



Dear Friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation,



What does the slogan **United help for Children** mean in the case of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation? "THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation" is the brand and "United help for Children" is the claim. Brand and claim, also called slogan, are terms from marketing language, where "claim" is the core message of the foundation.

Brand and claim are placed on the logo of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation. But is this beautiful statement "United help for Children" also practiced by the foundation or used for the benefit of needy children? The answer is **YES**.

The Foundation's logo can be seen at the top right of this newsletter. There, the key to the success of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation is pictorially represented, namely that cooperation and financial burdens are distributed on several shoulders. The "shoulders" illustrate the numerous donors and the partnerships with other aid organizations and associations. Only with their help has it been possible to transfer almost Euro 1.8 million in funding for the aid projects since the foundation's 14-year existence.

We are proud to partner with the following organizations, among others:

- Möwenweg Foundation
- Kindernothilfe e. V.
- Ligowane e. V.
- Dogs help children e.V.
- Stefanie Amberger Foundation
- Kinderhilfe grenzenlos e. V.
- Haimbacher Sportverein 1952 e. V.
- Daycare center Ahornbaum, Fulda-Haimbach
- Konrad-Adenauer-Schule, Fulda
- Young Heroes, Eswatini
- Rotary Club Mbabane, Eswatini
- Take a Malaika e. V.
- Friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation Fulda e.V.
- Friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation Nastätten e.V.
- Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL

We thank all "shoulders" for carrying the loads for the benefit of the numerous children in need and look forward to a hopefully continued good cooperation under unfortunately increasingly difficult conditions.

Best regards

Ernst Engel
Chairman of the Board

Bettina Haubner und Jaime Garcia
Deputy Chairs of the Board

The members of the advisory board of the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation

The board members of the three sponsoring associations

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V.

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Nastätten e. V.

Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL in Ecuador

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Annual Report 2022 in brief

Credibility and transparency are of existential importance for a non-profit organization that generates most of its income from donations and whose employees work on a voluntary basis. Therefore, as in previous years, we would like to report on the foundation's work in the past year.

Financial support for the aid projects in Euros

Eswatini	246,150 Euro
Tanzania	4,290 Euro
Uganda	525 Euro
Ecuador*	9,908 Euro
Nepal	2,500 Euro

*plus 12,653 US dollars (= 11,810 Euros), which the local support association Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL in Ecuador received and used directly on site for charitable purposes. The donation of the group Dr. Britta Kellermann from Hamburg, which was received at the end of 2022 by the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation and was transferred at the beginning of 2023 to the Melvin Jones School for the disabled in Ecuador and will therefore only appear in the Annual Report 2023 as an expense. In the meantime, support for the projects in Uganda and Nepal has been discontinued. In the future we will focus only on Eswatini, Tanzania and Ecuador.

Administrative expenses

They are kept as low as possible and are paid by the founder's family or from the income from the foundation's assets.

Travel expenses

Volunteers travel to the aid projects at their own expense.

Revenue

Income from endowment capital	2,515 Euro
Donations	206,756 Euro
Income in Ecuador	11,810 Euro

240 supporters donated directly to the foundation and others supported the sponsoring associations and thus directly the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation. 78 % of the donations came from organizations and companies. These include the three support associations, namely

**Friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation Fulda e.v.,
Friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation Nastätten e.V.,
Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL, Salinas, Ecuador**

With its more than 200 members. These three non-profit associations not only collect membership fees and donations, but also organize events, which are an important source of income.

THANKS ...

..., FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT OF OUR WORK SO FAR. WE ARE ALSO VERY DEPENDENT ON YOUR HELP IN THE FUTURE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE AND FURTHER EXPAND OUR WORK FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR.

Press Release

- **THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation from Fulda expands social commitment: agricultural project for sustainable self-sufficiency launched in southern Africa**
- **Non-profit foundation develops agricultural concept for food production for impoverished families in Eswatini and successfully completes pilot phase**
- **Recognized as an exemplary "role model" for other rural regions by major aid organizations**
- **Food, preschool education and medical care for more than 3,400 needy children and 550 caregivers ensured.**
- **Founder Ernst Engel strengthens aid work for independent future of needy families**

Fulda/Hessen – May 2023

The villagers in Eswatini (*formerly Swaziland*) are delighted. Many rows of young corn plants have grown on the barren earth – an unusual sight for the people. The small country in southern Africa is impoverished due to an AIDS epidemic and other disasters and has the highest HIV rate in the world. Rural areas in the south are particularly affected. Many children grow up without parents, with no prospect of a self-determined life. For more than 14 years, Ernst Engel from Fulda has been involved here through his THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation. In close cooperation with charitable partners from Germany and Africa, 104 community houses have been built in remote villages, where more than 3,400 children now receive hot meals, pre-school education and basic medical care every day. Over 550 caregivers are supported through income-generated activities.



Ernst Engel at the groundbreaking ceremony

Now a new challenge has been added: Due to the increasing crises and wars worldwide, large aid organizations are reducing their food supplies for the starving population. In order to alleviate the precarious situation in Eswatini, the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation, together with its non-profit partners e. V. from Ammersee/Upper Bavaria and the Möwenweg Foundation based in Munich and Barsbüttel, started an exemplary sustainable self-sufficiency project. Together with local implementation partners, they have developed a sophisticated agricultural concept that takes into account climatic, biological and geographic conditions as well as takes into account the wishes of the village communities. The



The first maize

idea is to support people in growing their own vegetables and cereals by providing know-how, initial financing and ongoing guidance. The aim is to make them independent of food supplies in the long term.

“Supporting needy children in poor countries was a major concern for my late wife and me when we established in 2009 the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation in memory of our late son.”

What is special about the multi-stage concept is that the bitterly poor villagers are given the chance to work and participate in the harvests. They learn how to cultivate the barren fields and how to store the harvest properly and use it for new seeds. According to the planned step-by-step plan, self sufficiency will gradually become their responsibility over seven years. October 2022 marked the start of the six-month pilot phase with corn and bean cultivation at five selected sites. The project is beginning to bear fruit and is to be extended to other villages in the next stage.

“Supporting needy children in poor countries was a major concern for my late wife and me when we established the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation in 2009 in memory of our late son. In the poor south of Eswatini, where half of the children are orphaned and threatened with starvation, we began to alleviate the causes of hunger and need and improved living conditions. In doing so, we always work according to the principal of “helping people to help themselves”; we do not do “hand outs”, explains Ernst Engel, founder of the foundation from Fulda. “We want to give the children the chance of a self-determined life and attach great importance to education – as a ticket to an independent future. The children obviously enjoy learning. Anyone who has ever seen these shining children’s eyes will never forget them! But an empty belly does not like to learn. They only come to class if they also get food.”

Mr. Engel and his comrades-in-arms have set themselves an ambitious goal with this large-scale self-sufficient project. The first sprouts on the barren fields give cause for optimism. International aid organizations have already taken notice of the project and consider it a scalable “role model” for other regions. “We are pleased that the agricultural concept was very well received by the residents and that it proved its worth during the six-month pilot phase. We can only do this together with our partners, in

line with our credo “United help for children.” However, as expected, the pilot phase also revealed a need for correction. We quickly realized that we would need our own robust tractor with two plows in order to cultivate all the fields in time for the start of the season. These additional costs of 30,000 Euros can also only be raised with the help of donations.

The textile engineer from Fulda knows what he is talking about. As a long-standing managing director and shareholder of a manufacturing company, Ernst Engel has been committed to the welfare of many needy children for almost 30 years. He knows the difficult conditions in Eswatini through frequent trips there. Thanks to his trustworthy, modest manner and his selfless, economic actions, he has managed to win many partners and supporters for the sponsorship projects. These include the **Friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation Nastätten e.V.**, the **Friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation Fulda e.V.** and the **Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL** in Salinas, Ecuador with a total of over 200 members. For them, he is an “integration figure with a role model function”. Approximately 1.8 million Euros in donations have already been collected, 100 percent of which are invested in variable aid projects. In addition to Eswatini, the foundation is also active in Ecuador and Tanzania with a focus on disadvantaged children.



Short profile THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation

The THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation in Fulda pursues the goal of providing “help for self-help”, preferably for needy children in poor countries in the areas of health care and prevention, education, training and culture. It was founded in 2009 by Ernst Engel together with his late wife Ingrid in memory of their deceased son, Thomas. As part of its largest aid project called “Litsembahope”, the foundation works together with the Möwenweg-Foundation, Kindernothilfe e.V., Ligowane e.V., the three support associations and many supporters and donors. The local aid organization Young Heroes is the implementing partner for more than 3,400 needy children and their families in Eswatini. The foundation is also active in Ecuador and Tanzania. There, it primarily supports education and health measures, business start-ups through microcredits, savings groups and family-run orphanage. All employees work on a voluntary basis. The donations are used directly and 100 percent for their social purpose. In order to be able to maintain and expand the projects, donations are urgently requested.

www.thomasengel-stiftung.org

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White Saviorism – Dangerous Ignorance And Simple Solutions

The poor children in Africa. The poor Third World. The whole pitiful Africa. We, the civilized, western industrial nations, must help them to develop. They can't do it on their own. The best thing is to make a plan and then everyone will stick to it. That way, everything will be fine.

This is – in summary – what is meant by White Saviorism. Light-Skinned (*hence White*) people from the Western industrialized Nations who believe or want to believe that less industrialized Nations, especially in Africa, need their help to develop, quasi (*White*) saviors.

First, what does it mean to develop? Are these people perhaps underdeveloped? Certainly not! But the term development aid suggests exactly that: unfortunately, you are not yet up to our standard. Politically correct, one would speak of development cooperation instead. These includes the element of eye level.

Second, why should people from outside know better what is needed – and wanted – locally? White saviorism includes Paternalism. Cultural, climatic and other differences are sometimes forgotten when it comes to the planned implementation of white-western structures without taking into account the local conditions and especially without listening to the voices of the local people.

With its ignorance and arrogance, white saviorism is one of the most serious problems in international development cooperation. Some feel like saviors, like heroes, and run the risk of “helping” others in their feel-good bubble of glorification of their own actions, are out of touch with reality and ignorant of the actual needs of others.

As a consequence, they feel patronized and outmaneuvered. There are also practical disadvantages. A country that is seen as needy and weak runs the risk of not attracting any investors, or only very self-interested ones. In addition, there is the possibility that long-term, supposed aid without reflection, without feedback, without eye level will make younger generations in particular believe, by means of simple conditioning, that they are not actually capable of living independently. It can also happen that supposed help causes more harm than good because it is not adapted to local conditions. For example, flooding a nation that lives from textile production with clothing donations can have a devastating effect on the national economy.

White saviorism is a danger, so far, so clear. But what about when aid is actually needed? Many countries are still suffering from the consequences of the colonial era. Climate change and other crises are doing their part to decisively weaken countries in the global South in particular. Here, there is a danger that no support at all will arrive for fear of encroaching, false aid. Also, the accusation of white saviorism does not always come from a qualified source. Those who do not contribute anything to a better world may feel better if they deny other effective, active help – with bad consequences for those who are actually in need of help. Important: If the accusation of white saviorism is in the room, it must be examined. If necessary, the issue should also be discussed with all those responsible on a larger scale. But one should not give up because of this.

Because the solution is theoretically not that complicated. Open communication, a lot of intercultural exchange, respect, eye-to-eye contact – that's all it takes to protect against white saviorism. Development cooperation must be designed as togetherness. Learning from each other in exchange brings many advantages for all involved, and recognizing each other's strengths – perhaps even adopting them to some extent – can help to see others not as victims in need of help, but as respectable and qualified collaborators on the path to a common goal.

Awareness is precaution. White saviorism as a topic must not be taken lightly. Accordingly, we, the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation, always pay attention to eye level and equality in our work, no matter where and with whom we are active. We also welcome constructive ! criticism at any time! Reproaches and insults, as colleagues from other foundations have repeatedly experienced, are destructive. Respectful communication, both internally and externally, is the key to harmonious cooperation and effective collaboration – especially in the area of joint development.

Eswatini

In the press release, sufficient reference has already been made to the aid project **"LITSEMBA – hope"**, in particular to the very ambitious aid measure "self-sufficiency in food", which will place great financial and time demands on us in the coming years.

In doing so, we must be careful that the existing aid measures do not fall behind, which must not happen under any circumstances. The assistance for the approximately 3,400 preschool children with their approximately 550 volunteer caregivers in the 104 NCPs (*Neighborhood Carepoints = simple daycare centers*) consists of:

- if possible, a hot midday meal made from the basic products of cornmeal, beans or rice,
- early childhood education and preschool teaching
- mobile basic medical care, i.e. vaccination, deworming, administration of vitamin preparations and treatment of acute illness and injuries possible,
- testing for HIV and TB,
- supply of winter clothing and blankets,
- cooperative income-generating activities, e.g. poultry and pig farming, vegetable growing, sewing,
- maintenance of NCP's,
- for particularly needy families, 2- or 3-room houses are built in the vicinity of the NCP's to replace their dilapidated mud huts.



Vegetable growing at NCP

Tanzania

Unlike in Eswatini and Ecuador, we are not active in Tanzania with our own aid projects, but rather support the non-profit organization **Take a Malaika e.V.** and indirectly its local subsidiary organization **Home of Malaika**, thus helping needy single mothers on their way to a self-determined life.

The following auxiliary measures serve to achieve this goal:

- learning to sew and make other crafts supports the women with a monthly wage,
- educate and produce reusable monthly hygiene in public schools. This minimizes absenteeism from school,



Sewing for a living

- within the framework of a sponsorship program, children are enabled to attend school. In some cases, they also receive afternoon care,
- a growing number of poor families are being helped with mini-credits and business training to enable them to become self-employed and thus sustainably combat their poverty.

Other aid measures include the operation of a small, family-run orphanage, English courses and health insurance for the employees of Home of Malaika.

By the way, "Malaika" is Kiswahili, the language of Tanzania and some other Central African countries, and means "angel". So the name fits well with the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation.

It is our firm intention to support Take a Malaika e.V., because we are convinced of their work. Unfortunately, we still lack the financial means to do so at the moment.

Ecuador

In Ecuador everything is going on as usual. With the start of the association **Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL** in Ecuador two and a half years ago, the group now has more than 80 members and the help on site has been intensified significantly. It also helps that Edith and Jaime Garcia have their residence in Salinas, Ecuador since 2019.

The current aid in Ecuador still consists of four pillars:

- The support of the **Melvin Jones facility for the disabled**. Here, help is provided not only financially, but also through the voluntary advisory work of Jaime Garcia, one of the two vice-chairs of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation and at the same time chairman of the Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL. As already reported in the last newsletter, since the beginning of the year the funds of the donor group of Dr. Britta Kellermann from Hamburg have been flowing to the facility for the disabled via the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation. Dr. Kellermann has been supporting the school for many years and has been traveling there every two years since then.



Picture top: Gina Rosales; Picture below: with her father

- **Helping Kids in Ecuador (HKIE)** is an aid organization founded and run by an American couple living in Ecuador. They have established a network of local doctors and hospitals. Sick children and children with severe deformities are treated or operated on at cost price. The children come from very poor families who could not afford medical care themselves. In Cuenca, where most of the operations are performed, HKIE has a house where the relatives of the affected children can stay free of charge while the children are in the hospital. The families often come from distant rural areas and are too poor to use a hotel.
- **Individual help for families and children in need.** Although we basically do not want to help with individual fates, the Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL as an independent association often deviate from this. They are confronted with the hardship almost every day and cannot always look away. It is gratifying to experience how well the slogan "United help for Children" of the foundation is also practiced in Ecuador. For example, Helping Kids in Ecuador, through the mediation of the Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL, has donated a suitable wheelchair for **Gina Rosales**, a 4-year old with cerebral palsy and heart disease, and the Melvin Jones Facility for the Disabled is providing physical therapy. The father brings Gina three times a week. He needs about 2 hours each way on foot and by various means of public transport.

- **Mini-loans** are a very effective and sustainable instrument to help small entrepreneurs such as farmers, shopkeepers, seamstresses and shoemakers to start and secure their business. The average \$ 300 per loan is interest-free and must be repaid within 6 months. The first month is a grace period, they do not have to start repayment until the second month.

TERMINE

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V.

- 14.10.2023** Höfe- und Garagenflohmarkt in Fulda-Haimbach
- 10.12.2023** Weihnachtsbaumverkauf zusammen mit dem Haimbacher SV auf dem Sportgelände des HSV in Fulda-Haimbach bei vorweihnachtlichem Ambiente mit Glühwein, Würstchen, Waffeln und mehr

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Nastätten e. V.

- 09.07.2023** Musikalischer Brunch mit dem Ensemble „Vocale Grande“ im Limeskastell in Pohl
- 03.09.2023** „Offener Garten“ in Nastätten
- 18.11.2023** Premierenkonzert der Bläserphilharmonie Mittelrhein in Nassau
- 02./03.12.23** "Weihnachtsstraße" in Nastätten



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