

History & Policy

It all started during the 2nd Vatican Council, when the then Bishop of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart came in touch with bishops from all parts of the world and got to know the cares and needs of their bishoprics. Soon the faithful of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart began to recognize their responsibility for the universal Church. The first diocesan "Third World"-campaign appealing to the faithful to show active solidarity with the poor and needy in Africa was already launched in 1964.

Today, there is a Department "Weltkirche" (founded in 1967) at the governing level of the diocese. Head of this department and its thirteen employees is Canon Msgr. Dr. Heinz Detlef Stäps. Since Vatican II, the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart has been able to support thousands of small-scale projects of its sister Churches in over 100 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin-American and south-east Europe.

A lot of long-standing partnerships between the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart and its sister Churches in the world at large originate from these contacts. Many a well known partner still turns to the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart if need be. In times of modern communication systems, however, an increasingly greater number of unsolicited requests from project-holders with whom the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart is not already involved or "partnered" have to be considered. This leaflet intends to introduce those seeking assistance for their pastoral or development work for the first time from our diocese to our guidelines and criteria for financial support.

The directing principle of our work can best be described by quoting from John Paul II's encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*. There the Pope says that the main contribution of the Church to the solution of the urgent problem of development is to proclaim the truth about Christ, about the Church itself and about man as well as to apply it to a concrete situation (cf. no. 41).

We see our commitment towards an integral development of people and their liberation from any kind of oppression as a part of the mission "ad gentes". The underdevelopment cannot be encountered with fragmentary measures. Human progress, spiritual depth and giving meaning to life are intrinsically related to each other.

When discussing the worldwide and social dimension of charity during our diocesan synod in 1985/86, the participants stated that "*the existence of the Churches for each other and with each other in the north and in the south, in the east and in the west will determine how life expresses itself in the parishes, and that partnership with countries in the so-called Third World could result out of this*".

However, even if we are still called upon, as has been the case up till now, to cooperate at the level of personnel as well as at the spiritual, intellectual and material level with the non-European local Churches and with those of Eastern Europe, this cooperation can only take place in an attitude of mutual giving and taking.

So, the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart partakes in the progress of development and evangelization in the world by directly supporting projects that are initiated and run by the local Churches themselves.

The Staff

The Universal Church Division of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart is staffed by people who are sympathetic to applicants. The staff-members and their responsibilities are:

Head of Universal Church Division
Canon Msgr. Dr. Heinz Detlef Stäps

Managing Director
Dr. Wolf-Gero Reichert

Secretary und Management Assistance
Birgit Joos, Daniela Hesselmaier, Sylvia Frank

Personnel for overseas missions, volunteer service
Jörg Stein

India
Dr. Wolf-Gero Reichert, Gabriele Ulrich

Africa (franco- and lusophone countries), Brasil, Peru
Lucy Contreras, Ursula Götz, Solange Ciccomascolo

Africa (francophone countries), Uganda
Julia Moos, Sophie Guibert-Rupp

Middle and Near East, Africa (anglophone countries)
Flavia Rizzi, Solange Ciccomascolo, Ursula Götz

Latin America, Africa (anglophone countries), Asia, Oceania
Juliane Hernandez, Ursula Götz, Solange Ciccomascolo

Middle- and Eastern Europe
Sylvia Frank, Sophie Guibert-Rupp

Rules & Regulations

The development and donor agencies of the Catholic Church in Germany are no competitors of ours. On the contrary, there is a close cooperation and a division of labour with these organizations, i. e. large-scale and costly projects of supraregional importance are not within our province. The following criteria of our department, by which all incoming project funding proposals are judged, were set up in accordance with the basic policies that govern the grant making of most agencies:

- *The project-partner is either well-known or recommended to us by some trustworthy guarantor.*
- *The project is realistic, plausible, economically viable and stands the test.*
- *The project must be approved by the local bishop or religious superior. It must be in line with the genuine needs of the local Church, the people and government policy.*
- *The people carrying out the project have to be dependable and competent.*
- *The local contribution is expected to be at least 10 per cent of the total project cost (in land, capitalized labour, materials, cash or other form).*
- *Priority is given to the following fields: education, health care and social work, especially with disabled persons, literacy, subsistence farming and rural development, drinking water supply, renewable energies.*
- *Income-generating projects as a step towards self-reliance and self-support of dioceses, parishes or religious congregations are also accepted.*
- *Only one project per year and diocese or congregation can be considered due to the superabundance of requests received.*
- *As a rule, no grants are made to profit-making organizations, to political parties, to individuals for personal needs, for after-the-fact requests, for projects already started or accomplished, reduction of debt, operating budgets or research projects.*
- *The staff of the department "Weltkirche" can at any time request to see books, receipts and other business papers and also to check on the spot or have representatives check whether use of the donation corresponds with the intended purpose of the project.*

Application Procedure

Project funding proposals are registered throughout the year, and then chronologically reviewed to determine whether they fit within our standards and budget. There is no particular application form, however the application has to be sent to us by regular mail. When submitting your proposal written in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish, please, make sure that it includes the following details and particulars:

- *The name and address of the person/organization requesting support (applicant)*
- *The name and address of the person/organization legally responsible (holder), if different from applicant*
- *The name and address of the person who will direct the project (manager/ess)*
- *The date of submission*
- *The official title of the project or programme.*
- *The problem statement (a clear and concise description of the need)*
- *The objectives of the project or programme (also stating who will benefit)*
- *The schedule (projected timeline)*
- *The budget (specifying the cost, e. g. capital and/or recurrent expenditures)*
- *The financing plan: i.e. local contribution, other sources of income, amount requested from Rottenburg-Stuttgart*
- *The letter of endorsement from local bishop and/or religious superior (no photocopies!)*
- *If necessary: blueprints, pro-forma invoices, maps, photos, expert reports ...*
- *For income generating projects: cost-benefit calculation*
- *For projects with children and youth: Description of the measures to prevent physical, emotional or sexualized violence.*

After money has been sanctioned the applicant is expected to send acknowledgements of receipt, completion or evaluative reports, information on the future of the project, statements of account, photos, and other relevant documents, as soon as possible.



Department "Weltkirche"

Universal Church Division
Mission and Development

GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION

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