

## Collection Rau for UNICEF

### Background Information

(updated May 2014)

#### Who was Gustav Rau?

Dr. Dr. Gustav Rau was a great philanthropist. Born as the son of a wealthy Stuttgart manufacturer he studied economics in order to take over his parents' company. At the age of 40, however, he decided to change his life. He studied medicine, sold the company he inherited and founded a medical clinic in present day Democratic Republic of Congo. There he worked as a pediatrician for many years. Apart from his humanitarian involvement, Gustav Rau was dedicated to art. Within four decades he compiled one of the most comprehensive and extraordinary private art collections. Gustav Rau died on 3rd January 2002, shortly before his 80th birthday.

#### What does the collection consist of?

UNICEF inherited more than 780 paintings, sculptures and handicrafts. The collection covers European paintings from the 15th century to Late Impressionism and sculptures from of the Middle Ages up to the 19th century. The website [www.collection-rau-for-unicef.de](http://www.collection-rau-for-unicef.de) showcases all objects of the collection.

#### What are UNICEF's plans for the collection?

Gustav Rau prescribed that the core of his collection is to be on public exhibit until 2026. This part of Gustav Rau's bequest is being fulfilled with the "Art Chamber Rau" in the Arp Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck in Remagen near Bonn/Germany. There, more than 270 pieces of the collection are shown to a wide audience in temporary exhibitions from changing perspectives. For more information please see [www.arpmuseum.org](http://www.arpmuseum.org).

According to Gustav Rau's will the remainder of the collection is being sold to benefit long-term support programs for children. An art advisory board initiated by Dr. Gustav Rau provides counsel to UNICEF in its decisions on sales and exhibitions.

According to Gustav Rau's will, the proceeds are allocated to the UNICEF Foundation to finance long-term UNICEF projects and to continue supporting the hospital founded by Gustav Rau in Ciriri in Eastern Congo.

#### How were the auction houses for the sales in 2013 selected?

In the course of 2013, more than 400 paintings, sculptures and handicrafts were offered for sale. To prepare these sales, UNICEF Germany had issued a call for tenders with big international and national auction houses. The responses were anonymised by an independent law firm and presented to UNICEF Foundation's executive board.

Due to their convincing and favourable terms the auction houses Sotheby's (London), Bonhams (London), as well as Lempertz (Cologne) were selected. A special website ([www.collection-rau-for-unesf.de](http://www.collection-rau-for-unesf.de)) showcases the objects of the collection and informs about the result of the sales.

### **How does UNICEF support the hospital of Ciriri in Bukavu founded by Gustav Rau?**

In the 1980s, Gustav Rau had a hospital with attached nutrition centre built in Ciriri near the provincial capital Bukavu in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Gustav Rau worked there for twenty years. Today, the catchment area of the hospital – together with 34 health centres in the environs – covers the whole southern Kivu region. Thanks to the hospital, children in Ciriri and its environs receive good medical care. It is run by the archdiocese Bukavu, administered by Caritas International and supported by the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF through Gustav Rau's bequest – since 2011 in cooperation with the Dr. Rau Foundation from Zurich. More than one million euros are being allocated, for further support until 2020 more than 4.1 Million US\$ are pledged.

Around 215,000 people live in the catchment area of the 130 beds hospital. Every year, 8,500 people are being treated ambulatory. Every month, an average of 200 women are cared for in childbirth – this is especially important in a country in which 1 out of 24 childbirths results in the death of the mother. The hospital has four units: pediatrics, gynecology and obstetrics, surgery, and internal medicine. In addition, there is a laboratory, dental services, a vision care ambulance, x-ray and ultrasound equipment, and physiotherapy. Since the foundation of the hospital there has been a nutrition programme for malnourished children. Population growth, refugee flows, and the fragile state infrastructure in the politically still highly unstable east of the country have steadily increased the need for medical care in the region. To cope with this demand, the hospital has been extended and its equipment upgraded.

Further, the Dr. Rau Foundation, Zurich, and the UNICEF Germany Foundation support through Dr. Rau's bequest four programs in **four countries with about seven million euros:**

#### **Healthy Villages, Healthy Schools in Democratic Republic of Congo**

UNICEF aims to empower communities in four eastern provinces to improve health and hygiene conditions in villages and in schools i.e. by training teachers and health workers.

#### **A good start in life for Eritrean children**

The program aims to ameliorate medical care for pregnant woman, obstetric care and health programs for newborn babies by strengthening basic health care in ten poor and remote districts of Eritrea. Ten health centers shall be expanded, nurses and mobile health workers are being trained.

#### **Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Namibia**

UNICEF is strengthening education for youth to prevent them from being infected by HIV/AIDS. Tests are being provided and infected girls and boys get access to psychological and medical care.

## **Ensuring survival for newborns in Burundi**

By renovating 20 health centers, 6 obstetric units and training of 200 nurses and midwives plus more than 230 health workers in rural villages basic health care for newborns and mothers is being ameliorated.

## **Why did Gustav Rau entrust UNICEF Germany with his collection?**

Initially, Dr. Rau founded several foundations in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Eventually, however, he decided to entrust UNICEF with his assets. In 1999, he contacted UNICEF Germany.

As far as UNICEF can judge, Gustav Rau considered UNICEF an organization with the experience and the professional network to realize his humanitarian goals. "I know my material possessions are in good hands now", the 79 year old Rau said on the occasion of the donation to UNICEF in Stuttgart in 2001. "I entrust them to an organization that is committed to one cause only, to which I have given my own life: helping destitute children".

Gustav Rau passed away in 2002 and bequeathed the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF his collection. Having transferred the major part already during his lifetime, he thus made one of the biggest humanitarian donations in Germany. For the remainder of the collection Gustav Rau designated UNICEF as inheritor.

## **How did Gustav Rau bequeath UNICEF Germany his art collection?**

In October 1999, Gustav Rau concluded a contract of inheritance for the benefit of the German UNICEF Foundation. In September 2001, he donated the major part of his collection – 621 works of art – to the German UNICEF Foundation. The remaining pieces are part of the bequest. In December 2008 the district court of Konstanz issued the certificate of inheritance to the German UNICEF Foundation This makes the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF the sole heir to Dr. Rau. For further information on the history of the former foundations please see a report on the internet of the Geschäftsprüfungskommission des Ständerates, Switzerland. (<http://www.admin.ch/opc/de/federal-gazette/2006/7707.pdf>).

## **What was the reason for the legal dispute over the bequest?**

UNICEF did not start this legal dispute. In January 2003, the district court of Konstanz had issued the preliminary decision on the certificate of inheritance in favor of the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF. A complaint against the decision of the court was submitted. Following this, the presiding judge commissioned an expert report to review all facts once again. Professor Dr. Clemens Cording from Regensburg, the external expert appointed by the court, found that there are no reasons to call into question Gustav Rau's capacity to contract when he signed the contract of inheritance for the benefit of UNICEF. Hereupon, the district court of Konstanz issued the certificate of inheritance to UNICEF Germany in December 2008.

**For any queries please contact Helga Kuhn, UNICEF Germany Press Office, +49 (0)221-93650-234 or [presse@unicef.de](mailto:presse@unicef.de).**

**For more information please see [www.unicef.de/collection-rau](http://www.unicef.de/collection-rau)**

**All art works online: [www.collection-rau-for-unicef.de](http://www.collection-rau-for-unicef.de)**