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ANNUAL REPORT 2019





Dear donors, godparents and supporters,

2019 was an enormously eventful year for SAIDA. With further education, lectures and our touring exhibition "Wendemis Würde" (Wendemi's Dignity) we were able to draw attention to our girl protection project throughout Germany.

Particularly pleasant: With our counselling centre we are helping to end the suffering of girls and women affected by genital mutilation.

In Burkina Faso, we did not have an easy year because of the ongoing danger of attacks. Despite the terrorists, our work is nevertheless bearing fruit:

The new obstetrics ward is sustainably improving mother-child health. The women's education centre is developing into an important local contact point. And the Girls' Protection Programme ensures that girls grow up unharmed and receive an education even in times of crisis.

We are very pleased that you are so reliably committed to women's and children's rights with us. For this I thank you very much. Enjoy reading our annual report!

Yours

Simone Schwarz
Executive Chairwoman
SAIDA International e.V.

*Thanks to your support,
girls can grow up and go
to school unharmed
even in times of crisis.*

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An evening with Mina Ahadi, speech, panel discussion and live music



International women's day in the new educational center

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Imprint

Together for girls

On the eve of the International Day of "Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation" we have shown the flag for girls' rights.



The fully occupied hall of the adult education center Leipzig

After a welcome by Heike Richter, Director of the Adult Education Center Leipzig and a welcoming address by Leipzig's Social Mayor Prof. Dr. Thomas Fabian, Simone Schwarz introduced the topic with a keynote speech. In order to give the guests an understanding of the reality of life of those affected, the theatre actress Mechthild Scrobanita read from the autobiography of a girl who manages to escape genital mutilation and forced marriage.

In the subsequent panel discussion with Susanne Köhler (Chairwoman of the Women's Council of Saxony), Genka Lapön (Equal Opportunities Commissioner of the City of Leipzig) and Simone Schwarz, we examined the question of how an environment can be created in Leipzig in which girls are better protected. Flutist Brunhild Fischer framed the evening with her specially composed piece "For all the girls in the world".

We would like to thank the Adult Education Center Leipzig for the wonderful cooperation.



Prof. Dr. Thomas Fabian talking to Simone Schwarz



Musical frame by flutist Brunhild Fischer



Theatre actress Mechthild Scrobanita reads from the autobiography of a girl



Simone Schwarz and pastor Thomas Bohne, Chairman of the interreligious jury at the Leipzig DOK film festival

Film & talk FEMALE PLEASURE

On February 6th, the International Day of "Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation", a cinema in Leipzig and SAIDA have invited to a special screening of FEMALE PLEASURE.

The documentary film has won a specially introduced prize of the interreligious jury at the Leipzig DOK Film Festival 2018. At the center of Barbara Miller's film are five courageous, clever and self-determined women. The protagonists do their utmost to promote sexual education and self-determination for all women, beyond social and religious norms and barriers.

Simone Schwarz gave a thematic introduction and welcomed Pastor Thomas Bohne, who is not only a member of the Protestant Film Jury, but was also chairman of the interreligious jury at the Leipzig DOK Film Festival, to the subsequent film talk.



Film poster www.femalepleasure.org

Information stand



We from SAIDA were present with an information stand. So we were able to inform about our projects on children's and

women's rights and talk to the guests.



Our volunteers Anna, Svenja and Paulina support Katja (2nd from right) creatively and in the best of moods at the information stand

The Mayor



Leipzig's mayor Burkhard Jung was also present and got informed about the work of SAIDA.

Aktion day "We are colourful"

On Saturday, 22 June, a day of action for young and old took place in the Klinikpark at the Leipzig Children's Hospital under the motto "We are colourful". From lectures and discussion rounds to make-up for children and a bake sale, there was something for everyone.

Speech

Simone Schwarz also gave a speech on the topic "Protection in



cases of genital mutilation - a social challenge".

The aim of this day of action was to get into conversation with people from different cultures, to inform and "show our colours" for a solidary society.

The day of action was organized by pupils of the Medical Vocational School at the University Hospital Leipzig.

Thanks to the Medical Vocational School for this nice event for a cosmopolitan Leipzig.

Top and middle: Katja and Tuula from SAIDA at the information stand in Biomare and Katja giving a talk about our projects during the Bio-Regional Fair

SAIDA AT THE BIO-FAIR

Looking beyond the horizon

The Leipzig organic supermarket Biomare has been supporting us for quite some time. But how does this connection actually come about? Very simple: When it comes to good food and responsible production, Biomare also looks beyond its regional horizons.

For example to Burkina Faso with its growing interest in organic agriculture. There, it is women who produce dried mangoes and cashew nuts. Although the women do most of the work, they mostly live in poverty and are exposed to discrimination and violence from childhood on.

In order for SAIDA to be able to better support women and girls, Biomare is involved as sponsor and godparent. And so that more people can learn about us, we had the opportunity to present our work at the regional bio fair in Leipzig on September 14th.



Biomare supports SAIDA with three sponsorships – one for each store!



Top image: Panel discussion with Mina Ahadi, Simone Schwarz and Amina Richter; below Human rights activist Mina Ahadi



Live music by Lazylectric - female power sounds from around the world

An evening for women's rights with Mina Ahadi

Domestic violence, forced marriage, crimes of honour and genital mutilation - how can we curb violence against women? How can we develop an equal image of humanity? What support do migrant women need?

We addressed these questions on November 22nd during an evening of speeches, panel discussions and live music. On the occasion of the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" (always on November 25th) we wanted to promote solidarity. The Adult Education Center Leipzig once again provided us with their beautiful hall, which was filled to the last seat. We were particularly pleased that the well-known human rights activist Mina Ahadi accepted our invitation and we were able to share her experiences and her impressive commitment. Of course, we did not finish discussing the questions at all on this very successful evening.



PLAUEIN IN THE EAST OF GERMANY

On April 15th, we opened our exhibition "Wendemi's Dignity" in the foyer of the Plauen District Office. The Commissioner for Equality, Integration and Women's Issues, Veronika Gritzner, had organised the exhibition in this location. On the same day, Katja Novák and Simone Schwarz gave further training on the prevention of genital mutilation to the participants of the network meeting "Migration and Refugees". It is a great development that more and more cities and districts are taking up this important child protection topic.



Exhibition and training in Plauen

Exhibition Wendemis Würde (Wendemi's Dignity) and trainings

OBERHAUSEN IN THE WEST OF GERMANY

In September we were able to present the exhibition at the invitation of the Municipal Integration Center in Oberhausen. The exhibition shows that genital mutilation is a particularly drastic example of the continuing discrimination against girls in developing countries. But the exhibition also shows the extent to which this violence is already widespread in Europe and Germany and that we can all contribute to the protection of girls at risk. That is why we are glad that the City of Oberhausen attaches great importance to this topic and that we were able to provide further training for specialists from schools, offices and authorities.



Exhibition and training in Oberhausen

SAIDA Competence Center

Central Germany has its first multidisciplinary contact point for girls and women affected by genital mutilation



Front left to right: Prof. T. Fabian, Dr. I. Minde; S. Schwarz, back: L. Kindermann; Dr. Ch. Geyer; Prof. T. Kremer, Prof. W. Köhler; Prof. A. Hamza

The Klinikum St. Georg and SAIDA International e.V. founded the "SAIDA Competence Center" in Leipzig on April 17th. The aim of the new competence centre is to provide comprehensive medical and social advice, care and treatment for those affected. Surgical interventions such as the reconstruction of clitoris and labia are very complex and often require interdisciplinary work. The clinic has the necessary experts from the fields of urology, gynaecology, plastic surgery and paediatric surgery. Psychosocial support is also provided.

This is an important step towards improving the rights to sexual health and self-determination of these women and girls.

Up to now, the search for suitable operators in particular has been difficult. Gynaecologists in private practice, social workers and other specialists from the region now have a central contact point for further medical care of those affected. Please disseminate the information in your networks so that those affected find their way to us. We would also be happy to send you our flyers to forward.

Together we can help to end the suffering of many girls and women.



Report in RBB (German tv channel) about the first clitoris reconstruction in the SAIDA Competence Center in Leipzig

HELP FOR AYAAN FROM SOMALIA

First clitoris reconstruction

In August, MDR and RBB (German tv channels) reported on the first young woman who underwent reconstructive surgery at the SAIDA competence center. Ayaan has fled Somalia and found refuge in Germany. We have changed her name for her protection. Ayaan turned to our counselling centre because she suffered greatly from the consequences of the violence inflicted on her as a child: her clitoris, inner and outer labia were cut away and the wound was sutured up to a tiny opening. Since then, she could not urinate normally, her menstruation became a torture.

Ayaan wished to be able to live without pain and have a normal sexuality. After some preparation she could be operated successfully. We accompany her further on the way into a life of self-determination.

“

She's in her early twenties. But her life as a woman only began four weeks ago.

You can watch the tv report (in German) on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiCBHfZfBp8





Prof. Dr. Thomas Fabian (Mayor and Councillor for Youth, Social Affairs, Health and School of the City of Leipzig), Simone Schwarz and Burkhard Jung (Mayor of the City of Leipzig and President of the German Association of Cities)

Family friendliness prize 2019

On June 29th, the family friendliness prize of the city of Leipzig was awarded for the 11th time. The prize is awarded to initiatives that make Leipzig more livable for families. Simone Schwarz received the "Special Award of the Administration for Exceptional Commitment".

“

Genital mutilation destroys families. It alienates children from their parents and thus makes it impossible for families to live together happily and without fear.

(Prof. Dr. Thomas Fabian)

In his laudatory speech, Prof. Dr. Thomas Fabian justified the award as follows: "With SAIDA International, you, Mrs. Schwarz, and your companions have been carrying out important and professionally sound prevention work for years. You are concerned with the protection of children and women in their families and with improving their rights to sexual health and self-determination. You show extraordinary commitment and have managed to make this difficult issue heard, to get things moving. We thank you very much for this recognition of our work!"



*Die schöne Urkunde hängt jetzt in unserem Büro
Foto: Eric Kemnitz*

left to right: Huschke Mau (Netzwerk Ella), Simone Schwarz (SAIDA), Eva Brackelmann (Ev. Aktionsgemeinschaft für Familienfragen e.V.), Dr. Gesine Mertens (Gleichstellungspolitische Sprecherin Fraktion Bündnis 90/DIE GRÜNEN), Brunhild Fischer (Künstlerin und Vorsitzende GEDOK e.V., SHIA e.V.)



Day against violence in the Nikolaikirche

As the starting point of the Peaceful Revolution, the Nikolai Church in Leipzig also offers civil society organisations a forum. This year SAIDA was invited to participate in the event on November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Under the motto "Violence against girls has many faces" we pointed out genital mutilation, which also affects thousands of girls in Germany.



Kathrin Buhl Prize 2019

On December 11, the Stiftung Nord-Süd-Brücken awarded the 4th Kathrin Buhl Prize and 2,500 euros for our project "Educational Center for the Women of Gomboro" (see p.18). From the laudation:

“

With this award we acknowledge the tireless fight against genital mutilation. Such a fight needs energy, commitment, perseverance, solidarity and confidence, but also money.



Large picture from left: Foundation board member Karin Schüler, Simone Schwarz and jury chairwoman Ana Paulina Rosas Pérez

Charity in the Gewandhaus Leipzig



General Norbert Wagner überreicht den Spendenscheck

On the evening of the concert we had an information stand in the foyer of the Gewandhaus to inform the arriving guests about our work.

During the break it was time for Simone to go on stage. General Norbert Wagner and Achim Haas, Chairman of the Friends of the German Armed Forces, first thanked the musicians of the Air Force Music Corps Erfurt for their commitment.



Simone Schwarz full of joy after the cheque was handed over

On October 29, the German Armed Forces have invited to their annual benefit concert in the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Once again, two associations were to benefit as recipients of donations. As in the previous year, the children's hospice Bärenherz was one of them and - completely surprisingly for us - SAIDA was chosen as the second association. It was an entertaining evening for the audience, as Major Tobias Wunderle presented the concert in a humorous manner and led his orchestra with verve.



Katja Novák excited to see the guests at the information stand

The General thanked the 1,300 guests in the hall for their participation, which made the successful benefit possible and then gave the floor to the managing directors of Bärenherz e.V. and SAIDA International e.V. Simone was allowed to introduce our association to the concert guests and finally received the donation cheque for no less than 10,000 euros.

To all those involved in the organisation of this unforgettable evening we would like to say THANK YOU!

Once again 1st place at "genialsozial"



Simone Schwarz convinced the youth jury of genialsozial of our new girl protection project on January 26, 2019

With the project "Education, Health and Protection for Girls in Burkina Faso" we have again applied to "genialsozial". Already in 2014, we took first place and were thus able to build a primary school and obstetrics station in the community of Gomboro in Burkina Faso. Now we have dared again and faced the questions of the 100-headed youth jury - and were again voted into first place. This time it's about a big girl protection campaign. The aim of the two-year campaign is to sensitize the population to the rights of girls and to make a concrete contribution to protecting them from genital mutilation and child marriage, as well as to securing school education.

Every year the Saxon Youth Foundation organises this great youth solidarity action. Every January a youth jury selects the projects. On July 2nd, thousands of pupils worked in companies and households. The earnings of this action day form the budget for the projects. For us it was about 100,000 euros!

We thank the young people for their great commitment to girls who need support, protection and help.



DOOR 4: A MENINGITIS VACCINATION FOR A CHILD IN BURKINA FASO



The advent calendar for the good cause at 24-gute-taten.de

24guteTaten Adventskalender (24 good deeds advent calendar)

The joy was huge when we made it into the 24guteTaten Advent Calendar 2019, probably the only Advent calendar full of good deeds. Our good deed was hidden behind door number 4: a meningitis vaccination for a child in Burkina Faso.

Because for 2020 we are planning a meningitis vaccination campaign, which we are integrating into our educational campaign from the promotion of "genial-sozial" (p. 14). We can achieve a lot at once in this way: The children receive vaccination protection and health passports to document their development. At the same time, we are establishing preventive child check-ups on a larger scale to ensure that girls are protected from genital mutilation.

The distribution of the calendar has resulted in a total donation of 859,841 Euros. Of this amount, 75 percent is distributed to the 24 organisations from the calendar. SAIDA thus receives 26,870 Euros, which were transferred in February 2020.

We would like to thank the 24guteTaten team!



Simone and Katja "assemble" the calendar.

Top left "Your cup for a smile" - our motivating poster at the Christmas market in Werk 2 and below it the happy Simone with donation cheque



ADVENT STANDS AND FUNDRAISERS

Giving joy in Advent

In 2019 we were again very active during the Advent season. As in the previous year, we were allowed to set up a stand in the Biomare supermarkets on Saturdays. We offered beautiful arts and crafts from Burkina Faso and informed many people about our projects.

We were also represented for the 2nd time at the popular Christmas market in the socio-cultural center Werk 2. But this year there was a big surprise for us. Werk 2 chose SAIDA and Treibhaus e.V. as beneficiaries for its "cup donation": The guests had the opportunity to donate the deposit for the drink cups to the good cause. On the 4th of Advent the impressive sum of 1,025 Euro per association had already been collected. After the handover, the donation continued to grow, and in the end we came up to 1,250 Euros.

Many thanks to Werk 2 and all guests for the great action!



On December 17th the dormitory BaseCamp invited to its Com(e)unity Christmas party in Leipzig. The whole neighbourhood accepted the invitation and during the colourful program we presented our projects. Our pre-Christmas present: We not only received the proceeds of the bake sale but also a donation of 1,000 euros for the education of disadvantaged girls. We say many thanks!



BaseCamp Christmas with music by Karolina Trybala & band and our "Crafts for a good cause"

THE FIRST BABY IS BORN

Our Obstetric ward



The woman of our partner organisation ASMED and the two midwives (in pink coats) are happy about the first baby of our new obstetric ward

8,000 women from the municipality of Gomboro and tens of thousands of women and girls from the catchment area now have access to competent obstetrics and care.

Every project trip has shown the same picture: the situation of young mothers and pregnant women in the remote villages is disastrous. The greatest risks for pregnant women are the lack of doctors, too early and frequent pregnancies, lack of obstetrics and the consequences of genital mutilation.

That is why we have tried to get support and were finally able to build a new obstetric ward by the end of 2018 with grants from the Saxon Youth Foundation (genialsozial) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. There was still time until everything was set up and approved by the Ministry of Health. In 2019, however, the work started and the first mother gave birth to her baby.



Oben die neue Geburtsstation und unten der volle Wartebereich



The young girls stand up for their rights on International Women's Day and are happy about the new education center as a contact point

International Women's Day at the new education center

On the International Women's Day 2019, the women of our partner ASMED have once again set an example for their rights. They fight in their community of Gomboro for a better future for their daughters. They are all victims of genital mutilation themselves, most of them never went to school. Their daughters should grow up without this violence and have a chance to go to school and get a vocational training. The young girls in the picture also benefit from our girl protection program and proudly participate in the Women's Day demonstration.

In order to win over even larger sections of the population to the struggle of women, we built an education center in 2018 with the financial support of the Free State of Saxony and expanded it in 2019. Thanks to information work it is slowly establishing itself. Parents learn here, for example, how the implementation of girls' rights helps to reduce poverty.

Girls learn their rights here. Because only those who know their rights can claim them.



Top the new education center and below the women from ASMED



The girls in Gomboro should have a future despite the poor security situation

Girls protection despite of terror

The more Islamist terror spreads in Burkina Faso, the more decisively we must defend the rights of girls to education and protection from violence.

We had already reported in the Christmas mail about the poor security situation in Burkina Faso. The ongoing Islamist-motivated terrorist attacks left the population in a state of fear.

Because of threats, the state had closed about 1,500 schools - and thus also interrupted the education of thousands of children. In the community of Gomboro, the schools had to close as well - with direct impact on our girl protection program.

Together with our local partners, we managed to find host families and school places for the girls. But separation from their families is not easy.

Our project coordinator Elody has also taken in two of the most needy girls. An exceptional situation on many levels. Financially as well: because there were high extra costs.

Just feeding the children costs 23 euros a month. On top of that, school fees in the new community are paid one year in advance. A large amount of donations is thus already used up before the girls are provided with health care, clothing and teaching materials.

We are therefore very grateful for your reliable support. In this way you give us the chance to defend the rights of these girls to protection and education.

How is SAIDA developing?



Our team: Paulina Schwarz (Staff member for public relations and administration), Katja Novák (Coordinator of SAIDA consulting office and Competence Center), Simone Schwarz (Managing Director) and Anna Feldhoff (Assistant Coordinator SAIDA Competence Center)

We started with a topic that still receives little attention in our society. Dealing with genital mutilation is indeed not an "easy fare". But we can only counteract this systematic violence against girls by joining forces.

But how do you win supporters? We have chosen the path of objective and persistent information. In 2019 more and more people have joined us - whether as members, volunteers, donors or godparents.

The expansion of our team has had a decisive impact. Last year, the two full-time employees were joined by a student staff member and, from autumn onwards, a part-time employee.



Finally we are also a member of the German "Network INTEGRA to overcome female genital mutilation".

We can work so much more effectively:

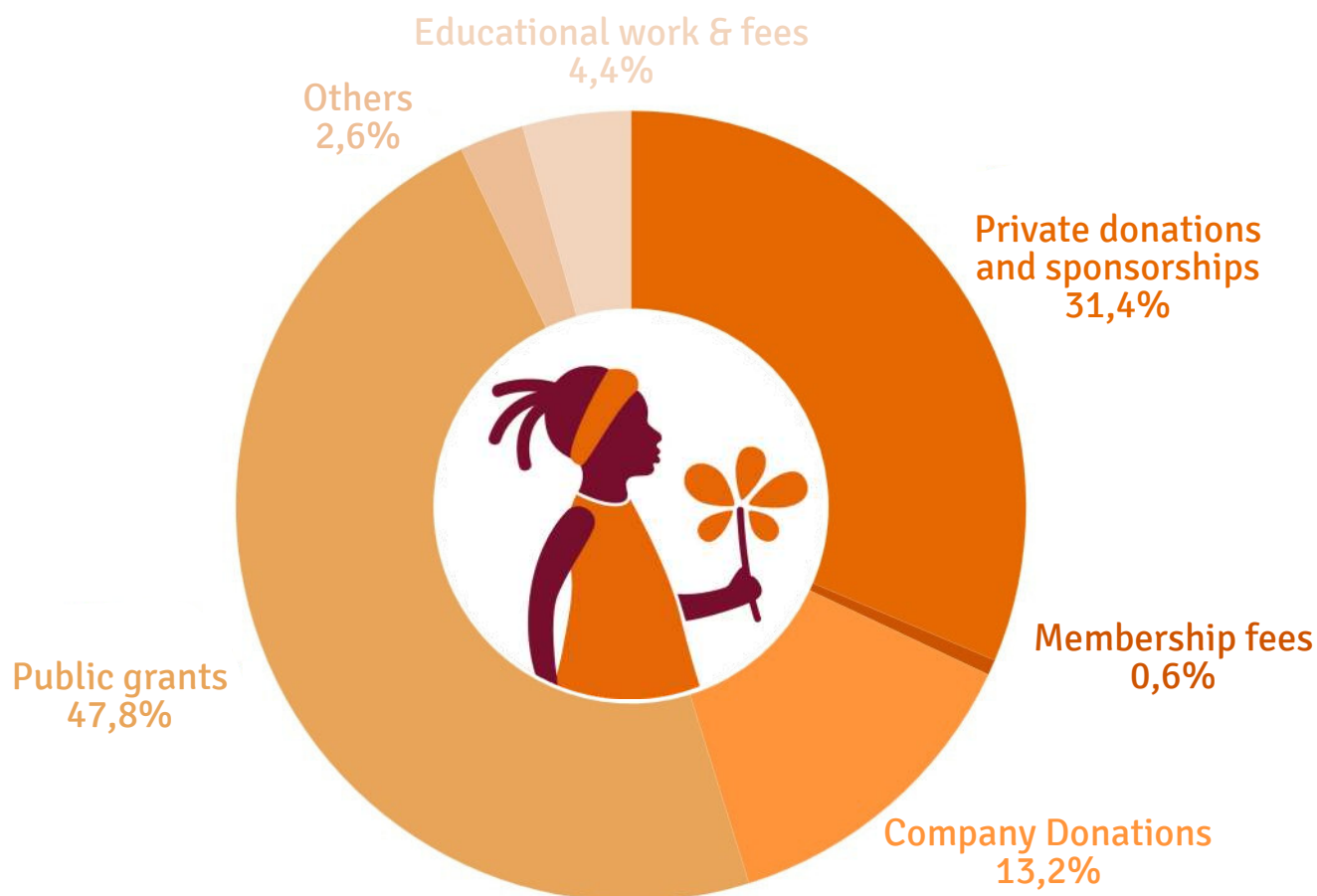
- With our specialist advice centre we help severely damaged girls and women in Leipzig and beyond.
- Our advanced training courses for specialists are booked.
- Our public events are well attended.
- Our development policy exhibition is shown and provides information about our projects abroad.

Our work in Burkina Faso also benefits from the different skills, experiences and ideas of our team members. 2019 has shown that we are indeed reaching more and more people with this difficult issue.

But: we still have to coordinate the work in Burkina Faso on a voluntary basis, although we would like to support our local partners more intensively. As you can see, there is still a lot to be done.

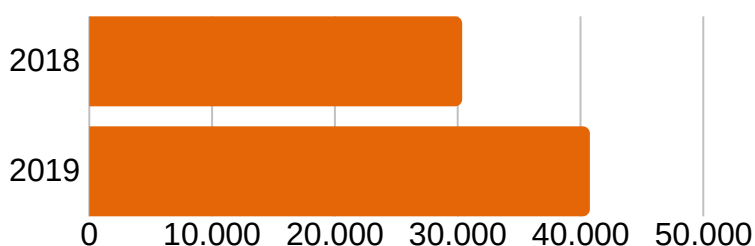
Our Finances

REVENUES 2019

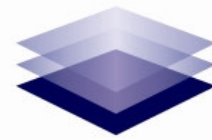


Our total income was EUR 129,660, which is down on 2018 (EUR 150,935). This is due, for example, to the fact that the large donation of 24guteTaten over EUR 26,870 will not be received until early 2020. There was also a lack of new funding for work abroad. However, since we have been working at full energy to acquire funds, we can already expect to receive over EUR 100,000 for new projects in Burkina Faso in 2020. And very gratifying: the amount of donations shows that we have gained many new supporters.

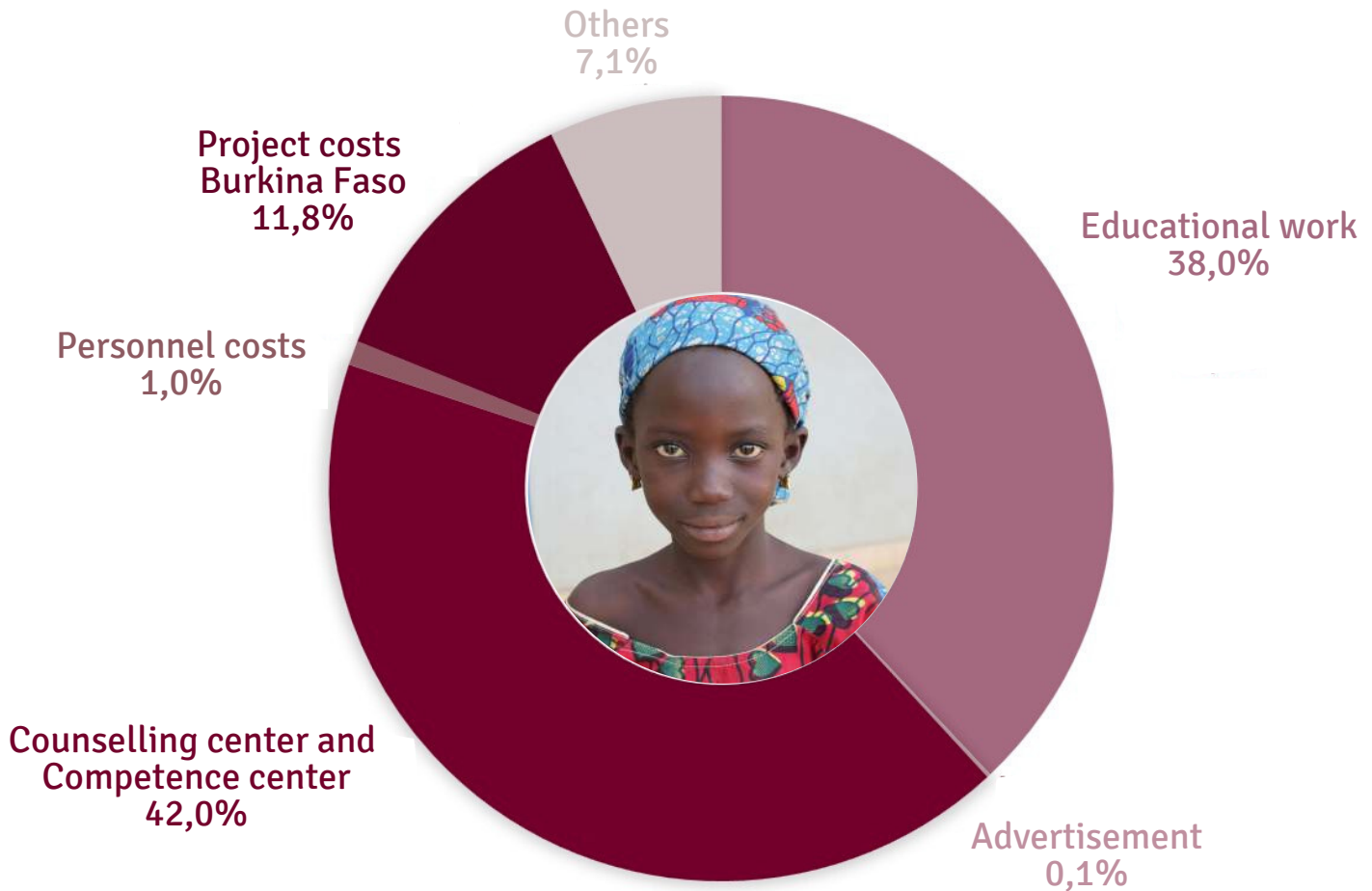
In comparison: the volume of donations in €



The chart on the left shows the increase in private donations from around 30 TEUR in 2018 to over 40 TEUR in 2019, making up almost one third of our income and forming the foundation of our girl protection work in Burkina Faso.

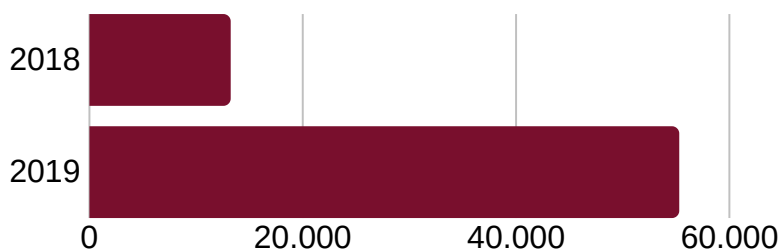


EXPENSES 2019



Our total expenditure amounts to EUR 131,499 and is thus slightly higher than in the previous year (EUR 124,301). The chart above shows that we have invested heavily in the establishment of our specialist counselling center for female genital mutilation in order to help women and girls in Germany. In Burkina Faso, we were able to draw on local reserves and the higher costs of the Girls' Protection Program will not take effect until next year.

In comparison: the costs for consulting work



On the left you can see the expenses for our consulting work for genital mutilation. Launched in September 2018, the great need quickly became apparent (2018: 13 TEUR, 2019 already 55 TEUR).



Foto: Simone Schmeitz - SAIDA international e.V. | Gestaltung: die superplant

**Freitag
6.11.
2020**

FACHTAGUNG Genitalverstümmelung

**Wirksame Prävention und
kompetente Versorgung**

10 – 16 Uhr, HTWK Leipzig
Geutebrück-Bau, Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 132

**Programm und
Anmeldung:**
saida.de/tagung

Prospects of 2020



Foto DUNIA: trigon-film.org

SYMPOSIUM ON NOVEMBER 6TH

In order to raise awareness of the topic and to show concrete possibilities for action, we are organising the specialist conference on genital mutilation at the University of Applied Sciences (HTWK) in Leipzig on 6 November.

Experts from educational and medical professions, social work, offices, authorities and associations are invited to inform themselves and network.

Experiences of experts from development cooperation will be brought in as well as the view of migrants from the countries of origin of this violence.

NOVEMBER 25TH - DAY AGAINST VIOLENCE

On November 24th, the eve of the International Day against Violence against Women, we invite you to the Adult Educational Center in Leipzig for an evening about the situation in Egypt. We will show the wonderful feature film DUNIA by Jocelyn Saab: The young Dunia lives in Cairo and would like to become a dancer. But the way to her body leads to a wound that was inflicted on her as a child...

“

Dunia dances for the whole world - women all over the world may share her longing. And men can learn it. Better late than never.

Walter Ruggie, Film critic

Imprint

Publisher

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Simone Schwarz (chairwoman), RA Jan Holtmeyer, Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Misfeld, Tuula Misfeld, Josefine Fitchett

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Editing/Design

Paulina Schwarz and Simone Schwarz

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with your donation:

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