



Giovanni



The Magazine from  JUGEND EINE WELT



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Issue 1 - 2021

A Lost Generation?

The Middle East is marked by conflicts. Education gives the children there hope.

Lost Childhood

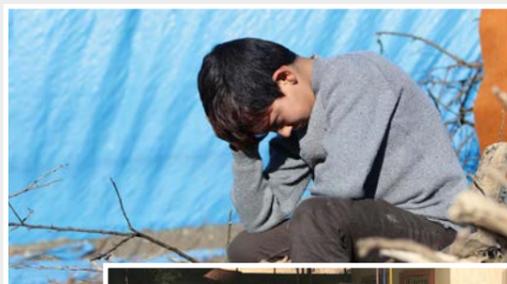
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Dear Readers,

What we associate with the Middle East more than anything else are interminable conflicts and merciless wars. These not only cause **suffering, hunger and destruction**, but also damage the young population's future prospects. Because many of the **children and adolescents** who were born in this region have no access to education and consequently little chance of living an independent **life free of poverty**.

To give these young people **hope for the future**, Jugend Eine Welt supports **projects** in the Middle East that **promote the local economy and peace efforts**. But more important still are our numerous **education projects** in the towns and villages because they give thousands of children and adolescents tangible **hope of a better future!**

In this **issue of Giovanni** you can read about how our **Don Bosco partners in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and the Holy Land** do all that is humanly possible to help in circumstances that could not be less favourable. The last year was particularly catastrophic for our project partners and the population of Lebanon. As if the worst-ever economic crisis, the excessive demands placed on social services by the influx of millions of refugees and the coronavirus pandemic had not caused

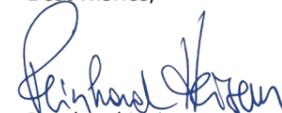
enough misery already, a **series of explosions** at the port in Beirut rocked the little country to its foundations.

But this issue of Giovanni contains more than just **interesting facts** about the current situation in Lebanon: we have also gathered and prepared many **other fascinating insights into our Middle East projects**.

Are you wondering how we manage to contribute to all these projects? With YOUR generous help! Whether it comes as a donation, sponsorship, endowment or bequest. You also help us support the projects submitted to us by working together with us and passing on your specialist knowledge.

Our contributions encourage young people at risk not to lose their hope of a better future! That's why we say to you: **Continue, or start, to support our work for the ONE world! Our heartfelt thanks for your solidarity!**

Best wishes,


Reinhard Heiserer

Education overcomes poverty!

The Lost Generation

Wars and armed conflicts have left their mark all over the Middle East. They not only cause suffering, hunger and destruction, but at the same time damage the young population's future prospects. Because children and adolescents in all the countries affected either directly or indirectly by these conflicts have virtually no access to education and little chance of living an independent life free of poverty. These children belong to a lost generation, a generation with no education, caught between trauma and destitution, at risk of depression and renewed violence.



GIVING A FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION

... and lending a little stability to a chaotic daily life

The violent conflicts in the Middle East have not only robbed millions of people of their homes: in the long term, insufficient access to education means bleak future prospects. Children and young people with little education have less chance of finding work and earning a living wage later on. In the case of Syria the international community already fears the emergence of a lost generation that will in all likelihood lack the knowledge and resources needed to rebuild the country after the war and, in the longer term, stabilise its economy. In Palestine the third such generation is growing up in the refugee camps there. For the children concerned this

lack of education also has immediate personal consequences. In a chaotic and dangerous environment, the schoolday routine provides an element of stability and normality. To give these children and young people in the Middle East hope for the future, Jugend Eine Welt supports projects that promote the local economy and peace efforts. However, the main focus is on education and training projects because they help every single child, as well as society at large, to develop in a positive and promising direction. Our world needs a generation of young adults who show courage and commitment!

A CHANCE TO BE A CHILD FOR A FEW HOURS A DAY

Jugend Eine Welt supports kindergartens in Syria and provides society's youngest members with places where they are safe and secure

SYRIA



Playing without a care, learning in safety, forgetting about their troubles for a while – for Syria's youngest, this is of inestimable value! They have already experienced terrible things in their short lives: almost all of them here had to learn far too early how loss and mortal dread feel. That is why it is all the more important to give them a little normality and security.

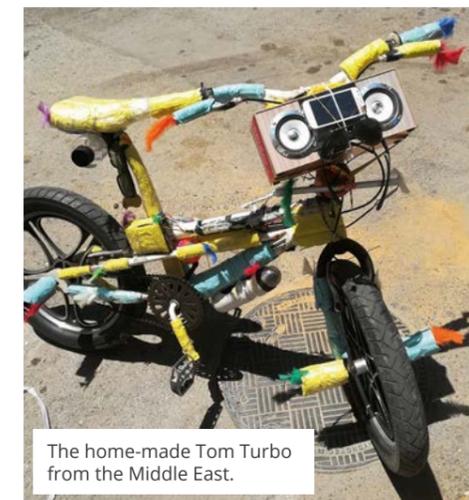
The kindergarten in Aleppo – a new start in a ruined city

"Our children don't know what a normal life feels like," says Sister Anna Maria Scarzello, describing the situation in Aleppo. "At the time they were born the Syrian Civil War had already plunged the country into chaos." Many of her children have already been through traumatic experiences, having lost loved-ones or their homes. At the kindergarten run by the Don Bosco Sisters in Aleppo these children now at last find safety, security and something approaching normality amid the chaos. Here they can simply be children and romp around in safety. Their parents, too, are immeasurably grateful for the efforts of the Don Bosco Sisters. It means they can give their children a daily routine, something to look forward to every day. Following a three-year closure owing to a situation that had simply become too dangerous, her

Don Bosco kindergarten reopened in 2018. But the shortage of funds is still felt wherever you look – for the electricity bills, for toys and games or for the urgently required renovation work.

The kindergarten in Damascus – children experience a measure of normality

For parents, this kindergarten has become a safe haven, a refuge where their young children can experience normality, carefree hours and something approaching a daily routine. "We also help the parents to provide their children with food and learning resources," Sister Lina Abou Naoum tells us in a letter, "because as if war and destruction were not enough already, galloping inflation is plaguing the Syrian population." For many people, even the most basic everyday items have become all but unaffordable. A bag of apples for the children, bread or school equipment has long been beyond the means of many families. The Don Bosco Sisters themselves are also feeling the full force of this inflation. They have to find the money for the teachers' salaries, electricity and water and have been stretched to their financial limits for a long time now. But thanks to the generous support of Jugend Eine Welt's donors they are able to keep the kindergarten open.



HOLY LAND, DIVIDED LAND

A wall destroys any feeling of liberty, but a small patch of land presents hope



PALESTINE

into their mostly small and dark homes. The children are trapped and live with a sense of being caged in that is in many cases shared by several generations. "If the family's grandfather was once so bold as to smuggle a carton of cigarettes his grandchildren are also forbidden from passing the wall," a project partner tells us. Here the children are forced to grow up in their own home as if it were a prison.

A trip to the lake as a little highlight

Jugend Eine Welt also supports the afternoon supervision offered at the school run by the Salesians of Don Bosco in Cremisan where 240 teenagers are pursuing a course in electrical engineering. Father Raj, the former head of the youth centre, tells us: "One particularly

Eight to twelve metres. That is the height of the walls and metal fences that separate Israel from the West Bank. The barrier is intended to protect Israel from terrorist attacks.

Approximately 60 per cent of the barrier's total length of 759 kilometres was completed from 2003 to 2010. Protests and petitions to the Supreme Court relating to its exact position have meant that the rest of the barrier has yet to be built. One institution threatened by this construction is the Cremisan vineyard a few hundred metres outside Bethlehem. The site is roughly the same size as Schönbrunn and is owned by the archdiocese of Jerusalem. It is a little "buffer zone of peace" because the idyllic patch of land, densely covered with beautiful old vines and olive trees, is important not only for wine-growing. A kindergarten, a school and a nursery school with over 200 pupils are also under threat from construction of the barrier which encloses almost

the entire West Bank, cutting off the people who live there. Only a few receive permission to cross the barrier and travel to Jerusalem a mere eight kilometres away.

The wall robs young people of their prospects

The Sisters of Don Bosco, who receive support from Jugend Eine Welt, look after many youngsters at the Laura Vicuña School. These young people leave the school with a good education, it is true, but most of them suffer from depression because the wall isolates them and denies them any future prospects such as the opportunity to travel or to do a doctorate at university. When they look out of their windows, all that many of the residents see is huge, grey, concrete walls that do not allow even a chink of sunlight



Cremisan winery

happy memory I have is of the time we were able to take fifty children on an outing to the Sea of Galilee. To get there we had to cross several checkpoints. It was tremendously complicated to obtain all the permits we needed, but we managed it!" For forty-five of the children it was the first time they had crossed the wall and the first time they had ever seen a lake. "It warmed my heart to see the children so happy!" says a visibly moved Father Raj. "They stood on the shore with their arms open wide."

To teach, a school must be creative

The technical school run by the Jugend Eine Welt project partners in Cremisan also has great difficulty providing its pupils with the tools and resources needed for their lessons. For example, a fully fitted workbench has been waiting at Ben Gurion Airport for many years, but the school is not allowed to bring it into the Holy Land because



some suspicious souls fear that its electronic components might be removed and used for other purposes. Difficult as these circumstances are, they do encourage creativity: using bits of old computers the students are even making small goods lifts. Once they complete their training the youngsters also receive assistance looking for work: due to

discrimination it is unfortunately very hard for young Palestinians to find employment.

A bakery loved by many

Apart from training to be electricians or mechanics, young people in Cremisan can also do an apprenticeship as a baker. The Jugend Eine Welt project partners have operated a bakery in Bethlehem – the city whose name means "house of bread" – since 1891. In a small shop the staff provide the residents with good-quality bread, train apprentices and supply more than 200 impoverished families with free bread every day. During the COVID lockdown, the number of families helped in this way was even higher. In addition, the bakery delivers bread to many social services such as homes for needy senior citizens and orphanages. During the particularly difficult years of armed conflict, the Salesians of Don Bosco did not abandon the local population and continued to bake bread for the poorest of the poor.



Impressions of the Don Bosco kindergarten and the vocational training centres in Cremisan and Bethlehem.



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THE LOST CHILDHOOD

Syrian child refugees in Lebanon – a life between trauma and hope



LEBANON

In 2011 the war in Syria broke out that led to the worst refugee crisis in the history of humanity.

Since the start of the bloody conflict, over half the population has been forced to abandon their homes. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) 11 million people in Syria still depend on humanitarian aid. At the end of 2019, a staggering 6.6 million Syrians were living as refugees or asylum seekers around the world. An entire generation of children knows nothing but misery, destruction and deprivation – and almost half of all refugees and displaced persons are minors. Many of them have had to witness the deaths of family members or friends. Deeply traumatised, they are subsequently often faced with poverty and exclusion in the country of refuge.

Lebanon, a crisis-torn country of refuge

Having taken in 948,850 Syrian refugees registered by the UNHCR, Lebanon is one of the five main countries of refuge for these people. The Lebanese government estimates that the total number of Syrian refugees in the country may even be as high as 1,750,000. The majority of these refugees hopes to be able to return to Syria one day, although this is unlikely to be possible in the near future. Most refugees live in abject poverty, are barely able to feed their children and have no access to health care or housing. Apart from an influx of refugee families that overstretches the country's resources, a severe economic downturn and an acute political crisis, two other dramatic events hit Lebanon in the past year: the coronavirus pandemic

and the explosions at the port in the capital, Beirut. Despite all these difficulties the local authorities have included the refugees in their aid programmes. However, such is the extent of the poverty and distress that these efforts will be no more than a drop in the ocean without additional international aid and solidarity.

Jugend Eine Welt helps

Although the aid organisation Jugend Eine Welt supports several emergency aid programmes in Lebanon, which of course include every section of the population, its main focus there is, as elsewhere, long-term support through education. The NGO Human Rights Watch estimates that of the approximately 630,000 Syrian children registered in Lebanon a colossal 42 per cent are currently either not attending

school or have never been inside a classroom in their lives. There are fears that these children will grow up to be a lost generation with no education. These children and adolescents need not only psychological help but also schooling and training since the schoolday routine provides an element of stability and normality in a chaotic environment. It is for this reason that Jugend Eine Welt supports important projects that aim to prevent a future without hope.

Jbeil: Emotional and psychological support

Child refugees suffer more than anyone else from the dramatic situation. Children's innate sensitivity means they usually pick up their parents' emotional distress as well. Psychological care, emotional support and recreation can help their deep psychological wounds to heal. This is why the Jugend Eine Welt partners in the little town of Jbeil, also known as Byblos, selflessly devote themselves to the care of these children. At the Don Bosco centre on the Mediterranean coast north of Beirut they offer psychological and educational support for the children and young people with the aim of helping them overcome their often traumatic experiences. It is important to the Salesians of Don Bosco that their activities are not confined to child refugees from Iraq and Syria but are also open to Lebanese children from low-income families. Cultural events and sports are also important elements, as are recreation and carefree play because games take their minds off their great troubles and distress and help them let themselves go and just be children again.

Qartaba: Lessons and games – high in the Lebanese mountains

The Syrian children who fled to Qartaba from the war in their homeland also have only one wish: to live, learn and play in peace. In the Don Bosco school in the village they can do precisely that. There, the teachers look after them and support them with love and dedication. Up until only a few years ago, this Christian village was a small, sleepy place. But since the start of the Syrian Civil War much has changed: many families are seeking refuge in Qartaba. Jugend Eine Welt's project partners, the Don Bosco Sisters, run a school and a kindergarten there. The children they look after are aged between three and ten. For the child refugees and their families, the



chance to go to school represents a measure of normality in a life that is otherwise dominated by a constant struggle to survive amid abject poverty. In this mountain region, only a few of the parents manage to find work. The others live hand to mouth, relieved despite everything to have saved their children's lives. Until their hopes of a return to their homeland are fulfilled the Syrian children are prepared by the Don Bosco Sisters for an independent and successful life. The war may have robbed them of their homes, but it should not prevent them from gaining an education as well!



Such a peaceful co-existence as this is not always possible: a mosque and a church in Beirut.

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Projects promoting dialogue between the religions place the chance for peace in a region torn by conflicts within reach.

Today, what Europeans associate with the Middle East more than anything else are interminable conflicts and merciless wars.

One of the most devastating wars in the region, the first Gulf War, began forty years ago and in its wake the countries of the Middle East have been repeatedly ravaged by armed conflicts. But



in every one of these countries there are many who want nothing more than to live in dignity and peace. No easy thing, because some of the conflicts have a history stretching far back into the region's past. Hope remains, however, that peace can be brought to the area. To give this hope concrete form and to make a peaceful future possible for children and young people, Jugend Eine Welt also supports programmes that promote dialogue between the religions.

Hadath Baalbek in Lebanon: A school as a beacon of hope

On the border with Syria, in the middle of a Hezbollah heartland, there is a very special educational institution. In the village of Hadath Baalbek, whose inhabitants are predominantly Muslim, the Sisters of Don Bosco run a kindergarten and a middle school for approximately 1,000 children. The school was built in 1974 and has grown steadily ever since, also thanks

to financial support from Jugend Eine Welt. It is so popular that the classrooms are always full to capacity. Every day the children travel to the school from ten villages in the surrounding area. The school is regarded as an important and highly successful flagship project for dialogue and tolerance. Because very few Christians live in this part of Lebanon there are only 70 to 80 pupils from Christian families at the school each year; 99 per cent of the pupils have a Muslim background. Due to the great demand for places and the general lack of education opportunities in the region the Sisters of Don Bosco tried for many years to obtain permission to open an upper school as well. And in the summer of 2019 their wish was granted at long last as construction of an additional building began. Work is



due to be finished in early 2021, giving adolescents the opportunity not only to continue their education but also to experience mutual understanding and tolerance in a project which is being carried out with a great deal of love.

Cremisan in Bethlehem: Promotion of peace as an antidote to a climate of distrust

In the Holy Land the co-existence of Christians and Muslims is blighted by distrust. Members of the two religions show neither a willingness to cooperate nor solidarity. As a result, the Jugend Eine Welt partners set themselves an



ambitious target at the beginning of 2019: to start a peace project with the aims of encouraging the communities to engage in dialogue and developing a feeling of solidarity among the young people involved. Adele, one of the project team, tells us: "I find this project particularly important because it is trying to increase mutual understanding and tolerance of others." At the heart of the project activities are teamwork and the ability to overcome crises, remain calm in situations of conflict and apply peaceful strategies for solving problems. The Jugend Eine Welt partners want nothing more than to see young people start to build bridges instead of walls so that projects such as this are one day no longer needed.

A Story Taken from Life

Interview with Jens Petzold, a Berlin-born monk, who planned to go to Japan and was drawn to Christianity by chance in Syria.

Father Jens Petzold was born in Berlin. Several years later he and his parents moved to Switzerland. As a young man he wanted to go to Japan, but chance led him to Syria, to the Monastery of Saint Moses the Abyssinian, where he joined the order. Today he lives and works as a monk in the Monastery of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the city of Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq. A place where he has been able to help and shelter many refugees. Because in 2014 the Islamic State forced around 90,000 Christians out of the Nineveh Plains, razing their homes, churches and schools to the ground. During a visit to Vienna, Father Jens Petzold gave us an account of his eventful life and an extremely useful project that Jugend Eine Welt is happy to support. Because the Monastery of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not just a place of prayer: it offers education programmes, a library and interfaith dialogue with Muslims.

How did you, a German-speaking monk, end up in Iraq?

My family wasn't religious, so I was initially interested in topics such as meditation and Buddhism. I even learned aikido, a martial art, and at some point I developed a burning desire to go to Japan. But not by air, by land. So I set off, and one year later I reached Damascus. A chance encounter led me to the Monastery of Saint Moses the Abyssinian. There were a lot of young people living there who were interested in experiencing the spirituality of other religions, which was one of the reasons I had started out on this journey in the first place. In the end, the Monastery's founder, Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, invited me to stay on for a year to conduct spiritual research. On Easter eve 1996 I was finally baptised.

You were then given the task of establishing a monastery in northern Iraq?

Yes. After my time in Syria my path took me to Italy to study and then to Pakistan and Iran. At Christmas 2011 I took over responsibility for the monastery and the old parish church in Sulaymaniyah. We did some restoration work and the first youth meetings were held in 2013. Then in 2014 the terrorist organisation IS captured the Christian city of Bakhdida on the Nineveh Plains, and overnight we had 250 refugees seeking shelter with us in the monastery.

What was it like suddenly having to accommodate so many families seeking refuge?

You have to adapt. Space was so limited that we even had to use the church to accommodate sixty people. Another problem was that as a refugee you have nothing to do:



your job is gone and you're just sitting around, worrying. I had the good fortune that two of my colleagues were trained psychologists and one of our sisters had a lot of experience of working with refugees in situations of war. The poor soul had only just come from Syria! It was a very good team! We put our heads together and considered how we could organise the days for the 250 people. We quickly realised that we needed a school so that the refugees' day had some structure. And after all we had teachers, a school principal and even a mayor among the refugees: we had an entire village that had fled.

An entire village in a monastery. What did you do with all the space afterwards?

In 2017 the situation was more or less safe again and most of the refugees decided to return to their homeland. It was amazing for us as well to wake up in the morning and not find a queue of thirty or forty people waiting to use the toilet (laughs). In 2015 we had started building a Kurdish language school with the refugees because Kurdish is spoken in Sulaymaniyah while in the rest of the country the language is Arabic. That naturally causes communication problems and explains why the Christians and Muslims have difficulty integrating.

Could it be said that the monastery used to be a place of shelter and is now a place of meeting?

We aimed to be a place of meeting from the outset; that was why we opened the language schools. We always had four classrooms and Muslim students from the sur-

rounding area. In fact that was the real reason why we went to Iraq in the first place. We wanted to promote dialogue and work towards reconciliation which, sadly, is now more urgently needed than it was before. In addition, we want to get together with the young people and think about where things can go from here. Iraq is a very young nation. 70 per cent of the population is under forty. Naturally enough these young people want to carve out a future for themselves and to know what's in store for them. They are faced with an environment marked by hostility and corruption, so they wonder what the future holds and often take to the streets to demonstrate.

If you had one wish for your monastery, what would it be?

My wish would be that our project continues to grow and that even more young people engage in dialogue with one another. I'm always very pleased when our students have exams, when Arabs and Kurds sit side by side in the monastery courtyard discussing the exam topics – this atmosphere of wanting to learn and study is very encouraging, and can be more intensive as far as I'm concerned!

The full version of this interview (German only) is available at www.youtube.com under the title "Jugend Eine Welt-Podcast mit Pater Jens Petzold aus dem Irak".

LOVING CARE FOR THE YOUNGEST

Support for hearing-impaired, visually impaired and chronically ill infants in Beit Jala near Bethlehem.



PALESTINE



At the kindergarten in Beit Jala near Bethlehem that Jugend Eine Welt supports, loving and professional care is provided for children with a disability aged three to six. They receive the medical care and therapy there that they need. The Lifegate team also helps the children's families to obtain important items such as spectacles and hearing aids, as well as any walking frames and wheelchairs that may be needed.

...and support with a daily life that poses many difficulties

"It is also very important to us to offer counselling and emotional support to the parents," says Burghard Schunkert, head of the Lifegate kindergarten. "The living conditions that people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have to cope with are incredibly difficult." But the parents of the children at the Lifegate kindergarten face many additional challenges that arise anew on a daily basis. Even able-bodied inhabitants of these areas have trouble meeting their basic needs, and this is why people with mental and physical disabilities are unfortunately mostly



overlooked. Financial support from the state for people with disabilities is practically non-existent. State-run kindergartens are often reluctant to accept children who require intensive support. Consequently, families with such children are all the happier when Lifegate accepts them and they share the staff's delight at any sign of progress the child might make, however small. At the Lifegate kindergarten the physical and intellectual abilities of each and every child are promoted. Great attention is paid to the individual needs of each little personality in order to foster the child's growth and development. Particular emphasis is placed on promoting the child's autonomy. The Jugend Eine Welt partner supports and encourages parents of children with a disability and works to promote the awareness in society that its most vulnerable members need protection.

A place and people that can be relied on during the COVID-19 pandemic

"Despite infection rates in the population that continue to rise we are increasingly regaining a measure of

normality and routine, which is very important for the children," says Burghard Schunkert. The COVID-19 pandemic did not stop at the gates of Bethlehem, of course. But the Lifegate staff were able to take advantage of the lockdown to fit the floor covering on the wheelchair ramp at the back of the building that had been needed for so long. When the kindergarten was able to reopen at long last in the summer the little ones were overjoyed, also because they were able to use the playgrounds again that had been renovated with great dedication in the intervening period. The biggest surprise for the children, however, was a small inflatable paddling pool that a donor had given the organisation. "During the weeks of the lockdown it was important to us to keep letting the children and their families know that we were there for them," says Mr Schunkert, smiling because sitting on his right is a little girl who is trying to put on a pink face mask – which does not appear to be at all easy. Burghard Schunkert strokes her hair and continues, "However much still gets thrown into disarray the families and children should know that there is always a reliable place and people they can count on."



Street children are found on every continent. Their daily lives revolve around hunger, violence and hopelessness. They sleep in parks or doorways, on rubbish tips, in cemeteries or metro tunnels. They must beg or steal to survive. Their living conditions, already desperate, have worsened still further during the coronavirus crisis.

COVID leads to even more violence

According to the Consortium for Street Children, incidences of violence towards street children and discrimination of them have increased dramatically. In many countries street children have been victims of police purges and have received severe punishments because they continued to frequent public spaces despite the lockdown. The police ordered them to go home immediately, an order which is impossible to obey since most street children have no home or have run away from it to escape from domestic violence. Unfortunately, the sad fact is that domestic violence has increased still further during the coronavirus crisis, especially in the poorest families who live cooped up in confined spaces and many of whom have lost any income they may have had because of the lockdown.

Schools closed, no ID, no food

School closures make the situation even worse because with them school canteens also shut down which for many poor children are the source of the only nutritious meal they have during the day. Consequently, there is a great danger

THE GRIMNESS OF LIFE ON THE STREET IS NOW WORSE THAN EVER

The COVID-19 crisis makes life even harder for street children all over the world



that more children run away from their families and end up on the street during the coronavirus crisis. Countless street children have no fixed abode and no identification papers which means that in many countries they have no access to social benefits such as medical care or sanitary or food parcels.

Jugend Eine Welt helps

Jugend Eine Welt supports projects for street children in many countries. In India, Uganda, Ecuador or Albania – our Don Bosco project partners continue to be there for street children through the coronavirus pandemic. Many are even isolating with them. And they move heaven and earth to ensure that education continues despite COVID and that as few children as possible drop out of school. Mr Mir Ghus Uddin, a longtime project partner, says of the situation of street children in Afghanistan: "The circumstances are dire, especially in these days of coronavirus! The children have to go out on the street to bring food home. Many have lost a parent or both parents and, at the age of only seven or eight, are responsible for

feeding their families. Their circumstances mean that they cannot make allowances for the consequences of a COVID infection or their role as potential spreaders. State aid of the kind we know in Europe does not exist there. The street children are left to fend entirely for themselves and urgently need help."

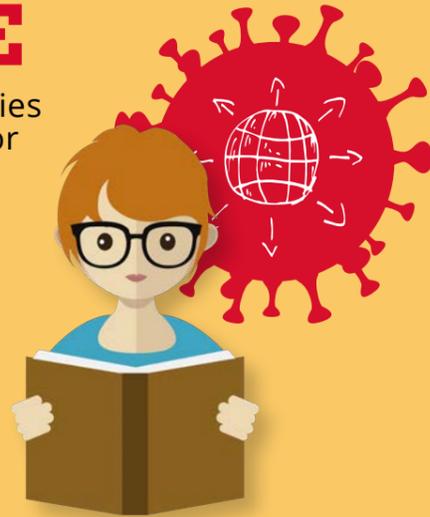
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INVITATION

Listen in on a day of programmes dedicated to street children: "Hilfflos ausgeliefert – Lebensmittelpunkt Straße" on Thursday, 28 January 2021 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on radio klassik Stephansdom. Every year, Jugend Eine Welt marks the feast of **Don Bosco** (31 Jan), the young people's saint who did more than anyone else to ensure that street children receive help, by drawing attention to these children's plight. Our awareness day on radio klassik Stephansdom provides moving insights into the lives of street children, and Jugend Eine Welt partners from various countries give accounts of their fascinating daily lives and the work they do with "their" children. Switch on and share a day of special radio broadcasts with us! www.radioklassik.at

COVID AROUND THE WORLD

How are people in other countries doing? A video and questions for discussion in the classroom



For almost a year now the coronavirus pandemic has turned the lives of many people upside down. What are things like in countries such as Ecuador, Ghana or India? How do people cope who scarcely have enough to live on in the first place? Jugend Eine Welt volunteers asked friends and acquaintances from all over the world to make short videos about their current situation. The result is an invitation on a trip around a world in a state of emergency. The videos can be watched online at www.jugendeinewelt.at/covid-around-the-world with German and English subtitles.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION IN THE CLASSROOM

1 Before watching the video:

- How are you feeling? How is the COVID pandemic affecting you personally?
- What causes you anxiety/problems?
- What things make you optimistic? Are there things that are better than they were before?
- Do you know anyone from another country? Do you know how things are with them at the moment?
- The media have given the situation in Austria a lot of coverage during COVID. Have you also made a conscious effort to find out about the situation in other countries?

2 Observations during the video:

- What things are the same as/ different from your home country (Austria)?
- What do people in every country have in common?
- Where are differences apparent?

3 Reflection and discussion after the video:

- What effects is coronavirus having in other countries?
- Which experiences in which country did you find surprising? Which did not surprise you? Why (not)?
- Mohammed Nawzad Tariq from Iraq thinks we're all in the same boat at the moment. Is he right?
- The video shows the beginnings of the COVID-19 pandemic. What is the situation like now? Do online research on a country of your choice.
- COVID-19 will continue to affect us in future. Some of the effects in other countries are similar to those in your country/Austria. But some things are different. How do you think COVID-19 is influencing injustices in the world? What examples can you think of?



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The Jugend Eine Welt team of volunteers promotes education on development policy in Austria. We are convinced that education for sustainable development must not be neglected, especially in challenging times. Whenever the situation with COVID-19 allows, the team of volunteers offers free workshops in schools and thought-provoking events for those who are interested. It goes without saying that the protective measures in force at the time are always observed. A wide variety of topics is covered: rights of the child, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), sustainable food, electronics and much more. Besides tried-and-tested workshops and event formats, more use is being made of digital methods of education work – up-to-the-minute information and upcoming events are listed on our website at www.jugendeinewelt.at/engagement/bildungsarbeit



TABOULÉ

Taboulé is a tasty salad that is served with virtually every meal, especially in Syria and Lebanon. Rich or poor, every family makes this vitamin-packed, refreshing and inexpensive dish.



One portion contains approx.: 315 kcal, 16 g fat, 35 g carbohydrates, 7 g protein
Preparation time: 30 minutes (plus 4 hours soaking time)

Ingredients for 4 portions:

- 150 g fine bulgur (alternatively: couscous)
- 4 tomatoes
- 1 small cucumber
- 3 spring onions
- 2 bunches of parsley
- 1 bunch of peppermint
- Optional: pomegranate seeds

For the dressing:

- 6 tbsp lemon juice
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- Salt, pepper

Method:

- 1 Pour all the bulgur into a bowl and cover it completely with cold water. Cover the bowl and leave the bulgur to soak for about four hours.
- 2 Wash the tomatoes and dice the flesh. The seeds can be removed. Wash and finely chop the cucumber. Thoroughly wash the spring onions and chop

them into very thin rings. Wash the parsley and peppermint, shake them dry and finely chop them.

- 3 Strain the bulgur and then return it to a bowl. Mix in the tomatoes, cucumber and herbs.
- 4 Mix a dressing of lemon juice, olive oil, salt and pepper. Mix it with the salad.



Shahiat jayida!
Enjoy!

Dedication and Drive Combined with a Big Heart

Ernestine Tesmer of Jugend Eine Welt provides insights into her work.

Ernestine, you have been part of the Jugend Eine Welt team for sixteen years now. You have seen a great deal in that time. Is there any moment that has left you with a particularly vivid memory?

I have very many momentous recollections, enough to fill a book. But what have left a particularly great impression are the hair-raising motorbike rides with a Swiss nurse in Sirsia, eastern Nepal. She had only learned to ride a motorcycle a few days before. We had to deliver medicines and baby clothes to the health posts that Jugend Eine Welt was supporting and were in remote villages. Father John Prakash, a courageous Salesian, bravely lent us his motorcycle for the day and was extremely nervous about it. Whenever we suddenly appeared on the wrong side of the road all the people, chickens and cows ran for cover. Driving on the left needs practice! A few weeks after my return to Austria, Father John Prakash was shot dead during a mugging in which a paltry EUR 120 was taken. That was a huge shock and an even bigger loss. Father John was a wonderful human being, head of a Don Bosco school, a priest and a father figure for 350 undernourished pupils. I'll never forget him!

You are responsible for several areas. What are they, and is there one that means more to you than the others?

When I started at Jugend Eine Welt many years ago my job was to write reports about our aid projects. As the years passed I took on many organisational and administrative tasks as well. Handling interest-free loans and bequests and everything relating to the tax deductibility of donations. I was also responsible for showing two generations of young colleagues the ropes in our department. Because my main focus was always project work and because help towards self-help is, along with education for disadvantaged children and young people,

Jugend Eine Welt's number one concern, I see our work with our partners in poor countries as the heart of our activities. When you are personally acquainted with the people involved in the projects and are passionate about helping as an equal partner you write about it quite differently. I have learned far more from people in war zones and disaster areas than I ever did at university.

You know a great many of our project partners personally and share their ups and downs. Is there any one person among them who has made a particularly great impression on you?

Can I name two? Last year I met the Don Bosco sister Anna Maria Scarzello at the border between Syria and Lebanon, and she really is someone to admire. She is in charge of a hospital and a kindergarten in Damascus which she runs under appalling conditions, but is always friendly, kind-hearted and undaunted. Sr. Anna Maria radiates an aura of calm and optimism that makes you believe there is still hope for Syria!

And then of course there is the shining beacon of my working life: our project partner and my dear friend Father Johann Kiesling who has been working in the Congo for nearly forty years. Unfortunately there is not enough space here to list all his accomplishments. I got to know him shortly after the genocide in the Congo and Rwanda which very nearly cost him his life. To be brief: He is the sun, a "super-spreader of love"! He does a huge amount of good for the poor in Africa and is sadly only very rarely in Austria. Saying goodbye to him gets harder every time. I would go through fire and water for Father Kiesling!



It's nice to be able to do an interview with you in this issue of Giovanni with its focus on the Middle East, an area you know like the back of your hand. How did that come about?

Originally I was always an Asia specialist. But many years ago I went on a trip to Israel and Palestine with Father Alfons Senfter from Tyrol (d. 2020) who had travelled the region for decades and is also a legend, and that sparked my love for the Middle East. For me, Israel and Palestine are the hub of the world. If lasting peace can be brought to the area it would be an example that would make the world so much better. Our projects strengthen my belief in that. Jugend Eine Welt has fantastic Don Bosco project partners and aid programmes there, and I visit them almost every year. I strongly recommend them to readers!

Do you have a particular wish for young people in the Middle East?

The little girl I'm holding in the photo is called Taleen. She lives in Bethlehem near the wall between Israel and Palestine. My wish for her is that when she's twelve or fifteen she doesn't recognise what type of rocket is flying by by the noise it makes the way all the other children in Palestine and Israel and her young parents do. I wish her and all the other young people in the Middle East the resolve to learn peace! Peace is not something that can only be decreed by governments. It needs the will of all those involved.

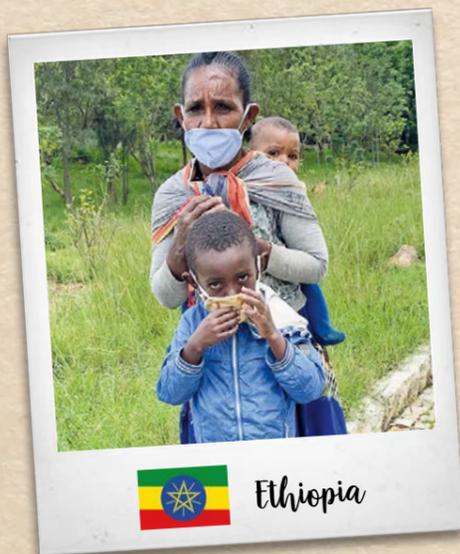


The Latest from our Projects: Your Corona-Help is effective!



Right at the start of the coronavirus crisis, Jugend Eine Welt received a large number of appeals for help, some truly distressing, from our Don Bosco partners all over the world. Thanks to the generous and prompt support provided by our donors we were able to respond positively to many of these appeals and support aid programmes on every continent in the battle against COVID-19. We present some of these projects below. We thank all those who donated, and continue to donate, towards the worldwide fight against the virus and its effects.

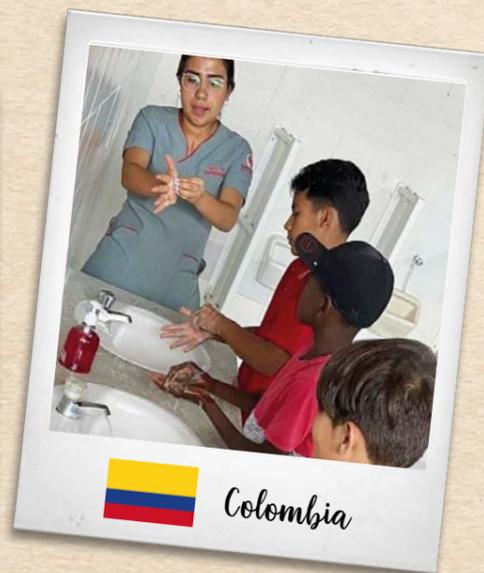
Your contribution makes the difference!



 Ethiopia



 Philippines



 Colombia

 Lebanon

The worst economic crisis in the country's history, the coronavirus pandemic and the explosions in the port of Beirut left many people in Lebanon with their lives in tatters. Our project partners, including **Sr. Sylvana Khairallah**, lost no time in helping: **her Don Bosco schools** are now emergency shelters and they helped with the clean-up and provided food and medical supplies.

 Ecuador

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the South American country with full force. **Gabriel Terán** and his team of Salesians had to act quickly, and the "Our Daily Bread" campaign was launched. 2,000 particularly needy families in six Ecuadorian cities now receive a monthly food parcel or vouchers for sixty euros that can be used to buy essentials in a nearby supermarket.

 Uganda

Owing to the countless COVID-19 cases in neighbouring South Sudan the virus spread like wildfire among refugees in Uganda. Thanks to the money donated, the **Medical Mission Sisters** were able to provide sufficient quantities of food, face masks and disinfectant in the refugee camps in Adjumani and inform the people there of the dangers of coronavirus and important protective measures.



 Uganda



 Papua New Guinea



 Syria

 Ethiopia

Thanks to the emergency coronavirus aid sent by Jugend Eine Welt, **Brother Cesare Bullo** and his staff have been able to provide the people in their area with essentials, distributing staples to the poorest families. In addition, our project partners launched a **COVID-19 information campaign**.

 India

With the support of Jugend Eine Welt, **Father Noel Maddhichetty** organised a nationwide coronavirus aid programme in next to no time. Activities include the production of thousands of face masks by former street children in the "**Don Bosco Navajeevan**" project for street children in Hyderabad. The masks are distributed free of charge to street children, migrant workers and migrant families along with parcels of food and sanitary products.

 Sierra Leone

Thanks to the support from Austria, **Ibrahim Tucker** was able to provide poor families in **Bo and Lungi** with food and sanitary products. In addition they were able to distribute vital medicines to chronically ill people who were too afraid to go to a health centre because of the risk of contracting COVID.

 Philippines

Farmers in the island country were particularly badly hit because apart from the coronavirus crisis and the lockdown there was also a severe drought. Help was urgently needed. To avert the risk of starvation **Maria Helenita Garmela** and her staff supplied those affected with **deliveries of rice**.

 Colombia

With the aid of the Jugend Eine Welt coronavirus relief fund, **Fr. Carlos Manuel Barrios and Juan Pablo Sandoval** from the "Ciudad Don Bosco" were able to provide food to the impoverished families of the 510 most socially deprived pupils in addition to the 150 or so children they look after in the home. The children were taught important hygiene measures and proudly showed their clean hands.

 Syria

The hospital of the Don Bosco Sisters in **Damascus** was able to treat many impoverished people and provide them with vital medicines thanks to the donations they received. **Sr. Anna Maria Scarzello** also used the money to buy disinfectant, face masks and sterile surgical gloves as well as mobile respirators for COVID patients to use at home.

 Papua New Guinea

Heartfelt thanks for the emergency coronavirus aid also came from the **Don Bosco Technical School Gabutu** in Papua New Guinea. **Br. Reto Wanner** looks after young people there with incredible dedication. The school has yet to receive a single cent in coronavirus emergency aid from the state, so the financial assistance of Jugend Eine Welt was a huge blessing for the school.

Thank you!

INVESTING MONEY WITHOUT FINANCING CHILD LABOUR

Jugend Eine Welt is a partner of the fund-comparison platform **CLEANVEST** for the subject of child labour: the platform allows investors to choose the sustainable share fund that corresponds to their ethical values.

What Ms Winkler is reading about child labour on the Jugend Eine Welt website sets her thinking:

Around the world, more than 73 million children have to work in particularly hazardous areas. In agriculture, on coffee and cocoa plantations or down mines. Elisabeth Winkler wants to avoid supporting abusive child labour at all costs. This is why she buys fair-trade products whenever possible. Suddenly she remembers that she recently invested in a share fund on the advice of a close acquaintance. "How am I to know whether I'm not financing companies or their suppliers who get children to work for them?" Good question. Fortunately, there are answers to it.

An instrument for fighting child labour

One of them is CLEANVEST, a new fund-comparison platform run by the social impact firm of ESG Plus in Vienna. On the company website, which is freely accessible to everyone, our fictional Ms Winkler can quickly see whether her investment fund or the shares of the various listed companies it contains are unconnected to child labour. The platform lists eight other selection criteria for running a check (see box). "With its databases, CLEANVEST gives investors an instrument enabling them to ascertain whether companies are taking the fight against child labour seriously," says Jugend Eine Welt director Reinhard Heiserer.

The possibility of actively excluding child labour from its own fund was one reason Jugend Eine Welt became a partner of CLEANVEST and now works together with the firm. Other well-known NGOs, as well as state institutions, are collaborating with the fund-comparison platform in other areas such as environmental protection.

Greater transparency for sustainable investments

Sustainability is the buzzword of the moment – with regard to the environment, the climate, social issues and questions of ethics – particularly in the financial sector. "Many people in Austria would like to invest their money in companies that act sustainably," says Elisabeth Müller, head of ESG Plus Austria. "Unfortunately, many products are insufficiently transparent, which prevents investors from showing greater commitment." It is for this reason that CLEANVEST continually gathers large amounts of data from a huge variety of sources around the world such as rating agencies, press reports, NGOs and UN institutions. By doing so, the platform brings to light documented and proven cases and accusations of exploitative child labour used by commercial enterprises.

Outsourced child labour

"Child labour has many faces," says Reinhard Heiserer. "The lines between acceptable levels of work to help the

family and genuinely harmful work are blurred and incidences of the latter are often very well hidden by the local context." In CLEANVEST's most recent rating of the "top 10 branches in which child labour is found", the clothing supply chain (especially cotton) is in sixth place. Heading the list is the cobalt supply chain, followed by agriculture, coffee and cocoa, mines, palm oil, hazelnuts, the internet and film industry, tobacco, and tuna fish. Heiserer points out that "For an overall view of 'abusive child labour in our consumer products' it is important to remember that the number of suppliers, who are often families or small businesses, is sometimes large."

Nine criteria for the ultimate ethics test

The independent platform **CLEANVEST** already subjects over 4,700 funds, ETFs (exchange-traded funds), wikifolios (certificates) and the over 15,000 companies they contain to a rigorous test of their ethical standards. Nine criteria are applied: among the "positive", or desirable business practices, are health and education and green technologies. The "negative" business practices include connections to or involvement in child labour, arms, nuclear power, fossil fuels, breaches of regulations for the protection of endangered species and violation of indigenous people's rights. For more details, visit www.cleanvest.org



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Plugged in, the eFriends Watch shows when electricity is available from an eFriend.



POWER DONORS FOR JUGEND EINE WELT WANTED

eFriends

eFriends share surplus green electricity with each other in real time: at low prices or completely free

Car-sharing, flat-sharing, clothes-sharing – the "sharing economy" is booming.

A vast number of commodities are now being shared. But can electricity be shared as well? Yes, it can. eFriends, a new venture in Lower Austria, makes it possible – and now Jugend Eine Welt is an eFriend too and is looking for people all over Austria who can donate electricity for our offices in Vienna! "We didn't join because we have such horrendous electricity bills," says Jugend Eine Welt director Reinhard Heiserer. The idea is to support the concept of sharing, the chance for producers of green electricity, especially solar power, "to make good use of surplus power, to offer it to others cheaply or even free of charge." A tremendously important innovation in the context of the training schemes for solar engineers supported by Jugend Eine Welt in association with the Austrian Development Agency in the African countries of Ethiopia and Uganda

and similar programmes for promoting alternative, environmentally aware energy in Asia and Latin America.

New technology in the meter

The idea of "sharing electricity" arose when operators of photovoltaic systems realised that their surplus electricity was flowing unused into the grid whenever there was a lot of sunshine or the demand for power in their own household was low. Consequently, founder Matthias Katt and his team developed a technological solution, a control tool that is easy to install in a distribution box and allows surplus electricity to be shared directly with selected people – such as Jugend Eine Welt.

Knowledge transfer to Africa

"We would be pleased if producers of solar power in Austria gave it free of charge not only to their friends but to us as well," says Reinhard Heiserer.

In this way, everyone who donated power to Jugend Eine Welt in Austria would indirectly support development cooperation for alternative energy projects in the countries of the South. As in Europe, many African countries are rethinking their energy policies and switching to renewable forms of energy. And sunlight is a natural resource of which there is an almost unlimited supply. However, reliable access to sustainable energy has yet to be established for many of the people living in those countries. With the aid of donors in Austria, Jugend Eine Welt is making an important contribution to achieving this!

For more details, visit www.efriends.at www.jugendeinewelt.at/projekte



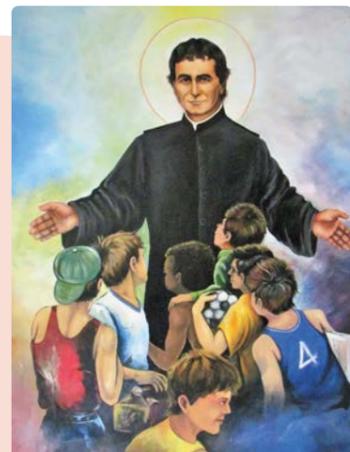
DON BOSCO – HOW AN APPRENTICE FINDS CONFIDENCE FOR LIFE

To lead successful lives young people need to have faith in their abilities and talents. But equally important is the opportunity to put these skills to the test. This was something that Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco was well aware of.

In his day, men would go to the barber's to be shaved. One day in 1848 the Turin priest sees an apprentice at his usual barber's and, in a voice loud enough for all to hear, requests "A shave, please, but from the apprentice!" Recovering quickly from his initial shock, the master barber replies, "Reverend, you don't know what you're asking! The boy has never held a razor before!" But Don Bosco is unperturbed and says in a firm voice, "Well, he has to start sometime, doesn't he?" Then, in an encouraging voice, he says to the lad, "Off you go, and no trembling! But leave my nose on, if you please!" And the apprentice actually succeeds in shaving Don Bosco – with the odd nick here and there, but by no means a bad result for a first shave. And this is how Giovanni Melchiorre Bosco helped the young man to become a skilled barber.



Votes of confidence like this can be important, and indeed life-changing, experiences for young people



31 January, an important feast day:

Don Bosco (1815 - 1888)

Apostle of the young and pioneer of social work

is the young people's saint and patron saint of Jugend Eine Welt. He set up several workshops so that street children in 19th-century Turin could obtain a good education. The indentures that the dedicated priest negotiated for the youngsters in his care were the first of their kind in Italy. Today, Don Bosco projects in over 130 countries worldwide provide young people with solid vocational training that gives them the chance of a better life.



JUGEND EINE WELT SHOP



jugendeinewelt.at/shop

Giving a future...

With the **Jugend Eine Welt aid packages** you give disadvantaged children and young people a school education, exercise books and stationery, medical supplies or life-saving food. For every package you pay for you can choose to receive a thank-you certificate that you can dedicate to a loved-one.

For a birthday, at Christmas or as a small token of thanks: buying an aid package on behalf on someone else is a wonderful alternative to "conventional" gifts and makes a big difference to the lives of needy young people the world over.

Aid packages can change lives!



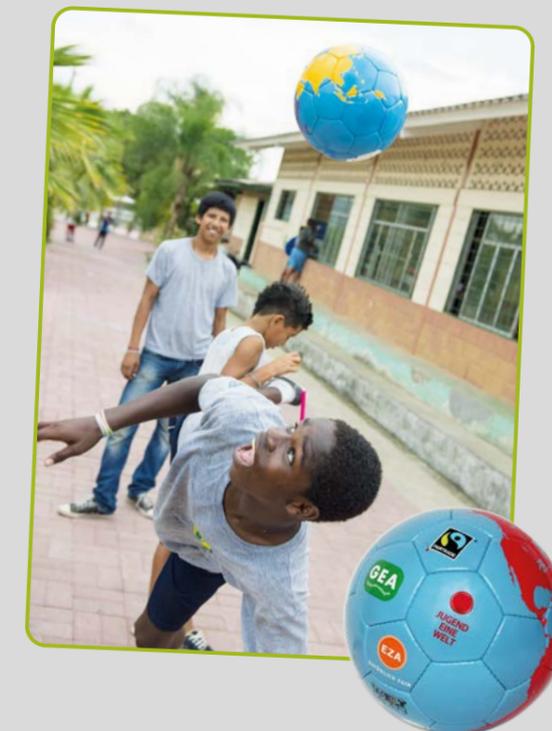
JUGEND EINE WELT FAIR



Jugend Eine Welt has been a partner and supporter of **FAIRTRADE** for over twenty years.

The seal of approval denotes products from countries in the southern hemisphere that have been produced under fair conditions. "Our common goal in this **ONE world** must be that every product, whether local or global, is produced in fair working conditions and does not harm the environment," says Reinhard Heiserer, director of Jugend Eine Welt. "After all, we all want a good life on a healthy planet."

For many years the aid organisation has sold **footballs and volleyballs** manufactured under fair conditions and bearing the **FAIRTRADE logo**. These balls are available in the Jugend Eine Welt online shop: jugendeinewelt.at/shop



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