

Overview of *Menschen für Menschen*



Concept “Help for Self-Help” in Ethiopia

Menschen für Menschen has been providing “help for self-help” in rural regions of Ethiopia since 1981. This focus on one country is the organisation’s particular strength: 644 employees, only 4 of them non-Ethiopians, work on-site and implement comprehensive measures in the areas of water, agriculture, education, health and income together with the local population.

Working with the people in these rural areas is central to all activities. They are involved in the planning and implementation of the projects right from the start. The objective is to transfer knowhow and techniques that allow inhabitants of entire regions to become independent of foreign aid and safeguard food security for the population. By now, ten of 21 project regions have been completed and full responsibility has been transferred to the population.

Today more than 5.5 million people in a total area of about 57,000 km² (approx. two thirds of the size of Austria) benefit from the work of the organisation. 438 schools and 2,540 wells were built in Ethiopia, over 66,400 eye surgeries were performed, and more than 130,000 Ethiopians participated in agricultural courses from *Menschen für Menschen* (as per 31.12.2018).

For further information about the projects in Ethiopia, please visit <http://www.mfm.at/en/>

Efficient use of donations

The efficient and correct use of all donations is guaranteed by independent audits. The application of funds is annually checked by an independent auditor. Requirements for the conferment of the Austrian Donation Certificate are also verified. The Austrian Donation Certificate of the Chamber of Public Accountants (KWT) is a system of standards for fundraising non-profit organisations in relation to the raising and administration of donated funds. *Menschen für Menschen* has been carrying the Donation Certificate without interruption since it was first introduced in 2001.

For further information about audits and evaluations, please visit <http://www.menschenfuermenschen.at/en/about-us-association/mfm-organisation-donation-flow/>

The origins of *Menschen für Menschen*:

A single person’s anger helps millions of people in Ethiopia

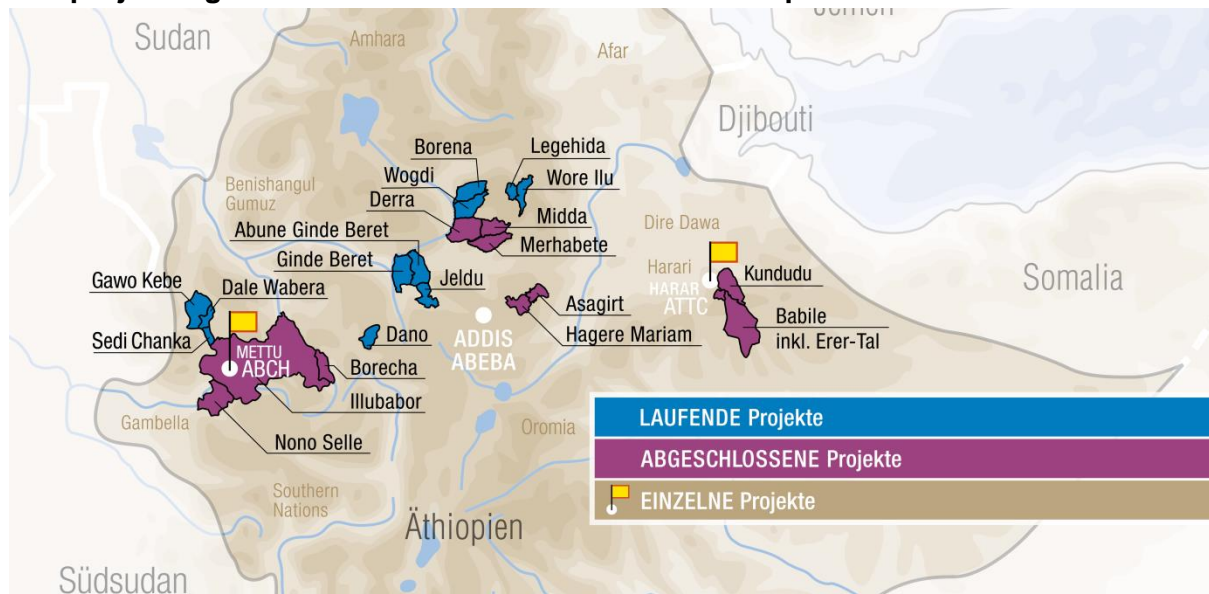
Menschen für Menschen was founded on 13 November 1981 by actor Karlheinz Böhm (1928-2014). The basis was money collected from a bet made in the German TV show “Wetten, dass..?” in May 1981. Karlheinz Böhm had made a bet with the audience, claiming that “not even every third viewer will donate one Deutschmark, one Swiss franc or seven

Austrian schillings for people in the Sahel region". Karlheinz Böhm won his bet. But a sum of about 8.4 million Austrian schillings (the equivalent of about 60,000 Euro) could be collected nonetheless. Moved by this readiness to help, Karlheinz Böhm founded the organisation *Menschen für Menschen* on 13 November 1981, after his first trip to Ethiopia.

For further information about the organisation, please visit

<http://www.menschenfuermenschen.at/en/about-us-association/>

The project regions of *Menschen für Menschen* in Ethiopia



Menschen für Menschen is developing whole areas in rural Ethiopia. Today our project areas cover approx. 57,000 km². This corresponds to about two thirds of the total area of Austria. 10 of by now 21 integrated rural development projects have already been completed, and the responsibility for these projects in their entirety has been transferred to the population.

Contact details

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