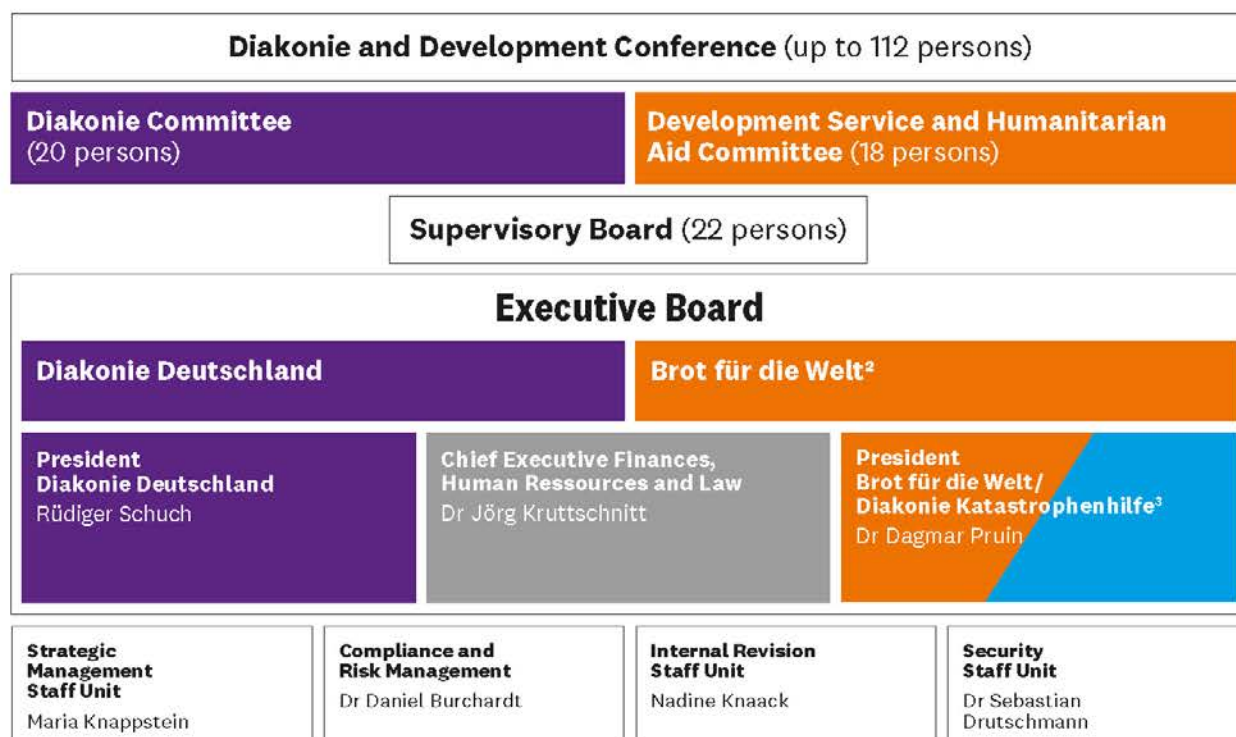
As of 31.12.2024 Brot für die Welt had a total of 558 remunerated staff. This does not include staff working exclusively for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

Remuneration Structure

| Monthly remuneration in euros* | Pay grade | from     | to       |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Directors                      | B3        | 9,603.10 | 9,609.75 |
| Head of Department             | 15        | 6,832.39 | 8,753.77 |
| Head of Unit                   | 14        | 6,358.79 | 7,917.77 |
| Programme Officer              | 13        | 4,628.76 | 7,171.56 |
| Project Officer                | 10–11     | 3,895.33 | 6,099.43 |
| Assistant                      | 8–9B      | 3,480.97 | 4,620.09 |
| Secretaries                    | 7         | 3,882.53 | 3,898.85 |

\* Employee gross remuneration based on the TVöD pay scale valid from 01.03.2024 to 01.03.2025

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



<sup>1</sup> Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development

<sup>2</sup> Bread for the World

<sup>3</sup> Diakonie Emergency Aid



From 30 August to 1 September, young people from 13 countries came together in Magdeburg for the Brot für die Welt Youth International Democracy Festival "Youthtopia". In keeping with the motto "This Is What Democracy Looks Like!", they exchanged views on the challenges and opportunities for democracy in the twenty-first century.

# 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.

## Migration Policy

# Global Commitment to Refugee Protection

In 2024, the migration debate intensified not only in Germany. Brot für die Welt and its partner organisations continue to advocate for a humane refugee policy based on solidarity.

With its unspoiled primeval forests and extensive swamps, the Polish-Belarusian border region is a unique natural area in Europe – and has been a deadly trap for those seeking protection since 2021. These people try to reach the EU and safety via Belarus and are fighting for survival in the forests, pushed back time and again by security forces on both sides of the border.



Polish director Agnieszka Holland has captured this in shocking images in her film “Green Border”. In January 2024, Brot für die Welt presented the film, which won the Special Jury Prize at the Venice Biennale, at the Heilig-Kreuz-Kirche (Church of the Holy Cross) in Berlin. The location was chosen with care: The parishes give traumatised people seeking protection church asylum to prevent them from being deported to Poland. Brot für die Welt project partner Magda Qandil reported on her work in the border region at the event and criticised the public defamation of refugees: “We are currently experiencing a total dehumanisation of the migration debate. Refugees are staged as a danger and a threat that must be fended off – by any means necessary.”

But defence against people seeking protection does not begin at the EU’s external borders. The EU is endeavouring to conclude agreements with countries such as Tunisia and Egypt in order to turn them into outposts of isolation. Brot für die Welt has been warning for years about the negative consequences of this policy for migrants and people seeking protection, but also for democracy and human rights in the countries concerned.

Brot für die Welt, together with Misereor, has presented its own studies on the EU migration partnerships with Niger, Tunisia and Egypt in the Bundestag and the European Parliament in order to sensitise politicians to the dark sides of this policy.

Moctar Dan Yaye from our partner organisation Alarm Phone Sahara reported in Brussels on how this policy is changing his home country of Niger: The country is one of the poorest in the world and is also home to more than 700,000 refugees, half of whom are internally displaced persons. Niger is not a solitary case. Other African countries, such as Ethiopia and South Sudan, are important pillars of global refugee protection and, at the same time, are shaken by internal conflicts themselves. Many people in Europe are apparently not sufficiently aware of these enormous achievements and challenges when proposals are discussed in this country to deny asylum procedures in the EU to people seeking protection.

The German Ministry of the Interior spent five days hearing experts regarding the outsourcing of asylum procedures on behalf of the federal government. Brot für die Welt was able to contribute the perspective of African partner organisations to this debate as an expert. Their opinion is unanimous: The concept of outsourcing is unrealistic and dangerous. In the opinion we submitted, the All Africa Conference of Churches asked the question: “What do we have left if the principles of international refugee protection, which have been painstakingly developed since the Second World War, collapse?”

Brot für die Welt has published numerous educational materials on the topic of “fleeing” to sensitise young people regarding the issue. The “Global Lernen” (“Global Learning”) booklet on the topic of “Mit dem Smartphone auf der Flucht” (“On the run with a smartphone”) illustrates what it means to be on the run in the digital age and what opportunities and risks mobile phones harbour for people seeking protection.

For Brot für die Welt, one of our central tasks remains advocating for a humane refugee policy based on solidarity – in Germany, Europe and worldwide.

## Lobby and Advocacy

# Rethinking Collaboration Together

In 2024, cycle paths in Peru received an astonishing amount of attention in the German public. The government was allegedly going to spend 315 million euros on cycle paths and buses in Peru. This figure was first publicised by individual Members of the Bundestag and then on social media.

The message of this campaign was that taxpayers' money was being wasted unnecessarily. How could Germany be providing horrendous sums of money for supposedly "pointless" projects while bridges are collapsing in its own country? In the end, even reputable media repeated these – false – figures.

This incident and several other development projects served to discredit development cooperation as a whole and to call the "development policy consensus" in society into question. A survey in the autumn of 2024 showed that the German population was more critical of development cooperation than it had been two years earlier. This result is certainly also due to the populist attacks on individual projects.

The discussion was exacerbated by the fact that the German government's financial room for manoeuvre was restricted, primarily due to support for Ukraine and the fact that the Federal Constitutional Court forced the government to comply with the debt brake. As the poorest of the poor have a comparatively quiet lobby, the funds of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) were to be reduced, and the expected resistance seemed low.

The 2025 draft budget of the coalition government envisaged cutting the budget for development cooperation to 10.2 billion euros – around one billion euros less than in the previous year. The Federal Minister of Finance also referred to "the cycle paths in Peru" to justify the upcoming cuts. In addition, the humanitarian assistance provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to be reduced by more than half from 2.2 billion euros in 2024 to 1.04 billion euros.

This draft budget was never passed because the "traffic light government" (consisting of the Social



Democratic Party, the Free Democratic Party and the Greens) collapsed. In retrospect, the budget crisis led to a legitimisation crisis in development cooperation. The development services for Peru could help to objectify the discussion. For one thing, the rumoured sum of 315 million euros is far too high. Secondly, most of the German support is funded by loans and is repaid by the state of Peru. And these cycle paths also contribute to climate protection. After all, it doesn't matter where in the world CO<sub>2</sub> is conserved – every reduction in greenhouse gases counts. This example shows how complex development cooperation with the Global South is.

This complexity is also reflected in the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These objectives are ambitious;

they aim to combat hunger and poverty and reduce social inequality. Ten years ago, Germany committed to contributing to their fulfilment, including with financial resources. The German government, like other donor countries, promised to spend at least 0.7 per cent of its gross national income on international cooperation.

This promise must not be forgotten. This is because the financing requirements are immense. There are currently 1.6 billion people living in countries and regions where violence and conflict prevail or that are affected by poverty, hunger or natural disasters. According to the International Rescue Committee, over 300 million of them are dependent on humanitarian assistance.

The US government recently denied them a large part of the aid they have received to date. The sweeping closure of the development agency USAID is tearing a hole of 54 billion US dollars in the financing of sustainable development and is therefore setting a bad example for other countries. Our partner organisations are telling us about the drastic effects of these cuts. A recent study concludes that this could result in up to 14 million additional deaths over the next five years. France, the UK and Japan are also reducing funding for international cooperation.

But the people in the Global South cannot be pushed out of sight at will. The 2030 Agenda remains an important frame of reference. Germany has a duty to honour its international commitments, as do other donor countries. This is why Brot für die Welt spoke out strongly against the cuts to the development budget last year and publicly protested that the people who are concerned should not be forgotten.

There is also the fact that development cooperation is also in Germany's own interests. International cooperation can help stabilise regions by preventing wars and conflicts and strengthening economic relations with countries in the Global South.

Of course, scrutinising German development cooperation and rethinking it are justified. This should be done within an appropriate framework, one without distorting polemics. The impact of the projects should be the main focus, not just the aim of saving money in the short term. Incidentally, there are few policy areas that are evaluated as intensively as development policy.

Coherency issues should also be discussed in this context. How can it be that Germany spends 65 billion euros a year on subsidies that damage the climate? The state loses more than five billion euros a year due to the company car privilege alone. These subsidies should be scrutinised. This is because the countries of the Global South in particular are suffering from the consequences of the climate crisis. The Climate Adaptation Finance Index, which Brot für die Welt published for the second

## Public Relations



**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).

time last year, shows that these countries need further funds in addition to development financing in order to adapt to man-made climate change.

The new federal government is planning to set up a new North-South Commission. We hope that it will be inspired by the spirit of Willy Brandt and once again understand international cooperation as “global domestic policy”.

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

## Interview

# Education Strengthens Civil Society

Civil society is under pressure worldwide, and fewer people are enjoying the benefits of a democratic constitutional state. Many people in the North and South are resisting this development.

**Governments around the world are becoming increasingly authoritarian. How does this impact the work done by Brot für die Welt and its partner organisations?**

**Lars Bedurke** — The biggest challenge is the changing legislation caused by authoritarian governments. They often come to power legally but then massively restrict the scope of action of civil society organisations.

In April 2025, a law was passed in Peru that essentially prohibits non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from criticising the state. If they stand up for the interests of the population in court, this is classified as a “serious offence”. As a result, our partner organisations have hardly any opportunities to become active themselves. Nicaragua is an extreme case. There are actually no civil society organisations left in the country. They have gone into exile, mostly to Costa Rica.

**How does Brot für die Welt handle these challenges?**

**LB** — We see ourselves as part of global civil society. That is why we met with more than 30 partner organisations from Germany, Europe and all parts of the world in Berlin in June this year at the “Global Dialogue”. We want to start a dialogue on how to deal with repressive legislation and discriminatory discourse against minorities. It is very important for us to strengthen our partners and to be a reliable partner in this situation, both in terms of material cooperation and in dialogue with our partners. The question is: “How can we mutually strengthen each other as part of global civil society? What examples of best practice are being developed in different parts of the world?”

**Brot für die Welt addresses these types of global discussion in its educational work. What does that look like in practice?**

**LB** — Our magazine “Global lernen” (“Global learning”) and seminar programmes are aimed primarily at teachers

and multipliers who pass on the content in their respective fields of work. We have developed various world maps that address food justice, climate justice and social justice as part of virtual project visits.

In the past, development cooperation organisations often portrayed the Global South as a deficient area where there are many problems. They said that we needed to help people in the Global South.

We are trying to do things differently now. We bring the discourses from the Global South into the German educational landscape. They help us think about a different future and ask ourselves the question: “What actually is development?”

**What can we learn from the Global South?**

**LB** — Indigenous communities, for example, have a spiritual and much deeper relationship with nature. The indigenous Kukama community in Peru has succeeded in



Lars Bedurke heads the Education Department and focusses on ideas from the Global South.

having the Marañón River in the Amazon region recognised as a legal entity, which means it has a claim to integrity. Our partner organisation IDL provided them support for this. This means that the river can sue companies or people who pollute it.

Another idea is that we can decide how we use nature. But only for our generation. When we produce nuclear waste, we are deciding on the future of many thousands of generations who will have to ensure the safety of its repositories. Notions like these are not compatible with the world views of many indigenous communities. Their relationship with nature always includes responsibility regarding future generations.

### **What is the situation of development-related educational work in Germany?**

**LB** — Just as development cooperation as a whole is under pressure, development-related educational work is also under pressure. Educational programmes that are allegedly too one-sided are being criticised. As a church organisation, however, we believe that taking sides for justice is right and necessary.

One of the biggest challenges is that there is less public funding for development-related educational work. That is why we, as an important funding organisation for development-related educational work, are receiving more enquiries than before. In addition to traditional enquiries from fair trade shops and parishes, we are receiving an increasing number of enquiries from the migrant and post-migrant area. That broadens our view. They contribute their experience to our educational work. They are asking: “What do present-day unjust structures have to do with the post-colonial situations in their countries of origin?”

However, we also support projects that strengthen civil society in Germany. A good example is the programme “Weltoffen, Solidarisch, Dialogisch” (“Open-minded, United, and in Dialogue”) organised by the “Freiberger Agenda 21” association from the Ore Mountains. For example, it organises a “sustainable city tour” and a “sustainability market”, where 30 players from Freiberg and the surrounding area present themselves. Through its efforts, the association brings important development policy issues to the regional level.



More information on our development-related educational work at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/bildung](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/bildung) (in German).

## **Anniversary**

### **Ten Years of “5,000 Brote”**

The campaign “5.000 Brote – Konfis backen Brot für die Welt” (“5,000 loaves – confirmands bake bread for the world”) was launched for the tenth time on 6 October 2024 to mark Thanksgiving. Confirmands across Germany kneaded, moulded and baked dough with local bakers for a good purpose. In 2024, the young people learned about projects in Malawi, Vietnam and Paraguay and presented them during church services.



To mark the anniversary, World Baker of the Year 2022 and bread sommelier Axel Schmitt was challenged by Chifundo Khokwa from the Brot für die Welt partner organisation SCOPE in Malawi to bake a good bread from millet, a grain that plays a major role in nutrition in Malawi. Schmitt did some research and found out that millet bread was also baked in Germany in the past. Together with confirmands from the protestant parishes in Mitwitz, he baked 120 millet loaves according to his own recipe, which were highly sought-after and quickly sold out after the service.

Overall, the 5,000 loaves campaign can look back on ten successful years. It is jointly supported by the Evangelischer Verband Kirche-Wirtschaft-Arbeitswelt (Protestant Association of the Church, Economy and the World of Work), the Zentralverband des Deutschen Bäckerhandwerk (Central Association of the German Baking Trade) and the protestant churches in Germany. So far, over 65,000 confirmands have baked around 240,000 loaves of bread for a good purpose and raised over 1.2 million euros in donations for Brot für die Welt in the process.



Carmen Nebel presented "Die schönsten Weihnachts-Hits" ("The Most Beautiful Christmas Hits") on ZDF for almost 20 years.

# 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.

## Campaign Opening

# Advent Donation Record

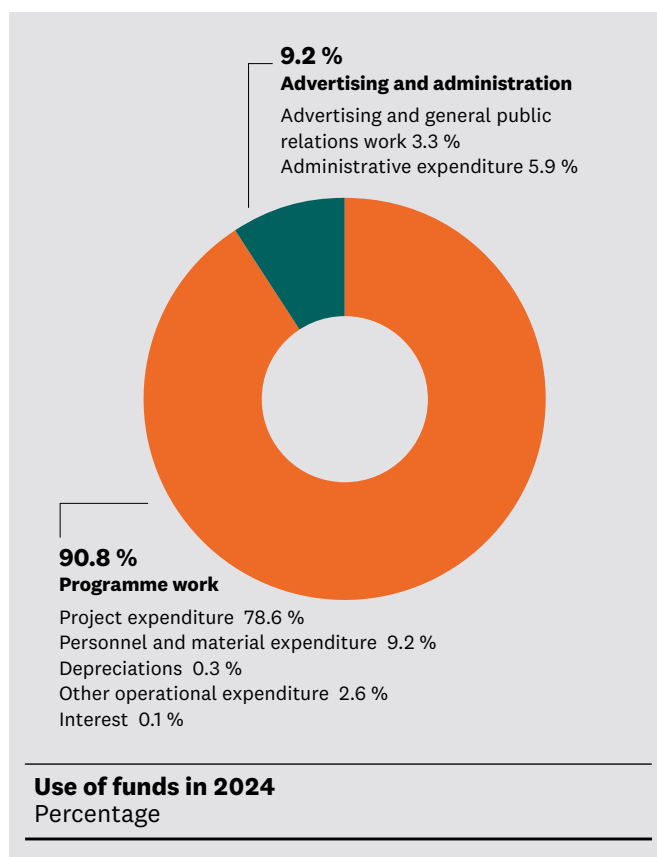
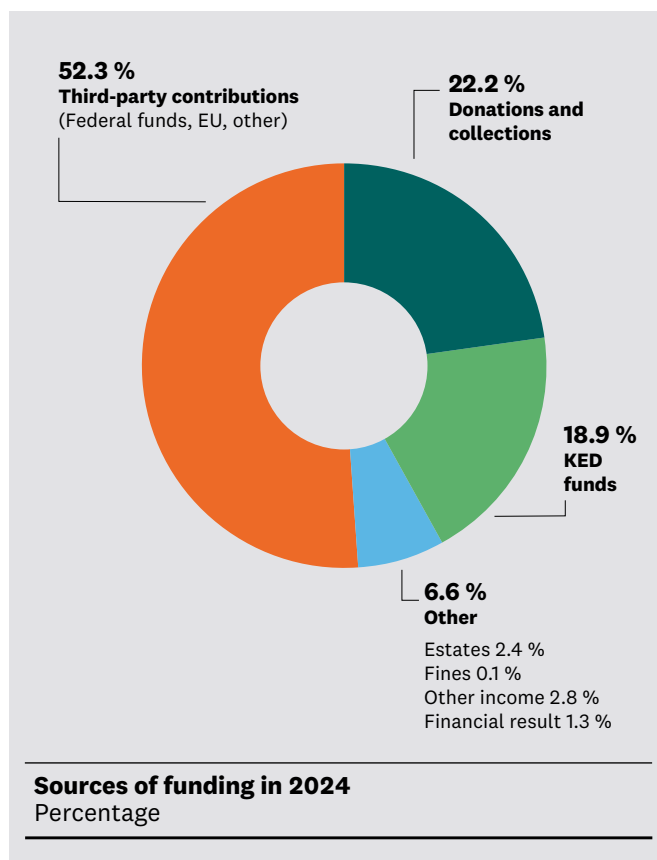
During the ZDF fundraising gala, viewers donated a record sum of more than 3.1 million euros to Brot für die Welt and Misereor on 5 December 2024. As part of the TV show, Brot für die Welt presented a project by “Future in our Hands” for safe and balanced nutrition in Sierra Leone and another by ACORD in Uganda to improve the water supply in the country. During the programme, presenter Carmen Nebel said goodbye to the show stage. She had hosted the programme since 2006. Giovanni Zarrella will take over as the host in 2025.

One week earlier, on the first day of Advent, the nation-wide opening of the 66<sup>th</sup> campaign was held in Bamberg. The televised service was broadcast live from St Stephen’s Church on the German TV channel Das Erste. The service was led by the Bavarian Bishop Christian Kopp and the President of Brot für die Welt, Dagmar Pruin. Anna-Nicole Heinrich, President of the Synod of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD), welcomed the congregation together with Gloria Nimpundu, a project partner from Burundi.

## Festive Opening in Bamberg

The evening before, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra performed a musical programme in the Bamberg Concert Hall together with the St. Stephan Choir under the motto “Wandel säen” (“Sowing Change”). The programme included music by Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Shostakovich and excerpts from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite, as well as Advent songs. The evening was led by the doctor and cabaret artist Eckart von Hirschhausen, who made the effects of climate change on human life clear: “As a doctor, I know that health doesn’t start with a tablet, an operation or an MRI, but with our five basic necessities of life: air, water, food, a tolerable outside temperature and peaceful coexistence. And they are in danger.” The Bamberg Symphony donated 15,000 euros from ticket sales for the charity concert to Brot für die Welt.

Donations and collections continue to be a crucial pillar in enabling Brot für die Welt and its partner organisations to work for the benefit of those who need this support to take their lives into their own hands. Last year, these forms of income contributed 22.2 per cent of the financing for our work.



## Annual Accounts

|                                                                                                          | Brot für die Welt<br>(incl. EZE and DÜ) |              | Brot für die Welt<br>(incl. EZE and DÜ) |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                                                                                          | 2024                                    | %            | 2023                                    | %            |
|                                                                                                          | in euros                                |              | in euros                                |              |
| <b>Sources of funding</b>                                                                                |                                         |              |                                         |              |
| <b>Donations and collections</b>                                                                         | <b>73,893,087.72</b>                    | 22.2         | <b>75,944,001.54</b>                    | 22.9         |
| of which donations to "Bündnis Entwicklung hilft"                                                        | 1,283,150.66                            |              | 7,960,095.98                            |              |
| <b>Estates</b>                                                                                           | <b>8,119,797.85</b>                     | 2.4          | <b>5,249,161.44</b>                     | 1.6          |
| <b>Fines</b>                                                                                             | <b>273,674.00</b>                       | 0.1          | <b>300,714.88</b>                       | 0.1          |
| <b>Church Development Service funds</b>                                                                  | <b>62,662,828.39</b>                    | 18.9         | <b>58,952,100.00</b>                    | 17.8         |
| <b>Third-party contributions</b>                                                                         | <b>173,999,406.48</b>                   | 52.3         | <b>176,606,177.33</b>                   | 53.3         |
| European Union                                                                                           | 837,535.83                              |              | 1,337,729.99                            |              |
| State funding                                                                                            | 167,933,839.57                          | 50.5         | 172,908,293.42                          | 52.1         |
| Other third-party contributions                                                                          | 5,228,031.08                            |              | 2,360,153.92                            |              |
| <b>Other income</b>                                                                                      | <b>9,189,710.39</b>                     | 2.8          | <b>10,041,206.55</b>                    | 3.0          |
| <b>Financial result</b>                                                                                  | <b>4,195,962.89</b>                     | 1.3          | <b>4,995,000.96</b>                     | 1.5          |
| of which financial income                                                                                | 5,238,024.37                            |              | 6,162,281.16                            |              |
| of which financial expenditure                                                                           | 1,042,061.48                            |              | 1,167,280.20                            |              |
| <b>Total funding</b>                                                                                     | <b>332,334,467.72</b>                   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>332,088,362.70</b>                   | <b>100.0</b> |
| <b>Use of funds</b>                                                                                      |                                         |              |                                         |              |
| <b>Programme work</b>                                                                                    | <b>289,282,216.01</b>                   | 90.8         | <b>288,471,720.78</b>                   | 91.0         |
| Project expenditure                                                                                      | 250,386,142.90                          |              | 251,050,291.82                          |              |
| Material expenditure                                                                                     | 0.00                                    |              | 900.00                                  |              |
| Personnel expenditure                                                                                    | 29,295,214.85                           |              | 28,540,335.60                           |              |
| Depreciations                                                                                            | 1,083,549.67                            |              | 1,164,320.85                            |              |
| Other operational expenditure                                                                            | 8,158,605.57                            |              | 7,334,340.02                            |              |
| Interest*                                                                                                | 358,703.02                              |              | 381,532.49                              |              |
| <b>Advertising and public relations</b>                                                                  | <b>10,614,265.60</b>                    | 3.3          | <b>10,536,374.71</b>                    | 3.3          |
| Material expenditure                                                                                     | 606,046.36                              |              | 349,229.05                              |              |
| Personnel expenditure                                                                                    | 2,402,156.65                            |              | 2,507,128.35                            |              |
| Depreciations                                                                                            | 75,741.72                               |              | 99,096.02                               |              |
| Other operational expenditure                                                                            | 7,504,481.88                            |              | 7,553,437.79                            |              |
| Interest                                                                                                 | 25,838.99                               |              | 27,483.50                               |              |
| <b>Administration</b>                                                                                    | <b>18,844,644.56</b>                    | 5.9          | <b>18,187,706.28</b>                    | 5.7          |
| Personnel expenditure                                                                                    | 10,653,743.43                           |              | 9,253,741.01                            |              |
| Depreciations                                                                                            | 377,530.42                              |              | 360,989.83                              |              |
| Other operational expenditure, incl. taxes of which<br>139,768.47 from taxes (previous year: 147,325.56) | 7,686,336.77                            |              | 8,437,856.49                            |              |
| Interest                                                                                                 | 127,033.94                              |              | 135,118.95                              |              |
| <b>Total expenditures</b>                                                                                | <b>318,741,126.17</b>                   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>317,195,801.77</b>                   | <b>100.0</b> |

\* Interest for financing the operating building was disclosed under financial expenses in 2023.

### 73,893,087.72

Donations and collections

In 2024 Brot für die Welt received almost 74 million euros in donations and collections.

### 289,282,216.01

Programme work

In 2024 Brot für die Welt spent over 289 million euros on programme work.

# Sources of Funds/Income

## Total Income

In 2024, the total income of Brot für die Welt was 332.3 million euros; it was 0.2 million euros higher than it had been the previous year.

## 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 KED funds (funds from the Church Development Service (Kirchlicher Entwicklungsdienst, KED)), they combine our development work with our church mandate. Income from donations and collections amounted to 73.9 million euros, slightly lower than in the previous year.

## 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 62.7 million euros in 2024, 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 168 million euros of federal funds, 148.6 million (see page 32) came from the budget of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 17.3 million from Engagement Global gGmbH, 0.6 million from the German Foreign Office (for foreign scholarship holders) and around 1.3 million from the Federal Ministry of the Interior for a social project in Romania. These funds are allocated exclusively for 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 5.2 million euros in other third-party contributions, for example for church-to-church aid projects.

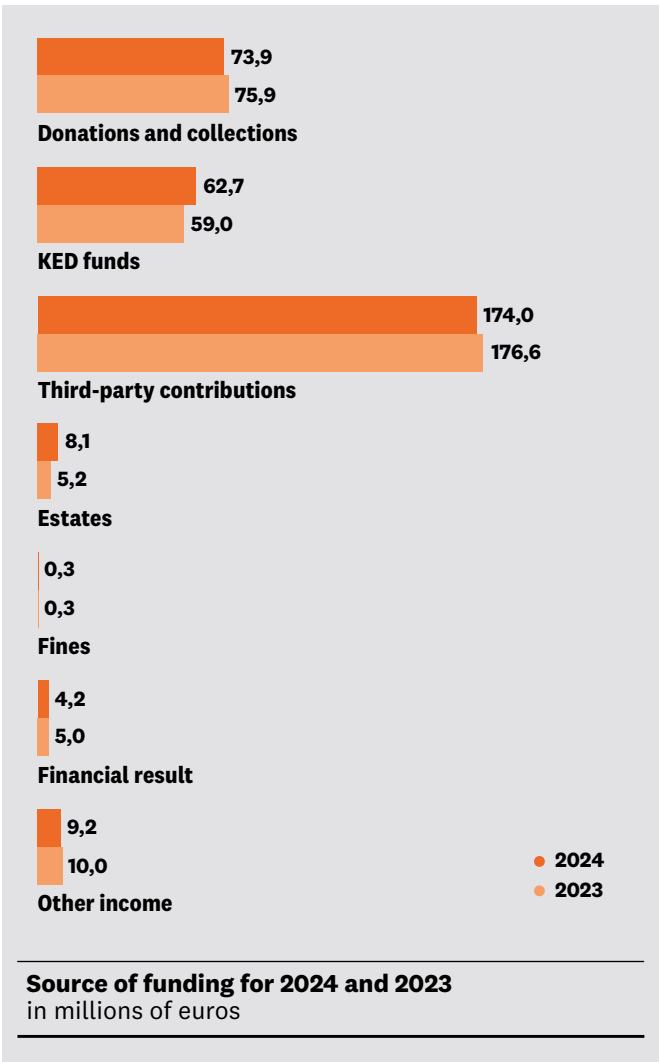
## Other Income

Other income in 2024 amounted to 9.2 million euros and remained constant compared to the previous year. This income primarily comes from the sale of Brot für die Welt

merchandise, licensing proceeds and cooperation agreements, and reimbursements for expenses.

## 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, we invest part of the project-bound, approved project funds according to ethical criteria. The resulting income enables Brot für die Welt to fulfil important tasks. The financial result in this reporting year increased by 0.8 million to 4.2 million euros.



## Use of Funds/Expenditure

### Programme Work

Programme work primarily comprises project fund payments amounting to 250.4 million euros (251.1 million euros in the previous year) to Brot für die Welt's partner organisations. Furthermore, 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 10.6 million euros in the reporting year, and they thus account for approximately 3.3 percent of the total expenditure (previous year: 3.3 percent).

#### • 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 18.8 million euros and increased slightly compared to the previous year (18.2 million euros). The administrative expenditure thus accounts for about 5.9 percent of the total result (previous year: 5.7 percent).

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

## Publication of Annual Accounts

The auditor's reports, the annual accounts for the legal entities EWDE, EZE and DU, and the certificate from the audit of the annual financial statements will be published after completion of the audit on our website at [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/jahresabschluss](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/jahresabschluss) (in German).

## 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 raising awareness 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.

## 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 [brot-fuer-die-welt.de/compliance-and-integrity](https://brot-fuer-die-welt.de/compliance-and-integrity).



**Brot für die Welt employees demand justice at the climate strike in Berlin.**

**Cover photo:** Small farmer Claudine Hashazinyange (26) ties plants together next to a bean field. She is a participant in the Ripple Effect Burundi programme, which supports sustainable agriculture development, food security and gender equality.

## Contact

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## Collaborations and Networks

Brot für die Welt is a member of various national and international networks and works together closely with other development and aid organisations. They include the international church network ACT Alliance, the umbrella organisation for development-related and humanitarian non-governmental organisations in Germany VENRO, as well as the alliance Bündnis Entwicklung hilft and our sister organisation, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

**Somebody  
should be doing  
something  
about hunger.  
Wait a minute,  
you actually  
are somebody.**