

pro filia annual report 2018

1. Introduction

In November 2018 pro filia could celebrate its 10th birthday! Initially founded by a small circle of 8 friends, we have more than 200 members right now. It was our goal to build up projects against girl/women trafficking. The first, decisive step for us was to find a reliable NGO in Nepal as a cooperation partner for projects against human trafficking and for the support of rescued girls. We found this NGO with MAITI Nepal. We then decided to build up our projects in Nepal and went there to set up and sign a cooperation contract with MAITI.



Contract signature at MAITI in 2008...



...and meeting in Kathmandu in 2018!

The number of our humanitarian aid projects in Nepal has grown continuously ever since:

- For the last 10 years we have been founding a shelter home that serves as first safe haven for 400 – 500 rescued girls per year.
- From day 1 on we also took over the costs for awareness campaigns on the issue of human trafficking and ways to help.
- In 2010 we additionally started financing the salaries of 10 border guards to start with – today 35 of them are on our payroll! They intercept approximately 1,750 girls right at the Indian border each year transferring them e.g. to a shelter home.
- In 2011 we started funding the rehabilitation home in Itahari. This is where about 40 girls are taken care of each year obtaining professional training.
- Since 2013 we offer training in IT competencies – almost a revolution for girls in Nepal. 40 girls are trained each year.
- In 2016 we further extended our offer of professional trainings, implementing tailoring, cooking, beekeeping, mushroom farming and repairing computer hardware. In 2017, chauffeur and hairdresser trainings were added.
- In parallel the creation of additional jobs was paramount, such as setting up what are 8 typing offices by now offering about 40 jobs, 10 tailor shops with about 50 jobs as well as start-up financing to help currently 56 women supporting them to set up their own little businesses.

During this period, more than 10,000 girls and young women were given the chance to live a dignified life. This makes us feel very joyful and encourages us in our strive to act massively against human trafficking and to support as many girls as possible as closely as necessary on their way to a self-determined life.

We are very happy about what we could achieve in the last 10 years and say thanks to all those who supported us in doing so!

2. The issue of girl trafficking

In many areas of Nepal, girls have been considered to be virtually useless for centuries. They cost money, parents must pay a dowry for the usually very early (forced) marriage and 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.

And Nepalese girls are enslaved in large numbers: each year approximately 12,000 – 15,000 of them are sold to Indian brothels or the Emirates where they are sexually exploited. Very often they are no older than 12 – 16 years. 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.

Some girls can be released from brothels – e.g. by a rescue network in India built up by our Nepalese partner organization MAITI! pro filia is supporting these girls whose parents often do not take them back. And pro filia also contributes to preventing many girls from being sold in the first place! Projects in Nepal financed by pro filia give almost 2,000 girls per year the chance to lead a self-determined, humane life.

3. Collaboration with MAITI Nepal

Anuradha Koirala, the foundress of MAITI, entered politics after the last elections and became governor for Kathmandu and the surrounding region (province 3) in 2018. We hope that she will be in a position to use her newly gained influence on politics to support the fight against sex trafficking! Anuradha Koirala appointed her former deputy, Bishwo Khadka, new MAITI director. She herself is still doing voluntary work at MAITI.



Meeting with Anuradha Koirala in November 2018

In November 2018 four of us went to Nepal – the board members Ina Specht and Jan Sprünken will take over the field visits in the future. Bernd Brixius and Johanne Feldkamp who visited the projects six times in the past 10 years wished that the next generation takes over. They said goodbye during this field visit and introduced the two new pro filia representatives – also a very touching experience!

Once more we were accompanied on this one week's journey by Sabin Gurung, our MAITI contact. He also served as on-site English/Nepalese interpreter during all of the field services.

4. The pro filia projects in Nepal

Project 1: Awareness campaigns and establishment of aid networks

The aims of this project are

- To inform about the looming dangers of enslavement in seemingly attractive job offers or promises of marriage
- To improve the reintegration of surviving girls that are hitherto widely met with hostility
- To establish an aid network for girls.

Related methods are, inter alia, round-table discussions in the villages on market days, street theater on the subject of sex trafficking, women's and girls' rights marches, information for students and education of key persons like military and police persons.

During our project visit in 2018 we joined an awareness campaign and an information event for students. Together with border guards, police women and representatives of women's groups we went from door to door in villages, addressing people and distributing information material on sex trafficking and ways to help.



Campaign preparation



Participants



Putting up posters....



...students joining the campaign after our visit at the village school

The campaigns are performed also with the help of young women who – employed by MAITI in the meantime – 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.

Results in 2018 in the catchment areas of Pashupatinagar and Itahari:

- With door-to-door information campaigns, street theater and informational events about sex trafficking (and ways to get help), about 2,000 persons could be reached on market days in many villages.
- Approximately 1,720 soldiers and policemen and –women were trained regarding the issue of sex trafficking and possibilities to help.
- 440 pupils and students as well as 54 teachers were made aware of the issue of sex trafficking and informed about aid networks and possibilities to protect themselves.
- 200 key persons such as newly elected politicians, journalists and government representatives both male and female were trained regarding the issue of sex trafficking and possibilities to get help.
- On International Women’s Day, 500 women were informed about their rights.

- 395 participants of information campaigns taking place on 16 days were trained on the issue of violence against women and possibilities to get help.

Project 2: Border guards

Border guards are young women that could be rescued, subsequently received training by MAITI and are now employed directly at the bustling border crossings to India. Against the background of their own experiences made, they address apparently endangered girls directly, offering the transit home as immediate safe haven.

At the Indian border at Pashupatinagar alone, a total of 2,110 girls/young women were addressed and approximately 45,000 cars, rickshaws etc. were stopped, checked and provided with information about the dangers of being enslaved.

The by now 35 border guards work at 8 border crossings to India. Each one of them intercepts an average of 50 young girls a year directly at the Indian border transferring them e.g. to a MAITI shelter home. Therefore due to the border guard jobs now financed by pro filia, an average of 1,750 girls per year can be rescued and are given the chance to lead a dignified life.



Border guards stopping a rickshaw...



...questioning a couple on the way to India

When visiting our projects we are always full of admiration for the straightforward manner in which the border guards approach rickshaws and cars that appear suggestive of transporting an endangered girl. They do ask drivers to present the necessary documents and even insist that girls get out of the cars. At the same time they try to verify by phone the information they are given by the drivers. Border police is always within the range of vision – a difficult job in a noisy, dusty and bustling atmosphere.

Project 3: The Pashupatinagar transit home

Transit homes offer immediate help to endangered girls right at the border and also serve as first safe haven 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.



Reception in the Pashupatinagar transit home in 2018

Results 2018 for the Pashupatinagar transit home:

- The Pashupatinagar transit home offers shelter for 20 girls/young women at a time whose length of stay varies according to their individual requirements. Parents are contacted if the girls wish so. A family discussion is held to clarify if a girl can return home or is transferred e.g. to a rehabilitation home.
- In 2018, the transit home successfully intervened in the cases of a total of 368 girls/young women – the youngest of which 14 years of age – and prevented them from being sold.
- 8 girls/young women arrived coming out of situations where they had to experience sexual exploitation or abuse.
- The transit home also serves as primary and central contact in further cases of violence against women/young girls: in 2018, 17 girls arrived coming out of situations of domestic violence. In the course of discussions with all parties involved, solutions could be found in many cases.
- One girl was accommodated after being raped, the offender was reported to the police.
- In 2018 the transit home carried out a search for 45 girls reported missing, 18 of which were found by MAITI and could be brought back home.

During our visit in November 2018 the fate of a 15 year old girl upset us very much. She was pregnant after being raped and is now living in the transit home until the birth of her baby. At this point it is completely uncertain how her life will go on! There are almost no mother-and-child help offers in Nepal. As the offender – a policeman – was identified, MAITI filed a suit and the man is expected to be sentenced to 7 – 10 years of prison. Because in Nepal all child custody rights lie with the father, the offender can claim custody rights for the child after being released from prison. These laws are currently being revised.

And how will the mother feed her child and herself? Uneducated and without a job she will very likely have to prostitute herself or is lured into seemingly attractive job offers in India – and then she and her child often end up in a brothel. Moreover, a child's nationality depends entirely on the father, i.e. if a mother cannot name a father, her child would remain stateless and therefore without rights – e.g. to visit a school! MAITI informed us that an amendment of this legal situation is being worked at. Mothers, too, should be able to transfer their nationality to their children.

We have discussed these laws at great length with MAITI and in the aftermath of the visit in Nepal also with the pro filia team. The following decisions were made:

- pro filia has edited a letter to Anuradha Koirala, the MAITI foundress, expressing the association's deep outrage at such unbearable laws asking her to use her political influence in her new role as governor of the Kathmandu district. In the meantime Ms. Koirala has promised to do everything within her power on the political level.
- It is our goal to establish a mother-and-baby-help offer. Together with MAITI, a small house on the MAITI grounds in Kathmandu is supposed to be outfitted for this project. Several mothers with their babies will be accommodated there. They should have the possibility to stay at least one year in order for the mothers to participate in professional trainings, e.g. to be nurses and/or to build up their own small business such as a food stand at the market. Furthermore it is very important for the baby to be protected in the first year of its life and to have the prospect for further stability with a mother who earns her own money and leads a dignified life.
- pro filia will do everything to collect the necessary funds for this purpose – e.g. apply at foundations with the goal to find sponsors for the mother-and-baby-project.

The Bhairahawa transit home:

pro filia's financial contribution to the Bhairahawa transit home has decreased by now as other donors could be found. The money is mainly invested in the establishment of aid networks and awareness campaigns in the Bhairahawa district, both organized by the transit home. The results of these activities are listed under "awareness campaigns" in this report.

Project 4: The Itahari Rehabilitation home

Saved girls that can't or do not want to return to their families, are fleeing from domestic violence, have been raped or suffer from extreme poverty are transferred to a MAITI Rehabilitation home if they so wish. In these facilities they are helped to prepare for a self-determined life, they learn to read and write and participate in vocational trainings. Courses in modern agriculture, cooking, tailoring etc. are offered.



Tailoring apprenticeship in the home

During our visits many girls in our care expressed worries about their future. Most of them would like to earn an income and build up a decent existence on their own. Therefore it is of great importance that pro filia does everything to continuously provide trainings, start-up financing for the creation of jobs or for building an own little business. The increases in 2018 are described under project points 5 and 6.



Round "table" discussions in the rehabilitation home during our visit in 2018

When asked during our in-depth round table discussions with the rescued girls in the course of our November visit in the rehabilitation home, many expressed their interest in healthcare trainings and in acquiring their driver's license. The latter proves to be difficult as girls usually leave the home after 6 months, hardly having the opportunity to practice driving thereafter. However, the young girls as well as the rehabilitation home employees pleaded to keep up this training.



Rescued girls/young women in the home

Results in 2018:

- In 2018, 40 saved girls/young women were taken care of in the rehabilitation home for 6 months each. They start learning how to read, write and calculate and are taken through professional trainings. They also receive a lot of information about their future daily life, such as HIV prevention, dangers of early marriage, contraception, women's rights, support possibilities and protection against sex trafficking.
- Another 10 girls/young women stayed for a short time only as they wanted to return to their families
- 34 of the 40 girls/young women completed their professional training
- 4 girls freed from an Indian brothel were taken care of
- 18 out of 45 girls reported missing could be found.
- Criminal actions such as rape, sex trafficking etc. were reported to the police. MAITI reported 3 human traffickers to the police who are now in prison awaiting trial.

Project 5: Educational offers

By now pro filia finances a range of training opportunities for girls and young women in danger or saved from danger. As described above, an annual average of 35 – 40 saved young girls and women are trained to be seamstresses, cooks, agriculturists, mushroom farmers, hairdressers, bag makers. In order to give even more girls and young women career perspectives in their own country 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 womens' professions should be created but also more diverse career perspectives that offer more income and lead to an increased self-confidence.

Project 5.1: PC training

pro filia has been financing computer trainings since 2013 for an annual number of 40 girls. 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 by pro filia.

Additionally, weekend trainings are offered for young girls above the age of 10 to introduce them to the use of PC by means of a drawing program!



The Pashupatinagar computer training center

In 2018, 40 women/young girls were trained on the computer. Most of them were between 17 and 25 years of age, the youngest was 15 years old. It was a very mixed group with young women from different castes, singles, married or divorced women, some of them with children. All had a very hard life, had suffered great poverty, massive violence or survived slavery or kidnapping.

In addition to the PC training they were also educated about sex trafficking and ways to help in order to instruct other girls about these dangers back in their villages.

Almost a third of the girls that received training found a job with the support of MAITI e.g. in educational programs, at schools or government institutions. Some also work at MAITI.

Projekt 5.2: Apiculture training

In 2018, 15 girls/young women were trained to be beekeepers.



Apiculture training

Project 5.3: Mushroom farming

25 girls/young women were trained to be mushroom farmers in 2018.



Mushroom farming

Project 5.4: Chauffeur training

We developed this offer in 2017. Chauffeur training is divided into driving lessons for electronic motorbike rickshaws and lessons for cars. It appears to us that it makes sense to have the women pass the driving license for a e-bike rickshaw first to get accustomed to traffic. A next step is then the license to drive a car. pro filia paid the driving licenses for motorbike rickshaws for 10 young women and driving licences for cars for another 10 young women. These trainings still are not finished in 2018. Generally, many men and even more women do not pass their driving exams. In the case of the Rehabilitation Home inhabitants the fact that they leave the home after 6 months and do not have the possibility to practice driving adds up to this issue. Nevertheless, the young girls as well as the Rehabilitation Home employees pleaded to keep this training up saying that learning to drive was just as important for their self-esteem as acquiring PC knowledge.



Driving lesson in an e-rickshaw...



... and in a car

Project 5.5: Training for severely traumatized young women

In 2018 we received support from the Egon-Schumacher foundation: they contributed 5.000 € to ensure an education for particularly traumatized young women, partly survivors of terrible times in brothels and often not capable to adapt to regular trainings or jobs. Employers, too, are often unable to handle these severely traumatized young women appropriately. The goal was to support them with a training that helps them build a small business and to be self-employed. MAITI accompanies them in this process. From September 2018 on, 10 young women each between 17 and 24 years of age were trained as hairdressers/cosmeticians or cook in order to later set up a small market stand or beauty salon. In addition to the craft training, a course was offered covering questions about setting up and managing a small business. MAITI will provide funds for the start-up financing of such small businesses.



Our 2018 visit at the training facility of future cooks and hairdressers!

Project 5.6: Training in the healthcare sector

Many areas of Nepal suffer from a severe undersupply of medical support. This is where we see possible career perspectives for young women. This kind of work would not only be highly accepted but could most probably also guarantee a sufficient income to ensure a decent existence.

For quite some time now, pro filia has been looking for suitable training facility in the health sector, a search that was unfortunately not successful until now. Also in 2019 we will continue our search to create possibilities in this sector. MAITI will explore the possibility for young mothers that are accommodated in the new baby project in Kathmandu can be educated there to become nurses.

Project 6: The creation of jobs

Upon completion of trainings, problems regularly arise subsequently for young women to find an employment that guarantees a dignified standard of living. In order to find helpful solutions to this

issue, a concept for the creation of jobs was developed together with MAITI. In addition to the support in finding jobs, trained young women get the chance to earn an income sufficient for them to subsist with the help of start-up financing.

Project 6.1: Typing offices

During the meeting with MAITI end of 2013 it was decided to establish typing offices in 20 different locations in the Ilam (Pashupatinagar) district, staffed with at least two young women that have absolved the PC training. Locations are chosen for these offices where a similar service is not yet on offer. Besides services like writing letters, copying, scanning and internet access, information is provided about human trafficking and protection options – with the intention to increase the number of people made aware of this issue and to make as many girls and young women insensitive to the human traffickers’ seemingly enticing promises of marriage or tempting job offers in India. By the end of 2018, 8 typing offices could be set up.

During a visit of a number of typing offices in November 2018, we encountered very difficult stages of development. Some women have significantly extended the offices not only offering simple services, but also PC training for young girls – a much wanted “snowball effect”! Moreover they themselves have come to be a point of contact for endangered girls that arrive on their own initiative or are brought by the police. They are given advice and are transferred to the Pashupatinagar shelter house if they so wish. As they fulfil important tasks, they are supported by the municipality of the place as well.

Another office is situated in a very poor district – we only got there on very bumpy roads with a four-wheel drive vehicle. The area is haunted by a series of rapes. Most probable also this is the consequence of the massive lack of women in India as the area is situated close to the Indian border. People are not able to pay for PC work there, but repeatedly address to the office asking for advice. The two employees of the office send them to the transit home. MAITI pays them a small wage for this service – they regard this as an outpost of the transit home. Another typing office now has various offers for women – besides computer work they do tailoring, offer cosmetic treatments and sell drugstore products in a small shop.



We were amazed about the many creative ideas the young women developed and were happy to see the variety of work done in the offices.

Project 6.2: Tailor shops

From 2015 on, the installation of tailor shops each employing up to 6 young women had been planned together with MAITI. These tailor shops are located in very simple, small rooms to keep rental costs low. Pro filia took over start-up financing with the goal to have the tailor shops on a self sustaining basis within about a year's time. By now, tailor shops have been installed at 10 locations.

These shops, too, show quite a diverse development. Some of the women involved try to turn the little places into a boutique by offering further items like shoes and decoration objects. Others keep up their teams and do only tailoring barely getting by financially. In another tailor shop we were very amazed – while 4 women were employed there during our last visit two years ago, we were now greeted by 16 employees! The initial team had started a collaboration with a local group of mothers and developed the business. Here, too, sewing courses for girls are offered. The women involved where – very righteously so – very proud of their work:



Reception in the big tailor shop with hats being offered!

Project 6.3: Start-up financing for the establishment of an independent small business

pro filia continuously transfers the funds for a start-up financing to support young women with the start of their own small "business". Most of them then open a small tailor shop, a boutique, a food stand or a beauty salon together with other women. They were being helped with this endeavour by MAITI during the start-up phase.

By the end of 2018, the young women were discharged from the rehabilitation home having absolved an apprenticeship as cook or hairdresser/beautician supported by the Egon-Schumacher foundation. They will be supported by MAITI in order to build an own small business.

5. Projects scheduled in 2019

Already now we can foresee that pro filia is definitely continuing to fund the following projects in the year 2019:

- Awareness campaigns and the establishment/maintenance of aid networks in the Ilam/Pashupatinagar, Bhairahawa and Itahari districts
- The salaries for 35 border guards
- The Pashupatinagar Transit home at the Indian border near Darjeeling
- The Itahari Rehabilitation home
- Computer training for 40 girls.

We are also persuaded to make every effort in 2019 to set up a mother-and-baby care offer. After our last visit, this is a special affair of the heart to us. We additionally have the goal to implement trainings in the healthcare sector as an additional offer.

6. Cooperations

Besides the cooperation with MAITI Nepal, pro filia entertains a cooperation with the SI (Sorooptimists International) Club Muenster-Mauritz. In 2018, the women organized a flea market stand and an opulent charity breakfast for the benefit of pro filia. The support organization provided funds so that a total sum of 3,500 € could be transferred to pro filia. These donations were used for paying the wages of 4 border guards. The collaboration is accompanied by cooperation meetings on a regular basis, two of them in 2018.

7. Activities in 2018

Also in 2018 many campaigns were conducted targeting on raising awareness about the issue of human trafficking and to gain new members and donations for our projects:

7.1 pro filia activities in 2018:

- Lecture about the most recent project visit in Nepal on the occasion of the Sorooptimist Club's charity breakfast in **Münster-Mauritz on March 3, 2018:**



SI charity breakfast

- During two **Doppelkopf Nights** on Feb. 23, 2018 and October 12, 2018 in the "Bunter Vogel" almost 900 € were gained:



- Five new members could be won over during the **Kreuzviertelfest** on August 25/26, 2018 where pro filia was present with an information booth:



Kreuzviertelfest 2018

- Our application for tax authority revenues out of criminal tax proceedings were found to be eligible: we were assigned 2.500 € in 2018!
- Our **journey to Nepal** was an important project in 2018 - four of us travelling this time. The board members Ina Specht and Jan Sprünken travelled together with Bernd Brixius and Johanne Feldkamp who had visited Nepal alone previously. At their own request, Feldkamp and Brixius said goodbye at the different stations/projects and were glad that the next generation now takes over the project visits as of now! Once again it became very clear to all four of them how meaningful the project visits are for a better assessment for the situation on site and to find viable solutions together with MAITI.

- The preparation for the 5th pro filia art auction on April 7, 2019 started as early as in the summer of 2018. Many visits to galleries were in the focus of this work. We managed to place photos of all pieces that will be auctioned on our homepage, thus making the corresponding information accessible to all interested three months prior to the auction.

7.2 Campaigns for pro filia

- On March 3, 2018, the **SI-Club Münster-Mauritz** held a charity breakfast for the benefit of pro filia resulting in a donation of 3,500€ for pro filia:



SI charity breakfast 2018

- Numerous **Boule tournaments** organized by Konrad Averbek yielded about 2,250 €:



Boule behind Muenster castle on June 20, 2018

- **The 4th Yoga-Sommer** organized by Leben & Reisen:
Yoga was taught between mid June and mid September every Friday afternoon close to the Münster Aasee, the offer was highly frequented. During the hot summer of 2018, sometimes up to 80 persons participated! Each participant donated round about 5 €, the revenue was passed on to pro filia entirely: Ilona Tertilt and Dagmar Merforth could hand over about 3,000 € afterwards – a record! The yoga instructors did their work free of charge! Many thanks to Leben & Reisen for their great effort.



Yoga summer 2018

- Tina Reuther and Isabelle Feix yielded about 1,500 € **selling books** and transferred the sum to pro filia.
- The **Egon Schumacher foundation** donated the sum of 5,000€ in 2018. The money was used for the most recent pro filia education project: the group of beneficiaries were the few survivors of enslavement in a brothel and other severely traumatized young women. With specially adapted training and support they are supposed to get the possibility to build up their own little “business” – e.g. a kitchen stand on the market – in order to have a chance to earn their own living, as their families more often than not do not take them back. 20 rescued girls/young women were trained in the rehabilitation home. 10 each decided to train as cook or hairdresser/beautician. Their ages ranged between 17 and 24 years. They were taken care of in the rehabilitation home, received psychological support and additionally joined a course teaching them how to build up a small business.



Dr. Tanja Schumacher, Egon-Schumacher foundation

- Johanna Seehausen collected more than 1,000 € for pro filia on the occasion of her centenary birthday!
- Jürgen Sager made **music** in a retirement home on a regular basis together with two syrian girls. Also in 2018 the proceeds benefitted pro filia:



Jürgen Sager with Mirna and Natali

- pro filia received further donations on the occasion of birthdays, funerals, weddings and various festivities .

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all supporters of the activities and campaigns – to members, donors, sponsors, information desk personnel and bakers of cakes Many thanks also to Stefani Bültel who provides the English translation of the annual report and the pro filia website's updates.

7.3 Campaigns scheduled for 2019

- Further presentations wherever possible
- Information booth at the Kreuzviertelfest 2019 in Muenster
- Two Doppelkopf nights
- The 5th pro filia art auction on April 7, 2019!

8. Condition of the pro filia association by the end of 2018

8.1. Members

By the end of 2018, pro filia is counting 205 members! The forthcoming general meeting will be held on May 17, 2018 at 7pm at Marienstalstr. 78, Muenster

8.2. Financials

The cash auditors Hajo Schoo and Dirk Sprünken reviewed and approved the 2017 annual report in 2018. The members ratified the executive board's actions at the general meeting on April 20, 2018. Likewise, the Muenster tax authorities have re-issued a notice of exemption on December 13, 2018.

Pro filia transferred about 93,000€ to MAITI in 2018. More than 53,000 € were shifted into the year 2019, thus safeguarding our next transfer to MAITI in April 2019. Expenses of about 3,800€ for

project visits, programming, graphics, PC and bank fees were covered by contributions of the managing and executive board or by sponsoring. In the first 8 years of pro filia's existence, the necessary on-site project visits were borne privately by 100%. In 2016 the board decided to support two representatives of executive board and management with a biannual subsidy of 1,000 € for project visits – also completely financed by executive board donations! All contributions and donations from outside the executive board are transferred to Nepal by 100% at all times.

The detailed accounting report for 2018, such as the reports for the years 2008 through 2017 as well as all donations received exceeding 1,000€ can be found on our homepage on the right side listed under “voluntary commitment declaration”.

8.3. Executive board

A new pro filia executive board elected for 2 years in 2018 with the following members: Ina Specht, Josef Humbert, Brigitte Wierling, Jan Sprünken, Bernd Brixius (treasurer) and Mechthild Spener (chairperson). Dr. Johanne Feldkamp remains in her position as CEO.

8.4. Data protection declaration according to DSGVO

The data protection declaration according to DSGVO was elaborated by pro filia, adapted to their practical work and made available online in the 1st quarter of 2018.

8.5. Perspective

After 10 years we are more aware than ever that Nepal is and remains a very restless country with very difficult and burdensome social, political and geographical conditions. The situation is aggravated by laws that make life particularly hard for women and girls. They are granted very few rights only and they continue to be subordinate to men in many respects. This became particularly apparent through the example of a young girl that was pregnant after a rape. We do hope for political changes in this context. And pro filia will do everything to establish an offer of assistance for these young mothers and their babies. It is our great goal to enable as many girls and women as possible to have an education, to earn their own money and lead a dignified life. Creating a “snowball effect” as seen in our tailor shops and typing offices gives us hope that this positive development will be sustainable. With access to education and the possibility to earn their own living, women will increasingly assert their righteous place in Nepalese society thus contributing to more stability.

Also in 2018, the pro filia members, cooperation partners and many donors have helped providing the support needed to reach this goal. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!

February 2019
Dr. Johanne Feldkamp
CEO pro filia e.V.