

# [welt]blick

Spring 2023

## NEWS FROM THE WORK OF EMERGENCY PEDAGOGY



Freunde der  
Erziehungskunst  
Rudolf Steiners

[www.emergency-pedagogy.org](http://www.emergency-pedagogy.org)

# FROM THE WORK OF EMERGENCY PEDAGOGY

2

Dear Readers,

Following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, our colleagues carried out an acute intervention in Turkey in March. For educators from Syria, there was an online offer, as it was not possible to enter the country. In the online seminar, the focus was first on stabilising the educators and then, in a further step, working with them to develop offers for children in Syria. Immediately after the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, we received the first donations for our work. It is always nice to see how reliably our donors respond and are willing to help. Thanks to these quick donations and the support of Aktion Deutschland Hilft, we were once again able to act quickly.

War has been raging in Ukraine for over a year. We continue to support local teachers, social workers and psychologists with further training. Since November, an eight-part training course for professionals working with refugees has been running in Krakow, Poland. In Lviv, Ukraine, we offer the same eight-part modular training for educators from all parts of Ukraine. The aim of the training is to provide people with as many Emergency Pedagogy methods as possible so that they can work independently in Emergency Pedagogy and, if necessary, pass on the knowledge in their home countries. To further strengthen the focus on supporting local projects on the ground, our colleague Jessica Prentice, who worked for us in Iraq for several years, started working for us in February and will be the responsible person on the ground.

In the last newsletter we reported that we were preparing for an Emergency Pedagogical mission in Pakistan. In October 2022, the

time had come. With financial support from Aktion Deutschland Hilft, a team was able to work in Pakistan for a fortnight. For the team, the mission was very moving; in addition to the endless stretches of land that were still under water two months after the heavy rains, the worries and needs of the people became much clearer. Over a period of two weeks, Emergency Pedagogical work was carried out with a total of 1,050 children at various locations in the south of Pakistan. A total of 40 parents were advised and 20 educators received an introduction to the field of Emergency Pedagogy.

In December, we turned to our donors with an appeal for funds, which is very close to our hearts. In addition to donations for the acute missions, we are urgently in need of donations for our work in the Karlsruhe office. Here we are currently focusing on the continuous development of an international Emergency Pedagogy network. The more people on the ground who are trained in Emergency Pedagogy, the faster they can act in an emergency. More about this on the next page.

On behalf of the Emergency Pedagogy team, I would like to thank you for your interest in our work and for your support

Fiona Bay



3

# HELP IN THE HERE AND NOW



**The Friends of Waldorf Education's Emergency Pedagogy team is continuously working to expand and consolidate its worldwide network. In the meantime, teams have been trained in 24 countries. In the event of a crisis they can help quickly, free of excessive bureaucracy and, above all, sustainably. Thus, in addition to acute aid for children in crisis areas, Emergency Pedagogy relies on help from the people on the ground, entirely in the spirit of helping people to help themselves. You can support this work with a donation.**

The Friends of Waldorf Education have been working in humanitarian aid for over 15 years, carrying out Emergency Pedagogical missions in war and crisis areas. These serve the psychosocial stabilisation of those affected, who are supported in processing traumatising

experiences and integrating them into their own biographies. By stimulating self-healing powers, trauma sequelae can be mitigated, or averted altogether. Emergency Pedagogy uses methods based on Waldorf education and related forms of therapy.

A central element of Emergency Pedagogy is the training of emergency educators in the affected crisis areas, who are trained in the theory of traumatology, and practically in Emergency Pedagogy methods. In the spirit of sustainability, this avoids the need for aid workers from Germany to fly to the crisis region in the event of another disaster. In addition, local emergency educators can better support children and young people in being able to process their experiences in their own language, and with an awareness of their own cultural background.

The development of the training courses and the ongoing support of the teams is very time-consuming and expensive. It is handled solely by the Emergency Pedagogy Department of the Karlsruhe Office of the Friends of Waldorf Education. In order to be able to put the competent and professional work of the Karlsruhe Emergency Pedagogues on a secure footing, we are dependent on financial support. Donations with the purpose "Emergency Pedagogy" can be used to finance the Karlsruhe emergency educators.

The training of regional emergency educators takes place worldwide and has become an important foundation of Emergency Pedagogy. On the following pages we will show you two examples of how important and fruitful the training of emergency educators is worldwide.

# GIVING CHILDHOOD: TEN YEARS OF EMERGENCY PEDAGOGY IN KAKUMA

What began as an emergency project could soon be placed in the hands of the Kenyan non-governmental organisation, Waldorf Kakuma Project (WKP). Then, as now, the need for child-oriented activities is great.

Playing, singing and painting are special moments for the children in the Kenyan refugee camp Kakuma and in the nearby settlement Kalobeyi. It is when they are allowed to be children. Ten years ago, Emergency Pedagogy became aware of the devastating situation of the refugees in the ever-growing refugee camp in northwestern Kenya. As a result, an Emergency Pedagogy team from the Friends of Waldorf Education travelled to Kakuma to provide psychosocial stabilisation for the refugee children. This first mission took place in cooperation with the Nairobi Waldorf School. It quickly became clear that the children and young people needed long-term support and accompaniment, as well as a safe place in the midst of precarious living conditions in the camp. Further Emergency Pedagogical missions followed before the Waldorf Kakuma Project (WKP), founded in 2015, continued the emergency and trauma educational work on site independently. Today, the Waldorf Kakuma Project's Emergency Pedagogy work is an integral part of the activities at the Kakuma Child Protection Centre and the Reception Centre in Kalobeyi.

In the child protection centre, the children are looked after daily by two educators and can participate in playful and creative activities. Taking into account the traumatic circumstances of their lives, a protected framework is created here in which healthy relationships can develop and the children can experience normality.

In the Reception Centre, on the other hand,



there is no continuity. Several times a week, people arrive on the run and are provisionally accommodated in the initial reception. Waldorf Kakuma Project is also on site here every day and invites people to Emergency Pedagogical play and movement activities. Hundreds of children often flock to the activities. Activities take place under the simplest of conditions, giving the children a sense of reliability, normality and joy.

The WKP staff who work in the refugee camp every day live in the camp themselves as refugees and know from their own experience what

some of the children have had to go through. They come from South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Due to the international composition of the team, different languages are represented so that it is possible to communicate with all children and young people from these different African countries.

The Friends of Waldorf Education have repeatedly supported the Waldorf Kakuma Project with donations and training. In October 2022, ten years after the first mission, an international Emergency Pedagogy team travelled to Kenya



again to support the daily work and to deepen the knowledge around trauma and education. The focus of the mission was the exchange and further training in trauma education for the staff of the Kakuma Waldorf Project. In addition to theoretical content on child development, there were practical units on working with young children, art and drawing shapes, as well as experiential education methods.

*Michaela Mezger*

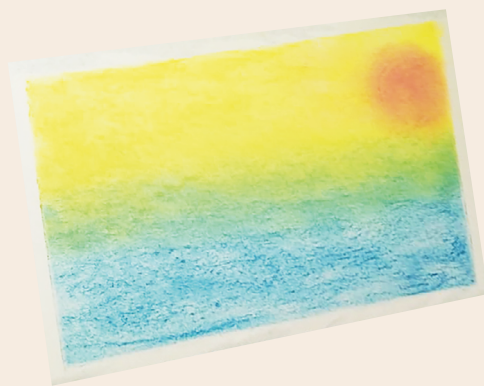
# EMERGENCY PEDAGOGY AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE IN COLOMBIA

6



ships with themselves and others. In this way, the vicious circle of ongoing violence can be broken.

Already in the recovery room, art therapy and music, as well as a reading circle are available to the young people, so that an examination of their own person is possible. In group sessions, the adolescents can also deal with their past and their wishes for a new beginning, and experience caring and attentive interactions in the group. The clinical professionals found that Emergency Pedagogical work with the injured adolescents is essential to motivate them to enrol in a longer-term programme after their hospital stay. In the course of this, more than 55 young people were supervised by social workers in their homes and communities using Emergency Pedagogical methods and other support services. During the project, further initiatives were developed to accompany the young people, their families and caregivers in the future, in order to break the spiral of violence. In order to disseminate knowledge about traumatology and methods of emergency and trauma pedagogy, professional training is also offered.



**Crime and violence are still widespread in Colombia. Many young people grow up in difficult conditions and without stable attachment figures and join youth gangs that fight each other. Young people who infiltrate the territories of other gangs are often attacked and hospitalised with gunshot and stab wounds. In 2022, the Friends of Waldorf Education funded an Emergency Pedagogy project to prevent violence.**

In the Colombian city of Cali, surgeons, psychologists and social workers have joined forces to treat not only the physical but also the psychological wounds of young people. In the University Hospital del Valle in Cali, emergency pedagogical work is done with young people affected by violence. The hospital stay is supposed to be a starting point for the young people to change their lives in order to build healthy interpersonal relation-

7

## **Ukraine: Start of module for training certified emergency educators**

Since March 2022, Emergency Pedagogy has been supporting war-traumatised people in Ukraine, and in the neighbouring countries of Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. In the first acute intervention, the focus was on stabilising children who had fled. In addition, people working with war-traumatised children and young people in Horodenka and in Krakow, Poland, were trained in Emergency Pedagogy. This was the beginning of a series of emergency and trauma pedagogy training units for educators, teachers and psychologists in the crisis region.

The growing need for knowledge about traumatology and stabilising, and emergency pedagogical methods prompted the Friends of Waldorf Education to offer a certified modular training course in trauma pedagogy in Ukraine. In a total of eight modules, 25 people from all parts of Ukraine are now certified as emergency educators. Some of them work directly in disputed areas, others have direct contact with internally displaced persons. The training of a local network of Emergency Pedagogy experts creates

sustainable structures in the sense of helping people to help themselves.

## **South Africa: Completion of the module training**

In South Africa, the foundation stone was laid in 2017 for a South African network of emergency educators, whose 13 active members have participated in several theoretical and practice-based further training courses. The last three-day training course took place in Johannesburg in January 2023, where the focus was on project planning and implementation in addition to getting to know each other personally and exchanging professional information. Based on what they learned, the participants designed their own projects, which they can implement in their communities in the future. One emergency educator plans to organise Emergency Pedagogy in the children's ward of her local hospital, another colleague wants to work in a township in Cape Town.

In addition to the voluntary activities, the South African team is planning a larger project for the coming months. We are very much looking forward to the further cooperation

# BRIEFLY NOTED

with colleagues who will give children and young people in difficult circumstances a bit of security and joy.

## **Turkey and Syria: Emergency Pedagogical aid after the earthquake**

On 6th February 2023, the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, killing at least 50,000 people. In the first half of March, an Emergency Pedagogy team from the Friends of Waldorf Education travelled to Turkey to work primarily with children in the region affected by the earthquake. The mission, financed by donations from Aktion Deutschland Hilft, took place on 6th and 7th March in Malatya with a team of 14 people, including members from Germany, Switzerland, Greece and Iraq, as well as six educators from Turkey. In addition to working with the children, the mission is used to design and build networks on site.

Due to the difficult entry situation in Syria, the initial plan here is to provide online training, but the aim is also to provide on-site training.



## Contact

Freunde der Erziehungskunst  
Rudolf Steiners e.V.  
(Friends of Waldorf Education)  
Emergency Pedagogy Department

Parzivalstr. 2b  
76139 Karlsruhe  
Germany

## Donation Service Emergency Pedagogy

Phone +49 (0)721 20111-132  
Fax +49 (0)721 20111-180  
nfp.spenden@freunde-waldorf.de

## Donations Account

GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG  
IBAN: DE06 4306 0967 0800 8007 00  
BIC: GENODEM1GL  
Keyword: Emergency Pedagogy

## Online Donations

[emergency-pedagogy.org/donations](https://emergency-pedagogy.org/donations)

[emergency-pedagogy.org](https://emergency-pedagogy.org)

