



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

IMPRESSUM

The Swiss Solidarity Foundation (Fondation Suisse de la Chaîne du Bonheur) operates in Switzerland's four linguistic regions under the following names:

- Chaîne du Bonheur, la Suisse solidaire (French-speaking Switzerland)
- Glückskette, die solidarische Schweiz (German-speaking Switzerland)
- Catena della Solidarietà, la Svizzera solidale (Italian-speaking Switzerland)
- Chadaina da Fortuna, la Svizra solidarica (Romansh-speaking Switzerland)

Internationally, the Foundation is known as Swiss Solidarity.

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MISSION

The Swiss Solidarity Foundation (SwS) is a responsible funding body. The Foundation ensures that the funds it raises through donations are invested in high-quality humanitarian and social projects carried out by its partners to address the needs of populations affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises both abroad and in Switzerland. SwS encourages the sharing and promotion of skills and knowledge in the humanitarian sector.

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND SOLIDARITY

In 2023, the world witnessed a marked rise in the number of crisis situations, the highest number recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the last ten years. In 2024, over 300 million people will require humanitarian assistance. Whether triggered by conflict, human rights violations, natural disasters or extreme weather events, these crises have plunged millions of people into uncertainty overnight.

Since 1946, solidarity has been an unshakeable value in Switzerland. In 2023, Swiss Solidarity again played a crucial role in fostering the solidarity reflex and raising public awareness of humanitarian crises and social challenges with help from SRG SSR and certain private media organisations. In collaboration with our 26 partner NGOs, we have given concrete expression to this solidarity. Following the earthquakes in Turkey, Syria, Morocco and Afghanistan, we provided essential aid to millions of affected people. We also provided support in response to the conflicts in Sudan, Ukraine and the Middle East.

However, ensuring humanitarian access to crisis-hit populations remains a significant challenge, especially in conflict zones. Humanitarian workers from international and local organisations are on the front lines providing vital assistance, but they regularly face obstacles to gaining access to those in need of assistance, as well as risks to their safety, which have cost some of them their lives.

In 2023, the people of Switzerland yet again demonstrated through their engagement that solidarity is a value deeply rooted in Swiss society.

In Switzerland, the rising cost of living has led to increased hardship, a recurring theme in 2023. Via the network of institutions and associations that we fund, we provide essential assistance to vulnerable people, in particular to children who are abused, young people facing social isolation, and people experiencing marginalisation and homelessness.

With many conflicts around the world dragging on and climate change severely impacting already vulnerable populations, nothing would indicate that the number of humanitarian emergencies will decline in 2024. As a result, our mission remains as crucial and necessary as ever. We will bolster our efforts to foster solidarity in Switzerland in the face of suffering and demonstrate that indifference has no place in our country.




Photo: © Swiss Solidarity



Miren Bengoa
Director of
Swiss Solidarity

Photo: © RTS



Pascal Crittin
President of
Swiss Solidarity
and Director of RTS

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SWISS SOLIDARITY'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023

The year in review by Ernst Lüber, Director of Programmes & Auditing, and Judith Schuler, Director of Communication & Fundraising

In 2023, Swiss Solidarity provided assistance to more than 3.7 million people, funding humanitarian and social projects to the tune of CHF 70 million to help victims of humanitarian crises around the world and vulnerable people in Switzerland. This is the single largest annual total since 2005, when Swiss Solidarity responded in the wake of the tsunami that hit South-East Asia. Almost half of these funds went to humanitarian projects in Ukraine, while in Switzerland the emphasis was mainly on child relief and projects aimed at reintegrating young people in difficulty into society and the workforce.



Photo: © Fairpicture

On several occasions, the public demonstrated its solidarity in response to major disasters and wars. And thanks to that solidarity, Swiss Solidarity was able to provide essential aid to victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, Morocco and Afghanistan, as well as to the victims of the conflict in the Middle East.

The year was brought to a close with a national solidarity campaign conducted in close collaboration with RTS, SRF, RSI and RTR for education worldwide and training in Switzerland. The campaign highlighted the plight of millions of children around the world who are deprived of access to education, with a particular focus on children growing up in regions where armed violence is rife.

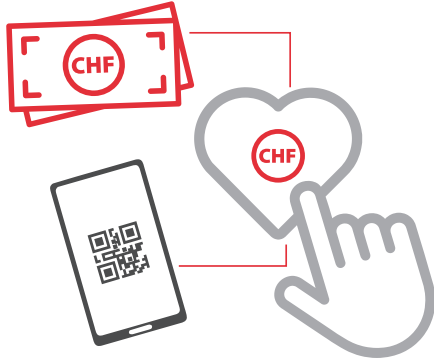
The campaign also highlighted the realities faced by young people in Switzerland who drop out of the education system prematurely and how a lack of training can affect their entire lives and increase the risk of finding themselves living in precarious conditions. With the donations it receives, SwS will be able to support projects that provide access to education and training to thousands of young people and children in Switzerland, Africa's Sahel region and Central and South America. The Foundation hopes to break the cycle of violence and insecurity and give these young people and children a better future.

In late 2023, Swiss Solidarity also published the second edition of its Solidarity Barometer, a survey the Foundation uses to analyse changes in the way this value is perceived by the people of Switzerland. In 2023, the combined index showed a strong sense of shared social responsibility across all generations, a finding confirmed by the wave of solidarity that the Foundation's campaigns have generated in recent years. And last but not least, Swiss Solidarity adopted a new vision for the localisation of humanitarian aid in 2023. This strategy aims to strengthen local humanitarian work to provide more effective, efficient and sustainable aid by recognising and supporting the role played by local actors in responses to humanitarian crises.

TOP 10 MAJOR FUNDRAISERS IN 2023

CHF 54,139,558

Total donations received

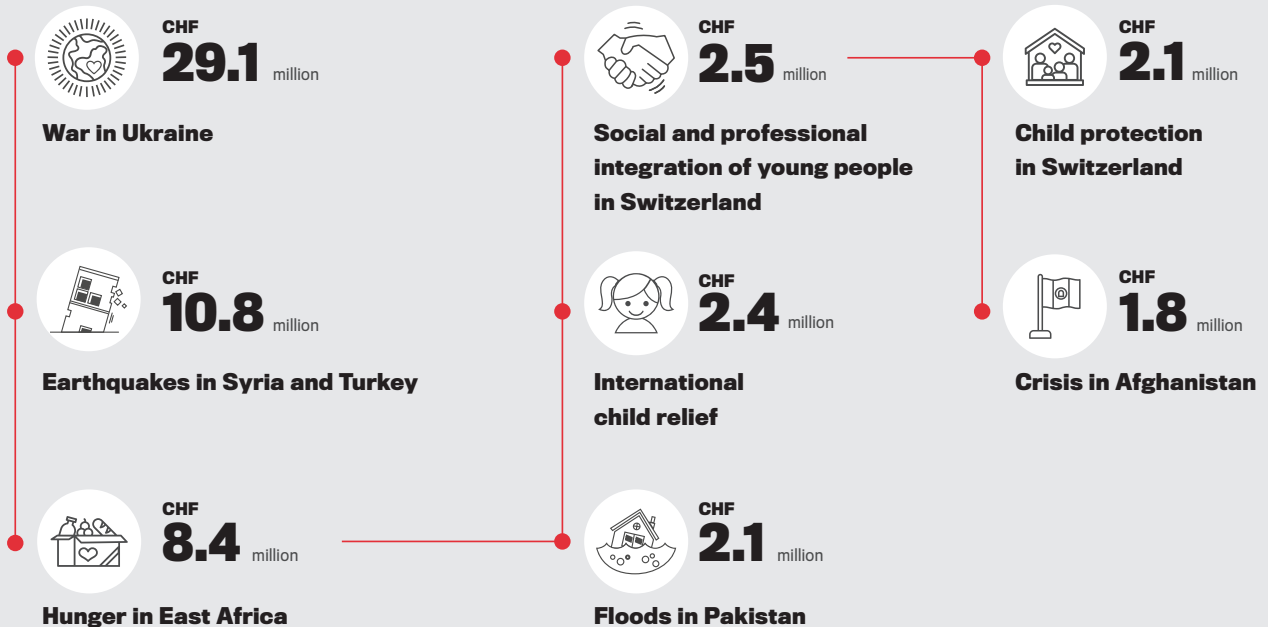


CHF 32 million	Earthquakes in Syria and Turkey
4 million	Education in Switzerland and abroad
3.6 million	War in Ukraine
3.1 million	Earthquake in Morocco
2.3 million	Humanitarian crisis in the Middle East
1.8 million	Hunger in East Africa
1.5 million	Emergency fund
1.1 million	Homeless and marginalised people in Switzerland
984,289	Child protection in Switzerland
649,059	Crisis in Afghanistan

CHF 68,537,792

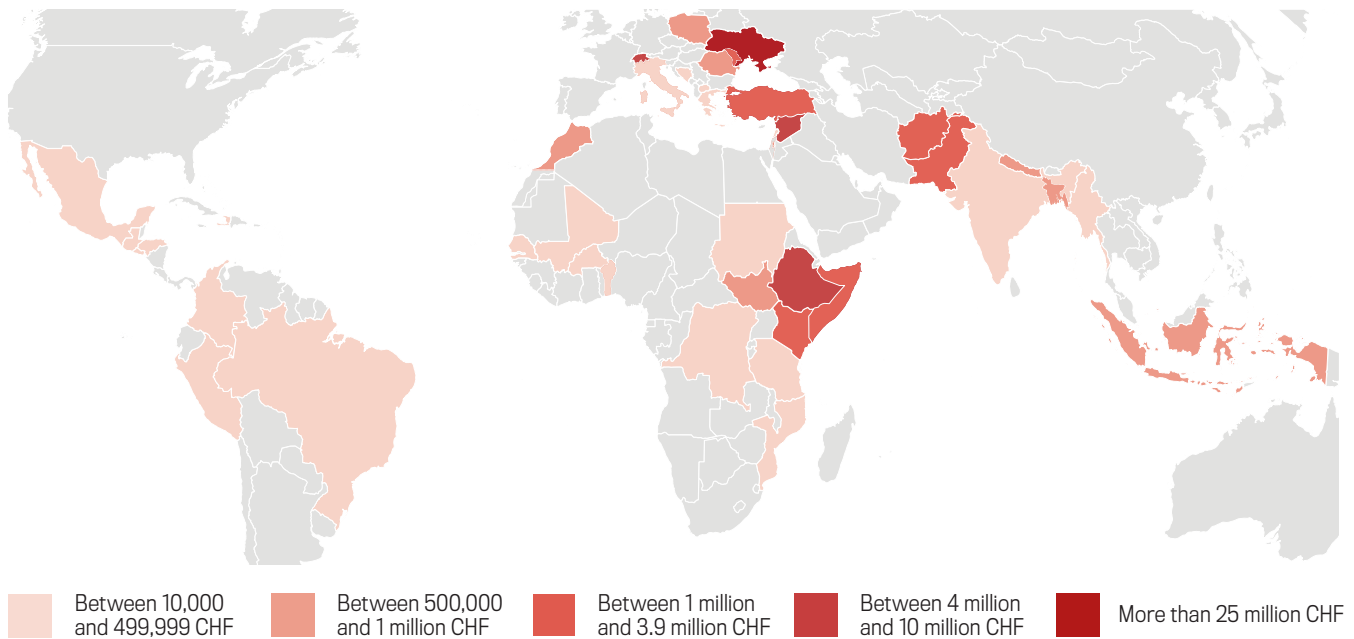
Total funding for humanitarian and social projects

MAJOR ISSUES SUPPORTED IN 2023*



* The complete list of funds raised and project contributions is available in the Annual Accounts.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVITIES IN 2023



FUNDING FOR PROJECTS LED BY SWISS PARTNER NGOS IN 2023 IN CHF*

These are the partner NGOs that received the most funding

Caritas Switzerland	9,342,556
Helvetas	8,907,977
Medair	7,617,347
Solidar Switzerland	5,791,353
Swiss Red Cross	5,475,195
Terre des hommes foundation	4,844,096
Save the Children Switzerland	4,668,986
Doctors Without Borders	3,320,579
Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)	2,965,463
Médecins du Monde Suisse	2,243,054
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Switzerland	1,841,000
Fondation Hirondelle	1,030,845
ADRA Switzerland	735,395
Pestalozzi Children's Foundation	535,297
CBM Switzerland	520,475

In 2023, Swiss Solidarity funded 24 partner NGOs.



3,770,000
people supported



41
countries
of intervention



344
projects funded



221
projects
deployed abroad



123
projects deployed
in Switzerland

EARTHQUAKES IN SYRIA AND TURKEY

On 6 February 2023, violent earthquakes struck southern Turkey and northern Syria. The worst to hit the region for a century, this disaster claimed more than 50,000 lives while destroying homes and key infrastructure in an area many times the size of Switzerland. Confronted with the sheer scale of the devastation and human suffering,

Swiss Solidarity launched an appeal for donations that day, triggering a remarkable outpouring of solidarity among the people of Switzerland. SwS raised over CHF 32 million which its Swiss partner NGOs then used to deliver humanitarian aid on the ground.



Photo: ©Keystone/EPA/Erdem Sahin



CHF 32,016,350

Donations received

6 February 2023

Fundraising campaign launched in collaboration with SRG SSR

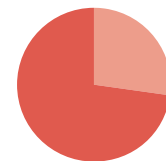
CHF 10,769,230

Project contributions

29 projects

Number of projects supported

Aid by country



■ Syria	73%
■ Turkey	27%

Swiss partner NGOs funded:

ADRA Switzerland, Caritas Switzerland, Doctors Without Borders, Helvetas, Medair, Save the Children Switzerland, Solidar Switzerland, Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER), Swiss Red Cross, Terre des hommes foundation

Projects carried out

Swiss Solidarity's partner NGOs were able to deploy emergency aid in the days immediately following the earthquakes. Priority was given to rescuing those trapped under the rubble, providing health services, distributing drinking water, food and other necessities, and providing emergency shelters. Projects were later expanded to include offering psychosocial support, setting up mobile health clinics and restoring buildings and basic infrastructure such as water supply systems.

One year on from the disaster, immense challenges remain and it is important to maintain the efforts made in the areas of psychosocial support, infrastructure rehabilitation and building renovation.

Challenges and prospects

In Syria, the earthquakes exacerbated the already precarious situation of a population suffering the effects of a 12-year civil conflict and scarcely able to count on support from the government. Thanks to the tireless work of its Swiss partner NGOs, Swiss Solidarity promptly provided humanitarian aid to these very vulnerable people and will continue to do so in 2024. In Turkey, in the space of only a few hours, earthquakes shattered the lives of millions of people. Many of them lost their homes and all their possessions and were left with no option but to start over.

Photo: © REDOG



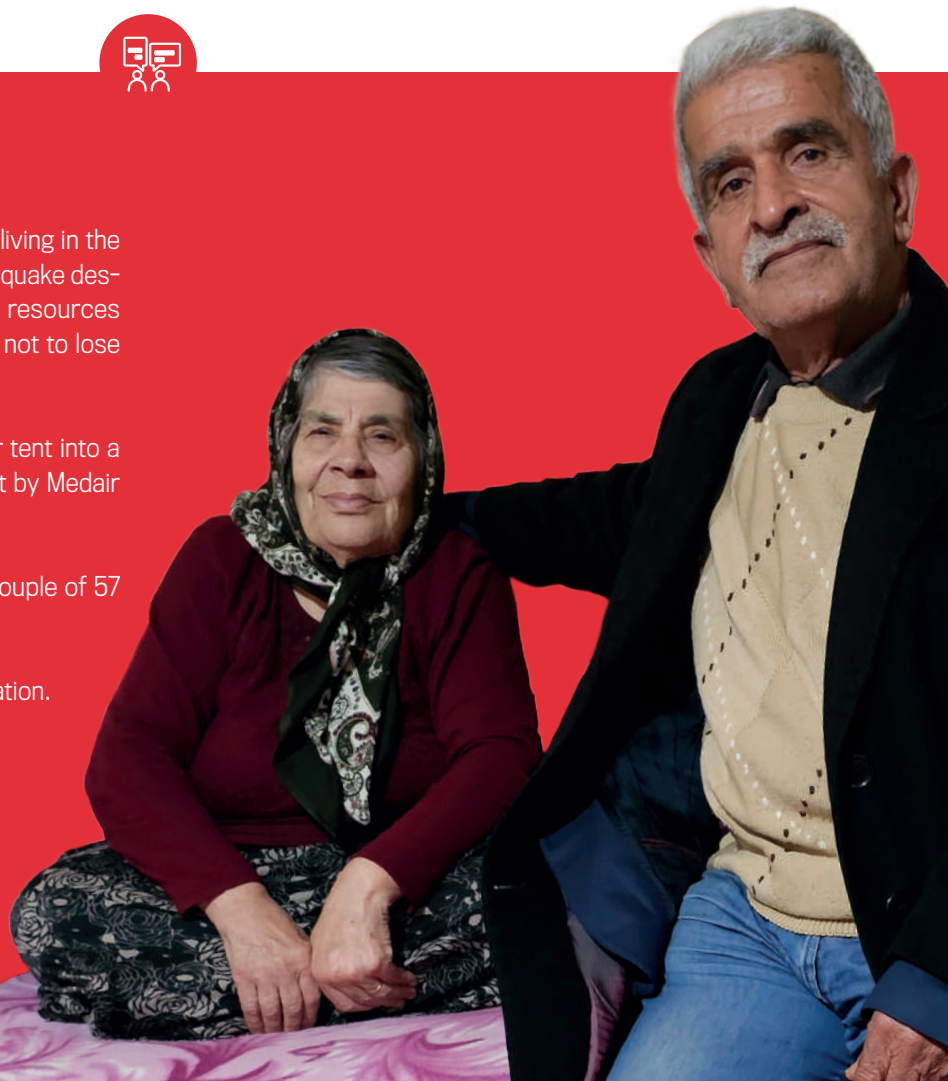
Testimonial of Muhsin and Zehra

Muhsin and his wife, Zehra, had spent 26 years living in the house they had built themselves. The 2023 earthquake destroyed it, and as they did not have the financial resources to rebuild, they set up a tent in their yard so as not to lose their property.

Today, Muhsin and Zehra have moved from their tent into a stronger, better insulated wooden structure built by Medair with Swiss Solidarity's support.

A year on from the earthquakes, this married couple of 57 years still fear that another quake could strike. Despite this ordeal, Muhsin is full of energy. He embodies resilience and is a source of inspiration. Of one thing he is sure:
"I will remain here until I breathe my last breath."

Photo: @Swiss Solidarity



WAR IN UKRAINE

In the days that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Swiss Solidarity launched an appeal for solidarity that raised a record CHF 134 million. Two years on, the humanitarian situation remains alarming and still affects over 17.6 million people.

The almost daily bombardments have massively destroyed crucial infrastructure, compromising access to electricity, heating, water, health, education and telecoms. Swaths of Ukraine are still under military occupation.

Projects carried out

Since the conflict in Ukraine began, Swiss Solidarity has continuously adapted its aid strategy as the needs evolved. While humanitarian assistance was extended to neighbouring countries and Switzerland during the first few months, it has since been refocused on eastern Ukraine, which is directly affected by the fighting, and on regions of the country that have been hosting internally displaced people. These projects are aimed at those with specific needs, including children, pregnant women, single-parent families and people who are elderly or disabled. The Foundation focuses on three main areas:

- Repairing homes, buildings and essential infrastructure
- Access to healthcare
- Aid for displaced persons in Ukraine

Challenges and prospects

In the face of this prolonged crisis, Swiss Solidarity is determined to uphold its commitment to the people of Ukraine. However, donations have declined sharply since 2022 and may no longer suffice to provide support over the long term. Access to conflict-hit areas and the safety of humanitarian workers also remain major challenges.

Moldova and Romania: pilot project in collaboration with local organisations

Over the past few years, Swiss Solidarity has been exploring the topic of localising humanitarian aid. Within the context of the war in Ukraine, SwS conducted a pilot project that involved directly supporting local organisations in Romania and Moldova.



CHF 3,585,983

Donations received

25 February 2022

Fundraising campaign launched in collaboration with SRG SSR

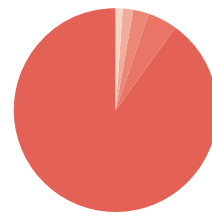
CHF 29,051,909

Project contributions

46 projects

Projects supported

Aid by country



Ukraine	90%
Moldova	5%
Switzerland (refugees)	2%
Romania	2%
Poland	1%

Swiss partner NGOs funded:

Caritas Switzerland, Doctors Without Borders, Fondation Hirondelle, Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD), Helvetas, Medair, Médecins du Monde Suisse, Pestalozzi Children's Foundation, Save the Children Switzerland, Solidar Switzerland, Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER), Terre des hommes foundation

Photo: © KEYSTONE/AP/Mosaab Elshamy



EARTHQUAKE IN MOROCCO

On the night of 9 September, Morocco suffered the most powerful earthquake ever to hit the country. Entire villages were swallowed whole, thousands of people lost their lives and thousands more were injured. Many survivors lost their livelihoods literally overnight.

Some of our partner NGOs were already working in Morocco before the quake struck and were able to deploy focused aid in the days immediately after the disaster.

Projects carried out

Swiss Solidarity funded emergency relief projects to help earthquake victims by providing drinking water, blankets, shelter and clothing, as well as medical care and psychosocial support.

The Foundation's partner NGOs also focused their efforts on improving access to remote and isolated mountain villages.

Challenges and prospects

Reconstruction is a major challenge, not least because of the logistical complexities of accessing homes scattered throughout very remote and sometimes hard-to-reach areas. Despite this, a shift toward sustainable aid solutions will be needed in 2024 to help families turn the page so that they will not have to spend a second winter living in tents and will be able to resume their economic activity. Such a shift is also essential to enabling children to return to school safely and to learn under proper conditions.



CHF 3,115,327

Donations received

11 September 2023

Fundraising campaign launched in collaboration with SRG SSR

CHF 522,000

Project contributions

3 projects

Projects supported

Swiss partner NGOs funded:

Frieda – The Feminist NGO for Peace, Helvetas, Médecins du Monde Suisse

Photo: © Terre des hommes



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Following the October 2023 escalation of the Middle East conflict, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip became catastrophic. The civilian population lost access to necessities such as food, medicines, drinking water and electricity. The bombardments have caused widespread destruction, forcing almost 70% of the Gazan population, mainly women and children, to flee their homes.

Projects carried out

In the days that followed the escalation of the conflict, humanitarian access was extremely complex, and a great deal of uncertainty remained about what would happen next. The Foundation launched an appeal for solidarity in early November as soon as its partner NGOs were able to guarantee their ability to provide aid. Swiss Solidarity was able to fund several humanitarian projects to provide basic items such as food and hygiene kits, as well as psychosocial support.

Challenges and prospects

In such a highly polarised setting, humanitarian freedom is limited and security issues including attacks on health services and humanitarian staff create challenges for NGOs working in the Gaza Strip. To carry out their mission, our Swiss partner NGOs strictly abide by the humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence, impartiality and humanity. They work to support vulnerable people wherever aid is vital.



CHF 2,295,791

Donations received

CHF 347,000

Project contributions

2 projects

Projects supported

Swiss partner NGOs funded:

Frieda - The Feminist NGO for Peace, Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)

CHILD RELIEF

Every year, the Swiss Solidarity Child relief fund focuses on a different geographical area and issue. Last year, the emphasis was on projects that enable children to access education in situations of violence and armed conflict. They focus on regions particularly hard hit in this respect: Latin America (Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) and the Sahel countries (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali). The Foundation also maintained its support for projects already underway which are aimed at improving access to education in Latin America and South Asia, and preventing domestic violence in West Africa.

Projects carried out

The projects Swiss Solidarity supported in 2023 will help to ensure that children can enjoy quality education, even during and after crises and conflicts, thereby providing them with a better future. The national end-of-year campaign – Éducation pour tous on SRF, RSI and RTR and Cœur à Cœur on RTS – made it possible to fund six projects in Burkina Faso, Guatemala and Colombia. Among other things, these projects provide remedial classes for children who have dropped out of school, repair damaged schools and train teachers. The projects also aim to make schools and their access roads safer, and provide psychosocial support to child victims of violence.

Challenges and prospects

Worldwide, almost one in five school-age children does not go to school. As a result, 244 million children between the ages of 6 and 18 have not received an education. In regions such as Central America and West Africa, violence constitutes yet another major obstacle to children's education. Many schools are closed because of conflicts or threats to teachers and pupils. In other countries, children without an education are targeted for recruitment by gangs or armed groups. School and training open doors to a better future.

CHF 2,210,586

Donations received

21 December 2023

National Day of Solidarity

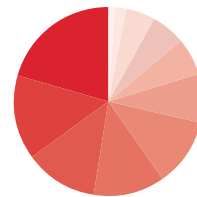
CHF 2,365,016

Project contributions

19 projects

Projects supported

Aid by country



■ Pakistan	20%
■ Bangladesh	15%
■ India	13%
■ Colombia	12%
■ Mali	12%
■ Burkina Faso	9%
■ Benin	6%
■ Guatemala	7%
■ Honduras	5%
■ Senegal	2%
■ Tanzania	1%

Swiss partner NGOs funded:

Enfants du Monde, Fondation Vivamos Mejor, Helvetas, IAMANEH Switzerland, Médecins du Monde Suisse, Pestalozzi Children's Foundation, Save the Children Switzerland, Solidar Switzerland, Swissaid, Terre des hommes foundation, Terre des Hommes Suisse

Photo: © Jean Paul Ouédraogo



Testimonial of Haidara

Because of the armed violence raging in Burkina Faso, Haidara was forced to seek refuge in the Centre-Est region, which currently hosts the largest number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso. Displaced families live in extremely precarious conditions, with even their most basic needs going unmet. In these regions, schools are overwhelmed and thousands of children find themselves unable to attend school. Swiss Solidarity partner NGOs such as Terre des Hommes Suisse, Enfants du Monde and Save the Children Switzerland are setting up bridging classes to take in and educate these children.

HUNGER IN EAST AFRICA

The Horn of Africa is facing growing challenges linked to climate change. In late 2022, in response to a drought of historic proportions, Swiss Solidarity organised a National Day of Solidarity. In 2023, thanks to the donations received, the Foundation was able to provide vital aid to communities severely affected by drought in often isolated regions. Projects have focused on treating and preventing malnutrition in children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, providing access to health services, food and water, and supporting agro-pastoral families. The donations received made it possible to help more than 565,000 people in this region.

Photo: © Doctors Without Borders Switzerland



AFGHANISTAN

A violent earthquake hit western Afghanistan on Saturday 7 October 2023. The country had been experiencing a serious humanitarian crisis when the latest disaster struck, putting a strain on the country's health and emergency services, which were already weakened and dependent on international aid. In response to the urgent humanitarian situation, Swiss Solidarity launched an appeal for solidarity. The Foundation thus carried on with the relief effort it had launched in 2021 in response to the humanitarian crisis that followed the Taliban takeover.

In 2023, the work of Swiss Solidarity's partner NGOs focused primarily on ensuring access to basic health services, maternal and child health, and drinking water and food. Supporting the people of Afghanistan – above all Afghan women, who are deprived of access to essential services – remains crucial, and Swiss Solidarity will maintain its commitment to this country hard hit by crises and natural disasters.



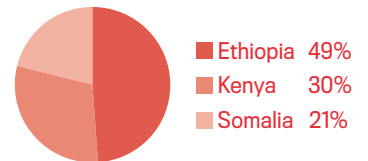
CHF 1,750,667
Donations received

CHF 8,421,220
Project contributions

29 projects
Projects supported

Swiss partner NGOs funded:
ADRA Switzerland, Caritas Switzerland, CBM Switzerland, Doctors Without Borders, Helvetas, Medair, Save the Children Switzerland, Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER), Swiss Red Cross, Terre des hommes foundation, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Switzerland

Aid by country



CHF 649,059
Donations received

CHF 1,800,400
Project contributions

9 projects
Number of projects supported

Swiss partner NGOs funded:
Doctors Without Borders, Helvetas, Medair, Solidar Switzerland, Terre des hommes foundation

Photo: © Keystone/AP/Sam Mednick



EMERGENCY FUND: FOCUS ON THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

The Emergency fund is an invaluable asset that enables Swiss Solidarity to react the moment a humanitarian crisis or natural disaster occurs by providing immediate support to our partner NGOs already on the ground. The fund is also used to support humanitarian projects in situations that do not receive media coverage, or where the Foundation's partner NGOs are unable to deploy aid on the ground.

In 2023, the fund helped support seven projects to the tune of CHF 1.3 million, most of which were aimed at helping victims of the conflict in Sudan.

Since April 2023, the country has been embroiled in a devastating civil war that has killed thousands and displaced millions. Yet despite the severity of the crisis, it has remained grossly under-reported.

Thanks to the donors whose contributions we received throughout the year to cover the most urgent needs, we were able to quickly release funds to help the Sudanese people affected by the conflict. Through their projects, our partner NGOs have provided vital support to refugees, internally displaced people and fragile host communities. This assistance made it possible to provide care for child victims of abuse and to contribute to family reunification efforts, as well as to support healthcare centres' efforts to address the risks of malnutrition and cholera.

The Emergency fund also enabled Swiss Solidarity to support a humanitarian project deployed in response to the crisis in the Gaza Strip even before the Foundation had launched its solidarity campaign in November.

PRIORITIES FOR AID IN SWITZERLAND

True to its founding principles, Swiss Solidarity remains strongly committed to helping vulnerable people in Switzerland.

This aid takes the form of focused actions aimed at protecting children from abuse, promoting the social and professional integration of young people and supporting people experiencing marginalisation and homelessness.

Swiss Solidarity also provides assistance when major natural disasters strike in Switzerland.

CHILD PROTECTION

CHF 984,289

Donations received in 2023

CHF 2,070,643

2023 project contributions

40 projects

Number of projects supported

Every year, Swiss child protection organisations identify thousands of children who are victims of physical or psychological violence, neglect or sexual abuse. The effects of this violence can follow children well into their adult lives, with lasting consequences for their health, work and emotional lives.

In 2023, Swiss Solidarity supported Swiss institutions working to protect these children and prevent all forms of violence directed against them. This aid included projects to prevent and care for child victims of violence in emergency shelters, foster healthy relationships between children and parents, strengthen parenting skills and abilities, and improve the skills of professionals working in this field.

SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

CHF 2,666,645

Donations received

CHF 2,451,109

Project contributions

37 projects

Number of projects supported

In Switzerland, one in ten young people lacks training. Often, young people drop out for reasons linked to their living situation and the obstacles they face as a result. These can be problems within their family, a lack of resources, legal status or health problems. And young people without proper training are four times more likely to end up in a tenuous situation.

To counter this problem, Swiss Solidarity funds projects for adolescents and young adults between the ages of 15 and 25 in Switzerland who are having difficulties integrating socially or professionally.

These projects aim to boost their confidence and help them develop career plans, ensure that their first work experience is a successful one, and support them by providing them with individual coaching, advice and pre-apprenticeships in specific areas such as the catering industry.

In December 2023, Swiss Solidarity and the SRG SSR's radio stations joined forces to hold a National Week of Solidarity for the social and professional integration of young people and for access to education worldwide.

Photo: © Jugenstation



HOMELESS AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE

CHF 1,061,797

Donations received

CHF 814,109

Project contributions

24 projects

Number of projects supported

Homelessness is considered the most serious form of poverty in Switzerland. Health problems, relationship troubles and Switzerland's housing market are just a few of the factors that aggravate and can potentially prolong the situation.

The projects funded by Swiss Solidarity aim to meet basic needs such as access to housing, healthcare and food. The Foundation also funds activities to help homeless and marginalised people regain their place in society, with specific services addressing the needs of women, children and adolescents experiencing homelessness. The projects SwS funds also include some that provide social support for families in bridge housing, drop-in centres and health services.

NATURAL DISASTERS IN SWITZERLAND

In 2023, the Foundation Council adopted a new disaster relief strategy, thereby highlighting the complementarity of Swiss Solidarity's activities and those of the public authorities, insurance companies and other bodies.

Storm in La Chaux-de-Fonds

After a violent storm struck La Chaux-de-Fonds in July 2023, Swiss Solidarity collaborated with the local authorities and released an initial sum of CHF 200,000. Applications for funding will be examined and approved in 2024 by a committee made up of representatives from the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Fonds Suisse, the Swiss Red Cross and Swiss Solidarity.



2023 DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

In 2023, SwS received donations exceeding CHF 53.7 million. While donations for Ukraine fell sharply, this result remains significant. In particular, the over CHF 32 million in donations received in response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria contributed significantly to this positive result.

The Foundation's expenditures for 2023 amounted to CHF 72,039,603. Most of this, CHF 67,691,536, was allocated to projects. With project support costs of CHF 2,347,956 factored in, this amount represents 97% of the Foundation's total expenditures. Other 2023 operating expenses, down slightly on the previous year, were broken down as follows: fundraising and communication expenses of CHF 1,217,459 (2%) and administrative expenses of CHF 782,652 (1%).

2023 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Compared with 2022, the year 2023 was more stable both economically and financially. Despite the persistent challenges it faced, the Foundation steered a prudent course, resulting in a positive annual result of CHF 4,923,367 (before transfers to the Foundation's capital).

Unrestricted funds, allocated at the discretion of the Foundation Council, will be apportioned between the reserves and the permanent funds. Focused on supporting the Foundation's long-term activities, this decision ensures prudent financial management while further strengthening the permanent funds.

Published in March 2024, the Mazars SA audit report does not contain any specific comments.

FINANCIAL POLICY

The Foundation continues to maintain a prudent and responsible approach to managing its finances, a strategy approved by the Foundation Council and closely monitored by the Financial Management Committee (COGEFI). Funds entrusted to the Foundation are invested with financial institutions until used to support projects. The financial strategy is based on capital preservation, with total transparency to guarantee the liquid assets needed to fund current projects.

The Foundation's investments are guided by the principles set out in the Responsible Investment Charter established in 2017 with the support of ConserInvest and revised in 2022 with the assistance of PPCmetrics. The Charter establishes the basic principles of responsible investing based on environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria in view of achieving long-term, sustainable performance in line with the Foundation's mission and values. This approach seeks to exclude certain sectors such as arms or tobacco, as well as companies with questionable human rights records. As a member of the Ethos Engagement Pool, the Foundation encourages active share ownership and promotes best practices in corporate governance and sustainable development.

In keeping with the financial policy established by the Foundation Council, investment income, unallocated bequests and a 5% levy on funds raised are used to cover operating expenses, with any surplus being used to replenish the unrestricted funds. The Foundation Council decides on how to allocate unrestricted funds between permanent funds and/or reserves. The aim is to ensure the efficient and strategic allocation of these resources to support the Foundation's work and guarantee its financial stability.

BALANCE SHEET

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current assets	49,846,818	54,242,177
Cash and cash equivalents	49,447,107	53,957,051
Accruals and deferred income	399,711	285,126
Fixed assets	92,172,271	101,259,398
Long-term investments	92,074,830	101,199,427
Intangible fixed assets	87,223	39,419
Tangible fixed assets	10,218	20,552
Total assets	142,019,089	155,501,575
LIABILITIES		
Foreign capital	86,677	141,421
Sundry creditors	37,499	23,893
Accruals and deferred income	49,178	117,528
Capital in allocated funds	127,373,675	145,724,781
Allocated funds	127,373,675	145,724,781
Foundation capital	14,558,738	9,635,373
Base capital	200,000	200,000
Linked capital	9,435,373	9,435,373
Unallocated capital	4,923,365	0
Total liabilities	142,019,089	155,501,575

OPERATING ACCOUNT

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Total donations	53,708,926	155,411,066
Allocated donations and other contributions	51,937,294	154,249,490
Unallocated bequests	1,771,632	1,161,576
Other income	469,693	862,785
Contributions to operating expenses	175,000	75,000
Processing fee contributions	255,632	785,643
Miscellaneous income	39,061	2,142
Total operating income	54,178,619	156,273,851
EXPENSES		
Projects and programmes	-70,039,492	-58,452,043
Project disbursements	-67,691,536	-55,805,815
Support for projects	-2,347,956	-2,646,228
Fundraising, communication and administration	-2,000,111	-2,254,194
Fundraising and communication	-1,217,459	-1,274,110
Administration	-782,652	-980,084
Total operating expenses	-72,039,603	-60,706,237
Operating result	-17,860,984	95,567,614
Net financial result	4,433,244	-6,892,665
Financial income	4,539,028	623,797
Finance costs	-105,784	-7,516,462
Net result before changes infund capital	-13,427,739	88,674,949
Changes in allocated funds	18,351,106	-90,731,199
Annual result (before allocations to the Foundation's capital)	4,923,367	-2,056,250
+ Withdrawal from / - allocation to tied capital (operating reserve)	0	0
+ Withdrawal from / - allocation to tied capital (financial reserve)	0	2,056,250
+ Withdrawal from / - allocation to unrestricted capital	-4,923,367	0
Annual result	0	0

* The complete financial statements are published in the annual accounts document.

Photo: © Anastasiia Zahoskina/Save the Children



FOUNDATION COUNCIL

The Foundation Council (FC) is the organisation's supreme body. It provides oversight and defines strategy. It is made up of an equal number of representatives from SRG SSR and representatives from partner organisations and/or the humanitarian sector. Certain tasks are delegated to the Foundation Council Committee, which provides oversight, monitors the management team's work and supports the team in carrying out its activities. Apart from certain exceptional cases duly documented/justified and agreed by the Foundation Council Committee, the members of the FC are not compensated.

Members of the Foundation Council Committee

- Pascal Crittin, President, Director of RTS
- François Besençon, Vice-President, independent member appointed by SRG SSR
- Grégoire Castella, independent humanitarian expert
- Felix Gnehm, Director of Solidar Switzerland
- Melchior Lengsfeld, Director of Helvetas

Members of the Foundation Council

- Corina Albertini, independent member appointed by SRG SSR
- Barbara Hintermann, Chief Executive of Terre des hommes foundation
- Markus Mader, Director of the Swiss Red Cross (until 31.03.23)
- Sabine Maier, Director of Vivamos Mejor
- Robert Ruckstuhl, Head of Radio SRF
- Silvia Schaller, independent member appointed by SRG SSR
- Stefania Verzasconi, Head of Corporate and Public Affairs RSI
- Martina Vieli, Head of Public Affairs SRG SSR (until 30.10.2023)
- Alex Ziegler, Head of Treasury, SRG SSR Group

Observer

- Silvio Flückiger, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Advisory voice

- Miren Bengoa, Director of Swiss Solidarity

COMMITTEES*

International Project Committee (COPRO-INT)

President: Koenraad Van Brabant

The International Project Committee (COPRO-INT) is made up of independent humanitarian aid experts, representatives of partner NGOs and the Swiss Solidarity management and programmes teams. It evaluates, challenges and recommends the approval or rejection of projects submitted by Swiss Solidarity's partner NGOs that require over CHF 300,000 in funding. On the basis of project evaluations carried out by the Swiss Solidarity programmes team, aid projects involving amounts of less than CHF 300,000 are reviewed using a fast-track procedure that allows for ad hoc expert advice and approval by the Foundation's Management team.

The specialists cover all the technical fields relevant to the successful deployment of the projects (health, construction, water and hygiene, education, child protection and economics). This make-up makes it possible to conduct an informed evaluation of the projects.

In 2023, COPRO-INT convened eight times and examined 79 projects. The funds involved: Afghanistan, East Africa, Child relief, Pakistan, Ukraine and Syria/Turkey.

Swiss Project Committee (COPRO-CH)

President: Pauline de Vos Bolay (until 31.03.23),

Matthias Drilling (ad interim until 31.12.23)

The Swiss Project Committee (COPRO-CH) evaluates and makes recommendations to approve or reject projects submitted by Swiss associations and institutions. It studies proposals for projects aimed at supporting people in difficulty in Switzerland requiring funding of between CHF 100,000 and CHF 150,000 for social action and over CHF 200,000 for natural disaster relief projects. Below these amounts, as for international projects, submitted projects are evaluated by the Swiss Solidarity programmes team and approved by the management team.

COPRO-CH is made up of independent experts from academia, public institutions active in social welfare, and members of the Swiss Solidarity management team. These experts represent Switzerland's four linguistic regions and have a solid knowledge of Switzerland's associations.

In 2023, COPRO-CH convened twice and examined 44 projects. The funds concerned were: Homeless and marginalised people, and Child protection. Two projects relating to the Natural disasters in Switzerland fund have been approved via correspondence.

Accreditation Committee

President: Silvia Schaller

The Accreditation Committee assesses new applications for accreditation throughout the year and conducts a review every three years to determine whether partner NGOs still meet the criteria approved by the Foundation Council.

In 2023, the Accreditation Committee convened three times. Five partners (ADRA Switzerland, Frieda – The Feminist NGO for Peace, terre des hommes schweiz, Terre des Hommes Suisse and SOS Children's Villages) were reviewed and re-accredited. In October 2023, a new organisation was accredited: Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD). Five other organisations submitted applications for accreditation; their applications were either rejected or are still being evaluated.

Financial Management Committee (COGEFI)

President: Alex Ziegler

The Financial Management Committee (COGEFI) is the body that proposes the financial strategy, and more specifically the investment strategy, which is then approved by the Foundation Council on the recommendation of its committee. It guides SwS's management in implementing this strategy and monitors its application. COGEFI reports to the Foundation Council Committee. Swiss Solidarity manages its investments using a conservative and prudent approach in line with a Responsible Investment Charter that sets out the ethical principles to be adhered to when investing, all in keeping with the Foundation's mission and values.

COGEFI is made up of a president and at least two members appointed by the Foundation Council. An investment consulting and auditing expert from PPCmetrics also assists the Committee. Swiss Solidarity's Director and Finance & Audit Manager also participate fully in COGEFI's meetings. In 2023, the Financial Management Committee convened four times.

Partner Organisations' Media Committee (MEDIACOM)

The Partner Organisations' Media Committee is an informal body that brings together the communications and fundraising managers of Swiss Solidarity and its partner NGOs.

The Committee works to align their respective communications and fundraising strategies. In 2023, two meetings were held, as were a number of ad hoc meetings for consultations on specific humanitarian situations.

* The members of the various committees are listed in the Annual Accounts document.

Photo: © François Wavre



THE SWISS SOLIDARITY TEAM

MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Miren Bengoa, Director and Head of Administration, Finance & Information Systems
- Ernst Lüber, Director of Programmes & Evaluation
- Judith Schuler, Director of Communication & Fundraising

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE & IT

- Réginald Clérisié, CRM Assistant
- Graziella Della Luce, Accounting Manager
- Mélanie Guarin, Finance & Audit Manager (since 12.09.23)
- Nicolas Haddad, Information Systems Manager
- Andreas Haile, IT Assistant
- Olivia Mettler, Finance & Audit Manager (until 30.6.23)
- Corinne Mora, Administration & Bequests Officer
- Charlotte Roberts, Administration & Training Coordinator
- Jasmine Stein, Office assistant

PROGRAMMES & EVALUATION

- Rahel Bucher, Assistant, Programmes Department
- Charline Franz, Humanitarian Programme Manager
- Aurore Geiser, Humanitarian Programme Manager
- Tasha Rumley, Head of Humanitarian Aid (until 30.4.23)
- Constance Theisen-Womersley, Head of Humanitarian Aid (since 01.07.23)
- Tabea Wäfler, Programme Officer Switzerland
- Tino Wehrle, Humanitarian Programme Manager
- Stefanie Werder, Head of Social Action Switzerland (since 01.06.2023)
- Beatrice Winkler, Humanitarian Programme Manager (since 01.11.23)

COMMUNICATIONS & FUNDRAISING

- Corinne Bahizi, Communications Manager for French-speaking Switzerland
- Sephora Benamran, Digital Marketing Manager
- Roger Biedermann, Digital Marketing Manager
- Fabian Emmenegger, Communications Manager for German- and Italian-speaking Switzerland
- Marianne Ernstberger, Head of Philanthropy (since 01.09.23)
- Martina Futterlieb, Communications Assistant (since 01.06.23)
- Petra Hörig, Head of Fundraising & Partnerships (until 30.4.23)

Communications & Social Media interns

- Allison Cabarles, Mario Ernst, David Jezdimirovic, Milena Weibel, Vanessa Wodars

DELEGATES

- Michèle Volonté, Delegate for Italian-speaking Switzerland

PARTNER NGOS WORLDWIDE



ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED IN SWITZERLAND

À Part Entière
 Accueil Parent-Enfant "La Parenthèse"
 Aide Sida Berne
 As'trame Arc (BE, JU, NE)
 Association aJir
 Association Atic
 Association Aux 6 logis
 Association corref - orientation, réinsertion formation
 Association de médiatrices interculturelles AMIC
 Association Escapade familiale
 Association Foyer Arabelle
 Association JeunesParents
 Association La Barje
 Association La Base
 Association La Maisonnée
 Association La Tuile
 Association Les Lents
 Association Maison de la Diaconie et de Solidarité
 Association PAC(O) - Projets Artistiques Collaboratifs (et Orientations)
 Association ParMi
 Association Petit Corneille
 Association pour l'Éducation

Familiale (AEF)
 Association pour la sauvegarde du logement des personnes précaires (ASLPP)
 Association pour le Bateau
 Association Reliance
 Association REPER
 Association Sleep In
 THRIVE Association
 Association vaudoise de sauvegarde du logement des personnes précarisées-AVSL
 Associazione Movimento dei Senza Voce
 Associazione SOS Ticino
 Associazione Ticinese
 Famiglie Affidatarie
 AsyLex
 ATD Quart Monde / ATD
 Vierte Welt
 AVVEC - Aide aux Victimes de Violence en Couple
 Caritas Genève
 Caritas Switzerland
 Caritas Zürich
 Centre d'accueil Malley-Prairie
 Centre Social Protestant de Genève
 Collectif d'associations pour

l'urgence sociale (CausE)
 CONTACT Fondation Aide
 Addiction
 Croix-Rouge genevoise
 Swiss Red Cross
 Fondation As'trame (GE, VD, VS)
 Fondation Asile des aveugles - Service Portails
 Fondation Au Cœur des Grottes
 Fondation ÉQUIPE VOLO
 Fondation Mère Sofia
 Fondation neuchâteloise pour la coordination de l'action sociale FAS - SAVI
 Fondation Pro Juventute
 Fondazione ASPI
 Fondazione Casa Marta
 Fondazione MATER
 Frauenhaus beider Basel
 Frauenhaus Luzern
 Frauenzentrale St. Gallen / Fachstelle Kind und Familie
 Impuls
 INST - International Network of Social Tours
 Institution Barbara Keller
 jumppls*, Fachstelle für geschlechtersensible Pädagogik
 Kirchliche Passantenhilfe
 Bern AKiB
 Le Caré
 Lernstatt Känguruh
 Marie Meierhofer Institut für das Kind
 National Coalition Building
 Institute Suisse
 OSEO Fribourg

OSEO Valais
 Particip'Action
 Point Rencontre Fribourg
 Quellenhof-Stiftung
 REPR - Relais Enfants Parents Romands
 Rêves sûrs - Sichere Träume Schweiz. Arbeiterhilfswerk Schaffhausen
 Sinnovativ Stiftung für soziale Innovation Drahtesel
 Solidara Zürich
 Solidarité femmes Biel/Bienne & Région
 Solidarité Femmes Fribourg - Centre LAVI
 St. Gallischer Hilfsverein SGHV
 Stiftung Futuri
 Stiftung Gott hilft, Betrieb Jugendstation ALLTAG
 Stiftung La Capriola
 Stiftung Liebfrauenhof Zug
 Stiftung Start Again
 Stiftung Töpferhaus
 Unabhängige Fachstelle für Sozialhilferecht UFS
 Verein Appisberg
 Verein Die Tagesfamilie
 Verein Ein Bett für Obdachlose Zug
 Verein Kinderheim St. Benedikt
 Verein kirchliche Gassenarbeit Luzern
 Verein Lernwerk
 Verein Schlupfhuus Zürich
 Verein tipiti
 Verein Wohnenbern
 Verein Wohngenuss
 Wohnheim Varnbuel
 XENIA Fachstelle Sexarbeit

EMERGENCY APPEALS ALLIANCE

For over 15 years, a dozen organisations from different countries dedicated to funding humanitarian aid have been working together as members of the Netherlands-based Emergency Appeals Alliance (EAA). This network shares expertise, best practices and experiences with media-supported fundraising campaigns launched in response to major crises and disasters.

In 2023, the annual meeting of EAA members was held in Dublin and focused on humanitarian work in Turkey and Syria.

SRG SSR: OVER 75 YEARS OF COMMITMENT

Created as a radio programme in 1946 by RTS forerunner Radio Sottens, Swiss Solidarity has always had fundraising for victims of war and disaster as its raison d'être. Despite becoming an independent foundation in 1983, Swiss Solidarity has retained close links with SRG SSR. Half the members of the Foundation Council, including its chair, are appointed by SRG SSR and help to strengthen ties with the various media (radio, television, digital) based in Switzerland's four linguistic regions.

In 2023, the partnership between SRG SSR and Swiss Solidarity was renewed, highlighting the importance of addressing the major changes that have impacted the media sector in recent decades, particularly the digitalisation of information. Last year, SRG SSR worked closely with Swiss Solidarity to support its fundraising efforts for victims of the earthquakes in Syria, Turkey and Morocco. SRG SSR also played a particularly active role during the year-end campaign to support education worldwide and access to training in Switzerland.

To mark the occasion, SRF, RTS and RSI took part in a media junket to Colombia to report on the situation on the ground. The SRG SSR business units also worked closely with Swiss Solidarity to organise a National Day of Solidarity on 21 December. In German-speaking Switzerland, Radio SRF 3 devoted four days to the theme of solidarity in French-speaking Switzerland, the appeal took the form of the Cœur à Cœur campaign, which ran for a week from Saturday 16 to Friday 22 December.

As part of the campaign, a mobile studio criss-crossed French-speaking Switzerland, giving 125 celebrities an opportunity to take to the Cœur à Cœur microphone to share their commitment to the cause on RTS's radio, television and digital platforms.

In addition to helping with fundraising campaigns, the SRG SSR's various units regularly report on the use of donations, the work of partner organisations and developments in the humanitarian sector.



Photo: © SRF





SRG SSR AMBASSADORS

Swiss Solidarity's SRG SSR ambassadors play a key role in mobilising and communicating with the public, in particular during the national solidarity campaigns. From Chur, Lugano, Zurich and Geneva, they lead the National Days of Solidarity with passion and commitment, raising public awareness of the consequences of humanitarian crises.

In 2023, they played an active part in initiatives such as the fundraisers for victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey and the earthquake in Morocco, and during the national solidarity campaign for education and training in Switzerland and worldwide.

Each of Switzerland's linguistic regions benefits from the engagement of a different celebrity. They are Carla Norghauer in Italian-speaking Switzerland, Claudia Cathomen in Romansch-speaking Switzerland, Dani Fohrler in German-speaking Switzerland and Jean-Marc Richard in French-speaking Switzerland. The National Education Day was hosted on SRF by Sandra Schiess.

** In the photo from left to right: Dani Fohrler, Claudia Cathomen, Carla Norghauer, Jean-Marc Richard*

DONORS

Private donors

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the generous donors who have chosen to support our humanitarian and social mission. Over the past year, their unwavering commitment has been the driving force behind Swiss Solidarity's work. Thanks to them, concrete social and humanitarian projects have been deployed, bringing hope to the most vulnerable. Every contribution, big or small, represents one step toward creating a more caring world.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to those who, in 2023, chose to bequeath a portion of their inheritance to Swiss Solidarity. Bequests and inheritances are vital to Swiss Solidarity. Through their wills, our benefactors express their great trust in the Foundation and their solidarity with people in distress in Switzerland and around the world.

Foundations, companies, public institutions

In 2023, many foundations and companies, towns, cantons, municipalities and even school classes demonstrated their commitment. These entities' engagement is of crucial importance, both for people in need and as a means of setting an example and showing that in Switzerland, solidarity is a value shared not only by individuals but also by organisations of all kinds.

We would also like to thank the partners who were with us in 2023:

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Swisscom

As a long-time partner, Swisscom supports Swiss Solidarity through donations and by providing equipment, infrastructure and services. For example, on National Days of Solidarity the company provides the infrastructure (telephone lines and freephone number 0800 87 07 07) to enable Swiss Solidarity to take pledges.

Keystone-ATS

This Swiss news agency supports the Foundation during its fundraising campaigns by providing it with free access to news images from disaster- and crisis-hit areas in Switzerland and abroad.

MEDIA PARTNERS

Radios Régionales Romandes, an association of French-speaking Switzerland's radio stations

The engagement of the 10 private radio stations in the French-speaking cantons is exemplary: they help broadcast Swiss Solidarity's appeals for donations and provide the public with information on how the funds raised are put to use.

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

Credit Suisse

As part of its corporate volunteering programme, employees from the bank's Customer Service Centre help us on National Days of Solidarity by staffing the Swiss Solidarity call centre to take pledges during peak hours.

Swiss Post

Although QR-bills have replaced payment slips, the public can still donate to Swiss Solidarity directly at Swiss Post counters.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Heartbeats

For the third year running, HeartBeats exhibited a series of hearts created by Swiss artists. These artworks are displayed in the streets of a different Swiss city each year; in 2023, that city was Lugano.

BonusCard.ch SA, DemoSCOPE, WEMF, intervista and Migros

These companies enable customers to donate their loyalty points to Swiss Solidarity.

Richard Huber AG

The golden yellow "Swiss Solidarity" rose was specially developed by renowned rose grower Richard Huber in 2005. Every purchase of the rose supports Swiss Solidarity's Child relief fund.





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