



Verein zur Förderung von
Gesundheit & Bildung
benachteiligter Mädchen und
Frauen

Annual Report 2023



In the Mother-Baby Home

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1.introduction

2023 was a year of upheaval - worldwide, in Germany as well as in Nepal. The effects of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East can be felt everywhere - from fears of war and energy problems, including threatening price rises in Europe, to hunger crises in poor countries. High inflation is causing more costs, while at the same time the willingness to donate is decreasing or focussing more on refugees from Ukraine and the earthquake victims in Turkey, Syria, and Morocco.

Corona also left its mark everywhere. Just as there were massive social upheavals in Germany, a lot also changed in Nepal. People have become even poorer, violence against girls and women is on the rise and the forms of exploitation and abuse are changing. In contrast to previous years, the number of girls being bought and sold by traffickers is decreasing. In contrast, the number of those fleeing poverty or domestic violence through alleged promises of marriage or jobs is increasing.

2 The problem of girl trafficking

In many areas of Nepal, girls have had almost no value for hundreds of years. They cost money: a dowry is expected for the usually early (forced) marriage, daughters then work in the man's household and are lured to India or the Emirates via social media - usually through promises of a job or marriage. They then usually cross the official or green borders alone. In addition to the border guards, who cannot be everywhere, a lot of education about the dangers is therefore needed and - unlike in the past - this education must also take place more in 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 their parents and not their own. They are often victims of domestic violence and rape. And 12 - 15,000 Nepalese girls are sexually exploited in Indian brothels or in the Emirates every year. They are often only between 12 and 16 years old. The vast majority do not survive this time - the girls die because of violence, drugs, and diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis etc.! Because of their often light skin colour, Nepalese girls are considered particularly beautiful in India. There is also an increasing shortage of women in India. Girls are often aborted or killed immediately after birth. With fewer and fewer girls being born and more and more boys being born, there will inevitably be massive social repercussions that we cannot even begin to imagine.

Of the girls sold into brothels, a few can be freed - e.g. through an aid network set up by our Nepalese partner organisation MAITI in India! These girls are supported by pro filia. However, our main focus is on preventing as many girls as possible from being enslaved altogether and giving them the chance of a life in dignity.

According to Maiti, social media such as Tinder, Facebook, TikTok and Instagram are increasingly being used - with the aim of making girls believe they have career prospects or a possible marriage in India or the Emirates. The girls and young women, who mostly come from precarious backgrounds,

want to escape domestic violence, or believe in promises of marriage or jobs, see a perspective for themselves here and cross the border alone or in groups of girls in good faith.

3. Cooperation with NGOs in Nepal

MAITI is still our main contact in Nepal - an NGO (non-governmental organisation) that has been in existence since 1993 and whose target group is girls and young women who have been freed from brothels or are in danger of ending up on the streets or in prostitution because of poverty, domestic violence, or false promises. We are in constant e-mail contact with the staff there and plan the necessary (re)management measures together. We receive a detailed report on each project and the previous year's finances by 15 February each year. During our regular visits we were accompanied by an employee from MAITI, being ready to answer all our questions immediately.



MAITI-site in Kathmandu



Maiti-foundress Anuradha Koirala

At the end of April 2023, a pro filia delegation set off for another week-long tour - this time accompanied by MAITI Director Bishwo Khadka. We had also hired an independent translator. This made it possible to have in-depth conversations with both staff and rescued girls.



The pro filia travelling group 2023:

Eva Temme, Tom Niehoff (both pro filia), Anuradha Koirala (MAITI), Jan Sprünken, Prof. Dr. Ute v. Lojewski (both pro filia), Bishwo Khadka /MAITI), Brigitte Wierling (pro filia)

On the first day of the visit, the delegation visited Maiti's main office in Kathmandu, met with Maiti founder Anuradha Koirala and visited the mother-baby project, among other things.

In the afternoon, Eva Temme, who works as a gynaecologist, held a training course on women's health, contraception, and pregnancy for Maiti employees, which met with great interest



Training of Maiti-employees by Eva Temme

The next day, we travelled to the Nepal east. It was perfectly organised by Maiti and the welcome everywhere was very warm. Intensive discussions were held to take stock. The opportunities for improvement which were then discussed were presented to the pro filia board on the delegation's return. Details of individual projects being described under point 4: "The pro filia projects".

Since 2020, pro filia has also been cooperating with the NGO INF (International Nepal Fellowship). This organisation has been running hospitals in Nepal since the 1950s. In a hospital in Pokhara, they also carry out training courses for nurse assistants - pro filia funding this project.



The Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara

After returning from eastern Nepal, the pro filia delegation hence travelled on to Pokhara to visit this project too. The welcome again was extremely warm and very well organized. Details can be found under point 4, project 6.6.

4 The pro filia projects in Nepal

Project 1: Awareness campaigns and development of supportive networks

The aims of this project are:

- to educate people about the dangers of sexual exploitation in the case of seemingly attractive job offers or promises of marriage
- to inform them about help in cases of domestic violence and the risk of child marriage
- to improve the reintegration of surviving girls who have so far often met with rejection.
- to establish a support network for girls.

Related methods include discussion groups in villages on market days, street theatre about sexual exploitation, demonstrations for girls' and women's rights, educating schoolchildren and training key people such as soldiers and police officers. The campaigns are often carried out with the participation of young women who - now employed by MAITI - are often themselves victims of domestic violence or exploitation or were saved from it in time. The awareness campaigns therefore also create jobs for young women who are endangered and have been rescued.



Awareness campaign for tea pickers



The advice of our doctor again was welcome.

Results 2023

In the catchment areas of Pashupatinagar, Dhangadi/Kailali, Itahari and Kavre there were:

- educated around 600 schoolchildren about trafficking of girls, violence against women and child marriage. They also learned about supportive networks and further protection options.
- informed over 2,400 people about the dangers of human trafficking and gender-based violence in targeted campaigns - e.g. during house-to-house visits
- distributed tens of thousands of information brochures

- Informed a wide range of professional groups (hotel employees, transport workers, tea pickers) about the issue of girls being trafficked.
- Orientation meeting organized with a total of over 100 people (police personell, administration, project consultants) to improve coordination between the stakeholders.
- Celebrated the 13th International Women's Day, the 31st anniversary of MAITI Nepal and the national day against human trafficking as well as activism against gender-based violence. All measures being good for effective publicity.

Project 2: Border guards

Border guards were often at risk themselves or are rescued young women who have been trained by MAITI and are given a job directly at busy border crossings - mainly to India, but now also to China. Based on their own experience, they approach girls who appear to be at risk directly and offer them immediate refuge, e.g. the transit home. They are almost always part of the associated shelter team. As many young women as possible are needed to carry out this important work - namely to protect girls from sexual exploitation.

During this project visit, the pro filia delegation once again marvelled at how confidently and with what authority the border guards approach rickshaws and cars in which a vulnerable girl might be sitting. They ask the driver to show them the papers and also take girls out of the vehicles. If possible, details are checked by telephone. The border police are always in sight and assist with official tasks - a difficult job for the border guards in a noisy and dusty atmosphere. Our project visitors found the cooperation between border police officers and border guards to be extremely good. The training of the border police officers - financed by pro filia - is paying off!

Our delegation suggested that border guards should also be deployed at the international airports in Kathmandu and Pokhara, as many people from here fly in good faith to the Emirates or other countries in the Gulf region and are often exploited there. Maiti reports that they can no longer work directly at the airport for security reasons, but they inform the passport office about the dangers! In Pokhara, work will start as soon as international flights depart from there.



Border police and MAITI border guards in Pashupatinagar

Since 2019, pro filia has also been funding an observation post on the motorway in Kavre, which runs from Dhulikhel in Nepal's east to India. In Kavre, MAITI representatives in cooperation with the

highway police conducted a total of 622 counselling sessions on the sexual exploitation of girls and possible offers of help in 2023. The pro filia travelling delegation also visited this project:



In Kavre

In 2022, Maiti and the authorities also built an additional surveillance point at a large bus park near Pashupatinagar, close to a previously uncontrolled border to India. There two border observers and border police officers have now started work. The travelling delegation also visited this checkpoint.



Additional surveillance place with a border guard

Results 2023

- In 2023, pro filia financed a total of 32 positions for border observers - 2 in Tikapur, 2 in Dhanusa, 1 in Thankot, 1 in Rawusa, 2 in Kakavitta, 6 in Ilam, 1 in Itahari, 4 in Dhangadi/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 arranging a contact for an average of 50 girls/young women per year directly from the checkpoints to an initial aid place such as a shelter. As well they organize the return to their homes. This year, around 1,500 girls were stopped directly at border crossings, and tens of thousands of vehicles were checked - over 30,000 in Pashupatinagar alone!

Project 3: Transit homes

These shelters offer immediate help to girls at risk directly at the border. They are as well a first place of refuge for girls who have been freed from Indian brothels. Girls and women also find support here in cases of domestic violence or after rape. In addition to already existing transit homes in Pashupatinagar and Kavre pro filia has also taken over the costs for the Dhangadi/Kailali shelter in 2023. This can be done only for another year, which Maiti was informed about from the beginning already.



The women transit home in Pashupatinagar

The Pashupatinagar transit home:

The Pashupatinagar shelter basically offers space for a parallel stay of 20 girls/young women, who usually only stay for a very short time, sometimes for longer periods - depending on individual needs. Contact is made with the parents, if the girls express a wish to stay or if they are still minors and have run away. Family discussions are then held to clarify whether the girl should return home or to be transferred p.e. to a rehabilitation centre.

Results 2023

- In 2023, 302 girls were accommodated in the shelter.
- Of 13 girls reported missing, nine were found and reintegrated into their families and with relatives. The transit home is also the central point of contact in the event of other acts of violence against girls/young women - e.g. domestic violence. Solutions are then sought and often found in discussions with all parties involved. In 2023, 15 girls were cared for following domestic violence.
- As in every project financed by us, pro filia covered the costs of a necessary quarantine in a facility, pro filia covered the costs of the medical supplies.

The Kavre Transit home:

The shelter in Kavre also offers affected girls and young women not only short-term accommodation, but also therapeutic services, health, and psychosocial counselling. There is close cooperation with

the police and local authorities to promote vigilance at the borders and prevent the trafficking of children and women from Nepal to India and also to third countries.

Results 2023

- The transit home in Kavre has picked up 622 girls and women who were trafficked from the border.
- 30 cases were reported to the shelter as missing. Of these, 10 women were found and reintegrated into families and relatives.
- 57 cases of domestic violence were reported to the shelter, of which 34 were mediated and resolved. 13 cases of rape were reported.

The Dhangadi/Kailali Transit home

In 2023, pro filia also supports a shelter close to the Indian border in Dhangadi in the district of Kailali – which is a transport hub in south-west Nepal. The shelter had already existed for several years before the funding from another donor came to an end. To be able to continue providing a service for girls at risk at this busy location, pro filia covered the costs for a total of two years, which have now expired. It was not financially possible for us to do more and we very much hope that Maiti will find another donor afterwards.



The Dhangadi/Kailali transit home



Training the cooperation Police/Maiti border guards

Results 2023

- The Dhangadi/Kailali shelter cared for a total of 135 girls in 2023.
- Of these 135 girls, 129 were stopped at the border, one was a victim of human trafficking and four were rescued from domestic violence.
- 27 of 171 girls reported missing were found.

Project 4: The Itahari Rehabilitation home

Rescued girls being unable or unwilling to go home, are fleeing domestic violence, have been raped or suffering from extreme poverty are transferred to a MAITI rehabilitation centre on request. Here they

are prepared for an independent life and take part in vocational training programmes. There are courses in modern agriculture, hotel cookery, tailoring, hairdressing, or e-rickshaw driving!



The Rehabilitation home Itahari

During our visits, many of the girls in our care express concern about their future. Most of them would like to earn their own money so that they can build a decent life for themselves. It is therefore very important that pro filia does everything it can to provide further training and start-up funding to create jobs or set up their own small business - see projects 6 and 7.

Results 2023:

- In 2023, 32 girls/young women received comprehensive care at the rehabilitation home. They were able to complete training courses and received a lot of information about their future everyday lives - such as protection against HIV, the dangers of early marriage, birth control, women's rights, help and protection against human trafficking.
- Three of the young women were victims of domestic violence. Four girls had been intercepted at the border, two were previously stolen returnees. The others lived in great poverty and were at risk of being sold into Indian brothels.
- Another nine women did not complete their training and left the home for various reasons. For example, six of them decided to abandon their training because they urgently needed immediate employment and not just training.

Project 5: Mother and Baby Home

The Mother and Baby Home accommodates single pregnant girls and women who have almost always been victims of sexual exploitation, rape, domestic violence, or false promises of marriage. They can stay here for up to around 2 years, receive psychological and physical care during pregnancy, birth and the first stage of the baby's life and, if they wish, receive training and support in finding a job. However, the mostly very young mothers often want to return to their family of origin with their babies. At their request, MAITI contacts the relatives, clarifies the possibilities of a return and continues to accompany the process for some time afterwards. Suspects of rape or human trafficking

are reported by MAITI and are now often sent to prison. As positive as it is that rapists are increasingly facing punishment, this approach can sometimes have difficult consequences. For example, a pregnant young girl in a mother and baby home was first announced, but then did not show up. It later turned out that the family had forced the girl to have an abortion so that the uncle who had raped her would not be reported. Everything should rather disappear under the guise of the family.

For this target group of single mothers and newborn children, there is virtually no help available in Nepal. How is a single mother supposed to look after herself and her child after the birth? Traumatized, e.g. after rape, often abandoned by their families and without education or a job, they often have no choice but to beg or prostitute themselves - and the misery continues from generation to generation! pro filia decided to stop this cycle for as many single mothers and their babies as possible and to set up a programme for this group of people. MAITI provided rooms in a house on its premises in Kathmandu. The home began its work in May 2019 with 10 places each for mothers and babies, which have since been expanded according to need.



The Mother and Baby Home in Kathmandu



Twins were born!

6-day-old foundling in the Mother and Baby Home

In 2023, there were a total of 18 mothers and 19 babies in the home. Ten of them were newly admitted in 2023, the others in previous years. Of the mothers, 13 came to the home after being raped, one after domestic violence, two after being sold and two were abandoned by their partners. Five were 15 years old or younger - the youngest was 13 years old.



The pro filia group visiting the Mother and Baby Home

Two of the mothers graduated in 2023 and now want to attend high school. Eleven other mothers have since been able to return to their families 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 while, to eat regularly, to be able to socialise with other affected people and to receive medical care! When they leave the shelter, they all get a basic equipment for the baby.

It is also clear that some young mothers are unable to accept their baby after the often unimaginable stories they have experienced and are also afraid of being stigmatised as a single mother - a justified fear in Nepal. It takes a lot of time to find satisfactory solutions for mother and child. The aim is always to give both mother and child the chance of a dignified life.

Project 6: Training offers

pro filia finances several training programmes for endangered and rescued girls and young women. For some time already, rescued young girls/women have been trained at the Itahari centre - e.g. as tailors, weavers, cooks, farmers, hairdressers, bag makers or mushroom farmers.

Additional training programmes have been developed to give even more girls and young women career prospects in their own country and make them less tempted by seemingly attractive promises of marriage and job offers in India from girl traffickers. These training programs have been modified. In future the aim is not only to provide training in traditional female professions, but also to create professional opportunities that promise more income and lead to greater self-confidence. However, Maiti now reports that in recent years, young girls/women have also increasingly wanted to go abroad to earn a quick and

higher income - with all the associated dangers of sexual exploitation, for example. Apprenticeships are therefore less appealing to many than they used to be. Here we want to clarify together which training programmes could be attractive for young women despite everything. For example, we are considering training in the tourism sector - in the hotel industry or as trekking guides.

Project 6.1: Computer training

pro filia has been funding computer training since 2013. The programme is offered as a preventative measure: Girls from precarious family backgrounds are better protected from being sold through this training. On the other hand, it also offers rescued young women independent prospects in life. The costs for setting up the necessary computer training room, upcoming repairs or purchases of new computers are covered by pro filia.

Since 2013, a total of 223 young women have taken part in the training courses - 25 of them in 2023.



Young girls being training on computers



In addition to the computer training, the young women also get further training on the topic of trafficking in girls how to help, for example to educate other girls in their villages about the dangers.

Our travel delegation suggested offering additional advanced courses to increase the young women's chances on the labour market. Maiti is also in favour of this, as the Nepalese administration is increasingly creating computer jobs that could also be of interest to our trainees. The decision on this depends on the amount of donations that pro filia receives.

Project 6.2: Training as a tailoress

A total of 14 young women were trained as tailoresses at the Itahari Rehabilitation Centre in 2023.



Training as tailoress in the reha home



Instructions to produce washable sanitary towels by gynaecologist Eva Temme

Project 6.3: Training as a hairdresser and beautician

In 2023, 5 young women got training as hairdressers and beauticians at the rehabilitation centre.



Training for hairdresser and cosmetician

Project 6.4: Training for female 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 - and that was in Itahari, where the rehabilitation home we financed is located. Here we saw an opportunity to offer young women a further training opportunity to broaden their professional spectrum. There was indeed interest. Every year since 2020 - including 2023 - three young women have been trained as e-rickshaw drivers - physically less strenuous due to the electric motor and reasonably environmentally friendly.

So that the young women can actually earn money after their training, they were supported by pro filia in the purchase of rickshaws - see point 7.5!



Training for e- rickshaw driver

Project 6.5: Training to become a mushroom farmer

In 2023, 20 people took part in the mushroom farmer training program in Pashupatinagar.



Training for mushroom farming

Project 6.6: Training to become a nurse's assistant

There is a massive lack of medical care in many areas of Nepal. This is where we see a professional future for young women. Working in the health sector is not only highly recognised, but also increases the chance of earning a sufficient income for a decent life.

pro filia had been looking for suitable training opportunities in the healthcare sector for some time. In 2019, negotiations were held with the managing director of INF (International Nepal Fellowship) - one of the oldest NGOs operating in Nepal. The INF has hospitals where nurse assistant training can take place. A concept for this was jointly developed at the end of 2019 and implemented from 2020. The 3-month training courses with 5 young women each take place in Pokhara. The young women live in a home that specialises in caring for this group of people. The Egon Schumacher Foundation has kindly provided pro filia with a large part of the money for these courses.



Pupils with teachers



Handover of the leaving certificate



Being selected for the 1-year training program

In the 2023 course, four young women were trained as nurse assistants in the course. After the majority of the nurse assistants found a job in the first two years, the situation was different in the subsequent courses. Only three of the young women subsequently found a temporary position at the INF and two others in the non-clinical medical sector.

After the discussion with the hospital representatives, both the trainers and our delegation concluded that extending the training to one year would probably offer more chances of success. We want to try this. For financial reasons, we cannot offer the one-year training to all participants on a course, but only to two. We are looking forward to the experiences with this model.

Project 7: Creating jobs

After completing trainings, many young women repeatedly have problems finding a job that enables them to lead a decent life. To offer solutions, MAITI developed a concept for job creation. In addition to direct job search support, trained young women are to be given the opportunity to earn an income sufficient to cover their living costs, for example through start-up financing.

Together with representatives from the industry, MAITI offered young women a one-week entrepreneurship training course in Itahari in 2023 to acquire basic skills as future entrepreneurs - which met with great interest: 15 young women took part in the course.



. Training future female entrepreneurs

Project 7.1: Writing centres

In 2013, together with Maiti, it was decided to set up typing centres in villages where this service does not yet exist. They are to be staffed by young women who have completed our PC training programme. In addition to services such as letter writing, copying, scanning and internet access. Additional information about trafficking in girls and protection options will also be provided.

By 2020, 8 typing pool offices were installed, which took very different paths. With many creative ideas, the young women continued to develop the work - be it by introducing young girls to computers, an additional shop with drugstore offers or a tailoring service. Then came corona with lockdowns. The women could no longer to pay the rent or buy new computers. Six typing pool offices fell victim to the crisis - only those in Fikkal and Pashupatingar are still working. If needed, we support these offices when they need spare parts.

According to Maiti, the official administration in Nepal is being expanded and increasingly equipped with computers. We hope that this will also create jobs for our girls.

Project 7.2: Tailor workshops

From 2015 onwards, MAITI planned to set up tailor workshops, each employing at least four to six young women. They were housed in very simple small rooms to keep rental costs as low as possible. pro filia provided the start-up funding with the aim of making the tailor shops self-supporting after around a year. In total, tailor shops were set up in ten locations. During the coronavirus crisis, nine of the tailors quit the premises because they could no longer afford the rent. They have been working from home ever since.

As in 2022 in 2023 five tailoresses who had just been trained were equipped with sewing machines. Now they work self-employed.

Project 7.3: Employment after training as a nurse's assistant

As already mentioned above under project 6.6, unfortunately only a few young female helpers are currently able to find a job after their short-term training. pro filia therefore tried to support the young women here in the past - including in 2023 by funding two positions for one year at the hospital in Pashupatinagar, i.e. creating a job for at least one year. However, we hope that those who are now undergoing a one-year training course will have a better chance of finding a permanent position.



Trained nurses assistants in dialogue with the pro filia delegation



Project 7.4: e-rickshaw entrepreneur

Every year, pro filia trains several endangered or rescued young women to become e-rickshaw drivers. They need their own e-rickshaw so that they can work and earn their own money. To this end, pro filia transfers the money for 75% of the purchase costs of three rickshaws every year. The women finance the remaining 25% with a bank loan, which they pay off from their income. MAITI supported them in applying for the loan. So far, the experience with this model has been good - the first young entrepreneurs have now paid off the entire loan and are not only able to live off their own income, but often also support their families - which is often vital in Nepal. Three young women also received an e-rickshaw in 2023: there are now 12 small businesses! Especially women prefer this offer, as they apparently feel safer being driven by women.

During the pro filia project visit, the young women complained that the rickshaw's battery runs out very quickly and they then must stop working. It was agreed that each rickshaw would be equipped with two batteries from 2024.



Several young female entrepreneurs present their e-rickshaws to the pro filia delegation

5. Planned projects for 2024

pro filia plans to fund the following projects in 2024:

- Awareness campaigns and establishment/maintenance of support networks in the border districts of the Transit homes and Rehabilitation home
- The salaries of 27 border observers
- The Pashupatinagar and Kavre Transit homes
- The Itahari Rehabilitation Home
- The mother and baby home
- Training programmes - e.g. to become a nurse's assistant or e-rickshaw driver
- Job creation through support in finding a job or start-up funding for your own small business, e.g. the purchase of additional e-rickshaws.

6. Co-operations

In addition to the cooperation with MAITI Nepal and the INF Nepal, pro filia 2023 in Germany worked together with the SI (Soroptimist International) Club Münster-Mauritz. The Soroptimists collect donations for pro filia at various events or support the organisation with campaigns - e.g. at art auctions. The joint work is accompanied by regular cooperation meetings - with three meetings in 2023.

7 Activities in 2023

In 2023, pro filia was once again able to organise activities without any coronavirus-related restrictions.

7.1 Campaigns organised by pro filia in 2023:

- For the first time after the corona crisis, Doppelkopf (a popular german card game) evenings were held again in aid of pro filia - on 24 February and 24 November 2023. As always, these were enjoyable evenings that resulted in a total of around € 550 in donations.



Doppelkopf 2023

- “Kreuzviertel (a well-known quarter in Münster town) Festival Münster” 2023: The Kreuzviertelfest took place again on 12/13 August 2023. At the pro filia stand, we informed many visitors about our work, collected donations, and gained six new members.



Kreuzviertel Festival 2023



pro filia information stand at the “Kreuzviertel Festival”.

- The NRW **tax administration** has recognised pro filia for the allocation of fines in criminal tax proceedings: We were also transferred € 2,500 in 2023!
- The big highlight in 2023 was the visit to the projects in Nepal - the first time since the coronavirus crisis!

7.2 Activities for pro filia

- Numerous **boules tournaments**, also organised by Konrad Averbeck in 2023, raised €2,804.



Boules tournament for pro filia behind the castle

- **The 8th Yoga Summer, organised by “leben & reisen”:**
Yoga took place every Friday afternoon at 5.30 pm from 2 June to the end of September 2023 on the Aasee meadows next to the Wewerka Pavilion. Attendance was overwhelming this summer: some sessions were attended by more than 70 people, each of whom donated a small sum! The record number of participants was 75! Ilona Tertilt and Dagmar Merfort were then able to hand over around €3,000 to pro filia! The yoga teachers kindly made their working time available free of charge! The Yoga summer will also take place in 2024.



Yoga on the Aasee Meadows

- Tina Reuther and Isabelle Feix raised €5,000 from the **sale of books and CDs**, which they transferred to pro filia.
- Chairwoman of the Board Mechthild Spener and Prof Dr Ute von Lojewski presented the work of pro filia at the **Rotary Club** Münster Rüschaus.
- Via the internet platforms **because and betterplace**, pro filia received donations totalling €10,070 - including a large donation of €10,000 from a pro filia member.
- Joline Schmidt does public relations work for pro filia - **by boat!**



The boat of Joline Schmidt

- The **Egon Schumacher Foundation** also donated € 5,000 to pro filia in 2023. This was used to finance part of the training course to become nurse's assistant for 5 women in Pokhara.
- Since 2020, the **Adolf-Kolping-Berufskolleg** Münster has been running a school project in favour of pro filia. Pupils from three parallel classes have chosen our organisation as their social project and are very committed to collecting donations for the organisation. A detailed meeting was also held in 2023, at which the work of pro filia was discussed in

detail and the pupils handed over a good €2,300 to pro filia. They had raised this money through various activities such as the sale of homemade artwork, clothes sales etc.



Cheque hand over at the Adolf-Kolping-BerufsKolleg
(from right: Sophia Nolte/AKB, Mechthild Spener/pro filia, pupils)

- Hildegard Hüing and Sigrid Wehmeyer also organised a **Christmas market** in 2023 and donated the proceeds of € 2,160 to pro filia.



Advent fundraising campaign - organised by Sigrid Wehmeyer and Hildegard Hüing

- Jürgen Sager also organised **musical performances** in 2023. The revenues were again donated to pro filia.

7.3 Actions planned so far for 2024

- Presentation of pro filia in clubs throughout Germany
- Information stand at the Kreuzviertel Festival in Münster in August 2024

- The 9th yoga summer
- Card game evenings in the „Bunte Vogel inn“ in Münster
- The 7th pro filia art auction on 17 November 2024!

7.4 Thanks to supporters and sponsors

We would like to thank Manfred Bröker for translating the annual report into English. In general, pro filia can only carry out its activities with the help of many volunteers and sponsors. We would like to thank all our supporters and donors for their commitment.

8. Situation of the pro filia association at the end of 2023

8.1 Members

At the end of 2023, pro filia has 260 members! The next general meeting - including board elections - will take place on 9 October 2024.

8.2 Finances

The two cash auditors Heiderose Wandres and Christel Wellemeyer audited the 2022 annual financial statements in 2023 and found them to be correct. The members approved the actions of the Executive Board at the general meeting on 5 September 2023. The Münster tax office also issued another notice of exemption on 4 July 2023.

In 2023, pro filia transferred € 149,400 to MAITI. For 2023, the association once again covered the costs for an additional shelter in addition to the traditional programmes. This was made possible thanks to the large Christmas donation from WN. However, it was clear that this funding would be limited in time: And so, we also pointed out to MAITI at the beginning of 2023 that they would have to look for another donation organisation for the Danghadi/Kailali shelter. They were also clearly informed that there may be further restrictions on funding for traditional programmes from 2024.

In 2023, a total of €13,680 was transferred to the INF for the training of nurse assistants.

pro filia transferred around € 69,000.00 in 2023 to 2024 - thus securing the first instalment for 2024. Administrative expenses were incurred in the amount of around € 3,000. All administrative costs were paid for by Board donations or sponsorship. The detailed balance sheet for 2023 - like the balance sheets for 2008-2022 - and all donations over €1,000 for 2023 are also posted on our website on the home page at the bottom under "Transparent presentation of our work / declaration of commitment".

8.3 Board and management

In 2022, the pro filia Board of Directors was newly elected for 2 years. It comprises the following members: Ina Specht, Friedhelm Kars-Ude, Brigitte Wierling, Jan Sprünken, Bernd Brixius (Treasurer) and Mechthild Spener (Chairwoman). Dr Johanne Feldkamp remains Managing Director. The next election will take place at the 2024 General Assembly. Martina Richter and Christel Wellemeyer were unanimously elected as auditors for 2023.

8.4 Outlook

In Nepal, the long-standing poverty has increased even further following the terrible earthquakes in 2015 and the coronavirus pandemic. At the same time, domestic violence, child abuse and the number of forced and child marriages are on the rise. The need for support is growing and we hope that we will be able to continue funding most of our projects in 2024... even with perhaps some limitations.

There are three main issues for pro filia's work in Germany in 2024:

- The redistribution of pro filia tasks to several people, which began in 2023, will continue in 2024 to further relieve the Managing Director at her request.
- As the financial situation is tight, further campaigns will be launched to attract additional members and receive even more donations.
- The highlight of 2024 will be the 7th pro filia art auction on 17 November 2024. An art auction working group was set up in August 2023. The list of participating artists has already been finalised. As always, the event will be held at Münster University of Applied Sciences, Department of Design. We were able to win the well-known "Zuccini Sistaz" as auctioneers!

From the bottom of our hearts: thanks to all pro filia supporters for your commitment and all the best for 2024!

February 2024

For the pro filia team: Dr Johanne Feldkamp, Managing Director pro filia e.V.