

Support in times of an Uncertain Future A Joint Action: The Corona Aid Fund

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The spring of 2020 was experienced by many young children at home, some in small apartments in a high-rise building, others in gardens, mostly without their playmates and at the side of parents who had to multi-task from one day to the next. At best, the kindergarten teachers were able to give advice, but were no longer able to accompany the children entrusted to them.

At first, no one knew how long this situation would last; however, concern about the economic existence of the facilities grew from month to month. With each month, the situation worsened, especially in those facilities that are financed exclusively by parental contributions and in those areas where parents earn their income primarily in the tourism business, but not only. And it hit both very young and long-established kindergartens. In Yerevan, Armenia or in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, it soon became clear that the salaries of the kindergarten teachers could no longer be paid. But what would happen if the few kindergarten teachers trained in these countries had to look for new tasks? All the experience would be lost, and the children would not be able to return to their kindergartens after the Covid-19 closures, because no kindergarten teachers would work there anymore.

In this situation we started a joint action, the Corona Aid Fund, and with the help of the donors of the Friends of Waldorf Education and some foundations, we have now managed to raise an amount of 640.000 €. Almost the entire amount has already been paid out to kindergartens and schools in 24 countries, from Argentina to Colombia and Guatemala, through Nepal, India and the Philippines, to Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, but also to England, Ireland and Turkey. While in Armenia kindergartens are allowed to reopen for small groups of 12 children maximum (leaving open what happens to the other children for whom there are no kindergarten teachers or rooms), kindergartens and schools in Peru remain closed at least until March 2021, some even speak of August 2021. The situation is very varied; however, similar rules apply everywhere, for which kindergartens and schools are not prepared in terms of rooms or number of teachers. And besides, no one can afford more rooms and more staff.

These are times in which a great deal of imagination is required and a great deal of solid, trustworthy communication between parents and educators. And these times will continue for a while.

[Click here](#) for reports from Waldorf kindergartens and schools that have been supported by the Corona Aid Fund.

The Corona-Aid Fund is a joint action of the Friends of Waldorf Education, Waldorf100, the International Forum for Steiner/Waldorf Education, the Bund der Freien Waldorfschulen, the Mahle - Stiftung, the Evidenz-Stiftung, the Waldorf Stiftung and IASWECE.



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