

EMS

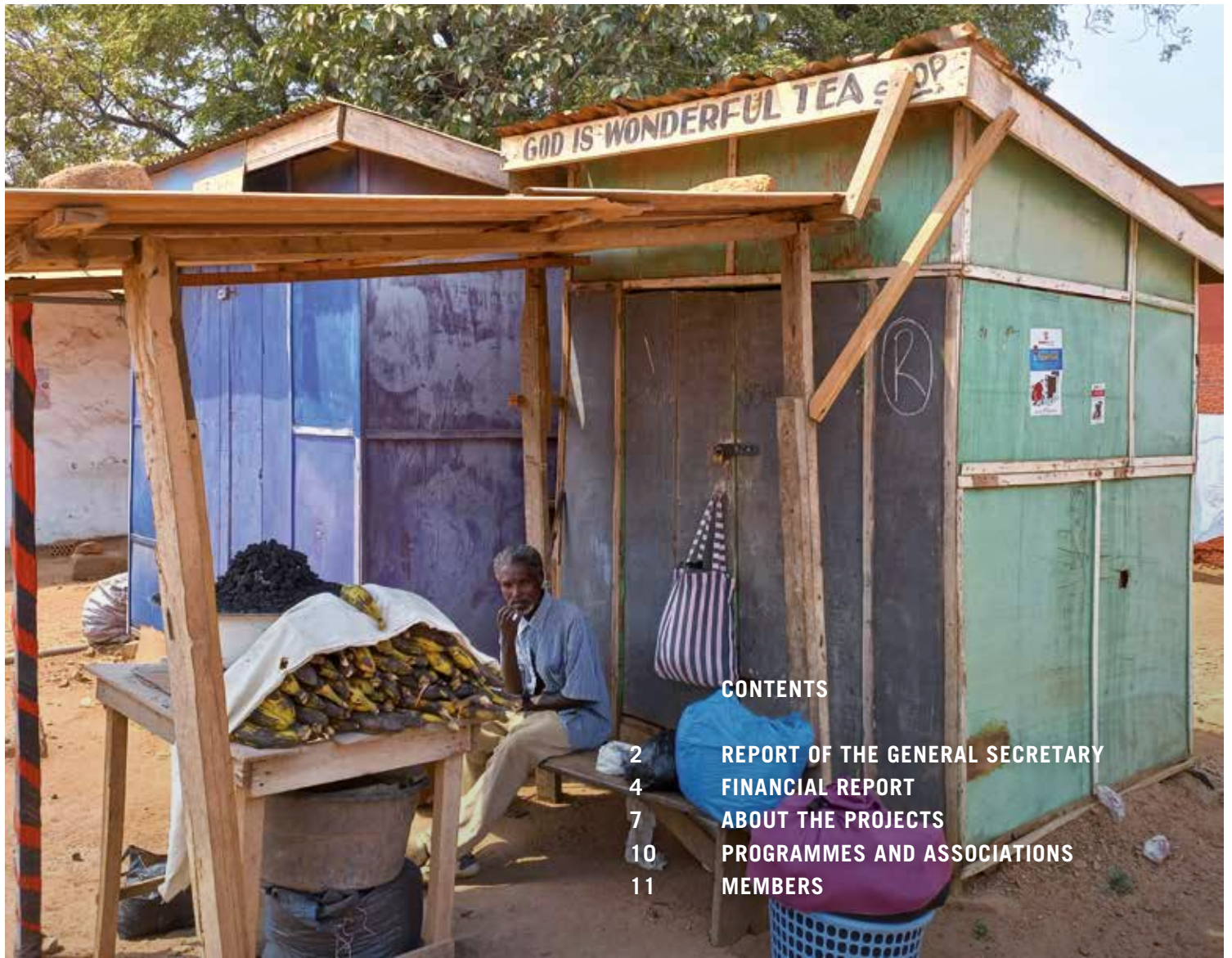


**NOW IS THE TIME
TO ACT!**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Evangelical Mission
in Solidarity



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CHURCH WITH FORESIGHT

Experiences from the Covid-19 pandemic have led many EMS churches around the world to re-examine the tasks and organisation of church work. The need for action is enormous. In some regions of the EMS, the churches are in financial need – especially at places where their main source of income is from collections during worship services. Other churches have observed with concern that there has been a sharp drop in attendance at worship services and other events. In all countries, EMS churches have reported a significant increase in domestic violence and aggression during the pandemic, with women and children suffering the most.

When we look at the international fellowship of the EMS with its 25 member churches and 5 mission societies, it is exciting to see how differently the churches react to these challenges. Whereas in Germany many church institutions are considering where services can be “cut back”, the churches in Korea are taking the opposite approach and asking themselves how the churches can get more involved in society again. “We must become relevant to people’s lives again, otherwise we are not needed,” explains KIM Bo Hyun, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Korea. In Indonesia, churches are striving to involve children and young people more actively in church activities. Through the EMS, they exchange ideas with other churches on how to empower them in the church.

THE EMS IS A UNIQUE FIELD OF LEARNING

We have noticed that the EMS has once again grown closer together in these difficult times. In fact, the international EMS fellowship serves as a unique learning field for the future development of the churches. The Presbyterian Church of Ghana is extremely creative when it comes to winning new members. The Indian churches are outstanding in their efforts to educate children and young people to lead a sustainable lifestyle. The churches in Japan or Indonesia are experienced in dialogue with different religions and cultures. The churches in the Middle East have been working for peace and reconciliation for decades. In South Africa, equality and human rights play a major role in everyday religious life. The German churches are strong in diaconal work. Added to this is the wealth of experience of the mission societies in the EMS. Cooperation based on equal rights within the EMS offers members networking and learning opportunities that they would not have if they were on their own.

MISSION IS VITAL FOR THE FUTURE

The EMS unites people from many different countries and continents. Dean Bärbel Schäfer from the Protestant Church in Baden describes what this means for her everyday life: “We learn about each other and we share faith, hope and love. We participate in the life of congregations, schools and other institutions. We reflect together on how emergencies can be alleviated and lives empowered. We weave a web of solidarity. Without this relationship with the worldwide church, I would be missing an essential dimension of the church and of being a Christian.”

For the future, this view of the bigger picture is certainly vital. Not only for the churches, but for humanity as a whole. Whether it is to do with peace, the environment or global justice, we can only solve these challenges together!

In September 2021, young people from all EMS member churches discussed what “mission” means to them at the theological conference that marked the start of the EMS Jubilee Year. For many of them, discrimination, persecution

and violence are part of everyday life. All of them are united by great concerns about the destruction of the environment and in some places, they are directly confronted with the consequences. For them, mission is a movement that can change society. They see themselves as “ambassadors in Christ” who want to build bridges and offer hope. They expect the churches to bear witness to God’s mission in the world:

“We are convinced that NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT! Acting means being involved in mission as a society-changing movement. Acting means that the church serves as a mediator of God’s mission, witnessing it in the world and making it become reality in the world.”

Rev. Dr Dieter Heidtmann
General Secretary



FINANCIAL YEAR 2021

REVENUES

Donations, offerings	2,628,356.61
Contributions from members	4,106,081.00
Project refunds and subsidies	163,881.04
Interest, dividends	83,059.06
Revenues on assets	21,810.00
Rental revenues	97,321.00
Refunds	
and other revenues	128,567.81
Reversal of accruals	7,200.00
Withdrawal from free reserves	-
Annual surplus	1,483.19

EXPENDITURES

Project allocations	3,174,121.00
Allocations to reserves	649,058.26
Staff costs, administration	681,045.92
Staff costs, programmes	1,685,128.96
Staff costs,	
ecumenical co-workers	180,603.52
Write-offs	46,212.67
Material costs, administration	487,210.52
Material costs, programmes	334,378.86

7,237,759.71 EUR

7,237,759.71 EUR

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

SOLID FINANCIAL YEAR

The pandemic has dominated world affairs for the past two years. Lockdowns have led to existential hardship, especially in the countries of the Global South. Last year, we therefore intensified our contacts with the EMS member churches working in 13 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. At the same time, we are also using the possibilities of virtual cooperation more and more intensively in order to continue our work in partnership in the usual quality.

STABLE REVENUES

In 2021, we again succeeded in securing funding for our project and programme work. After five years of increasing revenues and despite forecasts to the contrary, we are pleased that the monies received in „donations and offerings“ are roughly at the same level as the previous year.¹

Thanks to the support of member churches, 100% of these funds can be passed on to the projects. In 2021 the EMS account received more than €2.6 million from private individuals, congregational collections, mailings and online donations. To make things easier for donors, we introduced the online donation tool „Twingle“ on our website. It allows online donations via PayPal, credit card or direct debit. Within six months, almost €15,000 were raised from this channel alone. This share will be further increased in the coming years through targeted marketing measures.

The fact that contributions from EMS members have remained stable in times of tight budgets – especially contributions from the five German regional churches – proves that international cohesion and trust in the work of the EMS is functioning well. Support from EMS members totalling €4.1 million accounts for more than half of the earnings.

1) The nominal discrepancy of approx. €600,000 in „donations and offerings“ between 2020 (€3.2 million) and 2021 (€2.6 million) is attributable to non-earmarked earnings of the Basel Mission – German Branch and the Schneller Schools. They have been booked directly through the respective associations since 2021 to make things more transparent.

Due to the generally low interest rates on the financial market, earnings from interest and dividends were lower than in the previous year. Revenues in this position fell by just under €20,000 to around €83,000.

We are extremely grateful that we also received bequests last year. A bequest in favour of EMS is a particularly meaningful way of creating lasting values beyond one's own lifetime.

HALF A MILLION FOR CORONA RELIEF

We are particularly grateful for the generous coronavirus relief funds we were able to raise through our network. The international EMS member churches and associations of the EMS as well as many private donors contributed a total of €500,000 between June 2020 and February 2022 to fight the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

This allowed our member churches to respond effectively to the different challenges. While some provided food for the most vulnerable in the communities, others ensured continuity in schooling with online classes since in many places, homes and schools were temporarily closed. Funds were also urgently needed to pay for the salaries of pastors and teachers. At the same time, material help was provided in the form of Covid-19 tests, personal protective equipment and hygiene training or vaccinations.

Another focus was on the prevention of domestic violence which increased sharply worldwide during the Covid-19 crisis. For example, the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG), the Church of South India (CSI), the Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera (GMIH) and the Basel Mission – German Branch (BMDZ) started a number of projects through the EMS Corona Relief for the protection of women and children.

On behalf of all the recipients, we sincerely thank all those who contributed to making all this possible. In 2022, we will make every effort to continue our international Corona Relief.

FOCUS ON FUNDING THE “EDUCATION” PROJECTS

In addition to the urgently needed Corona Relief, the EMS also ensured continuity in the funding of projects and programmes in 2021 – an important tool to stabilise and strengthen networks throughout the EMS fellowship. Funding was allocated on the basis of half-yearly budget planning. A total of almost €3.2 million was provided for projects in 15 countries. The major part of the funding (44%) went to schooling and vocational training through the Programmes and Projects Department. Just under a fifth went to diaconal projects, such as hospitals, children's homes or support for people with physical or mental disabilities. In all its funding, the EMS always strives to support its members and partners in the best possible way to achieve the common goals of a world of justice and solidarity.



LOWER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The pandemic also allowed us to make savings over the past year. The total costs for administration in 2021 fell by about €90,000. Added to this were significantly lower personnel costs as some positions were not filled. On the other hand, the administration’s material costs of €487,211 rose by about 20% compared to the previous year. Higher expenses were incurred by modernising our IT infrastructure as well as by unplanned costs for Covid-19 prevention.

GOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

We live in uncertain times. Therefore, it was vital for the EMS Finance Committee to also examine and secure the financial sustainability of the EMS last year. Since the challenge in the coming years will certainly be to maintain EMS staff positions and programmes with the limited funds, the Finance Committee also looked at questions of future fundraising.

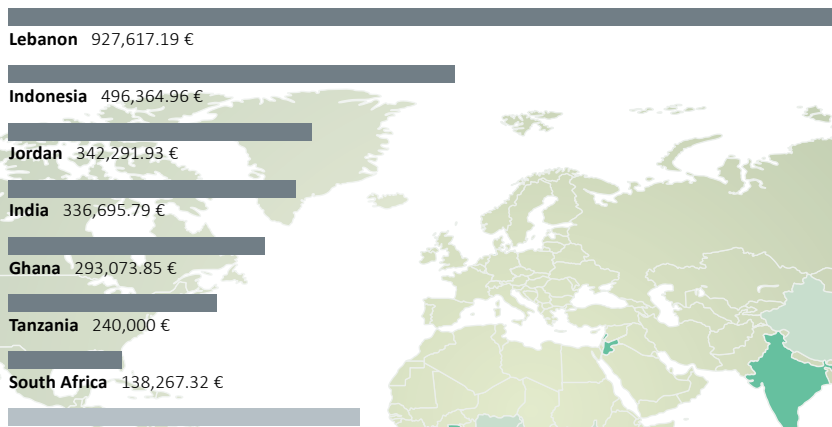
At the end of the 2021 financial year, the EMS is structurally stable. As in previous years and in the spirit of forward-looking risk management, precautions were again taken and, among other things, the reserves were bolstered in order to continue avoiding structural deficits.

However, as the medium-term effects of the coronavirus pandemic and the events surrounding the war and conflict in Ukraine are not yet foreseeable, the coming years will undoubtedly bring with them special challenges and unexpected events. The pursuit of peace and the commitment to the preservation of creation will be the great challenges in the years ahead.

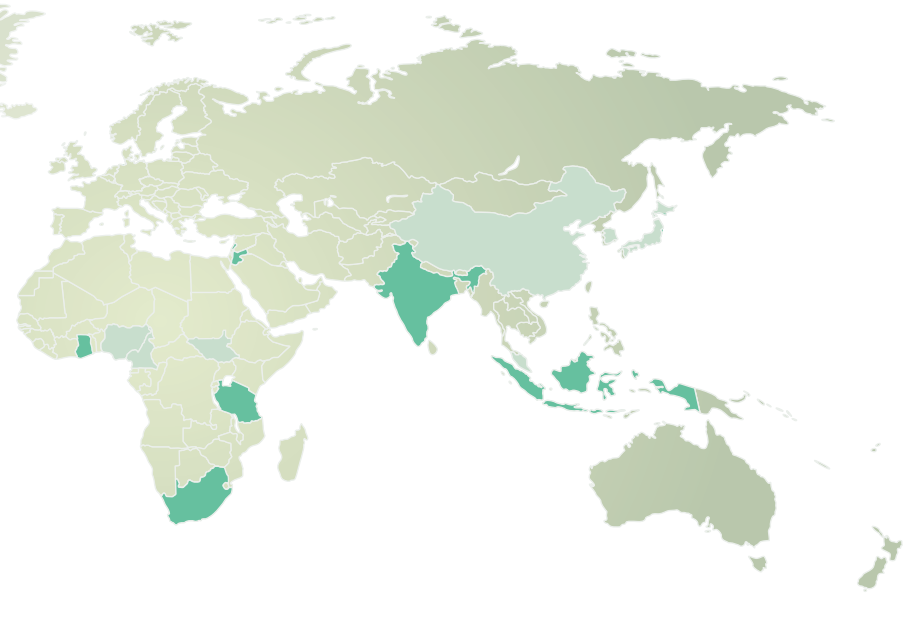
Rudolf Bausch
General Manager



EMS PROJECT FUNDING BY COUNTRY



*Cameroon, China, Gaza, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Sudan





3,174,121.00 EUR

FOR JOINT PROJECTS

FUNDING AREAS FOR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS 2021

- 44%** SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
- 22%** JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION
- 19%** DIACONIA
- 8%** THEOLOGICAL TRAINING
- 6%** SPREADING THE GOSPEL
- 1%** POVERTY REDUCTION

In 2021, the EMS financed 51 projects to a total of €3,174,121. Without the numerous and generous donations from private individuals, EMS member churches and their congregations, many of the projects would not have been possible as originally planned. This is because, as a result of the pandemic, the costs of food, transport, medical care, electricity and water have risen worldwide – while at the same time local donations and government support have fallen.

CORONA RELIEF – EMPOWERING WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In 2021, the EMS Corona Relief funded various projects worldwide to provide vital services to affected member churches and their congregations. During the pandemic, for example, there was a sharp increase in domestic violence. EMS Corona Relief allowed victims of domestic violence in Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Ghana to receive ministry and offered shelters in parish families, women’s shelters and legal counselling. In addition, courses on handicraft and business ventures were offered to the women affected to boost their self-confidence and make them more independent from their domestic situation by giving them the means to earn their own income.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

ASIA / CHINA FUNDING AREA: CORONA RELIEF MIGRANT CHILDREN

With the EMS Corona Relief, the Chinese partner organisation **Amity Foundation** supported migrant children in the big cities in 2021. These children were hit particularly hard by the pandemic in terms of health, school closures and the rise in domestic violence. A lack of income and the threat of poverty put parents under increasing pressure. The project not only included material help for the children, but also training for school doctors and teachers on topics such as healthy nutrition, infection prevention and how to deal with illnesses.

AFRICA / GHANA FUNDING AREA: DIACONIA HEALTH CARE SERVICE

The pandemic posed major challenges to the medical facilities of the **Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG)** which includes five district hospitals, 27 health posts, nine primary health care services and two nursing schools. The high cost of personal protective equipment was compounded by financial constraints due to delayed reimbursement from the National Health Insurance Service (NHIS). Thanks to substantial donations and the support of the Italian Waldensian Church, it was possible to keep the facilities running with vaccinations, general medical and specialist treatment, e.g., for diabetes or sickle cell anaemia. Low-income patients received valuable support through free medical care, meals on admission, clothing or money for the journey home. The offer was supplemented by nutrition counselling programmes in the congregations on healthy, affordable local food.





ASIA / INDIA
FUNDING AREA: EDUCATION / INTEGRITY OF CREATION
ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Many EMS member churches, especially in Asia, are located in regions that are regularly hit by climate-related natural disasters. In India, for example, heavy monsoon rains often wreak havoc. Droughts and extreme weather regularly result in crop failure. The **Church of South India (CSI)** is so far the only church on the subcontinent that has integrated the issue of ecological protection in its constitution and its mission statement.

At CSI schools, the subject of ecological protection is taught through interdisciplinary and action-oriented learning. As a result, students learn to think in relationships and to develop creative solutions in view of the climate crisis. Together they develop an eco-management system for their schools: how can water and electricity be saved, waste reduced and recycled, food leftovers used or the air kept clean? Internal school competitions provide students with further encouragement. They and their teachers also pass on their knowledge to their families and church congregations.

The CSI's dedication to environmental and climate protection was acknowledged in 2019 by its nomination for the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development and was presented extensively on the UNESCO website.

ASIA / INDONESIA
FUNDING AREA: SPREADING THE GOSPEL
PRISON MINISTRY

“I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:36). The prison chaplaincy of the **Christian Protestant Church in Bali (GKPB)** is based on these words of Jesus. The Christian belief says that every human being is endowed with dignity because it is given to everyone by God. Even the smallest offence in Indonesia can lead to long prison sentences. Prison conditions are catastrophic. Prisons are packed, cells hopelessly overcrowded and the hygienic conditions inhumane. Prisoners have no meaningful activity. There is also a shortage of staff in Indonesian prisons, and there is no social worker network as in Germany for example.

On request, chaplains accompany prisoners and conduct conversations under the protection of pastoral secrecy. They also provide them with indispensable daily necessities such as soap, toothbrushes, towels, coffee, tea or books. These small gestures improve the prison conditions of the inmates and give them back a piece of their dignity. Often, the counselling provided results in early release. The chaplains then also accompany the prisoners on their road back to freedom.

All projects are described at
www.ems-online.org/en/support

PROGRAMMES AND ASSOCIATIONS



ECUMENICAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME (EYVP)

The EYVP allows young people from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe to work for six to ten months in social or church institutions. There are three directions for exchanges: North-South, South-North and South-South.

www.ems-online.org/eyvp

ECUMENICAL CO-WORKERS

Interested persons have the opportunity to gain intercultural experience as ecumenical co-workers in a church of the EMS fellowship. Besides assignments lasting several years, the EMS also arranges short-term assignments. There are three directions for exchanges.

www.ems-online.org/ecumenicalworker

INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAMMES

Skills in intercultural and interreligious dialogue are increasingly in demand as professional qualifications for theologians, deacons and religious educators. The EMS offers two study programmes at renowned universities in Japan and Lebanon.

www.ems-online.org/studyprogrammes

EMS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

YOU+ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD invites you on a journey of discovery through countries, religions and cultures. The EMS children's programme offers practical, free materials for children's services and religious education in German, English, Indonesian and Korean and supports a Child Friendly Church worldwide.

www.ems-friends.org/en



ASSOCIATIONS IN THE EMS

The **Basel Mission (BM)** is committed to sponsoring the EMS. One of its special concerns is the fostering of worldwide relations. It runs a unique archive in Basel containing records of over 200 years of mission history.

The **Basel Mission – German Branch (BMDZ)** supervises friends' groups and collection work, accompanies partnerships and is involved in community and educational work. These activities support the ministry in the partner churches.

Since its foundation, the **German East Asia Mission (DOAM)** has attached great importance to the study of different religions as well as dialogue with people of other

faiths. It also works together with disadvantaged people to further their rights. It maintains relations with people in Japan, China and Korea.

The **Evangelical Association for the Schneller Schools (EVS)** supports the Schneller Schools in Lebanon and Jordan. There, children from needy families receive schooling and vocational training. Both schools are run by the EMS member churches in the Middle East.

The **Moravian Mission Society in Germany (HMH)** works in a network of various mission and aid organisations and supports the work of the worldwide Moravian Church in particular.



**BASEL MISSION
GERMAN BRANCH**



**EVS Evangelical Association
for the Schneller Schools**





THE WORLD OF EMS

AFRICA

- 1 **GHANA:** Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG)
- 2 **SOUTH AFRICA:** Moravian Church in South Africa (MCSA)

MIDDLE EAST

- 3 **JERUSALEM AND THE MIDDLE EAST:** The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East
- 4 **LEBANON:** National Evangelical Church of Beirut (NECB)

ASIA

- 5 **INDIA:** Church of South India (CSI)
Church of North India (CNI), guest status
- 6 **INDONESIA:** Christian Church in South Sulawesi (GKSS)
Christian Church in West Sulawesi (GKSB), guest status
Christian Protestant Church in Bali (GKPB)
Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera (GMIH)
Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa (GMIM)
Protestant Church in South-East Sulawesi (GEPULTRA)
Protestant Indonesian Church in Donggala (GPID)
Protestant Indonesian Church in Luwu (GPIL)
Toraja Church (GT)
Toraja Mamasa Church (GTM)
- 7 **JAPAN:** United Church of Christ in Japan (KYODAN)
- 8 **KOREA:** Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)
Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)

EUROPE

- 9 **GERMANY:**
Basel Mission – German Branch (BMDZ)
Evangelical Association for the Schneller Schools (EVS)
Evangelical Church of Kurhessen-Waldeck (EKKW)
Evangelical Church of the Palatinate (EKP)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg (ELK-WUE)
German East Asia Mission (DOAM)
Moravian Church
Moravian Mission Society in Germany (HMH)
Protestant Church in Baden (EKIBA)
Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau (EKHN)
- 10 **SWITZERLAND:** Basel Mission (BM)

COOPERATIONS

- 11 **China:** China Christian Council (CCC), Amity Foundation

THROUGH BMDZ AND BASEL MISSION:

- 12 **CHINA, HONGKONG:** Tsung Tsin Mission (TTM)
- 13 **CAMEROON:** Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC)
- 14 **MALAYSIA:** Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM)
Protestant Church in Sabah (PCS)
- 15 **NIGERIA:** Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN)
- 16 **SOUTH SUDAN:** Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS)

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50 YEARS OF THE EMS – START OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

On 19 September 2021, the Jubilee Year was solemnly opened during a festive service in Accra (Ghana). The week before, an international theological conference on the theme of „Free for the Future“ took place at the Akrofi-Christaller Institute in Akropong (Ghana), where 40 young people from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe jointly drafted a position paper on the significance of mission today and for the future of world society.

Please go to the link below to see the closing statement of the theological conference in German, English and Indonesian as well as information on jubilee activities, worship service materials, the EMS jubilee song “Together we are free“ and the Future Fund, which was set up specifically to safeguard the future of disadvantaged children and young people:

www.ems-online.org/50years

The Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS)

25 churches and 5 mission societies in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East form a network of well-established long-term partnerships – as a Christian fellowship they share resources, learn from and with one another and make decisions.

Donation account: Evangelische Mission in Solidarität (EMS)

Evangelische Bank eG IBAN DE85 5206 0410 0000 0001 24 BIC GENODEF1EK1

Donate online at: ems-online.org/en/support