



SONNE

international

Education puts an end to **POVERTY!**



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Erfried Malle,
founder and chairman of
SONNE-International



Impressions from the project areas
of SONNE-International



Read more about us:



www.sonne-international.org

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends of SONNE-International,

Over 21 years ago, on a journey through India, my friend and travel companion Dr. Susanne Prügger and I came up with the idea of becoming active ourselves and engaging in development cooperation with the aim of providing children in particularly remote areas with the opportunity for education and access to basic medical care. Back then, we had no clue about the direction our commitment would take in the years to come.

After the first year, we were pleased that we could collect enough funds from our friends and families to support a small health station in a slum area in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I believe it was no more than two or three thousand euros that we had to make do with back then, even though we could certainly have put much more to good use.

Now, 20 years later, we look back on a very turbulent and industrious period during which our organization has grown significantly and lifted countless young people out of poverty through empowerment, thanks to your donations or your project support.

Despite all the global challenges of the past years, SONNE has once again succeeded in keeping all its ongoing projects alive and initiating new ones in 2022. For this annual report, as always, we have summarized our activities in the various partner countries, which, given their diversity, now presents a special challenge. Added to the usual structure of the annual report is a graphical representation of the key milestones of the first 20 years of our organization, which you will find in the middle of this booklet.

I wish you an engaging read and am delighted that you are on board! Only through your support and donations were we able to assist numerous individuals in the year 2022.

Many thanks for that!
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Erfried Malle'.

Mag. Erfried Malle
Executive Chairman

Our organization at a GLANCE



The Austrian-based aid organization SONNE-International supports disadvantaged children and young people through its own education and health projects and offers innovative accompanying measures to the respective village communities.

The focus countries are Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India and Myanmar. Since 2005 we have been carrying **the Austrian Donation Seal of Approval**, and the **tax deductibility** of donations has been given since 2009.

MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A BILLION CHILDREN ARE UNABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL

According to UNESCO estimates, **around 260 million children worldwide have no access to education**, and global equal opportunities are unfortunately still a long way off. The education goal of the Global Sustainable Development Agenda is: „By 2030, ensure inclusive, equitable and high-quality education for all and promote opportunities for lifelong learning.“ We are firmly committed to this goal. With our extensive support programmes, we actively contribute to achieving SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).



EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT, HEALTH CARE IS THE BASIS OF LIFE AND INNOVATION IS OUR FOCUS

Only through education can children free themselves from the poverty trap in the long term and thus lead a self-determined life in dignity. That is why, among other things, we operate 25 SONNE support facilities for more than 2500 children in order to contribute to the achievement of the development goals of the Global Sustainable Development Agenda. However, since only healthy children can develop well and actively participate in lessons, we supplement our educational projects with measures in the health sector as well as innovative accompanying measures (e.g. in the field of environmental protection).

OUR MOTTO IS:

EDUCATION PUTS AN END TO POVERTY!



Our main topics at a GLANCE

Getting out of poverty THROUGH education



Worldwide, more than 2000 children have the opportunity to go to school thanks to our help

As an Austrian aid organization, we pursue the goal of giving marginalized children in remote villages free access to modern educational institutions. Through our state-approved SONNE schools and educational institutions, not only do our SONNE students have the chance to escape the poverty trap, but the educational level of entire village communities is gradually raised.

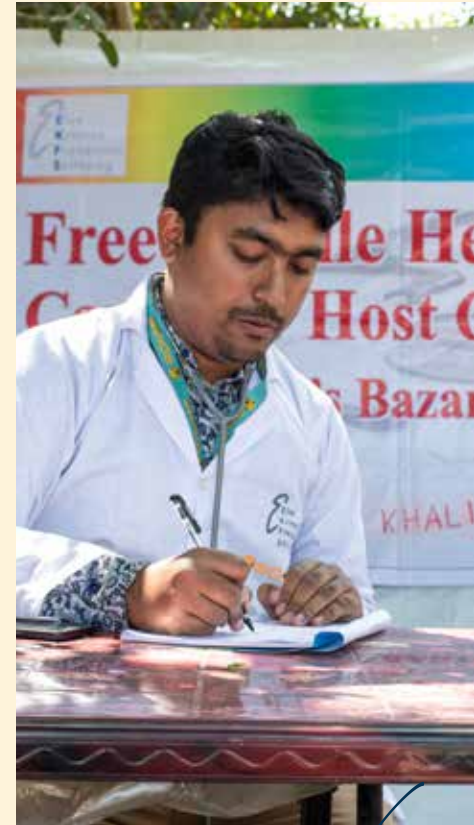
SONNE-INTERNATIONAL OPERATES 25 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF ITS OWN FOR 2500 STUDENTS WORLDWIDE

My name is Sonali Kumari and I am from the Indian village of Bakraur. I am the first girl in my family who will soon have a proper school leaving certificate.

My family is very proud of me and we are very grateful to SONNE-International. The SONNE team convinced my parents that education was important to me and offered me a free school place. I hope that my little brother will soon be able to go to the SONNE school, too, because here we learn a lot and it's really fun. I also enjoy attending the weekly self-defence course and hope that one day I will become a strong woman and find a good job.

In order to enable children like Sonali to attend school, SONNE-International has been operating educational institutions in Bangladesh, Myanmar and India since 2002.

Health as a basis



Through our mobile health stations, are given access to medical care

Only healthy children can develop well and attend school regularly. In 2015, the United Nations committed itself to promoting "health and well-being for all" with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since 2002, we at SONNE-International have been pursuing the goal of providing marginalized children in developing countries with free access to barrier-free basic medical care. Our health projects in Ethiopia, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh step in where help is most needed.

AROUND 60 SONNE EMPLOYEES ARE ACTIVE IN OUR HEALTH PROJECTS WORLDWIDE

Accompanying measures and innovations for a green tomorrow



people in remote areas



Practical exercises consolidate the theoretical content of our Environmental Academy

Thanks to our accompanying health measures, people in refugee camps in Myanmar and Bangladesh, where adequate care is often not guaranteed, have access to medical support whenever they need it. And since only healthy children can learn successfully, all our educational projects are complemented by measures in the health sector as well. In this way, we provide children and their families with basic medical care and, in the event of serious illnesses or emergencies, treatment in a hospital.

Every human being deserves a life of dignity. Therefore, in addition to education and health, individual accompanying measures for the holistic, needs-oriented promotion of communities are of great importance to us. Through innovations, we also support our target groups in the area of environmental protection. Only together with the countries of the Global South can we tackle climate change!

NEEDS-BASED ACCOMPANYING MEASURES HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO EARN THEIR OWN INCOME AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Our ongoing accompanying measures are as different and varied as the

needs of our protégés. For example, we organize campaigns against female genital mutilation (FGM) in Ethiopia and self-defence courses for girls and women in India and Bangladesh. In addition, we enable young people to learn new skills through training programmes so that they can generate their own income.

In our education projects we have decided to put more and more emphasis on environmental education because we firmly believe that education is the most powerful tool to combat climate change. In order to train our protégés theoretically and practically to become climate savers, we have started integrating environmental workshops into our lessons.

Projects at a GLANCE

India

Active since 2012 for the children of the untouchables

PROJECT: Operation of two SONNE primary schools

In these schools we continuously teach and support over **320 children**

PROJECT: Sports programme and self-defence courses against sexual assault

With these activities we empower **over 100 girls every week**

PROJECT: Mobile health stations that provide basic medical care

There we treat **over 100 children and their relatives every month**

PROJECT: Operation of a training centre for women

In this way, we provide vocational training for **more than 70 women every year**

PROJECT: Environmental Education Academy – development and pilot phase

With this activity we reach **over 50 students and 20 teachers every year**

PROJECT: Establishment of an educational institution for children of the lowest Indian caste

There we teach and support **100 children every year**



Ethiopia

Active since 2005 for Afar nomads,
especially for children and women

PROJECT: Basic medical care and maternal health care in Eli Da'ar district and Logiya city

With this project we reach approximately **56,000 people**

PROJECT: Basic medical care in the Afar region (Gawwaani and Gala'alu)

With this programme we strengthen approximately **100,000 people**

PROJECT: Improving food security in the Afar region through an agricultural training programme

In this way, we help more than **15,000 people**



Myanmar

Active since 2008 for street children and marginalized adolescents

PROJECT: Operation of three day care centres for the support of street children in Myanmar
In this way, we support and feed **more than 120 children every day**

PROJECT: Operation of a support centre for children and young people from the slum area
In this way, we support **over 200 children and young people**

PROJECT: Free tutoring courses for children from poor families at three locations
In this way, we support **over 120 children**

PROJECT: Vocational training (computer courses and tailoring)

In this way, we support
more than 200 adolescents and young women every year

PROJECT: Emergency fund for unbureaucratic assistance

In this way, we support
more than 200 poor families every year



Bangladesh

Active for ethnic minorities since 2002

PROJECT: Operation of 19 schools for ethnic minorities in Bangladesh
In this way, we help **1300 children and adolescents**

PROJECT: Medical care for Rohingya refugees and ethnic minorities in Bangladesh

In this way, we help **7000 families**

PROJECT: Operation of two dormitories and of a hostel for students in Dhaka

In this way, we help **40 children and adolescents**

PROJECT: Animal breeding project for income generation
In this way, we promote **an entire village community**

PROJECT: Sports project for peacekeeping and individual development

In this way, we support **127 young girls**



ETHIOPIA/ AFAR REGION

Programme Overview

PROJECT COUNTRY

since 2005

BENEFICIARIES

approx. 150,000

PROJECT FOCUS

mobile health care (especially pregnant women and mother-child care), education (hygiene, health), combating female genital mutilation (FGM), emergency aid in crisis situations

WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL FOR SO MANY YEARS

Since 2005, SONNE-International, together with its proven partner organization APDA (Afar Pastoralist Development Association), has been striving to enable the predominantly semi-nomadic pastoral people of the Afar to survive under increasingly difficult environmental conditions (ever longer periods of drought, desertification of the last grazing areas).

The focus of our work is on **education** and **training, health**, and a **life of dignity**. Particularly noteworthy here are **our commitment against FGM** (female genital mutilation) as well as our training programmes for women! However, especially recently, crisis-related emergency aid (drinking water treatment, supplementary food etc.) often had to be provided.



SETBACKS AND PROGRESS

The civil war between the government and the rebels from the TPLF (Tigray People's Liberation Front) swept large parts of the Afar region in 2022. This led to cruel clashes, systematic destruction of vital infrastructure and dramatically rising (food) prices.

The bloody conflict has calmed down (at least temporarily), but all other problems (such as chronic food shortage, loss of livelihoods) remain unsolved. We are trying our utmost to provide the Afar pastoralists with sustainable ways out of the permanent crisis.

Our literacy and education project **"School under the Tree"**, which had to be suspended at short notice due to Corona and the civil war is expected to **resume in 2023**.

You can find out how we want to help the Afar to become more food secure on page 10 of this report!

Cooperation partners 2022

 Bundesministerium
Soziales, Gesundheit, Pflege
und Konsumentenschutz

 Österreichische
Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

 Else
Kröner
Fresenius
Stiftung
Stiftung für
Forschung, Bildung,
Kultur und Medien



In order to secure the basic needs of the population, we have initiated or supported sustainable projects for water supply (wells, water reservoirs), restocking of livestock herds, literacy and further education projects (student homes), etc. over the years.



War, drought and malnutrition

Our mobile medical team defies all difficulties! Our particular concern are pregnant women, young mothers, babies and young children.

SO MUCH DESTRUCTION AND SO MUCH SUFFERING

The civil war made the work of our **80 mobile health workers, 200 TBAs (traditional birth assistants) and 8 midwives** enormously difficult: Many people fled from the fighting to remote and hard-to-reach areas, most of our ambulances were either destroyed or used for military purposes, many trips in the project area were life-threatening, etc.

OUR MEDICAL STAFF IS PART OF THE COMMUNITY AND THEREFORE PARTICULARLY COMMITTED

Despite all these problems, we were able to maintain **basic medical care for more than 150,000 people**. Our selfless and dedicated health personnel spared no effort or danger to help: births were cared for, high-risk pregnancies were taken to an observation station and, if necessary, transferred to a hospital, children were vaccinated, supplementary



Girl with a clubfoot – an orthopaedist could help, but there isn't one locally

Since 2020, we have been able to extend our proven concept of mobile health care, which has been successfully used in the districts of Gewa'ane, Gela'alu and Uwwa for 15 years, to another large district in the north of the Afar region (*Eli Da'ar*).

We would like to thank our sponsors **Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung** and **the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs** for their reliable support!

BRINGING ABOUT LONG-TERM BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Awareness-raising measures were not neglected in 2022 either: In addition to counselling on nutrition and hygiene, our campaign against FGM (female genital mutilation) and other harmful practices is and remains constantly on the agenda!

ALTHOUGH THE ARMED CONFLICTS HAVE COME TO A STANDSTILL, THE CHALLENGES REMAIN HUGE! PLEASE SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF OUR BRAVE HEALTH OFFICERS WITH YOUR DONATION!



You have to be on the ground to understand the situation

food, water purifiers and soaps were distributed, etc.

BASIC MEDICAL CARE FOR MORE THAN

150,000

PEOPLE WITH

80 MOBILE HEALTH OFFICERS,

200

TBAs (TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS) AND

8 MIDWIVES.

Breaking new ground: our agricultural training centre



Getting water every day is probably the biggest challenge for most families

A CENTURIES-OLD WAY OF LIFE WILL SOON BE HISTORY

The situation of the nomadic pastoralists from the Afar tribe is becoming increasingly precarious. The droughts are getting longer and longer, grazing land and water points are hardly available.

The camel and goat herds are severely decimated, the remaining animals weakened and susceptible to disease. As a result, most Afar have to live with constant food insecurity, and especially their children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

In addition, the civil war that has just ended has further exacerbated the supply problems and driven food prices to astronomical heights. The situation of these people has never been as dramatic as in 2022!

A RADICAL NEW APPROACH TO IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

A master plan to put food security in the Afar region on a new footing has been developed by our partner organisation APDA (Afar Pastoralist Development Association) and renowned Ethiopian scientists and university institutions. Our Africa consultant Stefan "Stippe" Bartusch and our external expert Ulla Sever were significantly involved.

WOMEN WILL DRIVE CHANGE

In this project, financed by the **Austrian Development Agency (ADA)**, a total of 360 women and 120 young people as well as 240 volunteers from urban areas will be trained as agricultural experts in a newly renovated training centre (including 6 hectares of garden area) in Ududayto.

Then they will be provided with the necessary equipment and seeds and sent back to their villages. There they will engage in agriculture and horticulture, take care of the marketing of the products and act as multipliers.

The first 60 experts have already completed their training. If the pilot project brings the hoped-for success, it will be further expanded.



Erfried Malle's most oppressive project trip

In spring 2022, SONNE chairman Erfried Malle travelled back to Ethiopia after a two-year break due to the Corona pandemic. He was deeply shocked by the situation he found there.

NORMAL DEVELOPMENT IS DENIED TO THE AFAR CHILDREN

From our project partner Valerie Browning, Malle learned that the project region is suffering from an unprecedented drought and famine and that more than 50% of the children are chronically malnourished. This has the fatal effect that they will be permanently impaired in their physical and mental development.

NO WATER WITHOUT GOATS

He was particularly saddened by his conversations with the local people: "Countless villagers told me the same thing: The village community has to finance the drinking water (which is delivered by tankers) by selling their goats. Never before in the last 17 years have I seen so few goats in the villages and with individual families. Almost all the goats, whose milk is the basis of food for all babies and children, have apparently already fallen victim to the war and the need for drinking water."



AND YET!

When asked about the meaningfulness of decades of humanitarian commitment in the face of such catastrophic conditions, SONNE chairman Malle answered as follows: "It is our mission to help people in their most serious needs. Development must not be halted by humanitarian setbacks!"

Up to eight hours a day have to be spent on fetching water



WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OF LIVELIHOODS

The rebels of the Tigray Liberation Front destroyed ambulances, smashed medical equipment and set fire to X-ray and ultrasound machines... Goats, camels and cows were shot, wells collapsed, etc.



Malle pays a visit to young mothers who are supported by SONNE

**HERE YOU CAN READ
ERFRIED MALLE'S REPORT
(IN GERMAN, INCLUDING
SOME PHOTOS AND A SHORT
VIDEO) IN FULL LENGTH**



BANGLADESH

Programme Overview

PROJECT COUNTRY

Since 2002

BENEFICIARIES

1300 children and adolescents,
50,000 Rohingya refugees and Bengali residents

PROJECTS

17 primary schools,
2 secondary schools,
2 dormitories,
1 student hostel,
1 weaving workshop,
2 tailoring workshops,
3 computer training centres,
1 health centre,
1 mobile health camp

PROJECT AREAS

Alikadam | Jhenaigati
Dhaka | Kutupalong



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In 2002, in the *Chittagong Hill Tracts* in the border region with Myanmar, SONNE chairman Erfried Malle went to great lengths to convince the backward members of various minority peoples, who were severely neglected by the Bangladeshi government, that the only way to escape their total impoverishment in the long term was through education. His efforts led to the construction of makeshift schools made of bamboo and corrugated iron in 10 remote mountain villages. Since then, many thousands of children have been taught there, most of whom would probably have remained illiterate for the rest of their lives without our support.

A SUCCESS STORY

Thanks to the support of our sponsor **RED CHAIRity** and many private donors as well as the tireless efforts of the SONNE employees on site and in Austria, these simple bamboo huts have now become a total of **19 model schools (17 primary and 2 secondary schools)**, in which **1300 happy, well-dressed children** are currently well cared for and expertly taught. Approximately **40 particularly gifted young students** receive special support as part of the SONNE sponsorship programme, ideally up to a university degree.

Computer, tailoring and weaving courses, income-generating initiatives and medical care for tens of thousands of people are now also part of our activities. More than 100 people have found permanent employment at SONNE-International Bangladesh.

SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF!

Where SONNE schools have been built, the villages as a whole have developed positively and the people have gained new hope. This is how we imagine sustainable development aid! We hope to be able to hand over our smoothly functioning and extremely popular schools to the Bangladeshi government soon.



Cooperation partners 2022



LAND KÄRNTEN



The positive energy has returned!

Education and training for children of ethnic minorities



It is nice to see with your own eyes
what donations can achieve

UNDISTURBED OPERATION IN ALL SONNE SCHOOLS

In 2022, our **17 primary and 2 secondary schools** were open continuously. Despite great political tensions in the minority areas, operations continued undisturbed. Almost without exception, our students achieved good results in the state examinations. After the Corona-related interruptions of the last few years, the children's motivation was great. They know that a good education allows them to shape their lives in a self-determined way and to escape the oppressive poverty of their families of origin! Therefore, to our relief, the vast majority of them decided to continue their education (a total of about 1300 students), although some parents had to be persuaded first!

A NEW SCHOOL FOR JHENAIGATI

Thanks to the support of a Dutch SONNE friend (who wishes to remain anonymous), we were able to open a new school building for the secondary school in the Jhenaigati district in



October 2022. Courses are already being held in the newly opened computer room. As a result, we now operate **three computer training centres and three training workshops (2 tailor workshops, 1 weaving workshop)** in Bangladesh, where we provide young people with knowledge that they can use to generate income.

OUR NEW PILOT PROJECT: LIVESTOCK BREEDING TO GEN- ERATE INCOME AND TO SE- CURE THE OPERATION OF OUR SCHOOLS

28 calves and 10 young goats were purchased by SONNE-Bangladesh and given to 17 selected families in the village of Chapachora. The animals are to be cared for and fed by them for a year in order to then achieve a much higher resale value. The profit is intended a) to create an additional income for the families concerned and b) to contribute to the operation and maintenance of the local SONNE village school.

If the scheme proves successful, we will extend it to other school locations in the future!



We thank our long-time friend
Bernhard for supporting this
project

17 PRIMARY SCHOOLS
AND 2 SECONDARY SCHOOLS
IN REMOTE MINORITY VILLAGES
GIVE APPROXIMATELY
1300
CHILDREN ACCESS TO
VALUABLE EDUCATION

The SONNE sponsor children

Bearers of hope for their families, their village and their ethnic group



**If you are interested, please
contact our chairman Erfried
Malle: +43 699 19456052 or
malle@sonne-international.org**

37 graduates of our SONNE primary schools have the good fortune and privilege of having been accepted into our sponsorship programme. Thanks to their sponsor parents we are able to provide them with free accommodation, care and meals in the SONNE student

dormitories (in Alikadam, Jhenaigati and Dhaka). Ideally, they continue their education until they graduate from university. Despite Corona-related delays, the first two students already have their bachelor's degree in their pockets and five of them will probably complete their master's degree in 2023!

These young people come from the poorest backgrounds. Their academic successes make them bearers of hope and role models in their community. Many of them want to work for their respective ethnic group later as teachers, lawyers, doctors, etc. Positive effects on the entire region can be expected!

NUMEROUS OTHER CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ARE EAGERLY WAITING FOR SPONSOR PARENTS WHO ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT THEM IN THE LONG TERM AND RELIABLY. YOU TOO CAN DECIDE ON THIS MEANINGFUL AND EFFICIENT WAY TO CHANGE A LIFE FOR THE BETTER!

Girls are allowed to defend themselves!

Karate classes give Bengali girls strength and confidence



Since the self-defence and karate courses for our Indian SONNE students have

proved extremely popular and successful, we now also offer them at our schools in Bangladesh.

Since the beginning of 2021, qualified karate trainers have been teaching 127 girls once a week how to defend themselves against sexual assaults. The training has a positive effect on their fitness and self-confidence – and the girls are enthusiastic about it! The defense techniques learned will certainly be very helpful to them in a male-dominated society.

Limited resources, but great commitment

Medical support for Rohingya refugees

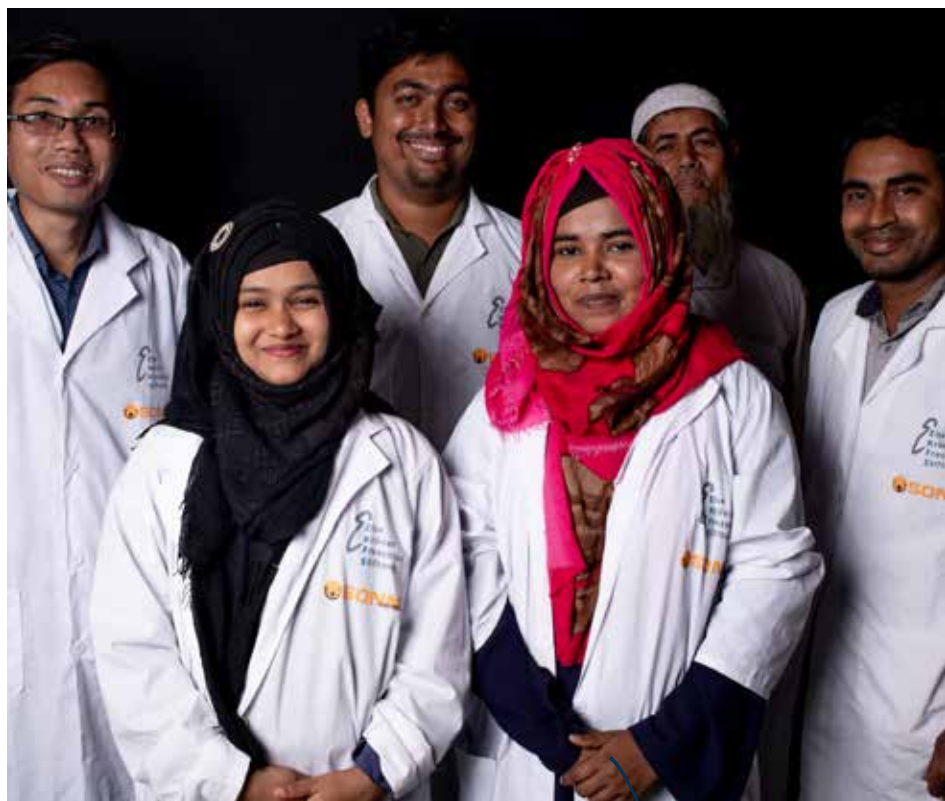
In 2017, hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya were brutally expelled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar by the military. Most of them have found refuge in the world's largest refugee camp in Kutupalong, Bangladesh.

Since its inception, SONNE-International has operated an infirmary within the camp, where **more than 35,000 treatments were carried out in 2022**. In addition, a further 26,000 treatments were carried out in a mobile health camp at six different locations outside the refugee camp.



In addition to the various health problems, which are often due to the catastrophic living conditions (severe overcrowding of the camp, serious environmental destruction, inadequate drinking water supply, etc.), there is also the mental suffering of the often severely traumatized people. Our two medical teams are small (only two doctors and a few assistants each) and achieve extraordinary results under difficult conditions! We are happy to be able to rely on such committed employees. In 2021, an evaluation carried out by the German **Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation** (which is largely funding this project) attested to our "particularly efficient and cost-saving approach".

About 100,000 refugees have been resettled by the government on the island of Bhasan Char. We also supported



them there, for example by distributing aid packages.

For the 1.4 million people who remain in the camp, the situation remains bleak. There are lots of conflicts among the frustrated and hopeless people, several other problematic developments such as petty crime and gang formation are on the increase etc.



WE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO AT LEAST ENSURE THE MEDICAL CARE OF THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE AND WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL SPONSORS AND DONORS WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!

Our medical team in the Rohingya camp

MORE THAN
35.000
TREATMENTS IN OUR INFIRMARY WITHIN THE ROHINGYA CAMP, A FURTHER
26.000
TREATMENTS IN OUR MOBILE HEALTH CAMPS

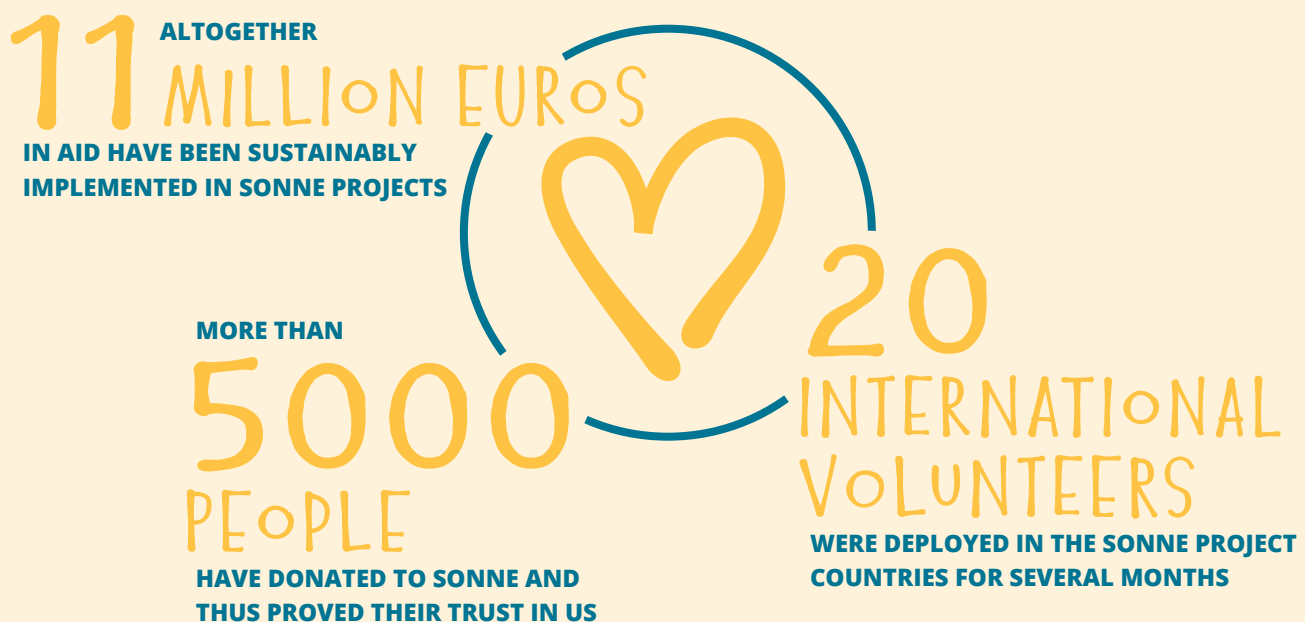
20 YEARS OF SONNE – what we have achieved

MILESTONES of our organization



FACTS and FIGURES

A brief overview of our successes in these 20 years



achieved together



40

SONNE SCHOOLS

HAVE BEEN BUILT AND OPERATED
ON A LONG-TERM BASIS

MORE THAN

3500

APPRENTICESHIPS

HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WORLDWIDE

MORE THAN

8000

SONNE STUDENTS

HAVE SUCCESSFULLY GRADUATED FROM
ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS



MORE THAN

200,000

MEDICAL TREATMENTS

WERE CARRIED OUT BY OUR TEAMS

MORE THAN

20,000

BIRTHS

WERE ASSISTED RESULTING IN A
SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN BIRTH
AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES



INDIA/ BIHAR STATE

Programme Overview

PROJECT COUNTRY

since 2012

PROJECT AREA

Several villages near Bodhgaya, Bihar State, India

BENEFICIARIES

320 students,
70 women,
six orphans and over
100 girls from the
surrounding villages

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

Long-term improvement
of the living conditions
of disadvantaged
children through
education and
basic medical care.
Improving the role of
girls and women
in society.

Cooperation partners 2022

LAND KÄRNTEN



Bundesministerium
Kunst, Kultur,
öffentlicher Dienst und Sport

Schöck-Familien-Stiftung
ZUKUNFT DURCH BILDUNG

Green Leaves Education Foundation



2012 - Amin Möisinger and our new project partners

In 1999, the Austrian urologist Dr. Fridolin Stöger Mayer launched a small school project in Bakrou in the Indian state of Bihar, one of the poorest regions of India, to enable **children from the lowest caste** to receive schooling for the first time.

In 2012, SONNE-International took over the project and, together with a local organization, now runs **three schools for about 320 students** who would not have access to education without support. One of them also houses **six orphans**.

Since 2014, we have been offering **weekly self-defence courses for about 100 young girls**. In 2015, karate world champion Alisa Buchinger trained the girls on site for the first time. In addition, another seven Austrians have already volunteered for SONNE-International in India for a longer period of time. Since 2016, an Indian SONNE employee has been supervising our projects together with our local partner organization as project coordinator, and in 2021 **our own local organization Sun Social Organization** was founded.

Since 2018, we have been implementing **accompanying measures in the health sector**. In 2020, the SONNE schools were digitized and equipped with a photovoltaic system. In 2022, we launched our first pilot project in the field of **digital environmental education** and started offering **training opportunities for women (tailoring)**.

Our goal remains to support the marginalized villagers in their holistic development through education and health projects.



In 2012, classes in Basadhi village were still held outdoors

OUTLOOK 2023

- Completion and commissioning of a SONNE infirmary
- Needs analysis in the health sector
- "SONNE-Environmental Education Academy" will enter its second phase
- Our self-defence courses will be extended to other schools
- Construction of a new primary school in the village of Kenari
- Start of a new training project for women

Innovative environmental education in our Indian SONNE schools

Since 2012, we have been running an extensive education project for 320 students of the lowest caste in Bihar, India's poorest state.

As climate change has so far only been a marginal topic in the state curriculum, we have now given environmental education an important place in the curricula of our SONNE schools.



OUR „ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACADEMY“ PURSUES AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

In order to convey urgently needed environmental awareness to the next generation, Armin Mössinger, project manager for India and graduate human ecologist, has developed an “Environmental Education Academy” for primary schools together with Indian scientists and two Indian partner organizations.



The interactive programme consists of **12 webinars and hands-on exercises for students and teachers**, in which students are taught live by Indian scientists living in another state. The new online format, which has been running

since February 2022 in our SONNE schools in North India and in a new partner school in South India, has been extremely well received and raises awareness of environmental issues among both students and teachers.

Causal connections are explained and ways in which every individual can contribute to climate protection are taught by recognized experts. The participating schools will be converted to so-called “green schools” by teachers and students working together to develop an environmental concept for their own school. The pilot project is constantly being evaluated and improved and will be offered to many more partner schools in the future.



“Through our Environmental Education Academy, we want to improve environmental education in as many Indian states as possible together with SONNE-International and thus make an active contribution against climate change.”

Narendra Dhele
PHD, founder of the
partner organization
Suryodaya Science
Foundation



Practical training is a priority of our Environmental Education Academy

At the end of the course, the students proudly present their project work

**EXTENSIVE, INNOVATIVE
EDUCATION PROJECT FOR**

320

**LOWEST CASTE STUDENTS
IN BIHAR**

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Two SONNE projects make the difference



Our karate self-defence courses break down gender roles

SEXUAL ASSAULT POSES A MAJOR THREAT TO INDIAN GIRLS AND WOMEN.

Therefore, since 2014, we have been offering regular self-defence courses (3 times a week) for about 100 young girls at our SONNE schools in India to prepare them preventively against violent attacks. In addition, their role within society is strengthened.

The courses are extremely popular with the girls. In a nationwide competition organized by the Indian karate association, our students were able to conquer 10 medals and thus become overall winners!

Alisa Buchinger, Karate World Champion (2016) from Salzburg, Austria, and



project sponsor since 2015, has already been to India twice to train the girls on site. Here's why:

"I want to give something back from what I've received over the years. In India, I can do that - to people who urgently need support." (Alisa Buchinger)



77 women completed a tailoring apprenticeship with us in 2022

IN THE VILLAGE OF BASADHI, WHERE WE RUN A SONNE PRIMARY SCHOOL, THERE HAVE BEEN NO TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES UNTIL NOW.

Many women would like to earn money themselves in order to be less dependent on their husbands and also so that families do not have to rely on additional income from their children. At the end of 2021, our new SONNE training centre was built and the sewing machines were delivered. The training programme started at the beginning of March 2022 and by the end of the year, 77 women completed a solid and tuition-free tailoring training.

In the long term, the project will significantly improve the role of women



within the village community. When girls see that their mothers generate and manage their own income, they too will be motivated to learn a profession after graduating from primary school so that they can take on responsibility for their own lives.

Working together to help sick people in India

Medical care must not be an unaffordable luxury for anyone. That is why we complement our educational programmes in India with measures in the health sector. From November 2022 to the end of March 2023, we received valuable volunteer support from doctor John Patzer and his wife Esther Unterweger.

OUR CONTRIBUTION WAS MUCH-NEEDED AND REALLY APPRE- CIATED ... A REPORT BY ESTHER AND JOHN

On November 3, 2022, we landed in Gaya, Bihar, India. After a friendly welcome and a short settling-in period, we visited the three schools of *Buddha Educational Foundation* and SONNE-International to establish trust between the students and us. The Feast of the Child in Bakraur was a great introduction to the colourful rituals and celebrations on site!



We focused on two main areas, namely health and the environment. One of our first measures was to conduct a **medical check** on all the Indian SONNE students in order to determine their health status.

The lively participation in the **first aid workshops** and **menstrual workshops** which we held in English and Hindi in December once again proved the importance of education, prevention and community outreach.

At the end of October, SONNE-International began the **construction of a clinic** in Basadhi (the only medical facility within a radius of many kilometers). As an accompanying measure, we conducted a **health assessment** for the area. This will give SONNE a better insight into how to provide efficient medical support to the people here.

For some time now, the students have been learning a lot about environmental and climate protection measures in class. **Sustainability has been integrated into the curriculum of the SONNE schools** in order to actively turn them into so-called *Green Schools*.

To support this, we started planning a **school garden** in Bakraur in December 2022. It will include vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants and will not only bring joy to the students, but also teach them how to grow food and how to use medicinal plants.

We were able to gain wonderful experiences and impressions during these 5 months and are grateful to have met so many friendly and committed people.



Esther and John are happy about five months full of wonderful experiences and impressions



Esther and John during the health assessment

MYANMAR

Programme Overview

PROJECT COUNTRY

since 2008

PROJECT AREA

Yangon and surroundings

BENEFICIARIES

Around 1,000 children and adolescents and their family members

PROJECT GOAL

Comprehensive care for vulnerable children and adolescents through education, training, health, nutrition and family support

REVIEW

Since 2008, SONNE-International has been carrying out street children, educational, health and sports projects in Myanmar, since 2015 through our sister organization SONNE Social Organization. Our goal is to support as many children as possible in our day care centers. Over the years, we have been able to **integrate hundreds of children** from the slums **into a public school** and thus give them access to formal education.

In order to provide medical support, we have carried out **thousands of examinations and treatments** with our mobile medical team. In the case of serious illnesses, treatments in a hospital have been organized and paid for.

In 2019, we were able to set up our own support center, where an extensive educational program is now being implemented. Our office is also located in this SONNE building.

SONNE Social Organization Myanmar has now developed into an independent organization with a dedicated and professional team.

The last few years have been extremely difficult. Due to the effects of the pandemic and the political upheaval in February 2021, food prices have risen rapidly and many people have lost their jobs. In the slums, there is little access to health facilities and many children have to work instead of going to

Project Manager Armin Mössinger's first project trip to Myanmar (2015)



school. In 2022, we had to **help hundreds of families by distributing food parcels**.

With great commitment and flexibility, our local team has managed to continue to implement all ongoing projects so that more than **200 children and young people receive good care every day**.

OUTLOOK 2023

- Expansion of our permanent emergency fund for the distribution of aid and hygiene packages and the unbureaucratic treatment of medical emergencies
- Additional tailoring and computer courses
- Extending our activities to IDP refugee camps
- Continuation of all ongoing projects
- Further training measures for our employees

Cooperations partners 2022



The SONNE Myanmar team 2022

Gathering knowledge instead of garbage

Our projects in Yangon give hope in a difficult time

Although the situation in Myanmar is very unstable, we continue to provide access to education and health care for street children and children from the slums.



Armin Mössinger with some of our protégés in one of the SONNE day care centres

Many children and adolescents in Yangon work as garbage collectors or at the market - they often see a school only from the outside. Since 2015, we have been running three day care centres in the poorest neighbourhoods, where around **120 street children receive education, medical care and meals every day** and are prepared for integration into a public school.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION AND FREE TUITION

Many children cannot go to school because they do not have a birth certificate or their parents cannot pay for school supplies. Thanks to our support, **49 children were integrated into a public school** in 2022.



In our day care centers, we offer **free tuition for over 130 children every day**. Without this support, many students would fail and drop out of school early.

OUR MOBILE DOCTOR'S SURGERY IS OFTEN THE ONLY OPTION FOR TREATMENT

In 2022, more than 1000 people were **examined and cared for** in our health camps, which take place regularly at several locations, and our team also organized the **treatment of 66 patients in a hospital**. Thanks to our sponsors and donors, we have been able to expand our scope of action to include refugee camps (IDP camps).



UNBUREAUCRATIC EMERGENCY RELIEF IN MYANMAR

As the situation in Myanmar was chaotic in 2022 (Covid-19, the long-term effects of the coup and extremely rising food prices), the projects had to be constantly adapted to the needs of the people. Since the poorest sections of the population often have no access to medical care, we reactivated the SONNE emergency fund in order to be able to help quickly and unbureaucratically. Moreover, **we supported over 1300 people in the slum areas by distributing aid packages** in 2022.

Free tuition for children from poor families



For many people, our mobile health clinic is the only possibility for medical treatment

ABOUT **120**
CHILDREN WERE
CONTINUOUSLY LOOKED
AFTER IN OUR DAY CARE
CENTRES

MORE THAN
1000
PEOPLE WERE SUPPORTED
AND CARED FOR IN OUR
HEALTH CAMPS

MORE THAN
1300
PEOPLE IN THE SLUM
AREAS WERE SUPPORTED
WITH AID PACKAGES

Our SONNE Support Centre in Yangon

A safe haven for children from the slums

Since 2019 we have been running our own SONNE support centre for children from the surrounding slum area. Our local organization also has its office there. This institution is a place full of joy and knowledge. Every day, more than 200 children and adolescents are supported in our support centre through our diversified programme.



Day care classes and their tutors in front of our SONNE support centre

IN TWO DAY CARE CLASSES, MORE THAN 50 CHILDREN ARE CARED FOR DAILY BY OUR SOCIAL WORKERS

Children from the slums who have no other access to education are offered an extensive non-formal educational programme free of charge, as well as two hot meals a day and hygienic care. School-ready children are prepared for school integration, and the older ones are placed in an apprenticeship.



WITH SONNE TO A REGULAR SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE - THANKS TO TUTORING IN THE SUPPORT CENTRE

Many pupils at public schools do not pass the exams, and the drop-out rate for children from poorer backgrounds is significantly higher than average. This is counteracted in our support centre by daily free tutoring for up to 40 children.

279 GRADUATES - OUR TAILORING AND COMPUTER COURSES HELP PEOPLE TO EARN THEIR OWN INCOME

Income-generating vocational training is always a sustainable investment, especially in the slums. Learning manual skills and entering the local labour market ensures social integration. That is why we offer tailoring training and



Proud graduates of the computer and tailoring courses

computer courses for young people free of charge in our support centre. All participants receive an official certificate of their newly learned skills.

In 2022, 153 participants successfully completed the computer course. 126 young women completed the tailoring training.

Myanmar – Jochen in Action

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF SONNE!

My name is Jochen Meissner, originally from Traun/Upper Austria. I have been living in Myanmar since 2012 and have been closely associated with SONNE here since 2017.

In 2019 I cycled 3000 kilometers from Yangon to Singapore with 2 friends to collect donations for our new support centre, and since 2021 I have been working officially as a project coordinator for SONNE here in Yangon. [...]

In the slums of South Dagon in the east of Yangon, where our students come from, people have no access to health care. Toddlers often die from easily curable diseases like diarrhea, and the distress and despair are often very great.



charge. In more serious cases, we also organize a stay in the hospital – **we have already been able to save many lives!** [...]

Jochen is very popular with the children at our SONNE Day Care Centres because he is always full of verve and energy

One of my highlights this year was the **construction of a kindergarten made entirely of bamboo** in the Khumi Su refugee camp in September and two months later **a dormitory for a children's home for up to 40 children** from the war zones in the neighboring Bethala Camp [...] At the small opening ceremony with traditional music and dance, not a dry eye was left, especially mine! Although I am almost 2 meters tall and weigh 100 kilos, I am a pretty soft-hearted guy. I see the suffering, but then I do everything in my power and use all my contacts in order to help wherever help is needed. I know how privileged I am and I am infinitely grateful that by working with SONNE I have the opportunity to help those who are less fortunate than me ...



Traditional bamboo construction

Due to lack of space, we had to shorten Jochen's report on his many activities considerably. Here you can read the unabridged, very readable and informative text (in German).



**THERE IS STILL A LOT TO DO HERE IN
MYANMAR, PLEASE CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT US!**



Jochen on site at Khumi Su
refugee camp

People live in sheds made of bamboo poles and plastic or old cardboard, without electricity, without running water, without sewerage, it is unimaginable.

We come here regularly with our „mobile health camps“, where a doctor examines and treats people free of

20 years of SONNE – a birthday week full of positive energy!

Since the founding of SONNE-International in 2002, thousands of children have been able to learn to read and write in our schools, thousands of families have received medical care and have been supported with essential relief supplies. Thousands of good reasons to celebrate.



In June 2022, SONNE-International employees, friends and guests from all over the world met to look back on the first 20 years of our aid organization.

FACE TO FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME!

The anniversary week was opened with a big round of introductions because not all members of the SONNE family already knew each other personally. A nice opportunity to exchange the most exciting SONNE moments and anecdotes of the last 20 years.

TEAM BUILDING AT THE SUMMIT

On Tuesday, the highly motivated, international team of SONNE under the leadership of SONNE's advisory board member Andi Rath conquered the summit of the Schneeberg (2076 m) despite the storm and cold. A long rest and a tasty snack at the restaurant near the summit were a well-earned reward!

FIRST WORK, THEN PLEASURE

The rest of the week was spent working intensively. The SONNE office was crammed with our employees and good ideas for our future work. An interesting workshop rounded off the programme.

THE BIG SONNE BIRTHDAY PARTY

The fantastic birthday week ended with a cheerful party, where jazz guitarist and cult musician Harri Stojka performed with virtuosity.



The anniversary week was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our successes of the last 20 years and to weld the SONNE family together to make the next 20 years even more impactful.

"I am happy and grateful to have met you all in person. It was a great day, so much positive energy from all over the world came together. It is an honour for me to support SONNE-International and the meaningful work you do every day in your project countries."

Lydia Sarlay (SONNE-Switzerland)

**Here you can find
more photos and stories
(in German):**



Bine's Bike Challenge 2022 – RECORD-BREAKING!

The 4th round of the SONNE bicycle charity (from June 29 to July 29) was a special challenge this year. Its aim was to provide access to education to as many children as possible in all SONNE project countries.



An **unbelievable 43,100 kilometres** were cycled at this year's Bike Challenge thanks to the active support of the SONNE family. As a result, we were able to secure over 600 educational places for poor children. Of course, a special challenge also needs special support! Not only could **more than 100 assiduous fellow cyclists** from the SONNE family be persuaded to participate, but also **the Austrian Olympic cycling champion Anna Kiesenhofer** pedalled hard for our kids for the first time this year.

„Bine's Bike Challenge fights for education for poor children. I am happy to be able to take part in this great relief effort.“ Anna Kiesenhofer – Olympic Champion Road Race Tokyo 2021

HERE IS THE OFFICIAL FINAL RESULT OF BINE'S BIKE CHALLENGE 22:

Women's ranking:

Karin Ebner with a fantastic 1,042 km

Men's classification:

Patrick Forstner with an unbelievable 3,035.68 km

Special thanks go to our sponsors **Realyzer, Evil Eye, Karl Schauer, Deutsche Leasing, Florian S., Brains & Games,**



Heidelberger, print & publishing and GERIN.



Foto © ÖOC

Olympic champion Anna Kiesenhofer also cycles for SONNE

THE TOUR IN NUMBERS

Dear fellow cyclists, you are super! Together **we have exceeded the planned goal of 31,600 km by far**. This challenge beats all its predecessors, we are very proud of you.

Many thanks to all the athletes and to the kilometer sponsors, thanks to whose support we were able to transform the kilometers cycled into educational places for children living in severely disadvantaged conditions.

More photos and more stories about Bine's Bike Challenge (in German):



A FANTASTIC

43,100 km

ENSURE

600

MONTHS OF EDUCATION



Together we can make a difference

Our SONNE community – heart and soul of our organization!

We are very proud of our committed SONNE family, especially of all those who dedicate their time and energy to us, such as Julia Rilke, who volunteered for SONNE in 2022 and brought a breath of fresh air into our office.

AROUND **20**
VOLUNTEERS
ACTIVELY SUPPORT
OUR EFFORTS



WITH ENTHUSIASM AND FULL COMMITMENT

Initially, Julia helped us to **design a webinar** on the topic of “**Environment and Health**” as part of the new pilot project “*Environmental Education Future Academy*”, making use of her professional knowledge from her studies.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Subsequently, together with Jana, another intern, she conducted a survey with the task of finding out what motivates young people to volunteer or to donate to charitable causes. Additionally, Julia looks after the SONNE

Instagram account and supports us with our charity events.

In November 2022, Julia was interviewed about her volunteer work for the *Radio Vienna Volunteer Advent Calendar* (during the Advent season, people who do volunteer work in their free time are presented there every day).

Without the commitment of people like Julia, we would not be able to implement many projects as efficiently. On behalf of all friends of SONNE who dedicate part of their free time to us, we say THANK YOU, JULIA!

HERE YOU CAN READ MORE
ABOUT JULIA'S WORK LAST
YEAR (IN GERMAN):



We are keen on further expanding our SONNE volunteer group. Only together we can make a difference — and one thing is certain: SOCIAL COMMITMENT CONNECTS!

Please contact Edda Hauke (hauke@sonne-international.org), if YOU would like to make a contribution. Together we are sure to find an exciting and meaningful task for you!

SONNE company cooperations

Beyond sponsoring – sustainable cooperation on an equal footing

In addition to their economic tasks, more and more companies attach importance to their social commitment and support our aid projects as corporate partners.



If your company strives to make a positive impact beyond its actual sphere of business, then contact us! Together, we will work out the right form of engagement so that it is consistent with your understanding of Corporate Social Responsibility as well as with the needs of our beneficiaries.

YOUR ADVANTAGES AS A COOPERATION PARTNER

- Over 20 years of expertise in development cooperation
- High reliability – we have constantly been awarded the Austrian quality seal of donations since 2005
- Low administrative costs (less than 10 %)
- Professional content for your communication channels
- Increasing the motivation and loyalty of your employees
- Possibility of joint promotional appearances

POSSIBLE FORMS OF COOPERATION

- Support of our ongoing projects
- Conception and implementation of a joint project
- Charity events
- Joint submission for awards
- Ideas for your Corporate Social Responsibility management
- Project trips to “your” project

LET'S MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!

Whether by supporting **individual projects**, with **Christmas donations**, with **educational sponsorships** or by **supporting emergency aid campaigns**:

With us, your help arrives where it is urgently needed. Disadvantaged people are sustainably supported.



Dipl. Ing. Michael Loibl, civil engineer and managing director of iC consulenten ZT GmbH, is a staunch supporter of SONNE International

“An employee of our company provided us with detailed information about the valuable services of SONNE International. As a service provider, we appreciate the great importance of optimal training and education for the development of happiness and prosperity. That's why we have been happy to support SONNE for many years. We have trust in its projects, services and the personal commitment of the entire organization.”

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A COMPANY COOPERATION, PLEASE CONTACT SONNE CHAIRMAN ERFRIED MALLE: MALLE@SONNE-INTERNATIONAL.ORG, TEL. +43 699 194 560 52

You, too, can change the life of a SONNE child ...

... by DONATING or by taking on a
SONNE EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP



Together we are able
to move mountains

With a **SONNE educational sponsorship**, you give marginalized children access to quality schooling month after month and thus greatly improve their chance to lead a life in dignity. Decide for yourself on the amount of your monthly standing order as well as on the project country.

SEND AN E-MAIL WITH THE SUBJECT "SONNE EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP" to our donation advisor **Sabine Braun** (braun@sonne-international.org) or send her a **WhatsApp message** or **SMS** to **+43 699 196 008 30**.

**PLEASE USE OUR SONNE
DONATIONS ACCOUNT
FOR YOUR DONATION:**

BAWAG PSK
IBAN: **AT79 6000 0005 1006 1977**
BIC: **BAWAATWW**
Recipient: **SONNE-International**



OUR FAST AND SECURE ONLINE DONATION TOOL

The simplest way to support our efforts is via our fast and secure online donation tool. You will be surprised how easy it is to help disadvantaged children and adolescents.

**ON THEIR BEHALF WE SAY A HEART-
FELT THANK YOU!**

SCAN THE QR CODE

or type
<https://www.sonne-international.org/en/donate-now/?neues-spendenformular-1675/spende>
into your browser
and fill in the online
form. If you have
any questions,
please contact
Sabine Braun.



SONNE-International's finances – transparency is our concern

How your donations were used in 2022

SOURCE OF FUNDS – REVENUES 2022

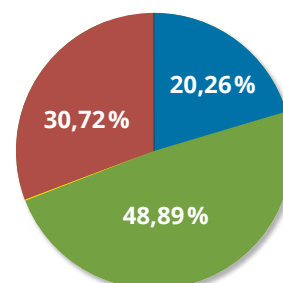
I. Donations		
a) Uncommitted donations	EUR	232.499,28
b) Earmarked donations	EUR	561.013,93
II. Membership fees	EUR	1.300,00
III. Public grants and subsidies	EUR	352.498,24
IV. Other income		
Asset management (interest)	EUR	133,79
Total	EUR	1.147.445,24

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS – EXPENSES 2022

I. Expenses for statutory purposes (project costs)	EUR	968.851,60
II. Fundraising	EUR	56.699,66
III. Administration costs	EUR	37.398,78
IV. Allocation to project reserves	EUR	84.495,20
Total	EUR	1.147.445,24

SOURCE OF FUNDS

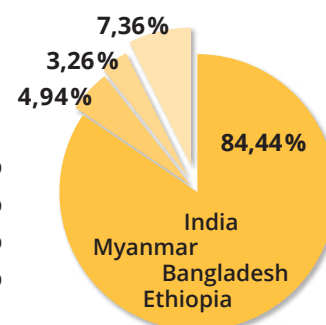
■ Uncommitted donations	20,26 %
■ Earmarked donations	48,89 %
■ Membership fees	0,11 %
■ Public grants and subsidies	30,72 %
■ Other income	0,01 %



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Distribution according to the specifications of the Austrian Seal of Approval for Donations

■ Expenses for statutory purposes	84,44 %
■ Fundraising	4,94 %
■ Administration costs	3,26 %
■ Allocation to project reserves	7,36 %



THE BOARD OF SONNE-INTERNATIONAL

Mag. Erfried Malle, chairman, Mag. Edda Hauke, vice-chairwoman, Mag. Barbara Richter, treasurer

RESPONSIBLE for the allocation of funds: Mag. Erfried Malle

DATA SECURITY OFFICER: Ing. Rudolf Siebenhofer

DONATION OFFICER: Sabine Braun

Education
puts an end to
POVERTY!

Sponsors and Partners



Public Funding Bodies and Foundations

