

Collection Rau for UNICEF

Background Information

Who was Gustav Rau?

Dr. Dr. Gustav Rau was a remarkable man. 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 – his second passion. 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?

The collection consists of 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. Among those are paintings by artists such as Fra Angelico, El Greco, Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Max Liebermann and Claude Monet. A new website www.collection-rau-for-unicef.de showcases all objects of the collection.

Why did Gustav Rau entrust the Foundation of the German National Committee for UNICEF 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 through his lawyer.

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 the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF as inheritor.

According to Gustav Rau's will

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 "Kunstammer Rau" ("Art Chamber Rau") in the Arp Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck in Remagen near Bonn/Germany. There, about 250 pieces of the collection are shown to a wide audience in temporary exhibitions from changing perspectives.

According to Gustav Rau's will about 500 pieces are now on sale 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 Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF 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 current sales selected?

In the course of 2013, a selection of more than 500 paintings, sculptures and handicrafts is on sale. The total estimated volume is in the double-digit million range. 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 new website (www.collection-rau-for-unicef.de) showcases all objects of the collection and informs about the auction houses. Sales started in May 2013.

Long term support for the hospital of Ciriri 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.

In 2011 the Foundation of the German National Committee for UNICEF and the Dr. Rau Foundation from Zurich – the legally recognized successor of all foundations Dr. Rau established in Switzerland in the past – concluded an agreement which confirmed the ownership of the Foundation of the German National Committee for UNICEF. So far, since 2009, the Foundation of the German National Committee for UNICEF and the Swiss based Dr. Rau Foundation have supported the hospital established by Dr. Rau in Ciriri, Democratic Republic of Congo with more than one million euros which stem from Dr. Rau's estate. In order to foster the hospital from 2013-2020 an amount of approximately 4.1 million US dollar (3.1 million euros) will be dedicated in coordination with the local project managers.

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. In 2011, the Foundation of the German National Committee for UNICEF and the Dr. Rau Foundation, Zurich, funded a new gynecology and obstetrics unit with delivery rooms, treatment and patient rooms as well as rooms for the patients' families. Construction for an additional operating theatre as well as a ward building has started in 2012. The older parts of the buildings are scheduled to be renovated in the coming years.

Further, the Dr. Rau Foundation, Zurich, and the Foundation of the German National Committee for UNICEF 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, more than 120 nurses and 160 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.

How did Gustav Rau bequeath UNICEF his art collection?

In October 1999, Gustav Rau concluded a contract of inheritance for the benefit of the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF. In September 2001, he donated the major part of his collection – 621 works of art – to the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF. Since then, these artworks have been in the possession of the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF. The remaining pieces are part of the bequest. This was the subject of a legal dispute which was decided in UNICEF's favour in 2008. This makes the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF the sole heir to Dr. Rau. For the history of the former foundations please see a report on the internet of the Geschäftsprüfungskommission des Ständerates, Switzerland, which confirms the ownership of the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF, too. (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. The background to it was the claim by former lawyers of Gustav Rau that he had been incapable of contracting when he signed the contract of inheritance. In the meantime, Gustav Rau had deprived these persons of their mandate. It is a matter of fact that Gustav Rau has never been declared incapable of contracting. Furthermore, a medical examination before he designated the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF as inheritor of his art collection proved 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 the Foundation of the German Committee for UNICEF. Already in January 2003, the district court of Konstanz had issued the preliminary decision on the certificate of inheritance. 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.

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For more information please see www.unicef.de/collection-rau

All art works online: www.collection-rau-for-unicef.de