



Susila Dharma
Soziale Dienste e.V.
Durch Partnerschaft wachsen

Annual report 2023





Who we are

Susila Dharma - Soziale Dienste e.V. (SD) is a non-profit organisation based in Hamburg. The SD activists work mainly on a voluntary basis and on the basis of long-term partnerships with the projects. SD was founded by members of Subud Deutschland e.V. Subud is an international community of people from different cultures and religions. The words 'Susila' and 'Dharma' come from Sanskrit (ancient Indian language). They characterise people who are committed to a dignified life and feel an inner need to help each other. Susila Dharma Germany has existed as an initiative since 1982 and as a non-profit organisation since 1992. Susila Dharma - Soziale Dienste e.V. is a member of SDIA, Susila Dharma International Association (registered in the state of Virginia, USA) and of VENRO, the Association of German Non-Governmental Organisations for Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid.

What we do

Susila Dharma Germany is committed to a more just and sustainable development by working in partnership with social, ecological and educational projects at home and abroad and supporting them financially. Our aim is to contribute to understanding and thus realise more justice and peace. We carry out educational and public relations work to raise and strengthen awareness of global connections and sustainable development. We also network with other organisations in order to influence the political framework. Since 1988, selected SD projects have been funded by the BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), among others.

How we work

The quality of the project work stands and falls with the commitment of our local project partner organisations in the various countries, which often achieve truly remarkable things under very difficult conditions. In our team in Germany, the personal commitment of the project supervisors is particularly important to us. They maintain contact with the projects, carry out fundraising and are involved in educational and public relations work. We see our development cooperation as a continuous learning process for all partners involved.

People are at the centre of Susila Dharma's work. The starting point is the need for constructive cooperation within the team and with the project partner organisations. We aim to use all resources responsibly: working materials, raw materials, personal energy, money and time. One team member is always responsible for an SD project. The experiences we gain in our work enrich and transform our thoughts and actions.

Preface

2023 was all about project work and looking to the future of SD. We are delighted with the continued commitment of our donors and have received a lot of support from long-standing and new funding partnerships. We were also saddened to say goodbye to long-standing members of the organisation who have left this world.



Dr Hans-Dieter Viktor Böhm
SD Chairman © private

However, in addition to several team zoom calls, we were able to enjoy two events in the

presence of the SD team and our association members and guests: Our Members' Meeting (AGM) at Forsthaus Wolfsburg and our retreat at Subudhaus Hamburg. The Executive Board also met in Königswinter in March 2023. The future of Susila Dharma took centre stage at all three meetings. We reported on this process in detail in our 2023 project review, where we then presented all current SD projects.

New since 2023 is the YUM-Agroforestry project with funding from the BMZ. It started on 1st December 2023 and lasts 12 months. We have also taken on another German project: the Maturanahaus in Emmendingen.

Waltraut Biester travelled to our Cameroon projects in January 2023 and brought her impressions in photos and two films to the AGM in Wolfsburg and the public evening in Hamburg. On the evening before the AGM, she presented the ophthalmology project in particular, where Mr Bräutigam from EinDollarBrille e.V. also showed us how to make sophisticated glasses from thin wire.

Hilma Simon and I visited our BMZ project "Improving medical care in the DR Congo - expanding health centres and strengthening capacities in rural and urban areas" in September 2023. Among other things, we attended the inauguration of the two paediatric wards in Cederi Madimba and in Nkandu. We also travelled for a day to the clinic complex in Kwilu Ngongo, which was completed in 2022, and found that it is working sustainably. We also visited the anamed cultivation fields in Kwilu Ngongo and on the Luila farm.

For the future of SD, I would like to see younger team members involved so that the upcoming generational change can be completed with a smooth transition.

I would like to thank all our supporters for their willingness to donate and participate in our SD work.

Viktor Böhm, 1st Chairman

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Two journeys, two countries, one continent and many small successes that give courage for better health care and income conditions

A good year for the Cameroon projects

Waltraut Biester, SD project manager, talks in an interview about her experiences and successes working with Cameroon project partner organisations.

SD: Dear Waltraut, you have been involved in projects in Cameroon for over 20 years, since 2011 under the umbrella of Susila Dharma - Soziale Dienste e.V. What has particularly moved you in 2023?

Waltraut: For me, the year 2023 began in January with my 11th project trip to Cameroon in 21 years, now the 12th year under the umbrella of Susila Dharma. Years in which my involvement in the SD team has been consolidated and deepened. Years in which stable project partnerships have grown, so that the successes of 2023 must also be seen against this background.

The first major event after two years of preparation with clarification of the concept, financing and organisation of the project took place on Sunday, 15th January 2023, at the Massoumbou site near Douala. Topic: Eye examinations on site and allocation of suitable glasses if required.

SD: What exactly does this project involve?

Waltraut: After receiving funding from the North German Foundation for Environment and Development (NUE), we sent 1,000 pairs of spectacle lenses and frames to Cameroon in cooperation with the organisation EinDollarBrille e.V.. My long-standing project partner Leopold Lehman then carefully planned and prepared the first eye examination appointment in collaboration with VOPACA (Volunteers for Palliative Care). So everything went like clockwork when I was on site. A total of 250 people had their eyes examined that day and 116 were fitted with suitable glasses. The atmosphere ranged from relaxed to euphoric, the team was focussed and in the end everyone was very happy. What a success and an incentive to keep going! Eye examinations were then carried out at a total of four different, mostly rural locations in 2023, where the population has neither the opportunity nor the money to have their eyes examined, let alone buy glasses.



New glasses for clear vision
Gic Sagric

SD: As we know, this was not the only project you visited on your trip and accompanied with film and photos. What else did you experience in Cameroon?

Waltraut: The second major event, also extremely sustainable, took place at the end of January in three jungle villages, each 300 to 400 kilometres from Douala. On two consecutive days, three medicinal plant seminars were organised by three members of the ASFEMAC women's group. Since summer 2015, the women of ASFEMAC have been increasingly successful and enthusiastic about growing and processing tropical medicinal plants into remedies. In 2015, two women from the group attended a medicinal plant seminar at the anamed centre in Bamenda. Since then - inspired by their own positive experiences and insights - they have dedicated themselves to working with medicinal plants and spreading knowledge about them. "anamed" means: Action for Natural Medicine in the Tropics and anamed international e.V. in Germany was founded by Martin Hirt.

Back to the jungle: the whole campaign was only possible because Leopold Lehman not only made his pick-up available for the long journey, but also drove it himself and the large loading area could be used to transport the required materials. Just like the spectacle campaigns, these seminars were also organised to the best of our ability.

SD: The seminars on medicinal plant processing in the jungle villages are certainly an innovative measure. What did this preparation look like, how were the seminars organised?

Waltraut: In a preliminary visit in December 2022, the women's groups in the respective villages were informed and motivated to take part in the medicinal plant seminars in January, sometimes walking for kilometres through the jungle. As a result, we were expected on the day of the event and greeted with singing and dancing.



The village leaders also show great interest on the medicinal plants ©ASFEMAC

The lectures themselves took place with great seriousness, commitment and downright euphoria. In addition, each of the registered participants was given an Artemisia sapling, various medicinal plant seeds, a hoe, wellies, a bucket and work gloves as motivation for their own work with medicinal plants. Strengthened, they then set off in the dark on the long walk home through the jungle.

How convincing the message was received is shown by photos and reports of fields being prepared and then planned and sown in the villages before the next rainy season and favourable planting period. I later received photos of the successful growth of the plants.

SD: It's fascinating to hear how work with medicinal plants is being developed. What role do local initiatives such as ASFEMAC play in this and how do you plan to further promote this commitment?

Waltraut: We are continuing to support the medicinal plant project in the jungle villages with funding from the NUE. Independently of this, one of the ASFEMAC women, Carnelle Lissom, took part in a higher-level named medicinal plant seminar in the DR Congo in June 2023 - also funded by NUE and SD. She returned enthusiastically with the intention of organising a similar large medicinal plant seminar in Douala in collaboration with the head of the named centre in Bamenda, speaker Samuel. We are currently working on the realisation of this project.

Another major project is Leopold Lehman's plan to establish and design a botanical garden for the public in Douala and Cameroon on the Massoumbou site. The first section was inaugurated in June 2023. It also contains a large section with medicinal plants, well labelled and with information on which plant helps against which disease.

SD: The idea of a botanical garden on the Massoumbou site is extremely exciting. Why is the topic of medicinal plants so close to your heart?

Waltraut: The dissemination of knowledge and techniques relating to tropical medicinal plants is so important because it gives people the chance to help themselves or be helped. Considering that 70 per cent of Africa's population does not have the money to afford Western medicine, we can only hope that knowledge about this will continue to spread. This is helping people to help themselves in the best sense of the word. I would like to draw particular attention to the Artemisia plant. Tea made from its leaves or a tincture obtained from it are effective remedies against malaria.

SD: Thank you very much, Waltraut, for this lively description of your project work and for the films you made:

Clear vision for 1 dollar - film on YouTube about the Cameroon glasses project:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnhyEDvnf-0>

Film on YouTube about medicinal plant seminars in Cameroon:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAqTxy9Y1U>

Things are moving forward - five questions for Dr Hilma Simon and Dr Viktor Böhm about their project trip to the DR Congo

SD: Dear Viktor, your second trip took place in September 2023 as part of the project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) since June 2022. The project is about improving healthcare in four rural health zones in the provinces of Kinshasa and Congo Central. Can you tell us more about the progress you and Hilma have seen during your visits to the clinics?

Viktor: As part of the project, our partner organisation Susila Dharma Congo is building a children's ward with clinical equipment and medical devices at three locations. A deep borehole for water is being realised at the fourth location. In addition, capacities are being strengthened through further training measures at all health centres.

During our trip, we had the opportunity to attend the inauguration ceremonies for two of the paediatric wards - in Cederi Madimba and in Nkandu. Representatives from the health zones, SD Congo, the respective clinic teams and we from SD Germany were there. In addition to the official speeches, the priest Abbe Badika from Kisantu said a prayer for the Nkandu clinic. The communities are very grateful for this expansion of the health centres. The children in particular danced and sang exuberantly at the inaugurations. The paediatric wards at both locations then opened for business. The third paediatric ward was almost completed by the end of 2023. The interior work will then begin in 2024.



The paediatric ward in Cederi Madimba near Kisantu was inaugurated on 22nd September 2023 ©Viktor Böhm

SD: Have you visited the fourth location, Kingantoko? The primary goal here is to improve the water supply by drilling a deep well. What is the current status of the water boreholes at the health centre in Kingantoko? And how does this affect the supply there?

The company NK Business had still not found any water in Kingantoko after the third borehole. So we were unable to bring back any good news from our trip. However, at the end of 2023, they drilled a fourth well at a location 30 metres lower down in the terrain, and were successful. On 1 December, they finally found water at a depth of 89 metres. The well now needs to be tapped and fitted with a pump. However, this delay in well construction as well as heavy rainfall and a deteriorating exchange rate have shown us that more time and money will be needed for the 24-month project than originally planned. At the end of 2023, the BMZ then thankfully approved our top-up application for 156,000 euros and an extension of three months.

SD: It sounds like the project has been significantly scaled up. Could you tell us more about the additional measures and the increased funding from the BMZ?

Among other things, we have applied for funding for additional medical equipment for the paediatric wards, further staff training and some necessary construction measures such as protective walls and drainage systems. The BMZ is funding our clinic project with 90% of a total volume of 691,000 euros.

SD: Dear Hilma, you travelled to the DR Congo again with the Senior Expert Service. However, your focus was on the anamed project, which you are promoting in collaboration with Victorine. What impression were you able to gain on site?

Hilma: Thanks to funding from NUE and private donations, 21 participants, including Carnelle Lissom from our SD project ASFEMAC in Cameroon, were able to complete the second course of the second training series in June 2023. In total, the anamed training programme, known as MEDNAT, consists of three one-week courses and an evaluation course. The participants learnt about a wide variety of medicinal plants, cultivation methods and the processes involved in producing teas, ointments and other remedies.



Hilma Simon on the Luila anamed farm by a small river with artemisia, moringa and aloe vera plants
© Viktor Böhm

During our project trip, we were able to see for ourselves that cultivation has already been successful on a larger scale on two cultivation fields, in Kwilu Ngongo and Luila Farm, where water is available. However, as both sites still lack a professional drying facility, which is important for the quality of the products, as well as a suitable room for preparation and storage, the medicinal plant products could not yet be sold on a large scale. However, thanks to donations received and NUE funding, the realisation of these measures is now underway! The construction of a drying plant has begun in Luila and a room has been rented in Kwilu Ngongo.

SD: That sounds very promising. What are the long-term plans for this project and how will the quality of the products be ensured?

Hilma: Our endeavour during our stay in the DR Congo continued to be to establish contacts with the health authorities, who are very open to the clinical application. Pierre Ntela will take over the internal quality control of the products at SD Congo. A contract has also already been signed between SD Congo and the association of certified herbalists, so that part of the proceeds from the medicinal plant products will flow back to SD Congo for the health centres and other social activities.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the trainees and their team spirit impressed us and convinced us that this project will be sustainable and create a lot of jobs.

As soon as water is drilled as planned on the 52 hectares of land at Subud in Kingantoko, another field of medicinal plants can be established there too. Staff from the health centre there are currently on their second anamed training course and are already waiting in the wings! We hope to be able to offer a third seminar, including certification, in 2024 and are already busy collecting donations.

SD: Thank you very much for the exciting insights into your travel experiences, Hilma and Viktor. We wish you continued successful project work.

Grants to projects in 2023

We have forwarded donations and funding to the following projects abroad:

Project name	Where?	What is it all about?	Project supervisor	Euro
Africa				
SD Congo Anamed training	DR Congo	Health and agriculture project	Hilma Simon	18.010
4 Health centres	DR Congo	3 paediatrics + well construction (BMZ)	Viktor Böhm Lawrence Fryer Hilma Simon	340.749
Gic Sagric/Mariwal	Cameroon	Ophthalmology, school fees	Waltraut Biester	6.556
Asfemac/Mariwal	Cameroon	Agriculture	Waltraut Biester	4.356
Asia				
Anisha	India	Organic farming, Kitchen gardens	Henny Willecke	13.960
YUM	Indonesia	Agroforestry in 6 villages (BMZ)	Stefan Mühlbauer	8.019
Europe				
Matura house	Germany	Kindergarten	Mariam Tikale Lawrence Fryer	8.000
Roda Viva	Portugal	Child and youth education (one-off promotion)	SD team	1.500
South America				
Filhos do Céu	Brazil	Children's village Himmelskinder	Stefanie Langkamp	5.500
Saraguro	Ecuador	Kindergarten	Ursula Bahlmann	929

Project reports

Below we present the work of some of our SD projects from 2023. In addition to our focal areas of health and education, we have once again increasingly supported projects in the agricultural sector. Thanks to the support of the Schöck Family Foundation, we are able to finance a large part of Anisha's kitchen garden project. The BMZ has also approved an application so that our partner organisation YUM in Indonesia can introduce its tried and tested agroforestry model to six of the surrounding villages and implement it on a trial basis in the fields of ten farmers. In the field of education, we are now once again supporting a project in Germany that is well known to us and is currently in urgent need of our support: the Matura House in Emmendingen.

New BMZ project on sustainable agriculture in cooperation with YUM

On 1st December 2023, Susila Dharma - Soziale Dienste e.V. launched a new project on agroforestry in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, together with Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM). This will be implemented in six villages in the Bukit Batu sub-district within a year. As an alternative form of agriculture, agroforestry allows crops to be grown and harvested in parallel on forested land. Rainforest trees do not have to be felled, the soil is ecologically fertilised in a gentle manner and the low humus content of tropical soils is preserved. Small farmers do not have to apply pesticides or chemical fertilisers and achieve a higher harvest at lower basic costs by combining different crops and fruit plants.

There are many research projects on agroforestry in Kalimantan. However, the speciality of the Bukit Batu project area lies in its acidic-sandy soils. For these conditions, agroforestry methods were previously inadequate. The trigger for the project dates back to 2015, when some of the worst forest fires in recent decades hit Central Kalimantan and severely affected the village communities in the region.

The aim of the planned project is to make the agroforestry model developed from this accessible to the village communities so that they can implement it on their own land.

The concept is based on three pillars:

1. Skills development of 25 female community leaders who are conducting an awareness-raising campaign for 2000 smallholder farmers.
2. Training and support of 10 farmers (men and women) to establish 2000 m² agroforestry pilot plots for demonstration.
3. Creation of an agroforestry manual with optimised methods for the Bukit Batu region and a guide for the conversion from conventional agriculture to agroforestry.



Cultivate plant diversity carefully and utilise the available nature © YUM

The project will raise the population's awareness of agroforestry as a sustainable land use solution that is also suitable for adapting to climate change. The BMZ is funding 75 per cent of the one-year project with a total volume of 129,535 euros. YUM and SD have to provide their own contribution of 32,384 euros.

Kindergarten Wildrose - a centrepiece of the Maturanahaus

The Maturanahaus began in the neighbouring town of Emmendingen over 20 years ago with the founding of a kindergarten on the initiative of Aaron Herre and Robina Limanski out of "personal need" for the care of their two children. The project grew with them, expanded into a school and found a home in the Maturanahaus in Emmendingen. As a public school, it has now been forced to close its primary and secondary school. The nursery school is excluded.

Lawrence Fryer and Mariam Tikale were guests in April 2023 in the wonderful house with its stimulating learning environment and feel-good atmosphere. They were very impressed by Aaron and the team's efforts to maintain the learning project and the creativity and clarity with which they look for new approaches. An important next step was the remodelling of the kindergarten. SD has therefore reinstated the Matura House as an active project and supported it with 8,000 euros in private donations.

The reorganisation has already begun: The kindergarten - which has always been at the heart of the Maturanahaus's pedagogy - is expanding its childcare hours and age range so that a few two-year-olds will soon join the group and a total of 18 to 20 children will be accompanied by three team members. In the long term, it should be financially and organisationally self-sufficient. The work is led by Nadja Robina Limanski and her colleague Dorota Simbeck. They can draw on 19 years of experience with non-directive developmental education, which is essentially based on the work of Rebeca and Mauricio Wild and Montessori pedagogy. The children experience the basic attitude of the adults: You are right, welcome and loved just as you are!

The kindergarten group is to be embedded in a family centre which, in addition to the kindergarten, will offer numerous courses for young and old alike. A centre that focuses on encounters and human development.

Anisha's Kitchen Garden Project: Recognising malnutrition and reducing school dropouts

Since 2013, Anisha has also been working with pupils from the 7th grade onwards in the state of Karnataka/India. As part of this school programme, called the Kitchen Garden Project (KGP), the children learn how to plant vegetable gardens. In addition to planting, harvesting and cooking, they learn how to work with, preserve and propagate local seeds. Using permaculture methods, good results can be achieved in a very water-saving way and without heavy physical labour. From June to December 2023, the Anisha team conducted theoretical orientation sessions and practical training at 34 schools in 17 village communities (panchayats). A total of 1,603 students from grades 7 to 10 took part. The main aim of the Anisha Kitchen Garden Project at the schools is to help as many poor rural families as possible. The aim is to reduce malnutrition and lack of education due to school dropout by providing free lunches at schools and improving families' eating habits. All school gardens were already producing crops in December 2023, especially amaranth, butternut squash, pumpkin, bottle gourd and radish etc. This year, the Anisha team is also promoting the cultivation of moringa and curry leaf by providing seedlings.



Nalini with the harvest from her garden © Anisha

Nalini reports: "Our family lives in the village of Dommanagadde and we don't own any land. My father has leased 12 hectares of farmland in the village of Pudinagere. He works as a construction worker and my mother and grandmother cultivate the leased land. I have been taking part in the Anisha kitchen garden programme for two years and receive seeds and training.

This year we started growing green and red amaranth, bush beans and okra on a larger plot. Sponge gourd, double beans and wing beans have been sown where there are small trees so that the climbing plants can climb up, and pumpkin has also spread in the soil. About 12 types of vegetables have been sown. We have even given some vegetables away to our relatives. At the same time, we have been able to preserve amaranth, radish, okra, pumpkin and bush bean seeds. We will be able to get vegetables from the garden for another 2-3 months this season."

For the Kitchen Garden Project, SD was successful in obtaining funding from the Schöck Family Foundation for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 school years in the amount of 12,300 euros each. We also supported the purchase of a robust Bolero Neo on a pro rata basis. The 7-seater is a practical car that can be used flexibly at Anisha for the Rural Centre and Kitchen Garden Project.

Borneo Football International Academy - 2,200 children supported by heart project

The Borneo Football International Foundation (BFIF) has set itself the task of improving the quality of life of underprivileged children in Kalimantan/Indonesia through sport. Football is to be used as an instrument of social change that supports the physical, mental and social development of girls and boys. The "Stiftung RTL - Wir helfen Kindern e.V." foundation financed the training equipment in 2022/2023 to further expand BFIF's programmes for the children in the schools. The project was implemented through football training in the mornings at schools and also provided football tutorials via social media. From October 2022 to September 2023, BFIF worked with 35 local schools and one school in Palangkaraya, involving a total of 21 sports teachers and 2,200 children.

The equipment was purchased with funding from the RTL Foundation:

- 140 balls,
- 15 sets of equipment, including skill ladders, cones and obstacles,
- 80 high-visibility waistcoats for the games,
- 4 sets of mini goals and 2 additional sets of normal goals.
- 322 children received jerseys, equipment and support through additional training to participate in 7 tournaments under the name of their schools.



BFIA's three complementary programmes - football training, education and health - promote gender equality, strengthen the role of women and motivate young people to complete a formal education in order to have better career opportunities.



Jannah (top left) with the girls' team © BFIF

The BFIA also pursues a policy of inclusion so that the children respect each other's diversity. The girls and boys therefore came from all local ethnic and indigenous groups, religions and children with disabilities also took part.

The increase in the number of young girls wanting to join the academy is mainly due to the inspirational work of Jannah, the Borneo Football Girls' assistant coach. Not only does she have excellent footballing skills, she is also constantly endeavouring to support and improve the training sessions.

How is Susila Dharma organised internally?

The **Executive Board** is responsible under association law and works on a voluntary basis. It coordinates the work of the office and organises the life of the association in accordance with its legal responsibilities. It convenes the General Meeting (GM) and represents the interests of SD, e.g. at the Annual General Meeting of SDIA. The current composition of the Executive Board is as follows:

1st Chairman: Dr Hans-Dieter Viktor Böhm

2nd Chairwoman: Elsa van Amern

Treasurer: Dr Hilaria Dette

Assessor: Maria Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg

The **SD team** is the grassroots-democratically organised, informal but nevertheless central body for opinion-forming and decides on operational business matters. It consists of the Executive Board, the Advisory Board, the office, the project supervisors, the members of the working groups (WGs) and volunteers who are continuously and actively involved in SD.

One paid employee, Kerstin Raab, works in the **office**: association administration, support for project supervisors and working groups, preparation and follow-up of meetings and events, communication with team members, support for association members and donors, public relations and networking, bookkeeping control, maintenance of the database and photo archive. The **financial accounting** is in the hands of Lawrence Fryer.

Association activities for the year 2023

Our general meeting took place on 6th May 2023 at the Forsthaus in Wolfsburg with around 20 participants, with great support from the Subud Group and lovingly provided with food and drink.

The evening before, we were able to get to know a project better. In Cameroon, in cooperation between SD and the EinDollarBrille e.V. association, GoodVision was able to bring very durable glasses to people who would not be able to afford eye examinations and visual aids under normal circumstances. The OneDollarGlasses are made of flexible spring steel wire and are light and robust. The material costs of the entire pair of glasses are around one US dollar. Our project supervisor, Waltraut Biester, was on a project trip in January and took part in the first campaign with eye examinations and the fitting of glasses with her camera. She showed the resulting film and reported that out of 250 people examined, 115 received glasses.



At the general meeting, we discussed the projects and activities for 2022. The actions of the Executive Board were approved and the 2023 budget was adopted. The members also elected Stefan Mühlbauer and Edgar van Amern as our **advisory board members** and Stefanie Iris Voshage and Christian Wolf-Doettinchem as **auditors**.

After the Board had already addressed the topic of "The future of Susila Dharma" at its closed meeting in March, those present at a workshop moderated by our second Chair, Elsa van Amern, also came up with some wonderful suggestions for further involvement and areas of activity for SD.

The **cash audit** took place in advance on 26th April 2023 in collaboration with Dr Hilaria Dette (treasurer), Lawrence Fryer (accountant) and Kerstin Raab (head of the office). Stefanie Iris Voshage audited the statement of assets and the statement of income and expenditure for the 2022 calendar year as part of an online Zoom conference.

The SD team also met mainly digitally in 2023, with a total of nine **team zoom calls** taking place. Up to eleven team members met for the annual **retreat** at Subudhaus Hamburg. From 24th to 26th November, they discussed the SD projects, looked at the 2023 finances and drew up an initial budget and the annual plan for 2024. The focus of the meeting was on the future of SD with the development of concrete steps for the coming year.

Public relations and educational work

On 16th September 2023, 30 interested people took part in the 20th Mariwal Cameroon Evening. This time it took place in the Schanzenviertel in the *Haus der Familie*. The rousing Bernarda Sunshine children's choir once again kicked off the event. Spirited, lively, full of energy and joie de vivre, the young singers got the audience in the mood for the presentation of the current Cameroon projects. Waltraut Biester's report clearly showed how enthusiastically her suggestions are being taken up, implemented and continued by the partner organisations in Cameroon: In Cameroon, eye examinations were carried out on more than 800 people by a qualified team, and more than 350 people received glasses in 2023. The importance of tropical medicinal plants and their potential applications in combating diseases has been recognised in Cameroon in recent years. Waltraut also reported on the successful transfer of knowledge between Cameroon and the projects in the DR Congo, including Carnelle Lissom's participation in the named seminar in the DR Congo in June 2023.

SD publications

Subud Information regularly published articles about our diverse SD work in all five issues.

We published the *Umschau* in November with an overview of the current SD projects. The process for the future of the organisation, which SD is currently undergoing, is also described there.

Where we work

Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA)

On 9th September 2023, the Annual General Meeting of our umbrella organisation SDIA took place via Zoom. 14 countries out of 21 members were represented. Viktor Böhm (Chairman of SD and Treasurer of SDIA) and Hilaria Dette (Treasurer of SD) attended on behalf of SD Germany. The finances were discussed and the budget for 2024 was distributed as a draft. Vincent Mount, as Chairman of SDIA, moderated the three-hour meeting. Elections were held for two Board members. The term of office of Ashwin Rajamaran (India) was extended by three years. Corian Hugelholz (Chairwoman of SD Holland) was newly elected.

Subud Deutschland e.V.

On the eve of the general meeting of Subud Deutschland e.V. in the Parkhotel Wolfsburg, Susila Dharma was invited as Wing to inform about some projects. Viktor Böhm showed a new poster about the medicinal plant project in the DR Congo and, together with Hilma Simon, reported that another named seminar could successfully take place in June 2023. Developments at the health centres were also a topic on the Saturday evening of 5th August 2023. They also talked about the necessary reorganisation of the kindergarten at the Matura House in Emmendingen. Even though the speaking time was exceeded due to so much enthusiasm, the 25 participants expressed their interest and gave favourable feedback, encouraging SD to continue. In addition, SD posters were displayed at an information stand, where the organisation's annual reports and the Umschau were also on display.

International Subud meeting of Zone 8

Viktor Böhm attended the Zone 8 meeting in Colombia in July 2023 and used this opportunity to discuss a possible follow-up project to Hijas de la Paz with our partner organisation Guerrand Hermes Foundation for Peace (GHFP).

Verband Entwicklungspolitik und Humanitäre Hilfe deutscher NROs (VENRO)

SD is one of the founding members of the umbrella organisation VENRO. Kerstin Raab took part in online meetings of the Co-financing Working Group and the Transparency Working Group. The Zoom meetings of the Cofinancing Working Group also include regular dialogue with BMZ and bengo. Kerstin also took part twice in the digital dialogue at managing director level on the topics of "German development financing" and "Civic Space". Åsa Månsson, who has been the new Managing Director of VENRO since mid-2023, was the organiser.

SD was not present at the general meeting on 5th December 2023 in Bonn this year. The minutes state with regard to 2023: "It was a highly intensive and difficult year - humanitarian crises such as in Israel/Gaza and the war against Ukraine weighed heavily, and the climate change mega-crisis had been at the centre of attention throughout the year. An important task of the organisation this year was once again the critical and constructive monitoring of the SDG process. As part of this, VENRO took part in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which took place in New York in July, as part of the government delegation. Intensive work was also carried out on climate change: Together with the Climate Alliance, VENRO drafted a statement for the 28th International Climate Change Conference in Dubai and also accompanied the conference on site, including with a hybrid side event. Budget policy was a crisis topic this year. In talks with the Federal Chancellor and Minister Schulze, as well as in many other lobby meetings, letters and events, VENRO campaigned against the planned cuts and repeatedly emphasised the value of development policy and humanitarian aid. It has been shown that VENRO has proven its worth as a forum for dialogue and joint response." Various elections were also held, including for the Executive Board. Michael Herbst and Gudrun Schattschneider have been the new chairpersons since December 2023.

Specialised events and training courses

Viktor Böhm attended the digital country talk DR Congo, organised by Division 211 - Central Africa of the BMZ on 11th January 2023 and then informed the SD team at the Zoom meeting.

Kerstin Raab took part in various webinars on digitalisation topics for associations via the Haus des Stiftens.

SD finances 2023

What we have earned and spent

Our members and sponsors supported SD 2023:

32,392 euros in free donations (previous year: 27,959 euros)

71,044 euros in earmarked donations for projects (previous year: 80,274 euros)

Public funding for the BMZ-supported projects

1. Improving health care in four rural health zones in the provinces of Kinshasa and Congo Central (DR Congo/ 4 health centres)
2. Agroforestry solutions for community resilience in Central Kalimantan (Indonesia)

totalled 338,210 euros in the reporting year (previous year: 273,100 euros).

Grants for projects sponsored by NUE and the Schöck Family Foundation totalled EUR 21,486 (previous year: EUR 8,150).

In total, we received income of 464,956 euros (previous year: 399,057 euros).

Total expenditure of 467,859 euros (previous year: 415,650 euros) was slightly higher than income. 93 per cent of total expenditure was spent on projects, 5 per cent on association administration costs and 2 per cent on public relations, fundraising, teamwork and networking.

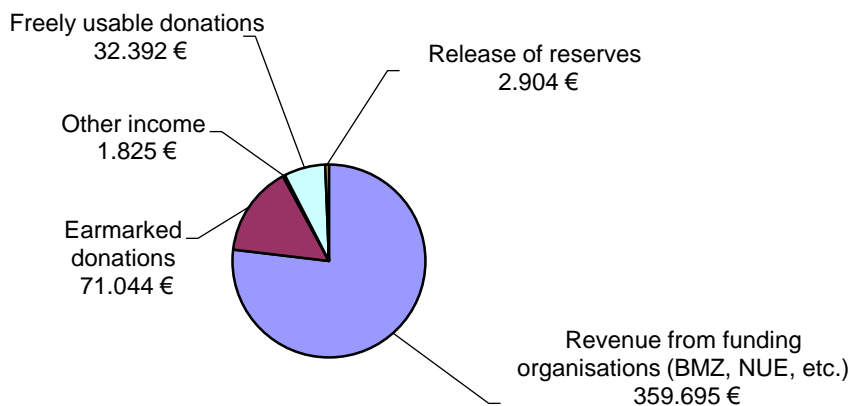
Overall result: A shortfall in free funds of EUR 2,847 was offset by an allocation from the working capital reserve (previous year: deficit of EUR 15,022).

At the end of 2023, **free reserves** totalled 154,072 euros (previous year: 156,919 euros). Of this, 112,649 euros are in the future fund (previous year: 112,053 euros) and 41,423 euros in the working capital reserve (previous year: 44,866 euros).

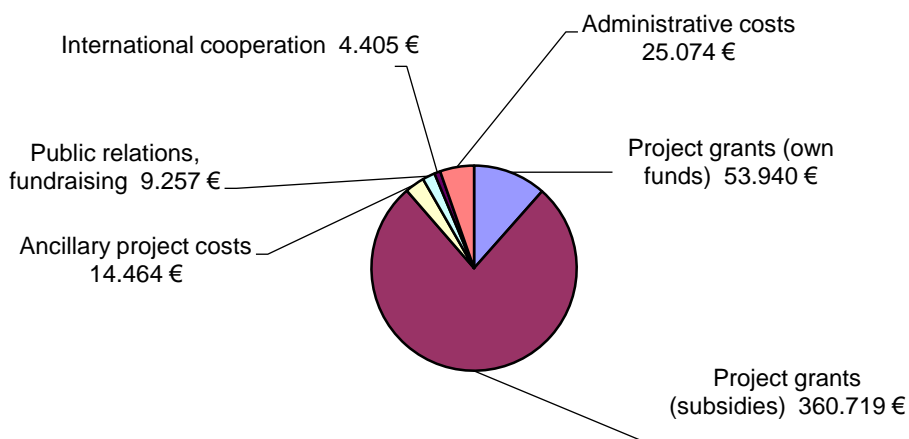
The **Future Fund** WG was again active as a working group of the Executive Board in 2023 and met twice last year. It is tasked with managing and increasing SD's assets. In addition to donations, the proceeds are channelled into project work.

The **cash audit** for the 2023 calendar year took place on 26th April 2023.

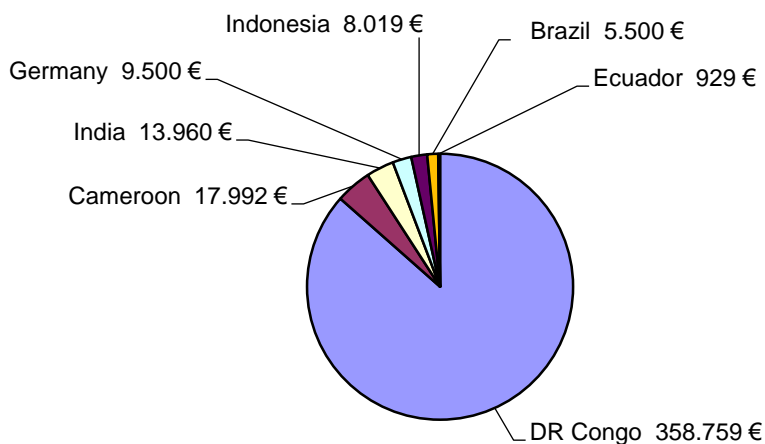
Revenue 2023 (467.859€)



Expenditure 2023 (467.859€)



Recipient countries of our grants 2023 (414.659€)



Acknowledgements

Are you also pleased with what we achieved in 2023? This is the result of the joint efforts of the Executive Board, team, members and supporters. A lot can be achieved and set in motion through our dialogue and cooperation. We thank you for every kind of support, from good ideas, encouragement and hospitality at our meetings to financial contributions or the discovery of new donors or donor organisations. We look forward to your continued support! Because: Together we are strong.

Your SD team

SD is a member of:



Susila
Dharma
International
building with humanity

Susila Dharma - Soziale Dienste e.V. has committed itself to the following codes of conduct and guidelines:

- VENRO Code of Conduct Transparency - Organisational Governance - Control
- VENRO Code of Conduct Development-related public relations work
- VENRO Code of Children's Rights
- VENRO guidelines for development policy project and programme work

SD is also part of the *Transparent Civil Society Initiative* and fulfils the corresponding self-commitment declaration.



We were sponsored in 2023 by

Mit finanzieller Unterstützung des



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



Schöck-Familien-Stiftung
ZUKUNFT DURCH BILDUNG

Imprint

Published by:

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Cover photo: Anisha, India
© Anisha

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Print:
Lehmann Offsetdruck und Verlag GmbH
Gutenbergring 39, 22848 Norderstedt

Circulation: 120
Hamburg, April 2024