

A strong partnership:
20 years of DACHSER
and Terre des Hommes



Publishing information

Published by:

DACHSER SE
Thomas-Dachser-Str. 2
87439 Kempten

Overall responsibility:

Bernhard Simon, Burkhard Eling

Project management and editing:

Dr. Klaus Westermeier, Christian Weber, Christian Auchter

Realization and layout:

Marcus Schick, Ralph Zimmermann

Printer:

Holzer Druck und Medien
Druckerei und Zeitungsverlag GmbH + Co. KG
88171 Weiler-Simmerberg



Contents

05

Editorial:
Where we come from,
what connects us

06

Strategy:
Being connected

12

Background:
Interview with Bernhard Simon

16

Operational implementation:
Eight principles of an ethically
guided ESG strategy

20

Partnership:
The Terre des Hommes
perspective

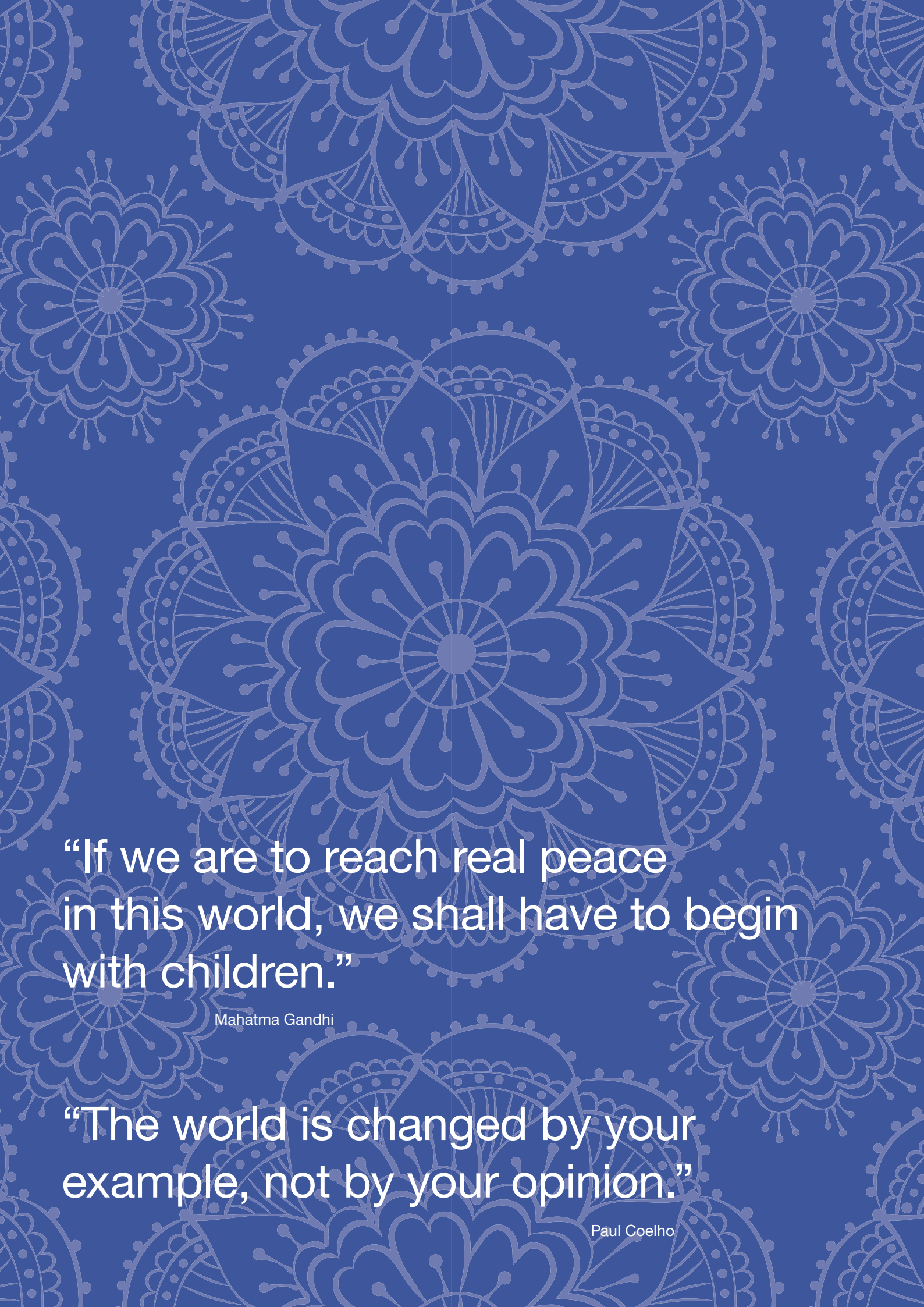
26

Overview:
All projects since 2005

34

Making children strong:
Success stories
from the project regions



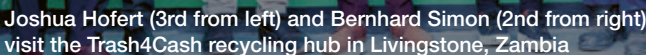


“If we are to reach real peace
in this world, we shall have to begin
with children.”

Mahatma Gandhi

“The world is changed by your
example, not by your opinion.”

Paul Coelho



On December 26, 2004, a seaquake off the northwest coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra triggered a series of devastating tsunamis along the coasts of the Indian Ocean. An estimated 230,000 people lost their lives, over 110,000 people were injured, and more than 1.7 million coastal residents were left homeless. Moved by the images of distress and destruction, the international community responded swiftly with donations and aid. We asked ourselves how the people in the affected countries could be given long-term prospects beyond the immediately needed relief supplies and support measures.

In 2005, Dachser and the international children's rights organization Terre des Hommes joined forces and implemented an independent concept to help people help themselves. The partnership initially launched various projects in South Asia, expanding later to Southern Africa, Latin America, and most recently in Ukraine. All its efforts focus on educational opportunities and improving the living conditions of children and young people—particularly those in socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

A particular focus of our partnership, which has grown closer and closer over the past 20 years, is the promotion of youth groups that are committed to children's rights, education, climate action, and environmental protection. The projects directly address local social structures to promote self-determination. They enable young people to take the future of their local communities into their own hands and shape it with an entrepreneurial spirit.

This brochure invites you to take a journey through two decades of a vision that Dachser and Terre des Hommes have labored long and hard to bring to life, a vision loosely based on Mahatma Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see in this world.”

Bernhard Simon
Chairman of the Supervisory Board DACHSER SE

Joshua Hofert
Vorstand Kommunikation bei Terre des Hommes Deutschland e.V.

Being connected

Business ethics is a broad field. At its heart is the question of what values and principles a company should represent and how it can reconcile the pursuit of economic success with moral aspects. For the family-owned company Dachser, business ethics forms the strategic framework that places its entrepreneurial activity in a sociopolitical context. And this is precisely what the close cooperation and mutual trust between Dachser and Terre des Hommes stand for—and have done for 20 years.

By Bernhard Simon, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of DACHSER SE

Business ethics is one of the roots from which we at Dachser have been growing for over 90 years. It has always been the guiding principle for our actions and the starting point for how we understand our entrepreneurial mission. At Dachser and as an owner family, we know that entrepreneurial activity takes place in a socio-political context. And so one of the guiding principles of our work is to be a corporate citizen—playing a positive role in our environment.

Against this backdrop, our now 20-year collaboration with the children's rights organization Terre des Hommes has developed into a cornerstone of how we understand business ethics—a collaboration that has since attracted a great deal of public attention from far and wide.

Our commitment in the Global South is based on business ethics. In this way, we show that we always understand “doing good business” to mean that it takes place in a context that presupposes and promotes a positive socio-political orientation.

Offering guidance for peaceful coexistence

After 20 years of fruitful collaboration with Terre des Hommes, this is a good point to look back, sort through our experiences, and possibly inspire others to take action. I'm often asked, by people both in and outside the company,

why we as a logistics provider support projects in India, Nepal, South Africa, Zambia, Namibia, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, and Ukraine. These projects address children's and women's rights, education and vocational training, self-employment and entrepreneurship, as well as environmental and climate action. They also focus on overcoming trauma in conflict areas and offering guidance on peaceful coexistence. Where is the unifying idea, where is it embedded in the company's strategy? And why are these projects so far away—aren't there enough problems in Germany and Europe for Dachser to focus its activities on?

Profile

Bernhard Simon is Chairman of the Dachser Supervisory Board and a member of the Dachser SE's founding family. His experience with projects in the Global South goes back a long way: as a college student, he worked as an internal auditor for Terre des Hommes. He then spent several months working independently of Terre des Hommes in the development service in Brazil, calling that time “perhaps one of the most valuable experiences of my life.”



Bernhard Simon also visits the site to see how the project is progressing

“As part of our sustainability and climate protection strategy, we promote social and community activities beyond direct business interests”

My answer is simple: Dachser is an established player on the global market. We have our own locations in 42 countries on five continents, and our networking expertise is one of the fundamental elements of our business model. For these reasons, the world is also the stage on which our corporate citizenship plays out. We think globally—both for our business and in our social commitment. In doing so, we also make it clear how wide the differences are in equal opportunities between the Global South and North.

Responsibility doesn't end at corporate or national boundaries

Especially in times like these, marked as they are by war, crisis, and uncertainty in many places, we need powerful initiatives for local development. In the age of globalization, we all live in one world. Refugee movements and an upswell in human suffering could arise anytime and in places where they are least expected. Our responsibility doesn't end at corporate or national boundaries.

“The entrepreneurial vision of being able to do something oneself is what links Dachser and the development projects”

In addition, not everyone benefits from globalization to the extent that we do in industrialized and developed economies. Children in the Global South are often particularly exposed to the effects of globalization; for example, rural flight, abuse, child trafficking, environmental destruction, and the consequences of climate change.

And so it falls to us to secure a proper livelihood for more and more people, and to ensure that younger people in particular have the opportunity to unlock their potential within the community. That's why the approach of our projects—to create environments in which children and young people can develop—is of such fundamental importance.





Actively standing up for children's rights

**“A strong world tomorrow
is possible only through strong
children today”**

A step further: Corporate Citizen+

For us, corporate citizenship thus means acting responsibly worldwide, and reflecting on the question: How do we treat our employees, partners, and customers at our locations? We've taken this approach for many years, acting in the way that Germany's Supply Chain Act is trying to demand of domestic and now also European companies. At the same time, our activities with Terre des Hommes take us a step further, which we describe as Corporate Citizen+. Specifically, it means we are committed to improving the living conditions of many young people in poorer regions of the world. It is part of our globally oriented worldview to set an example regarding sustainable development, including beyond our company. After all, the only way we can operate successfully over the long term is if the world is still intact tomorrow.

At Dachser, then, entrepreneurial activity and a commitment to development policy are two sides of the same coin.

We want to strengthen civil societies in the Global South with our cultural and sociopolitical approach. The overarching aim of the projects and measures is to help ensure a better, more secure, and self-determined future for the younger generation.

Taking fate into one's own hands

By working with Terre des Hommes, we're also acting in the best spirit and on behalf of our family-owned company. Dachser emerged from the global economic crisis of the 1930s, when living conditions in Germany were difficult. The company built a future for itself through personal drive and entrepreneurship. We've learned that only by taking our fate into our own hands can we hope to see something better grow. We want to convey this certainty to other people and see them share this aspiration, which is why we're helping to lay the foundations in our various projects.

“We don’t want headlines; we want to achieve something substantial”

Our approach should also be a beacon for the commitment of German family-owned businesses to society and social issues.

With our long-term cooperation with Terre des Hommes, we are also consciously distancing ourselves from the modern “selling of indulgences.” “Green washing” or “social washing” is not our goal. Our commitment to Terre des Hommes does not aim to follow current trends and fashions in the short term. We have an

inner compass and we follow it. The projects with Terre des Hommes therefore manifest a fundamental aspect of our understanding of our corporate purpose.

For Dachser, social commitment isn’t a question of forcing a situation or setting out to polarize, but rather is always based on consensus. In the social context, our company both takes an active role in shaping development and also serves as a sounding board. There is always an



interaction, a cultural exchange, in which Dachser does not adopt a “lecturing” posture. In the Global South, we don’t want to come across as though we’re trying to save the world, nor do we want to make promises that we can’t keep.

Embedded in an integrated sustainability strategy

Our activities with Terre des Hommes aren’t an isolated undertaking within the company; instead, they are embedded in a well-thought-out ESG strategy that encompasses a broad spectrum of activities. While the development projects above contribute to the “S,” or “social,” part of ESG, we’ve also done a lot for the “E,” or “ecological,” part in recent years. Based on the binding goals of the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, Dachser has made a commitment to protecting the environment and the climate. In brief: We’ve set an example in sustainability issues with Dachser Climate Protection and have learned to use resources intelligently and efficiently. We’re optimizing our processes accordingly, researching alternative vehicle powertrain systems, and relying on new carbon-saving technologies. In sum, when it comes to sustainability, we see ourselves as an impulse generator in logistics. This is in line with our commitment as a family-owned company to long-term corporate governance (the “G” of ESG), which focuses on our responsibility toward employees and society (in keeping with the “S”).

Our decarbonization efforts are especially important for people in emerging and developing countries, who are exposed to the negative effects of global warming. It is here that the meaningful connection between environmental and climate action (“E”) and social commitment (“S”), as we do with Terre des Hommes, becomes apparent.

Many building blocks of a larger puzzle

That’s why the latest building block in our ESG strategy is our collaboration with myclimate. This nonprofit organization works with private individuals and partners from business to help



shape the future through consulting and education offerings as well as its own climate action projects. myclimate advises companies on integrated climate protection with tangible added value, carries out CO₂ assessments, prepares lifecycle assessments, and offers the option of financing climate action projects. In 2024, Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and myclimate entered into a long-term partnership to launch new climate action projects worldwide. The collaboration comprises two complementary fields of action: climate action projects with myclimate, which are certified according to recognized standards in South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe, and projects with Terre des Hommes, which support children and young people worldwide with an additional focus on climate action.

From 2022, our ESG strategy also included the “Psychosocial support for families in Ukraine” project. This initiative provides children, young people, and their caregivers with assistance in overcoming trauma and building stress resilience, so that the future generation continues to have the ability to create peaceful social structures of cohesion.

Conceptually, all our ESG activities fit together seamlessly like a big jigsaw puzzle. They complete the picture we want to paint as we celebrate 20 years of partnership with Terre des Hommes.

A photograph showing several individuals in blue uniforms and red gloves sorting through a large pile of colorful plastic bottle caps. The scene is outdoors, with a concrete wall in the background. The text "Social entrepreneurial commitment must be authentic" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“Social entrepreneurial
commitment must be
authentic”

Companies that are involved in social and charitable projects show that they are also taking responsibility for positive social development. However, not all entrepreneurial commitments have the intended effect—not everything that is well-intentioned is also well-done. Bernhard Simon therefore advises a well-prepared and well-thought-out approach. Below are excerpts from an interview published in “econic,” a business magazine, in December 2023.

Mr. Simon, you’ve been personally involved in development projects in the Global South for some time, both personally and through your company. How did this come about?

Bernhard Simon: Even as a teenager, I was involved in a working group of the organization Terre des Hommes (TdH) in Kempten. While I was studying business administration, I resumed my commitment and was elected auditor for Terre des Hommes Germany at the age of 20. This meant that I got to know development work and its political components at a very young age, from the inside, so to speak. In addition, I also dealt intensively with development policy and international relations issues during my studies.

So your involvement with the situation of countries and regions in the Global South began not once you were already a successful entrepreneur, but even earlier?

That’s right. Immediately after my studies, I went to Brazil with my wife to gain practical experience in development work. In 1988, I managed a development project there for several months, which focused on vocational training. I learned a lot from the cooperation network between the authorities, NGOs, and local institutions.

I was able to use this experience and my contacts with Terre des Hommes throughout my time working in the family-owned company, which I took up after my project in Brazil. Dachser has now been running and supporting development projects in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, India, Nepal, South Africa, and Zambia together with Terre des Hommes for almost two decades. We provide a fixed annual donation budget of EUR 600,000 for this purpose. In addition, we fund other projects, including our efforts

in Ukraine to provide psychotherapy support for children and their families who have been traumatized by war.

The activities in development work are generally linked to my work for the family-owned company. That is how Dachser’s development work with Terre des Hommes began in India, one of the countries affected by the tsunami. Shortly afterwards, we founded a joint venture there. This has expanded to include projects in Brazil, where we have been active since 2006. Since 2011, Dachser’s establishment of a joint venture in South Africa has expanded its commitment to this subcontinent, where it has also launched projects.

What does your development work look like in concrete terms? Can you give us an idea, and explain your activities using an example project?

The project for self-employment in Livingstone, Zambia, which is indeed a lighthouse project, is a good example. We have been involved in vocational training for young people in Southern Africa for a number of years. In this context, together with Terre des Hommes, we asked ourselves how we could give young people the opportunity to set up their own business so that they can finance their lives and, ideally, employ other young people. Five years ago, we organized an exchange program to bring six young people from Livingstone to Germany. They were also guests at the Dachser Head Office in Kempten. A visit to the local waste company and a recycling center inspired these budding young entrepreneurs to found a start-up called Trash4Cash.

“Trash4Cash” – garbage for money?

Yes, Livingstone and its 200,000 inhabitants alone generate no less than 90 metric tons of trash every day. More than half of that is burned privately or simply buried. Of course, this is a danger for people and the environment.

Back in Livingstone, the young people set up a small business and started collecting garbage and separating it into recyclable materials so they could sell the recycled waste later. Recently, we were able to join Livingstone’s mayor to celebrate the opening of a new recycling center, which is currently run by a team of 160 people and collects just under 20 percent of the city’s recyclable plastic, textile, and paper refuse. The six young people for whom we organized the exchange program in Germany five years ago are now the owners and managing directors of the company and have taken on additional employees.

Trash4Cash is a showcase project, and I’m incredibly proud of the six start-up founders. They belong to a grand tradition of entrepreneurial spirit; the same spirit that motivated my grandfather Thomas Dachser to found his own transportation company during the global financial crisis of 1930. The watchword back then was the same as it is now: self-employment. There are many reasons that made it worthwhile for these young people from Livingstone to start their own enterprise: they’re generating their own income, creating jobs, and helping all others who collect trash in these villages to earn a little extra money—all while improving the state of their environment.

You can look back on many years of intensive commitment to development work. What had the biggest impact on you personally?

The questions that are of particular concern to me personally and to us in the company, and which require a great deal of patience if we really want to help, are these: How can civil societies in countries of the Global South be methodically and successfully promoted so that democratic structures emerge? How can human rights be secured, how can we help children have a future? How can we support women so that they can raise their children in a healthy and

safe environment, and how can these children later get the education and jobs they need to build their own lives?

We have come to know social structures in which people have to fight for their civil liberties on a daily basis—unlike in Germany and Europe, where we can look back on decades of free and democratic development. Be it in structures that are not organized democratically and not legally secure, or in circumstances in which people have to fight to know that their loved ones are in a safe and healthy environment. This includes ensuring that girls from marginalized social classes are not raped on their way to school, that children have the right to play, that they can sit peacefully next to children of other religious beliefs in the same classroom, that girls can go to school and are not used for household and field work. These are issues that are anything but self-evident.

It’s probably not a matter of course for the co-owner of an internationally successful company to ask such questions. Some might say that politicians and social organizations should take care of it...

That would be too short-sighted. It’s about enabling a sustainable social order in the first place. This is also the basic prerequisite for economic activity. That’s why I’m convinced that a company like ours must constantly ask itself what its own contribution is to the formation and development of society and the community. After all, what is a company other than a special form of community?

Dachser is an international player in logistics. How do development projects fit in with Dachser’s sustainability management strategy and goals?

In Germany and Europe, we make our living from globalization. And so we should be very aware of what globalization and market growth mean for people in the Global South, where the rule of law and sufficiently developed political systems are often lacking. If we still want to live in an economic order tomorrow that is not just about overexploitation, then we have to do something about it. Entrepreneurship means taking responsibility, and that is reflected at the core

of Germany's Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains, albeit not in a way that is compatible with everyday business practice.

That's why the more we became internationalized, the more I made a point of presenting our commitment to development policy. This has enabled me to build up our own sense of unity — also among our employees and their families in South America, Southern Africa, and on the Indian subcontinent.

To what extent can other companies benefit from your personal experience, and what can they learn from your involvement in the Global South and in development work?

For every social, charitable, or developmental commitment that a company plans, it should first clarify this question: How honestly do we really mean that? Do we just want to get involved so that we have better PR, or does our involvement arise from our identity and is it linked to the company's goals and strategies? This brings us to the topic of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability management. CSR must first be practiced towards the company's own stakeholders. Another question is important here: How do I run my business as an entrepreneur? Do I want to promote a social project because I haven't necessarily conducted my business with full respect for ethical values before? Is it a case of giving some of the money that wasn't previously earned in a socially and environmentally responsible way back to the world in a cleaner way?

What I'm trying to say is this: The first step is to have an authentic purpose that serves as a guide to treating employees, customers, and partners decently. Building on that foundation, and working within the scope of the company's respective core competencies, a company can also achieve something good for society that goes beyond its actual business purpose.

Companies should understand what they want to get involved in. You can't just build a school somewhere without having an insight into the regional and local social structures. That's knowledge you have to acquire, you have to learn and build up experience. To that end,

it's advisable to join forces with organizations that know and understand how to do it, such as Terre des Hommes.

That way, you as an entrepreneur won't fall into the trap of being a good uncle from the rich West and handing out a few nice gifts somewhere in the world according to the watering can principle. You also won't run the risk of expecting gratitude from people for whom you have done something good. And you avoid the danger of turning proud people into recipients of aid. You also do yourself some good by getting involved in sustainable projects, as it lets you learn a lot about other people and even more about yourself.

Eight principles of an ethically guided ESG strategy

“Well-intentioned” is a long way from “well-done.” From the very beginning, Dachser’s collaboration with Terre des Hommes has been about how to derive concrete activities from a good strategy. How can proper hands-on efforts help combat poverty in the Global South?

The critical factor in the sustainably successful cooperation between Dachser and Terre des Hommes was their decision to implement their plans together with the latter’s local project partners. Development work takes place in a sensitive context, making it necessary to find the right local partner who knows the situation inside out and is fully committed to the project work. A misguided “know-it-all” approach can easily disrupt fragile social and economic structures.

Companies in Germany generally lack the necessary expertise and, above all, the deep local roots to provide targeted, project-oriented support in the Global South—and Dachser is no exception. We therefore need an institution that, like Terre des Hommes, serves as a go-between and concentrates on advising us and the NGOs on the ground.

Terre des Hommes has the expertise and networks needed to select impassioned NGOs on the ground who will then work with the people to achieve the progress we’re striving for. Because Terre des Hommes works solely with local organizations, we don’t impose anything on anyone locally, but support existing approaches. In this way, we avoid a paternalistic approach and achieve a perfect fit between Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and local NGOs.

Rolling up our sleeves together

For two decades, Terre des Hommes has been a long-standing, reliable partner with whom we’ve been able to roll up our sleeves and get the job done. Terre des Hommes also acts as a sounding board for us; a competent point of contact with whom we can exchange information on all activities, developments, and experiences.

Besides selecting Terre des Hommes to facilitate our activities in the Global South, there is a whole host of other principles that are relevant to the success of our work there. We had to learn these principles ourselves over time:



Growth from one's own resources

Principle 1

Projects and activities with Terre des Hommes are integrated into a broader sustainability strategy at Dachser, as described above. They must not be an isolated undertaking. In this context, it was also important to keep Dachser employees informed internally about projects and progress, but without initiating a kind of “project tourism.”

Principle 2

Those who strive for change in poor areas of the Global South must have staying power, patience, and sound concepts, as well as being a reliable partner for local organizations. We describe these efforts as grassroots projects. In keeping with this principle, we also transfer our fundamental approach to customers and partners within the framework of our business model. Anyone who strives to achieve goals with us knows that we pursue them over the long term and with tenacity. This creates the confidence to really change things.

Principle 3

The projects we support as part of our partnership with Terre des Hommes must not be individual, isolated actions selected according to the company's whims. All projects need an inner cohesion and shouldn't be loosely strung together. These projects are not stand-alone solutions; their thematic focus is on children's and human rights, access to education and vocational training, a sustainable and healthy environment, and the ability for self-employment and thus “helping people to help themselves.” The supported NGOs in a project region should be networked with each other, and the individual projects and activities must fit together.

All projects revolve around this: to enable children and young people from disadvantaged communities to lead a healthy and self-determined life. The latest initiative by Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and myclimate is also based on this principle. The criteria we applied to our project in Ukraine, which was launched against the backdrop of the war, also fit into our grid.

Principle 4

The geographical locations of our projects have been selected with care. The focus on South America, South Asia, and Southern Africa is explained by our business relationships with these regions and our supply chains. With our commitment, we support solutions to problems that also affect us as a logistics provider in the target regions. Interaction between local Dachser organizations and Terre des Hommes projects is desirable, but not mandatory. In South Africa, for example, young people in one of the projects there are given the opportunity to obtain an apprenticeship at Dachser South Africa. Some project participants have already found a permanent job in this way. Interactions of this kind also exist in India. However, a 100% fit between local Dachser organizations and the development projects is neither achievable nor desirable.

Principle 5

The approach we've developed over the years is typical of Dachser. It can also be explained by the way we see ourselves. We didn't want to provide paternalistic help, nor did we want to distribute money haphazardly or create a "Dachser school." We're interested in promoting civil society and the work of youth groups. The lesson here is, don't build CSR programs according to blueprints, but instead find your own signature style over time.

Principle 6

Of course, we also need a sense of realism and relevance. We know that our activities can help people to improve their personal development and their environment only within a very narrow framework. This modesty in self-perception is imperative in view of the scale of the challenges facing many people in the Global South. Nevertheless, a good portion of pride in what has been achieved is also part of the motivation for Dachser and its employees to continue their enthusiastic support of the projects.



Helping oneself through self-employment



Building a solid future

Principle 7

We are looking to participate in an exchange, not give instruction. The concept of the projects is authentic, intrinsic, holistic, long-term, reliable, and sustainable.

Principle 8

Regular audits provide us with meaningful progress reports that we evaluate together. Professionalism in project management and the establishment of functioning structures and processes must be pursued just as seriously and persistently as our company's day-to-day

work. In the spirit of these principles, the cooperation between Dachser and Terre des Hommes has developed over 20 years into a well-developed system for social commitment within the framework of an overarching ESG strategy derived from Dachser's corporate ethics. Thanks to the skillful implementation, this can be considered a successful example of "new purpose" beyond the boundaries of the company.

A source of inspiration

Twenty years ago, Dachser and Terre des Hommes launched a unique partnership to empower children and young people. It is an example of a company's effective and authentic commitment to children's and human rights worldwide. The valuable shared experiences from the project work can also inspire other companies.

By Joshua Hofert, Executive Board Member Communications and Spokesperson for Terre des Hommes

Indian Ocean, December 26, 2004: A massive earthquake triggered a series of devastating tsunamis, which primarily hit the coasts of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand. More than 230,000 people lost their lives and 1.7 million became homeless. The images from Asia went around the world and reached people in Germany the same day. Solidarity with those affected was huge, and the amount of donations collected was the second highest in Germany since the Second World War. The only time that amount was exceeded was in 2022 after Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Kempton, the Allgäu region, southern Germany: Dachser, too, wanted to help. Bernhard Simon, who was named Spokesperson of Dachser's Executive Board in 2005, approached Terre des Hommes with a proposal: to donate to a project that would help the locals affected by the tsunami effectively and sustainably. George Chira, then project coordinator of Terre des Hommes in South Asia, advised that the money should not be used solely for emergency aid. This is because the willingness to help is usually greatest in the first few days following a disaster, but months later, when the humanitarian aid runs out, there are still houses and schools to be rebuilt or agricultural fields to be restored. In other words, there are still people who have nothing—and to make matters worse, public attention has moved on, and so there's a lack of donations.

Providing aid should be a marathon, not a sprint

This was the impetus for the first Terre des Hommes project sponsored by Dachser, which started in India at the beginning of 2005. In 2025, Dachser and Terre des Hommes can look back proudly on 20 years of cooperation. Together, we have achieved so much; yet there is still much ahead.

Profile

Joshua Hofert has been Executive Board Member Communications and Spokesperson for Terre des Hommes since 2022. Previously, he was Head of Programs and Policy at Terre des Hommes and worked on the project regions as well as on various policy issues, such as the right to a healthy environment, shrinking spaces, human rights, child labor, and supply chains. Mr. Hofert was instrumental in founding the Terre des Hommes International Youth Network and the Youth Advisory Board of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The participation of children and young people in development initiatives is a matter close to his heart.



Joshua Hofert: "We help where the need is greatest."

“Combining social change with economic needs and ecological balance is complex”

That first project was followed by many others—soon spreading beyond India to number of countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Europe has also been a project region since 2022: shortly after the Russian attack on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Dachser organized all the logistics for delivering essential mint-condition goods to the Ukrainian border, including life-saving medicines. Once the local supply situation had stabilized, Dachser sponsored a long-term project to provide therapy services to traumatized children and their families.

For 20 years, Dachser has supported numerous projects with Terre des Hommes to empower children and young people. I was able to visit some of them together with Dachser and see the impact for myself.

In all project visits, it's clear: combining social change with economic needs and ecological balance is complex. But this is exactly what Terre des Hommes projects are all about. How can children thrive today and tomorrow? Among other things, this means asking: How can they gain access to high-quality education and career prospects under dignified conditions? How can children and young people be protected from exploitation and violence, and receive psychosocial support after traumatic experiences? How can we create gender equality and ensure that girls and women have the same opportunities and rights? How can we prevent both current and future generations from suffering due to pollution and destruction of the environment, as well as from the consequences of the climate crisis?

Pioneering work with a holistic view

These are some of the focal points of the cooperation between Dachser and Terre des Hommes. Nevertheless, they are by no means all the aspects that play a role in project work. The key to project success is therefore always to take a holistic view. To stay with that metaphor: if you turn this holistic key in the lock, many interlocking cogs move.

Written on one of these cogs are the words “Helping people to help themselves.” This often clichéd expression in development work needs to be critically examined to understand what it really means. Terre des Hommes consistently takes the approach of relying on local partner organizations for all its 400 projects in more than 45 countries. It doesn't send people to other countries, but works with local staff and organizations that are familiar with the context, culture, language, living conditions, problems, and solutions on the ground. Terre des Hommes supports its partners with expertise in designing and evaluating projects, with international networks for political campaigns and the exchange of experience, as well as with financial support.

A future built on participation

Another cog is the participation and empowerment of young people. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child has the right to participate. Experience also shows that projects are much more successful when children and young people are involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the projects from the outset. This is best illustrated by two examples from the cooperation between Dachser and Terre des Hommes:

In 2018 and 2019, Dachser sponsored a youth exchange between Zambia and Germany, which was organized by Terre des Hommes and co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). At the heart of the exchange were reciprocal visits by two teams of ten young people each, one team from Zambia and one from Germany. The main goal was to make their own cities and



“Projects are much more successful when children and young people are involved from the outset”

municipalities more sustainable. The Zambian delegation was deeply impressed by the recycling system of the local waste management companies during their visit to the Allgäu. This was the initial spark for the “Trash4Cash” project, which aimed to get the mountains of garbage in Livingstone, Zambia, under control. The group from Zambia became entrepreneurs: today, the young people run a company that collects and processes plastic waste in the city. In doing so, they reduce environmental pollution and educate the population on how recycling works. At the same time, they generate an income for themselves and their families by selling the sorted plastic.

Another success story comes from an initiative launched by young people during the peak phase of Covid-19 in India. In 2021, countless people in the towns and villages of an ongoing project sponsored by Dachser were infected with the new Delta variant. Members of the Terre des Hommes youth network in India joined forces and quickly created a coronavirus awareness campaign. They informed their neighborhoods about how to contain the spread of the virus, distributed hygiene kits, and educated the communities about myths and misinformation regarding the vaccine, which was still new at the time. The young people used digital channels to organize their efforts and stay well informed. They found the right approach and the trust of their communities, making the campaign a success.



Opening of the Trash4Cash recycling hub: Bernhard Simon (right) and Joshua Hofert in conversation with the mayor of Livingstone

Planning for the long term

The examples from Zambia and India also illustrate the characteristic of a third cog: the long term. All the social, economic, and ecological changes outlined above take time and staying power. As resources and opportunities are always limited, Dachser and Terre des Hommes have defined priorities in terms of content and geography. These are formulated every five years in the form of a global program approach and underpinned by specific donations from Dachser. We're delighted that the agreement for the next five years will come into force in 2025 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of our partnership.

Being able to plan for the long term is essential for the success of the project. It prevents the premature termination of promising or urgently needed projects due to a lack of funding. It allows changes, progress, and challenges to

be recognized and readjusted on the basis of evidence. Last but not least, it shows a growing trust in the expertise of Terre des Hommes, which enables us to do our work well. Conversely, we know that Dachser is serious about its Corporate Citizen+ program and its responsibility as a global company. We are partners who treat each other as equals.

All these features make the cooperation with Dachser unique from the Terre des Hommes point of view. It is an example of a company's effective and authentic commitment to children's and human rights worldwide. We hope that our valuable shared experiences from this collaboration can also inspire other companies.



Terre des Hommes: Strong children – a just world

The name “Terre des Hommes” stands for an “Earth of Humanity.” Climate change, child labor, war, and displacement—Terre des Hommes projects empower children and young people and protect them from violence and exploitation. The organization provides humanitarian aid and improves the living conditions of children worldwide. What is particularly important here is that Terre des Hommes works with local partner organizations and joins with children in fighting for their rights.

As a children’s rights organization, Terre des Hommes operates independently of governments, business, religious communities, and political parties. It currently supports some 400 projects for children and young people in 47 countries.

Projects 2005–2025

Much achieved – much still to do

The cooperation between Dachser and Terre des Hommes has developed continuously and consistently over the course of 20 years—from individual projects to a project idea that spans continents. The common thread running through all of them: enabling people to lead a self-determined life in which they are valued, safe, and can enjoy a healthy environment.



South Asia



Local partner organization:
Participatory Action for Community
Empowerment (PACE) – India

Duration:
July 2005 to September 2025

The projects focus on providing young people in Uttar Pradesh with a platform to identify socioeconomic problems in their neighborhoods and strengthen their skills in the areas of health and nutrition, environmental protection, and understanding gender-based violence. They also aim to improve young people's personal skills and opportunities in the labor market through elearning courses and other vocational training.

Local partner organization:
Disha Vihar, Bhoomika Vihar – India

Duration:
October 2020 to September 2025

The project supports youth-led initiatives to promote children's and gender rights and improve the economic, environmental, and social protection of marginalized communities in the four states of northern India.

Local partner organization:
Samudaik Kalyan Evam Vikas Sansthan
(SKVS) – India (together with PACE)

Duration:
October 2015 to September 2020

The project focused on reducing poverty and discrimination in the Musahar community in the Khushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh, improving health and education, and engaging youth in conservation and sustainable development activities throughout the state.

Local partner organization:
Dr. A.V Baliga Memorial Trust – India

Duration:
October 2015 to September 2021

The project focused on providing training and educational support for children and young people in the form of e-learning courses, in combination with a youth exchange project.

Local partner organization:
Action Initiative for Development (AID),
Prasoon, Madhya Pradesh, Sarathi
Development Foundation – India

Duration:
July 2021 to December 2021

The project, conducted in three districts in three Indian states, strengthened the communities' mechanisms for coping with the problems of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Local partner organization:
Nari Prabodhan Manch (NPM) – India

Duration:
May 2016 to November 2016

The project supported communities in the Indian state of Maharashtra during the 2016 drought. Water tankers were used to provide water for 40 days, and seed that requires less water was procured as well.

Local partner organization:
Relief Nepal

Duration:
October 2015 to April 2021

Over a period of five years, various initiatives have made sustainable improvements in the areas of health, education, and the well-being of the rural population, especially women, children, and young people. This was achieved by enabling them to exercise their rights and become self-sufficient at the local level through business start-up opportunities.

Local partner organization:
Human Resources Center (HRC) – Nepal

Duration:
October 2020 to February 2024

The project aimed to ensure quality education and adequate livelihood opportunities. The project focused on equipping schools with teaching and learning materials and creating a child-friendly environment. In this way, children and young people were to be granted access to quality education. The project also dealt with qualifications and start-up assistance for various livelihood opportunities at the local level.

Latin America



Local partner organization:
CEDECA Limeira – Brazil

Duration:
January 2015 to March 2024

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the increase in inequalities and violence, of which Brazilian children and young people are the main victims. For this reason, the project, in its third and final phase, continued to rely on three proven pillars: sociocultural workshops, training in the field of human rights, and communication with children and young people from three neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city of Limeira. In addition, professionals such as social workers and even public security personnel were involved.

Local partner organization:
Asociación de Padres y Amigos del Discapacitado Mental (APADIM) – Argentina

Duration:
July 2021 to June 2027

This project aims to empower children, young people, and young adults with and without disabilities to promote the right to a clean and healthy environment and environmentally responsible behaviors at the local level. The children and young people participating in the project live in neighborhoods on the outskirts of the city of Córdoba, characterized by environmental pollution and urban socio-economic problems.

Local partner organization:
Instituto Nacional para o Desenvolvimento Social e Cultural do Campo—INSTITUTO CULTIVAR (in cooperation with O Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra, or MST) – Brazil

Duration:
July 2021 to June 2027

This project focuses on training in environmentally friendly agriculture and mobilizes children, young people, and young adults for the right to a clean and healthy environment, the right to land, and the right to education. The project will be implemented in the five ecologically diverse regions of the country. The project will reach approximately 1,000 students and 100 teachers, who will share the best practices developed through the project.

Local partner organization:
Aba Asociación Bartolomé Aripaylla – Peru

Duration:
June 2022 to June 2025

The project aims primarily to strengthen the individual and collective skills of young indigenous women in the areas of water harvesting, agricultural techniques, and entrepreneurship. The projects, in conjunction with local advocacy work, are intended to benefit both participants themselves and their communities.

Southern Africa



Local partner organization:
Environment Africa, Livingstone – Zambia

Duration:
September 2022 to December 2024

The main objective of the project was to promote entrepreneurship among young people through waste collection and recycling. The project focused on capacity building in Livingstone to strengthen the waste management income generation project. Phase II of the project further focused on the sustainability aspects of the project and sought to expand to Livingstone and two other towns, Zimba and Kazungula.

Local partner organization:
Outreach Foundation, South Africa

Duration:
September 2021 to January 2025

Many of the refugees in Johannesburg have no official status and no access to education and training. The project offered educational opportunities, professional prospects, and psychosocial assistance. Special attention was paid to young mothers and their children.

Local partner organization:
Catholic Institute of Education (CIE),
Johannesburg – South Africa

Duration:
October 2020 to December 2024

The project helped reduce unemployment among unskilled and unemployed young people in Reiger Park (East Rand) and Evaton (Emfuleni) in Gauteng, South Africa. Particular emphasis was placed on improving opportunities for young women to access market skills training and participate economically in markets, whether formal or informal.

Local partner organization:
WIMSA – Namibia

Duration:
June 2017 to April 2023

The project provided adequate and sustainable access to quality education for the children of the San in Namibia. The goal of this particular phase of the project was to build stronger pillars for the delivery and long-term sustainability of the early childhood development centers (ECDCs). In addition, new models and opportunities were explored to create jobs for young San and communities in the ecotourism sector.

Ukraine



Local partner organization:
Vostok SOS, Libereco – Partnership
for Human Rights

Duration:
September 2022 to February 2024

The project provided psychosocial and trauma therapy for children, young people, and their caregivers. The goal was to help them individually and collectively build stress resistance and cope with traumatic events.

Turkey



Local partner organization:
Support to Life (STL)

Duration:
February 2023 to June 2023

The project supported 11,000 people affected by the earthquake with shelter, food, and other relief supplies.

Climate action projects by Dachser, Terre des Hommes, and myclimate



Local partner organization:
Suvidha, Aman, HESCO – India

Duration:
January 2024 to December 2029

The project focuses on implementing sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions in the state of Uttarakhand. It includes the use of clean energy to reduce dependence on wood fuel, the development of irrigation and drinking water systems, azolla cultivation and nitrogen fixation, climate-friendly agriculture, and the development of orchards to improve greening and livelihoods.

Local partner organization:
SAHAS, Karnali Resilient Initiative Nepal (KRIN)

Duration:
January 2024 to December 2029

This project targets 7,000 households in two districts and supports climate-friendly technologies at the household level to reduce CO₂ emissions while improving the resilience, knowledge, and capacity to respond to climate change. By promoting clean energy technologies and resilient livelihoods, the project aims to bring sustainable social benefits to communities.

Local partner organization:
PRODECO, Bolivia

Duration:
2025 to 2029

Multiple initiatives for climate protection and adaptation to climate change are underway in Quechua, Guarani, and Chiquitano families in Bolivia. The focus is on introducing ecological wood stoves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the project aims to ensure access to water via pipelines and tanks, to establish agroforestry systems and agroecological gardens, and to provide environmental education.

Local partner organization:
MAHLAHLE, Mozambique

Duration:
2025 to 2029

In the provinces of Inhambane and Gaza, this project provides 12,000 households with support for the introduction of climate-friendly technologies to improve livelihoods and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Households and the agricultural sector receive access to solar-powered water systems, while young people are trained in sustainable trades and the operation of more efficient cooking stoves. At the same time, environmental education raises climate awareness among children and young people.

Sustainable agriculture
secures the future



People at the heart of it all – Case studies from 20 years of development work

Small actions make a big difference, as these stories of people from the numerous Dachser–Terre des Hommes projects will attest. Examples at the local and regional level show the focus of joint development work. They are not only associated with scattered successes, but also offer a considerable quantitative lever, about which Dachser provides detailed information in its annual sustainability report.

Focus on education, training, and the fight against poverty

India: Hina's road to self-employment

Hina, a 19-year-old young woman from the village of Naya Nagar in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, is the eldest of six siblings. Her father is the sole breadwinner and works as a day laborer outside the village. The family could

barely make ends meet on his small income. Hina was able to learn Urdu at school, but her family lacked money for food or education for her siblings. Hina made a decision and visited the tailoring center of the Terre des Hommes partner organization PACE. Within a year, she was trained as a seamstress. With her talent for sewing clothes, she can now make a significant contribution to the family income, pay the school fees for her siblings, and eat three meals a day. The road to self-employment has paid off for her and her family.



Hina was able to train as a seamstress and now makes a significant contribution to the family income

India: Vegetable cultivation brought about change

Soharta Prajapati from Belikhurd in Balrampur district was struggling with her husband's alcohol addiction and his unemployment. At the same time, she had to raise her five children, a son and four daughters. Whenever Soharta talked to her husband about the household money, it resulted in arguments or even physical abuse.

Soharta was determined to improve her family's living conditions. Her most important concern was to feed her children and provide them with an education. That prompted her to join a women's group that was founded as part of the project "Ensuring the right to survival, food, and health for children and livelihood opportunities for young people." The local organization PACE was supported by Terre des Hommes and Dachser.

Soharta took part in the group's regular meetings and learned about vegetable growing as a sustainable source of income—despite her husband's initial resistance. Soharta started growing vegetables in her garden and planted onions, eggplants, tomatoes, chilies, and pumpkins, which she sold.

This success encouraged her, and she managed to involve her entire family, including her husband and parents-in-law, in working to cultivate vegetables.

Together with her family, she now grows okra, sponge gourds, beans, maize, and other vegetables on an area of four hectares. While it contributed the equivalent of EUR 3 to the family income in the early days, the family now earns over EUR 300 a month from growing vegetables.

In addition to the financial improvement, Soharta's family situation also changed for the better: her husband managed to overcome his alcohol addiction and become more involved with his family.



Soharta turns her family into entrepreneurs by growing vegetables

India: From greengrocer to office assistant

Neha is 25 years old and lives with her family of nine in a small house in Holambi Kalan, Delhi. Her family includes her father, an older brother, his wife and two children, and three young sisters. Her mother was a vegetable vendor and the only member of the family with an income. Neha and her brother helped their mother buy vegetables at the wholesale vegetable market and resell them in the area.

Neha's mother passed away in December 2020. After her death, it was very difficult for the family to survive. The coronavirus pandemic made the situation worse. Her brother found a job as a worker in a factory, but did not earn much. Neha could not contribute much to the family income because of her poor health. It was not easy for her to find work. Neha lost hope of getting a job and wanted to start selling vegetables again. She often thought of her

mother, who never wanted her to do this work. Because it was not easy to find the money to buy vegetables.

A friend told her about the e-learning center run by the Dr. A.V. Baliga Trust with support from Dachser. At the center, she not only received computer training and learned English, but also gained confidence in dealing with people. After completing the course in September 2022, the project team helped her get a job as an office assistant and data entry clerk with a salary of EUR 125 per month.

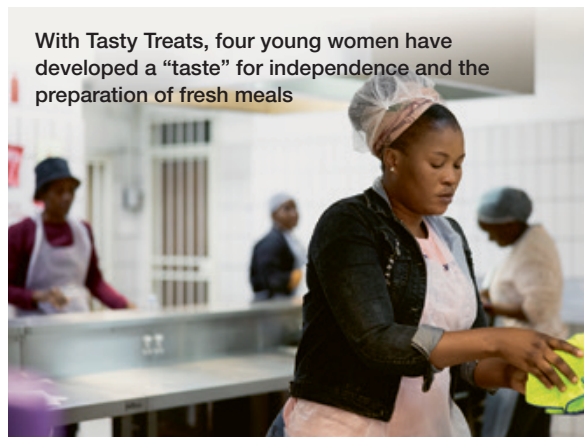
Neha is very happy with this. By taking part in the center's activities, she has also become aware of social and environmental issues. She wants to stay in touch with the youth group. That's why she regularly participates in the neighborhood clean-up and planting activities. Neha says: "With the support of my friends in the youth group, I've learned to speak up and speak out. Whatever I learn here, I pass on to all the people I meet. When you share your views and listen to others, you learn more."



Neha used e-learning to start her career as an office assistant and data entry clerk

Southern Africa: Team commitment

Puleng Mokoena, Ntokozo Ndebele, Chiratidzo Masango, and Annie Sungulele Kombozi are four young women who, with the support of the local project partner Outreach Foundation, have successfully set up their own business—Tasty Treats.



With Tasty Treats, four young women have developed a “taste” for independence and the preparation of fresh meals

The basis for this was training in catering, which covered various aspects of food preparation as well as cake and bread baking. The four then completed a commercial training course. The young women stood out for their commitment and exceptional performance. On that basis, they were given the opportunity to manage the Outreach Foundation’s staff canteen as independent entrepreneurs, including a fully equipped kitchen and inventory.

Since the beginning of July 2023, the four women have been serving freshly prepared meals to employees, other organizations in the area, and walk-in customers. The entrepreneurs receive ongoing support with administrative tasks. A professional chef ensures the quality of the food.

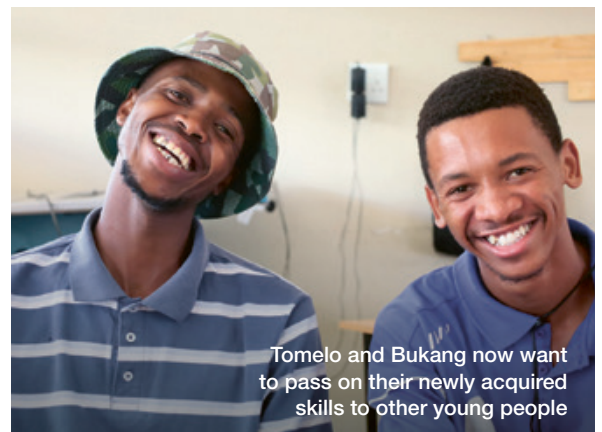
Southern Africa: From self-improvement to independence

Tumelo (27) finished school in 2016 and then graduated from a college near Johannesburg. However, he then had difficulties finding an internship or a job. Tumelo says: “There were no opportunities for me to do something meaningful. That’s one of the reasons I turned to drugs.” Finally, he was able to go into rehab.

Bokang (24) had also finished school, but not with the grades he would have liked. He took the exam again, but felt little motivation to study. “A good diploma is no guarantee that you will get a job in the future. I wanted to explore other possibilities,” Bokang says. “I wanted to do something with my hands, and use my skills to do something for other people that would also earn me money.”

After retaking the final exam, he came to a dead end. “I sat at home for a year. Sitting around is more tiring than going to work. You feel trapped, locked in a box, and unable to move.” Then Bokang heard on the radio about a program offered by local Dachser partner CIE and decided to sign up.

Tumelo and Bokang enrolled in the CIE Livelihoods and Skills program at the Bokomoso Skills Centre in Evaton in March 2023. In September 2023, they jointly founded the Royal Aluminium Windows and Doors Cooperative and use the center’s equipment to design and manufacture individual aluminum products for local customers.



Tomelo and Bukang now want to pass on their newly acquired skills to other young people

Although there are some challenges to overcome when working with others, Bokang and Tumelo are determined to grow their small business. Tumelo would like to work with other young people at the center who make bricks and expand the range of services on offer with them, such as plumbing, electrical, and welding work.

Bokang is grateful for the experience he has gained from the program: “At the center, I learned skills that I would never have learned otherwise. Now I can do something that earns me money. Money to live on.” He hopes to work with local schools to replace broken windows and doors.

Southern Africa: Silent heroes

Memory Bostander (28) was trained as part of the Montessori Teacher Training Program. After graduation, she worked in two of the project’s early childhood development centers. Here, she shares her experiences working with San children, the project’s silent heroes:

“As a teacher, sometimes you’re overwhelmed by frustration and negativity. It’s easy to get bogged down, but sometimes it’s the little things that pick you back up. For example, one of my students recently handed me a drawing of the two of us that said, ‘You are the best teacher.’ Moments like this motivate me to keep going. Here are three student stories that have reinforced my joy in teaching and always remind me why I do this job.

“There is nothing better than when a student makes a leap in learning, when something ‘clicks’ in his or her mind. I had this experience in my first year as a teacher. Eliot came into my classroom at the beginning of the year not knowing a single letter—he couldn’t even sing the alphabet song. I was determined to overcome this challenge. As I continued to follow the literacy curriculum, I was continually frustrated by how little progress Eliot was making. I wondered if the way I was teaching him was meeting his needs, so I decided to take a different approach. I began to incorporate more movement and songs into my reading

and writing lessons. Soon I noticed that it was working for Eliot. This taught me the importance of being flexible and open to new approaches. Seeing Eliot go above and beyond like this was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had as an ECD teacher.

“Some students come into our classrooms with an attitude of helplessness. These are the students who are constantly saying: ‘I can’t do it.’ I had one such student in my class, and the experience taught me how feedback and positive praise can change one’s perspective.

“Jordan often refused to do tasks because he thought they were too hard. But I knew he could do it. After all, he was a bright, funny, and friendly young boy who just lacked confidence. I made it my mission to change his dismissive attitude over the course of the year. I encouraged Jordan and praised him at every opportunity for his hard work and dedication. But when he left my classroom at the end of the school year, I wondered if I had succeeded in my efforts. While he had made amazing progress, he still lacked confidence. Three years later, Jordan came to visit me. He said, ‘Mrs. Bostander, you always told me to do my best, and I just want to thank you. Because of you, I want to be a teacher when I grow up.’ Moments like these show how important it is to have a positive mindset. As an educator, I try to encourage my students to discover themselves and pursue their dreams. This worked for Jordan.

“Then there are also the students who easily drive you up the wall. I’ve had many sleepless nights trying to figure out why a child is behaving that way. I often wonder if I’m doing the right thing or if I need to approach the situation differently. Alexa was that kind of student. She had impulsive tendencies and always did the exact opposite of what I asked. I tried to keep a positive attitude, but I just wasn’t used to dealing with that kind of behavior. I did my best to connect with Alexa, reminding her that I was here to help her succeed and that all I could ask was that she do her best. Sometimes I thought I was getting through to her, but she proved me wrong every time. But eventually, I noticed a big change in Alexa. She started following instructions and finishing her work when asked. One day Alexa came to me with a



big smile. 'Thank you, Ms. Bostander,' she said. When I asked her why she was thanking me, she said, 'Because you love me.' At that moment I realized how important it is to never give up on your students.

"Ultimately, these stories show how much I care about my profession and my students. I cherish these moments and hopefully will have many more in the years to come."



Welcome to the future: Naledi founds her own business

Southern Africa: Becoming a businesswoman with independence at her fingertips

Naledi lives in a township outside Johannesburg. While coronavirus restrictions were in place, it was difficult for her to find employment or further training. So the 21-year-old enrolled in the Outreach Foundation's skills development center and completed courses in nail design and makeup. She also attended commercial training and learned how to develop a marketing strategy, among other things. This gave her all the basics she needed to set up her own small cosmetics business.

The young South African now offers nail and makeup services. She markets her own business via social media, and new customers also come to her through referrals. Naledi says, "When I see someone feel good about themselves because of my work, I feel like an artist. This course made me feel like I can do anything I set my mind to." Now she can pay toward household expenses, electricity, and food for her family. Naledi hopes her business will grow and that she will be able to inspire other young women.

zu inspirieren.

Focus on healthy living conditions

India: Children see to hygiene and waste disposal

The children and young people in the Holambi Kalan slum in Delhi have shown that they can assert their right to a clean environment by joining forces and persevering. They and their families were forced to live in an extremely unhealthy environment due to their relocation to the city slum; the sewers overflowed and garbage was simply dumped anywhere. The local administration didn't take action on the problem, even after numerous complaints from the residents. This unhygienic situation led to

outbreaks of dengue fever, malaria, and other diseases. The members of the children's group realized that the irregular cleaning of the sewers and the disposal of waste and plastic there could cause further problems and therefore needed to be tackled.

The children marked the unhygienic spots on a map, drew up an action plan, and collected signatures from 150 local residents. They submitted their application to the local representative of the municipal administration, who greatly appreciated the children's efforts. The municipality then commissioned two employees to carry out regular cleaning and promised to place garbage cans on every street of the slum. In addition, a WhatsApp group was set up together with the administration, in which children and young people are represented who check on the situation from time to time and report back.



The children in the Holambi Kalan slum are tackling the waste problem in their neighborhood



Magdalena and Marcela Machaca
in front of a rainwater pond

Peru: Understanding Mother Earth

The municipality of Quispillacta sits at an altitude of 2,500 to 4,500 meters. Two sisters, Marcela and Magdalena Machaca, have researched the experiences of small farmers with local water sources and plants. Their findings are now providing food for numerous families. Since 2022, Dachser has been supporting the project with the aim of, among other things, training young people as community advisors. The plan is for them to pass on rainwater harvesting techniques to their peers in other districts and provinces not directly involved in the project, thus helping to solve the problem of water scarcity.

“We live in the mountains, and the snow on the peaks has always been our natural source of water. In the dry season, we rely on the streams and springs formed during the thaw. But many mountains are no longer covered in snow and the glaciers are also receding,” Magdalena says with great concern. “Climate change is also leading to storms and heavy rainfall, which results in crop failures and reduced yields,” she explains. “Many families don’t know whether they’ll have enough food to last the year.”

The consequences of climate change are causing serious problems for people in the Andes. But Quispillacta, Magdalena and Marcela’s hometown, is doing comparatively well. In 1991, after studying agricultural sciences, the two sisters founded the Asociación Bartolomé Aripaylla, or ABA for short. A year later, Terre des Hommes began to provide support. The Machaca sisters rely above all on the traditional ecological knowledge of the indigenous communities to improve water management and thus crop yields.

“We talked to the elders to find solutions to the problem of droughts,” Magdalena recalls. “And we discovered the ‘qucha ruway’—a practice that makes it possible to store rainwater in lagoons while also caring for nature and biodiversity. We use clay, stones, and plant matter for the dams, and certain algae promote seepage. Everyone helps with the construction, including young people and children.”

Together with the villages, ABA has now created more than 120 ponds and reinforced their banks so that water from the torrential rains can be collected. The water seeps deep into the ground and fills the groundwater reservoirs. With its long roots, the putaqa plant can draw groundwater to the surface where needed. Many families have created this kind of “putaqa well.” “The lakes can at least partially replace the ecological function of the glaciers that have disappeared,” Magdalena says proudly. “This means that farming families can maintain their food production even during periods of drought. We’ve become more resilient to climate change.”

Thanks to ABA, the issue of rainwater storage has also become part of Peruvian politics. Several regional governments have recognized the success of the measures and have decided to implement the ABA concept in other areas of Peru as well. The work of ABA, Terre des Hommes, and Dachser thus has an impact far beyond Quispillacta.

Focus on entrepreneurship

Southern Africa: Turning trash into cash

At the beginning of 2024, a group of young people from the city of Livingstone, Zambia, visited Kempten in Germany's Allgäu region. A few years before that, they had founded and successfully built up a company in their home country. Trash4Cash, as their company is called, collects waste and recycles it. The young Africans came up with the idea for their start-up during their first stay in Kempten in 2018. At that time, they learned the basics of waste collection, recycling, and marketing and used this knowledge to develop their business model.

In 2024, the start-up entrepreneurs refreshed their knowledge, reconnected with the contacts they had made back then, and reported on their experiences. During the talks in Kempten, it was also explained why an internship at a recycling center in 2018 gave the team the decisive impetus to start their project.

Waste is a serious problem in many regions of Zambia. There are only rudimentary waste disposal systems, even in Livingstone with its almost 200,000 residents. It's particularly important for the city that plastic and other waste not be left lying around everywhere, as Livingstone is the starting point for many tourists who visit Victoria Falls, nine kilometers away.

When Trash4Cash started, its first order of business was to set up a waste collection system. Residents were encouraged not to throw away recyclable waste, such as plastic, but to collect it instead. Trash4Cash employees then gathered this waste together and took it to a collection point.

This approach achieved two objectives at the same time. One is simply earning money, which Trash4Cash does by recycling the waste it collects. The other is that, because members of the community also receive compensation for their waste, people are motivated to participate. In 2023, Trash4Cash took a big step forward: instead of simply transporting the collected

waste to a customer in the Zambian capital, the young company put its own waste recycling plant into operation.

Today, the plant operates like a small factory and is the backbone of the business model. In just a few years, a small group of entrepreneurs has succeeded in achieving the following goals:

- To build a waste processing company that guarantees the founders and employees a regular income.
- To secure a small additional source of income that Livingstone residents can earn by collecting garbage.
- To alleviate the community's waste problem and to raise awareness of waste avoidance.

This makes Trash4Cash a lighthouse project for the community and beyond.



Turning waste into a valuable resource

Focus on children's and human rights

Ukraine: Helping children make their way back into life

A special long-term project that emerged in 2023 from the collaboration between Terre des Hommes and Dachser concerns the children of Ukraine. It focuses on providing psychosocial support for children, young people, and their families. Joshua Hofert, Executive Board Member Communications at Terre des Hommes Germany e.V., visited the project himself in 2023 and shares his impressions in an interview.



Mr. Hofert, how can this idea be applied to provide humanitarian aid in times of war?

Joshua Hofert: First of all, there was an urgent need to alleviate people's acute needs. Dachser contributed both a functioning logistics chain and customers who wanted to be involved on a humanitarian level by providing relief goods. This resulted in emergency aid packages of food, toiletries, baby food, and medicines donated by Dachser customers, which were transported via various Dachser branches to the Ukrainian border. From there, locals brought the packages into the country. Dachser and Terre des Hommes were in direct contact throughout.

Beyond such logistics services, what assistance could be provided in Ukraine itself?

In view of the devastation in the country, with around 15 million refugees, families torn apart, and children traumatized by war experiences, we quickly realized that the aid would not be a sprint but a marathon. For example, in August 2022 we launched a psychosocial support project for children and families in Ukraine. To implement it, we're working with two local partner organizations. One of them is called "Vostok SOS" (which translates as East SOS). This nonprofit foundation grew out of an initiative launched in 2014 to help internally displaced persons from the embattled and occupied areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The founding members of the organization know what these displaced persons are going through, as they've experienced it themselves.

The project arranges for experienced trauma therapy specialists to help children, young people, and their families cope with stress and trauma, both individually and together. At the moment, it covers an area stretching from Dnipro and Lviv to Chernihiv and Vynnytsia; depending on how the situation develops, it will extend to other places as well. Basically, anywhere there are families and children looking for protection from war and destruction.

What was Dachser's role in this?

Dachser's support, both financial and in terms of ideas, can't be overestimated. After the war began, Dachser launched an in-house appeal for donations to Terre des Hommes for Ukraine. The response from Dachser's shareholders, management, and employees was overwhelming. Around EUR 80,000 had been donated by July 2022. Dachser then matched that amount. That's enough to cover almost half the total costs of the project. I think that's absolutely fantastic.

You traveled to Ukraine yourself to get a sense of the progress the project is making. What are the specific tasks being performed? What impressions did you personally take away from your visit?

It's about providing fundamental assistance to children and their families. I was able to get an idea of how the trauma therapy and psychosocial support is structured for processing people's experiences of war and their resulting fears and nightmares. In addition, the project helps in meeting basic needs, such as safe locations,

the reconstruction of schools and kindergartens, youth work, and youth participation. And then there's the documentation of child rights violations, as well as public relations work to raise awareness of the situation children are in. All of that involves getting many hands to work together.

After more than a year of war and destruction, something like normalcy has returned in areas away from the front lines. The people I met in Ukraine struck me as very courageous and confident. Supplies of energy, food, and other day-to-day necessities are up and running, and work is underway to rebuild homes and infrastructure. There are apps that provide fairly reliable warnings of air strikes so people can reach shelter in good time, for example in metro stations in major cities. At the same time, however, the risk of death lurks around every corner. All areas along the front are mined. Society is becoming more and more accustomed to seeing conflicts settled with violence. Getting out of this negative spiral and creating a basis for all generations to live together without violence, prejudice, or trauma is a mammoth task, one that calls for staying power.



In Ukraine, Terre des Hommes and Dachser are providing psychosocial support for children, young people, and their families

Help for children and families
traumatized by war in Ukraine



What skills or qualities do the project members on the ground need?

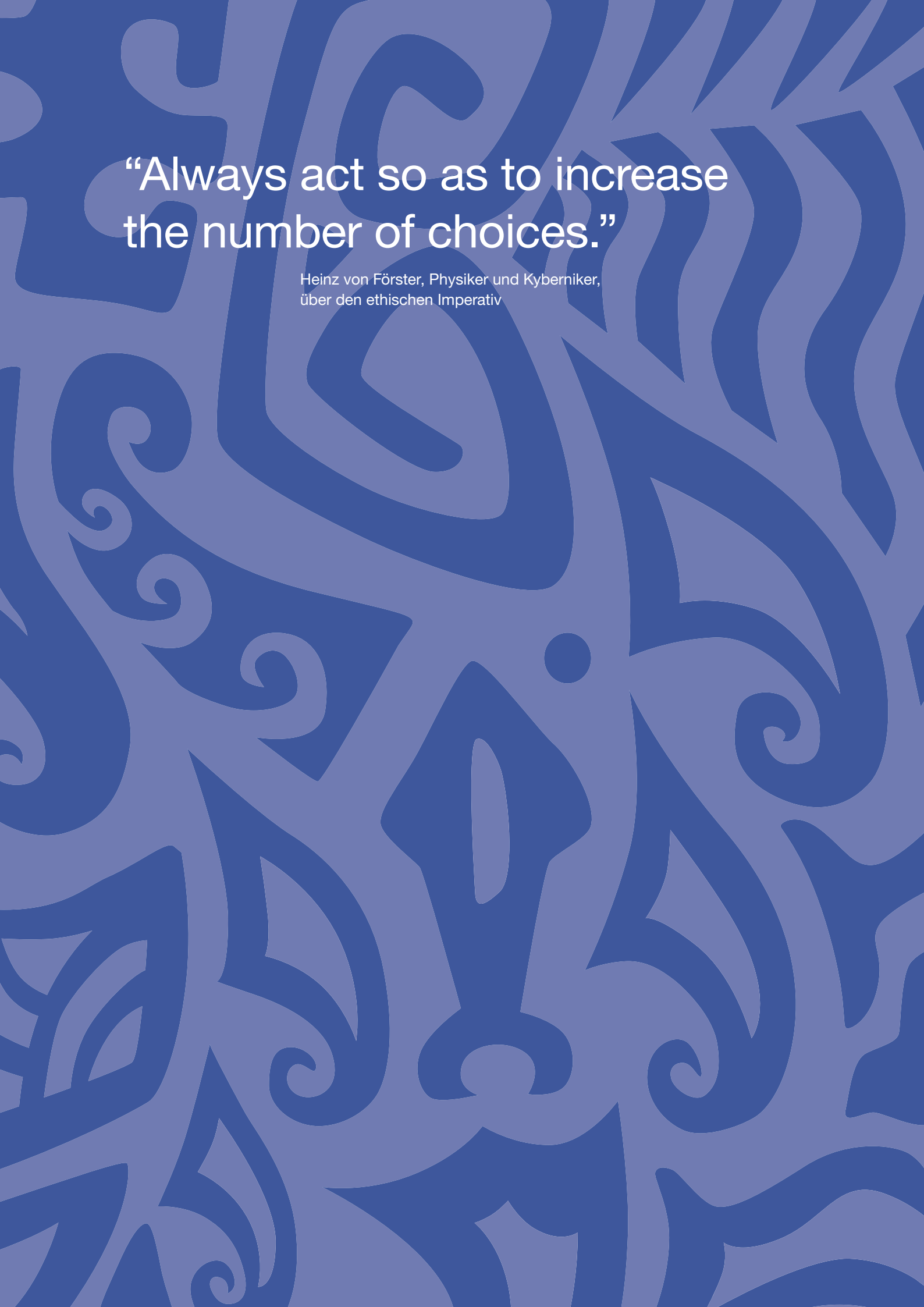
Working with our local partner organizations gives the Terre des Hommes project access to an international team of 20 psychotherapists in Ukraine. They are highly trained, they know the circumstances, the people, and their living conditions best, and they are well-equipped for negotiating all the administrative hurdles. This allows them to quickly connect with the children and their families. And they do it with great passion and commitment.

One of these dedicated psychologists is Nadia from Chernihiv. When the first bombs fell, she had the coronavirus and couldn't enter the bunker. As a result, she involuntarily experienced the horror of war firsthand right from the start. One area she works in now is art therapy. Here, the first thing children learn is how to express their feelings through painting and crafts. This is fun for them, gets them thinking about other

things, and gives them a sense of safety and security. It frees them from feeling powerless. Just for a moment, they're no longer the object of war, but can decide for themselves what they want to do, what they want to paint, and what colors to use. It's a small but significant step back into a life where they can make their own choices. Nadia told me that one child had recently asked her in amazement: "You're really not doing this for money? You are such good people!" This touched Nadia very deeply, and it gave her a lot of strength to persevere with preparing the way to a better future for these children.

What message does the project send?

My visit to Ukraine showed me how important it is to give the children stuck in this life-or-death situation prospects for the future. They can feel that very keenly, and are very grateful that there are people out there who see them and let them know that we see you.

The background of the entire image is a solid blue color, overlaid with a complex, abstract pattern of lighter blue, swirling, and organic shapes that resemble stylized waves or calligraphic flourishes. These patterns are dense and cover the entire surface.

“Always act so as to increase
the number of choices.”

Heinz von Förster, Physiker und Kybernetiker,
über den ethischen Imperativ

