WHAT PROVIDES STABILITY TO PEOPLE IN NEED?
Our vision is a just world in which all men and women determine the course of their lives in dignity and security, using environmental resources in a sustainable manner.

"I thought we would just highlight the problems. It seemed too difficult to change a law, but we succeeded."

Chinar Yusupova, local councillor, Kyrgyzstan

"This training earned me respect. I'm someone now."

Sauveson Bonnet, self-employed locksmith, Haiti

"We must strengthen nature again for the generations to come. I always knew that was important, but I didn't know how. Now I do."

Pili Mohammed, farmer with a forest garden, Tanzania

In emergencies such as the one caused by Russia's attack on Ukraine, people need to be sure that they will not be abandoned. They need assistance as they flee, such as here in Moldova, where they can get supplies, logistical support and orientation. Emergency aid gives people in exceptional circumstances a sense of stability and security.
Improving systems

Multiple crises

Helvetas has been contributing to efforts to alleviate poverty, working to advance human rights, and fighting injustice across the globe since it was founded in 1955. Poor and disadvantaged people and communities are at the center of our work. Together, we create new prospects, leveraging existing potential, strengths, and assets: we help people to help themselves. We provide humanitarian response following natural disasters and in conflict situations. We always work closely with local partner organizations from civil society and the private sector, as well as with local authorities.

Donations from private individuals, foundations, Swiss cantons, municipalities and businesses, and the program contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), enable us to implement our long-term development program in some 35 countries. In addition, we carry out mandated development projects for SDC, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Seco) and numerous international clients. We combine humanitarian response and development support and we provide advisory services to private and public contractors.

Helvetas is a non-profit association, with a strong member base in Switzerland and sister organizations in Germany and the United States. We are a member of Alliance2015, a strategic network of seven European non-governmental organizations. Helvetas is denominationally neutral and politically independent.

DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON PEACE

Multiple concurrent crises challenge and overwhelm society and politics. But giving up is not an option. Each one has the possibility to fight the increasing poverty associated with war and inflation, and to create opportunities for people to be able to live in safety.

The keys to a stable and secure future

Over the past three years, the world has been shaken by a series of global crises. The consequences of the pandemic, the Ukraine war, climate emergency and price increases are burdening more and more people. That is true here in Switzerland, but it is even starker in poor countries in the Global South. Fortunately, though, we do not need to sit idly by and watch as the progress made in the battle against hunger, poverty and inequality is swept away.

There are things we can do. Helvetas highlights these courses of action every day through our work in our project countries and also in our “Appeal for Global Justice”, which has collected 10,000 signatures.

In conjunction with the people of Switzerland, politicians and the private sector, we are committed to campaigning for sustainable development and global justice. If these keys to a stable and secure future are found, more and more fresh policies and strong development cooperation will feed new conflicts, and things will not only improve.

Giving up is not an option

Many of the political, social and economic crises we face – the pandemic, the food crisis, conflicts and the dramatic effects of climate change – were predictable and indeed predicted. The impacts on our partner countries are massive, many magnitudes greater than in Switzerland, and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has aggravated an already bad situation over the past year. These countries’ debts have rocketed, and rising prices for food and energy are driving inflation ever higher.

At the same time, they lack the economic means to create social safety nets or launch economic development initiatives. The result is the most severe increase in worldwide poverty since the Second World War.

This in turn feeds new conflicts, and authoritarian tendencies are gaining ground in many countries. The world is becoming more fragile and therefore less secure. Looking away is not an option. Development depends on peace and peace on development.

In the three decades prior to the pandemic, global poverty was declining; together, we must chart a path back to this development trajectory. Thanks to your support, we at Helvetas will continue promoting political and economic change so that people all over the world have a fair opportunity to take control of their own lives and contribute to the development of their families, villages and countries.
Roads don’t just reduce the distance to school (as pictured) to markets or to health centers. They also generate income in many different ways. The evaluation of an SDC project implemented by Helvetas in Burkina Faso is revealing: 32,000 people, 70% of them women, were involved in building and repairing 271 miles of roads; many people used this income as seed capital to start their own businesses. Incomes in the villages rose by an average of 25%. Helvetas is assisting ten similar projects in seven regions of Burkina Faso.
WE HAVE A LOT TO LOSE

In today’s world, the international community would not be able to agree on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the Paris climate goals. COVID-19, the crisis of democracy, the climate emergency, growing inequality, and the war in Ukraine have further weakened an already fragile global system. More and more frequently, Helvetas is providing humanitarian aid to alleviate people’s suffering and help them survive.

Ukrainian refugees in Moldova are having to rearrange their lives. Hurricanes in Mozambique and Madagascar have left devastation in their wake. Millions of people in East Africa are suffering from famine, because for years there has been no rain. Torrential downpours in Pakistan and excessive glacier melt-water due to a heatwave have brought huge flooding. All over the world, people are trying to rescue their livelihoods, knowing full well that the next disaster will soon be on its way.

In addition, there is the worldwide food crisis that has built up over many years because our entire food system, from production through processing and distribution to consumption, has long been unsustainable. Conflicts, the climate emergency, the pandemic, and finally the war in Ukraine have fueled disaster will soon be on its way.

Simultaneously, 60 countries are now classified as fragile. They are home to a quarter of the global population. Their governments are incapable of meeting their core responsibilities, such as protecting their people, guaranteeing a functioning infrastructure, and providing social services. They show great failings in terms of the rule of law and are often places of violent conflict. Climate change is a significant factor in the destabilization of these countries, further feeding the need for humanitarian aid. Helvetas is active in 15 of these 60 countries.

409,339 people have received help in an emergency situation thanks to your support.

This is why Helvetas is increasingly providing humanitarian response. Our national and local experts are able to act swiftly thanks to our longstanding presence in these countries and cooperation with partners from the European Alliance2015. Yet emergency aid also means that we must quickly raise extra financial resources. The amount required is increasing every year and with every disaster. This humanitarian response is only possible because we have strong partners who stand by us, most importantly Swiss Solidarity and the Swiss people (see box).

They support refugees in Ukraine, host families in Moldova, flood victims in Pakistan, those affected by famine in Ethiopia, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and migrants in Peru... and the list goes on.

However, even as Helvetas is alleviating the immediate suffering, our teams are already looking to the future. Our goal is to always create basic economic, social and political conditions so people have a fair chance to forge secure livelihoods for themselves without fear of poverty and exclusion. The right conditions allow businesses to flourish, to create jobs and to guarantee decent working conditions. They strengthen the rule of law and promote people’s participation in politics. The international community has made so much progress in the past few decades. Deaths in infancy and childbirth have fallen and rates of schooling and pupils completing school have risen, as has the number of middle-income families. The number of people living in extreme poverty has dropped starkly, as has the number of fatalities from natural disasters. There have been regular setbacks, such as those triggered by the pandemic and by the war in Ukraine. But giving up is not an option. Every human being has the right to fair opportunities.

Nevertheless, international development budgets are under pressure because they are increasingly put in competition with other areas of state expenditure. More and more frequently, money that has been allocated to poverty alleviation is used to finance measures for people to adapt to climate change. This is of course important, but it is not the same as fighting poverty.

In the context of the war in Ukraine, fears of an energy crisis, and the growing number of authoritarian states, it is increasingly doubtful whether the international community is willing to come up with the necessary financial scheme for a loss and damage solution as well as for climate adaptation and mitigation measures – in addition to development funding. Yet this is not about charity, but about minimal compensation to the people and countries affected who have caused only a fraction of climate change but who are suffering the full force of its destruction. If the world is to be a safe haven for the generations to come, no one must be left to their own fate.

Switzerland now has a seat on the UN Security Council and can exert its influence there to address injustices and present solutions. That seat comes with a responsibility that is incompatible with some politicians’ plans to cut the Swiss international development budget. These plans are also contrary to the will of the Swiss people, who, according to a study by ETH Zurich, would like to see greater investment in development cooperation.

A reliable partner in an emergency

When an emergency strikes, Swiss Solidarity, depending on the severity, launches into action. With its support, combined with generous donations from Swiss people, organizations like Helvetas can respond rapidly to deal with basic necessities. Swiss Solidarity assesses project applications quickly and efficiently, and funds up to 80% of the estimated cost. Helvetas then covers the remaining amount from direct donations. In 2022, Swiss Solidarity and you as a donor financed emergency aid and reconstruction projects worth more than CHF 3.8 million.
FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Helvetas works with and for people living in poverty. We work in countries that are among the poorest in the world as well as in middle-income countries and in fragile, insecure regions. Because our experience shows that sustainable development takes time, we are committed to the long-term effort of creating fair opportunities for all.

OUR PARTNER COUNTRIES

Every single person counts

For each of our 319 projects, Helvetas collects annual data on how many women and men have directly benefited from improvements such as vocational training courses, new water connections or safer migration, and how many organizations and institutions have been strengthened. The figures reflect the situation as of December 31, 2022.
In December 2022 Helvetas concluded a unique project. Over 100,000 rice and cotton producers significantly reduced their water use for irrigation purposes while also increasing their yields and therefore their incomes. This was the fruit of eight years of work in six countries – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, India, Myanmar and Madagascar. Helvetas worked jointly with farmers and various partners in ten subprojects. The catalyst for this scheme was a call for tender by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which funded the project throughout these years. Helvetas succeeded in brokering deals for the project with a string of relevant private companies, including the Swiss retailer Coop and the transnational food company Mars. These partners not only made financial contributions that multiplied the funding of the Swiss federal government, they also committed to continuing guaranteed purchases of sustainably produced rice and cotton well beyond the project’s lifetime. These major companies additionally work with private buyers and processors in these partner countries, who purchase the products directly from the producers and give them technical advice. Under the guidance of three global initiatives, the Sustainable Rice Platform, the Better Cotton Initiative and the Alliance for Water Stewardship, the stakeholders have agreed joint production standards. The role of Helvetas in this constellation was to take on the project management, coordinate all the tasks, and facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experience. Representatives of the companies, platforms and SDC provided strategic advice on the project.

An external evaluation of this Water Productivity Project (WAPRO) was carried out in 2022 and gave it excellent grades. When the results of this assessment were presented, the evaluator Carsten Schulz from KEK–CDC Consultants in Zurich stated that

**Push – Pull – Policy**

The WAPRO project developed a special approach to stimulating efficient water use in rice and cotton production, and it achieved its goals. The producers received support (“push”) as well as guaranteed purchases of their sustainably produced agricultural crops (“pull”). Participatory water management plans and jointly developed adjustments to the regulatory framework (“policy”) complemented the project’s other two pillars.

Cotton is usually a water-intensive crop. Nowadays, though, it is produced in a sustainable manner that saves water in many parts of Kyrgyzstan. The project has “the greatest probability of making a sustainable impact in a complex system that I have seen in my career to date”. So, what were the components that contributed to the project’s success?

- It focused on a problem of global significance – addressing the shortage of water for food production – and built a shared vision of all stakeholders to solve the problem.
- The project came up with a clear approach that everyone could understand and implement, as well as a catchy name: “Push – Pull – Policy” (see illustration). “Push” stands for the support and advice provided to producers so that they can comply with specific production methods that easily reduce water usage. “Pull” means guaranteed purchases of goods produced in a water-efficient manner by private clients who generally pay an additional premium price. Finally, “Policy” signifies, on the one hand, that the producers learn to claim their human right to water, and on the other that governments adapt the regulatory framework to reward efficient water use.
- It was the wide range of stakeholders that simultaneously laid the groundwork for the project’s success and also represented its greatest challenge. Yet Helvetas successfully created a shared understanding and built mutual trust through active facilitation and comprehensive knowledge management.

In order to enable other organizations to replicate this successful model, Helvetas documented the project experiences and processes in a number of publications. The experiences and methodologies were presented to an audience of interested experts at a Helvetas-organized symposium in November 2022. Another offshoot is an internal handbook on working with the private sector. This compelling approach is already feeding into other Helvetas projects and will be incorporated into future projects.
What puts young people in touch with reality?

In June, Helvetas and the ZHAW School of Engineering in Zurich carried out a series of virtual reality (VR) training courses for aspiring electricians in Tanzania. Their task was to test the lighting system and a fuse box in a virtual auto repair shop. VR allowed the students to familiarize themselves with difficult and even potentially dangerous activities virtually before attempting them in real life. It will be some time before VR is widely used in vocational training, whether in Tanzania or Switzerland, but the methodology has enormous potential, especially in countries where the necessary practice material is in short supply. © Franz Thiel
WHAT WE DO
Helvetas implements development and humanitarian aid projects. We ensure basic rights, create new perspectives, and strengthen good governance. We also provide technical advisory services, develop subject-specific expertise, and engage in political dialogue and lobbying.

Ensuring basic rights
Water, food and climate
In 2022, 2,967,436 women and men gained sustainable access to water, sanitation, good hygiene, better nutrition or natural resources and benefited from higher yields or improved climate resilience. They worked with Helvetas to install pumping wells and latrines as well as learning important hygiene principles and new, climate-adaptive farming techniques.

Creating new perspectives
Skills, jobs and income
In 2022, 724,254 young and mostly disadvantaged women and men gained access to education and vocational training, found a job or started their own business with Helvetas’ support. Over the same period, 12,897 small and medium-sized enterprises improved their access to markets and created jobs for disadvantaged people, while also offering sustainable products and better services.

Strengthening good governance
Voice, inclusion and cohesion
In 2022, 97,794 women and men have been empowered to claim their rights to basic public services or to transform local conflicts, with support from Helvetas. Over the same period, Helvetas cooperated with authorities and partner organizations to help 969,491 women and men plan their labor migration safely, responsibly, and profitably.

Alleviating suffering
Humanitarian response
In 2022, Helvetas supported 409,339 Ukrainian refugees and their host families, as well as flood victims in Pakistan, people affected by hurricanes in Madagascar and Mozambique, and people in forgotten crisis areas elsewhere. Helvetas combines short-term humanitarian aid with long-term development work so that people quickly have the chance to rebuild their daily lives and create future prospects for themselves.

HELVETAS AT A GLANCE

5,168,314 people had a fair opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty with your support.
FIGHTING HUNGER AND CLIMATE DAMAGE

Millions of people were born in countries where water is often scarce, and where they struggle to eat a balanced diet and protect themselves from the consequences of climate change. We would like to thank you for your support and your dedication to helping give people a fair chance to access the necessities of life.

Women’s voices for water
The SDC National Water Resources Management project in Tajikistan, implemented by Helvetas as part of a consortium with other NGOs, assists the national government with applying the principles of integrated water resources management in the Tajik part of the Syr Darya River Basin. Because the water sector is male dominated, the project helped to set up the Basin Women Forum, a dialogue platform that conducts regular meetings of the women living in the river basin to discuss and agree on their voice in sustainable water management. Their position is then presented at the meetings of the River Basin Council. Women can thus make themselves heard much better than if they spoke as individuals. The forum is now used as a model in other river basins.

The value of water
In many countries, public services, economic growth and infrastructure development struggle to keep pace with urbanization. This is also the case in Abancay, a town with a population of 73,000 in Peru. With support from Helvetas, the waterworks and the authorities found a sustainable way of protecting and monitoring the town’s fragile watershed, which is threatened by climate change. The extra cost of protecting ecosystems is added to water bills. There is extremely high approval for this measure, as everyone in the surrounding area and also in marginalized areas of the town is involved.

“"My first daughter was always sick and I felt weak, too. Now I know that I have to eat a richer diet during pregnancy."”

29-year-old Jeni Tripura with her daughter Jyoti, Bangladesh

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
6. Clean water and sanitation
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
17. Partnerships for the goals

Our goal for 2021–24:
1 million people have gained direct access to safe drinking water

2021–22 result: 1,380,501 people
Goal 2024

There are parts of Bangladesh where pregnant women are urged to eat very little so that their babies are small at birth to avoid complications. The health effects of this are disastrous because malnutrition has a lasting impact on child development. With the help of many volunteers, Helvetas is investing in sensitization work for a healthy diet, which includes growing nutritious food, better hygiene and public health services. Altogether 282,000 mothers, infants and girls are benefiting, and so are their families.
Stopping diarrhea

822 municipalities in Guatemala with almost 323,000 inhabitants have been awarded a label that recognizes the fact that their populations no longer have to relieve themselves outdoors. The methodology allows municipalities to co-finance repairs of rundown irrigation facilities. The Foundation for the Third Millennium agreed to fund a new project phase to ensure that this new law can now be implemented throughout the country and to bring the long-term process to a successful conclusion. This will enable Helvetas to continue to assist committed local actors with the implementation of this excellent project. This is a fine example of the importance of long-term project partnerships.

A hygiene fair

COVID-19 and a series of hurricanes have exacerbated an already precarious situation in the schools of Honduras. In order to facilitate a safe and dignified return to schooling, Helvetas was commissioned by SDC to repair the water systems and install toilets in twelve educational establishments. Three fairs for schoolchildren and their parents were held in 2022, where they learned in a fun way about the importance of washing hands, hygiene during menstruation, and cleaning their teeth. The children’s contributions to the operation were theatre performances designed to raise awareness and prevent diseases in the future.

Implementing the law

Farmers and local authorities in Kyrgyzstan persuaded the national parliament in 2021 to approve a law that finally allows municipalities to co-finance repairs of rundown irrigation facilities. The Foundation for the Third Millennium agreed to fund a new project phase to ensure that this new law can now be implemented throughout the country and to bring the long-term process to a successful conclusion. This will enable Helvetas to continue to assist committed local actors with the implementation of this excellent project. This is a fine example of the importance of long-term project partnerships.

Saving harvests

In Tanzania, one of Africa’s largest maize producers, between 15%–40% of the crop is lost between harvest and market. Working with private sector partners, over the past three years Helvetas has introduced tarpaulins for drying maize grain as well as hermetic, insect-proof sacks. These help to reduce post-harvest losses and render the use of insecticides superfluous during storage. Over 600,000 farmers have been informed via more than 1,000 village meetings and 200 radio broadcasts; 14,254 farming families were taught by 286 specially trained farmers. They all now have longer-lasting stores of grain for their own consumption and have improved their incomes because they can sell the maize when market prices rise. A new business model has also sprung up: in 317 kiosks, men and women are selling equipment and seeds for tillage, harvest and storage. Wholesalers have so far sold a total of 76,710 tarpaulins and 428,892 insect-proof sacks. Due to the strength of this excellent project, 600,000 farmers have been informed via more than 1,000 village meetings and 200 radio broadcasts; 14,254 farming families were taught by 286 specially trained farmers. They all now have longer-lasting stores of grain for their own consumption and have improved their incomes because they can sell the maize when market prices rise. A new business model has also sprung up: in 317 kiosks, men and women are selling equipment and seeds for tillage, harvest and storage. Wholesalers have so far sold a total of 76,710 tarpaulins and 428,892 insect-proof sacks. Due to the strength of this excellent project, 600,000 farmers have been informed via more than 1,000 village meetings and 200 radio broadcasts; 14,254 farming families were taught by 286 specially trained farmers. They all now have longer-lasting stores of grain for their own consumption and have improved their incomes because they can sell the maize when market prices rise. A new business model has also sprung up: in 317 kiosks, men and women are selling equipment and seeds for tillage, harvest and storage. Wholesalers have so far sold a total of 76,710 tarpaulins and 428,892 insect-proof sacks. Due to the strength of this excellent project, 600,000 farmers have been informed via more than 1,000 village meetings and 200 radio broadcasts; 14,254 farming families were taught by 286 specially trained farmers. They all now have longer-lasting stores of grain for their own consumption and have improved their incomes because they can sell the maize when market prices rise.

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The war in Ukraine has worsened the global food crisis. The situation in Mali has deteriorated as a result of a bad harvest due to climate change, internal displacement caused by attacks by armed groups, and economic sanctions triggered by two coups.

What is the impact of the food crisis on people in Mali?
At the end of 2022 at least 600,000 people were food insecure, which manifested in a malnutrition rate that was twice the WHO’s alert threshold. Currently 1.5 million children suffer from acute malnutrition, 20% more than expected by the World Food Programme forecasts. There was a shortage of nutritional supplements, fertilizers and seeds due to the embargo imposed after the coups, and this was all made worse by the consequences of climate change.

What is Helvetas doing in this situation?
For years Helvetas has been working on sustainable agriculture, which improves food security via several schemes. For example, with local service providers who advise farming families on how to improve their production systems and who promote good agricultural practices such as composting. Or, introducing renewable energy, and water and soil conservation methods. Over 17,000 family farms received access to 88 tons of climate-adapted seeds, which were produced by a seed producers’ network supported by Helvetas.

Has Helvetas also been able to tackle malnutrition?
Given the lack of imported nutritious products, we worked with Sotuba’s Laboratoire Technique Agricole to develop a nutritious flour for children and the elderly. It consists of rice, millet and maize, enriched with proteins such as black-eyed beans and soy as well as energy sources such as groundnuts and baobab fruit. We organized information campaigns targeted at parents to tell them how important these nutrients are for their children’s development.

“Since the beginning of 2022, the village of Horucune in Mozambique now has a well. The delight in the running water is enormous.”

July 2022

Rosaline Dacko

is the head of agricultural projects for Helvetas Mali.

“Saving harvests”
FIGHTING STEREOTYPES AND BUREAUCRATIC COSTS

We all need a solid basic education so that we can later learn a trade. We also need businesses for job creation. However, many children grow up in countries where the chances of going to school and later getting a job are slim. We would like to thank you for helping ensure that fair opportunities for education and work are not a matter of chance.

Organic cashews for Europe
In September 2022, cooperatives in the conflict-stricken north of Mozambique for the first time exported organic cashew nuts to the Netherlands. With funding from the Liechtenstein Development Service, Helvetas is supporting these small farmers to convert to a sustainable production model and gain organic certification – a huge bureaucratic challenge. In view of the good results and experiences, the national government is now promoting organic agriculture.

Our goal for 2021–24:
320,000 women and men have attended a vocational education and training

2021–22 result: 101,957 people
Goal 2024

Booming dual vocational training
The unemployment rate of youth aged 15–24 in North Macedonia has surpassed 30%, not counting those not looking for work. In a SDC project, Helvetas has supported ministries, training institutions, companies, and business organizations over the past five years to establish a dual vocational training system based on the Swiss model. Currently 2,763 students are being trained in theory at school and practice in an enterprise – compared to only 98 students in 2020. This dual VET system is now being offered by 61 schools, compared to only eight schools in 2020. In 2022, 450 companies were providing practical training for students, compared to only 16 companies just two years ago.

“I would like to save up enough money to help my wife start her own business.”
Arnaud Donatien, newly trained solar engineer, Madagascar

© Felana Rajaonarivel
“This is all about social cohesion”

In the world’s largest refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, hundreds of thousands of young Rohingya have been living for five years without any prospects – neither for a return to Myanmar nor for integration in Bangladesh. In addition to emergency aid and development cooperation activities, Helvetas, together with partner organizations, also provides vocational skills for the future.

**Why does Helvetas offer skills training in a refugee camp?**

We are in a protracted crisis and people are still dependent on humanitarian aid. But people have dreams, especially the younger ones. They tell us they want to become doctors or engineers, even though they don’t even have the opportunity to get a formal education. We want to ensure that they can acquire at least simple skills that can be directly applied in this context.

**So what is Helvetas doing?**

Through a UNHCR-funded project, we provide pre-vocational training to adolescents. For example, solar panel repairs, and tailoring. Apart from this skills training, we want to keep the adolescents engaged and avoid conflicts and illegal activities. The training sessions happen in our community center. It is always open so that any time they want to practice, they can just come in. At the same time, we also raise awareness about issues such as human trafficking, peace building, and the importance of coexistence between the host and Rohingya communities. We inform them about the negative impacts of child marriage. They share what they hear with their peers. That is really important because they are all confronted with these issues.

Overall, they are receiving lessons for life – and that is essential in the camp context. It keeps their hopes up. If they ever get the chance to leave, they will have vocational and social skills.

**Which aspect is most important?**

This is all about social cohesion, about not getting into trouble. There are many cases of domestic and gender-based violence. Everything is interlinked. The training gives the young people self-esteem. They can lend a hand wherever this is needed. It gives them a purpose.

**What are the challenges?**

As they are not allowed to do paid work in the camp or leave the camp, the priority is to keep them busy. The outcome of this training is therefore not immediately visible. We need to explain this properly to the camp authorities and to donors. You know, humanitarian response focuses on very important basic needs such as food, water, shelter, hygiene, and safety. But in a protracted crisis you need to link the current situation with future needs. These may be skills that can also be used in the longer term.

**A CHALLENGE IN 2022**

Girls often have to give up school against their wishes, and this hinders their chances of finding a job later in life. Young women are frequently exploited and have unplanned pregnancies. In Ethiopia, with the support of a private foundation, Helvetas has been working to combine vocational training with schooling and sexual and reproductive health education. Women are deliberately trained for traditionally “male jobs” because these are better paid. This also helps to break stereotypes and raises the women’s self-esteem. After some initial skepticism and resistance, the families and employers are now enthusiastic. The young women offer one another support and set up their own businesses – a path out of poverty.

**Top Destination**

The Alay region in Kyrgyzstan has made it onto the “2022 Green Destinations Top 100 Stories” list – the first Central Asian country ever to do so. The organization behind the list selects exemplary sustainable destinations on the occasion of World Tourism Day. The decisive factor for the nomination is the successful inclusion of women and their craftsmanship as independent entrepreneurs in tourism promotion. On behalf of SDC, the EU and Seco, Helvetas is promoting the development of small businesses and sustainable tourism in the south of the country, and small and medium enterprises in the winter tourism value chain in the east.

**Counting the bureaucratic cost**

The 12-country RECONOMY program in the Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans aims to make it easier for women and young people to become entrepreneurs. However, the existing bureaucratic requirements (permits, fees, certificates) are costly. In this program, financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Helvetas supports companies, associations, and authorities in jointly creating a conducive economic environment. In Ukraine and Moldova, the M-test digital tool allows companies and associations to calculate the actual bureaucratic costs of an existing regulation. Thus informed, they can advocate to the relevant authorities for leaner regulations. The program was adapted in Ukraine in 2022 and has continued despite the war. In Moldova it was used intensively in 2022.

More about our working area Skills, Jobs and Income: [helvetas.org/newperspectives](http://helvetas.org/newperspectives)
MORE COMPETENCIES AND TRANSPARENCY

Billions of people are born in countries where basic public services are limited or not accessible to all, where circumstances force them to seek jobs elsewhere as economic migrants, or where they are displaced by conflict. Thank you for helping to make their voices heard and supporting them to live in safety.

A unique mandate

In a consortium led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS UK), together with other Swiss organizations, Helvetas experts are advising SDC’s new thematic section “Peace, Governance and Equality”. The mandate is unique as it seeks to leverage the intersectionality between the three topics and allows the consortium to work directly with the SDC’s Cooperation Offices as well as with SDC head office. Helvetas is pleased to multiply its good practices, experiences and innovations from the country programs for more social inclusion, equity, security and cohesion for all, contributing to even more effective Swiss development cooperation.

New capacities

During the democratization process in Bhutan, local authorities acquired considerable decision-making powers. They manage public funds and decide on their municipal development priorities. But how are they to deal with their new and wide-ranging authority? As part of the new “Moving Governance” program (p. 40), Helvetas is supporting local authorities to include their constituents’ needs and concerns into their work in order for their municipalities to make evidence-based decisions. Citizens, especially women and young people, are also learning to make their voices heard and play an active part in political processes.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2021–24 result: 154,984 people</th>
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More about our working area

Voice, Inclusion and Cohesion:

helvetas.org/governance

“When thanks to digitization, we are achieving one of the key elements of decentralization – ensuring transparency.”

Viola Çyrbja, councilor in Shijak, Albania

© Fation Kapllanaj

When COVID-19 engulfed Albania, all 61 municipalities and their councils faced incredible operational difficulties, including an inability to convene and carry out their decision-making role. With the help of an SDC project implemented by Helvetas, more than 1,000 councilors were trained to use digital tools. After some initial reluctance, 54 out of 61 municipalities now regularly livestream their council meetings, and in total more than 300,000 citizens have tuned in. This new approach brings transparency to citizens, but it doesn’t stop there. Digitization has been expanded and now includes electronic registers for complaints, requests and citizens’ initiatives. There are also tools for waste management and preschool education.
WHAT WE DO about a potential work migration women and men were able to make an informed decision on safe migration.

HELVETAS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

“Arts and culture connect people”

The multi-ethnic state of Myanmar faces major challenges. With the “Culture for Peace” project (C4P), Helvetas is promoting inclusive, sustainable peace.

Why Culture for Peace? How does culture promote peace?

The most serious issues in Myanmar are founded on the rise of nationalism, demographic and religious tensions, intolerance for cultural diversity, and identity issues. Uncertain politics, inadequately protected cultural and social rights and the lack of religious freedom intensify the situation. Arts and culture are the easiest tools to connect people and help them in building trust and a cohesive society. They are deeply established in Myanmar society, with its 135 recognized ethnic groups.

Cultural interchange, intercultural discussion, cultural heritage protection, and cultural diversity promotion are important components of building a pluralistic society as they are soft approaches to address multiple and difficult social issues.

How is change triggered?

With the help of professional artists, the C4P project developed a Pluralism Toolbox to provide guidance for organizing art and culture events. Three hundred civil society organizations were instructed and financially supported to facilitate participatory activities, 100 artists financially supported to create artwork that addresses social issues, including freedom of expression, assembly, and association. They are bringing communities together promoting mutual trust.

What are the achievements so far?

To address social challenges, the project effectively brought civil society, artists, and interfaith organizations together and strengthened their network. As art and culture are simple to engage with and motivate individuals to take part, a million individuals have participated so far. Because arts and culture are entertaining and involve emotions, they are welcome instruments in changing behaviors.

In 2022, over 800,000 people fled to Moldova after Russia’s attack on Ukraine. At the Palanca border crossing (p. 3), Helvetas looked after refugees in insulated tents provided by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. Here people were given hot meals, SIM cards, power banks to charge their phones, and also space and time to organize themselves. There are 100,000 Ukrainians still living in the poorest country in Europe, 90% of them with host families whose household budgets have come under strain. Helvetas and Swiss Solidarity are supporting these families with cash payments that enable them to cover the higher cost of living.

HELVETAS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

More about our Humanitarian Response: helvetas.org/humanitarianresponse

ALLEVIATING SUFFERING

HUGE HOSPITALITY AND WINTER AID

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated existing crises while also forcing many other wars out of the spotlight. Thank you for supporting people in need and enabling them to find their bearings, rebuild their homes and their livelihoods, and create new prospects for themselves.

Enormous hospitality

In 2022, over 800,000 people fled to Moldova after Russia’s attack on Ukraine. At the Palanca border crossing (p. 3), Helvetas looked after refugees in insulated tents provided by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. Here people were given hot meals, SIM cards, power banks to charge their phones, and also space and time to organize themselves. There are 100,000 Ukrainians still living in the poorest country in Europe, 90% of them with host families whose household budgets have come under strain. Helvetas and Swiss Solidarity are supporting these families with cash payments that enable them to cover the higher cost of living.

Survival assistance in a drought

Five rainy seasons have already passed southern Ethiopia by. With every animal that dies, the region’s nomadic pastoralists lose not only a little more of their livelihood but also a little more of their social status. SDC and Helvetas have been safeguarding and improving the existing water resources in the Borana region since 2016, but both herders and cows have died of thirst during the current drought. The project has therefore been looking for cattle traders who can buy the animals and sell them in other parts of the country. The situation has put downward pressure on prices, so the purchase price has been partially subsidized. This emergency aid has generated $900,000 for 2,271 affected families, which has enabled them to afford fodder for the other animals – and pay taxes to the local authorities.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

More about our Humanitarian Response: helvetas.org/humanitarianresponse

HELVETAS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

What are the achievements so far?

Glaciers melting on an unprecedented scale due to climate change and powerful monsoon led to unimaginable flooding in Pakistan in the summer of 2022. Thanks to extremely generous donations, along with funding from Swiss Solidarity and the Swiss federal government, Helvetas was able to help a million people in severe hardship with food, hygiene kits, clothing, and blankets for the winter as well as water filters in health centers and hospitals, latrines in reception centers, and seeds in places where farming is possible. There is great fear ahead of the next monsoon because there are many places where last years’ floods have yet to subside.

Dangerous combinations

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Huge hospitality and winter aid

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A CHALLENGE FOR 2022

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine was also an attack on the world’s poorest people. It worsened the global food crisis that had already been affecting people before the war. The food crisis has been caused not by a shortage of food but by the unequal distribution of food and natural resources. In addition, farming families are abandoning agriculture because of rising fertilizer prices and transport costs. Combined with higher interest rates on loans, farmers’ incomes have dropped dramatically. This has exacerbated the food crisis. The weak links in the world food system have long been documented – and so have the solutions. Studies show that sustainable agroecological production methods offer a genuine alternative to industrial agriculture. Agroecology protects people, animals, the environment and biodiversity while making a substantial contribution to feeding the world. This is not green ideology, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as the Swiss government, recognize its usefulness. Helvetas is therefore demanding an overhaul of food systems in the Global South and North. Food must be grown and used in a way that is appropriate to the local environment, and diversified. To alleviate the need of millions, Helvetas, with its “Appeal for Global Justice” in 2022, urged the Swiss federal council and parliament to raise Switzerland’s contribution to the World Food Programme by CHF 100 million – in vain.

“Who knows if it was a missile or a bomb, but everything was destroyed. The windows, the roof, and the walls.”

With the support of Swiss Solidarity and Helvetas, Maria Koval received money to carry out essential repairs to their houses before winter. They were given cash so they could pay local tradespeople to do the work, so also supporting the local economy. Elsewhere, Helvetas organized the installation of sanitation in collective housing for refugees, and repairs to destroyed water infrastructure, as well as extensions to the water system in municipalities where the sheer number of internally displaced persons was threatening to outstrip the available supply of water.

“We would like to take part in the reconstruction effort, too”

Helvetas provided humanitarian aid to 14 countries in 2022, mainly in places where the organization has country offices and good networks. With support from international alliance partners, Helvetas was also able to line up aid quickly elsewhere, as Christian Gemperli explains.

What influences Helvetas’ decision to intervene in an emergency situation?

We are guided by clearly defined criteria, for example the scale of the suffering and whether the local authorities are capable of meeting their people’s needs. One major factor is whether we can mobilize the financial resources for rapid humanitarian response. And the safety of our teams is also a high priority.

Does Helvetas intervene in countries where it doesn’t have an office of its own?

Helvetas avoids going into a region for just a couple of months. We prefer to work in places where we can build on humanitarian response and also take part in the following sustainable reconstruction effort, investing in the nexus between humanitarian aid and development cooperation. If there is a chance of longer-term engagement and our making a meaningful contribution, we then weigh on a case-by-case basis whether we should commit to countries where we had no presence prior to the crisis.

Where would Helvetas refuse to intervene?

One example is Tigray in Ethiopia during the civil war. The security situation due to the fighting made it impossible to carry out a humanitarian operation. Following the ceasefire, we swiftly became active. Another is the drought in Somalia, because Somalia is not one of our program countries and we don’t have a team there. The situation was different in Ukraine, where we were able to provide a rapid response through our European partners in Alliance2015, first indirectly and later with our own teams (see above).

What is Helvetas’ strength?

More and more frequently we incorporate humanitarian approaches into our ongoing development projects. That has had positive results in Myanmar, for example, or during the drought in southern Ethiopia (p. 29). Our in-country specialists also raise our readiness for potential major disasters.

“Helvetas makes it possible for us to play soccer. I’m already looking forward to next time because it makes me so happy.”

A 15-year-old Rohingya boy, Bangladesh

While the soccer World Cup was taking place, the Rohingya Soccer Championship was held in the refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar. As in Qatar, the final was decided by a penalty shootout. There was also a campaign against gender-related violence under the slogan #16DaysofActivism. Helvetas works closely with young people in Cox’s Bazar to fight against their lack of future prospects (p. 24). With financial support from UNHCR, Helvetas has also been training volunteers so that they can provide a rapid response in the case of fires or flooding. Women, men, people with disabilities – everyone can take part.
Some people criticize Helvetas for being too active in development policy issues. Others expect a stronger political commitment. According to its statutes, Helvetas is “a politically and denominationally neutral organization”. Stefan Stolle, member of Helvetas’ Management Board, comments.

In 2022 the Institute for Political Economy at the University of Bern published an evaluation that had studied the impact of these further training modules on the teachers’ mathematical knowledge and the pupils’ math grades. The cascade system and the transmission of knowledge from one teacher to another was also tested. The study involved 130 teachers from 130 schools, with a control group of 90 schools whose teachers had not taken part in the further training.

The figures first: since 2012, some 2,612 schools with a total of 7,707 teachers and 1,016,970 pupils have taken part in the project. The teaching staff received general pedagogical and also subject-specific further training in math and English. The goal was to get the children actively involved in lessons and share this new methodological knowledge with colleagues so that the impact could then snowball. Recurrent project assessments revealed remarkable learning improvements among the schoolchildren, as well as obstacles to the implementation of this cascade system.

As a result, the project was adapted. The teachers who had been involved in this cascade training were rated as the obvious role models for their colleagues – which was rated inadequate. But a good cascade effect is central to disseminating the obviously good approach more widely and also cost effectively.

The results are surprisingly positive. According to the questionnaires, the teachers greatly appreciate the School-Based In-Service Teacher Training (SITT) program. Their pupils obtained better grades – 30% more children got an A or a B compared with the control schools. The failure rate in the final exams fell by 10%.

Inflexible frontal instruction is increasingly giving way to forms of participative learning of the kind used in Switzerland. An impact study has awarded the approach a top grade.

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Stefan Stolle, why does development cooperation need to be backed up politically? Development cooperation takes place where systems are failing. Poverty is one symptom of failing systems. The threat of poverty increases when governments cannot discharge their duties to the public, for example, or where trade barriers exclude producers from global markets. And we all know that the only solutions to systemic problems are political.

Shouldn’t countries tackle that themselves? One of Helvetas’ priorities is to strengthen our partner organizations’ capacity to integrate the concerns of civil society into political processes. However, Switzerland is also part of the global economic system, to which we owe much of our prosperity. We spend hours on mobile phones containing components produced from commodities mined in Africa. We wear clothes sewn in the Far East. The food in our shopping baskets has sometimes travelled around the globe. Our consumption habits and our prosperity bring with them responsibility. Our laws – and, above all, those areas not covered by our laws – have an impact on the lives of people all over the world. That is why our political advocacy campaigns for fair Swiss foreign, economic, trade, and tax policies – because greater global justice depends on it.
Many young people in post-war Sri Lanka do not know their basic rights and are therefore passive citizens in a crisis-racked democratization process. Helvetas has been training young journalists in issues including people’s basic right to information, the power of the media, and conflict-sensitive and gender-inclusive communication and awareness-raising. They learn to stand up to hate speech and violent extremism. These young people work with mentors who guide their projects so that they can convert ideas into high-quality media content that promotes and strengthens freedom of expression. © Roshani Manoranshan
**OUR FINANCES**

**GENEROSITY AND VOLATILE MARKETS**

The 2022 financial statement shows an increase in revenue to CHF 165.5 million thanks to generous donations and bequests of almost CHF 46.7 million, as well as increased income from services provided of CHF 118.8 million. Total expenditure for the year was CHF 157 million. Due to volatile markets, book losses added up to CHF -2.9 million. With an “other result” of CHF -2.9 million and a fund result of CHF -5.5 million the overall annual result amounts to CHF -2.8 million.

Successful acquisition, challenging financial markets

The fiscal year 2022 was characterized by contrasting developments: The COVID-19 measures were eased, but soon after, Russia attacked Ukraine. Donations for the people in Ukraine and for refugees were generous, which is visible in the income statement. In addition, project acquisition in 2022 was extremely successful. On the other hand, the outbreak of the war sent stock markets plunging, resulting in book losses on our balance sheet. Inflation due to rising energy and food prices also left its mark on the cost side. This and other negative effects exceeded the positive aspects mentioned above. Our financial year therefore closed with a significant loss, which will be charged to the organizational capital.

Financial audit

KPMG audited the accounts and financial statements and approved these May 12, 2023. Their audit report and the complete 2022 financial report can be viewed at the offices of Helvetas, Weinbergstrasse 22a, 8001 Zurich and downloaded in German from our website helvetas.org/finanzbericht

The financial statements are presented in CHF thousand (KCHF). Due to the selected number format, there may be rounding differences between individual amounts and totals.

**BALANCE SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>52,573</td>
<td>43,177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketable securities</td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>5,545</td>
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<td>Net assets in project countries</td>
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<td>14,918</td>
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<td>Prepayments and accrued income</td>
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<td>Investments in financial assets</td>
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<td>Tangible fixed assets</td>
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<td>475</td>
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<td>Intangible assets</td>
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<td>Fixed assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>111,918</td>
<td>100,217</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Short-term accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>Short-term provisions</td>
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<td>Short-term current liabilities</td>
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<td>Long-term provisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term liabilities</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>66,818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Restricted fund capital | 15,125 | 9,612 |
| Liabilities incl. fund capital | 81,944 | 67,453 |
| Elaborated unrestricted capital | 12,686 | 13,145 |
| Elaborated restricted capital | 17,289 | 19,618 |
| Organizational capital | 29,975 | 32,763 |
| Liabilities | 111,918 | 100,217 |

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2022 in KCHF</th>
<th>2021 in KCHF</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>2,344</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donation from the public</td>
<td>40,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>2,993</td>
<td>1,446</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from fundraising</td>
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<td>38,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program contribution SDC</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandates SDC</td>
<td>55,046</td>
<td>56,405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project funding from organizations</td>
<td>50,736</td>
<td>41,892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from advisory services</td>
<td>4,798</td>
<td>4,502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from services provided</td>
<td>118,822</td>
<td>111,306</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>165,501</td>
<td>150,282</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>-37,579</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>-38,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and Caribbean</td>
<td>-24,844</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>-27,521</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program coordination and support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure on international programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure on advisory services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure on projects in Switzerland</td>
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<td>Head Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Office and fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure from services delivered</td>
<td>-157,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating profit/loss</td>
<td>8,457</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial result</td>
<td>-2,864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other result</td>
<td>-2,864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result before change in funds capital</td>
<td>2,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in funds capital</td>
<td>-5,513</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual result before allocation to organizational capital</td>
<td>-2,788</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocations/utilizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free capital</td>
<td>-459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund for value fluctuation of marketable securities</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategy Acceleration fund</td>
<td>-115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social fund</td>
<td>-2,214</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE OF FUNDS**

- Income from fundraising: 28.2%
- Program contribution SDC: 4.8%
- Mandates SDC: 33.3%
- Project funding from organizations: 30.7%
- Income from advisory services: 2.9%
- Other operating income: 0.1%

**USE OF FUNDS**

- Africa: 24.0%
- Asia: 24.5%
- Latin America and Caribbean: 15.8%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 15.7%
- Program coordination and support: 1.6%
- Expenditure on advisory services: 3.9%
- Expenditure on projects Switzerland: 3.6%
- Head Office: 3.5%
- Fundraising: 5.6%
COMMITTED AND OPEN-MINDED

Helvetas is a politically and denominationally neutral association, supported by over 100,000 members, benefactors and donors. Board members work on an unpaid basis and support Helvetas with generous private donations.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Melchior Lengfeld  
Executive Director*

Remo Gesù  
Deputy Director/International Programs*

Annette Koffi  
Director International Programs*

Rupa Mukerji  
Director Advisory Services*

Erich Wigger  
Director Finance and Services*

Stefan Stoll  
Director Marketing and Communications*

The Management Board is responsible for planning, implementing, and supervising the projects, programs, and actions within Switzerland and abroad. Potential conflicts of interest of members of the Board of Directors and the Management Board are listed in the financial report.

ADVISORY BOARD

Sébile Aralen  
Director Marketing and Communications*

Marina Carobbio Gusceli  
Director International Programs*

Mario Fehr  
National Councilor, resigned April 2022

Roland Fischer  
Former and member of the Executive Board*

Claudia Friedli  
National Councilor

Esther Haldimann  
National Councilor

Maria Landolt  
National Councilor, resigned April 2022

Lisa Mazzone  
National Councilor

Tiana Meser  
National Councilor

Laurent Wehrli  
National Councilor

Regula Rytz and Peter Niggli represent the Board of Directors of the Advisory Board.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

All organizations with which Helvetas has signed a framework agreement or on whose boards Helvetas has a seat are listed. Alliance2015, Brussels • Alliance for Water Stewardship, North Berwick, Scotland • Alliance Sud, Bern • Bündnis, Biel • End Water Poverty Coalition, London • Schweizer Forum für Berufsbildung und Internationale Zusammenarbeit FoBBIZ, Renens • HELVETAS Intercooperation gGmbH, Bonn • Helvetas USA Inc., Minneapolis • Knowledge Management for Development KM4DEV, Zurich • KOFF Die Schweizer Plattform für Friedensförderung, Basel • Max Havelaar-Stiftung (Schweiz), Zurich • Millennium Water Alliance, Washington DC • Personalkonsorti um der HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Zurich (in liquidation) • NGO-Plattform der Schweizer Entwicklungsinstitutionen, Bern • Skat Foundation, St. Gallen • Swiss Fair Trade, Basel • Swiss NGO DRR Platform, Wabern • Swiss Water Partnership, Zurich • Swiss WaterSanitation NGO Consortium, Zurich.

OUR ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regula Rytz, President, Bern, historian, former National Councilor, consultant, since 2021
Peter Niggli, Vice President, Zurich, journalist, author, expert in international development, since 2015
Jörg Frieden, Fribourg, Dr. sec. publ., Development Economist, President of the Board of SIFEM, since 2018
Theresia Frosch Bern, former National Councilor, President of the Board of Spheh Bern, resigned June 2022
Marie Gamar Bern, former member of the government of the Canton Fribourg, Director Pratil, resigned June 2022
Angelo Gnädinger Geneva, lic. iur., former General Director of the ICRC (2002–2010), since 2019
Hanss Häni Bern, Dr. rer. pol., President of the Boards of UPD Bern and Domel Holding AG, resigned June 2022
Rané Holstein Schaffhausen, Dr. phil. I, expert in development and former Swiss ambassador, since 2020
Romina Jean Geneva, consultant, former editor in chief of the society programs of RTS Radio Televisio Suisse, since 2015
Jean-Philippe Julli Verbier VSA axanne VD, journalist, former diplomat advisor to the FDFA, communications consultant, since 2020
Erna Karrer-Rüedi Bern, historian, former Research Director of the government of the Canton of Zurich, since 2011
Peter Messnerli Bern, Director Wyss Academy for Nature, Prof. for Sustainable Development, University of Bern, since 2020
Dona Pomeranz Zurich, Assistant Professor of Applied Economics, University of Zurich, since 2020
Fennsk Leysko Cully VD, Dr. sec. prof. Emeritus of Anthropology, former Research Director Gender Centre IHEID, since 2011
Dominique Schmid Workaulen BE, lic. rer. pol. MBA/EMBA, indep. consultant and Board member at several companies, resigned March 2023
Hansv Voigt Zurich, Partner dasNetz.ch, Management consultant, Founder Watson, Co-Director Wepshipal, since 2019
Ulrich Wänzler Bern, Bsth. sec. HHV, Business consultant Buntbacher Attorneys in Bern/Zurich, since 2019

The General Assembly, the organization’s highest body, meets once a year. It elects the members of the Board of Directors and determines the mission statement.

The Board of Directors, the highest executive body, is responsible for the organization’s strategy and for approving the annual budget.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

All organizations with which Helvetas has signed a framework agreement or on whose boards Helvetas has a seat are listed. Alliance2015, Brussels • Alliance for Water Stewardship, North Berwick, Scotland • Alliance Sud, Bern • Bündnis, Biel • End Water Poverty Coalition, London • Schweizer Forum für Berufsbildung und Internationale Zusammenarbeit FoBBIZ, Renens • HELVETAS Intercooperation gGmbH, Bonn • Helvetas USA Inc., Minneapolis • Knowledge Management for Development KM4DEV, Zurich • KOFF Die Schweizer Plattform für Friedensförderung, Basel • Max Havelaar-Stiftung (Schweiz), Zurich • Millennium Water Alliance, Washington DC • Personalkonsorti um der HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Zurich (in liquidation) • NGO-Plattform der Schweizer Entwicklungsinstitutionen, Bern • Skat Foundation, St. Gallen • Swiss Fair Trade, Basel • Swiss NGO DRR Platform, Wabern • Swiss Water Partnership, Zurich • Swiss WaterSanitation NGO Consortium, Zurich.
NEW FORMS OF PARTNERSHIP

Good governance involves competent provision of public services that benefit everyone. These services are key in fighting against poverty, and so Helvetas launched the “Moving Governance” program in 2022. The Somaha Foundation is one of the strong partners who have made the scheme possible.

Municipalities have a duty to provide services such as water supply, waste removal, education and infrastructure like schools and health centers. Citizens have a right to these, but often local authorities lack the instruments or skills to include the concerns and needs of local people prior to decision-making or implementing projects with them. Helvetas and local partner organizations are therefore supporting local government and civil society organizations to deal with thematic, organizational and financial issues.

“We are convinced that only independent, local organizations can sustain their activity financially in the long run,” says Eva Maria Jaag, managing director of the Somaha Foundation. “But access to high-quality public services is still denied to many people, especially poor and marginalized women and men, and as citizens they must therefore be supported in their attempts to formulate and voice their concerns.

The Somaha Foundation has been running for very long and has therefore turned to an experienced partner. “Our foundation is looking to forge partnerships that dare to do new things,” Jaag explains. “By promoting a topic and its funding through a fund and not, as is usually the case, through project financing, Helvetas has shown that it has the courage to experiment. ”

Case in point, through project financing, Helvetas has shown that municipalities have in Helvetas’ work. "The commitment of the managers in the field Maria Jesus Alonso Lormand, Department for Solidarity, Canton of Geneva."
In 2022, Helvetas has received generous donations and bequests adding up to almost 47 million Swiss francs and provided services totalling 119 million francs.

This allowed 1,436 committed Helvetas staff and about 1,150 partner organizations worldwide to support 2.5 million women and 2.6 million men in 35 countries forge a life without poverty.