

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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Preface

Dear friends of Make Me Smile International,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

As we look back over the past year, we would like to thank you first and foremost for your continued support. Inflation, war and uncertainty have made this anything but a given. Despite all the challenges, we were able to continue to count on you and thus continue our work. Together, we have made a significant contribution to helping thousands of people live self-determined lives.

We were able to deepen our partnership with Make Me Smile Kenya in line with our approach of sustainable development cooperation and to further develop our projects and accompany them closer towards self-reliance and independence.

We are particularly pleased to announce that the construction of our new vocational training center, thanks to the support of Africa Aweee, is well underway and we plan to have it operational before the end of the first half of 2023.

However, our collaboration with Africa Aweee has not only allowed us to expand our projects in Kenya. In Cape Town, the team decided that an IT Hub based on the concept of our Future Hub in Mayenya should be established alongside our ongoing projects. This expansion will provide even more opportunities for young people in the region to acquire the IT skills they need to succeed in their careers.

The war in Ukraine has also not passed us by as an organization. When the first images reached us, we immediately started to look for ways to help. We are proud that in this way we were able to support the Ukrainian Educational Platform, which is particularly concerned with the lives of refugee children who have no family. This collaboration and your donation has allowed us to make a valuable contribution in this crisis.

Finally, we would like to share with you probably one of the most important news. Maximilian Ullrich, founder, chairman and executive director of Make Me Smile International, stepped down as executive director at the end of December after 15 years of tireless service, handing over the position to his long-time companion Roger Winandy. He will continue to work for the organization as chairman and advisor and has only handed over the operational management. He will also continue to visit his heart projects in Kenya and accompany the organization on their way to independence.

This means a lot of change on all levels. We are convinced that the new opportunities this will bring to the entire team will allow the organization to develop and have an even greater impact.

We cannot thank you enough for your trust during these challenging times. Together, we have accomplished so much again this year and we look forward to continuing our efforts to make an even greater positive difference and impact in the world.

Thank you for making us smile!



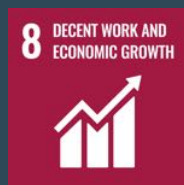
Maximilian Ullrich & Roger Winandy

Founder and Chairman

Managing Director and
Deputy Chairman

Make Me Smile International

Cooperation with implementation partners - Ukraine/South Africa/Kenya



Make Me Smile International is a non-profit organization founded in Austria in 2008. In recent years we have expanded our activities and are now also represented in Switzerland, Germany and Luxembourg. With local partner organizations, we have implemented projects in Kenya, Colombia, Lebanon, South Africa and most recently Ukraine over the past years. We focus on child and youth welfare, family support, health, gender equality, environmental protection, projects with refugees and raising awareness for international development.

In 2022, our work has focused on Kenya, South Africa and Ukraine. Kenya continues to be our main focus. At the same time, we expanded our existing projects in South Africa and were able to support a new partner organization in Ukraine that is struggling with the challenges of war.

Our work is in line with eight of the United Nations' seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. We hope to create a better future for all through our efforts and are grateful for the continued support of our partners, supporters and donors.



Make Me Smile Kenya

As the largest implementation partner

Make Me Smile Kenya is an NGO that takes a holistic approach to sustainable development cooperation. Founded in 2008 in Kisumu, Western Kenya, the organization aims to ensure the sustainability of its projects by working closely with government agencies and relevant stakeholders. The main goal of our projects is for beneficiaries to learn to help themselves by developing and implementing their own ideas.

In 2022, Make Me Smile Kenya provided employment to more than 100 people and supported over 100,000 people, mainly orphans and vulnerable children, their families, and adolescent girls and young women through various interventions. With an extensive network of over 900 local volunteers, Make Me Smile Kenya has been able to reach more people than ever before. Through the Community Centre in Mayenya, outreach programs and short-term projects, Make Me Smile ensures a comprehensive range of support that helps families in the region lead self-sufficient lives.



Simon Peter Otieno

Director Make Me Smile Kenya

Dear Supporters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable support to Make Me Smile Kenya in 2022. Your help has been instrumental in enabling the children and families we help to overcome the most pressing challenges they face. We could not have achieved our successes without your dedication and commitment to our work.

At Make Me Smile, we remain committed to our vision that every child should have the opportunity to reach his/her potential and to participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.

Despite the changed circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to contribute to improving the lives of vulnerable communities and youth and have established ourselves as a key player in the field of youth sexual and reproductive health in Kisumu County.

In 2022, we also comprehensively expanded the Mayenya Community Centre. In collaboration with our international team, we developed the Future Hub, an education and IT training program tailored to local conditions. This enables us to provide targeted training for young people and offer them improved career opportunities.

As we continue to adapt and respond to the changing needs of the community and youth, our collective efforts and collaboration allow us to have the greatest impact possible.

We continue to be very grateful to our staff and generous supporters for their commitment to bringing smiles to so many people's faces.

I hope you enjoy reading the report and have a wonderful year filled with opportunities.

Make Me Smile Kenya - Bringing back the smiles





Mayenya Community Centre

By providing access to various health services, vocational training opportunities and continuing education, the center supports over 200 people in the community on a daily basis on their path to self-sufficiency.

Furthermore, at the end of 2022, ground was broken to build our new training center, which is expected to be operational in mid-2023. At this point, a big thank you again to Africa Aweee for making this possible.



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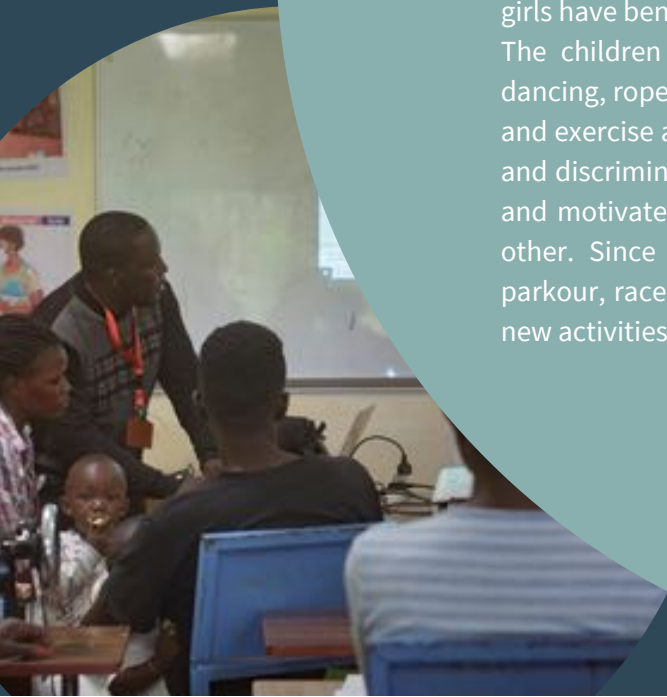
Children's Clubs

The Children's Club is an event that takes place once a month in the Safe Park or in schools in our project region. The project has been supported by the Development Aid Club Vienna since 2016. At the end of 2022, the program was expanded with a focus on gender equality and co-funded by the Austrian Ministry of Sports.

In 2022, our social workers were able to mobilize and motivate 7051 children to participate in the Children's Clubs through their tireless efforts.

Together with the attendance of the kindergartens, a total of 3997 boys and 4081 girls have benefited from the Children's Club and Safe Park services this year.

The children have the opportunity to try different activities such as soccer, dancing, rope pulling, painting, theater, volleyball, korfbal or handicrafts. Sports and exercise are used as a medium to sensitize the girls and boys to misogynistic and discriminatory behavior through playful activities. With the help of qualified and motivated supervisors, they learn to respect, support and strengthen each other. Since the cooperation with the Ministry of Sports, yoga, meditation, parkour, races/relay races and capture the flag have also joined the program as new activities.





Safe Park

The Safe Park is an essential part of the Mayenya Community Center and was established in 2015 with the support of the United Nations Women's Guild.

In 2022, Safe Park continued to provide a protected environment with qualified staff for many children and young adults to confide, share challenges and interact with each other.

Previously, the Safe Park was a place where mainly children could play and learn from each other in a protected setting, accompanied by social educators. With a focus on gender equality, boys and girls have access to the sports and playground seven days a week, learning to treat each other with respect and without prejudice from an early age.

827 children have learned about the Safe Park as part of their Early Childhood Development (ECD) center by visiting the playground with their kindergartens and participating in activities.

Because women in particular face challenges in society in addition to children in Kisumu, in 2022 they expanded the services offered at Safe Park so that adolescent girls and young women can be strengthened mentally and physically through activities. As a result of the expansion, approximately 800 women can now be reached and supported each month.

Through physical activities, the women learn how their self-confidence and self-efficacy can be enhanced. In addition, this strengthens the cohesion and social skills of the women. Through the trust that the girls and young women develop with each other and with the caregivers, they can speak openly, are heard and support each other to find long-term solutions.





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Health Centre

The Mayenya Health Centre was built in 2019 to provide free access to medical care for the people in the area. Until then, many people in the region did not have the opportunity to receive such help because the financial means were not available or the distances to other facilities were too great.

In order to improve medical care, Make Me Smile International, in cooperation with Mojo Fullscale Studio NPO, Graz University of Technology and a number of private donors, built a health center with a focus on mother-child health in the region, which is now operated in cooperation with the government. The maternity ward could not be open continuously last year due to understaffing caused by the Covid-19 crisis. Thanks to funding from the Development Aid Club, we were able to hire additional staff for the maternity ward in 2022. It is all the more gratifying that 104 children were born under hygienic conditions at the Mayenya Health Centre this year. The mothers and their newborns received comprehensive pre- and post-natal care from trained professionals.

In addition to focusing on (expectant) mothers and newborns, patients with general medical illnesses are also treated and preventive measures are made available. The Health Centre also has a well-equipped laboratory and a pharmacy.

In 2022, a total of 12,691 people could be treated free of charge at the Health Centre. In the new year, the Health Centre will continue to be open to all people, regardless of religion, culture, sexual orientation and social background, and will remain the only facility in the region to offer high-quality free medical care.



Craft Centre



Knowledge is the basis for development

45 girls and young women showed in 2022 what is possible when they get the chance for education. For six months they participated in the tailoring training, where they were taught theory and practice by the project coordinator and former qualified students.

In addition, the training curriculum included topics to empower the women in their daily lives. These include: Entrepreneurship, reproductive health, safe motherhood, contraception and HIV prevention, as well as various life skills and prevention of gender-based violence.

Out of 45 girls and young women who started their training as seamstresses at the Craft Centre, 39 passed the state seamstress examination and thus successfully completed their training.

All graduates were provided with a sewing machine as well as a business start-up package and have started their careers as self-employed tailors or have entered the textile job market.

Time and again, trained tailors are employed internally at the Craft Centre after graduation. They illustrate that from the education of women, the women themselves, their families, the community and the state benefit.





MMS Future Hub

In April 2022, the pilot project "Future Hub" was launched. Through 10-week courses in digital literacy, youth and young adults acquire skills in using computers. The goal is to help young adults gain a foothold in the workforce through targeted training.

To launch the pilot project, laptops were purchased, a curriculum was developed and qualified instructors were hired.

The following four courses were offered in 2022:

- Basic Course – Basic Computer Literacy
- Office Experience – Prepare for an Office job, database and reporting
- Get Ready – Webdesign, find employers and Customers
- Coding 101– Coding basics, Professional coding

The first course started on April 4, 2022 with 36 participants. The content was taught in 2-hour blocks and took place from Monday to Thursday. During the course blocks, additional childcare was offered so that young mothers could also benefit from the course.

This concept proved successful in the months that followed, with more and more adolescents and young adults gradually signing up for the courses and successfully completing them. After the 36 participants who completed the first course, 40 students successfully completed the training in September and 48 more in November, increasing their chances of finding a job they enjoy.

With the opening of the new training building next year, the project will continue in full scale.





Permaculture and reforestation program

In 2022, Make Me Smile Kenya continued the permaculture and reforestation program. A two-day course trained **20 young change-makers** on various topics, including permaculture ethics and principles, design systems, and Dragon Dreaming.

A major milestone was reached with the **planting of 3752 trees**. 2000 trees were planted in Kakamega Forest, the last rainforest in Kenya, 1580 in schools in Kolwa East in collaboration with Kisumu County Department of Environment, 99 passion fruit tree seedlings in New Land, and 73 shade and fruit trees at the Permaculture Farm in Mayenya. The goal is for the trees to help improve the environment and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Several structures have also been built to support permaculture initiatives. A composting facility and lasagna beds were built on the Angola farm to improve soil fertility and reduce waste. An irrigation system was also installed to keep the farm operating during dry periods. Trellises for passion fruit were constructed in New Land Kajulu to increase yields and improve fruit quality. Two beehives and a cow shed were also built.

Weekly training sessions attracted young people from 5 to 30 years of age, thus providing meaningful employment for young adults and fostering a sense of responsibility and building new skills. The organization looks forward to continuing its efforts in 2023 and beyond to promote permaculture principles and practices in Kenya.





Outreach Programs

Make Me Smile Kenya implements several outreach programs aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable people in the Kisumu region of Kenya. These programs include supporting orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV, improving access to reproductive health and gender-based violence services, and empowering adolescent girls and young women to reduce HIV risk and unplanned teenage pregnancies. Through these programs, Make Me Smile Kenya aims to provide comprehensive support and resources to improve the overall well-being of the community.

DREAMS

Determined Resilient Educated Aids-free Mentored Safe

Since 2016, Make Me Smile Kenya has partnered with USAid to advocate for girls and young women (AGYW) ages 9-24 who are at particular risk of contracting HIV.

A number of studies show that the Kisumu region is one of the most affected regions in Kenya in terms of new HIV infections. It is further evident that women are affected by HIV significantly more often than men.

Women additionally face particular challenges due to their socio-cultural status in the patriarchal society: Domestic and sexual violence, lower pay, lack of access to education, and inadequate health care.



In order to continue empowering girls and young women in these areas, the DREAMS - program was successfully continued in 2022.

School fees were covered for **289** adolescent girls, **257** women were able to undertake training in the digital or craft sector, and 13,326 attended a course to deepen their knowledge of finance.

In total, **18,039 girls and young women** have been supported through the DREAMS project and are one step closer to achieving the goal of being determined, resilient, educated, aids-free, mentored, safe.

DREAMS intervention packages include:

- HIV screening and counseling
- School- and community-based HIV and violence prevention programs
- Educational support through grants, materials, tutoring, and an early warning system for school dropouts
- Financial education and comprehensive economic empowerment
- Aftercare for victims of gender-based violence
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Provision of condoms for girls and young women and their partners
- Improving access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health care and a wide range of contraceptive methods
- Programs for parents and caregivers
- Community mobilization programs

To implement these measures, mentors are trained to accompany adolescent girls and young women on their journey. Emphasis is placed on a sustainable and close relationship to ensure that the success of the program continues.



Austrian Development Agency

The reproductive health care and gender equality program in Kolwa East and Miwani, co-funded by the Austrian Development Agency, started its second phase in September 2020. The program aims to improve the quality of reproductive health care and gender equality in the target areas. Particular emphasis is placed on eliminating gender-based violence.

In 2022, the program reached **15,296 adolescents** with information on reproductive health services and sexual and gender-based violence, among other activities. Health workers, police officers, teachers, opinion leaders and civil society bodies were also trained on the issues.

A total of **69,980 people** were reached in this effort. This happened partly through participatory theaters, awareness forums, or radio shows, which were heard by 20,000 people.

In 2022, the program persuaded **1,779 people** to use long-term contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

In addition, there was a significant decrease in teenage pregnancies in partner schools. While 57 pregnancies were recorded in schools in 2020, only 10 were recorded in 2022.

The program will continue until the end of August 2023 and we are looking to continue it thereafter in subprograms or as part of a comprehensive follow-up project.



USAID FOR THE CHILD


The program, implemented in partnership with USAID, is dedicated to providing comprehensive support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) who are HIV-positive or living in a household with HIV-positive people. To ensure that these children receive the support they need, the program focuses on four key areas: school, health, financial stability, and security.

In the area of school, the program provides resources and support so that children can attend school regularly, including school uniforms, shoes, and school supplies. Thus, in 2022, it ensured that 24,348 of the 26,626 children in the program were able to attend school.

On the health front, the program works to ensure that all family members know their HIV status and have access to testing, counseling and treatment when needed. For children who are HIV-positive, the program provides medical support, including antiretroviral therapy and other essential medications. In 2022, this resulted in 2,668 HIV-positive children receiving support and 6,777 children receiving other medical care.

In the area of financial stability, the program works to identify each family's financial needs and help them become self-sufficient. This may include job training, microloans, or other forms of financial assistance. As a result, 7,036 households were engaged in savings associations in 2022, which promote these very goals to ensure sustainable improvement in the family's financial situation.

Great emphasis was also placed on family safety, as it is one of the four key areas of the project. Potential risks of violence were identified and discussed with the families. As a result, various supports and resources were offered to help families feel safe in their homes and communities.



In 2022, a total of **26,626 vulnerable children** and their families were accompanied, supported and cared for by a team of 559 family support workers.

Volunteering in Kenya

Make Me Smile Kenya can look back on a successful year of international volunteering. Seven volunteers participated in various activities of the organization. These included permaculture projects, youth empowerment programs, and community outreach activities. Volunteers were able to share knowledge and cultural practices, promote understanding between communities, and enrich their own experiences.

Qualifying Make Me Smile as a partner for the Service Abroad program in Austria was a great success for the organization. This partnership allows young Austrians to do their community service with Make Me Smile, which further strengthens international volunteer placements and promotes intercultural exchange. In 2022, the first two volunteers were sent to Kenya through the program.

We are grateful for the support of international volunteers and are convinced that everyone involved can benefit from this collaboration and that the efforts promote a sustainable and just future for all.





UKRAINIAN EDUCATION PLATFORM

In 2022, Make Me Smile International (MMS) supported the Ukrainian Education Platform (UEP) with two donations during the war in Ukraine. This allowed UEP to reach a large number of people in need and ensure they received much needed assistance despite the chaotic and unpredictable nature of the conflict.

UEP focused on providing emergency assistance to those who were forced to flee their homes due to the violence. Among other things, they provided evacuation assistance, food supplies and psychosocial support.

The first donation was used in the Lviv region to assist over 500 people, including 50 children, displaced by the conflict. UEP provided food and hygiene items to those in need. Additionally, mattresses were purchased for 180 refugees, including 56 children. UEP also provided some funds to support the "hub station," an established place near the train station in Lviv where parents could rest with their children before continuing their flight.

The second donation focused on providing sleeping and resting places and food supplies in the Obroshyno municipality. UEP organized sleeping places for 90 refugees, including 22 children. For one month, they supported an orphanage with 170 children aged 2 months to 6 years by purchasing food and hygiene items. Further, they provided seven families with 29 children (including two with disabilities) with food, hygiene items and bed sheets.

Thanks to your support, the Ukrainian Educational Platform was able to provide crucial assistance to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. The donation enabled the organization to reach a significant number of people and provide them with the basic necessities to continue their lives during this uncertain time.





2022: South Africa - Africa Aweee Report 2021

Make Me Smile International is proud to look back on another successful year of collaboration with Africa Aweee. Africa Aweee has focused on early childhood education, youth development and skills development projects over the past year. We look forward to continuing our cooperation in the future. We thank all of our donors and partners who have made this possible.

Gospel Outreach

In January 2022, Africa Aweee partnered with Gospel Outreach to support early childhood education in the Imizamo Yethu township in Cape Town, South Africa. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Africa Aweee was able to donate to the construction of a new playground at Gospel Outreach Nursery. The playground will provide a safe and happy place for 150 children between the ages of 3 and 6 who attend the Nursery. This project reflects Africa Aweee's commitment to promoting early childhood development and education, ensuring that children in need have access to quality education and a positive learning environment.



Little Explorers

The Little Explorers project is a 12-month program that successfully trained and educated mothers in Imizamo Yethu Township in early childhood development, nutrition and first aid. During the summer, 12 mothers and their children were supported by the project. The partnership between iKhaya le Themba and Africa Aweee provided a safe space for the mothers to meet, share experiences and gain valuable skills to support their children's development. At the end of the course, participants received a certificate attesting to their successful participation in the program.



Sprightly Seeds

The Sprightly Seeds is a nonprofit organization that partnered with Africa Aweee in February 2022 to provide food security and healthy food to children in low-income communities. The project focused on establishing three vegetable gardens and providing one year of training and monitoring at Etafeni, Cape Town College Children's Academy and Rosendaal High School in Western Cape, South Africa. The goal was to provide a sustainable food source and nutritional guidance to approximately 490 children aged 6 months to 18 years. Africa Aweee donated to set up the vegetable gardens and the project was successfully implemented.



RiebeeckKasteel

In collaboration with the Yuya Foundation and the Rotary Club of Newlands, Africa Aweee supported the construction of an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Center in the Esterhof Extension Area, Riebeeck Kasteel. The center will provide children ages 1 to 9 with access to early childhood education, proper nutrition and a safe place to play, learn and grow. The center has capacity for 75-90 children. The ECD center will consist of three classrooms, a kitchen for breakfast and lunch, offices and a covered outdoor play area. The project is supported by the local authority and is scheduled to open on March 17, 2023 and contribute to the development of the community.



Sponsorship

Through our partnership with iKhaya Le Themba, Africa Aweee was able to sponsor Precious, a boy from a disadvantaged background, and offer him the opportunity to attend Camps Bay High School. This sponsorship not only supports his education, but also his personal development and helps break the cycle of poverty in his community.



Commitment in Europe

Global Run

The Make Me Smile Global Peace Run was a great success with over 70 runners from seven different countries. Half of the proceeds from the run went to our Vertical Gardening project in Kenya, which has already created new gardens for over 50 people, including HIV-positive children and caregivers. The other half supported emergency shelters run by our partner organization, the Ukrainian Education Platform. Although this was a virtual run, participants were encouraged to join groups and run together for a good cause. Great events could therefore take place in Vienna and in Kisumu. We would like to thank all participants for their commitment and support.



Gender Equality Hike

The Gender Equality Hike 2022 brought together a group of hikers in Vienna who walked through the city's vineyards and forests, exchanging ideas and info about current projects. The event focused on raising awareness of gender inequality and supporting initiatives that provide training, vocational education, legal and psychological support for women affected by sexual or gender-based violence. In Kenya, the Make Me Smile team climbed Nandi Rock to make a statement for women's rights. The proceeds went to the projects in Kenya.

Calendar

Make Me Smile was fortunate to have an incredible volunteer, Magdalena, who made a significant contribution to the organization's fundraising efforts. Magdalena, who is also a talented photographer, created a stunning calendar of captivating photos of Kenyan landscapes and people during her visit to Kenya. The calendar was sold for donations to supporters and was a huge success. The proceeds went to local projects. Magdalena's creativity and dedication exemplify the important role volunteers play at Make Me Smile.





Representation at Christmas Markets

We are very happy to report that our organization was represented at Christmas markets by our wonderful volunteers. They sold handmade pieces from our Craft Centre in Kenya, which not only showcased the talent and skills of our beneficiaries, but also raised several hundred Euros. We are very grateful to our dedicated volunteers for taking the time to promote our cause and raise awareness of our important work.

Interns

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who have supported us throughout the year, both in person and remotely. Your dedication and commitment have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and improve the lives of all. We would especially like to thank Jil, Josy, Carla, Magdalena and Rike who supported our work on a daily basis for several months. Their hard work and dedication have been instrumental in the success of our organization. We thank all of you for your commitment. Your hard work and dedication have made a significant contribution to the success of our organization.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING US SMILE!

And a special thanks to our partners:



MAKE ME SMILE INTERNATIONAL

DONATION ACCOUNTS

Austria: Make Me Smile International

IBAN: AT53 2011 1829 6886 8700

BIC: GIBAATWWXXX

Switzerland: Make Me Smile International

IBAN: CH53 0873 3045 2887 5615 0

BIC: BKTHCH22XXX

Germany: Make Me Smile International e.V.

IBAN: DE06 8306 5408 0004 2374 80

BIC: GENO DEF1 SLR

Luxembourg: Make Me Smile International a.s.b.l.

IBAN: LU21 0030 1953 2093 0000

BIC: BGLLLULL

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