



A healthy future for all children of this earth!

Statement of the Society for Tropical Paediatrics and International Paediatric Health (GTP) e.V.

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[This section represents our strategies for action and is subject to continuous processing and expansion. In the continuous evaluation of internal structures of the association as well as conditions in our project partnerships, our goal is to constantly define new fields of work for climate-sensitive, -neutral and -positive action and to become active in this regard. We call on our membership and our project partners for active input in this regard.]

Introduction: The children of the world are in danger

The events of the last few years have made it abundantly clear that the health and survival of children in all countries of the world is increasingly threatened by the three major crises of our time: The climate crisis, species extinction and now pan-dema. It is the task of all paediatric organisations that have the welfare of children at heart to work to protect children from the consequences of these crises and their further intensification in the sense of far-reaching prevention.

What all three crises have in common is that humanity is exceeding the limits of the planet's diverse systems: excessive pollution of the atmosphere with greenhouse gases, of the oceans with plastic waste, of the waters with phosphates and nitrates, of the soils with biocides, destruction of forests and moors, destruction of habitats for wild animals, and much more.

Floods, storms, heat waves, drought and forest fires cost more and more lives and cause countless human tragedies. Even though we now have to experience these disasters directly here, the countries of the South bear the brunt of the illness, suffering and deaths, and here again especially the children. They suffer especially when whole regions become uninhabitable due to heat, drought and flooding and countless families have to go on the move in order to survive.

The GTP faces up to its responsibility

The diverse activities of the GTP, including education, training, project consultation, clinic partnerships, congresses, and research, are expanded to include the aspects of "planetary health"

that are vital to children's health. The GTP recognises that the various transgressions of planetary boundaries endanger the existence of children worldwide and on a very large scale, and takes this knowledge into account (1) in its internal and international structure and working methods, (2) in the design of its work with partners and projects, and (3) in its communication in the professional, professional-political and social environment.

Central topics are: Adaptation to climate impacts, climate and resource protection, environmental and species protection, air pollution, energy supply, transport and much more.

New fields of action of the GTP

1. Sustainability of structure and working methods within the association and in international projects

1.1 Digitalisation of processes

- Keep association documents digitally and centrally accessible in compliance with the GDPR in order to save paper, printing materials, mailing activities, etc.
- Conduct conferences, planning meetings and seminars as online events, if possible in terms of content.
- Prefer WLAN use to mobile data use to save CO2 emissions

1.2 Selection of service providers according to sustainability criteria

- Align food with the principles of the Planetary Health Diet.
- Evaluate the sustainability of the service companies we already use and aim to switch to better alternatives.
- When selecting future service providers, actively enquire about their sustainability standards (e.g. electricity providers, consumables, catering, etc.).

1.3 Optimisation of fossil energy consumption through e.g.:

- Shifting events from the cold to the warm season, e.g. to save heating costs and to carry out framework activities outdoors.
- Reduction of air travel to the minimum and utilisation of personnel deployment capacities to the maximum (e.g. by scheduling projects close to each other for which the same person is deployed from abroad in order to save double travel.)
- Climate-sensitive travel planning, e.g. by avoiding air and sea travel wherever possible, using CO2 compensation tools, actively offering collective transport, e.g. for our course participants, actively calling for climate-sensitive travel on the flyers for our events, etc..

2. Sustainability in the selection, planning and implementation of projects

2.1 Climate-conscious project selection

- Consciously consider climate-relevant issues when developing the project idea..

2.1 Climate-conscious project planning

- In the exchange with the project partnership during project planning, record the local conditions with regard to the effects of climate change and jointly work out possible interventions.
- Actively raise awareness of climate change and address local needs and issues in all project planning.
- Integrate climate-sensitive action and advocacy on climate change into new projects as firm principles.

2.1 Climate-conscious project implementation

- Actively implement the climate change intervention opportunities identified in the project planning.
- Actively seek and address possible new climate change intervention opportunities during the project phase.
- Regular evaluation of the effectiveness of the interventions and adaptation of the courses of action if necessary.
- Active communication with the whole GTP on the effectiveness of the interventions to encourage their use in other projects, if appropriate.

3. Presenting the GTP as an advocate for the sustainable health of children and the planetary systems on which children's health depends

3.1 Clearly identify climate change as a threat to children's health worldwide in all GTP activities.

- Public presentation of health risks and possible interventions on the GTP homepage and other social media.
- Reference to scientific publications as well as to organisations with demonstrably effective recommendations for action with regard to climate change.
- Support initiatives that raise awareness on climate change in order to achieve greater public effectiveness.

3.2. Advocate for endangered populations.

- Direct exchange with our international partners. Collect and publicise field reports. Use scientific data to support the field reports.

3.3. Multiply existing, scientifically sound information

- Publish evidence-based literature on the homepage and disseminate it in the GTP networks.
- Cooperation with national and international professional societies on the topic of climate change in order to exploit synergies.
- Speak at congresses on climate change and global child health.