



Verein zur Förderung von
Gesundheit & Bildung
benachteiligter Mädchen und
Frauen

Annual Report 2025



MAITI founder Anuradha Koirala with a baby

pro filia e.V., Marientalstraße 78, 48149 Münster

www.profilia.eu

1. Introduction

In 2025, Nepal was already severely affected by various environmental crises. In addition, it was also shaken by violent political unrest that caused extensive destruction of infrastructure, particularly in Kathmandu. The effects of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East also reached Nepal – for example, in terms of a shift in donations towards these severely affected war regions. This coincides with a general decline in willingness to donate and higher costs due to inflation.

2. The problem of trafficking in girls

According to the latest Global Slavery Index published in 2023 by the human rights organisation “Walk Free”, around fifty million people worldwide are trapped in modern slavery – ten million more than five years ago. Nepal is also severely affected: 12,000 to 15,000 Nepalese girls are sexually exploited in Indian brothels or in the Emirates every year. Often, they are only between 12 and 16 years old. The vast majority does not even survive this period. The girls die as a result of violence, drugs and diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis, etc. Because of their often-light skin colour, Nepalese women are considered particularly beautiful in India. In addition, there is a growing shortage of women in India. Girls are often aborted or killed immediately after birth. Thus, there are already 20% fewer women than men in India.

In many areas of Nepal for hundreds of years girls hadn't had almost no value. They cost money and in the case of (forced) marriage, which is usually early, a dowry is expected. So, daughters then work in their husband's household and look after his parents rather than their own. They are often victims of domestic violence and rape.

A few of the girls sold into brothels can be freed – for example, through a support network set up in India by our Nepalese partner organisation MAITI. Pro filia supports these girls. However, our main focus is on preventing as many girls as possible from being enslaved, giving them the chance to live a dignified life.

In contrast to previous years, the number of girls bought and sold by traffickers is declining. On the other hand, the number of those fleeing poverty or domestic violence or being lured to India or the Emirates via social media – usually with promises of jobs or marriage – is increasing. They then usually cross the official or green borders alone. In addition to border observers, who cannot be everywhere, a lot of education about the dangers is necessary. Unlike in the past – this education must also take place more intensively on social media in the future. And it is extremely important that as many girls and young women as possible are given career prospects. So that they are less susceptible to being seduced by supposed promises of marriage or jobs.

3. Cooperation with NGOs in Nepal

MAITI remains our main contact in Nepal. This is an NGO (non-governmental organisation) that has founded in 1993. MAITI supports girls and young women who have been rescued from brothels or are at risk of ending up on the streets or in prostitution due to poverty, domestic violence, or false promises. We are in close contact with the staff there and jointly plan necessary (re)control measures. By 15 February each year, we receive a detailed report on each project and about the previous year's finances. During our regular visits, we are accompanied by a MAITI staff member who answers our questions on site.



MAITI premises in Kathmandu

In November 2025, our board members Mechthild Spener and Monika Geise travelled to pro filia's partner organisations in Nepal to see the situation and our aid projects themselves. During their tour, they had detailed discussions with both staff and rescued girls.

First, the small delegation visited MAITI's head office in Kathmandu, met with MAITI founder Anuradha Koirala and toured the mother-baby project, among other things. M. Spener and M. Geise were extremely impressed by the development work that Ms Koirala and her team have done over the past decades and by the professionalism of the NGO. Sabita Bhattarai (bottom right, right), MAITI's communications expert, and Ms Neha Singh Rana (bottom right, centre), manager, presented detailed figures, projects and plans and discussed requirements together.



At MAITI in Kathmandu



The next few days of the visit took them us various locations in eastern Nepal. The tour was very well organised by MAITI, and they received an extremely warm welcome everywhere we went. Our board members were often deeply moved by the good contacts and the work being done on the ground.

Details of the individual projects are described in section 4 below.



M. Spener in conversation with border observers

Since 2020, pro filia has also been cooperating with the NGO INF (International Nepal Fellowship). This institution has been running hospitals in Nepal since the 1950s and, among other things, provides training for nursing assistants at a hospital in Pokhara. Pro filia co-finances this project.



INF employees and our delegation in Pokhara

After returning from eastern Nepal, the pro filia delegation travelled on to Pokhara to visit this project as well. Once again, the reception was very warm and particularly informative. Details can be found in section 4, project 6.6.

4. The pro filia projects in Nepal

Project 1: Awareness campaigns

The objectives of this project are

- to educate people about the dangers of sexual exploitation in seemingly attractive job offers or marriage promises,
- to inform them about help available in cases of domestic violence and the danger of child marriage,
- to improve the reintegration of surviving girls, who have often been rejected by their families in the past,
- to provide general guidance on health issues such as hygiene, contraception, etc.

The misuse of social media has led to an increase in human trafficking through misinformation and fraudulent online practices. To help the population recognise, prevent, and report online risks, social media safety education programmes, counselling services, and awareness-raising measures are being implemented at community level.

Methods used include organising orientation meetings, interaction programmes with women, educating schoolchildren. A training for “key players” such as soldiers and police officers is carried out as well. The campaigns are often conducted with the participation of young women who are themselves victims of domestic violence or exploitation – many of whom are now employed by MAITI – or who were rescued in time. The awareness campaigns thus also create jobs for vulnerable and rescued young women.



Awareness campaigns among tea pickers and schoolchildren



Participants in information events

Results 2025

In the districts of Sunsari (including the city of Itahari), Kavre (including Dhulikhel) and Ilam (including Pashupatinagar),

- meeting was held with the local MPACs (Municipality Project Advisory Committee – made up of 20-30 key municipal decision-makers) to provide information about ongoing project activities, discuss the challenges in the region and gather insights for future planning.
- 137 pupils at two different schools were educated about trafficking in girls, violence against women and child marriage, and were also introduced to support networks and protection options.
- Raised awareness of the dangers of human trafficking and gender-based violence on an ongoing basis.
- Informed a wide range of professional groups (hotel employees, transport workers, tea pickers) about the issue of trafficking in girls.
- Held orientation meetings with over forty police officers to improve coordination between border and police personnel.
- Publicly celebrated the 115th International Women's Day, the 33rd anniversary of MAITI Nepal, the 11th World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the 19th National Day Against Trafficking in Persons and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence with a total of approximately 1,400 participants.
- A one-day inter-dialogue programme on human trafficking was offered to twenty-three participants.
- An information desk at the district administration office in Kavre provided information on human trafficking and gender-based violence to over 3,200 people. 234 people were trained on these topics in various events.

Project 2: Border observers

Border observers were often at risk themselves. Often these jobs are done by rescued young women who have been trained by MAITI. They were given jobs directly at busy border crossings, mainly to India, but now also to China. Based on their own experience, they directly approach girls who appear to be at risk and offer them immediate refuge, e.g. at the transit home. They are always part of the associated transit home team. As many young women as possible are needed to do this important work – protecting girls from sexual exploitation.

During the last project visit in 2025, the pro filia delegation once again admired the confidence and authority with which the border observers approach buses, rickshaws, and cars in which a vulnerable girl might be sitting. They ask the driver to show them their papers and also remove girls from the vehicles – a difficult job for the border observers in a noisy and dusty environment. Whenever possible, information is verified by telephone. All personal data and details of the destination and date of the border crossing are recorded accurately. The border police are always within sight and provide support with official tasks. During our project visits, the cooperation between border police officers and border observers was always found to be extremely good.

Since 2019, pro filia has been financing an observation post with a transit home on the road in Kavre. This road runs from Dhulikhel in Eastern Nepal to India.



Border observers at work

In 2022, MAITI, in cooperation with the authorities, built a surveillance hut at a large bus parking lot near Pashupatinagar. This is close to a previously uncontrolled border crossing to India, where two border observers and border police officers work. This facility is also funded by pro filia.

In 2025, the project also supported as well four additional border monitoring teams, two in Bardiya, one in Jhapa and one in Bhairahawa. Thereby they strengthened border monitoring improving the protection of women and children in risk areas.

Results in 2025

- In 2025, pro filia financed a total of fifteen positions for female border observers.
- According to MAITI, each border observer refers an average of fifty girls/young women per year directly from the checkpoints to initial assistance measures such as a transit home or organises their return home. This has made it possible for several hundred girls to be stopped directly at border crossings and being taken to a transit home. Others have been returned to their families. Tens of thousands of vehicles were checked – over 22,000 in Pashupatinagar and 47,500 in Kavre!

Project 3: Transit homes

Transit homes offer immediate help, directly at the border, to girls at risk. Often, they are also a first place of refuge for girls who have been rescued from Indian brothels. Girls and women

also find support here in cases of domestic violence or after rape. In 2025, pro filia financed two transit homes in Pashupatinagar and Kavre.



The Pashupatinagar transit home

The **Pashupatinagar** transit home can accommodate up to twenty girls/young women at the same time. Most of them stay for only a truly brief period, but sometimes for longer, depending on their needs.

Contact is made with the parents if the girls express a wish to do so, or if they are still minors and have run away from home. Family discussions are then held to clarify whether the girl will return home or, for example, be transferred to a rehabilitation centre.

Results in 2025

- In 2025, the transit home in Pashupatinagar took in a total of 311 girls and women who were at risk of human trafficking at the border. A total of 322 people received short-term accommodation and the necessary legal and psychosocial counselling. Four others were accommodated for more than three months. All 326 victims were returned to their families.
- Three girls were rescued from India.
- A total of twelve missing persons cases were reported to the transit home. Four missing persons, including two cases originally registered in 2024, were found and successfully returned to their families.
- Four cases of rape were reported and pursued by the authorities; one conviction has already been made, and the other proceedings are ongoing. Four cases of domestic violence resulted in mediation proceedings.

The **transit home in Kavre**, being open to affected girls and young women also offers not only short-term accommodation, but also therapeutic services, health, and psychosocial counselling. It cooperates closely with the police and local authorities. So, it offers vigilance at the borders and prevents trafficking of children and women from Nepal to India and to third countries.

Results 2025

- The transit home in Kavre took in sixteen girls from the border.
- In addition, three girls/women were rescued from various risky situations and reintegrated into their families.

- Twelve missing persons cases were reported to the transit home. Of these, seven cases were solved, leading to the reintegration of the girls/women concerned into their families and communities.
- Of the eighteen cases of domestic violence reported by the transit home, eight have been investigated and resolved.
- Four cases of rape were reported and all perpetrators were found.

Project 4: Rehabilitation Centre Itahari/Sunsari

Rescued girls who can or do not want to return home, who are fleeing domestic violence, have been raped or are suffering from extreme poverty are transferred to a MAITI rehabilitation home if they wish. Here, they are prepared for a future life as independent as possible and thus take part in vocational trainings. There are courses on modern agriculture, mushroom farming, cooking, tailoring, hairdressing, and e-rickshaw driving, for example. In 2025, extensive renovation and security work was conducted with the help of a Rotary grant (see also below). These funds also made it possible to purchase computers and offer relevant courses.



Renovation of the Itahari Rehabilitation Centre

During our visits, many of the girls in our care express concern about their future. Most of them want to earn their own money so that they can build a dignified life for themselves. So, it is particularly important that pro filia does everything it can to provide further training and start-up financing to create jobs or set up their own small businesses – see projects 6 and 7.

In 2025, 22 young women/girls received training in various professions at the rehabilitation centre (14 in tailoring, 5 in cosmetics, 3 in rickshaw driving – see below). In addition, there computer courses were offered. Ten of the girls lived in the rehabilitation centre during the year. 679 girls/women took part in an orientation event on topics of human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence as well as safety.



Welcoming our delegation in Itahari

In addition, sixteen missing persons cases were reported to the rehabilitation centre, eleven of which were meanwhile solved.

Project 5: Mother-baby home

The mother-baby home takes in single pregnant girls and women. Most of them most always have been victims of sexual exploitation, rape, domestic violence, or false promises of marriage. They receive psychological and physical care during pregnancy, childbirth and the first stages of their baby's life. Afterwards, if they wish, they can receive training and support in finding a job. Some of the mothers, most of whom are noticeably young, would like to return to their families of origin with their babies. If they want, MAITI contacts the relatives, clarifies possibilities for a return and continues to accompany the process for a while afterwards.

Suspects of rape or human trafficking are reported by MAITI. Those suspects often end up in prison. As positive as it is that rapists are increasingly facing punishment, this approach can sometimes have difficult consequences. If the girls have become pregnant as a result of domestic rape, returning to their families is often not easy or even impossible.

There is virtually no support available in Nepal for this target group of single mothers and newborn children. How is a single mother supposed to care for herself and her child after giving birth? Traumatized, for example after rape, often abandoned by their families and without education or employment, they often have no choice but to beg or prostitute themselves. So, misery continues from generation to generation!. Pro filia decided to break this cycle for as many single mothers and their babies as possible and to set up a service for this group of people. MAITI provided us with premises in a house on its grounds in Kathmandu. The home began operating in May 2019 with ten places for mothers and babies, which have since been expanded as needed.



In the mother-baby home



Return of a young mother to her family

In 2025, the mother-baby home provided accommodation as well as specialised holistic care for seven young mothers with their babies and for four pregnant women. Shad, a two-year-old orphan boy, also continues to live in the home, as do two children whose mothers (former residents) are working or in training. In 2025, a total of 15 mothers received psychosocial counselling. In addition, 22 participants took part in a training programme for childcare in 2025.

The young mothers repeatedly express their gratitude for being able to live in safety for a while, have regular meals, exchange ideas with other affected women and receive medical care. Upon discharge, each mother receives basic mother-baby supplies and sufficient clothing.

Project 6: Training opportunities

pro filia finances a range of training courses for vulnerable or rescued girls and young women. The aim is to give girls and young women career prospects in their own country, so that they are less susceptible to seemingly attractive marriage promises and job offers in India from girl traffickers. The training programmes are constantly being adapted. In addition, the aim is not only to provide training in traditional female occupations, but also to create career opportunities that promise higher incomes and lead to greater self-confidence.

Project 6.1: Computer training

Since 2013, pro filia has been funding computer training courses in Pashupatinagar. On the one hand, the programme is offered as a preventive measure: girls from precarious family backgrounds are better protected from being sold thanks to this training. On the other hand, it also offers rescued young women the prospect of an independent life. The costs for setting up the necessary computer training room, upcoming repairs or purchases of new computers are covered by pro filia. Thanks to the Rotary grant (see above), computer courses were also held in Itahari in 2025. Financing these in the future will be a major challenge for pro filia.

In 2025, 20 girls/women received computer training in Pashupatinagar as part of an income-generating training programme; six girls, who were identified in cooperation with the local government and all come from economically disadvantaged and socially vulnerable backgrounds, received basic digital skills training in Itahari. This means that a total of 275 young women have taken part in the training since 2013!



Computer training in Itahari

In addition to computer training, the young women also receive training on the topic of trafficking in girls and on ways to help, e.g. by educating other girls in their villages about the dangers.

Project 6.2: Training as a seamstress

In 2025, the Itahari Rehabilitation Centre offered seven women basic sewing training and seven women advanced training as seamstresses; five women were given sewing machines.



Basic course in tailoring at the rehabilitation centre

Project 6.3: Training as hairdressers and beauticians

In 2025, five young women received training as hairdressers and beauticians at the Itahari Rehabilitation Centre.



Training as beauticians

Project 6.4: Training as e-rickshaw drivers

During our project visits to Nepal, despite travelling across the country, we only met a few female rickshaw drivers in one city. This place was Itahari, where the rehabilitation centre we finance is located. Here we saw an opportunity to offer young women another training opportunity to diversify their career options. There was indeed interest in this. Since 2020, three young women have been trained as e-rickshaw drivers every year – including 2025. This work now is physically less strenuous thanks to the electric motor and reasonably environmentally friendly.



Driving lesson for e-rickshaw

To ensure that the young women can actually earn money after their training, pro filia supports them in purchasing rickshaws – see Project 7.3.

Project 6.5: Agricultural training

In November, a four-day training course on poultry farming was held in Ilam, attended by fifteen women farmers who had been selected by their respective district chairpersons. The participants came from economically disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds. Nine women with an agricultural background from the Kavre district were trained in fruit tree cultivation to strengthen their agricultural knowledge and promote small-scale fruit growing as a sustainable livelihood.



Final meeting of the fruit farmers

Project 6.6: Training as a nursing assistant

pro filia had been searching for suitable training opportunities in the health sector for some time. In 2019, negotiations began with the managing director of INF (International Nepal Fellowship) – one of the oldest NGOs operating in Nepal. The INF maintains hospitals where training courses for nursing assistants can be held. At the end of 2019, a concept for this was jointly developed and implemented from 2020 onwards.



Trainees and assistants in conversation with our delegation

The current project is planned for the period from mid-April 2025 to mid-October 2026. It aims to support survivors of human trafficking or girls who are vulnerable to human trafficking. Thus, structured training measures to become nursing assistants and capacity-building activities are offered. To this end, pro filia has provided a total of €18,000 for two years in 2025.

The young women receive three months of theoretical training, followed by nine months of practical training at Green Pasture Hospital. During their training, they will be supervised by supervisors who have been trained in the Home Care Training Course and guided by the hospital's nursing service manager (the project manager). The young women live in a home or houses that specialise in caring for this group of people. The Egon Schumacher Foundation kindly provides part of the funding as well.

Project 7: Job creation

After completing their training, many young women repeatedly encounter problems finding a job that enables them to live a dignified life. To offer helpful solutions, a job creation concept was developed with MAITI. In addition to support in finding a job directly, trained young women are given the opportunity to earn an income sufficient to cover their living expenses. So, for example, a start-up financing case wise is offered as well.

Project 7.1: Tailoring workshops

As in previous years, five trained seamstresses were equipped with sewing machines to enable them to work independently.

Project 7.2: Employment after nursing assistant training

The aim of the 'Nursing Assistant Training' project is to give young women the opportunity to find permanent employment afterwards. After completing the programme, graduates have diverse options for a self-determined and independent professional life, such as a nursing apprenticeship at Green Pasture Hospital or other hospitals, or further training in medical professions.

Project 7.3: E-rickshaw entrepreneur

Every year, pro filia trains several vulnerable or rescued young women to become e-rickshaw drivers. For them to be able to work and earn their own money, they need their own e-rickshaw. To this end, pro filia transfers the money for 75% of the purchase cost of three rickshaws each year. The women finance the remaining 25% through a bank loan, which they pay off from their earnings. MAITI supports them in applying for the loan. So far, the experience with this model has been positive – the first young entrepreneurs have now paid off the entire loan. So, they are not only able to live on their own income, but also support their families, which is often vital in Nepal. In 2025, three young women received an e-rickshaw, bringing the total number of small businesses to eighteen! Female customers in particular, who feel safer with female drivers, are keen to take advantage of this offer.

As the rickshaws' batteries run out very quickly, those already in operation are gradually being equipped with two additional batteries. In 2025, two more battery sets were handed over.



E-rickshaw driver with customers M. Spener and M. Geise

5. Planned projects for 2026

pro filia plans to finance the following projects in 2026:

- Awareness campaigns and establishment/maintenance of support networks
- Salaries for border observers
- Transit homes
- The Itahari rehabilitation centre
- The mother-baby home
- Training opportunities
- Job creation by support in finding employment or start-up financing for small businesses, such as the purchase of additional e-rickshaws, computers or sewing machines.

6. Activities in 2025

6.1 pro filia's activities in 2025

- In 2025, Doppelkopf (Doko) evenings were once again organised at the restaurant 'Der bunte Vogel' to aid pro filia. On 15 March 2025, 29 players generated donations of €450, and on 14 November 2025, 21 participants raised 440€.



Doko evenings 2025

- **Kreuzviertelfest Münster 2025:** On 24/25 August 24, we as the pro filia team once again had a stand at the Kreuzviertelfest. Many visitors were informed about our work, donations were collected and new members were recruited.



Kreuzviertelfest 2025

- The **tax administration of North Rhine-Westphalia** acknowledged pro filia again in 2025 for the allocation of monetary penalties in criminal tax proceedings: in 2025, a total of €5,000 was transferred to us.
- **On the occasion of birthdays**, pro filia received several thousand Euros additional donations!
- In June, pro filia organised a **flea market** in Münster's Erphoviertel district, which raised €480 in donations.



Flea market (from left: K. Mohs, C. Wellemeier, B. Wierling)

6.2 Campaigns for pro filia

- Numerous **boules tournaments**, also organised by Konrad Averbeck in 2025, raised around €2,770. The highlight this year was the June tournament “behind the castle,” in which 61 players took part!



Registration for the 2025 boules tournament

- The **10th Yoga Summer** organised by leben & reisen: Yoga took place every Friday afternoon at 5.30 p.m. from 6 June to 5 September 2025 on the Aasee meadows. This summer, for the first time, there were also three family yoga sessions. Thanks to the voluntary commitment of the yoga teachers, almost €2,700 was donated by the participants to pro filia. Yoga Summer will also take place in 2026!



Yoga Summer 2025

- Pro filia received €11,300 from the donation platform 'Betterplace' for the e-rickshaw driver project.
- Thanks to the afore mentioned grant from Rotary International, which was co-financed by the Rotary Club Münster-Rüschhaus for pro filia, €10,230 was raised. These funds were used in 2025 for various renovation and safety measures at the Itahari rehabilitation centre. In addition, computers were purchased and – in addition to the courses in Pashu-patinagar – computer courses for girls were finally established locally in Itahari.



- The **Egon Schumacher Foundation** also donated €5,000 to pro filia in 2025. This was used to finance part of the training course for young women in Pokhara to become nursing assistants.
- Since 2020, there has been a school project run by the **Adolph Kolping Vocational College in Münster** in aid of pro filia. Pupils from three parallel classes have chosen our association as their social project and are very committed to collecting donations. In 2025, the pupils were able to hand over almost €670 to pro filia. They had raised this money through various activities such as selling homemade artwork, clothing sales, etc.



Cheque presentation at the Adolph Kolping Vocational College

- Jürgen Sager also organised **musical performances** in 2025. The proceeds were again donated to pro filia.

6.3 Planned activities for 2026

- Information booth at the Kreuzviertel Festival in Münster in August 2026
- 11th Yoga Summer
- Two Doppelkopf evenings at the “Bunter Vogel” in Münster
- Art auction in November at the Münster University of Applied Sciences

7. Situation of the pro filia association at the end of 2025

7.1 Members

At the end of the year, pro filia had 262 members. The 2025 general meeting took place on 16 July 2025.

7.2 Finances

The two cash auditors, Martina Richter, and Friedhelm Kahrs-Ude, audited the 2024 annual financial statements in 2025 and found them to be correct. The members discharged the executive committee at the general meeting.

In 2025, a good €130,000 was transferred to MAITI. INF received €18,000 from pro filia in 2025 for two years. Administrative expenses amounted to around €1,400. All administrative costs were paid for by donations from the board or through sponsorship. The detailed balance sheet for 2025 – as with the balance sheets for 2008-2024 – and all donations over €1,000 will also be published on our website for 2025 under the heading ‘Transparent presentation of our work/declaration of commitment’.

7.3 Executive Board and Management

In 2024, the pro filia board – consisting of up to eight members in accordance with the new statutes – was re-elected for two years at the general meeting. It comprises: Bernd Brixius, Monika Geise, Prof. Dr. Ute von Lojewski, Ina Specht, Mechthild Spener (Chair of the Executive Board), Jan Sprünken, Christel Wellemeyer and Brigitte Wierling. In February 2025, at the first board meeting, Managing Director Feldkamp and Chairwoman Spener presented a bouquet of flowers to outgoing member Friedhelm Kahrs-Ude as a token of their gratitude. At the general meeting on 16 July 2025, our Chairwoman Mechthild Spener thanked the former Managing Director with flowers and pro filia socks! As a founding member and long-standing managing director, Dr Johanne Feldkamp is now an honorary member of the pro filia board.



Board meeting and general meeting 2025: Two very heartfelt 'thank you' for great work for the association

7.4 Outlook

Unfortunately, there has been no significant improvement in the situation in Nepal.

In fact, poverty and danger continue to exist. The unrest last September also severely affected a number of infrastructure facilities belonging to our Nepalese partner MAITI. Repairs and the care of the girls in our care are incurring additional costs – yet, as explained at the beginning, aid funds are declining. The need for support is growing, and we hope that we will be able to continue financing our projects in 2026. 7.5 Thanks to supporters and sponsors. We would like to thank Manfred Bröker for translating the annual report into English. Pro filia can only conduct its activities with the help of many volunteers and sponsors. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all members and supporters for their commitment.

February 2026

Mechthild Spener
Chair of the Board