

Ten years of aid for the poorest

In 2016, Kapfenhardt-based author Isabelle Müller founded her “LOAN Foundation.”

Since then, around US\$1.8 million has been invested in Vietnam to help the poorest children.

Ilona Prokoph/

Unterreichenbach-Kapfenhardt

“A person's place of birth essentially determines their fate,” says Isabelle Müller. The 61-year-old author has lived with her husband Stephan in Kapfenhardt, a district of Unterreichenbach, since 1992. She is Eurasian, as her mother came from Vietnam and her father from France, where Isabelle Müller also grew up. “But my mother Loan never resigned herself to this fate,” reports Isabelle Müller. Loan passed away on March 7, 2003. Under the title “Loan - Aus dem Leben eines Phönix” (Loan - From the Life of a Phoenix), the author published her mother's life story in 2015. And in her honor, Isabelle Müller founded the “LOAN Foundation” in 2016, which has since been working to enable children from ethnic minorities in the poorest regions of Vietnam to have a self-determined future through education. Background: As a child in Vietnam in the 1930s, Loan was never allowed to attend school because she was a girl. So she bribed those who were allowed to go to school with a stolen chicken – which was life-threatening at the time – in order to teach herself to read and write. Since 2016, a total of 44 projects have been created for around 5,000 children, including 28 kindergartens, schools, and boarding schools, which were built locally by the LOAN Foundation. Since then, the foundation has also financed 401 scholarship holders, supported 44 sponsorships for children, and purchased around 4,000 books and learning materials. The foundation has invested a total of around US\$1.8 million in Vietnam since 2016. Its supporters come from Germany, France, Austria, the Netherlands, Australia, Singapore, and Vietnam, among other countries. “One hundred percent of the donations go to the foundation,” says Isabelle Müller, because she and her husband Stephan privately cover the costs of all projects. In addition, Isabelle Müller's book royalties also go entirely to the foundation. The book about her mother Loan has now been published in its fifth edition in Vietnam and won third place in the National Publication Award in 2024. And in Vietnam, the LOAN Foundation even received the Human Act Prize in 2023 for its beneficial work (PZ reported). “We are now very well known in Vietnam as a foundation and are also asked about when it comes to aid projects,” says Isabelle Müller. She is delighted that former students and scholarship holders from her aid projects are now working in their professions. “I have book orders for the next five years,” says the author with satisfaction. Her own biography, “Phoenix

Daughter – Hope Was My Way,” which was published in 2009 and reprinted in 2011 by Krüger (S. Fischer), has been a bestseller in Vietnam since 2022 with her publisher General Publisher. The same goes for her illustrated children's books “Hip Hop im Land von Ellsaby” (Hip Hop in the Land of Ellsaby), “Hip Hop und der Goldene Wald” (Hip Hop and the Golden Forest), and “Hip Hop und die Gesangsmeisterin” (Hip Hop and the Singing Master). Her latest fantasy novel, “Nur ein Herzschlag von dir entfernt” (Just a Heartbeat Away from You), was also published in Vietnam and sold like hotcakes. Now Müller is looking for a suitable publisher for it in Germany. She is currently working on an anniversary book about the ten years of the LOAN Foundation. With this book, she wants to thank the many supporters who have contributed to helping disadvantaged children in Vietnam over the past ten years.

LOAN Foundation: <https://loan-stiftung.de/?lang=en>



Caption

Isabelle Müller, founder of the Kapfenhardt-based LOAN Foundation, is delighted to celebrate the foundation's tenth anniversary. Photo: Prokoph