

Annual Report 2020



The first five young women complete their training as nurse's aides

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1.Introduction

In 2020, everything went differently than before and not as it had been planned - the coronavirus had a massive impact on pro filia's activities both in Germany and in Nepal! After the pandemic had also reached Nepal, the external borders were immediately closed and a lockdown ordered for the whole of Nepal, despite the initially low number of infected people - with very little testing. This had direct consequences for our projects: Awareness campaigns no longer took place physically, but digitally. Border guards had to stay at home at times because of border closures, and endangered or rescued girls could less easily be transferred to support facilities. Maiti also had great problems, i.e. in providing adequate care for the almost 200 young girls in their facilities in Kathmandu. In addition, in Kathmandu alone there were about 100 young women living outside the Maiti facilities who were supposed to be reintegrated into everyday life after a relief measure, but this was not feasible under the given circumstances. They, too needed to be cared for additionally. Because of the corona crisis, pro filia transferred an additional € 10,000 for the immediate emergency relief. As it was also important to us to save the good infrastructure of our aid services that had been built up over many years, we continued to finance this work in 2020, even though far fewer girls and young women could be cared for personally. We also did not want employees to be laid off - many of them are former rescued young women who had managed to build a decent life for themselves.

According to Maiti, violence against women has increased exponentially during the pandemic. Therefore, support services must not be reduced under any circumstances, but should be expanded, which we have also decided to do for the mother-and-child care home. There are now 15 places each for single mothers and their babies. Despite increasing numbers, the lockdown was then gradually reduced. The fear was that with a longer consistent lockdown, more people would starve to death than would die from Corona.

But there were also highlights in 2020 - for example, training in the health sector took place for the first time. A total of ten rescued young women were trained as nurse's aides in a hospital in Pokhara. Four of them directly received a follow-up employment contract for just under a year. The project is presented in detail under point 6.3.

2. The issue of human 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 being sold to Indian brothels or to 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 freed 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 1,800-2,000 girls per year the chance to lead a self-determined, humane life.

3. Collaboration with Nepalese NGOs

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



MAITI headquarters in Kathmandu

A new cooperation partner is the NGO INF (International Nepal Fellowship) - an organisation that has been running hospitals in Nepal since the 1950s. They run the newly established nurse's assistant training courses at their facility in Pokhara.

Another visit to our projects was planned for autumn 2020, but unfortunately had to be cancelled for corona reasons. We will make up for this as soon as possible.

4. The pro filia-projects in Nepal

The number of our aid projects in Nepal has increased continuously since pro filia was founded 12 years ago. Also in 2020, this trend seemed to continue with the additional development of the nurse's aide training. But then came Corona and for the first time we can name but a few figures for individual projects when describing our work in the annual report, because many offers could not take place for a while. In the following, we will briefly present the individual projects, how they have

run so far and how they will hopefully continue after the development of a vaccine – and how work is being done during the Corona pandemic. We are doing everything we can to save the developed infrastructure over the crisis period.

Generally, the project telephones were manned - i.e. counselling took place and there were also emergency interventions, e.g. in the shelter, the rehabilitation home and the mother-and-child care home. Young girls or women were then admitted after testing negative for Corona or alternatively after a two weeks' stay in a quarantine facility

Special project: Quarantine centers

In 2020, pro filia funded two quarantine centres in Kathmandu and in Jhapa. A total of 57 girls/young women were admitted here who were victims of trafficking, rape or domestic violence and had to be quarantined as they had been in contact with persons infected with corona. Seven also brought their own small children with them. After 14 days of quarantine and a negative corona test, they were referred to other support services or could return to their families.



The Kathmandu MAITI Quarantine center

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, marches for women's and girls' rights, information for students and education of key persons like military and police. The campaigns are performed also with the help of young women who – by now employed by Maiti – are themselves survivors of human trafficking or who could be saved from being enslaved at the last minute. The education campaigns also contribute to the creation of jobs for rescued young women.

In 2020, Corona, the associated lockdown and the bans on coming together in groups have made these activities impossible - and this at a time when violence against girls and women has increased due to the crisis. Maiti has instead developed digital offerings, had them demonstrated in schools

etc. and answered questions over the phone. There has also been cooperation with radio stations to bring the issue of trafficking in girls and the possibilities of help to the public.

Results 2020 in the catchment areas of Pashupatinagar and Itahari:

- Normally, information sessions on human trafficking and ways to help reach many people on market days in the villages. This was impossible in 2020, nor were street theatre and many other events. Instead, Maiti developed digital awareness campaigns on the topics of human trafficking, rape and domestic violence, and ways to get help. Not only were these distributed in schools, but also broadcasted in public radio.
- In the remaining corona-free time, 47 female border police officers were trained on the topic of trafficking in girls and how to get help.
- 95 pupils, students and teachers were informed about human trafficking, support networks and options for protections.
- Key persons such as newly elected politicians, journalists and public officials were informed about the issue.
- On International Women's day, 55 women were informed about their rights and shared this information in their villages.
- On the Indian side, interest in Maiti's border work is increasing and experiences are being exchanged.

Project 2: Border guards

Border guards in most cases 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.

In non-corona times, our currently 12 female border guards work at several border crossings with India. Each of them stops around 50 young girls directly at the Indian border every year and sends them e.g. to a Maiti shelter, or else arranges for them to return to their homes.

During our project visits, we always admire the confidence and authority the border guards have when approaching rickshaws and cars in which an endangered girl might be sitting. They have the driver show them the papers and also take girls out of the vehicles. They also try to verify information over the phone. The border police are always in sight – a hard job in a noisy, dusty and bustling atmosphere.

Results in 2020

- In Q1, 2020, 82 young girls were stopped at the Indian border in Pashupatinagar alone.
- 25 young women decided themselves to curtail their trip right at the border after being informed about the dangers.
- As the borders to neighbouring countries in Nepal were closed from April through December due to the pandemic, the border guards were consequently unable to do their work during this period
- In the last quarter of 2020, however, they organised controls on secret routes to India in collaboration with border police officers. 21 young girls could thus be stopped away from the official but closed border crossing!

Since 2019, pro filia has also been financing an observation post on the road leading from Dhulikhel to Nepal's east and into India.



Control at the Kavre motorway

In 2020, Maiti representatives in collaboration with the highway police could

- check 5,220 cars
- conduct 1,047 counselling sessions on human trafficking and ways to get help
- inform 987 young girls/women who applied for a passport at the local authority about the dangers
- distribute 1,703 information kits
- achieved that out of six girls stopped, four returned to their families – two were transferred to the MAITI shelter home in Kathmandu and later also returned to their families
- find 11 girls that had been reported missing.

Basically, in 2020

- the border with India was closed for 9 months
- there was little traffic on the roads
- during possible controls it was often difficult to recognise the age of the girls/women passing due to the corona protective masks and
- direct conversations had to be held at a distance, which made contact very difficult.

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.



The Pashupatinagar Transit home

In 2020, the transit home could only operate to a very limited extent. It is located right at the border to India – generally a good location, as the young girls stopped at the border find an immediate first refuge here. However, due to rising corona infections, the border was closed for over 9 months.

2020 results for the Pashupatinagar Transit home:

- The Pashupatinagar transit home generally offers space for the stay of 20 girls/young women at a time whose length of stay varies according to their individual requirements. Contact is made with the parents if the girls wish so. In family discussions it is then clarified whether a girl will return home or, for example, be transferred to a rehabilitation home.
- As in every MAITI home, two isolation places have also been set up in Pashupatinagar, where newly admitted young girls live until they receive their coronate test result.
- The shelter successfully intervened with a total of 82 girls/young women in 2020, thus saving them from the risk of being sold.
- Eight of them were 14 years old or younger!
- 59 young women could be returned home.
- In 2020, 12 missing girls were searched for by the home, four of whom MAITI was able to locate and return to their families.
- The transit home also serves as primary and central contact in further cases of violence against girls/young women - e.g. domestic violence. In discussions with all parties involved, solutions are sought and often found.

Project 4: The Itahari Rehabilitation Home

Rescued girls who cannot or do not want to return home, who are fleeing from domestic violence, have been raped or are suffering from extreme poverty, are transferred to a MAITI rehabilitation home on request. Here they are prepared for independent living and participate in vocational training. In corona-free times there are courses, e.g. on modern agriculture, hotel cooking, tailoring, hairdressing, etc.!



The Itahari rehabilitation home



Discussion group at the home during our last visit

During our visits, many of the girls in our care expressed concern about their future. Most of them would like to earn their own money in order to build a decent life. Therefore, it is very important that pro filia does everything possible to provide further training and start-up financing to create jobs or to set up their own small business.



Diploma awarding in 2020

Results 2020:

- In 2020, 17 girls/young women were cared for in the rehabilitation home. They were able to complete a tailoring training and received a lot of information concerning their future everyday life - such as protection against HIV, dangers of early marriage, birth control, women's rights, possibilities of help and protection against human trafficking.
- All the young women completed their training regularly.
- 4 of the young women had been raped, 7 were victims of domestic violence and one victim of trafficking.
- Of 12 girls reported missing, 5 could be found.
- In cases of criminal incidents such as rape, human trafficking etc., charges will be filed.

Project 5: Home for single mothers and their babies

The mother-and-child care home admits single pregnant girls and women the most of which are victims of sex trafficking, rape or domestic violence. They can stay there for 12 – 18 months, are given medical and psychological care during the baby’s first year and – if they wish so – are offered professional training or support in finding a job. The home started its work in April 2019 with 10 places each for mothers and babies. There are practically no help offers for the target group of single mothers and their new-born babies in Nepal. Even if our home offers only 10 places at this point in time, this symbolizes how dearly this very vulnerable group of persons is in need of support! How can a single mother provide for herself and her infant after the birth? Traumatized after rape, often deserted by their families and without education or a job they often do not have other choices than begging or prostituting themselves – and the misery goes on from generation to generation! pro filia has committed itself to support as many single mothers and their babies as is financially possible – to stop this vicious circle and build a home for this group of persons. The home started its work in May 2019 with 10 places each for mothers and babies.



Mother-and-Baby home in Kathmandu



Taking the temperature at arrival



In 2020, the newly admitted young women were first placed in an isolation room until tests determined that they were free of corona.

Results 2020

In 2020, despite Corona, there were a total of 11 single pregnant girls/women and mothers and their 11 babies in our home. They were between 14 and 25 years old - 18 years old on average. Time and again the young mothers express their enormous gratitude for being able to live safely for a period of time, having regular meals, medical care and the opportunity to exchange with other women in the same situation. In a number of cases some of the young mothers with often incredible histories cannot take care for their babies and are scared of being stigmatised as single mothers – a fear that does not appear all that unjustified in a place like Nepal. In these cases, it takes much time to find a satisfying solution for mother and child – together and sometimes also separately. The goal always will be to give both mother and child a chance to lead a dignified life. Most young women wish to return to their families. Through the mediation of Maiti, four of the mothers and their babies were taken back by their families in 2020, one moved in with the father of the child, six were still in the home at the turn of the year, two of them are now attending the school attached to the home. The discharged young women are given MAITI's emergency phone number. Maiti also contacts them several times after discharge to find out about the living conditions of mother and child and to find solutions together in difficult situations.

Admitting young women to the Mother and Baby Home was difficult in the Corona year 2020, partly because there were massive transport and travel restrictions from the government. We hope that this will become easier in 2021 and that the places, which have now been increased to 15, can be fully occupied.

Project 6: Educational offers

By now, pro filia is financing 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 – in non-corona times - trained to be seamstresses, weavers, cooks, agriculturists, hairdressers, bag makers in the Itahari Rehabilitation Home.

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 female professions should be created but also more diverse career perspectives that offer more income and lead to an increased self-confidence.

Project 6.1: Computer training

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

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

Previously, computer training took place for about 40 girls/young women per year, but this was completely cancelled in 2020 due to Corona. We want to reactivate the programme as soon as possible.

Project 6.2: Training for mushroom farmers, cooks and beekeepers

These trainings were also not possible in 2020.

Project 6.3: Training to become an e-rickshaw driver

During our project visits to Nepal, despite travelling across the country, we only met a few **female** rickshaw drivers in one town - and that was in Itahari, where the rehabilitation home we funded is located. This is where we saw a chance to offer young women a further training opportunity to make their professional spectrum more diverse. In fact, there was interest for it. In 2020, 3 young women were trained as e-rickshaw drivers - physically not very strenuous due to the electric motor and reasonably environmentally friendly.



e-rickshaw-training

To ensure that the young women can actually earn money after their training, they were supported in the purchase of rickshaws by pro filia - see point 7.4!

Project 6.3: Training in the health sector

Many areas of Nepal suffer from a severe lack of medical care. It is in this sector that we see a professional future for young women. Not only would this work be highly recognized – the income would most probably guarantee to lead a dignified life.

For quite some time pro filia has been looking for suitable training opportunities in the health sector. 2019 saw the occasion to hold negotiations with the director of the INF (International Nepal Fellowship) – one of the oldest NGOs engaging in Nepal. The INF provides hospitals where healthcare training is provided. At the end of 2019, a concept for this project was jointly developed and implemented in 2020. In two training sessions, five young women each will be trained in Pokhara. Afterwards, 2 young women per course will receive a 10-month employment in the hospital to gain further practical experience and thus increase the chance of a longer-term employment. The young women are given a place to live in a home that specialises in the care of this group of people. The Egon Schumacher Foundation has gratefully provided pro filia with the money for these initial courses. The programme started in spring 2020. Due to Corona, there were interruptions and delayed starts, but both training courses took place and could be regularly concluded (cf. pt. 7.3!).



Training to be a nurse's aide.....



.....And diploma awarding!



Graduation party after the first training course



The participants of the second training course

Project 7: The creation of jobs

Upon completion of their trainings, young women regularly have to face problems to find an employment that subsequently 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 are given the chance to earn an income sufficient for them to subsist with the help of start-up financing.

Project 7.1: Typing offices

During the meeting with Maiti end of 2013 it was decided to establish typing offices in as many locations as possible in the Ilam (Pashupatinagar) district, staffed with at least two young women that have undergone 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, e.g. in India

Up to now, 8 typing offices have been installed, which follow very different paths. With many creative ideas, the young women are developing the work further - be it by introducing young girls to computers, be it through an additional shop with drugstore offers or a tailoring offer.



Typing office

Project 7.2: 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. Here, too, the development is varied: some of the women involved are trying to turn the small shop into a boutique by offering other products such as shoes and decorative objects. Others continue to work in the current team with only sewing tasks and just make ends meet financially. Several tailor shops have expanded considerably. There are also snowball effects that can be observed in the tailor shops - more young girls and women are being trained and given the chance to earn their own income. This is a development that exactly corresponds to our goals!

Project 7.3: Employment after nurse assistant training

After ten young women had completed the nurse's assistant training, eight of them found a job or further training: Four of them got a job in the training hospital in Pokhara, which was limited to 10 months, directly afterwards:



Four participants directly get a job in the training hospital.

Two other young women are working as caregivers in a home for rescued girls, one is doing Montessori training on children's rights and another has started training as a tailor. Two young women are so far without a job - one of them got married.

Project 7.4: e-rickshaw entrepreneur

pro filia had several rescued young women trained as e-rickshaw drivers. In order for them to be able to earn their own money working, we transferred the money for 75% of the purchase costs of 3 rickshaws. The women finance the remaining 25% through a bank loan, which they pay off from their income. MAITI supported them in applying for the loan. On the one hand, the young women protect themselves by not driving in the dark. Secondly, de-escalating techniques were practiced with them. MAITI is now inquiring about the possibility of installing an alarm button that can be used to summon help in an emergency.



Handover of the e-rickshaws

This project is received with great public interest: 58 representatives of the authorities, women's groups and journalists took part in the handover and it was reported on TV, in radio programmes and in newspapers!

5. Projects scheduled for 2021

We are doing everything we can to ensure that our projects can work as quickly as possible as they did before the Corona crisis. For this, there must be neither lockdown nor contact or travel restrictions in Nepal, and the border must be open. In any case, pro filia will continue to finance the current projects in 2021:

- Awareness campaigns and building/maintaining support networks in Ilam/Pashupatinagar and Itahari districts.
- The salaries of 12 female border guards and 5 female highway guards in Kavre
- The Pashupatinagar shelter home on the Indian border with Darjeeling
- The Itahari rehabilitation home
- The mother-and-baby home in Kathmandu
- Training opportunities - e.g. to become a nurse's aide or e-rickshaw driver.
- Job creation through support in finding a job or start-up funding for their own small "business" such as the purchase of more e-rickshaws.

6. Cooperations

In addition to the cooperation with MAITI Nepal and the INF, pro filia worked together with the SI (Sorooptimist International) Club Münster-Mauritz also in 2020. The Sorooptimists organised a big benefit breakfast - in February, shortly before the lockdown - in favour of pro filia and were able to donate a total of € 3,700 to our association in 2020. The collaboration is accompanied by regular cooperation meetings - with three meetings in 2020.

7. activities 2020

In 2020, due to Corona, only a few presence campaigns could be carried out to further publicise the issue of "human trafficking" and to obtain new members and donations for our projects. Therefore, pro filia 2020 focused on soliciting support from companies, clubs, etc. and was successful.

7.1 Actions 2020 by pro filia:

- The Doppelkopf night on March 20, 2020 had to be cancelled at short notice due to Corona - the one planned for autumn likewise had to be cancelled.
- Presentation of our work in Nepal on Feb. 29, 2020 at the benefit breakfast of the SI Club Münster-Mauritz: the pro filia director presented the development of pro filia activities in Nepal to about 100 participants.



pro filia presentation at the Benefit Breakfast 2020 of the SI Club Münster-Mauritz

- **Kreuzviertelfest Münster** on 22/23 August 2020: The festival was cancelled by the organisers.
- The NRW tax administration has recognised pro filia for the allocation of fines in criminal tax proceedings: in 2020, a sum of € 2,500 was transferred to us!
- In the context of criminal cases, the Münster District Court arranged for convicted offenders to pay a total of € 3,900 to pro filia.
- pro filia had applied for the Christmas fundraising campaign of the Westfälische Nachrichten and was one of four projects to be elected! Before Christmas, a total of six detailed articles about our work in Nepal were published and the readers were asked for donations. A total of 100,000 € was collected for pro filia - a huge sum that will secure the mother-baby project for at least 2 years and enable the number of places to be increased if necessary. The other projects also benefit from this wonderful "lottery win". We can go into next year with confidence!

7.2 Campaigns for the benefit of pro filia

- Numerous boule tournaments, organised by Konrad Averbeck, raised around 2,010 euros in 2020:



Boule tournament for the benefit of pro filia

- **Rotary Club Münster 1648:** on Sept. 24, 2020, representatives of the Rotary Club Münster 1648 presented pro filia with a donation of € 7,260.



Left to right: Mechthild Spener (pro filia), Andrea Benstein and Manfred Petermann (Rotary), Dr. Johanne Feldkamp (pro filia)

- **The 6th Yoga Summer-Sommer**, organised by leben & reisen: Yoga courses were held from mid-June through mid-September every Friday afternoon close to the Muenster Aa lake and the offer was highly frequented despite corona– sometimes more than 40 people participated! Each participant donated about 5 €, the revenue was transferred to pro filia entirely: Ilona Tertilt and Dagmar Merforth could finally hand over about 1,600 €! Both yoga instructors did their work free of charge!



Yoga summer 2020



- **Charity Breakfast of the Soroptimist International Cubs Münster-Mauritz**



Charity breakfast 2020 2020

For the 4th time, the club organised a sumptuous breakfast for the benefit of pro filia. It took a lot of work and efforts to feed about 100 participants and afterwards a total of € 3,000 was donated to pro filia.

- Tina Reuther and Isabelle Feix earned € 1,600 by selling books, a sum which they transferred to pro filia.



- The **Egon Schumacher Foundation** donated an amount of € 7,000 to pro filia in 2020. Together with the previous year's donation, this financed the training of 10 young women to become nurses' assistants and the subsequent four jobs in this profession for almost 1 year.
- Despite Corona, a three-year school project started in October 2020 at the **Adolf-Kolping-Berufskolleg** Münster. Students from three parallel classes produced works of art and sold them for the benefit of pro filia.



Students of Adolf-Kolping-Berufskolleg

- Hildegard Hüing and Sigrid Wehmeyer organised a Finnen-market and donated the proceeds of €600 to pro filia.



- As long as Corona permitted, Jürgen Sager organised **musical recitals** also in 2020 - together with two Syrian girls. The proceeds were again donated to pro filia. He also built insect hotels, which he gave away in exchange for a donation to pro filia.
- **Sewing mouth-nose protection masks:**
Both Claudia Hollstein and Beate Bott sewed mouth-nose protection masks during the first lockdown and gave them to pro filia in exchange for donations.



Claudia Hollstein sews face masks

7.3 Actions already planned for 2021 - if possible

- Presentation of pro filia in several clubs throughout Germany.
- Information stand at the Kreuzviertelfest 2021 in Münster.
- Two Doppelkopf nights at the Bunter Vogel in Münster.

The 6th pro filia art auction will be postponed by one year due to Corona and will take place on Sunday, 3.4.2022, at the Münster University of Applied Sciences, Department of Design.

7.4 Thanks to supporters and sponsors

We would like to thank Stefani Bültel 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 2020

8.1. Members

At the end of 2020 pro filia is counting 238 members! The next general meeting will take place on September 7, at 7 pm at Marientalstraße 78 in Münster.

8.2.pro filia Website

In 2020, it became necessary for pro filia to upgrade its 10-year-old website to an up-to-date technology. We took the opportunity to also make some changes in terms of structure and content. Both involved a lot of work and also costs. The new website will be activated as of spring 2021

8.3. Financials

In 2020, the two cash auditors Hajo Schoo and Dirk Sprünken audited the annual financial statement 2019 and found it to be correct. The members granted discharge to the board at the general meeting on March 13, 2020. The Münster tax office also issued another notice of exemption on October 19, 2020.

In 2020, pro filia transferred € 56,260 to Maiti. Maiti was still able to transfer money from the 2019 budget financed by pro filia into 2020, so that the basic financing of the projects was secured this year. In addition, pro filia transferred € 12,850 to the INF to finance the training for nurses' assistants. Thanks to generous donors, more than 200,000 € could be carried over into 2021 - securing the financing of our projects in 2021 - a great reassurance, as we have to postpone the fundamentally important art auction by one year because of Corona. Especially the Christmas fundraising campaign of the Westfälische Nachrichten contributed to this good result. A total of 5 articles reported in detail about our work.

The expenses of about 4,900 € (initial programming work especially for the creation of a new website, graphic designer, PC and bank costs) were paid by board and management donations or through sponsoring.

The detailed balance sheet 2020 - as already the balance sheets 2008-2019 - and all donations

exceeding 1,000 Euros are also posted for 2020 on our website on the Home page at the bottom right under the item "Declaration of Commitment".

8.4 Board and management

In 2020, the pro filia board was newly elected for 2 years with the following members: Ina Specht, Josef Humbert, Brigitte Wierling, Jan Sprünken, Bernd Brixius (treasurer) and Mechthild Spener (chairperson). Dr. Johanne Feldkamp remains Executive Director. The next election will take place at the 2022 General Assembly. Dirk Sprünken and Hajo Schoo were unanimously elected as cash auditors for 2020.

8.5 Outlook

Covid 19 has had a massive impact on all countries. However, while there is a lot of government support in richer countries, the situation is different in most developing countries. Not only does a poor health system lead to major problems, but the economy is also collapsing and in some areas of Nepal a lockdown has been lifted on the grounds that otherwise the risk of famine would become too overwhelming. In autumn 2020, the German Development Minister Gerd Müller also stated that the lockdown in many countries had "triggered one of the biggest poverty and hunger crises" and that more people were dying from this than from the Corona virus. Starve to death or perhaps die from Covid? What a dilemma!

For pro filia - as for other aid projects - it is also problematic that we are currently unable to travel to Nepal to visit the projects and discuss the course of the project work with our local contacts as before and, if necessary, also redirect it. Much can be done with the help of electronic media - but in the end, personal contact is irreplaceable. That is why we hope that project visits to Nepal will be possible again in 2021.

Also in 2020, despite the Corona crisis, pro filia members, cooperation partners and many donors continued to support us and enabled us to raise the costs for maintaining the infrastructure of our projects and to ensure diverse emergency aid. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

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