

EIRENE

INTERNATIONALER CHRISTLICHER FRIEDENSDIENST e.V.



Annual Report 2023

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

RAPPORT ANNUEL 2023

JAHRESBERICHT 2023

REPORTE ANUAL 2023



Dear Readers,

There is no doubt that we are living in times of war. What was unthinkable and unspeakable until recently is now bitter reality, as Defense Minister Pistorius says that in five years Germany should be able to wage war against Russia. This is not how a new peace order is created in the long term; it merely presents war as an inevitable future.

Today, more than ever, we need a vision of how to make the future peaceful, however difficult that may be. This also includes a realistic migration policy that provides answers to the challenges of the present. But instead of talking about how to reduce the causes of flight globally, the parties are making increasingly abstruse proposals about how to keep migrants out of the country and out of the EU.

Yet the globalized world needs collective solutions – to the ecological crisis, to diseases like Covid-19, to global inequality. But anyone who focuses primarily on belligerence cannot solve other crises. By scaling back climate targets, we are already experiencing a dangerous step backwards on the road to climate justice.

But if politics is largely reduced to the delivery of weapons to war and crisis zones, while the protection of human rights is increasingly neglected, then this is short-sighted. Negotiated solutions must always be a political goal, even if they are painful for all parties involved.

EIRENE continues to work to create peace and pave the way for peace. Even if it seems almost impossible these days. In this annual report, you will find encouraging examples of how people have stood up for peace nonviolently in the past year, whether in Burkina Faso, Bolivia or Neuwied.

Hauke Steg, Chair of EIRENE

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Our principles

INTERNATIONAL: EIRENE is an international organization with international partners in the Global South and the Global North. Local and international experts and volunteers work together in joint programs. Peace service is a cross-border task that addresses the causes and consequences of violence, demands social and global justice, and seeks to overcome discrimination and the abuse of power.

NONVIOLENT: EIRENE's peace service is based on the values of non-violence, respect for the dignity of all people and respect for our one world. We live these values in our daily lives and implement them professionally in our programs. In situations where injustice and exclusion, hatred and violence prevail, EIRENE stands for participation in social decision-making, for a fair distribution of resources and for the non-violent resolution of conflicts.

SPIRITUELL: Peace work needs inspiration and nonviolent peace service needs peace spirituality. As people of different religious, humanistic and political worldviews, we seek to find what connects us and promotes peace. In our community, in open dialogue and in our daily activities, we find the strength to resist violence.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PEACE SERVICE 2023



PEACE EDUCATION IN MALI

For their development, children need places where they are protected and can develop freely. The EIRENE partner organization ORFED is working in Mali to ensure that schools there become such places. The goal of the collaboration is clear: no drugs, no weapons, no violence, but listening, understanding and artistic expression for peace. The picture shows the energy that this releases in children.



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES

To ensure that the peace commitment of former volunteers continues, sustainable structures are needed. That is why international alumni of the volunteer service in Germany are increasingly being asked to take responsibility. For example, a return seminar was organized by former Bolivian volunteers in 2023 for their successors in El Alto. Victoria Gutierrez Machicado sums up: "The exchange with people who, like me, had completed a voluntary service in Germany was important for me and encouraged me to continue getting involved."



NEW PEDAGOGICAL FORMATS

A social-ecological transformation requires new pedagogical formats. In 2023, a returnee seminar for volunteers took place for the first time at the Brexbachtal scout camp in February. Collecting wood and cooking over an open fire filled the days, as did reflecting on the service provided. The shared experience of nature in combination with the experiential education seminars enabled the group to recharge their batteries and emerge stronger from their peace service with EIRENE.



MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING VOLUNTARY SERVICES

In times of tight public finances, EIRENE is firmly opposed to plans to cut funding for voluntary services. We have collected signatures, met with politicians and, together with other organizations, campaigned to ensure that voluntary services in Germany and internationally remain accessible to as many people as possible in the future.



RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE

On the evening of September 8, Morocco was hit by a devastating earthquake. Over 2,000 people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands were left homeless. The great need unleashed an equally great solidarity in the North African country. Many civil society organizations became active in providing emergency relief. EIRENE volunteers were released from their assignments and supported the emergency relief efforts in the areas where the earthquake caused the greatest damage.



PEACE BEGINS WITH ENCOUNTERS

In Congolese communities, EIRENE's partner organization FAP has created important peace structures: so-called peace committees. In these committees, community representatives come together and consult on conflictual challenges. This has led to inter-religious disputes being resolved peacefully, conflicts over land ownership not escalating and girls being protected against forced marriage. The peace committees have been so successful that they have now been set up in many communities in the Uvira district.



Die Peters-Projektion (nach James Gall Peters im Jahr 1855) war für Weltkarten entwickelt worden, um alle Länder im rechten Größenverhältnis darzustellen. Sie ist flächentreu, lagetreu, achsentreu und nicht „eurozentristisch“.

on Great Lakes



MEDIA AND PEACE: EIRENE supports local media centers and journalism associations in the training of radio journalists who report on conflicts in a gender-sensitive and power-sensitive way.



RAW MATERIALS AND PEACE:

Artisanal and small-scale mining is an important source of income for many families. EIRENE is committed to fairer working conditions and a fair distribution of profits.



PEACE EDUCATION:

EIRENE brings peace education into the curriculum. The activities of our partner organizations encourage teachers, students and ministries of education to integrate peace education elements into everyday school life.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS:

Together with EIRENE partner organizations, women are empowered in their roles in society and family. Economically as entrepreneurs and socially by upholding their rights to integrity and inviolability.



CHILD PROTECTION:

Peace and the prevention of violence against children requires safe spaces, at school, at home and on the street.



REFUGE AND FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE:

Refugees play a central role in EIRENE peace projects. They are empowered and trained to become conflict mediators. This promotes social cohesion and intercultural openness in host communities.



RESILIENCE IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS:

People are being strengthened against the consequences of the climate crisis through locally adapted concepts for sustainable land and soil management.



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE:

EIRENE is a partner of the "Weltwärts Program" and the International Youth Voluntary Service (IYVS). Every year, EIRENE receives and sends around 75 people who want to work in social institutions for a fairer world.

PEACE JOURNALISM AGAINST TRAUMA & STIGMA

Since 2016, Burkina Faso has been plagued by violence and terrorism. Terrorist attacks occur regularly, particularly in the north and west of the country, leading to the withdrawal of the police and military. Today, an estimated 40 percent of the population live in areas that are not controlled by state security forces. There are regular attacks by militant groups on the civilian population, massacres and human rights violations. The result is mass flight; more than two million people have now become internally displaced.

Burkinabe journalist Mariam Ouedraogo has been working for the Burkinabe daily newspaper Sidwaya since 2013 and is a team member of the gender group at EIRENE's partner organization, the Centre National de Presse Norbert Zongo (CNP-NZ). She regularly reports on the conflicts in her home country for Sidwaya. Her reporting focuses on the suffering of women and girls in the ongoing armed conflicts: "If you scream in pain, the beating will be stopped. If you touch the wound, the number of lashes you receive will be reset to zero," Solange reports of her ordeal. The mother of seven was among a group of women humiliated and abused by militant groups while fleeing from Dablo, a community in the north of the country. Mariam spoke with Solange and many other women during her research. The resulting reports for the Burkinabe newspaper Sidwaya have caused quite a stir. They relentlessly and in detail document the acts of violence committed by militant groups against women like Solange. And they show how systematically rape is used as a weapon of war in Burkina Faso. Mariam spoke with women who became pregnant as a result of rape. Many of them commit suicide because they are ashamed and fear social exclusion.

Mariam has recently received various awards for her reporting, including the prestigious Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Prize for war reporting. Her commitment to giving a voice to female victims of the conflict is honored beyond her home country. And her reports lead to important debates in Burkinabe society. These help women to get help after traumatic experiences and to

avoid stigmatization. Mariam has attended courses in peace journalism through CNP-NZ, funded by EIRENE, as part of her training. Today, she is part of a pool of trainers for peace journalism and helps young journalists to provide important educational work and promote constructive debates, even in times of war.



Mariam Ouedraogo / Bild ©EIRENE-SAHEL



PEACE CLUBS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SCHOOLS

Carole Sanogo is involved in the EIRENE partner organization West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in Burkina Faso. In the interview, she describes the challenges that young people face in her home country and the positive influence that EIRENE's peace work had on her time at school.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN BURKINA FASO?

The biggest problem is the lack of economic and social prospects for young people, which drives them to violent extremism.

WHAT IS THE SITUATION LIKE IN SCHOOLS?

There are many problems with violence and drugs. I myself went to the largest school in Ouagadougou, with more than 5,000 students. Drugs were sold there, and there were many problems with the administration and the teachers. The government wanted to reform the education system, but did not explain its measures well enough. As a result, there were strikes and outbreaks of violence in schools.

WHEN DID YOU HEAR ABOUT WANEP'S PEACE CLUBS?

In 2019, WANEP and EIRENE organized a debate competition at my school. I took part and talked about extremism. After that, I took part in other peace club activities and got involved.

HOW HAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PEACE CLUB CHANGED YOU?

I have learned that it is normal for people to have different views on society. But with the help of non-violent communication, we can exchange views without hurting each other. In the clubs, we transform conflicts through discussion and debate instead of violence.

CAN THE PEACE CLUBS ALSO CHANGE CONFLICTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL?

The majority of the population in Burkina Faso are young people. By working with these young people, the clubs can contribute to peace education. However, this will take a lot of time, which is why I hope that EIRENE will continue to be involved in this work. We would like to expand these activities beyond Ouagadougou, because they have a positive effect on young people.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO JOIN WANEP?

I wanted to learn more in order to work for peace with WANEP and EIRENE. The work of the peace clubs has helped to reduce violence in schools. Today, there is a culture of dialogue at my former school, which has benefited from the activities of WANEP and EIRENE.

COMFORT AND ADVICE OVER THE PHONE

In Burundi, there is a gap between the actual cases of violence against women and girls and those that ultimately lead to a criminal complaint, according to the UN Human Rights Committee. The reason for this is that victims of sexual and gender-based violence are stigmatized and fear reprisals. That is why EIRENE's partner organization AFJO has set up a hotline to help precisely those women who do not know where to turn.



Angèle (left) and Schola support women in Burundi by providing assistance to victims of sexual violence through a hotline run by the EIRENE partner organization AFJO.

"Once, a nurse called me with a trembling voice and told me how she was being sexually harassed by her colleague. I listened to her for a long time and gave her advice on how to deal with the situation. Her voice became calmer and calmer. I sensed that talking to me on the phone helped her," explains Angèle Singirankabo. 'I remember a woman who reported in a low voice on the phone that she was beaten by her husband almost every day. I referred her to a lawyer. I then followed up on the case. The lawyer was able to help the woman,' adds Schola Bigaranya. Schola and Angèle are two of five volunteers working as counsellors for the hotline for victims of sexual harassment in the workplace and victims of other forms of gender-based violence.

The hotline was launched in April 2023 by the Burundian Association of Women Journalists (AFJO), supported by EIRENE. Initially, it was only intended for sexual harassment of journalists. It is now open to all victims of gender-based violence, five days a week, from morning until evening. The victims are listened to, they are advised and, if necessary, referred to lawyers and psychologists who help them free of charge after consultation with AFJO.

AFJO has publicized the hotline +257 67 701 701 throughout the country through radio spots. On average, five to seven people call the hotline each week, mostly women but also men.

"Often, someone will call, then get scared and immediately hang up. The cultural barrier to confiding in a stranger is very high. I usually call back and gently try to start a conversation with the person," says Schola.

Angèle and Schola both emphasise that gender-based violence is widespread in Burundi and that support services are inadequate. EIRENE has supported AFJO in this pilot project.



ACFODE team in Kyaka 2: They successfully advocate for the rights and education of refugee women and girls / Picture: ©EIRENE

PREVENTING FORCED MARRIAGE

"I hated myself and thought I was a failure. Through the training with ACFODE, I have found new courage. Next year I want to go back to school." Julia lives in Kyakatwaga and had to leave school early due to pregnancy. Many girls and young women who live in the Kyaka 2 refugee settlement and the surrounding communities face the same fate as Julia. In addition to a lack of sex education, patriarchal gender roles and domestic violence, girls are repeatedly forced into early marriages. The EIRENE partner organization ACFODE is successfully addressing these issues and has significantly improved the situation of displaced women and girls in recent years by using innovative methods.

In the middle of the Kyaka 2 refugee settlement stands a "peace hut". EIRENE supported ACFODE in building this "safe space" for women and girls. The name is somewhat misleading. In fact, the peace hut is a brick building, but the traditional name was chosen deliberately. "The peace hut is our safe space where we can work confidently on girls' and women's rights," explains Regina Bafaki, the director of ACFODE. In the patriarchal society of Uganda, many topics concerning the coexistence of men and women, sexuality and the question of gender roles are taboo. "Even in the refugee settlement, there are couples who lead their relationship in an exemplary manner: They manage the household income together, treat each other with respect, and do not use violence either in their relationship or as parents towards their children. They send not only their sons but also their daughters to school. That is why we call them model couples. Other couples and parents can learn from them; the peace hut offers exactly the right setting for these encounters," Regina continues. In addition to adult couples, school

classes often visit the peace hut. Here, children learn from an early age to treat each other with respect across gender lines. "Because of the ACFODE training, I have changed the way I treat girls in my class. I have now become more respectful," reports Diga Salomo, a young training participant. In addition to visits to the peace hut, ACFODE has established so-called Listeners Clubs in the participating schools. Here, students meet to learn more about their rights and to improve the inter-gender relationships in their classes. The Listeners Clubs also act as an early warning system. Thanks to them, several cases of girls being married off against their will were made public in 2023. This enabled the responsible authorities in the settlement to take action in time and prevent them.

BOLIVIA: A MASCOT FOR PEACE

In the face of increased social inequality and ongoing political polarization, violence prevention is of high social relevance in Bolivia. In order to strengthen the culture of peace in the Andean country, EIRENE partner organizations work with schools and raise public awareness.

The Bolivian EIRENE partner organizations OMAK, SEPAMOS, Pueblo Diferente, Chasqui and Focapaci are doing important work at different levels as part of the CPS program “Prevention of Violence and Social Cohesion in the Department of La Paz”. We have already reported on the direct psychosocial work with children and young people who have experienced violence and their families in the 2022 annual report (“A hopeful collaboration against violence and abuse”).

SCHOOLS AS THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLY EFFECTIVE VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Since they are central places of socialization where young people learn fundamental values and behaviors, schools play a special role in sustainably effective violence prevention. In recent years, the Bolivian government has passed many progressive laws to protect children and young people. The Bolivian Education Act and the annual guidelines of the Ministry of Education also prioritize the prevention of violence in schools. However, neither subject-specific training nor concrete strategies are offered to meet these requirements, which often leads to a failure to implement them in practice.

EIRENE partner organizations support schools in implementing effective protection concepts. In so-called “school committees for harmonious and peaceful coexistence”, parents, students and teachers plan activities to prevent violence in a trusting and cooperative manner and work together to develop ways to integrate violence prevention into everyday school life.

The results speak for themselves: in the participating schools, improved dialogue and cooperation skills between teachers, students and parents have been observed. In addition, children and young people reported greater trust in the support system and said that they were less afraid of reporting incidents of violence. They stated that they were referred more quickly to the right places in the support system when they experienced violence. They felt that their concerns were taken seriously, which strengthened their self-confidence and their conviction that they could make a difference themselves.

SUMANKAÑA INFORMS THE PUBLIC

On September 21, 2023, International Day of Peace, a Vizcacha (South American rodent) named Sumankaña, in the form of a mascot, carried the message of peace into the streets of El Alto and the surrounding areas. Sumankaña, a name from the Aymara language that means “to be in harmony with oneself and others”, became the symbol of a campaign initiated by EIRENE partner organizations OMAK, SEPAMOS, Pueblo Diferente, Chasqui and Focapaci as part of the CPS program. The initiative's motto was “Construye paz, regala amor” (Build peace, give love). Sumankaña could not speak, but through lively gestures he conveyed messages of peace and nonviolence, drawing attention to the work of our partner organizations and the topic of violence prevention through interaction with many visitors, young and old. Staff from the participating organizations filmed numerous encounters with Sumankaña, created short videos from them and shared them on platforms like TikTok, which quickly spread awareness of the mascot and his messages



Sumankaña and a child spread the message of peace together in the streets of El Alto / Picture: ©EIRENE

across social networks. Esther Henning, an EIRENE expert at OMAK, was present at many of Sumankaña's public appearances in the streets of El Alto. "I remember well a passer-by who said after the encounter that the embrace of the great peace mascot had comforted her." In the course of the campaign, EIRENE partner organizations received invitations from radio and television stations to report on their valuable work and the background to the campaign.

contribute to raising awareness of peace and non-violence.

The Sumankaña initiative shows how community action and creative approaches can create easy access and

Thanks to the child rights center SEPAMOS, 13-year-old Alicia was able to reconcile with her mother Eulogia. This is one of many cases in which the psychologists of the EIRENE partner organization have prevented families in Bolivia from breaking up / Picture: ©Wara Vargas



ACTIVE AMBASSADORS FOR NON-VIOLENCE

Since 2017, EIRENE has been committed to social cohesion in Neuwied and the surrounding area. The special approach is to strengthen the potential of people with refugee or migration backgrounds, enabling them to develop and implement strategies for peaceful coexistence from their perspective.

The current project, co-financed by the EU, has been running since July 2022 until June 2025 and is titled: "Strong neighbors break down prejudices and are encouraged to actively participate in society". This project is being implemented in cooperation with the Diakonisches Werk in Neuwied and is supported by the city of Neuwied and the Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

A total of 11 information events were held in 2020 on socially relevant conflict and integration topics specifically for third-country nationals. For example, an evening was held with the Neuwied Youth Welfare Office at the EIRENE house on the topic of "The tasks and duties of the Youth Welfare Office". In a relaxed atmosphere, various departments of the youth welfare office (child and youth support, general social services and daycare social work) presented their work and answered many questions. Topics such as taking children into care, the legal basis for unaccompanied refugees, the tasks of the youth welfare office, the lack of daycare places, difficulties in finding accommodation, the search for paediatricians, information on the youth migration service, daycare and school social work and much more were discussed. "We believe that such information events directly in the social space are very important. The "Strong Neighbours" offer a protective space and a direct line to the people. In this way, uncertainties, prejudices and misunderstandings can be directly reduced in a trusting atmosphere, and very specific concerns or problems can be addressed," emphasizes Stephan Amstad from the Children and Youth Office of the City of Neuwied.

The contact points at the EIRENE House and at the Diakonie in Neuwied were very well received. In 2023, 120 third-country nationals seeking help, significantly more than planned, received individual counseling.



Bilal Almasri, Neuwied's mayor Peter Jung and Iyad Asfour at the International Day Against Racism / Picture: ©EIRENE

Many newcomers want to actively participate in society. The project team involves volunteers in activities. This helps them to establish contacts with people from the host society. In 2023, ten people were placed in long-term volunteer positions. This has not only supported their own integration process, but has also led to an intercultural opening of civil society in Neuwied.

In 2023, the "Strong Neighbours" project launched a third round of a training course in conflict mediation for people with and without a refugee background. 20 people with different backgrounds took part in the course.



BAYTI - A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN

Selma Vogt began her EIRENE voluntary service in Morocco in 2023. In her first newsletter, she reports on her Bayti project site, which supports children from difficult social backgrounds.

Bayti (meaning “my house” in Arabic) is a child and youth protection organization with its headquarters in Casablanca and a branch in Essaouira. The day center takes in children and young people between the ages of 6 and 17 who find themselves in difficult situations. Bayti is alerted to the children primarily by the police, doctors or parents. The reason for being referred to Bayti is usually that the children experience a violation of their (children's) rights at home. Often the children have to earn money, mostly in the form of child labor, begging and prostitution. The length of time spent at Bayti varies depending on the circumstances. It is particularly important to support the personal development of the children and young people in the form of school support and psychological guidance. In Morocco, the Bayti organization is highly regarded and is financed by various political funds and donations.

My responsibilities include spending time with the children at Bayti. I give French lessons to a group of three to five children between the ages of six and twelve for part of the morning and afternoon. The rest of the time, we play together and read stories. Physical activity is an important part of the program, so we regularly go to the park or the beach together, where the children can let off steam and beat me at soccer.

I really enjoy working at Bayti and I couldn't imagine a more suitable place to work. Since day one, I have been

impressed by the special atmosphere. It feels like one big family, and I was accepted into it without hesitation. Over the past few months, while I have been able to accompany the children and young people, I have come to realize more and more how central and important Bayti is for their lives and development. They are dutiful, open-minded, courteous and thirsty for knowledge, and they look forward to our visits every day. I appreciate being a part of this journey and enjoy the time I spend with the children and young people. Working with my colleagues is also uncomplicated and enriching, and I am happy to have people around me who take me by the hand when I need it, but also trust me and from whom I can learn so much.

PEACE SERVICE IN GERMANY

For Melk Kunyu and Rachel Nakiyuka, volunteering with EIRENE was their first time in Europe. Accordingly, the two Ugandans were full of amazement and joy, but also fear during their first few weeks in Neuwied. Together with ten other young adults from EIRENE partner organizations, they took part in the preparation for their one-year voluntary service in Germany in May 2023.

WHAT ARE YOUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS AFTER ARRIVING IN APRIL?

Melk: "At the beginning, I could hardly imagine working and living in this cold. But then I realized that with the right clothes, it's bearable."

Because without speaking good German, I feel incompetent, despite my training in Uganda. But also to contribute to a better understanding between people. And I think we have already been able to dispel some prejudices and false images about our country at our places of work and with our host families."

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GERMANY AND UGANDA IN EVERYDAY LIFE SO FAR?

Rachel: "I would say time management. In our preparatory seminar, strict adherence to the schedule was extremely important. Every hour was organized and planned. That was exhausting at the beginning and I found it difficult to rethink. But I realized that time also has something to do with respect. If others have to wait because I am not on time, it leads to discord."

Melk's place of work was the Koval youth welfare service in Hamburg. Rachel has extended her voluntary service and continues to work in a youth center in Bad Godesberg. Her year in Germany remains a formative experience for her, her host families and her place of work.

WHAT OTHER DIFFERENCES ARE THERE?

Rachel: "At the beginning, I felt lonely. In Uganda, I was used to being with my family every day. We spend a lot of time together and laugh more. Here in Germany, people tend to keep their distance and are careful to maintain their privacy."

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO USE YOUR VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN GERMANY?

Melk: "We want to learn a lot, especially the language.



13 Volunteers
USA

10 Volunteers
Northern Ireland

10 Volunteers
Costa Rica

6 Volunteers
France

4 Volunteers
Canada

2 Volunteers
Belgium

2 Volunteers
Romania

2 Volunteers
Ireland

4 Volunteers
Bolivia

5 Volunteers
Morocco

3 Volunteers
Uganda

As of 31.12.23

ALI AL-NASANI ELECTED AS THE NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EIRENE

At the general assembly during the EIRENE Whitsun meeting in Cochem an der Mosel, Ali Al-Nasani was unanimously elected as the new managing director on May 18, 2024. He succeeds Dr. Anthea Bethge, who, after twelve years in this position, did not stand for re-election.



At the Whitsun meeting in 2024, Hauke Steeg and Tahirou Sy will present flowers to the outgoing managing director Anthea Bethge and the new managing director Ali Al-Nasani (from left to right: Tahirou Sy, Anthea Bethge, Ali Al-Nasani, Hauke Steeg).

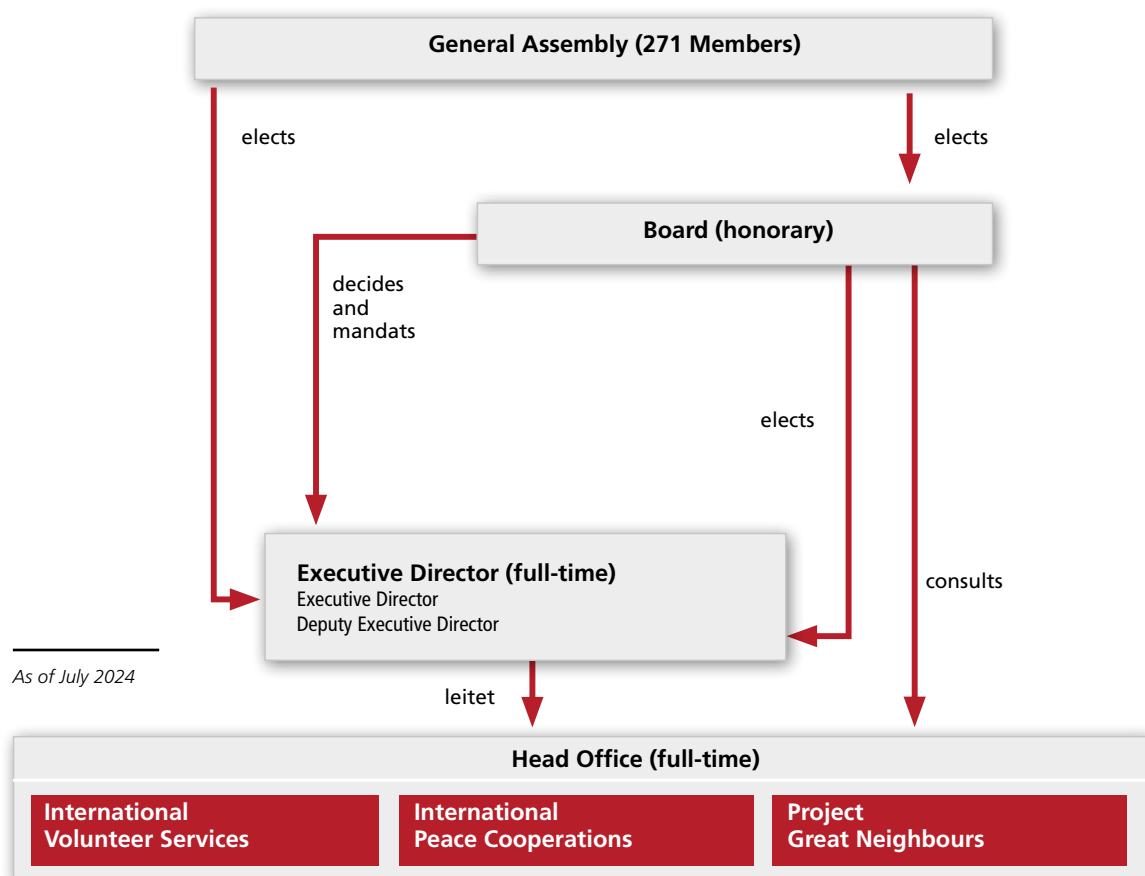
Ali Al-Nasani was born and raised in Bonn. He has worked for various members of the Bundestag and the European Parliament in the field of human rights. He was also a lobby and international communications officer at Amnesty International in Berlin. Over the past ten years, he has held senior human rights positions at the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Cambodia. "Respect for and protection of human rights are the basis for peace, just as, conversely, human rights can only be enforced in peace," says Ali Al-Nasani. "In

times of war and growing military spending, commitment to peace projects must be strengthened,' Al-Nasani continues. "Peace projects are not the icing on the cake of development cooperation, but an indispensable component of a sustainable foreign policy."

EIRENE WORKS IN NUMEROUS NETWORKS AND UMBRELLA ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING:

- Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden (AGDF)
- Agenda-Ring Rhein-Westerwald
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Entwicklungsdienste (AGdD)
- Church and Peace
- Entwicklungspolitisches Landesnetzwerk Rheinland-Pfalz (ELAN)
- Evangelisches Forum entwicklungspolitischer Freiwilligendienste (eFeF)
- Fokus Sahel
- Konsortium Ziviler Friedensdienst
- Netzwerk und Fachstelle für internationale personelle Zusammenarbeit (AKLHÜ)
- Ökumenisches Netz Rhein-Mosel-Saar
- Ökumenisches Netz Zentralafrika (ÖNZ)
- Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung
- Verband Entwicklungspolitischer Nichtregierungsorganisationen (VENRO)

ORGANIGRAMM EIRENE e.V.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

Thank you for your support!

In addition to competent and committed people, peace work also requires the financial resources to be spent on it. Since its foundation in 1957, EIRENE has been looking for supporters who can make individual projects possible or support the organization as a whole. Around 3,000 donors have supported the budget in 2023, in addition to church, private and state subsidies, as well as contributions from foundations.

The use of our own funds from donations and collections is often a prerequisite for applying for publicly co-financed projects. In addition to this broad civil society alliance and subsidiary state funding, our partner organizations in many places provide personnel and financial contributions to our joint peace projects. This enables us to design and implement nonviolent strategies that bring about concrete change.

We are pleased that our donors have remained loyal to us in 2023 and that we have gained new ones. After a period of consolidation in 2022, we were able to close the reporting period with a net profit of €181,088. Even though this is largely due to effects related to previous financial years, such as a European Union grant that was not approved until the following year, it helps to somewhat fill the gaps in the reserves that the pandemic has left behind.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all those involved, to all institutional donors, and to all individual donors for what we have achieved together so far, for the funds entrusted to us, and for the trust they have placed in us!

The complete annual report can be found at www.eirene.org under the heading "Publications".

Bilanz zum 31.12.2023 / AKTIVA	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	Bilanz zum 31.12.2023 / PASSIVA	31.12.2022	31.12.2023
A ANLAGEVERMÖGEN			A. VEREINSVERMÖGEN		
Sachanlagen	15.219,47	3.725,81	I. Betriebsmittellrücklage	79.833,74	00
SUMME ANLAGEVERMÖGEN	15.219,47	3.725,81	II. Zweckgebundene Rücklagen	165.750,00	155.750,00
B. UMLAUFVERMÖGEN			III. Rücklagen aus Erbschaften	419.186,87	414.186,87
I. Forderungen; sonstige Vermögensgegenstände	417.512,61	330.850,28	IV. Freie Rücklage nach § 62 AO	447.893,49	361.639,06
II. Schecks/Kasse/Guthaben	3.119.995,45	2.957.158,75	SUMME VEREINSVERMÖGEN	1.112.664,10	931.575,93
SUMME UMLAUFVERMÖGEN	3.537.508,06	3.288.009,03	B. RÜCKSTELLUNGEN	361.431,83	322.046,11
C RECHNUNGSABGRENZUNGSPOSTEN	828,71	348,71	C. VERBINDLICHKEITEN	2.079.460,31	2.038.461,51
SUMME	3.553.556,24	3.292.083,55	D. RECHNUNGSABGRENZUNGSPOSTEN	0,00	0,00
			SUMME	3.553.556,24	3.292.083,55

EXPLANATIONS OF THE EXPENSES

Expenses in 2020 decreased slightly (by 2.5%) compared to the previous year. The largest block, with around 73% of total expenses, is transfer payments to the project countries (34%) and expenses for experts sent to these countries (29%). The costs for the volunteers are particularly subject to inflation-related price increases. This can only be partially offset by an increase in subsidies. The third largest item is personnel expenses in Germany, which includes all staff at the office. These include, for example, country advisors in the field of international peace cooperation, educational staff who support volunteers, employees in the finance department who bill projects, or staff who directly implement projects in the field of peace work in Germany. An increase in the number of staff in the latter category, along with the general development of salaries, is the basis for the increase in this item.

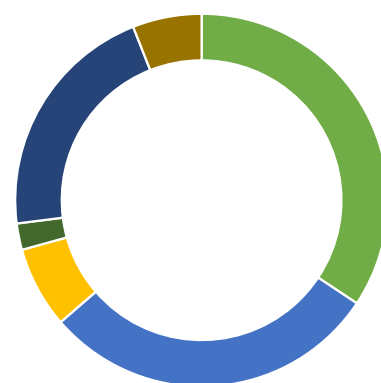
All other expenses incurred in Germany are listed under the heading 'Other'. The largest items here are IT, provisions for audit obligations, events, printed material for advertising and public relations, and office infrastructure. In the reporting year, there were high expenses in the areas of IT and provisions.

SOLIDARITY-BASED REMUNERATION AT EIRENE

The EIRENE employees have decided by consensus on an internal compensation system in the form of a unified salary based on solidarity. This system does not differentiate according to qualifications or position, but it does take seniority into account. The maximum amount of compensation corresponds to salary group 9b, level 4 of the TVöD (federal government), which according to the company agreement in 2023 corresponds to a maximum of 3,925.18 euros per month. In addition, the one-time payment of €1,240 per full-time position agreed in the TVöD was made. Social supplements for children or relatives in need of care (max. €165 per month per child) can be paid in the event of proven need. Since the size of the organization and the structure of the remuneration system mean that the need of individuals can be inferred, we only state the sum of the three highest annual salaries here. In 2023, this amounted to a total of 171,285.24 euros.

The members of the board work on an honorary basis and do not receive any expense allowances. Only proven expenses for the association are reimbursed.

AUFWENDUNGEN	01.01.2023 – 31.12.2023		01.01.2022 – 31.12.2022	
	€	%	€	%
1. Projektaufwand				
a) Transfers ins Ausland	2.774.732,98	34,33%	3.345.080,85	40,36%
b) Aufwand für Fachkräfte	2.369.812,65	29,32%	2.299.398,24	27,74%
c) Aufwand für Freiwillige	570.636,41	7,06%	490.254,54	5,92%
d) Sonstige Aufwendungen Projekte	185.169,05	2,29%	204.675,63	2,47%
Summe Projektaufwand	5.900.351,09	73,00%	6.339.409,26	76,49%
2. Personalaufwand in Deutschland	1.698.262,12	21,01%	1.547.165,04	18,68%
3. Sonstige	483.712,04	5,98%	401.627,86	4,85%
Summe Aufwendungen	8.082.325,25	100,00%	8.288.202,16	100,00%



- Transfers ins Ausland
- Aufwand für Fachkräfte
- Aufwand für Freiwillige
- Sonstige Aufwendungen Projekte
- Personalaufwand in Deutschland
- Sonstige

NOTES ON THE INCOME

The majority of public funding comes from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as part of the budget items Civil Peace Service (CPS), development projects of private organizations and "weltwärts". In addition, there are grants from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth to support the International Youth Volunteer Service (IYVS) and from the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for the "Great Neighbors" project. This project is also funded by the city of Neuwied and the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Contributions and grants from members consist of membership fees from individual and institutional members, as well as a grant from the EIRENE Foundation. Church and private grants include structural funding from the Church Development Service (225,000 euros), as well as support from the Fokus Sahel network, which is sponsored by EIRENE (Protestant and Catholic agencies, terre des hommes, medico international,

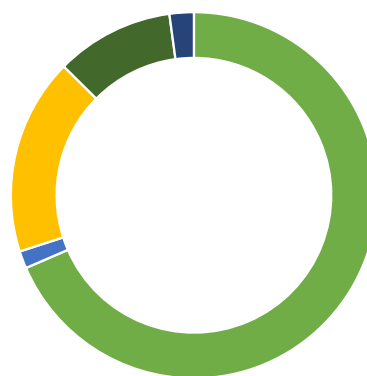
Welthungerhilfe, Help, Franciscan Mission, Oxfam) and the contributions of the places of assignment of international volunteers in Germany. The largest income in this item comes from the Kurve Wustrow, which forwards public subsidies to EIRENE as part of the

administrative assistance in the ZFD, with 1,078,937 euros.

The regular donation income for 2023 has remained stable compared to the previous year. Added to this is support for our peace work in Germany from the HORSCH Foundation.

The other income is mainly made up of: the dissolution of provisions for audit obligations, reimbursements for the use of the infrastructure of the EIRENE house and reimbursements from health insurance companies and other insurance companies. A subsidy from the European Union in the amount of almost 73,000 euros for the expenses of the Strong Neighbours project incurred in 2022 is also included here as income unrelated to the accounting period.

ERTRÄGE	01.01.2023– 31.12.2023		01.01.2022 – 31.12.2022	
	€	%	€	%
1. Öffentliche Zuschüsse	5.660.013,75	68,49%	5.639.164,82	68,19%
2. Beiträge und Zuschüsse von Mitgliedern	127.077,96	1,54%	97.628,68	1,18%
3. Kirchliche und private Zuschüsse	1.436.460,36	17,38%	1.442.615,01	17,45%
4. Spenden	862.709,09	10,44%	1.005.337,44	12,16%
5. Sonstige	177.152,16	2,14%	84.628,60	1,02%
Summe ERTRÄGE	8.263.413,32	100,00%	8.269.374,55	100,00%
Summe AUFWENDUNGEN	8.082.325,25		8.288.202,16	
JAHRESERGEBNIS	181.088,07		-18.827,61	

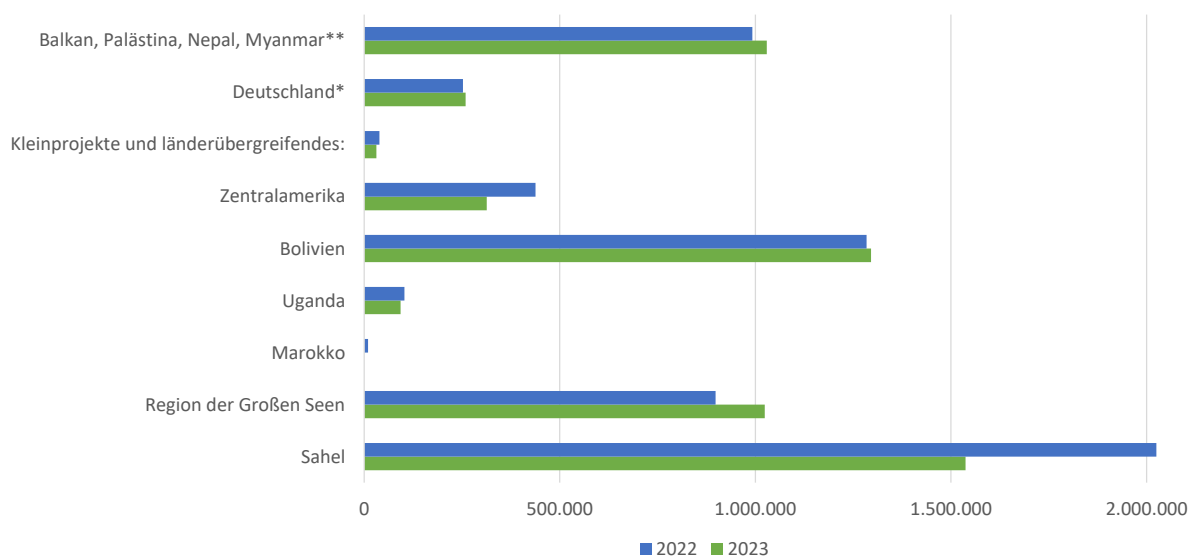


- Öffentliche Zuschüsse
- Beiträge und Zuschüsse von Mitgliedern
- Kirchliche und private Zuschüsse
- Spenden
- Sonstige

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE COOPERATION

In 2023, EIRENE was active in the same countries as in the previous year. No partnerships were added in new regions; rather, the commitment within the countries in which EIRENE was already active was maintained. After some final expenses in the previous year, the work in Morocco has now been completely discontinued. It is also worth mentioning at this point the completion of a large program in the Sahel, which has reduced expenses

for this region by about 25%. Further deviations in the individual regions are largely due to different financial requirements depending on the implementation status of the projects. For example, particularly high expenses usually arise at the beginning and at the end of each three-year project period.



* Nepal, Palestine, Balkans, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Ukraine. These projects are carried out in cooperation with Kurve Wustrow as part of administrative assistance.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUCCESSFULLY AUDITED

The audit of EIRENE's 2023 annual financial statement was carried out by the auditing and tax consulting company DORNBACH GmbH, Koblenz. In its audit opinion dated April 15, 2024, the auditing company writes about the audit of the 2023 annual financial statement, excerpts of which are reproduced below:

"In our opinion, based on the findings of our audit, the attached annual financial statement complies in all material respects requirements of German commercial law applicable to business corporations and give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial

position as of December 31, 2023 and of its financial performance for the financial year from January 1 to December 31, 2023. Pursuant to Section 322 (3) sentence 1 HGB, we declare that our audit has not led to any reservations relating to the legal compliance of the annual financial statements."

OUR FUNDRAISING

Donations and contributions are the basis for financing our peace work. We need our own funds to apply for the necessary public funding for our peace projects. We are pleased that many committed individuals, companies, foundations, church parishes, fair trade shops and peace networks support our association with donations every year.

In order to reach all of these people, we send out donation letters and brochures that report on our peace work. Volunteers who are departing to our projects also collect donations in their local area for the international volunteer services. In addition, we use newspaper supplements and advertisements to attract new supporters. We also draw attention to the possibility of donating to EIRENE at events, trade fairs and lectures.

Our digital advertising includes a quarterly newsletter, project promotion via our website and the EIRENE Facebook page. We use the Instagram platform for our public relations work, for example, the reports of EIRENE volunteers. In order to make fundraising more efficient, we work with the following external service providers: Caritas-Werkstätten Ulmen, Fundraising Box, Entwickeln&Gestalten, Stehli Software Dataworks.



EIRENE works together with the Burundian journalists' association AFJO and the press centre "Maison de la Presse" to train journalists in gender and power-sensitive reporting. Marie Claire Kazeneza won first prize in a "Media and Gender" competition, which was awarded to her on 17.5.24 in Bujumbura.

Photo: Claus Schrowange



The DZI donation seal of approval for social issues (DZI) certifies that the funds entrusted to EIRENE are handled responsibly. EIRENE has been awarded this seal of approval every year since 1995. Ms. Anne Dähling is happy to answer any questions or suggestions you may have regarding donations:

02631-8379-18, daehling@eirene.org



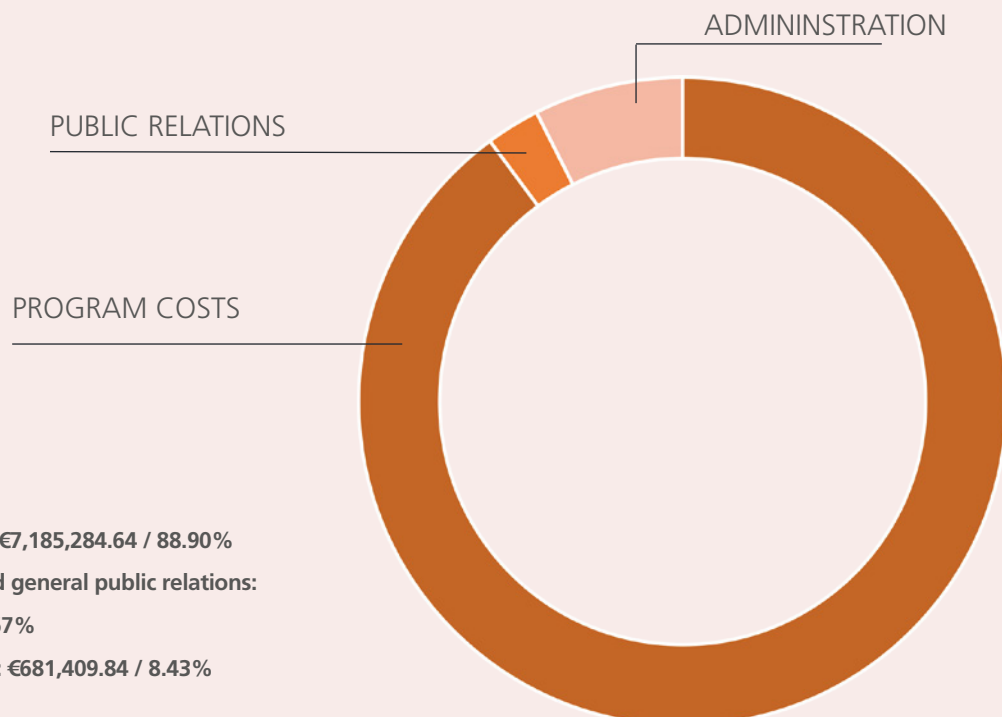
A detailed breakdown of our expenses in accordance with the DZI standard can be found in the annual financial statement on our website under the heading "Publications".

HOW EFFICIENTLY WE USE YOUR DONATION

All of our activities aim to achieve a high degree of cost efficiency in our work while at the same time adhering to ecological and social standards. These come into play, for example, when purchasing office supplies, avoiding intra-European air travel as much as possible or working with external service providers. The unified salary based on the TVöD 9 also applies to all managers at the EIRENE office. This also contributes to the efficient use of the donations entrusted to us. Since 1995, we have regularly been awarded the DZI seal of approval, which certifies that we use donations economically and correctly.

We also observe the ethical standards of the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid Non-Governmental Organizations, VENRO, and joined the Transparent Civil Society Initiative in 2016. This means that we are committed to regularly and transparently disclosing our costs for advertising, public relations and salaries, for example in this annual report or on our

website. All personal data of our donors and supporters are subject to legal data protection. We do not contact anyone who does not wish to be contacted. With your donation, we are able to apply for funds from public donors, such as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development or the European Union, and to convince them of our project ideas. This enables us to raise a large government grant with a small contribution of our own. In the best case, a donation of 100 euros means that 1,000 euros are available for the project. That is why your commitment counts, whether it is an individual donation, a permanent donation, an endowment or the distribution of our publications. **Thank you very much!**



Program costs: €7,185,284.64 / 88.90%

Advertising and general public relations:

€15,60.77 / 2.67%

Administration: €681,409.84 / 8.43%

A PEACE FOUNDATION

The EIRENE Foundation was established in 2000 by two former EIRENE volunteers who provided an initial endowment from a shared inheritance. Since then, the foundation's capital has grown steadily through donations.



The aim of the EIRENE Foundation is to financially support the peace work of EIRENE e.V. through socially and ecologically sustainable investments and to make it less dependent on government funding. As of December 31, 2023, the EIRENE Foundation had equity of 5.76 million euros. In 2023, donations amounting to 216,000 euros were received. The sum of interest-free loans granted in that year amounted to 381,000 euros. In 2023, the sum of 110,000 euros was distributed to EIRENE. The EIRENE Foundation invests its money

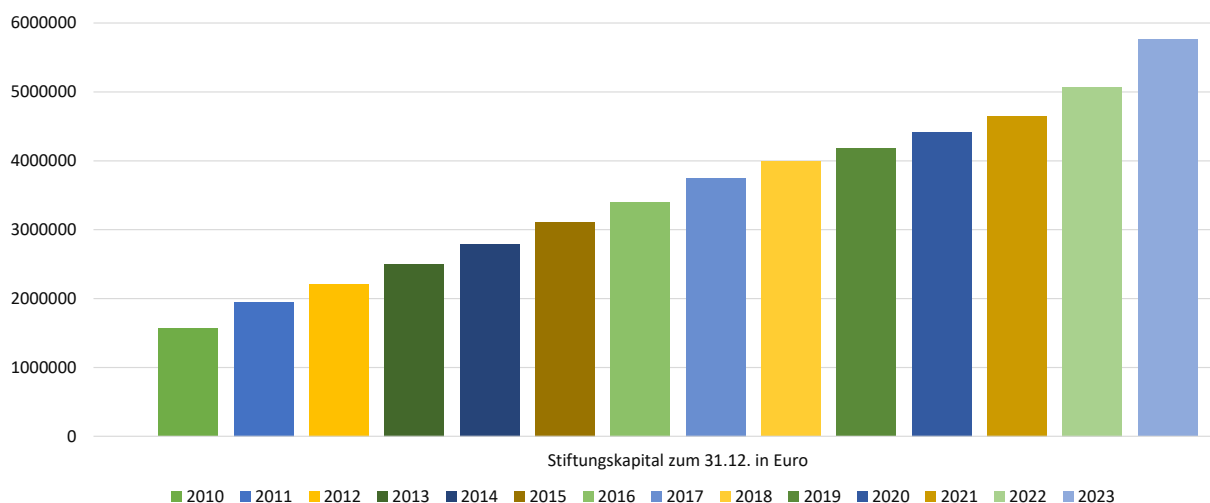
sustainably. From its founding in 2000 until 2023, the EIRENE Foundation was able to distribute a total of 1.219 million euros for the purpose of the foundation in accordance with § 2 para. 3.

With an endowment, a legacy or an interest-free loan to the EIRENE Foundation, you can permanently invest in peace and justice and support the work of EIRENE in the long term. If you would like to find out more about a donation, a loan or a legacy to the foundation, Ali Al-Nasani will be happy to advise you:

Telephone: 02631-8379-11, al-nasani@eirene.org

Additional information and forms for donation or loan agreements can be found at: eirene.org/stiftung

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the growth of the foundation's capital through donations or loans.





"It is my particular wish to support EIRENE in a sustainable way, even beyond my death .

In this way, I want to help to continue to make possible the diverse work for peace, against injustice and inequality, through the work of EIRENE professionals and volunteers. That is why I have become a co-founder of the EIRENE Foundation."

*Annemarie Renftle, retired teacher, former EIRENE volunteer in the USA,
refugee work in Houston*



Gruppenfoto Pfingsttreffen 2024 in Cochem

THANK YOU! GRACIAS! MERCI! DANKE!

We would like to thank all of our supporters in 2023! Without your time, money, creativity, passion and loyalty, EIRENE's peace service would not be possible. With your support, people in 19 countries have been empowered to take their fate into their own hands and to work for peace through nonviolence.

We would like to thank all donors, members of church parishes and companies, volunteers and our institutional donors who have made a contribution to peace in 2023.

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