

EIRENE

INTERNATIONALER CHRISTLICHER FRIEDENSDIENST e.V.



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



20 25 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear readers,



You may recall: “Send them back, send them back,” chanted right-wing MEPs in the European Parliament on 17 June. On that day, a package of measures was adopted that will make deportation from the EU easier in future and put refugees under even greater pressure. This was undoubtedly a dark day for human rights, which include the right to asylum. Equally disturbing, however, was the sheer bluntness with which conservatives and the far right colluded on this issue.

In Germany, the issues of refugees and migration are increasingly viewed in a negative light by the public. Gone, it seems, are the days when a willingness to help and a sense of solidarity were taken for granted, when – to the surprise of many – we managed to treat refugees with humanity, welcome them and lend a helping hand as they took their first steps here.

The commitment of EIRENE’s partner organisation CENDEROS in Costa Rica demonstrates just how important it is to support people in need. In 2025, it was one of the most important points of contact for refugees from Nicaragua in their new home. Once people have decided to flee, the most difficult part of this endeavour only begins when they arrive. This is certainly true for people who do not speak the language of their host country. Dealing with the authorities, finding somewhere to live or visiting the doctor are tasks that are almost impossible to manage without help.

Throughout its long history, EIRENE has always strived to be a credible organisation. In this sense, we cannot denounce war and injustice in other countries without taking care of the people who have just fled from them and are knocking on our door.

In the 2025 Annual Report, you will find encouraging examples that show that human solidarity and cooperation work, wherever in the world. The fact that the headwinds have grown stronger should not paralyse us. We are taking a stand against hatred, exclusion, injustice, violence, destruction and war. Defying all opposition and thanks to your support.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Richard'.

Martina Richard, Chair of the Board

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Cover photo: EIRENE volunteer Samuel Wandira from Uganda and Sabine Schwickerrath, a full-time staff member at Lebenshilfe-Werke Trier 2025



Our Principles

INTERNATIONAL: EIRENE is an international organisation with international partnerships in the Global South and the Global North. Local and international experts and volunteers work together on joint programmes. Peace work is a cross-border endeavour that addresses the causes and consequences of violence, calls for social and global justice, and seeks to overcome discrimination and the abuse of power.

Non-Violent: EIRENE's peace service is founded on the values of non-violence, respect for the dignity of all people and respect for our One World. We live by these values in our everyday lives and implement them professionally in our programmes. In situations where injustice and exclusion, hatred and violence prevail, EIRENE advocates for participation in societal decision-making, for a fair distribution of resources and for the non-violent resolution of conflicts.

SPIRITUAL: Peace work requires inspiration, and non-violent peace work requires a spirituality of peace. As people with diverse religious, humanist and political worldviews, we seek out what unites us and what promotes peace. In our community, through open dialogue and in our day-to-day activities, we find the strength to resist violence.



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The Peters projection (named after James Gall Peters in 1855) was developed for world maps to depict all countries in their correct proportions. It is area-preserving, position-preserving, axis-preserving and not 'Eurocentric'.



MEDIA & PEACE:

EIRENE supports local media centres and journalism associations in training radio journalists to report on conflicts in a way that is sensitive to issues of power and gender.



RAW MATERIALS & PEACE:

Small-scale artisanal mining is an important source of income for many families. EIRENE campaigns for fairer working conditions and a fair distribution of profits.



PEACE EDUCATION AND PEACE PEDAGOGY:

EIRENE is bringing peace education into the curriculum. The activities of our partner organisations encourage teachers, pupils and ministries of education to integrate elements of peace education into everyday school life.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS:

Together with EIRENE's partner organisations, we empower women in their roles within society and the family – economically as entrepreneurs and socially by safeguarding their rights to integrity and physical safety.



CHILD PROTECTION:

Peace and the prevention of violence against children require safe spaces – at school, at home and on the streets.



REFUGEES AND NON-VIOLENCE:

Refugees play a central role in EIRENE's peace projects. They are empowered and trained as conflict mediators. This promotes social cohesion and intercultural openness in host societies.



RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS:

Locally adapted approaches to sustainable land and soil management help to empower people to cope with the consequences of the climate crisis.



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE:

EIRENE is the organising body for the 'Weltwärts Programme' and the International Youth Voluntary Service (IJFD). Every year, EIRENE welcomes and sends out around 75 people who wish to work in social organisations to help build a fairer world.

A HOME FOR MISKITO WOMEN

Political repression in Nicaragua is forcing more and more people to flee to neighbouring Costa Rica. Members of the Miskito indigenous community face particular challenges. That is why EIRENE's partner organisation, CENDEROS, has launched a programme for community leaders – and the first signs of success are already evident.



Doña Ovanía sells fresh vegetables – a step towards independence and a new life. Photo: ©CENDEROS

With a friendly “Tinki” – the Miskito word for “thank you” – and beaming eyes, a boy accepts a piece of coconut bread from Maricela. She laughs and says: “The food has really improved since we’ve had the Casa Miskita. At last we can cook our beloved fish soup again, our children aren’t out on the streets, and we women enjoy the sense of community here.” Maricela is a mother of four. Thanks to ‘Casa Miskita’ (‘House of the Miskito’), she has found a new home in Costa Rica after fleeing Nicaragua. Together with its Costa Rican partner organisation CENDEROS, EIRENE is creating opportunities for indigenous Nicaraguans in their new homeland.

Maricela Devis Kihl belongs to the Miskito people, an indigenous community that has lived on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua for centuries. To this day, the Miskito fish in the Rio Coco and grow maize, beans, cassava and plantains on their land. Private property plays no role in Miskito communities; land is worked and cultivated collectively. In the 2000s, the liberal-conservative government granted official collective land titles to the Miskito and other indigenous groups on the Caribbean coast, such as the

Mayngna. This was a significant step for the indigenous communities, who have long faced discrimination in Nicaraguan society on the grounds of their language and culture.

Official recognition by the state was short-lived. Since the 2010s, ‘settlers’ have been driving out the indigenous communities, building roads through nature reserves, practising slash-and-burn farming to create new grazing land for cattle, and do not shy away from violence if indigenous people stand in their way. The settlers are collaborating with Daniel Ortega’s authoritarian government. As a result, murders and abductions of the Miskito are not investigated by the police.

The Miskito are therefore not only being deprived of their livelihoods; they are also being politically persecuted. Many are consequently forced to flee to the neighbouring country.

In 2025, Maricela, together with other fellow campaigners, founded a women’s group in San José. She was immediately elected president. Since then, the group has been meeting

regularly in the afternoons at Casa Miskita in the Pavas district of the capital. "We can cook for 50 to 60 people here," she explains. The soup kitchen is vital for the survival of the newly formed Miskito community, some of whom live in the most dire conditions. "The situation facing the Miskito refugees is dire. They live on hillsides where they have built cave-like dwellings using the most basic of materials," says Jürgen Kraus, EIRENE's Central America officer, describing the situation following a working visit to the project area.

"The Casa Miskita, which we were able to build thanks to EIRENE, has been an incredible help to our community. Here, we enjoy a sense of community, listen to Miskito music and live out our culture. I also bake coconut bread and cakes here, which I sell in my little shop. This enables me to provide for my four children and pay my monthly rent." Thanks to CENDEROS and EIRENE, Maricela feels she has a firm footing in life; this benefits her, her children and other newly arrived Miskito women.

EIRENE works in Costa Rica alongside CENDEROS on migration issues as part of the BMZ's Civil Peace Service.



Training of multipliers: 39



Refugees supported by CENDEROS: 190



Funding volume:
655.452 €



Partner organisations: 2



Women sit together at Casa Miskita, eating and chatting. Photo: ©EIRENE

THE STREET IS NO HOME: 22 YEARS OF MAYA PAYA KIMSA

In the streets of El Alto, a Bolivian city with a population of over a million, numerous children and young people live on the streets either permanently or from time to time. Their lives are a daily struggle for survival, marked by violence, illness, the cold and fear. Since 2021, EIRENE has been working with the organisation Maya Paya Kimsa to offer homeless children and young people alternatives to life on the streets.



Play brings people together: at Maya Paya Kimsa, children and young people find a sense of community, support and new opportunities. Photo: ©EIRENE

When Wara* (name changed) was born, the doctors told her family that she would probably not live to be older than five. She was born with a congenital heart defect, to a mother who, at 15, was still a child herself. Homelessness, experiences of violence and her mother's subsequent HIV diagnosis added to the strain.

Yet Wara's story is far more than the story of a child who started life under the most difficult circumstances. It exemplifies the potential that can be realised when children and young people in highly vulnerable situations receive long-term support, protection and genuine prospects. For when Wara was born, hardly anyone would have predicted that, thirteen years later, she would be going to school and dreaming of one day becoming an oncologist.

Yet that is precisely where their story stands today, and this is largely down to the work of EIRENE's partner organisation, Maya Paya Kimsa (MaPaKi). MaPaKi is a Bolivian organisation that has been working for more than two decades to support children and young people who live on the streets or are in dire social need. The organisation was founded in 2003 in the city of El Alto and grew out of a simple yet powerful conviction: children do not belong on the streets! The organisation's name comes from the Aymara language and means 'one, two, three'. It symbolises the moment before a difficult leap – a fitting image for children and young people who must summon the courage to leave their life on the streets behind them and imagine a different future. According to the organisation's director, Janneth Pérez Molina, leaving life on the streets is very difficult. Many young people have formed social bonds there,



„Dile no a la violencia“ (“Say No to Violence”): Children are making their voices heard against violence. Photo: ©EIRENE

adapted to constant risks and learnt survival strategies that are very hard to give up. Maya Paya Kimsa has set itself the goal of providing the support needed to make this leap possible.

For many children, life on the streets is not a choice, but the result of violence, neglect and the failure of state protection systems. MaPaKi reports, for example, that many girls end up on the streets after experiencing physical, psychological or sexual violence within their own families. They are moving from one danger into another. Faced with violence at home, the streets are often their last resort, even though they are exposed to new dangers there, including commercial sexual exploitation, drug abuse, human trafficking networks and early pregnancies. These realities often remain hidden from the general public, yet they shape the everyday lives of hundreds of children and young people across Bolivia. This is precisely where Maya Paya Kimsa comes in. However, rather than focusing exclusively on short-term emergency aid, the organisation supports children and young people through long-term processes of change. In addition to providing direct support to children and young people, Maya Paya Kimsa is heavily involved in advocacy and lobbying work.

In collaboration with EIRENE as part of the INTECT programme, Maya Paya Kimsa focused in particular on policy advocacy and strengthening existing protection systems in 2025. In addition to supporting children and young people, the organisation, together with a network of civil society organisations, contributed its many years of practical experience to political decision-making processes. A key example of this is Draft Bill 221: This

aims to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the prevention, protection and cross-sectoral support of children and young people living on the streets. Rather than relying on the priorities of individual governments, the law would make their protection a binding obligation of the Bolivian state. Following its adoption by the Senate, the draft bill is currently being examined by the Chamber of Deputies. This highlights just how closely practice and political advocacy are intertwined, as the experiences gained from project work within the EIRENE programme INTECT, as well as the life stories of children and young people such as Wara, bring the existing gaps in protection to light and lend additional weight to the political work of Maya Paya Kimsa. After all, behind many political demands, draft bills and programmes lie the life stories of individuals.

Wara’s story is one such example. Since her birth, she has repeatedly been confronted with life-altering events: unstable care arrangements, chronic illness in the family, the loss of loved ones and a sense of insecurity. Following her mother’s death in 2023, she expressed anger and frustration at the fact that adults were making decisions about her life without listening to her. During these difficult years, Maya Paya Kimsa was a constant anchor in her life, offering her psychological support, educational guidance and a safe space to process her grief and build trust. She herself says that Maya Paya Kimsa offers her a sense of security and is a place where she feels safe and cared for.

„Ellos me conocen, desde que yo nací. [...] Allí nos ayuda en cualquier cosa, nos ayuda con nuestros materiales. Que si tenemos un problema que no

podemos contar a un familiar, algo que nos pasa, lo podemos contar a la señora o a un joven de confianza [de MaPaKi]. Es un lugar seguro.” (Wara)

They’ve known me since I was born. They help us with everything there, including our schoolwork. If we have a problem we can’t confide in a family member about, or if something happens to us, we can tell the lady or a trusted young person [from MaPaKi]. It’s a safe place.

Nevertheless, Wara’s story is not an isolated case. On the contrary, it is representative of many children and young people whose lives have been, or are still being, shaped by violence and neglect. It illustrates that long-term support can make a difference to young people’s lives, which is what sets Maya Paya Kimsa’s work apart. The organisation is convinced that there are no hopeless cases, but rather children and young people whose potential is often overlooked. Thanks to the organisation’s approach, between 60 and 80 girls, boys and young people manage to leave life on the streets behind them every year, whilst between 35 and 40 successfully complete their reintegration process and build new opportunities and prospects for the future away from the streets. In 2025 alone, 52 children and young people were able to leave the streets, whilst 38 young people successfully completed their reintegration processes. These successes demonstrate that sustainable change is possible. At the same time, the need remains great and the work to defend the rights of children and young people living on the streets is far from over.

„Nuestra principal meta para los próximos años es, expandir el alcance y la sostenibilidad de programas emblemáticos como la Iniciativa de Trabajo en Calle, fortalecer los procesos de reintegración social y educativa.” (Directora, Maya Paya Kimsa, Janneth Pérez Molina)

Our main goal for the coming years is to expand the reach and sustainability of flagship programmes such as the ‘Iniciativa de Trabajo en Calle’ and to strengthen the processes of social and educational reintegration.



Peace workers: 6



Partner organisations: 11



Funding volume: 1.234.524 €

PEACE & ENVIRONMENT: A SHARED FUTURE

According to the UN Refugee Agency, there are just under 2 million refugees living in Uganda. Conflicts over the use of natural resources are on the rise. EIRENE's partner organisation, JESE, is focusing on smart governance structures to ensure that people can live together peacefully and that Uganda remains a safe haven for refugees.

"Even though space is limited, I can grow vegetables and cereals for my family without using the wetland as farmland," says Moise Kaulwa. He is proud of how the integrated land-use plan for his farmland is yielding bountiful harvests. Moise came to Uganda as a refugee with his family and lives in Kyaka 2. Originally, Kyaka 2 was a refugee camp, but it has now developed into a town in its own right. Moise's start was not easy. There were repeated conflicts with the local people. At the heart of these disputes were the sustainable use of land, water points and woodland areas providing firewood, as well as the conservation of ecologically important wetlands..



Moise Kaulwa, a member of the Kakoni Wetland Management Association, is delighted with a bountiful onion harvest. © JESE

How should people deal with the conflicts of interest surrounding natural resources? JESE takes a holistic approach, involving management groups in which both refugees and the host community are represented. These groups ensure the sound management of the wetlands, water resources and agricultural land that are to be conserved. In 2025, surveys of the land in the Bukere, Kakoni and Sweswe zones were carried out and joint management plans were adopted that meet the needs of both groups. This collaboration has won over local authorities, who are supporting the management groups with additional land and tree seedlings.

They act as mediators, thereby relieving the burden on the police and the judiciary in Kyaka 2. They also help to foster a sense of community between refugees and local residents.

EIRENE cooperates with JESE in the field of environmental peacebuilding through the Civil Peace Service.

As well as managing natural resources on a day-to-day basis, the groups also act as a low-threshold point of contact for parties involved in conflicts. Through the collaboration between JESE and EIRENE, the members' mediation skills have been developed.



Peace workers: 1



Partner organisations: 4



Funding volume: 585.627 €

NO ASSAULTS AMONG MEDIA PROFESSIONALS



Sexual harassment is widespread in the Burundian media sector. In 2025, the Burundian Association of Women Journalists (AFJO), in collaboration with EIRENE, ran successful campaigns against sexual assault and the culture of silence. Sixteen local radio stations have implemented protection policies for their staff, which particularly benefit women.

Sexual harassment remains a bitter reality in the media sector in this East African country. According to a 2022 AFJO survey of 120 journalists, over 84 per cent confirm that this problem exists. Fearing they might lose their jobs, their reputations or their dignity, victims are often reluctant to report incidents. Added to this fear is the feeling that they will receive no redress, either legally or psychologically. In light of this finding, AFJO has made the prevention and combating of sexual harassment one of its key priorities.

The results achieved in 2025 are encouraging: 16 local radio stations have established internal mechanisms for the prevention, reporting and handling of cases of sexual harassment. To strengthen this system, AFJO has set up a free helpline (+257 67 701 701) as well as a counselling and guidance centre in the capital, Bujumbura.

These services enable victims to be heard and to receive support. They also cooperate with specialist organisations, in particular the Bujumbura Bar Association for legal assistance and an association specialising in mental health to provide psychosocial support.

All these mechanisms now offer women and men working at the 16 local radio stations safe ways to report cases of sexual harassment. The free helpline is also used by women from other sectors, which demonstrates a wider need for protection and support measures.

The project manager, Agathonique Barakukuza, emphasised: "The cases brought to our attention are deeply distressing. There are reports of sexual assaults by male colleagues, harassment whilst working outside the radio station, and one case involving two senior managers at a media company."

To strengthen prevention efforts, a code of conduct for media professionals against sexual harassment in the workplace was drawn up and shared with the 16 local radio stations. It is now displayed prominently in an accessible location: it emphasises the zero-tolerance policy towards sexual assault and provides information on reporting procedures.

AFJO's awareness-raising campaign is bearing fruit. As journalists report, the issue of sexual harassment has become the subject of open discussion within media organisations. In some companies, such as Radio Irebe FM, disciplinary and criminal proceedings have been initiated following complaints. This sends a clear signal that action is being taken against the prevailing culture of impunity in the media sector. The will is there to create a safe and respectful working environment for both women and men.

Local radio stations in Burundi are making an important contribution to girls' and women's rights. They are widely accepted by the public, and when women have their say on these stations, they are listened to. Female journalists have different channels of access to female interviewees and



When women have their say, the media landscape changes too: AFJO supports female journalists and campaigns for secure jobs. Photo: ©EIRENE

therefore help to make radio programmes more diverse and equitable.

The Association of Women Journalists (AFJO), in collaboration with the media organisation Maison de la Presse du Burundi, is working with EIRENE as part of the Civil Peace Service, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation.



Peace workers: 6



Partner organisations: 4



Funding volume: 979.608 €



Calls to advice centres: 309



Nationwide radio debates on gender issues: 6

RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE



"That thorn is no longer in our side." Tiémoko Sangaré, director of the peace organisation FDS, is relieved. At last, the office work he and his team carry out to promote fair gold mining in Mali is no longer hampered by power cuts. The solar panels on the roof, funded by EIRENE, now provide a reliable supply of electricity throughout the day.

THE IMPACT OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS SHOWING SOLIDARITY



EIRENE continues to successfully support people in West and East Africa in their farming activities. Through training courses, farmers learn how to carry out successful afforestation measures and the benefits of using organic fertilisers and plant protection products. Other topics include erosion control, environmental education and the use of Banco cookstoves. These fireplaces, made from clay, require significantly less wood to cook food. This conserves scarce wood reserves and increases energy efficiency. All these measures are supported by the Climate Solidarity Fund.

GOLD IN BURKINA FASO: EQUITY BRINGS PEACE



Burkina Faso has enormous gold reserves. The EIRENE partner organisation ORCADE supports both the state and civil society in ensuring that mining is carried out transparently and sustainably. Given the prevailing violence perpetrated by radical Islamist groups, this work holds enormous potential for peace, as the best remedy against radicalisation is equitable participation.

Artisanal gold mining is often the only accessible source of income in Burkina Faso. Forty per cent of the country's population lives below the poverty line. Image: ©Olivier Girard/CIFOR

In 2025, the West African country broke its own record for gold production: 94 tonnes of the precious metal was extracted from the ground. The state and society can look forward to an estimated 4 billion US dollars in tax revenue. The money is urgently needed, as Burkina Faso is considered one of the poorest countries in the world. The average life expectancy of its citizens is just under 60 years. At the same time, the country is rich in mineral resources: in addition to gold, there are deposits of copper, zinc, manganese and lithium.

Mining proves difficult; in remote areas, the law of the might. As a result, there are repeated cases of environmental pollution, land grabbing, loss of grazing

land, inadequate protection for miners, and instances of prostitution and human trafficking around the mines. When damage is caused to the private property of neighbouring communities, compensation is often not paid at all, or is insufficient.

Industrial mines are largely operated by foreign companies. The granting of licences and production quotas to these companies has led to conflicts in the past. Criticism has come from artisanal gold miners, who earn their living through small-scale mining using rudimentary equipment. They feel marginalised by the international firms, are forced to vacate lucrative mining sites when the global players arrive, and have

significantly poorer opportunities to sell the gold ore they have mined. The atmosphere between industrial mine operators and artisanal gold miners is more than tense; violent clashes occur time and again, sometimes even resulting in fatalities.

ORCADE, an EIRENE partner organisation based in the Burkinabe capital, is active in the gold sector at various levels. Gold mining should benefit Burkinabe society as a whole. That is why people in mining communities are being educated about their rights. What tax liabilities do the large mining corporations have to meet? What forms of environmental impact are prohibited? How can I stand up for my rights if I have suffered harm? ORCADE organises seminars and workshops in mining areas where participants can find answers to these questions.

April 2025: When an international mining company destroyed Balguissé Gansonré's business premises, she knew exactly what to do: "I've attended several ORCADE training sessions on the regulations and laws governing gold mining. I wasn't the only victim of the damage caused by the mining company caused during the construction of the road." The company wanted to act quickly. Balguissé and a group of other villagers were invited to the town hall in Mané, 20 kilometres away, to receive compensation. "When I learnt that the damage

caused to me had been calculated at just 1,400 dollars, I refused to sign. Even though I was the only one and the mining company demanded that I do so." It paid off: following advice from ORCADE, a agreement was reached.



Two men are kneeling on the ground, working in difficult conditions.
Photo: ©EIRENE

Balguissé later received around 5,100 dollars, which covered the repairs to her business premises and compensated for the loss of income she had suffered.



Peace workers: 10



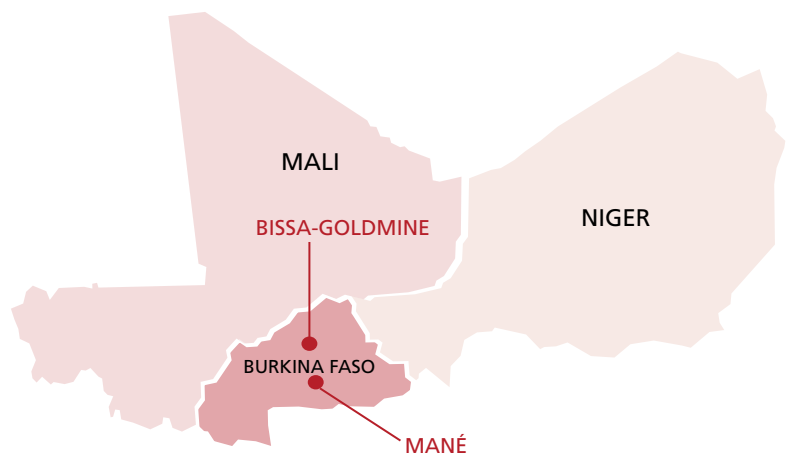
Partner organisations: 3 (Mali),
8 (Burkina Faso und Niger)



Fund volume: 2.342.951 €



People reached:
Über 3,8 Mio. Menschen*



* This high figure was achieved through cooperation with major Scout organisations and local radio stations with extensive coverage areas.

Upholding rights, protecting the environment

Industrial mining uses the controversial chemical cyanide to extract gold from ore. Even low concentrations are lethal to humans and animals. Leaking ponds and improper storage can contaminate groundwater. That is why ORCADE invests a great deal of time in educating the villages near the mines. It is essential to be aware of the dangers and to act quickly in an emergency. When animal deaths occurred in the commune of near



Balguissé Gansonré holds a compensation certificate in her hands. After her property was destroyed by a mining company, she was able to secure significantly higher compensation with the help of legal advice. Photo: ©EIRENE

a mine, the local environmental monitoring committee took immediate action. The Ministry of the Environment and Mining, as well as ORCADE, were called in and investigated the case. The mine operator, Orezone Gold Corporation, headquartered in Canada, was required to seal the leak immediately and was fined approximately 16,500 US dollars for breaching the Mining Act.

Using a mobile phone to practise journalism

Cases such as these demonstrate how important it is for the villages surrounding the mines to be well. ORCADE is collaborating with the organisation WANEP, also an EIRENE partner organisation, to train young people in mobile journalism (MOJO). Videos on the topic of environmental protection were produced using smartphones and distributed in the affected villages and

communities.

Together with its two partner organisations, WANEP and ORCADE, EIRENE is pursuing a multi-layered approach in the Pro-Paix-Jeunesse Burkina Faso et Niger (PPJ) project. Technical expertise in sustainable gold mining is combined with media work for peace. Young people are specifically supported and produce videos on environmental issues relevant to mining. In addition, they learn to recognise fake news and raise awareness on social media about violence and discrimination against women and girls. MOJO is a low-threshold tool that offers young people in particular opportunities for social participation.

Mining Act

ORCADE's expertise in gold mining also makes the organisation of interest to the Burkinabe government. The most recent gold mining law, which provides for far-reaching nationalisation of the sector, was drafted with ORCADE's involvement. Director Jonas Hien recently emphasised that this law is important for regaining sovereignty over the country's extractive resources and ensuring that the impoverished population shares in the profits. Together with other organisations, ORCADE manages a fund for rural development, which is financed by taxes on gold mining. The organisation has thus assumed a key role between civil society and the state.

EIRENE cooperates with ORCADE and WANEP through the Civil Peace Service programme run by the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation.

BUILDING BRIDGES IN A MULTICULTURAL CITY

*Since 2017, the 'Starke Nachbar*innen' (Great Neighbours) project has been working to ensure that integration in the culturally diverse city of Neuwied is not merely a goal, but a lived reality. Using a holistic approach based on civil conflict resolution and mediation, conflicts surrounding migration and integration are addressed constructively. The project is aimed at both refugees and the host community – from neighbourhoods and the workplace to educational institutions.*



Stephan Amstad from Neuwied Youth Welfare Office, project manager Iyad Asfour, Mayor Peter Jung and EIRENE Managing Director Ali Al-Nasani receive the award from Integration Minister Katharina Binz. Photo: ©EIRENE

Refugees as active contributors

A key feature of the project is the involvement of refugees as active contributors. The two project leaders, Iyad Asfour and Bilal Almasri, provide motivational support throughout the integration process and know exactly what they are talking about. They themselves came to Germany from Syria in 2015. Their commitment is a key element in the project's credibility and authenticity, and a reason for its success.

The project uses methods of civil conflict resolution, particularly from the field of mediation, to resolve tensions in various areas of life. The year 2025 was one of particular success and visibility for the 'Starke Nachbar*innen' project, and over 100 people with refugee backgrounds were able to be helped:

Clean-Up Days & 'Einheitsbuddeln': Joint initiatives, including on German Unity Day, over 500 flower bulbs were planted in public spaces and small parks. This initiative aimed to make the city more beautiful and greener, whilst also fostering interaction between

refugees and local residents.

Women's Group:

The EIRENE office offers refugee women a safe space. They find supportive solidarity and identify their needs before taking action. In 2025, a partnership was launched with the Neuwied Adult Education Centre (VHS): a computer course for women with a migration background.

First-aid courses for refugees:

To facilitate participation in social life, first-aid courses with language interpretation were offered in partnership with the German Red Cross (DRK).

Recognised as a best-practice example:

In October 2025, the project was awarded the Rhineland-Palatinate Integration Prize. This publicly recognised the many years of work and training that had gone into preparing people to become language and conflict mediators.



*"The women's level of knowledge before the computer course was low, but their motivation to learn was all the greater for it. I acted as a language mediator between German and Arabic, particularly when it came to technical terms. In 2025, we learnt the basics of Word; in 2026, we're now moving on to Excel." Rojin Heddo, volunteer with the 'Starke Nachbar*innen' project*



Counselling sessions: 238



Refugees supported: 100



Events organised: 26



Funding volume: 158.000 €



RESILIENT PARTNERSHIPS

In challenging times, when dynamics of violence are being fuelled globally, it is essential to forge strong civil society partnerships for peace. To this end, EIRENE examines existing power dynamics with its partners in the Global South: the aim is to overcome colonial legacies and strengthen resilience.

In the summer of 2025, representatives of civil society from Africa and Latin America met with EIRENE in

Hanover. The partner conference 'Power-

Sensitive Partnerships' was

deliberately scheduled to

coincide with the EIRENE

Whitsun meeting to

give representatives

the opportunity

to get to know

the organisation

first-hand. "This

is the first time we

have been invited by an

international organisation

to such an important event to

such an important body: the General

Assembly," says Moumouni Magawata from the NGO

Karakara in Niger.



The following objectives were defined for future cooperation:

Communication and transparency:

Project managers on the ground do not feel well informed about donors' procedures and deadlines. They are repeatedly caught off guard by urgent requests, which disrupt their workflow.

Risk-sharing:

Peace work takes place in violent contexts. This entails risks that are borne primarily by local staff. Better insurance cover is needed for everyday hazards (e.g. car accidents).

Networking within civil society:

Partner organisations report increasing arbitrary behaviour by the authorities. Civil society partnerships must now be strengthened to counter authoritarian tendencies.

The partner conference was organised thanks to support from the Civil Peace Service programme run by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



A STEP BACK HOME



Alamosa is situated in the San Luis Valley in the US state of Colorado, surrounded by mountains and characterised by stark contrasts. My placement is with the organisation La Puente. It supports people who are affected by or at risk of homelessness by providing emergency accommodation, counselling and practical financial assistance. By Cäcilia Dohmes.

At the start, I worked at reception in the Crisis Prevention Centre. I was often the first point of contact; I listened, answered questions and referred people on. It quickly became clear just how different people's life situations are. Many come because they are in the midst of an acute crisis. It wasn't easy to witness that. At the same time, I saw just how important it is to provide swift and unbureaucratic help.

Since the spring, I have been working as a case manager. I support clients over a longer period and provide them with more concrete assistance. One key focus is the prevention of homelessness. People who can no longer pay their rent receive financial support to help them keep their home. As part of the Rapid Rehousing programme, I support people who are already homeless on their journey back to secure accommodation. This includes help with job applications, security deposits and rent payments.

This work is often challenging. Many clients are under a great deal of pressure. Conversations can be emotional. Progress takes time. Some setbacks are unavoidable. At the same time, small steps make a difference. Securing rent or signing a tenancy agreement can be crucial.

A special moment was the Christmas party at the shelter. The whole community was invited. One resident takes on the role of Father Christmas and hands out presents to the children. For many, the focus on this day is not on their crisis, but on community and dignity. I helped hand out the presents and found the day to be a very unifying experience.

I also worked at La Puente's coffee shop. It's a place where people from all walks of life come together. A 'pay-it-forward' system allows guests to contribute towards others' bills. This means that even people without an income of their own can get a coffee or a meal. This form of solidarity shapes the atmosphere.

Winter in Alamosa is cold and long. Through my work, I've seen just how dangerous these conditions are for people without a permanent place to live. At the same time, I've seen how important services such as emergency shelters, warm clothing and heating fuel are.

This year has changed my perspective. I have learnt to look more closely, to listen and to cope with complex situations. A place that was once unfamiliar has become a familiar one. The experiences from this voluntary service will stay with me for a long time to come.

Litzy Wara Cruz Hilari from Bolivia came to Germany in April 2025 thanks to EIRENE and has been living in Neuwied ever since

Actually, my journey to Germany began back in my childhood. I grew up in El Alto, Bolivia, as the youngest of five siblings. My father, whom everyone just calls 'Tío Jorge', worked at the Chasqui Children's and Youth Centre and helped coordinate the partnership with EIRENE. I was there all the time, spending my afternoons between projects and international volunteers. That's how the desire to go abroad myself grew within me from an early age.

Today I live in Neuwied with a host family, and I'm very lucky. I've been welcomed like a daughter. My life here has become very colourful: I sing in a choir and I'm even a member of the volunteer fire brigade.

Today I realise that this directness isn't meant maliciously. We carried on cooking, experimenting and mixing things up together. We've even come up with new German-Bolivian dishes with my host family.

A particular highlight was Todos los Santos. I prepared a large buffet and we decorated together. Some people brought photos of deceased relatives or pets. We reminisced, mourned and celebrated. That really brought us closer together as a group. I'm full of energy, I love to laugh and I dance a lot, and that's exactly what helps me connect with people quickly. At the same time, I learn something new every day, often in small, unassuming moments. I was also able to put my training as a vet to good use, for example when my host family's dog died. It was a sad situation, but it taught me a lot means being able to help and support people in that very moment.

BETWEEN CHUÑO, CHOIR AND CULTURAL SHOCK

I've wanted to do this for a long time, partly because of my home country. In La Paz, there are frequent fires because forests are being cleared for coca cultivation, allowing the fires to spread uncontrollably. Many animals die as a result. Animals are particularly close to my heart, as I'm a qualified vet – I'm just missing my PhD. I hope to complete it in Germany.

I'm based at the Bethesda Foundation in Koblenz, where I work with people with disabilities. I soon realised there that culture is also experienced through food. So I cooked chuño and prepared an apthapi. Apthapi comes from the Aymara language and roughly means 'gathering the harvest'. It's a communal meal from the Andes dating back thousands of years, where food is shared. I was very proud – until some people said quite bluntly that they didn't like it. That was my first culture shock. In Bolivien No one would have put it that way.

The fact that I can imagine staying in Germany also has to do with the situation in Bolivia. The prospects there are difficult at the moment, particularly in the social sector. My father, who used to work as a teacher, can no longer carry out his job as he used to. That makes me appreciate the opportunities available to me here all the more. I'd like to finish my degree and build a life for myself in Germany step by step, even though I know I'm sorely missed back home. Perhaps that simply means that home is now more than just a place.



EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE RAINFOREST

The rainforest is both noisy and quiet at the same time. It is precisely within this tension that Maxim's voluntary service in Costa Rica takes place. Since the summer of 2025, he has been living and working far removed from the infrastructure and everyday comforts he is used to.



The nearest shop is nearly an hour's walk away. Power cuts and internet outages are part of everyday life here. What initially seems like an adventure quickly becomes routine.

Many things that used to be taken for granted have to be reorganised or are simply no longer possible. Maxim sees this, in particular, as an important learning process: "It's only here that you realise how dependent you are on structures and how little you actually need."



His placement organisation, Nacientes Palmichal, combines ecotourism with active water conservation. It manages a 42-hectare nature reserve in the cloud forest and raises awareness of environmental issues amongst the local population. Maxim Steckeler's work there is primarily hands-on. His daily life is characterised by physical labour and basic living conditions.

A key project was the construction of a natural outdoor swimming pool in the middle of the site. Together with the team, he moved earth, hauled stones and built the pool. The pool requires no technical equipment and is fed by natural water sources. At the same time, it protects the site from erosion, which poses a major threat in this rainy region. The aim is for the community to use it in the long term. The work is physically demanding. Heat, high humidity and limited resources require a great deal of strength. Tools are in short supply, and much of the work

is improvised. This is precisely where Maxim sees the essence of his experience: finding solutions and working with what is available. "It's a great feeling to see what you've created at the end." As well as the practical work, he also carries out scientific tasks. As part of a nature conservation project, he is studying the flora and fauna of the reserve to gather data that will help improve conservation efforts.

Nature has a profound influence on his daily life: lush greenery, unfamiliar sounds and complete darkness at night. At the same time, the rainforest is not without its dangers. Spiders, scorpions, snakes and pumas are all part of the environment. This also heightens his awareness of his own vulnerability. Without the familiar structures, questions of identity and life choices come to the fore: "What will remain of me when all this is gone?" For Maxim, volunteering is more than just a stay abroad – it's an intensive learning experience that has changed his outlook on life. Community and everyday life take on greater significance, whilst material possessions lose their importance: "Luxury is no any longer what you own, but what you experiences."



Number of
volunteers per
country:

Belgium 1
France 5
Ireland 1
Northern
Ireland 10
USA 7
Canada 2

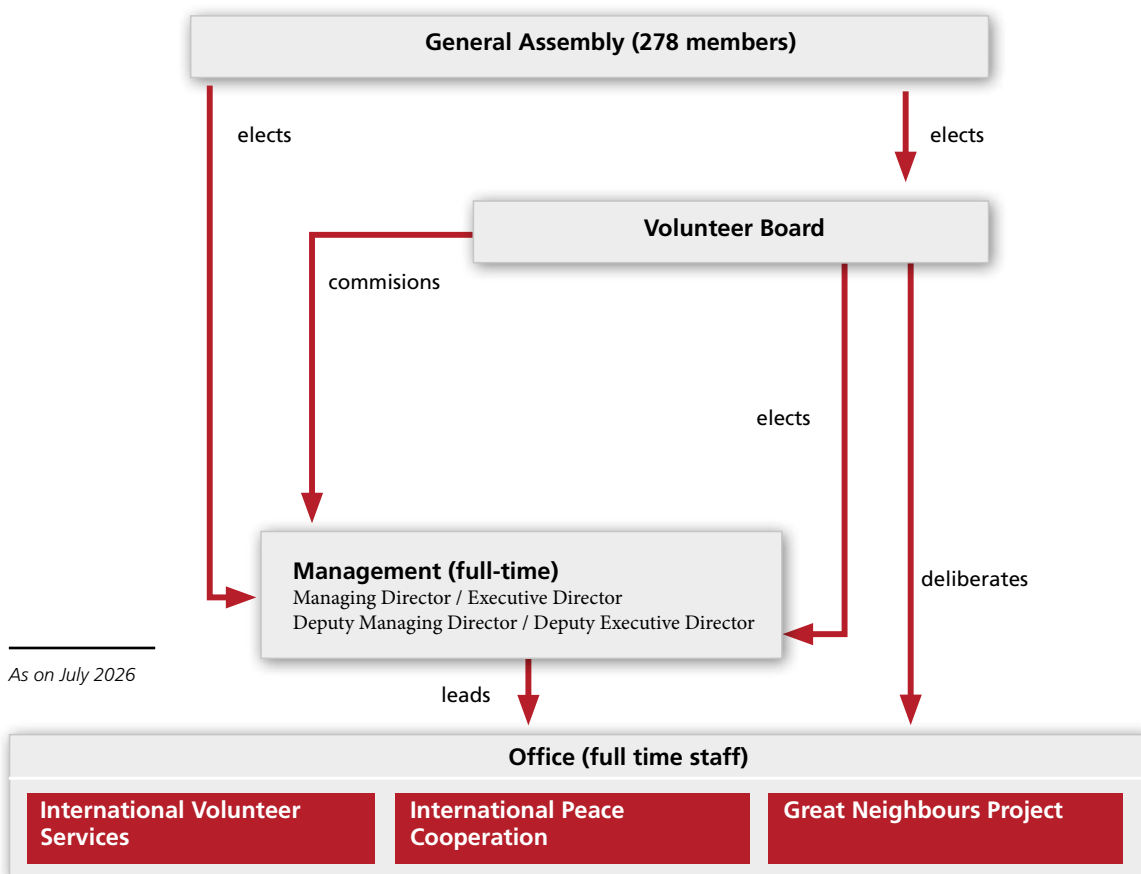
Portugal 1
Bolivia 2
Costa Rica 9
Uganda 5
Marocco 1

Of these, 27 are
on the IJFD pro-
gramme, 17 on the
weltwärts pro-
gramme, 18 volun-
teers in Germany

EIRENE COLLABORATES WITHIN NUMEROUS NETWORKS AND UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS, 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
- Verband Internationale Dienste (vidi)
- Ökumenisches Netz Rhein-Mosel-Saar
- Ökumenisches Netz Zentralafrika (ÖNZ)
- Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung
- Verband Entwicklungspolitischer Nichtregierungsorganisationen (VENRO)

ORGANISATIONAL CHART EIRENE e.V.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

Thank you very much for your support!

Peace work depends not only on the commitment and expertise of many people, but also on the necessary financial resources. Since its foundation in 1957, EIRENE has relied on supporters who enable individual projects or contribute to the organisation's overall work. In addition to our public and church funding, as well as grants from foundations, numerous people contributed to our funding in 2025 through donations both large and small.

In many cases, our own funds from donations and collections are a prerequisite for securing public co-funding for projects. Alongside this combination of civil society participation and state support, personnel and financial contributions from our partner organisations worldwide also flow into our joint peace initiatives. In this way, non-violent approaches are developed that bring about concrete positive change.

Whilst a deficit of 128,670 euros had to be covered from reserves in the 2024 financial year, the 2025 financial year was concluded with a result of –9,674 euros. This was aided both by an increase in income – including public funding, as well as contributions from our circle of supporters and partner organisations – and by cost-saving measures on the expenditure side.

However, the fundamental challenges posed by increasingly uncertain funding, coupled with rising demand and costs, remain and are even set to intensify in the long term.

It is against this backdrop in particular that we would like to thank everyone who has supported EIRENE this year – whether through donations, grants or moral support. Your trust and involvement make our peace work possible!

Bilanz zum 31.12.2025 / AKTIVA	31.12.2025	31.12.2024	Bilanz zum 31.12.2024 / PASSIVA	31.12.2025	31.12.2024
A. ANLAGEVERMÖGEN			A. VEREINSVERMÖGEN		
Sachanlagen	13.425,24	17.203,20	I. Betriebsmittelrücklage	0,00	0,00
SUMME ANLAGEVERMÖGEN	13.425,24	17.203,20	II. Zweckgebundene Rücklagen	157.500,00	159.000,00
B. UMLAUFVERMÖGEN			III. Rücklagen aus Erbschaften	412.999,88	414.993,47
I. Forderungen; sonstige Vermögensgegenstände	267.878,92	419.305,98	IV. Freie Rücklage nach § 62 AO	403.820,23	410.000,46
II. Schecks/Kasse/Guthaben	3.525.769,39	3.225.427,82	SUMME VEREINSVERMÖGEN	974.320,11	983.993,93
SUMME UMLAUFVERMÖGEN	3.793.648,31	3.644.733,80	B. RÜCKSTELLUNGEN	271.000,00	323.299,04
C. RECHNUNGSABGRENZUNGSPOSTEN	25,00	18.336,57	C. VERBINDLICHKEITEN	2.561.778,44	2.372.980,60
SUMME	3.807.098,55	3.680.273,57	D. RECHNUNGSABGRENZUNGSPOSTEN	0,00	0,00
			SUMME	3.3807.098,55	3.680.273,57

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

NOTES ON EXPENSES

Expenditure for the year 2025 rose by just over 15% compared with the previous year.

The largest component, accounting for around 67% of total expenditure, comprises transfers to project countries (37%) and expenditure on peace workers seconded to these countries (30%). Costs relating to volunteers have risen slightly in line with the renewed increase in the number of volunteers.

The third-largest item is staff costs in Germany, which cover all staff at the head office.

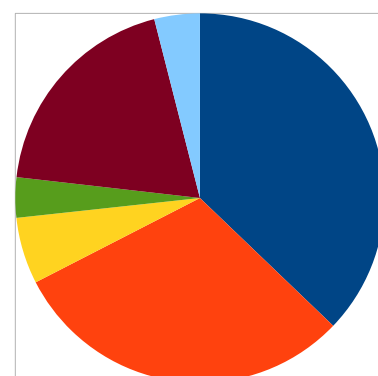
These include, for example, country officers in the International Peace Cooperation department, educational staff who support volunteers, finance staff who manage project accounts, and staff directly involved in implementing peace-building projects within Germany. The filling of posts that were vacant in the previous year, alongside the general trend in salaries, accounts for the increase in this item.

The 'Miscellaneous' item covers all other expenditure incurred in Germany. The largest items here are IT, provisions for audit obligations, events, printed materials for advertising and public relations, and office infrastructure.

SOLIDARITY-BASED REMUNERATION

EIRENE staff have reached a consensus to adopt an in-house remuneration system in the form of a solidarity-based flat-rate salary. This does not differentiate according to qualifications or position, but does take length of service into account. The level of remuneration corresponds to a maximum of pay grade 9b, Level 4 of the TVöD (Federal Government). For the year 2025, staff waived half of the collectively agreed pay rise due to the strained financial situation, meaning that the works agreement provided for a maximum monthly salary of 4,417.34 euros in 2025. This level is paid after three years' length of service. The starting salary was €3,917.34. Social allowances for children or dependants requiring care (up to €165 per month per child) may be paid in cases of proven need. As it is not possible to draw conclusions about conclusions can be drawn about the financial needs of individuals, we list here only the total of the three highest annual salaries. In 2025, this totalled 177,590.01 euros. The members of the Executive Board work on a voluntary basis and do not receive any expense allowances. Only documented expenses incurred on behalf of the association are reimbursed.

AUFWENDUNGEN	01.01.2025 – 31.12.2025		01.01.2024 – 31.12.2024	
	€	%	€	%
1. Projektaufwand				
a) Transfers ins Ausland	3.810.635,11	37,16	3.208.488,51	36,13
b) Aufwand für Fachkräfte	3.105.564,64	30,29	2.553.131,53	28,75
c) Aufwand für Freiwillige	597.828,06	5,83	553.887,94	6,24
d) Sonstige Aufwendungen Projekte	361.331,62	3,52	274.539,60	3,09
SUMME PROJEKTAUFWAND	7.875.359,43	76,81	6.590.047,58	74,21
2. Personalaufwand in Deutschland	1.969.913,23	19,21	1.839.425,84	20,71
3. Sonstige	408.209,80	3,98	451.019,54	5,08
SUMME AUFWENDUNGEN	10.253.482,46	100,00	8.880.492,96	100,00



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

EXPLANATION OF REVENUE

Revenue has increased significantly by around 17 per cent compared with the previous year, resulting increases in almost all revenue items. In absolute terms, the rise in funding for the Civil Peace Service stands out.

The majority of public grants come from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the budget headings for the Civil Peace Service (ZFD), development projects run by private organisations and 'weltwärts'. In addition, there are grants from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth to support the International Youth Voluntary Service (IJFD) and from the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for the 'Starke Nachbar_innen' project. This project is also funded by the City of Neuwied and the State of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Here, a reduction in EU funding is offset by an increase in the areas of volunteer placements, the ZFD and projects under the funding stream 'private organisations'.

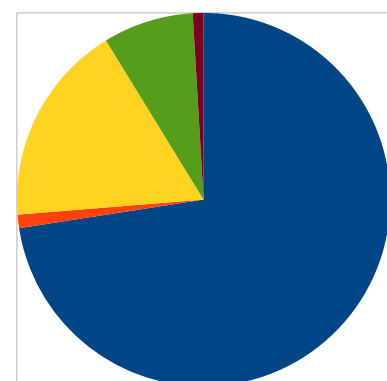
Contributions and grants from members consist of membership fees from individual and institutional members, as well as a grant from the EIRENE Foundation.

Church and private grants include, from the church sector, structural funding from the Church Development Service (225,000 euros) as well as support from the Fokus Sahel network, which is run by EIRENE (Protestant and Catholic organisations, terre des hommes, medico international, Welthungerhilfe, Help, the Franciscan Mission, Oxfam, Robert Bosch Foundation) and contributions from the host organisations of international volunteers in Germany. The slightly increased and, in 2025, largest income under this item comes from KURVE Wustrow, which, as part of its administrative assistance to the ZFD, passes on public grants to EIRENE, totalling 1,388,026 euros.

The regular inflow of donations in 2025 rose slightly compared with the previous year, against the backdrop of a higher number of volunteers and an increase in the number of supporters. The largest contribution here comes from the ETAIROS Foundation (formerly the Horsch Foundation) in support of peace work in Germany.

Other income consists mainly of: the release of provisions for audit obligations, reimbursements for the use of the EIRENE House's infrastructure, seminar participation fees and reimbursements from health insurance funds.

ERTRÄGE	01.01.2025 – 31.12.2025		01.01.2024 – 31.12.2024	
	€	%	€	%
1. Öffentliche Zuschüsse	7.432.190,32	72,55	6.102.247,70	69,73
2. Beiträge und Zuschüsse von Mitgliedern	119.133,28	1,16	99.003,92	1,13
3. Kirchliche und private Zuschüsse	1.795.271,79	17,53	1.674.215,26	19,13
4. Spenden	802.552,62	7,83	735.569,91	8,40
5. Sonstige	94.660,63	0,92	140.759,00	1,61
SUMME ERTRÄGE	10.243.808,64	100,00	8.751.822,79	100,00
SUMME AUFWENDUNGEN	10.253.482,46		8.880.492,96	
JAHRESERGEBNIS	-9.673,82		-128.670,17	

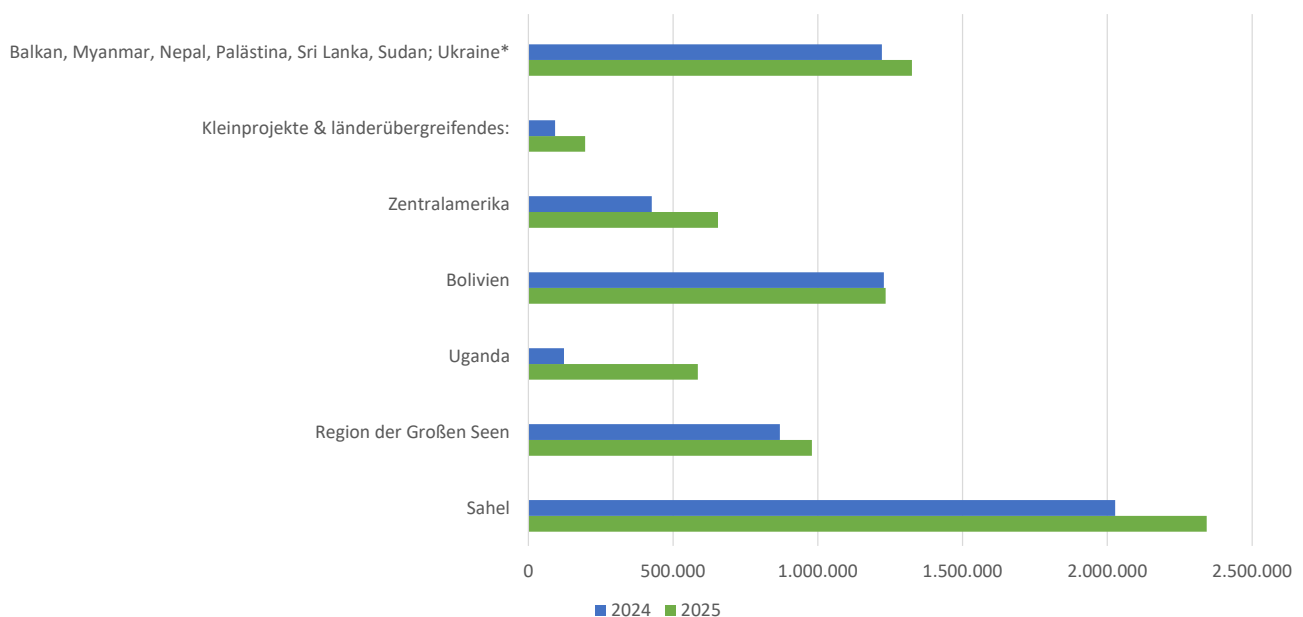


- Öffentliche Zuschüsse
- Beiträge & Zuschüsse von Mitgliedern
- Kirchliche & private Zuschüsse
- Spenden
- Sonstige

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE CO-OPERATION

In 2025, EIRENE operated in the same countries as in the previous year. No new partnerships were established in other regions; instead, the organisation was able to maintain its activities within the countries where EIRENE was already active. Its activities were expanded in Uganda, where a new ZFD programme was established.

Other variations across the individual regions are largely due to differing financial requirements depending on the stage of project implementation. For example, expenditure is typically particularly high at the start and end of each three-year project period.



* Nepal, Palästina, Balkan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Ukraine. Diese Projekte werden im Rahmen der Amtshilfe gemeinsam mit der KURVE Wustrow durchgeführt.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SUCCESSFULLY AUDITED

The audit of EIRENE's 2025 annual accounts was carried out by the audit and tax consultancy firm DORNBACH GmbH, Koblenz. In its audit report dated 8 May 2026, the audit firm states on the audit of the 2025 annual accounts, an extract of which is reproduced below: 'In our opinion, based on the findings of our audit, the accompanying annual accounts comply in all material respects with the German commercial law provisions applicable to limited companies and, in accordance with German principles of proper accounting, give a true and fair

view of the company's assets and financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its profit or loss for the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

In accordance with section 322(3), first sentence, of the German Commercial Code (HGB), we declare that our audit has not given rise to any objections as to the correctness of the annual financial statements."

HOW WE RAISE FUNDS

Donations and contributions form the basis for funding our projects and programmes. This is because we require our own funds in order to apply for the necessary public grants. We are delighted that, every year, many committed individuals, companies, foundations, church parishes, fair trade shops and peace networks support and sustain our organisation with donations. In 2025, 2,560 individuals contributed to our fundraising total.

To reach all these people, last year we sent out five fundraising mailings and three magazines, including the financial report, which provide updates on our peace work. Outgoing staff Volunteers raise funds for our international volunteering programmes within their local communities. We also use one magazine supplement and several advertisements to attract new supporters.

Our digital advertising channels include a quarterly newsletter, project promotion via our website and the EIRENE Facebook page. We also use the social media platforms Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook for our public relations work, for example to share reports from EIRENE volunteers.

To make our fundraising efforts more efficient, we work with the following external service providers: the Caritas workshops for printing and mailshot services, the online donation tool Fundraising Box, the agency Entwickeln&Gestalten for website management, and the database and fundraising system from Stehli Software Dataworks.



The 'Quifd Seal' and the 'Transparent Civil Society Initiative' are certificates that recognise civil society organisations for their integrity, openness and transparent working practices. They that structures are transparent and that resources are managed responsibly.



*The Provinzial Rheinland Cultural and Social Foundation provided a grant of 2,500 euros to support the EIRENE project 'Starke Nachbar*innen'. The funds are intended to help establish a drop-in centre in Unkel am Rhein to provide advice and support to refugees. From left: Bilal Almasri, District Administrator Achim Hallerbach, Iyad Asfour, Thomas Paffenholz (Chairman of the Board of Sparkasse Neuwied), Marie-Luise Ziegler (Regional Director, Provinzial Rheinland), Thomas Hirsch (President of the Rhineland-Palatinate Savings Banks Association)*

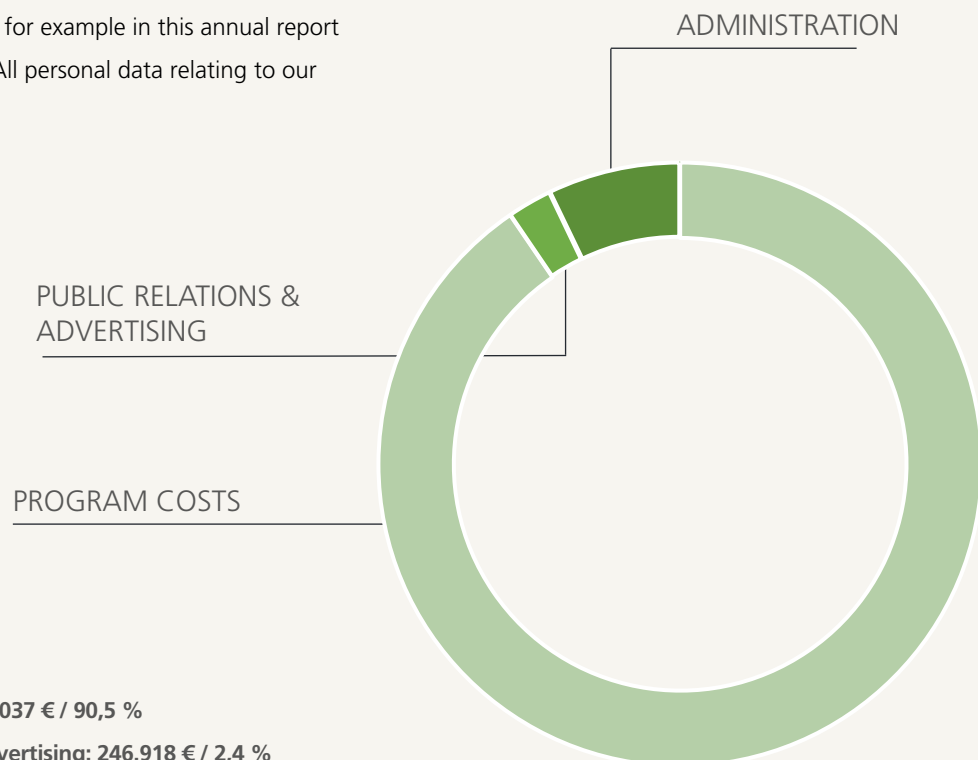
WE USE YOUR DONATION EFFICIENTLY

All our activities are geared towards achieving a high degree of cost-efficiency in our work whilst adhering to environmental and social standards. These are reflected, for example, in the purchase of office supplies, in minimising intra-European air travel as far as possible, and in our collaboration with external service providers. The uniform salary based on TVöD 9 also applies to all managers at the EIRENE head office. This further contributes to the efficient management of the donations entrusted to us. As a result, we have regularly been awarded the DZI seal since 1995, which certifies our prudent and proper handling of donations.

We continue to adhere to the ethical standards of the Association for Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid of German Non-Governmental Organisations (VENRO) and joined the Transparent Civil Society Initiative in 2016. In doing so, we commit to the regular and transparent disclosure of our costs for advertising, public relations and salaries, for example in this annual report and on our website. All personal data relating to our

donors and supporters is subject to statutory data protection laws. Anyone who does not wish to be contacted will not be approached.

Your donation enables us to apply for funding from public donors, such as the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development or the European Union, and to convince them of the merits of our project ideas. This enables us to secure a substantial government grant with only a small contribution of our own. In the best-case scenario, a donation of 100 euros results in 1,000 euros being made available for the project. That is why your support matters, whether through a one-off donation, a regular donation, an endowment or by passing on our publications. **Thank you very much!**



Program Costs: 9.276.037 € / 90,5 %

Public Relations & Advertising: 246.918 € / 2,4 %

Administration: 730.528 € / 7,1 %

A FOUNDATION FOR PEACE

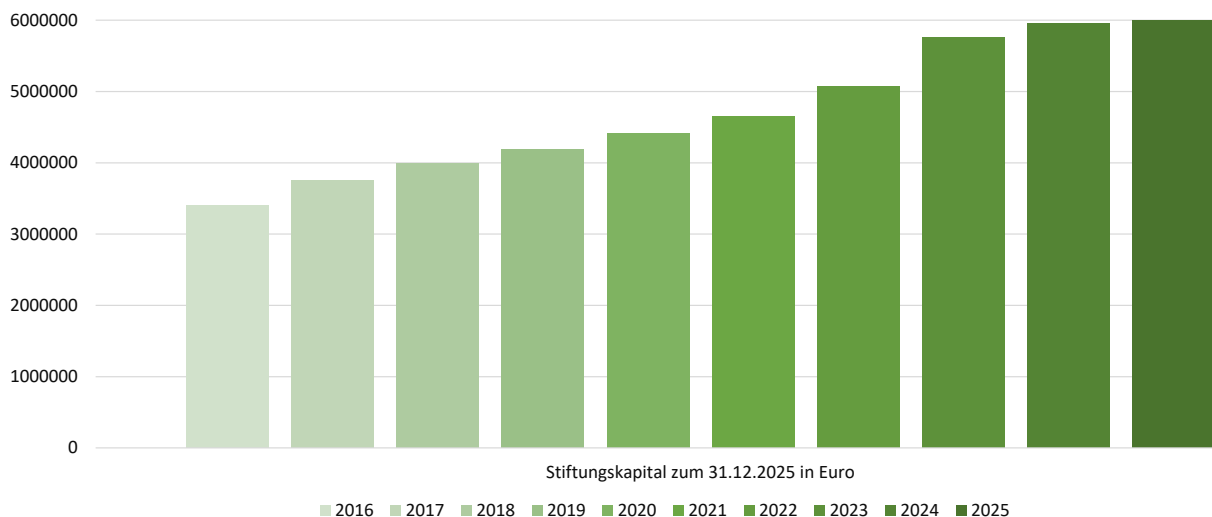
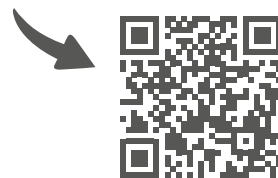
In many countries where EIRENE is active through volunteers, specialist staff and partnership projects, living conditions are becoming increasingly difficult year on year. This does not apply only to countries in the Global South. In the USA, people with a migration background are often brutally arrested on the streets by the paramilitary enforcement agency ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and detained for up to three months in deportation centres. The erosion of democratic rights has gained dangerous momentum in the USA and threatens to advance in Germany and other European countries too, should far-right forces gain even more ground in the elections. The EIRENE General Assembly therefore resolved at Whitsun 2026 to seek ways in which EIRENE can play an even stronger role in Germany as part of the social movement for peace, climate justice and democracy. To this end, EIRENE needs to strengthen its financial independence. The EIRENE Foundation contributes to this by regularly distributing its proceeds to EIRENE e.V., thereby strengthening the latter's political independence and capacity to act.

As at 31 December 2025, the EIRENE Foundation had endowment capital of approximately 5.9 million euros, which is invested sustainably. In 2025, endowment contributions totalling 232,000 euros were received. The total amount of interest-free loans granted in 2025 was 388,000 euros. In 2025, €100,000 was distributed to EIRENE. From its establishment in 2000 up to 2025, the EIRENE Foundation was able to distribute a total of €1.5 million for the purposes set out in Section 2(3).

By making an endowment, a bequest or an interest-free loan to the EIRENE Foundation, you can make a lasting investment in peace and justice and support EIRENE's work in the long term. **Guido Dost** will be happy to provide further information: **02631 8379 11, dost@eirene.org or Anne Dähling: 02631 8379 18, daehling@eirene.org** .

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the growth of the foundation's capital.

Further information can be found at: eirene.org/stiftung



NEW MANAGEMENT



At the general meeting on 23 May 2026, Guido Dost was elected as the new Managing Director of EIRENE. With his many years of experience in leadership, organisational development and international cooperation, he brings valuable insights to the further development of the EIRENE Peace Service. Most recently, he served as Programme Director for Ukraine at Caritas Switzerland. His professional career also includes leading Johanniter International Aid and serving on the management team of the ASA programme at Engagement Global. In these roles, he has specialised in shaping change processes in a way that is strategic, structured and, at the same time, people-centred.

"Peace is not a dream. It is the result of daily, persistent work – step by step, brick by brick. At EIRENE, we have the opportunity to create the conditions in which peace can flourish. This requires courage, patience and the willingness to start afresh every day," says Guido Dost, looking forward to his new role. He succeeds Ali Al-Nasani, who has taken up a new post with the Civil Peace Service in South-East Asia this year.



The donation seal from the German Central Institute for Social Issues (DZI) certifies the responsible management of funds entrusted to the organisation. It has been awarded to EIRENE annually since 1995. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding donations, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Anne Dähling on: 02631-8379-18, daehling@eirene.org

Staff at the head office: 38

Volunteers: 67 (of whom 49 are abroad)

EIRENE peace workers: 21 (of whom 20 are abroad)

Peace workers KURVE Wustrow: 31 (of whom 28 are abroad)

Total: 157 staff

A total of 9 board members and a further 21 volunteers in Germany.

Reference date: 31. December 2025

A detailed breakdown of our expenditure in accordance with the Donation Seal standards can be found in the annual accounts on our website under the heading 'Publications'.



Group photo from the EIRENE Incoming and Outgoing Volunteer Seminar in Vallendar, summer 2025



THANK YOU! GRACIAS! MERCI! DANKE!

We would like to thank all our supporters in 2025!

Without your contribution of time and money, without your 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 destinies into their own hands and to advocate for peace through non-violent means.

Our thanks go to all donors, members of church congregations and businesses, volunteers, and our institutional donors who contributed to peace in 2025.

Publisher:
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Photos:
Unless otherwise stated,
EIRENE archive

Printed by:
Schaubs Printers, Trier, printed
on 100% recycled paper

Editorial contributors: Damaris
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Anne Dähling
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editor) Jürgen Kraus Albert
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Design/Layout:
Damaris Becker

Circulation:
3800 Exemplare

EIRENE magazine is published
three times a year and is free
of charge. We ask for a

contribution of 18 euros in the
form of a donation.

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