

Annual Report 2020

1. In Brief

About Make Change Possible e.V.

Founded: 2010 in Heidelberg

Address: Kirchheimer Weg 16/1, 69124 Heidelberg

Registry ID: VR 333495

Tax ID: 32489/48384

Responsible tax office: Finanzamt Heidelberg

Status: Non-profit, last exemption notice issued 6 Nov 2018, valid until 5 Nov 2023

Organs: Board (Vorstand), Extended Board (Beirat)

Number of members: 25

Membership fee: 1 EUR, annually

Finances in 2020

Assets at beginning of the year: EUR 14,725.91

Income: EUR 18,347.82

Expenses: EUR 7,576.45

Assets at year's end: EUR 25,497.28

2. Board and Members

Board

Katharina “Katha” Voß, Chairperson
Katharina “Kathi” Yacoub, Vice-Chairperson
Christiane Casper, Secretary
Andreas Voß, Treasurer

Extended Board

Larissa Degner
Monika Handwerker (until July 2020)
Jacqueline Steinkamp

Members

Roberto Bertolini
Christiane Casper
Larissa Zoe Degner
Mary Franke
Michael Franke
Monika Handwerker
Rebecca Hillyer
Jessica Hilts

Birte Hoekstra
Jurgen Hoekstra
Jasper Hoekstra
Silke Kriete
Stefan Lauszat
Ian Macdonald
Joseph Mbamba
Helen Parsons

Allyn Raw
Sabine Richter
Felicita Schulke
Jaqueline Steinkamp
Christine Stockmann
Joylene Vette-Guillaume
Andreas Voß
Katharina Voß
Katharina Yacoub

3. Activities of the Board

Board Meetings

The Board and Extended Board met every other week via Google Hangouts/Google Meet. On December 13th, the board and extended board met for a longer virtual review meeting.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was originally planned to be held on March 28, 2020, in Heidelberg. Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 regulations, the meeting was first postponed indefinitely. Once the legislation was passed to allow association members to participate in the General Meeting without being present at the meeting location and to exercise member rights by means of electronic communication, even without authorization in the Articles of Association, we held our first virtual AGM on July 25, 2020.

10th Anniversary Campaign

The campaign surrounding our 10th anniversary consisted of a newsletter campaign, a brochure, a film, and the release of our new website.

Newsletter campaign

The newsletter campaign was centred around the idea to set 10 goals over 10 months and to aim to get 10 participants each month to complete a goal each once. The aim was to reach 100 goals by the end of the year. The original goals were:



February:
10 Fundraising Events



March:
10 Flights Booked
through [Bildungsspender](#)



April:
10 New Newsletter
Subscribers



May:
10 New Monthly
Donors



June:
10 Birthday Cakes



July:
10 Hotel Stays Booked
through [Bildungsspender](#)



August:
10 New MCP Members



September:
10 Facebook Fundraisers



October:
10 New Partners



November:
10 Train Tickets Booked
through [Bildungsspender](#)

Due to the restrictions and changes to everyday life brought about by COVID-19, we changed several goals:



April:
10 handwashing
videos



August:
10 purchases via
[Bildungsspender](#)

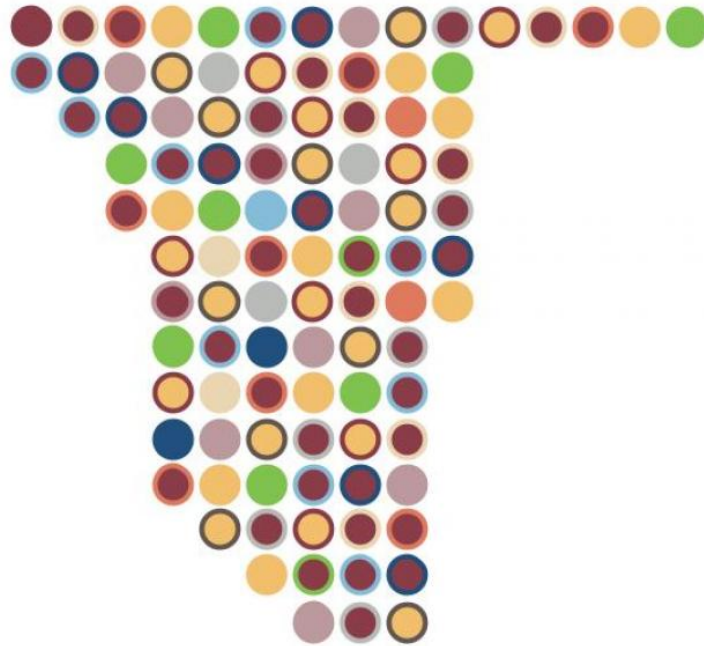


October:
10 purchases via
[AmazonSmile](#)



November:
10 memories shared

By the end of the year, we were so excited to have reached double our goals and reached 204 goals in total! We couldn't even fit them all on this map of Namibia where each dot corresponds with one goal reached:



Website

On June 9, 2020, MCP's official 10th birthday, we launched our new website under a new domain: www.makechangepossible.de. The website is a living document that we continue to update on a regular basis. Our special thanks goes to Jacqueline Steinkamp, who drafted the new sitemap and content alongside Monika Handwerker and Christiane Casper, and built the website with Katharina Yacoub, Larissa Degner, and Katharina Voss.

Brochure

The anniversary features highlights from each year of our organization's life. The anniversary brochure was coordinated by Monika Handwerker, and the sections were written by many people who have been part of MCP's life—volunteers, partners, and members. The brochure also contains the short story of Lady Newcastle, beautifully illustrated and brought to life by Franka Aguilar. Layout and designed by Jacqueline Steinkamp and Katharina Voss. The printing of the brochures was generously sponsored by Heidelberg International School. Printed copies were sent to sustaining donors and partners. The brochure is [accessible on our website](#), printed copies are available upon request.

Film

The anniversary film features clips collected on trips to Mayana over the last ten years. In interviews with the headman of the village, and the MCP project manager Joseph we reflect on the progress in the village over the last decade and look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead. We also see some of the many faces who have been part of making change possible in Mayana. The film was put together by Monika Handwerker and Rainer Wolff. The film is [accessible on our website](#).

Outreach and Marketing

We used social media, instagram and facebook, to promote our anniversary campaign content. In addition to the anniversary campaign, we continued outreach and marketing by providing regular news updates about our projects and programmes in Mayana through the newsletter, including updates on the spread of COVID-19 in Namibia. Promotional materials (business cards, flyers) were updated with our new banking info.

4. Programmes and Projects in Mayana

Programme Area: Independence and Sustainability

We continue to work closely with the Mayana Meho Foundation (MMF) and support them on their path toward independence.

Active members

Joseph Mbamba, Project Manager, Guesthouse Caretaker
Lenhilde Hamutenya, Meho Kindergarten teacher
Martha Mbamba, Project Leader Chicken House, Sit & Knit
Rosalia Sipete, Meho Kindergarten teacher

Communication

With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the shutdown of many projects as a result, communication changed with the team in Mayana. We stopped receiving monthly updates from March and the bulk of conversations moved to WhatsApp. In order to make it easy for anyone to submit a monthly update without having to meet to type it up on the computer, we moved our monthly update forms over to jotform.com so that they can easily be filled out from any smartphone. Monthly updates have successfully been reinstated since October. In order to keep in touch via WhatsApp, MCP provided the funds for airtime for several devices. Weekly scheduled calls with the project manager happened fairly regularly based on availability and need. The first virtual MMF and MCP meeting via WhatsApp call successfully took place in June.

Monitoring

MMF submitted its 2019 financial documents to Grand Namibia for auditing but did not receive feedback. Furthermore, MMF submitted its financial documents to MCP and we reviewed them for accuracy and completeness, to ensure donations send for a certain purpose are used to that end. Unfortunately, some originals had been sent to Grand Namibia and not received back, but no major issues were found with existing bookkeeping. Unfortunately, MMF is struggling financially as they have very limited income and are still fully reliant on MCP, especially due to their limited inability to run programmes with COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Project/Programme Area: Education

Educational Funding Support

After receiving her Certificate in Pre-Primary Education Teacher at Lenyfas College of Andragogy with educational funding support from MCP in June 2019, Rosalia completed her obligation to work at the Mayana Meho Kindergarten at the end of 2020. We are happy that Rosalia has decided to stay on as a teacher at the kindergarten. Lenhilde Hamutenya is currently completing a three year Diploma in Junior Primary Education at the Institute for Open Learning with educational funding support from MCP. After failing 3 exams, MCP decided to fund one retake attempt.

Mayana Meho Kindergarten

The support of the kindergarten is MCP's key programme along with the feeding scheme. Due to COVID-19 the kindergarten staff and children had to deal with many closures, constantly changing regulations, and the Ministry repeatedly postponed re-openings (sometimes announcing these not even one day in advance). The kindergarten closed in March and opened again in July with a hygiene and social distancing concept in place. MCP supplied funds for soap and sanitizer.

In terms of staff, the assistants Lea and Roswitha left after continued disagreements regarding educational funding support with MCP. Rosalia's contract ended in December 2020 but she decided to stay on as a teacher and negotiated a salary solution with MMF.

The biggest problem the kindergarten has been facing, are non-paying parents. Many parents stopped paying their contribution of NAD 30 per month (roughly 1 NAD / day) when the government announced it did not expect parents to make payments to public schools during the pandemic. MCP and MMF made repeated attempts to clarify that the Mayana Meho kindergarten is a community-owned school that does not receive any government benefits and is operated by MMF which relies on these contributions to keep the kindergarten running. As a result, the policy for non-paying parents changed, now requiring payment at registration and with exmatriculation of the child as a final consequence after repeatedly unexplained missed payments.

Project/Programme Area: Nutrition

Chicken House

The chicken house is running and keeps supplying the kindergarten children with eggs. Unfortunately the programme also faced several challenges: There was a delay in replacing the old laying hens as no project leader was found for the soup project, who would have been in charge of slaughtering the chickens and preparing the meat. As a result, many of the old hens were eventually sold instead of slaughtered and the children did not receive chicken soup. The worm farm, intended to provide an additional and cost free food source for the chickens has failed

repeatedly, contributing also to a feed shortage in November. Furthermore, there is the question on how best to store eggs during the hot summer months that remains to be solved.

Unfortunately, Larissa Degner's trip on which she hoped to help with these problems had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. For now, we provide our support through WhatsApp.

Feeding Scheme

Due to the COVID-19, schools had to close in Namibia. As a response, we made some alterations to the feeding scheme with provisions to allow for social distancing. We split the 50 children into two groups and they received food every other day, respectively. To make it even, we also provided food on Saturdays. Each child received one egg per week, one bread roll with peanut butter per day, and on Fridays and Saturdays, there was soup. Furthermore, the Sit and Knit group produced masks for the children and teachers. We also provided soap and sent over educational videos to make sure the kids washed their hands, properly before receiving food. In addition, they had to keep a 2-metre distance from one another. One of the kindergarten teachers, Leinhilde, sent us pictures of the kids and the food every day. Joseph also built a table next to the Meho Center. Now it is easier to prepare the food for the feeding scheme. When the kindergarten reopened and contact restrictions allowed it, the teachers started taking upper arm measurements again to monitor for malnutrition in the children. Despite a thorough plan, and reliable execution on behalf of our Mayana team, attendance was limited. The noodle making project had to be discontinued, because there was no project leader to be found. The soup project was also inconsistent and then discontinued due to a lack of reliable communication on side of the project leader.

Hydroponics

We newly introduced the hydroponics project this year. Jacqueline Steinkamp introduced and executed the project, aiming to grow spinach and extend the vitamin line for the feeding scheme as part of her Master's thesis entitled "Can E-Learning be a Pathway to Agripreneurship in Rural Communities? A Case Study using Hydroponics in Mayana, Namibia" as part of an internship with our organization and supervised by Monika Handwerker. From April to June, Jacqueline conducted a pilot programme for growing spinach hydroponically with women in Mayana. As she was not able to travel to Namibia due to COVID-19, she delivered the whole programme using WhatsApp video calls to deliver e-learning modules to participants in Mayana twice a week. For these, she created objectives, lessons, presentations, and homework assignments for the women and a handbook that can be used to teach others (including schools) how to grow spinach hydroponically. One key benefit of hydroponics is that it uses much less water than conventional agriculture. The spinach pilot created 54 small hydroponic systems.

Project/Programme Area: Health

COVID-19 Emergency Response

With news of the virus spreading in Africa, we jumped into action to prevent the spread of COVID in Mayana should it reach northern Namibia. We first provided information about the virus and how to prevent spread through a question and answer call as well as through a letter and infographics. We provided soap to be distributed to active team members as well as the children attending the Mayana Meho kindergarten. Next, we provided materials and instructions to the Sit & Knit group to make masks for the team and kindergarten kids. We also adjusted the feeding scheme to keep it going with social distancing and contact restrictions in place.

Menstrual Hygiene Management

Menstrual cups left behind in 2019 and entrusted to one community member were not distributed as planned. The reason is likely an unwillingness to pay NAD 10 for something that was previously distributed for free. The menstrual cups are stored away safely for distribution with a new plan at a later point.

Emergency Medical Fund

We reimbursed the Mbamba family for the medical expenses incurred during programme leader Martha Mbamba's stay in the hospital.

Project/Programme Area: Business Development

Donkey Cart

Sadly, one of our donkeys, Mpito, who was due to give birth within a month, was killed after being attacked by a snake while she was out grazing. This project is struggling as there is no consistency in customers and we are lacking information on how and how often the cart is being used.

Sit & Knit

The Sit and Knit group started in 2017 learning skills and producing the needed warm clothing for the Kindergarten children. This year they joined in the e-learning experience learning how to knit socks in two different sizes via WhatsApp calls. After 4 weeks the challenge was successfully completed. Since the schools were closed a "knitting school" was started with one on one session with one schoolgirl and one sit and knit teacher each. The girls participating made a scarf for themselves and are now off to seek the challenge of learning how to knit a hat. The ladies of the group also made a huge contribution in this crisis by learning how to sew community masks via video calls and within 2 weeks they produced 160 masks. They were shared out amongst the team and the Meho and Ndango Kindergartens.

Other projects/programmes

Guesthouse

We signed an agreement with Joseph Mbamba to be the official caretaker responsible for upkeep and repairs at the guesthouse, including also the ablution block, septic tank, water tap. We collected several design ideas for the rebuilding of the guesthouse water tower and tank, since it collapsed in 2019, but have postponed the rebuild until we know when the next team will travel to Mayana.

Driver's License, Driving School

Joseph Mbamba passed his driver's test after several failed attempts, one due to engine failure in the middle of the exam, another due to a corrupt examiner. Joseph has handed in a proposal to open a driving school in Mayana. MCP has requested more detailed information, a business plan, and a clarification how this would be in line with MCP's mission and vision, which are still to be received.

Key difficulties for programmes/projects in 2020

COVID-19 and the restrictions it brought about for the programmes and programmes in Mayana as well as causing the cancellation of all trips to Namibia, has been mentioned plenty of times in this report already. While we were able to run many projects via e-learning better than we originally expected, communication nonetheless was difficult in 2020, as both people and devices were not always reliable in keeping us updated.

A particularly difficult situation happened shortly after the beginning of the lockdown started. Unfounded allegations regarding the sale of land were brought against our project manager Joseph Mbamba in connection with a protest against a planned water project in the area (not associated with MCP). Rumors also spread that MCP was somehow involved in this sale of land, even though neither Joseph Mbamba nor MCP owned or had owned any of the land in question. The situation caused a lot of tension in the community and strain on Joseph and his family. It also permanently damaged their relationship with the headman of Mayana, as his son was at the forefront of making these false accusations against Joseph. The situation was brought to the attention of the hompa (queen of the Shambyu tribe) and even the prime minister was informed by the governour, who all confirmed allegations were unfounded and decided the water project would go ahead.

5. Partnerships

Partner Schools

Heidelberg International School (HIS)

The project trip with 3 students and 1 teacher from HIS had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Preparations had included a parent info night at HIS and the prep camp had been held in Taucha. HIS sponsored the printing of the anniversary brochure, but does not want to provide funds for promotional materials in 2021. Several fundraisers were held throughout the year by students and teachers and donations from HIS made up 6.3% of all donations received in 2020. We also held a meeting with interested CAS students via zoom.

Kopernikus Gymnasium Blankenfeld-Mahlow (KGBM)

The project trip with 2 students from the KGBM had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. The prep camp had already taken place. The KGBM held several fundraisers throughout the year and proceeds made up 31.7% of all donations received in 2020. Two students wrote a Seminararbeit with MCP on “Menstruation and its problems for girls in Namibia” and “Nutrition for kids, what do they need to stay healthy” but the papers have not yet been shared with MCP. We held meetings with the MCP working group via zoom.

Partner Organizations

Kleine Engel

The cooperation between our organizations continued with intermittent mutual updates about our activities. Unfortunately, a planned trip to visit our partner in Swakopmund had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. Kleine Engel made a significant donation to our drought relief project, making up 5.5% of all donations received in 2020.

6. Trips

Edu Trip

The edu trip was set to take place with the ladies of the Sit & Knit team with a focus on wool production at Karakulia Weavers in Swakopmund but had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Due to uncertainty about when travel would next be possible, the board decided to put future edu trip planning on hold.

Project Trip

The project trip with two students from KGBM and their two guardians, and three students from HIS and one teacher had to be cancelled shortly before departure due to COVID-19. The prep

camp had been held in Taucha in February. Due to uncertainty about when travel would next be possible, the board decided to put future project trip planning on hold.

Board and Extended Board Trip

Due to COVID-19 the trip of several board and extended board members could not take place in Namibia. However, we were able to carry out some projects with the help of e-learning via WhatsApp.

Sit and Knit

The Sit and Knit group started in 2017 learning skills and producing the needed warm clothing for the Kindergarten children. This year they joined in the e-learning experience learning how to knit socks in two different sizes via WhatsApp calls. After 4 weeks the challenge was successfully completed. Since the schools were closed a “knitting school” was started with one on one session with one schoolgirl and one sit and knit teacher each. The girls participating made a scarf for themselves and are now off to seek the challenge of learning how to knit a hat. The ladies of the group also made a huge contribution in this crisis by learning how to sew community masks via video calls and within 2 weeks they produced 160 masks. They were shared out amongst the team and the Meho and Ndango Kindergartens.

Chicken House

After the improvement of the chicken house last year, we could evaluate and discuss how to continue the program. The second chicken exchange with 40 new ones took place and we could use the first time the chicken dung as manure for hydroponics. Unfortunately, the “fridge” as egg storage from last year does not work anymore and we need to find another solution until the summer begins. All in all the chickens still produce enough eggs, so that the kids have at least half an egg per week and of course the chicken soup on Fridays.

Bone Broth

Within the framework of the Feeding Scheme for the children of the Meho Kindergarten, the project "production of broth from chicken bones" had the following objectives: the better use of available resources (use of not only the meat of slaughtered chickens but also of their bones); improving the supply of proteins, vitamins and fat, and expanding local knowledge and skills in the hope that what has been learned will be used and passed on privately. Unfortunately, the project failed due to the project leader in Mayana being unreliable with keeping to meeting times, which meant the training could not be carried out in full. The reasons for this may be manifold considering the overall situation in Mayana.

MCP & MMF Cooperation

In June, MCP and MMF held their first online meeting via WhatsApp to discuss the reopening of the kindergarten, maintenance of the kindergarten building, the future of the Sit & Knit Project, and the future of MCP and MMF cooperation.

Hydroponics

Our intern, Jacqueline, conducted a pilot programme for growing spinach hydroponically with women in Mayana for her master's thesis. With support from founder Monika, she delivered e-learning modules to participants in Mayana twice a week. During the pilot, the women created 54 small hydroponic systems to grow spinach for the Meho Kindergarten to add to the nutrition line for the children. Jackie also created a handbook which can be used to pass on the knowledge of hydroponics to others (including schools).

7. Finances

Assets January 2020

On January 1st, 2020, the **assets** of the association totalled **EUR 14,725.91** and consisted of credit balances on the current account at Volksbank Kurpfalz H + G Bank Heidelberg in the amount of EUR 15,042.00, the balance on the Visa credit card account of 425.67 and the cash NAD in the equivalent of EUR 108.24, less an outstanding loan of EUR 850.00.

Reserves

By resolution of the Annual General Meeting 2020, the reserves were ordered as follows:

984,43 € free reserve

4856,42 € training kindergarten teachers

1000,00 € Maintenance Kindergarten

1000,00 € Maintenance Guesthouse

1173,08 Emergency measures drought relief

500,00 € Edu-Trip

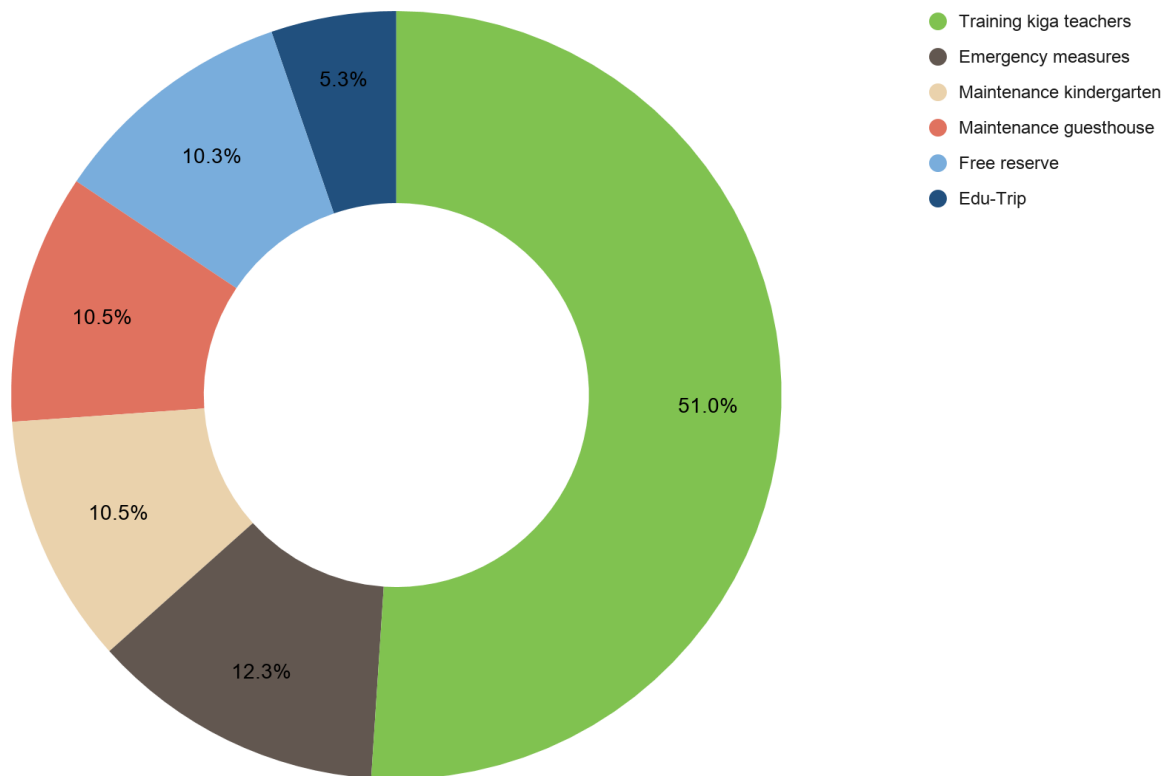


Chart: Reserves broken down into percentages of the total reserve.

Growth

On December 31st, 2020, the **assets** of the association totalled **EUR 25,497.28** and consisted of credit balances on the current account at the Volksbank Kurpfalz in the amount of EUR 25,389.04 and the cash NAD in the equivalent of EUR 108.24.

The difference between the asset balances at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year thus results in a **surplus** of **EUR 10,771.37**.

Income

In 2020, the association has recorded a total of **EUR 18,347.82** in **income**. This amount is composed of membership fees of EUR 1.00 and donations of EUR 18,346.82.

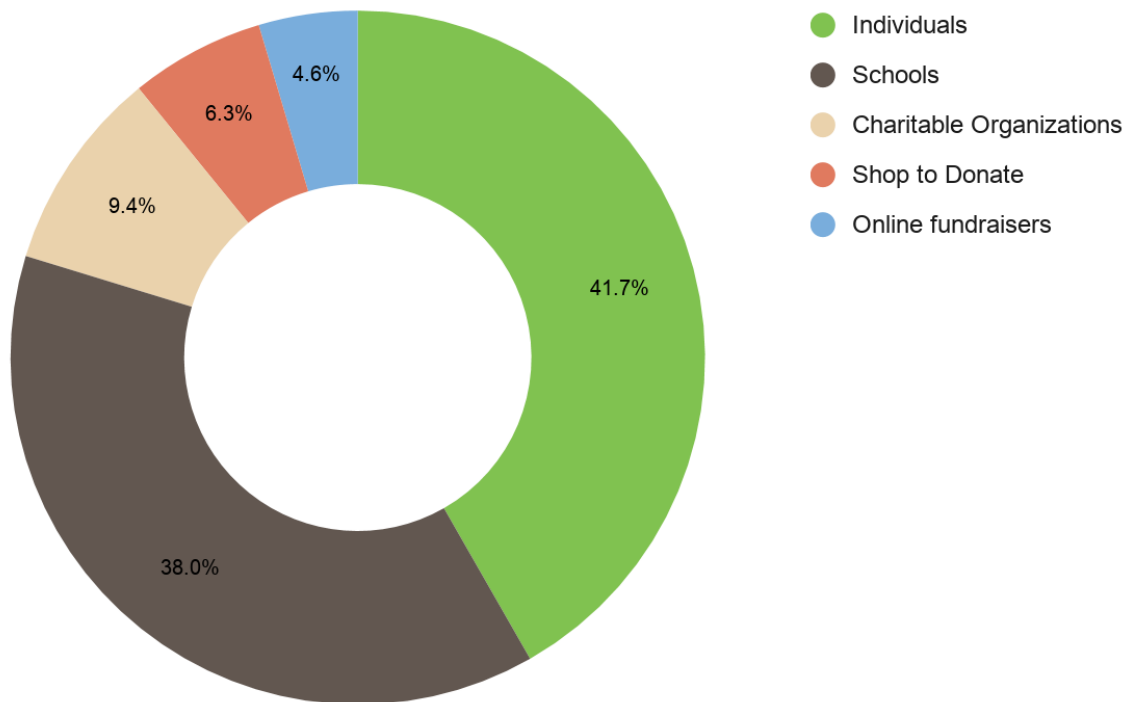


Chart: Sources of income categorized and broken down into percentage of total income.

Among donations from schools, 83.4% of donations came from our partner school Kopernikus Gymnasium Blankenfelde-Mahlow, and 16.6% came from our partner school Heidelberg International School. Among donations from charitable organizations, 57.9% of donations came from our partner organization Kleine Engel, 37.8% came from Schülerfirma Steinbrücke, and 4.3% came from VeggiePonics. In the shop to donate category, Bildungsspender generated 96.6% of donations, and AmazonSmile generated 3.4%. As for online fundraisers, Facebook fundraisers made up 93.1% of donations, and Betterplace made up 6.9% of donations in the category.

Expenses

This was offset by expenses totalling EUR 7,576.45, broken down as follows:

5,933.08 € total projects, of which:

1.264,63 € Kindergarten/Community Center", of which.

1.069,01 € operation

195,62 € Mill

480,87 € Guesthouse

958,86 € Chicken house

106,83 € Meho Foundation

807,76 € Sit&Knit

24,55 € Hydroculture

1.395,89 € Support Team Member
755,41 € scholarship master thesis
138,28 € cross-project

1.022,63 € total administration, of which
278,01 € general expenses
265,14 € internet
469,19 € bank charges
10,29 € postage

608,25 € travel expenses
12,49 € thank-you gifts

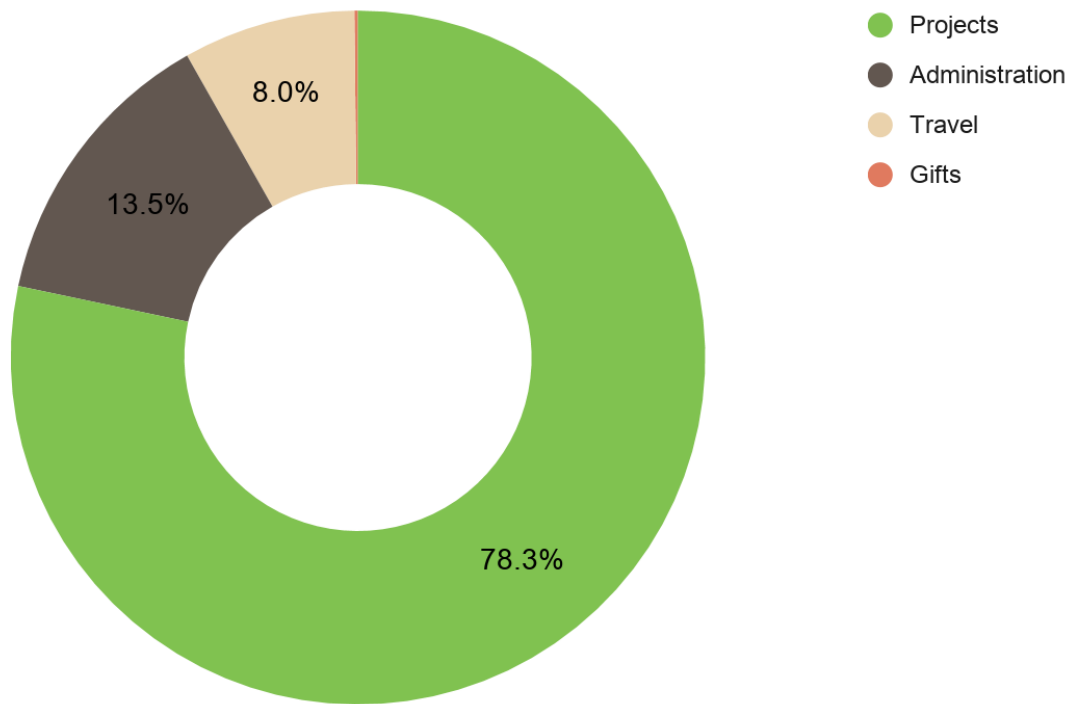


Chart: Expense categories broken down into percentages of total expenses.

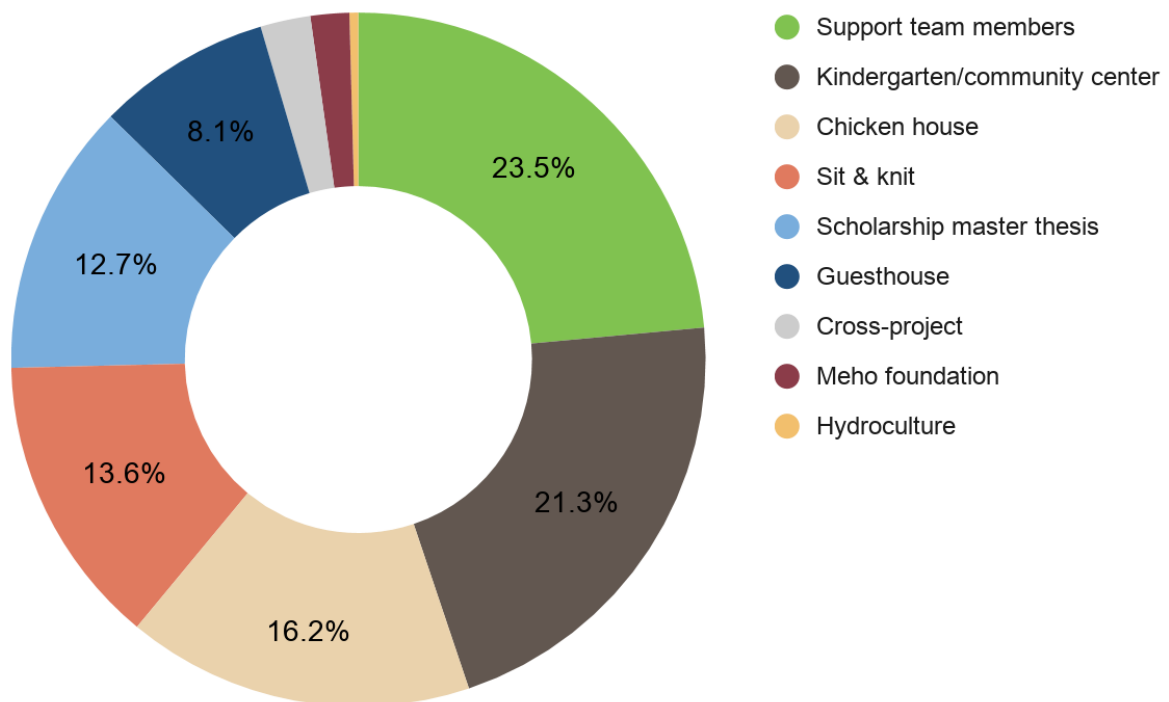


Chart: Project-based expenses broken down into percentages of total project expenses

Difference

The **difference** between income and expenses, like the difference in assets, results in a surplus of **EUR 10,771.37**.

8. Contact

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