



Verein zur Förderung von
Gesundheit & Bildung
benachteiligter Mädchen und
Frauen

Annual Report 2022



Border guards stops young girls at the border

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1. Introduction

The people in this country have suffered a lot in recent years - first and still from the aftermath of the great earthquake in 2015, then from Corona. They were already living in one of the poorest countries on earth and have become even poorer in recent years. This led - as everywhere in the world - to more violence against girls and women. We were grateful that we were able to finance three additional Transit homes at least for the year 2022 - as first places of refuge for many girls and young women. Without these offers of help, many girls/young women at risk often find their situation hopeless. Then there is a great danger that they will believe false promises of jobs or marriage and end up in prostitution or an Indian brothel.

In 2022, the Corona strains in Nepal slowly eased off - even though there were border closures again from May to July. Despite the slight easing of the general situation, our work on site continued to be affected by the corona virus. During border closures, border guards could only stop girls at risk to a very limited extent. The other projects were also ongoing in presence again, but the numbers did not yet reach the pre-Corona level. However, things were slowly getting better in 2022! Despite all the burdens, there were many offers that were taken up by girls and young women who were at risk or had been rescued, which gave them the chance of a decent life. We will describe them in this report under point 4.

2. The issue of girl trafficking

In many areas of Nepal, girls are regarded as virtually useless for centuries. They cost money and parents must pay a dowry for the usually very early (forced) marriage. From then on, daughters work in their husbands' household caring for his parents and not for their own ones. Very often girls are victims of domestic violence and rape. Nepalese girls are enslaved in large numbers: each year approximately 12,000 – 15,000 of them are being sold to Indian brothels or to the Emirates where they are sexually exploited. Very often they are no older than 12 – 16 years of age. The vast majority does not survive this – girls die from the effects of violence and diseases like AIDS, Hepatitis, etc.! Due to their often-fair skin tone, Nepalese women are deemed to be particularly beautiful in India. Furthermore, India where baby girls are frequently aborted or killed immediately after birth - experiences an increasing lack of women. Meanwhile, with fewer and fewer births of girls while more and more boys are born, there will inevitably be massive social repercussions that we cannot yet really imagine.

A small number of the girls sold into brothels can be freed – e.g. through a rescue network established by our Nepalese partner organization MAITI! pro filia is supporting these girls whose parents often do not take them back. But above all, for as many girls as possible, pro filia contributes

to keep them from not being sold at all by offering them the chance to lead a self-determined, humane life.

3. Collaboration with Nepalese NGOs

Our main contact in Nepal still is MAITI – a NGO (non-governmental organisation) founded in 1993 having the goal to take care of girls who could be freed from brothels or being in danger to be sold to these. We are in constant (e-mail) contact with the MAITI associates, planning together the measures to be taken and changes to be made. By Feb. 15 of each year, we are provided with a detailed report of each project as well as an overview of the previous year's financials. During our regular field visits we are accompanied by a MAITI associate referring to our questions and translating from English to Nepalese and vice versa. This makes personal conversation with MAITI associates as well as with the rescued girls much easier.



MAITI-site in Kathmandu

A new cooperation partner since 2020 is the NGO INF (International Nepal Fellowship) - an organisation that has been running hospitals in Nepal since the 1950s. They as well carry out the newly established nurse's assistant training courses at their Pokhara hospital. Pro filia is funding this project.

In 2022, it was also not possible to visit our projects in Nepal due to the Corona crisis. But for 2023 we already organized a joint on-site tour with MAITI and INF to visit our projects in April.

4. The pro filia Projects in Nepal

Project 1: Awareness campaigns and establishment of rescue networks



Awareness campaigns as to girl trafficking – Information by means of street theatre

The aims of this project are:

- To inform about the looming dangers of enslavement in seemingly attractive job offers or promised marriages.
- To improve the re-integration of surviving girls, who are widely met with hostility so far.
- To establish a support network for girls.

Related methods are, inter alia, round-table discussions in the villages on market days, street theatre on the subject of sex trafficking, marches for women’s and girls’ rights, information for students and education of key persons like military and police. The campaigns are also performed with the help of young women who – by now employed by MAITI – are themselves survivors of human trafficking or who could be saved from being enslaved at the last minute. The education campaigns also contribute to the creation of jobs for rescued young women.

In 2020 and 2021, the Corona situation made many face-to-face events impossible. But in 2022, the number of events with topics on slavery for, domestic violence and facilities for help increased significantly again.



Demonstration against girl trafficking

Educating campaigns in schools

Results 2022 in the catchment areas of Pashupatinagar, Dhanusa, Kailali, Rasuwa, Itahari and Kavre.

- 3.133 pupils, students and teachers were educated about trafficking of girls, violence against women and child marriage and additional support networks and protection options were presented.
- 1.544 people carried out open awareness campaigns on market days, including theater performances and demonstrations, etc., reaching thousands of people.
- 3.410 people were informed in targeted campaigns, e.g. with door-to-door visits.
- 191 police officers and soldiers were trained on the topic of trafficking of girls and the possibilities for assistance, and cooperations with border guards was further intensified.
- in 8 network meetings with a total of 148 participants from the police, press, authorities, etc. informed about the issue and improved the cooperation.
- 30 hotel employees and transport workers as well as 40 tea pickers were informed about the issue of trafficking in girls.
- the problems and available help were presented regularly on radio and television.

Project 2: Border guards

In most cases border guards are young women who could be rescued. They subsequently received training by MAITI and are now employed directly at the bustling border crossings to India or China. Against the background of their own experiences made, they address apparently endangered girls directly, offering them immediate shelter, e.g. in transit homes. They are mostly part of the transit home teams. Many young women are needed to do this important work – namely, to protect girls from sexual exploitation. The salaries of the border guards - and thus our costs - have risen sharply since 1.1.2022 because the cost of living in Nepal has increased massively. Food alone became 350% more expensive during the Corona period. Now the global impact of the Ukrainian-Russia war also adds to this, causing prices to skyrocket even further.

During our project visits, we always admire the confidence and authority of the border guards when approaching rickshaws and cars that might transport endangered girl. They ask the drivers for their papers, and they also take girls out of the vehicles. They also try to verify information over the phone. The border police are always in sight and assist with sovereign tasks - a hard job for the border guards in a noisy and dusty atmosphere.



Border guard stops girl at the border

Results in 2022

- In 2022, pro filia financed a total of 32 female border guards positions - 2 in Tikapur, 2 in Dhanusa, 1 in Thankot, 1 in Rawusa, 2 in Kakavitta, 6 in Ilam, 1 in Itahari, 4 in Kailali, 4 in Kavre, 3 in Bardiya, 1 in Birgunj, 1 in Mahespur, 1 in Kanchanpur, 2 in Biratnagar, 1 in MoFa Kathmandu.
- Each border guard escorts an average of 50 girls/young women per annum directly from the checkpoints - mostly at the borders to India or China - to an initial relief facility such as a Transit home or they organize their return back to their home. During the Corona crisis, the numbers fluctuated - depending on whether there was a lockdown or borders were closed. In 2022, the borders were closed for 3 months. However, 1.200 girls could be stopped this year directly at the border guards.

Since 2019, pro filia is also financing an observation post on the Kavre motorway, which leads from Dhulikhel to Nepal's east and into India. 2243 consultations on girl trafficking and support options were held in Kavre in 2022 by MAITI representatives in cooperation with the highway police.

In 2022, MAITI also build a control post together with the authorities at a huge bus parking area in Pahupatinagar near to an uncontrolled border post to India. Two border guards as well as female border police started working here.



Another control post with a border guard

Basically, the following also applies for 2022:

- It was difficult to recognize the age of the girls/young women wearing the Corona face masks when they passed the controls by foot or vehicle.
- Sometimes the buses that passed only had short breaks and that made any controls difficult.
- Contact and direct talks were difficult due to the distance that had to be kept between each other. This will be much easier in 2023, since the rules to wear masks has become redundant.

Project 3: Transit Homes

Transit homes offer immediate help to endangered girls right at the border and they also serve as first safe shelter for girls that could be freed from Indian brothels. Also, in cases of domestic violence or after being raped, girls and women can find support here. In addition to the existing Transit home in Pashupatinagar, pro filia took over the costs for the newly built Transit home Dhanusa, and Kailali

and Rasuwa too in 2022. Financially this was possible, because of the fundraising efforts of a local newspaper in Münster. Subsequently a large amount of this money was transferred to pro filia. As violence against girls and women increases in every crisis - especially in poor countries such as Nepal - we were very grateful for the expanding of the Transit homes for at least another year.

The Transit Home Paschupatinagar



The Transit Home Pashupatinagar

Consultations after stopping at the border



A group of 10 girls at the age between 13 and 19 was stopped at the border to India. Apparently, they were studying Christianity in India, but they didn't know about it.

Results 2022 for the Pashupatinagar Transit Home:

- The Pashupatinagar transit home generally offers space for 20 girls/young women to stay at a time. Most of them stay for a short time, others for longer – depending on their individual requirements. Contact is made with the parents if the girls so wish. In family discussions it is then clarified whether a girl will return home or, for example, be transferred to a rehabilitation home.
- In 2022, 683 girls and young women were stopped at the border. 384 were sent directly home from the border, 299 remained in the Transit home to clarify further steps, often only for a short while, until they were picked up by their parents or were brought to a rehabilitation center.
- 12 girls/young women were picked up in risky situations and were returned home.
- In 2022, the Transit home searched for 21 missing girls, 10 of whom MAITI was able to locate and return to their families.

- 45 girls were 15 years old or younger - the two youngest were four and six years old, both rape victims!
- The Transit home is also the central point of contact for other acts of violence against girls/young women - e.g., domestic violence. In discussions with all parties involved, solutions are then sought and often found. In 2022, 19 girls were accommodated after domestic violence.
- As in all other projects financed by us, pro filia paid for the medical materials during quarantine measures.

The Dhanusa Transit Home

In addition, we have taken over the financing of the Dhanusa Transit home in 2022, which was newly built in the Terai area in southern Nepal in the 2nd half of 2021 and financed by pro filia.



The Dhanusa Transit Home

Results 2022

The Transit Home Dhanusa took care of 96 girls in 2022. 87 of them were stopped at the border, 2 were accommodated after rape and 6 rescued from domestic violence. One of 9 missing girls was found. 79 girls were re-settled with their families after only a short while at the Transit Home, 61 were sent home directly from the border.

The Kailali Transit Home

As from January 2022, pro filia financed an additional third Transit home at the Indian border in Kailali - a transport hub in South-Western Nepal. The home has existed for several years, but now the funding from another donor ended. To be able to continue to offer services for girls at risk at this highly frequented location, pro filia took over the costs for one year.



The Transit Home Kailali

Results 2022

The Transit Home Kailali looked after 164 girls in 2022. 117 of them could be stopped at the border. 4 were accommodated after being raped and 5 were rescued from domestic violence. One girl was rescued after she was sold. And 37 of 145 girls that were reported missing were found. Overall, 115 were re-united with their families. 29 girls were sent home directly from the border.

The Rasuwa Transit Home

The Transit Home in Rasuwa is the only one that MAITI has built at the Chinese border so far. Basically, the causes that put the girls at risk are the same as in India: a hopeless existence for those affected in Nepal, poverty on the part of the parents, little appreciation of the female gender and a lack of girls and young women in China, just as in India.



The Transit Home Rasuwa: Information about girl trafficking, domestic violence, and child marriage

Nepalese citizens can obtain a 24-hour visa to China. Girl traffickers take advantage of this: they abduct girls and young women during this time slot with the aim to exploit them in the entertainment industry, for example. Here are also border guards at the border. They inform young girls about the dangers of entering China. In the Transit home, the girls find a first place of refuge and support for their further steps into a dignified life. Awareness campaigns about trafficking in girls also are conducted in the border region to Tibet/China.

Results 2022

In 2022, 35 girls were taken care of at the Transit Home Rasuwa and were returned to their families. They received 28 reports of domestic violence, 20 of them were solved. 8 perpetrators were reported to the police.

In the relatively new Rasuwa and its environment awareness campaigns, information in schools and network of support facilities has been in the forefront to make girl trafficking, domestic violence, forced marriage and available help more public. In this annual report the number of participants that were addressed in public events is included in project 1: Awareness campaigns.

Project 4: The Itahari Rehabilitation Home

Rescued girls who cannot or do not want to return home, those escaping from domestic violence, or those who have been raped or are suffering from extreme poverty, are transferred to a MAITI rehabilitation home if they wish so. Here they are prepared for an independent life and participate in vocational training. Courses are offered – less during Corona times – such as modern agriculture, hotel cooking/catering, tailoring, hairdressing, e-rickshaw driving etc.!



Itahari Rehabilitation Home

During our visits, many girls being in our care express their concerns about their future. Most of them would like to earn their own money to be able to lead a decent life. Therefore, it is very important that pro filia does everything possible to provide further training and start-up financing to create jobs or to enable them to set up their own small business – cf. projects 6 and 7.

Results 2022:

- In 2022, 25 girls/young women were in the care of the rehabilitation home. They were able to complete training courses and received ample information about their future everyday life such as protection against HIV, the risks of early marriage, birth control, women's rights, possibilities of help and protection against human trafficking.
- One young woman was raped, 5 were victims of domestic violence. The others were living in great poverty and in danger of getting sold to Indian brothels.
- Of the 27 girls that were reported missing, 9 were found.

- In cases of criminal incidents such as rape, trafficking in girls, etc., charges were filed.
- Local dignitaries were present to hand over the certificates, and both television and radio stations broadcasted the ceremony!

Project 5: The mother-baby home

The mother-baby-home offers shelter to single pregnant girls and women. Most of them being victims of sex trafficking, rape, domestic violence, or false marriage promises. They can stay there for up to 2 years. There they are given medical and psychological care during pregnancy, the birth and the baby's first year and – if they wish so – are offered professional training or support in finding a job. Most young mothers wish to return with their babies to their family of origin. MAITI contacts the relatives on their request, clarifies the possibilities of a return and continues to accompany the process for some time afterwards. Suspects such as possible rapists or human traffickers are reported by MAITI and are then often sent to prison.

There is practically no support available in Nepal for this target group, single mothers, and their newborn babies. Even if, our home is still small, it symbolizes how dearly this very vulnerable group of people needs support! How can a single mother provide for herself and her infant after the birth? Traumatized after rape, often deserted by their families and without education or a job they often do not have other choices than begging or prostituting themselves – and the misery goes on from generation to generation! pro filia has committed itself to support as many single mothers and their babies as is financially possible – to stop this vicious circle and build a home for this group of people. MAITI provided us with premises in a house on their premises in Kathmandu for this purpose. The home started its work in May 2019 with 10 places for 10 mothers and their babies.



Home for mothers and babies in Kathmandu

With the beginning of the Corona crisis the concept changed: Pregnant women and young mothers and their babies are first admitted to MAITI's hospital ward, are tested for Corona and stay in quarantine as long as necessary. In this initial phase, the young women, who often suffer from other

diseases as well, receive medical treatment until they have recovered and can be transferred to the MAITI Rehabilitation Home with their babies.

In 2022, only 7 mothers and 9 babies were accommodated in the home. Four were new to the home, the others from previous years. Of the 9 of the affected mothers, 7 came to the home after being raped, one after domestic violence. One mother was admitted, because she and the father of the child were still minors.



Mother with baby in the home15 year-old ... and 16 year-old mother



17 year old mother living in the home baby massage instruction 2 mothers attending school again

Two mothers decided in 2022 to continue with their school qualifications and to attend classes in grade 10. Two other mothers were able to return to their family of origin – the greatest wish of most of them. This process is supported by MAITI.

The young mothers repeatedly express great gratitude for being able to live in safety for a time, to have regular meals, to be able to exchange ideas with other victims, and to receive medical care! Once they are dismissed from the home, each mother is given a basic mother-baby kit und sufficient clothing.

Sometimes it shows that some of the young mothers cannot accept their baby after the often-unimaginable history they experienced and are also afraid of being stigmatized as a single mother - a justified fear in Nepal. Here it takes a lot of time to find satisfactory solutions for mother and child. The goal is always to give them both a chance to live in dignity. In 2022, two mothers decided to leave their babies behind at MAITI. These children are taken care of in the home of MAITI.

We were hopeful that once the Corona crisis calms down with all the travel and transportation restrictions and frequent lockdown, more pregnant single girls and women would seek shelter in the home. But this was not the case, despite intensive public relation work by MAITI. When visiting our projects in April 2023 we want to discuss with MAITI, what the reason is for the small number of mothers and babies in the home is, and what can be done to occupy the available free places. It can't be that there are hardly any single pregnant women in Kathmandu and environment, who need help.

Project 6: Educational offers

By now, pro filia is financing a range of training opportunities for endangered or rescued girls and young women. As described above, – in non-corona times - an average of 35 – 40 saved young girls and women are trained at the Itahari Rehabilitation Home each year to become tailors, cooks, agriculturists, hairdressers, bag producers, mushroom farmers.

To give even more girls and young women career perspectives in their own country and thus immunizing them against the traffickers, seemingly attractive marriage promises, and job offers in India, pro filia has developed additional educational offers. Moreover, not only trainings in classical female professions should be created, but also more diverse career perspectives that offer more income and lead to an increased self-confidence.

However, MAITI reported that during the past few years more young girls/women want to move abroad for a better and quick income – with all the associated risks such as sexual abuse. An education thus seems to be less attractive to them as in the past. Here we want to clarify with them which training opportunities could be attractive to young women, nevertheless.

Project 6.1: Computer training

pro filia has been financing computer trainings since 2013. On the one hand the program is offered for preventive reasons: the training protects girls out of precarious family situations from being sold. On the other hands it offers the perspective of a self-determined life also to girls and young women that have been rescued. The equipment of the required computer training rooms and necessary repairs or the purchase of new computers are paid for by pro filia.

Currently there are two training sites - Pashupatinagar and Fikkal. Fikkal was set up by women who completed their training in Pashupatinagar. A total of 198 young women have participated in the trainings since 2013, with 28 in 2022.



Computer training in 2022

Apart from the computer training, the young women also receive further training on the topic of trafficking in girls and available help, to enable them e.g., to educate other girls in their villages about the dangers.

Project 6.2: Training as tailor

In 2022, 20 young women were trained at the Itahari Rehabilitation Centre to become a tailor. 16 of them completed the training normally.



Tailor Training

Project 6.3: Training as hairdresser and beautician

In 2022, five young women received a training to become a hairdresser and beautician.



Hairdressing and beauty training

Project 6.4: Training as e-rickshaw driver

During our project visits to Nepal, despite traveling all across the country, we only met a few female rickshaw drivers in one town - and that was in Itahari, where the rehabilitation center, that we

funded, is located. Here we saw an opportunity to offer young women another training opportunity to make their professional spectrum more diverse. This was in fact met with great interest. Since 2020, 3 young women were trained to become e-rickshaw chauffeurs every year, also in 2022 - physically not very strenuous due to the electric motor and reasonably environmentally friendly.

To ensure that the young women can earn an income after the training, pro filia supported them with the purchase of rickshaws – cf. point 7.5!



e-rickschaw driver

Project 6.5: Training for mushroom farming

20 people participated in the training to become a mushroom farmer.



Training in mushroom farming

Project 6.6: Training in the health sector

Many areas of Nepal suffer from a severe lack of medical care. It is in this sector that we see a professional future for young women. Not only would this work be highly recognized – it is also an opportunity to earn sufficient income for a humane life.

For quite some time pro filia has been looking for suitable training opportunities in the health sector. 2019 saw the opportunity to negotiate with the director of the INF (International Nepal Fellowship) – one of the oldest NGOs working in Nepal. The INF provides hospitals where healthcare training is provided. At the end of 2019, a concept for this project was jointly developed and implemented in 2020. The training courses are held for 5 young women each in Pokhara. Afterwards, 2 young women of each course receive employment in the hospital for one year to gain further practical experience

and thus increase their chance for a long-term employment. The young women live in a home that specialises in the care of this group of people. The Egon Schumacher Foundation has generously provided pro filia with money for these trainings.

Due to Corona, delays were experienced in 2021, so the education could only be finished by the end of February 2022. In June 2022 the second course started.



The participants of the first course 2022 and their trainers

In the first course of 2022, 5 participants were trained, and 4 young women attended the second course.

Project 7: The creation of jobs

Upon completion of their trainings, young women regularly face problems to find employment that subsequently guarantees a dignified standard of living. To find helpful solutions, a concept for the creation of jobs was developed together with MAITI. Apart from the support offered to find jobs, trained young women are also given the chance to earn an income sufficient for them to subsist, with the help of a start-up financing.

MAITI offered a training course to young women, to learn the basic competencies for future entrepreneurs, which was met with great interest. 25 young women participated in the first 10-day training and 15 in the second 7-day course.



Training for future entrepreneurs



Certificate ceremony

Project 7.1: Typing Offices

In 2013, it was decided together with MAITI to set up typing offices - in villages where this service was not yet offered. The offices are to be staffed by young women who have completed our PC training program. In addition to services such as writing letters, copying, scanning and internet access, information will also be provided about human trafficking and protection options. The aim is to educate even more people and to immunize more girls against seductive-sounding marriage promises and job offers, e.g. in India. A prerequisite for the establishment of promising offices is the support of local dignitaries! MAITI established the contact with them and obtained their approval.

Till 2020, 8 offices were installed, which are following quite different paths. With many creative ideas, the young women continued to develop the work - be it by introducing young girls to computers, be it through a complementary drugstore or a tailoring offer.

However, with Corona and the subsequent lockdowns the young women could not pay for their rent and could not buy new computers to replace their old, irreparable equipment. Six offices were affected by this crisis – only the offices in Fikkal and Pashupatingar are still in function. Now, it needs to be considered if new premises can be established.



Offices

Project 7.2: Tailoring Businesses

The same applies for the tailor businesses. As from 2015, the establishment of tailor businesses with each 6 young women was planned together with MAITI. They are accommodated in very small and simple rooms to keep the rental as low as possible. Pro filia provided initial financing with the aim, that these enterprises should be self-sustaining. In the meantime, tailoring enterprises were established in 10 villages. During the Corona crisis the tailors gave notice and up their working space, because they could not pay the rent anymore. They worked from home whenever they had an order, but that was not very often. Only one tailor business survived the crisis. In 2022, 7 newly trained tailors were equipped with sewing machines and are now working independently.



Sewing machines are handed to the tailors



Tailoring business

Project 7.3: Mushroom farming

The 20 young women that were trained in mushroom farming received from the public authorities all the basic material that are necessary to plant and cultivate mushroom and to sell them on the market.

Project 7.4: Employment after nurse assistant training

4 of the 9 young women that graduated and received their certificate were directly employed for one year at the training hospital. While in 2021, 8 of the 10 trained women found a job, it was more difficult in 2022. The INF – together with Samrakshak Samuha Kalikasthan, the sponsor of this facility where the young women live during their training – is looking for further options for the women to earn their own money.

Project 7.5: E-Rickshaw entrepreneur

pro filia had several rescued young women trained as e-rickshaw drivers. For them to be able to work and earn their own money, we transferred money to cover 75% of the purchasing costs for 3 rickshaws, in 2020. The women financed the remaining 25% through a small bank loan which they pay off with their income. MAITI supported them in applying for the loan. The first experience of this model was successful – the young entrepreneurs have already paid off their entire loans. Not only are they able to live on their own income, but they can also support their family– in Nepal, this is often vital. As a result, pro filia provided a rickshaw under the same conditions to 3 newly trained young women each year, in 2021 as well as in 2022. So, now there are 9 small businesses.

When the 3 e-rickshaws were handed over in 2022, more than 100 people attended the event, local prominent people, representatives of local authorities, politicians and the press.



Certificate ceremony



Rickshaw driver at work

The young women protect themselves against looming dangers by avoiding driving in the dark. Additionally, they were trained in de-escalating techniques and all of them have a cellphone to be able to call help quickly. Besides that, particularly women like to use this transportation, as they often feel safer with female drivers. Up to now, no alarming incidents were recorded.

5. Projects planned for 2023

We are doing everything to ensure that our projects can operate as quickly as possible as they did before the Corona crisis. For this to happen, there must be no lockdowns, contact or travel restrictions in Nepal and the border has to be open. pro filia plans to fund the following projects in 2023:

- Awareness campaigns and building/maintaining support networks in the border districts of the funded Transit homes and Rehabilitation home.
- The salaries of 32 border guards
- The Pashupatinagar Transit home and the Kailali Transit home
- The Itahari Rehabilitation Home
- The Mother and Baby Home
- Training opportunities - e.g. to become nurse assistant or e-rickshaw driver.
- Job creation by offering support for finding a job or start-up funding for their own small business, such as the purchase of more e-rickshaws.

6. Cooperations

In addition to the cooperation with MAITI Nepal and INF Nepal, pro filia also worked together with the SI (Sorooptimist International) Club Münster-Mauritz in Germany in 2022. At various events, the Sorooptimists collect donations for pro filia or support us at events - e.g., at the art auction and the Orange Days. The joint work is accompanied by regular cooperation meetings - with three meetings in 2022.

7. Activities 2022

In 2022, due to Corona there were still restrictions for face-to-face activities - e.g. we did not plan any card games in pubs. But for the first time, big events like the art auction were possible again. But that still involved a lot of excitement: With almost a year of preparation, it was only 4 weeks prior to the auction that it was clear, the number of guests did not have to be limited to 100 - a far too little number for such an event.

7.1 Actions 2022 by pro filia:

- In May, a report on the work of pro filia appeared in the **magazine Kontur**.
- **Kreuzviertel Festival Münster 2022**: After a two-year break from Corona, the Kreuzviertel Festival finally took place again on August 27th/28th, 2022. At the pro filia booth many visitors were informed about our work, donations were collected, and several new members found.



Kreuzviertel Festival

(2.left.: Prof.Dr. Ute v. Lojewski/pro filia, Peter Glahn/Domfreunde, Karin Reismann, Klaudia Mohs/pro filia)

- On 26th November 2022, pro filia and the SI Club Münster Mauritz set up an information booth on the Cathedral Market. As part of the **Orange Days** – a campaign to eliminate violence against women - information was provided about our work in Nepal.



Information booth on Orange Day

(from left.: Prof.Dr.v.Lojewski/pro filia, B.Müller-Schroer/SI Ms-Mauritz, Dr.J.Feldkamp, B.Wierling/pro filia)

- The **NRW Tax Administration** has acknowledged pro filia for the allocation of fines in criminal tax proceedings: 2,500 € were thus transferred to us in 2022!
- In the course of **criminal cases**, courts ordered two convicted offenders to pay a total of 2,000 € to pro filia in 2022.
- pro filia was also given a **legacy** in the will of a member in 2022 - about 7,500 €. Donations were also made on the occasion of funerals.
- The big highlight in 2022 was the 6th pro filia **art auction!** On behalf of 38 artists, 79 works of art were auctioned - an unbelievable 73 of them were sold. About 300 visitors were welcomed by the President of the Münster University for Applied Sciences, Professor Dr. Dellmann, and Mayor of the City of Münster, Markus Lewe.



Art Auction 2022

(from the left.; Götz Alsmann, Mayor of Münster Lewe, Prof. Dr. Dellmann, President of the FH Münster)

Then Mr. Götz Alsmann started the auction and motivated all interested parties with much wit and enthusiasm to go higher and higher in their bids, so that after more than three hours a record result was achieved: 73 of 79 pieces of art were sold at the auction.



Exhibition of the pieces of art



Götz Alsmann as auctioneer



Auction 2022

(photos 2-4 FH Münster/Anne Holtkötter)



Auction Cafe



Happy end



Piggy bank for donations

Carrying out an auction of this size entails many tasks - contacting the artists, preparing the catalogue as well as the presentation of the art works, the actual auction with café and cash desk to collect the money, including packing of the artworks and dismantling - and all went well thanks to the support of the many sponsors (cf. point 7.4) and about 60 volunteers. All artists and pro filia want to thank them all, as well as Götz Alsmann the auctioneer, from the bottom of their hearts for this commitment.

7.2 Activities for pro filia

- Several **boule tournaments** were organized in 2022 by Konrad Averbeck with proceeds of 2,198€



Boule tournament for pro filia at the back of the castle

- The **7th Yoga Summer**, organised by leben & reisen: Yoga took place in 2022 from 17 June to 9 September every Friday afternoon at 5.30 pm on the Aasee meadow next to the Wewerka Pavilion, with many people participating as in the past despite the Corona crisis. 25 - 40 interested people joined the Yoga Summer regularly and donated small amounts. At the end, Ilona Tertilt and Dagmar Merforth were then able to hand over a good 2,000 € to pro filia! The yoga teachers generously donated their working hours free of charge! The Yoga summer will also take place in 2023 - from 2.6.-8.9.2023!



Funds 2022 handed over to pro filia

Yoga on the Aasee meadow

(from left: I.Tertilt/leben&reisen, Dr.J. Feldkamp, C. Wellemeyer/pro filia)

- With the **sale of books and CDs** Tina Reuther und Isabelle Feix realized an amount of 4.000 €, which they transferred to pro filia.
- Again, the **Egon Schumacher Foundation** donated an amount of € 5,000 to pro filia in 2022. This financed a large part of the nurse assistant training for 5 young women in Pokhara.
- Despite Corona, a three-year **school project of the Adolf-Kolping College in Münster** was started in October 2020. Students from three parallel classes chose pro filia as their social project and collected donations for the association. In 2022, an extensive meeting took place at which the pupils handed over € 2,000 to pro filia. They had raised this money through a variety of activities such as the sale of self-made artwork, clothes, etc.



Handover of the cheque at the Adolf-Kolping-College

(from left.:M. Spener/pro filia, H. Sarray, L.Thenior/AKBK, Dr.J.Feldkamp/pro filia)

- In November 2022, Mechthild Spener – chairlady of the board of pro filia - presented our activities to another school class. She experienced great interest in the topic. Now the pupils are planning the upcoming activities with much enthusiasm!
- In 2022, Hildegard Hüing and Sigrid Wehmeyer organised a Christmas market again and donated the proceeds of 1.425 € to pro filia.



Advent Fundraising 2022

- As often as the Corona conditions permitted, Jürgen Sager organised musical performances in 2022 - together with two Syrian girls, Mirna, and Natali. The proceeds were donated to pro filia again.

7.3 Actions planned for 2023

- Presentation of pro filia in clubs throughout Germany
- Information booth at the Kreuzviertel Festival in Münster at the end of August 2023
- Yoga summer from 2.6 - 8.9.2023
- Card game evenings at the “Bunter Vogel” in Münster
- Project visit to Nepal in April 2023.

7.4 Thanks to supporters and sponsors

We thank Manfred Bröker for translating the annual report into English. In general, pro filia can only accomplish all their activities with the help of the many volunteers and sponsors. A sincere thank you to all our supporters and donors for their commitment.

8. Situation of the pro filia association at the end of 2022

8.1. Members

At the end of 2022 pro filia has 249 full members! The next general meeting will be held 05.09.2023.

8.2. pro filia website

In 2021 it became necessary for pro filia to change their 10-year-old website to an up-to-date technology. We took the opportunity to also make important changes in terms of structure and content. Both issues involved a lot of work and quite some expenditure. The new website was completed in December 2021/January 2022 and has been well received.

8.3 Finances

The two cash auditors, Heiderose Wandres and Christel Wellemeyer, audited the 2022 annual accounts of 2021 and found them to be correct. The members approved the actions of the board at the general meeting on 13.9.2022. The Münster tax office also granted another notice of exemption on 25.7.2022.

In 2022 pro filia transferred 200.350 € to MAITI. Pro filia has taken over the cost for three more transit homes und additional border observers in 2022. This was made possible with the high Xmas donations from the WN. But it is clear, that this funding is time limited. We therefore informed MAITI in the early summer of 2022 that they would need to look out for another fundraising organization.

Pro filia transferred about 97.776 € to the year 2023 – thereby hedging the first installment for 2023 – a great relief. The administrative tasks amount to 6.000 €, which refers to a great deal to programming the design and maintenance of the new website. All administrative costs are covered by donations or sponsoring. The detailed balance sheet for 2022 – as well as the balance sheets 2008-2021 – and all donations above 1.000€ are published on our website, and can be found on the homepage at the bottom, under the topic “Transparent presentation of our work / declaration of commitment”.

8.4 Board of Directors and Management

In 2022, the pro filia board was newly elected for 2 years. Members of the association’s executive board are Ina Specht, Friedhelm Kars-Ude, Brigitte Wierling, Jan Sprünken, Bernd Brixius (treasurer) and Mechthild Spener (chairperson). Dr. Johanne Feldkamp remains Executive Director. The next election will take place at the General meeting in 2024. Heiderose Wandres and Christel Wellemeyer were elected unanimously as cash auditors for 2022.

8.5 Outlook

The Nepalese government has lifted many restrictions in the hope that the flagging economy will pick up momentum. Nevertheless, border closures occurred again in 2022. The long- subsisting poverty in the country became even greater after the terrible earthquakes in 2015 and the Corona crisis. Many people do not have enough to eat. In parallel, domestic violence, child abuse and forced marriages are on the rise. The need for support continues to grow and we are glad that we can continue to fund most of our services in 2023. From the 3 shelters that we financed in 2022, we will continue our help for one shelter, the Kailali home. For the other two shelter MAITI need to find other sponsorships – they were already informed about this in summer 2022.

We are looking forward to the next visit of pro filia representatives, visiting the projects that we finance in Nepal. It has always been important to us to discuss the progress of the project work on

site and - if necessary - to redirect it. Due of Corona crisis, this was not possible for about three years. A lot can be done online with the help of electronic media - but personal contact simply is irreplaceable. Now, finally, two board members, the deputy director as well as a gynaecologist will travel to Nepal. At the end of April 2023, the gynaecologist will train MAITI staff in Kathmandu for two days on issues of women's health, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, breastfeeding counselling, etc.!

For the first time, there will also be a visit to the hospital in Pokhara, where the training for the nurse assistants were held for the past three years.

We are very excited that personal contacts are possible again and look forward to meeting with MAITI and the INF in person! And we also hope that in 2023 actions and presentations of pro filia can be held in presence and will be possible throughout the year to recruit new members and donators.

Thanking you all from the bottom of our hearts and wishing you all the best for 2023!

February 2023

Dr. Johanne Feldkamp, Executive director of pro filia e.V.