





## **Annual report 2022**

Overview of our project work



## **Inspiring commitment**

Dear wortundtat friends and supporters,

The war in Ukraine has shown that many people are willing to offer a helping hand when they feel the distress of others directly. By the end of the third quarter of 2022, no-profit organisations and churches had reported "record donation proceeds", according to the German Charity Council (Deutscher Spendenrat). This increase in the willingness to donate is mainly attributed to the war. And this is all the more surprising since the flood in 2021 in the Ahr Valley, as well as in parts of the Eifel, the Rhineland and the Ruhr area had triggered more donations than usual.

Also at wortundtat, we experienced this renrewed willingness to donate when we asked for help for our partners in the Republic of Moldova and Greece. These organisations were first off the blocks to offer care to the victims of the war in Ukraine. You can see how we were able to use the money on pages 34-36.

#### Inspiring commitment from young people

The title of the annual report of the German Charity Council gives cause for rejoicing about the "Aid balance sheet" - another result: The number of people donating under the age of 30 showed an especially strong increase. Young people are usually underrepresented when it comes to giving to charity.

The commitment of young people also plays an important role in our partners in the Republic of Moldova, Greece, Germany and Tanzania. In many cases, young people do the work in their projects. They use time, energy and ideas to support people in need or on their way to a more stable life. And these young helpers would probably have the option of getting good jobs with significantly less responsibility and better pay and no real obstacles.

#### Making the world a better place

Instead, they put a lot of effort into making this world a better place - investing their energy, focussed on a circumscribed environment. But, in addition to the very practical help they bring to lives and survival of others, they are on a journey carrying a message which is eternal: the message of God's offer of reconciliation to all men, which takes the form of Jesus Christ.

With your donation, dear reader, you therefore fund help for people in need. On the other hand, you motivate young people to work for the best cause in the world and to pursue a life path that is as challenging as it is fulfilling.

Thank you for that!

Your wortundtat editorial team

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wortundtat MAGA7INF 2023 Editorial staff Thomas Brand (Editorial coordinator), Ulrich Effing (Editor-in-Chief IV, i, S. d. P.)) Editorial contact: wortundtat, Deichmannweg 9, 45359 Essen, Germany, telephone: 02 01-67 83 83, Fax: 02 01-8 67 64 96 53, info@wortundtat.de, www wortundtat.de Photos: Thomas Brand, Rüdiger Fessel, KIUMA, Gloria, Hellenic Ministries and Stern im Norder Editorial proofing: Textlupe Lektorat UG, 52249 Eschweiler, www.textlupe.de Design: Reichert design, Dormagen | müller Fotosatz&Druck GmbH, Selbitz/Oberfrank

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Healthcare offerings in our projects



## Seeing people's plight

Heinrich Deichmann on wortundtat aid in 2022

In mid-2022, the United Nations Refugee Agency reported that around 103 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced from their homes – more than one percent of the world's population and around 15 percent more people than in 2021. In particular, the Ukrainian war was decisive for this progression. This war caused unexpected additional challenges for wortundtat partners in the Republic of Moldova and Greece.

Thanks to the commitment of many donors and with the help of the DEICHMANN Foundation (see page 8/9), which funds most of wortundtat's expenditure, the partners reacted quickly and flexibly to this need. We continued our regular support with our other wortundtat partners in Germany, Tanzania and India. I am grateful that we, in the wortundtat family, can jointly respond to crises at such different focal points of need and provide aid for self-help.

#### Hunger is raising its head again

The Ukraine war and other global and supra-regional crises have a special impact on the poorest of the poor. One of the saddest pieces of news in recent months is that global hunger has risen significantly again. Over recent decades, we have seen hunger in the world fall. The number of extremely needy people was steadily decreasing from year to year. Unfortunately, this trend is now in reverse.

COVID-19, but also the war in Ukraine, and the fact that food no longer reaches the poorest regions of the world as needed, means that more people are forced to go hungry again. It is disheartening to learn this. And it is upsetting to see that such a war is possible, a war being fought on our doorstep

At the clothing bank run by our partner Gloria in the Republic of Moldova, needy people can get shoes, garments, bed linen and other necessities

Students in KIUMA are happy receiving certificates from their teacher. They are grateful for learning opportunities in the remote region.

- for about a year now ... We hope and pray that this war will soon be over.

What can we do? We can help. You, dear reader, you can do that. And we at wortundtat and the DEICHMANN Foundation will be doing the same thing. It is important to me that we continue to help. This wortundtat magazine will show you certain examples of our projects and the measures where we could, and can, lend a hand together.

#### WORTUNDTAT E.V.

wortundtat has been helping people in need since 1977, when my father founded the aid organisation, for which I took over the chair in 2014. In 2022, the charity, organised as an association, worked with partners in Tanzania, the Republic of Moldova, Greece, Germany and India.

The needs and concerns of the people that the aid helpers face in the projects are very different. The help offered by the wortundtat partners is just as diverse, focussing primarily on education, healthcare and social welfare. In total, about 100,000 people benefited from the charity's aid projects. The common aspect shared by wortundtat and all partners is helping people to help themselves.

#### Faith is the unifying theme

Christian faith is the driving force behind the work and the unifying theme. The realisation that every human being is a creature loved by God - regardless of origin, social position or one's own religious convictions - drives the staff working on all the projects. And: The helpers also share their personal experiences of the healing, comforting and motivating power of the Christian faith with the people seeking help. Because - we are absolutely convinced - the Christian faith can give courage and hope to people in difficult circumstances. It can give those suffering injustice the certainty that life and adversity in this world will not have the last word.

#### Together, working with independent partners

wortundtat supports independent partner organisations working at project locations. Most of their staff are locals who understand the culture of the respective country. They are able to easily comprehend people's needs, they speak the languages and are familiar with local options available for providing help. wortundtat advises these organisations, follows and reviews their work and is the point of contact when new projects need to be implemented.

The situation permitting, aid should enable recipients to help themselves. Learning offerings are therefore an important part of support in projects. Medical treatment is another focus. wortundtat provides many people with little or no income access to such care services. And where basic physical and mental healthcare is not guaranteed, partner institutions provide help: Food handouts, free meals for seniors, milk for small children, clothing banks and community venues, but also spiritual support.

#### Love and justice prevail

wortundtat also provides help in rapid onset emergencies in the project areas. Through the partners in the respective country, help can often be provided, cutting through red tape, so it is dispensed quickly. This became clear during the COV-ID-19 pandemic and in the spring of 2022 after the outbreak of he war in Ukraine (see pages 34-36).

COVID-19, war, climate extremes, refugee flight and stavation - the impression is the world is becoming an increasingly dire place to live. However, I am and remain confident that better times are just around the corner. But I am realist enough not to expect the world to suddenly become a paradise. Rather, with my Christian belief, I hope for a new world in which love and justice will prevail. Until then, I am committed to helping those I can help. Please, I hope you can also also lend a hand.

> Yours truly, Heinrich Deichmann, Chairman wortundtat e.V.

Providing children and young people with learning, so they will be better equipped to lead a self-determined and independent life, is a permanent challenge, even which wortundtat - for example, has been involved

## **A strong partner** DEICHMANN Foundation supporting wortundtat

In addition to many private donations, wortundtat's work is largely supported by the DEICHMANN Foundation (see box on the right). Since the founding of the family-run footwear retail business of the same name, commitment to people in need has been an integral part of the corporate mission — in addition to responsibility towards customers, employees and suppliers. Since 1973, this commitment has found its organisational framework in the Foundation. In 2013, Heinrich Deichmann, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Deichmann SE, took over management of the foundation. The aid organisation wortundtat is a permanent partner. Other partners receive project-related, short-term or long-term funding. A selection of the project work is shown on this page.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, we were able to help a Polish organisation to bring more than 1,500 Ukrainian orphans to safety in the neighbouring country with professionally qualified caregivers. The "Happy Kids Poland" organisation provides accommodation and food.



The International Justice Mission (IJM) aims to curb violence against women and children worldwide. We support this cause, for example, in Uganda. There, IJM assists victims of violence and offers them lega, psychological and welfare support. At the same time, staff ensure that the police and the judiciary get better training on the subject. Due to more and more successful prosections and legally binding judgments, it is becoming increasingly possible to deter perpetrators. As a result, cases of violence against women and children are gradually falling. The district of Datzeberg in Neubrandenburg is one of the most disadvantaged neibourhoods in the region. Here, the DEICHMANN Foundation supports the "Trumpf" project. Its staff assist women who are having to deal with difficult life situations, such as poverty, long-term unemployment or domestic violence. The team helps them to recognise and develop their potential.



As with wortundtat, the following priciples also apply to the DEICHMANN Foundation: 100% of the donations made to the foundation go to project partners, because the foundation covers administration and public relations' costs.





#### **Engaged globally**

#### **The DEICHMANN Foundation**

Supporting people in rapid onset and continuing emergency situations, assisting them while they seek a way out – this is the special focus of the DEICHMANN Foundation.

- After disasters, we save lives.
- Through our help, we launch development.
- We enable disadvantaged people to take part in society.

The motivation for our charitable engagement is our Christian faith. Regardless of age, origin, gender and religious affiliation, we provide help where people need help.

We focus on learning and healthcare. In addition, we support selected social, cultural and scientific projects in Germany. On principle, we work closely with highly qualified partners – including the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). With our work, we continuously contribute to achieving the sustainability goals of the globally coordinated 2030 Agenda.

www.deichmann-stiftung.de

## In action on three continents

GERMANY Aid on the focus of attention in Dortmund's Nordstadt district (Project start : 2009)



Learning opportunities for approximately 150 children and teens



Social welfare and Christian pastoral services for approximately 250 beneficiaries per week

**GREECE** Aid for refugees and impoverished Greeks (Project start: 1980)



Medical services approximately 50 treatments per week

Learning opportunities

for approximately 80 students per week

Social welfare and Christian pastoral services for approximately 800 beneficiaries per week

#### INDIA Aid for people in rural areas (Project start: 1977)



Т

Learning opportunities for approximately 1,300 pupils, students and apprentices

#### REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA Aid for the poor population (Project start: 2006)



Medical services approximately 400 treatments per week

Learning opportunities for approximately 1,200 children and teens per week



Social welfare and Christian pastoral services for approximately 1,500 attendees per week

TANZANIA Aid for a population living in the remote south (Project start: 1996)



Medical services approximately 500 treatments per week

Learning opportunities for approx. 1,800 male and female apprentices

Social welfare and Christian pastoral services for approximately 1.500 attendees per week







## **Personal relationships**

#### Christian faith as the unifying theme

In 1977, Dr. Heinz-Horst Deichmann founded the wortundtat aid organisation, which initially worked with a partner in India. A project in Greece followed in the early 1980s, a partnership in Tanzania in 1996 and a project in the Republic of Moldova in 2006. A German partner has been funded since 2009. As different as the countries, the projects and the requirements of the people in need

may be - the Christian faith of the players was. and is, the driving force behind the commitment and the basis underpinning co-operation. In 2022, the partner in India was released and became independent. There, wortundtat now supports changing projects supported by various organisations over a specific timeframe.



## Aid in the remote South KIUMA - learning, healing and offering support with God's love







## **On the ground in Athens**

**Hellenic Ministries** — Showing mercy, helping, offering training and sharing the Gospel



Homeless or impoverished Greeks, people from Eastern Europe, refugees who have found shelter in Athens and on the Greek islands, as well as residents of a Roma traveller settlement are the focus of a singular commitment to people in need in Athens. In many places, work is aimed at helping those in dire straights. Where there are opportunities for self-help, our partner provides the resources for helping people move on to leading an independent life and integrating into society.

## Medical services, social welfare and Christian pastoral services

**Gloria** — Approaching distress, sickness and loneliness with kindness

Contact in the Republic of Moldova - located between Ukraine and Romania - was made by current wortundtat chairman, Heinrich Deichmann. After the collapse of the Eastern bloc, the great hardship experienced by certain regions became apparent. Following a sluggish trend toward improvement, the war in neighbouring Ukraine has once again





In 2006, the Gloria project was officially inaugurated. Children, the elderly and low-income households are the ones most affected by the economic tensions in the country, also known as the "poorhouse of Europe". We pay special attention to them.



## **Family Community Centre** in Dortmund's Nordstadt district

**Stern im Norden** (in English, North Star) — strangers can become friends

The living situation of many inhabitants of the Dortmund's Nordstadt district is significantly worse than in the rest of the city; the unemployment rate is always far higher compared to the city. Residents have lower incomes, and fewer people complete secondary education, gaining high school or grammar school certificates. One reason for this: The district has become a first stop for people fleeing war, political persecution or economic hardship. In Germany, they hope to find a more peaceful and secure future. Officially inaugurated in 2010, the "Stern im Norden" offers these people and the other residents of the district many opportunities for coming into contact and meeting each other.



You are welcome — this is what the Family Community Centre in Dortmund teaches its young and not so young members



WORTUNDTAT PROJECTS: INDIA

**India** — aiding, healing and supporting the lowly, helping them find a dignified life

In 1977, wortundtat started to support lepers in India together with the organisation, Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel India (AMG). Since then, more than 70 different individual AMG projects have been funded. Due to growing political pressure from the Indian government on aid organisations from abroad, wortundtat had to end its cooperation in March 2022.



The support of foreign partners for projects in India has been under increased scrutiny for some time. Therefore, we no longer show pictures or people from our projects, but use general images depicting the country.



Over the course of the year, wortundtat has started working with three other organisations in India. This co-operation has been restricted to a limited period of time from the outset. The reporting on our work on these projects is intentionally low-key and more muted compared to the past. We do not want to get the aid workers in India and their organisations into trouble, and we aim to protect the recipients of aid from any reprisals.



## Learning self-help

**Creating good conditions offering the right options** 

Aid for self-help is a central theme of the offerings that wortundtat partners make available to people looking for support from them. Social welfare and Christian pastoral services, medical care and education are the three areas that wortundtat primarily promotes.

Which focus a partner decides to give greater weight to depends on the needs of the people involved in the projects. wortundtat does not prescribe this approach, but seeks meaningful and goal-oriented solutions while working in close co-operation.

wortundtat views commitment as successful whenever these areas of intervention are meaningfully linked: "Whoever has enough to eat, is adequately clothed, is healthy and mentally stable can focus on learning. This is true for children and adults alike. Then a giant leap in a person's development is possible. Because with schooling, completed education or acquired skills, many people are able to help themselves in the future", Jakob Adolf, wortundtat project coordinator, says.

#### **On-demand supply**

Depending on gaps in education, medical assistance or social welfare and Christian pastoral offerings in the societies where our partners work, various aid focuses remain priority.

Two examples: In a suburb of Athens, there are Roma travellers who experience harsh discrimination by the rest of society. For a long time, they have remained emarginated avoiding contact with people around them. For several years now, our partner has been helping to prepare children and young people for school. It ensures that primary school children are regularly enrolled and that parents recognise the value of education. Adult education and a focus on relationship building contribute to the whole settlement feeling more integrated and advancing, which seemed unthinkable just a few years ago.

In the Republic of Moldova, it is not education but basic care that is a daily issue for many elderly people. Staff at our centre therefore regularly dispense lunch and distribute clothing or wood for heating. For these recipients of the aid, daily survival is paramount; if they become ill, they can also visit the medical outpatient clinic with its various specialists. And those who want to draw additional strength from the Christian faith, they are able to attend services.

#### **Targeted to needs**

"Because we customise our offerings very specifically to the needs of people, we can provide sustainable help. Our partners understand these needs better than we do. They then plan the help that's needed. We assist them, giving suggestions and feedback from the places where we get the impression critical support is necessary", Jakob Adolf adds. He is in regular contact with the people in charge of the projects. Whenever possible, he personally takes a close look at the work being done.





## **Closing gaps in the system**

#### **Treatment for people with no income**

Impaired health does not need to be an automatic threat. However, it is often the case that whenever a disorder goes untreated, the sick cannot afford a doctor, or they are denied access to healthcare. wortundtat partners provide a remedy where the State health system fails to reach people who need support or treatment.

In the place where our partner in **TANZANIA** works, the nearest hospital is about 70 kilometers away – a distance very few residents can cover in a reasonable time. Almost no one has a car. In general, medical care in the country is not widely developed by international standards. Out of a thousand newborns, nearly 31 die in Tanzania within the first year (Germany: 3.2), and AIDS is the leading cause of death in adults.\* In addition, malaria, hepatitis, tuberculosis and bacterial diarrhoea are among the most common diseases. They receive poor treatment in a remote region like the south of the country.

Our KIUMA hospital has 100 beds. It is equipped with an operating theatre, X-ray department and laboratory, and it is well on its way to equalling modern medical standards in terms of quality. The doctors working there focus on treatments against malaria, respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis and obstetrics. Patients are treated for a small fee – those who cannot afford to pay, receive the medical care they need free-of-charge.

In the **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**, health services are often available only against cash payment. Many seniors cannot afford to pay, so they fail to get urgently needed treatment. In addition, qualified doctors emigrate because they have better earning prospects abroad. Especially in the countryside, many people die alone and without medical care.

The wortundtat partner employs various specialist doctors at an outpatient clinic. The in-house laboratory undertakes a wide range of tests, and at the pharmacy, patients can get various drugs at a subsidised price. An outpatient nursing service also offers care for patients at home, and at the first inpatient hospice in the country, and nurses assist people during the final days of their lives.

Access to the health system is restricted for refugees in **GREECE** and depends on their recognised status. Certain people suffering from disorders also shy away from going to hospitals or established doctors. Whenever a child is coughing or has a temperature, complications arise during pregnancy or people have a toothache, these conditions may not qualify for free treatment at state health facilities or, if treated, they are associated with very long waiting times.

The gynecologist, pediatrician and dentist working for our Greek partner are a good place to go in such cases. They offer professinal services, without a lot of paperwork. Concern about an individual's or a child's health can then often be quickly dispersed. Homeless Greeks also get to see the dentist.

Primary healthcare in **INDIA** varies greatly from region to region. We support a donation-funded hospital in a place where there are insufficient state services. General medicine and AIDS patients receive care there. A new X-ray machine has been helping to diagnose various diseases at the KIUMA hospital since 2022.

THE PARTY IN



## **Customised learning opportunities**

#### Teaching, what's needed

Education is essential for gaining independence as human beings, so as not to be dependent on others for a lifetime, to be able to assess and harness the opportunities that the world offers. Against this background, educational opportunities are of great importance in the context of the wortundtat projects. Why and which kind of learning opportunities are needed differs from country to country.

**GREECE** is still a transit station for refugees on their way to Central Europe. Not all refugee children have the opportunity to attend Greek schools. Depending on their country of origin, their mothers are often illiterate. The situation is similar with residents of a Roma traveller settlement. Their own desire to integrate and the willingness of their fellow citizens to help them do so was pretty poor. The outcome: an education gap and low prospects on the labour market.

Refugee women without a school education can start learning to read and write at the wortundtat partner. Children who do not go to Greek schools have at least certain learning experiences. So that younger members of the Roma traveller settlement can enter the Greek educational system, we establish basic rules for living together. At a Community Centre, they attend pre-school courses and receive tutoring. We teach craft skills such as sewing, woodworking or repairs to people, so they can earn a small income for themselves and their families.

**DORTMUND'S NORDSTADT DISTRICT** is home to people coming from many different nations with almost no links to German society. To help them with integration, to teach rules of co-operation and to reduce learning deficits where needed, the wortundtat partner has developed an extensive range of services for children, teens and adults.

Many residents in Tunduro district in the south of **TANZANIA** only know about secondary schools and job prospects from hearsay that are available in

the cities. Few people have the chance to go on to secondary school after primary school. Apprenticeships are also scarce in the region. Our partner KIUMA has created an extensive educational and learning offering. A secondary school, a nursing school and a business for various craft training courses ensure that young people do not have to leave their home if they want to learn a job skill. With the acquired knowledge, school leavers contribute to the progressive development of an entire region. A welcome addition will be a new agricultural school this year.

How good the educational opportunities for children are in INDIA often depends on how affluent their parents are. Children from low-income families often miss out on learning opportunities. Women's educational opportunities are also significantly lower than those of men. We therefore support programmes that specifically help such disadvantaged people. For example, women learn skills that allow them to pursue a profession. With income, they earn their own living or contribute to that of their family. We assist high-performing students whose parents are unable to pay for their schooling. In addition, there is career guidance, and young people's achievements are communicated in forums that are accessed by potential employers. Finally, we give children with disabilities the opportunity to receive primary and secondary education and support a nursing school.

Young women from the Middle East learn English in Athens, so they can make themselves understood in Europe.





## **Serving people**

**Needs-based social welfare and Christian pastoral offerings** 

In addition to state welfare services, non-governmental organisations around the world are essential when services are needed for people requiring special aid. With the wortundtat partners, such Christian pastoral services have often been the starting point for ever-expanding projects. And all projects are linked to the chance of learning about the Christian faith.

Income in the **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA** is enough only for few people to live on. Often they have to choose between heating or food, a doctor's visit or clothing, medication or to do an essential repair on their home. So many people go hungry, live in accommodation in a state of disrepair or wear wornout clothing. The offering of the wortundtat partner is correspondingly versatile: a wardrobe, social workers who make home visits, a soup kitchen or a crew of builders that repairs dilapidated houses are just some of the services that help fight hardship. Three day care centres also address children's needs - especially those whose parents are working abroad and who live with their grandparents. With a lot of love and imagination, the caregivers create spaces and activities where children are occupied age-appropriately, offering opportunities for stimulating their creativity.

At the **DORTMUND NORDSTADT DISTRICT**, people from different cultural backgrounds meet up. Many of them initially do not know how integration in Germany "works". They are all the more lost when it comes to overcoming bureaucratic hurdles. In the protected environment of the "Stern im Norden", they can learn the rules of interacting with each other. They get help to sort out the paperwork needed by state offices and agencies. And they practice peaceful and constructive coexistence in different groups. Especially for children, teens and young people who come to the "Stern", the offerings are rewarding. And the relationships they establish there offer them security in an often challenging environment.

In the remote south of TANZANIA, attractive life prospects for young people are incredibly scarce. Those who want to advance and use their skills will have almost no chance of finding what they are looking for in their local area. The Centres of Hope supported by wortundtat provide a remedy. Various basic craft skills are taught at the community facilities. The community can be maintained and the future can be planned to some degree. At the same time, the whole village wins: A pool of people with new skills is created. This knowledge serves the village community. In addition to smallholder farming, there are additional sources of income. The region develops together with its inhabitants.

For refugees from the Middle East or East Africa, **GREECE** is often only a transit point. In the long term, few want to stay and the country is overwhelmed by the high number of new arrivals. Other reasons why refugees have low chances of entering Greece's labour market are high unemployment rates, language barriers and bureaucratic hurdles. So many of them rely on social welfare and Christian pastoral services. In several places in Athens, wortundtat with its partner provides free meals, a clothes bank, washing machines, showers and community centres. It also provides learning and medical assistance and offers basic religious courses for people who want to learn about the Christian faith.





## Water for KIUMA

Three new wells will supply the facilities in Tanzania

Because there is no public water supply in the remote region in southern Tanzania, people there usually have to ensure that they have access to drinking water themselves. wortundtat drilled new, larger wells in 2022. This also benefits the neighbouring village.

In the summer, holes for three new wells were drilled on the extensive KIUMA site using heavy equipment. The two wells used so far have proved to be too small over the years. Time and time again, there have been problems with the water supply in the past.

#### **Drinkable quality water**

The new wells now have a larger diameter and go down as far as 200 metres. In the future, they will ensure that the approximately 1,800 people who live and work on the site and a few hundred residents from the neighbouring village have safe access to water in the coming years. Several hundred residents from the neighboring village may also use the well. As a bonus, water in KIUMA coming from the well is drinkable. Further purifying is not required. For example, it can be used for cooking and washing on the KIUMA site.

A third well was built slightly farther away from the residential and commercial buildings. The water extracted there will be used for a farming project that was launched at the beginning of 2023 (see fundraising campaign page 37).



Three wells were drilled on the KIUMA site for the farming project and the wat supply for the entire site.





# Learning about self-determination

Those who flee from war or violence leaving their homeland and arrive in safety, often have a long way to go before they find a new home. The work of our Greek partner is proving how refugees can be integrated in the host country.

Sama, for example, who left Iran with her husband, wants to stay in Greece. The country, the climate and the culture remind them of their homeland. In Iran, she learned garment design and embroidered impressive images and patterns on fabrics. In Athens, however, she found no work at first. "When I arrived, I immediately looked for a job, but it was very difficult. I didn't know the language and had no contacts. So, I could embroider but not sell anything. Then I tried to work for a business. But I would have needed to work long hours for very little money. I couldn't do that".

#### **Vocational Training Centre for Refugee Women**

She finally came into contact with the wortundtat partner, Hellenic Ministries, and heard about their training centre for women. Learning to use a sewing machine is a silver lining for them. She became familiar with fabrics and needle and thread. She found it easy to use a sewing machine and quickly learned new skills. With this knowledge, in Autumn 2022, she was able to get a job at Rainlab, a social enterprise that gives refugee women the opportunity to gain a foothold on the first rung of the Greek labour market ladder.

#### A new home is in sight

Sama: "Working at Rainlab is great for me. The Hellenic Ministries Training Centre helped me get started. I can now put into practice what I've learned, and I'm in a great work environment. I felt the warm atmosphere the first time I stepped into the company". Slowly, Sama's haven, Athens, has become her new home. "I love Greece. It's like a second home for me", she says.

And Sama now has more than one income: "For a refugee woman like me, it means everything to be able to work! With the money I earn, I feel strong and independent. I am no longer dependent on charity. Others now don't decide what I need as a refugee".

At the moment, Sama lives with her husband in only one room. The other rooms of the flat are shared with others. "Soon, we'll be able to rent our own flat and have privacy and peace and quiet", she says.

#### "I can make a difference with my skills"

Mahnaz from Afghanistan is in a similar situation. She has also gained access to a job in Greece through the Hellenic Ministries Training Centre. She couldn't sew and was initially on her own in Athens. The opportunity to learn and find a job at Rainlab, using the skills they have acquired has changed their lives. She says, "When I came here, I had a good feeling. A job shows me that I'm able to make a difference with my skills". High-quality bags, scrunchies and other accessories are made by Mahnaz and Sama at Rainlab. The social enterprise employs women who find themselve in various life situations and attaches importance to sustainable manufacturing.

"With training, I don't have to rely anymore on charity, and can decide for myself what I need".

# Summer camp lets children shine

#### The Pearl children day care centre creates happy times

Getting by with little, having too little: For many girls and boys in the rural regions of the Republic of Moldova, this is everyday life. An everyday life from which our day care centres offer respite. There is hot food, homework supervision, games and sports activities and a summer holiday programme.

#### A programme that's beneficial

Pearl children day care centre in Vulcanesti is one of three day care centres that wortundtat supports. Around 75 boys and girls between the ages of six and fifteen come here – every day after school and spend even more time at the centre during the summer holidays. In addition to school children participating in the Pearl programme, all children from Vulcanesti can attend the summer camp. For two weeks, the focus is on painting, theatre or cooking together. There are morning sports and Bible studies, a water slide and volleyball tournaments. "The children have fun and feel accepted," says Liza Smolina, director of the Pearl day care centre. "Their beaming, happy faces show how good the programme is for them – and how important it is."

#### No money for heating

Also Daniel laughs happily, while he practises a new dance routine with other summer camp kids. The 15 year old helps the supervisors oversee the summer camp kids, while he also takes part in the Pearl programme. During the school year, he goes there every day, gets a warm meal, help with homework and attention and care. To the great joy of his grandmother, with whom he lives. She is raising three grandchildren. The parents have been "somewhere in Poland" for a long time to earn money. As yet, they haven't sent any home.

The family lives on 2,600 Leu (EUR 130) a month, the grandfather's pension, which is not enough to make ends meet. Recently, they had to spend all



the money they had on potatoes. Their own vegetable patch, which many people in the Republic of Moldova keep, does not produce much as the soil is too infertile. "We've forgotten what tomatoes or cucumbers taste like", says the grandmother, who is only able to heat the small house in winter thanks to the Pearl day care centre making wood available. "Otherwise we'd freeze.".

#### Four living in a tiny space

Vanya (14) and Masha (almost 12) live with their mother, grandmother and big sister in poor conditions. They live and sleep in a small flat; at night the armchairs in the living room become a bed for Vanya, Masha and their grandmother. The electrics in the flat are in need of repair but there's no money. When the gas bill is too steep, they turn off the lights to save money. But even money for food is scarce. The grandmother's pension and the income

#### **Children in the Republic of Moldova**

Her parents have not seen many children in the Republic of Moldova for years. The adults work abroad to send money home to the family. Children live with their grandparents, in a confined space, with the bare necessities to get by – often with less. There is a shortage of everything. 24 percent of children in the Republic of Moldova are considered living on the breadline, while eleven percent are affected by extreme poverty.



Daniel likes taking part in the audition and encourages the other children to dance along. But he doesn't dance along with the other kids.



earned by the mother – – she works shifts at a factory making cable harnesses – needs to stretch around for everyone. So, the family does not have much money and the mother has little time for her children.

The 70-year-old grandmother has the task of raising her grandchildren. All the more, she and the children enjoyed the time at summer camp. Meeting up with other girls and boys, spending time together and playing: Vanya and Masha enjoyed their time at the Pearl day care centre – and it was good for them. "The director Liza is like a second mother to her", says her grandmother and we can see that even these short breaks from the heavy responsibilities she shoulders also helps her. "It's all on me. When I'm gone, I don't know what will happen to the kids".

> Vanya, Masha (right), their little sister and grandmother live with the mother of the children; five of them living in tiny accommodation. It urgently needs to be renovated but there is on money





## Escort, encourage, empower

#### **Advising parents in Dortmund in difficult situations**

In the German wortundtat project, "Stern im Norden", Karen Prause regularly invites parents from the neighbourhood. As a first point of contact, she gives them the chance to unload their questions, talk about the letter they've received from an agency office, help them apply for housing allowances or other relief or share tips with them on raising children. In an interview, Karen Prause talks about what is needed if you want to advise parents in Dortmund like her.

#### Karen, you've been a part of our Parents' Café for many years. What questions do people ask you?

Many parents need help with job centre papers or asylum matters. Actually, I advise on all relief and benefits that families can get that are experiencing difficulties. Especially for people who are foreign to our culture, this red tape is like a maze. Some need help with résumés or to prepare for a job interview. They seek my advice on educational issues, questions about our culture or marital problems.

#### Why is this advice so valuable?

I can help people when they can't do it on their own. Recently, I had a situation where the Housing Allowance Office was waiting for the decision of the Child Allowance Office and the Child Allowance Office was waiting for the decision



While kids are cared for playing, mothers and fathers can seek advice from Karen Prause in peace.

of the Housing Allowance Office. A stalemate at the cost of the person concerned, who then temporarily had to face financial difficulties. In this case, I was able to mediate between the parties and thus defuse the situation. In another case, I was able to help a woman and her three children, whose father had died. It is always very challenging facing a bereavement. Now, imagine what this is like for a Moroccan widow who lives here alone in a foreign culture. In addition, he was buried when COVID-19 measures were in place. It is impossible to cope with all this alone and to navigate the jungle of death insurance, pension applications and funeral forms without knowing our laws and regulations. In such situations, we can be a huge help and encouragement.

#### Some of the people you advise come to you with very personal matters. Why do they trust you?

There are many reasons. On the one hand, I have been giving advice at Stern steadily for many years. Continuity is very important. We are there and trustworthy. Another factor is good word-of-mouth. People know we advise people properly and we refer them to other operators - such as lawyers or consumer agencies, if we cannot solve the situation. In addition, we usually have someone there and who can interpret.

#### **Do you get positive feedback on your advisory work?** Quite often. Recently, a young man came to us over the moon. He was waving the papers in his hand that we had been be preparing so he could apply for a job. He was so thrilled when he showed them to me.



# Help for Ukraine refugees

### How wortundtat helped using your money

To be able to provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees, we had asked for support for the work of our partners in the Republic of Moldova, Greece and Germany shortly after the outbreak of war. Very quickly, they launched various emergency aid schemes. Until the end of the year, they adapted their offerings and services again and again to meet specific needs. **Republic of Moldova** 

#### **Refugee transport and accommodation**

For most of the inhabitants of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova was the closest peaceful country at the outbreak of war. About 750,000 people – mostly women, children and the elderly – have crossed the Ukrainian-Moldovan border in the first year of the war, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency. Our partner picked hundreds of them up using small buses there, bringing them first to Ceadîr-Lunga. There, staff at the Gloria station provided refugees with care and temporarily found them accommodation. For about 2,000 people, our partner organised the further flight to Central Europe on coaches. We were able to help the refugees who remained in the region with food, accommodation, clothing and other services.

Not only are the refugees in need of support in the small and economically very weak republic between Ukraine and Romania. The people of the country are also suffering: The inflation rate – since 2010 actually always running under ten percent – rose to more than 25 percent at the outbreak of the war. The consequence: People can no longer finance their livelihoods, there is no money for heating and the prospect of the situation getter better is out of sight. wortundtat has therefore also expanded aid to the project, again providing extra food relief or firewood.

Ukrainian children fortify themselves at Ceadîr-Lunga



In small buses, numerous people were brought to safety across the border from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova



Romania

#### Setting up and running an accommodation for refugees

Our Greek partner helped build a refugee shelter using its expertise and staff. In the container village, which could be set up on a campsite at short notice, families with children between the ages of 20 months and 14 years were housed. The partner, that has experience in setting up and running refugee shelters, showed the Romanian helpers the ropes thus helped ensure that aid was provided quickly. The refugees themselves also took on individual tasks, so that the Greek helpers could quickly get on with other assignments.



#### Germany

#### Accommodation for mother with teen

The "Stern im Norden" had the chance to host a Ukrainian mother with her teen at residential accommodation of the community centre. In addition, the large storage area for furniture and clothing at the centre could be used to supply Ukrainians with appropriate goods after their arrival in Germany.

#### Please help.

## to promote growth

with the farming project in southern Tanzania, which has now been launched, and where we are assisting young people who have not yet received any training. With our help, they develop a realistic and sustainable prospect for their future.

With knowledge in growing vegetables and other crops, they will have a source of food all year round and will be able to sell their excess produce. Business knowledge helps them to plan income and expenses in a rational way. And in working, learning and living together, they acquire social skills. Respect, discipline, tolerance and empathy strengthen the young people and enable them to grow into mature individuals.

#### **How You Can Help**

Trainees are between 15 and 20 years old and live in shared accommodation. We provide them with housing and food and lessons. Supporting a trainee costs 48 euros per month.

Teachers come from an agricultural college near KIUMA. They are familiar with the young people's way of life and understand requirements, soil and



climatic conditions in the district. A teacher costs us 290 euros per month.

Donat

now.

today

We provide the young people with the starting capital to farm a field of around 900 square metres (around 0.23 acres) after successfully completing their apprenticeship. We provision for the start-up capital over the training period. This costs 10 euros per month.

You can help young people learn sustainably, help their personal growth and become independent.

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## **Your money arrives** where it is needed

#### How we ensure good use of your donations

wortundtat handles the donations received responsibly. This is the promise we make to our donors, and we are happy for this statement to be verified independently.

We have set the goals for our mission and the methods adopted for running the association in a charter. It can be viewed at www.wortundtat.de/ transparenz. On the website, we also publish information about the annual expenses of the relief agency and concise annual financial statements. These are each audited by a reputable auditing firm. Following audits, independent auditors have to date issued their audit opinion with no reserves. The annual financial statements for 2022 are not yet available. They are expected to be published on wortundtat.de after the general meeting in the summer of 2023.

#### A voluntary commitment

wortundtat is voluntarily committed to meeting the standards and quality requirements of the German Central Institute for Social Affairs (DZI). The



DZI monitors the work of fundraising organisations. wortundtat provides the DZI with the annual financial statements and other required disclosures. After review, the institute issues the donation seal valid for one year. The magazine, Finan-

ztest, published by Stiftung Warentest, wrote about the DZI: "The financial test considers the DZI donation seal to be especially significant compared to other certification, since it requires a comprehensive external audit and not only inspection by an interest group."\*

#### Informing based on the facts and truthfully

The DZI explains which organisations receive the DZI seal on its website: "They are efficient, work in a transparent manner, operate prudently, provide factual and truthful information and have effective control and supervisory structures. In this way, they

ensure the donations they receive comply with the charitable purpose". wortundtat has so far received the donation seal every year since its inception.

In Austria and Switzerland, appropriate inspections are being conducted in accordance with the German procedure. In the various application areas, we check whether funds have been used correctly, through our experts, inspecting local accounting and by personally looking at work in the field – where travel is possible, at least once a year. In Tanzania and the Republic of Moldova, the accounting department additionally uses an independent auditing firm.

In addition to the general meeting, other bodies of the association are involved and an independent advisory board, which supports the work of the association with ideas and suggestions.

\* Source: www.test.de/Richtig-spenden-So-erkennen-Sie-serioese-Organisationen-4633447-0/

#### **Overview of wortundtat total expenditure**

As in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic also had a significant impact on the work of 2021 projects. Schools, training facilities and some other services were shut down or could only run to a very limited extent. Meal programmes, such as "Love Meals" in Athens, Greece, or lunches in thesocial welfare centre, Gloria, in Republic of Moldova were moved outdoors and limited to the distribution of food rations.





#### **Board of Directors**

Chairman: Heinrich Deichmann, Essen Vice-Chair: Susanna Deichmann, Essen Dr. Raimund Utsch, Marl

#### **Board members:**

Ulrich Effing, Marl Bernd van de Sand, Essen Dr. Thomas Schmidt, Dietzhölztal

#### **Member of the Advisory Council**

We are committed to wortundtat. and are engaged in the missionary work and we recognise the board of directors. The management board oversees work, in the name of Christian responsibility, on a committed and non-remunerated basis. Steffen Kern, Walddorfhäslach Dieter Kohl, Dülmen Prof. Dr. Dr. Roland Werner, Marburg

wortundtat invested more than EUR 6 million in 2021. Of this, 98.9 percent went to the projects. A good EUR 70,000 were spent on administration, advertising and public relations.

All private donations to wortundtat go directly to the projects. Expenditure on administrative and public relations is covered by a special donation from the DEICHMANN Foundation.

#### wortundtat

wortundtat Allgemeine Missions-Gesellschaft e. V. Postfach 110 111, 45331 Essen | Deichmannweg 9, 45359 Essen-Borbeck info@wortundtat.de | www.wortundtat.de



## Biblical stimulus Hagar moments

by **Jakob Adolf** Project Coordinator wortundtat



About 4,000 years ago, Abraham lived with his wife Sarah. Sarah was close to despair: She was childless. In Sarah's time, people believed that they could only live through their descendants. Not being able to have children was perceived as a life sentence.

God had promised them descendants. Perhaps Abraham and Sarah believed they needed to fulfill his promise? After all, they were already old. Sarah said: "Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." (Genesis 16:2b) At this time, a man whose wife was childless could father a child with a servant. Whenever the child is born while the servant is sitting in the lap of the mistress, it is like the mistress having a biological child.

#### Life or death.

Sarah's servant was called Hagar. Hagar was chosen to bear descendants. The obvious happened. When Abraham's servant conceived, she thought she was more worthy than Sarah. She could do what her mistress could not. And it was not about who cooked the better dinner. It was a question of life or death! Sarah now suffered even more.

And what about Abraham? He pretended that it was none of his business! "Your slave is in your

hands,' Abram said. 'Do with her whatever you think best." (Genesis 16:6) So Sarah began to humiliate Hagar. She eventually took flight to a desert. Up to this point, a disastrously human story. Predictably doomed to fail.

#### "God hears your strain".

Then God intervened. For him, Hagar was not just a slave. He had his own story with Hagar and sent an angel. He promised her a great offspring and gave a name to the Son: Issac, "God hears", because – the angel said – "He has heard your strain". (Genesis 16:11)

And suddenly Hagar realised that there is a God who had not left her alone and she gave this God a name. "She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,'"(Genesis 16:13)

**ABUSED**, **FORCED TO FLEE AND UNAPPRECIATED** – many people our partners meet in their projects come from situations reminiscent of Hagar's. Some of these people also experience such "Hagar moments" with us. You will learn that, in addition to having enough food, clothing, learning and health, there is some-thing that offers a sustainable foundation in the most difficult life situations: There is a God who sees me!