WHAT MAKES WOMEN UNBEATABLE?
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.

“We want our children to have the choice we didn’t have – to be able to study and find a good job.”

Marignone Yala Titori, cotton producer, Benin

“I completed the 16-week-training with an award. I am happy to have attended a course that jump-started my career as developer.”

Angela Shogani, newly trained software developer, Albania

“We were told that we women count for less. Many women do not know that we have the same rights as men.”

Clemencia López Cabrera, member of the local development council, Guatemala

FAIR OPPORTUNITIES make women unbeatable, and skills development plays a major part in creating those opportunities. Earning an income of their own makes women financially independent and reinforces their role in society. Everyone needs a fair opportunity to be able to determine their own future.
INNOVATING TO FIGHT INEQUALITY

Hunger and wars endanger and destroy people’s chances in life. Development is necessary because progress and prosperity are the fertile ground for peace. Helvetas is committed to fair opportunities for all.

Setbacks on Development Progress
Not long ago, we were on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals in many parts of the world. Poverty was declining and so was child mortality. Now those rates are rising again; hunger and poverty are increasing, with the war in Ukraine making matters worse. A far greater effort than before is needed to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals. It requires innovative organizations, such as Helvetas, that assist and strengthen people’s position with an eye on the future. With your support, young people in cities are earning an income, women are managing their finances with new apps, farmers are increasing their yields using climate-resistant seeds, and municipalities are improving their services.

I am honored to serve in my new role as Vice-Chair and help drive progress at Helvetas – a strong partner, a solidly positioned organization that fights for peace, justice and equal opportunities in life. Without opportunities, however, there is no social cohesion. Development is indispensable because it offers fertile ground for peace, as does peace for development.

Creating Fertile Ground for Peace
We have had a hopeful outlook about development in recent years as people’s lives around the world saw steady improvements. But today it seems as if the world is coming apart at the seams. People worldwide are fighting for peace, justice and equal rights – but also for their sheer survival. A pandemic and wars are threatening our health, food security and basic education, as well as weakening the economy and increasing inequality. The past year alone, the combined fortunes of the world’s 2,755 billionaires have increased by more than five trillion dollars, while at the same time 160 million people who had just lifted themselves out of poverty have been pushed back into it.

Such great levels of inequality endanger peace. When poverty is widespread, conflicts are often not far away, be it over coveted natural resources such as water and land or over political domination. Resentment boils up in fast-expanding cities and among young people without any job prospects. Disasters, conflicts, climate change and now the war in Ukraine are raising people’s opportunities in life. Without opportunities, however, there is no social cohesion. Development is indispensable because it offers fertile ground for peace, as does peace for development.

Thank you for your trust, financial support and commitment to our common cause. Supporters like you enable us to work for fair life chances so that people affected by poverty, war and disasters can shape their lives in a self-determined way.

Avery Bang, Helvetas USA Board Vice-Chair

Christian Steiner, Helvetas USA Chief Executive Officer
WHY DOES DEMOCRACY FLOURISH IN THE OPEN AIR?

Services can be improved by taking planning out of the office and to the people. As part of the Sharique project in Bangladesh, municipal authorities now carry out some of their work in public, accounting for their work and expenditure, project plans and budgets. They debate priorities with voters and have tripled spending on concerns of women and for the most disadvantaged people.
Every child has the right to a healthy life. But, worldwide, 450 million children have no access to safe drinking water. Their chance for healthy development and a good education is thus hampered from the start. An environment’s social and political context determines the opportunities and obstacles in a person’s life – no matter where you are born in the world.

According to research by World Bank economist Branko Milanovic, more than 50 percent of a person’s income can be explained by their country of birth, and 20 percent by their family background. In other words, prosperity is only minimally related to individual performance and personal responsibility. Prosperity depends primarily on geographical and family origin. Thirst for knowledge, ideas and talent play a subordinate role. They only come into play when someone is given the chance to develop them. Or, as Napoleon summarized, “Ability is nothing without opportunity.”

A child in the United States will get a promising start in life, thanks to the country’s robust healthcare system, quality education offerings, economic opportunities and democratic institutions, as well as its stable location in North America.

Fair chances to fight poverty
In many parts of the world, however, children simply do not have these fundamental advantages at birth and in early life. It is an accident of birth that people in the United States only have to turn on the tap to satisfy our thirst, while up until November 2021 Madina Muhuthage (p. 19) had to draw water for her children from a dirty hole in the ground.

It was an accident of birth that made it impossible for Sundar Thapa from Nepal to receive any vocational training. Although he was able to attend school, he could not learn a trade because of his parents’ poverty. Now he sells cheap wares from his hawker’s tray to bus passengers in Kathmandu, and has neither a regular income nor any form of social security. He regrets never having had a chance to forge a more secure future for himself and his family.

Gender is another factor that affects the course of a person’s life. The World Bank estimates that, on average, women have only three-quarters of the legal rights that men enjoy. That “on average” is misleading, though. Only ten countries in the world guarantee women precisely the same rights as men; the United States is not one of them, because women are disadvantaged by childcare, unequal pay and other gendered factors.

Billions of women were born by chance in countries where they have fewer rights than men, and where social realities impede them from exercising those rights. Such is the case of Clemencia López Cabrera from Guatemala, who for a long time believed people around her when they said that women and their opinions counted for less.

A secure future in a world worth living
Regardless of where we happened to be born, we all share the same values and the same heartfelt concerns. These include the need for autonomy and self-determina-

IMPLEMENTATION
157,998 girls and boys got their chance to go to school in 2021 thanks to Helvetas.
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 long-term efforts of creating fair opportunities for all.

Every single person counts

For each of our 304 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, 2021. Due to adjusted data collection methods, they cannot be compared with those of the previous year.
In most Maya families in the western highlands of Guatemala it is the women and girls who are responsible for childcare and household chores, along with most of the work in the fields. And yet they still cannot get ahead in life. The only place they can sell their small and irregular crops is on local markets, and the prices are correspondingly low. Larger buyers expect predictable volumes of standardized quality according to a fixed schedule.

Prodert is a Helvetas project to strengthen the small-farmer economy in five rural provinces in the western highlands. The project encourages women small holders to form groups and increase the productivity of their crop and livestock production. The second stage involves linking up these groups so that they can jointly negotiate with buyers and attain better prices. Finally, these networks become formal cooperatives so that they can also supply large-scale buyers and benefit from economies of scale. This is a process that strengthens women economically and socially.

Evelyn Caniz is one of these women. After hearing about the project, Evelyn seized her chance and started producing eggs, even though it wasn’t easy to raise her share of the seed capital, which was a condition for taking part. She and other women received training in poultry farming. They learned to organize, negotiate and stand up for themselves as well as acquiring leadership skills.

“Of course there were many things we didn’t understand at the beginning, for example what a network was,” Evelyn Caniz says. “Now we’re swamped with requests. Various organizations have invited us to teach them about our success.”

The women are advised, trained and supported by strong partners such as local authorities, ministries, educational institutions, seed suppliers, bulk buyers, savings and loan institutions, and development organizations. Helvetas places special emphasis on environmentally friendly production methods and climate resilience. Over 27,000 women and men are benefiting from these changes which were initiated with the support of the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the program contribution from SDC.

“We’ve made great economic progress thanks to our newly acquired leadership skills,” Evelyn Caniz says. “Our plans have become reality and we’ve established our own brand, Doña Huevo. It brings in more than 200,000 quetzals ($24,600) per month or over three million quetzals per year. We’re proud of our results, and now we’re millionaires! We’re currently close to signing a major deal and a very good one.”

Evelyn Caniz is president of a cooperative that produces and markets eggs, honey, tomatoes, potatoes and chicken and pig feed. She represents the concerns of smallholder women farmers in the Economic Development Committee of the District Council as well as in the Provincial Development Council, and advises other cooperatives.

The women used to have to beg their husbands for every penny, Evelyn tells us. Nowadays the men work for their wives’ businesses, which allows the women to attend courses and develop their knowledge. Evelyn’s partner also does a share of the housework now – another important aspect of the project. Because there can only be fair opportunities for all when everyone enjoys the same rights and has the same responsibilities.

“We have learned that if we believe in our project, support one another and work hard together as a team very positive results are possible and, above all, so is a future,” Evelyn Caniz says, adding: “We’re committed to continuing on this path because we want development for our community, for the women and for our young people.”
Pressure is growing on water resources in Bolivia. As farmers and mining companies argue over access, climate change is turning water into a precious commodity. As part of an SDC project Helvetas is helping the authorities in two river basins to draw up a fair water management plan and ensure that 10,000 families in this part of the high Andes are not forgotten and can improve their living conditions — including with greenhouses that allow tomatoes to ripen even many meters above sea level.

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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 2021 3,303,121 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 2021 643,690 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, 14,651 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 2021 93,071 women and men have learned 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 588,299 women and men plan their labor migration safely, responsibly, and profitably.

Alleviating suffering
Humanitarian response
In 2021 Helvetas supported 205,407 people after disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti, during the coronavirus crisis in Nepal, and such as the Rohingya refugees in the world’s largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. Helvetas combines rapid short-term humanitarian aid with long-term development cooperation so that people quickly have the chance to rebuild their daily lives and create prospects for the future.

4,833,588 people had a fair opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty with your support.
CLIMATE MIGRATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Millions of people are born in countries without safe drinking water, where food for a balanced diet is scarce and where they are poorly prepared to cope with climate change. We are grateful for your support and your commitment to giving these people a fair chance of improving their situation.

Important basics of hygiene

Only 25% of people in the Menabe region of Madagascar have access to clean water, and the sanitation situation is extremely precarious. In cooperation with One Drop Foundation and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Helvetas promotes hygiene and environmental awareness among 69,000 people to ensure that the new water system is maintained in the long term and natural resources are conserved. People learn to adapt to climate change and prepare themselves for natural disasters. Additionally, new jobs in the environmental sector strengthen the role of women.

Finance app for savings groups

People who have no chance of opening a bank account often form savings groups. This is true for farmers in Tanzania who are optimizing their horticultural production to improve their income and diet. The members of over 500 savings groups involved in a Helvetas project can now use an app to make deposits, grant loans and pay interest, thus simplifying control and saving them time. The horticultural project, by the way, was awarded third prize by the UN and the government during the national commemoration of World Food Day because it contributes to reaching the second goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Zero hunger.

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

Goal 2024

2021 result: 592,070 people

“We now have clean water that doesn’t make us sick.”
Madina Muhuthage, market vendor, Mozambique

Every evening, when Madina Muhuthage lays her head to sleep, the last thought that crosses her mind is: “What will I feed my children tomorrow?” There is very little to eat where the young woman lives, especially in the dry season. For her whole life she has had to fetch water from a hole in the ground far from her home. That all ended in November 2021 when a new water system was inaugurated in her village. Now water comes flowing out of a tap near her house and she is delighted to have both clean water and more time for her other activities, one of which is baking bread and selling it on the local market.
WHAT WE DO

encompasses both ecotourism and based on the Swiss model that working to establish a natural park planners and politicians are now foresters, scientists, countryside a nature conservation area. Farmers, sification of part of the region as supported by a local organization. One particular success was the clas- demanded by Helvetas and is now SDC project that was initially imple- emerged unscathed.

Saving biodiversity

The biodiversity of the Bregalnica river basin in North Macedonia can only be protected if local people do not depend on overexploiting the natural environment for their livelihood. This is ensured by an SDC project that was initially imple- mented by Helvetas and is now supported by a local organization. One particular success was the clas- sification of part of the region as a nature conservation area. Farmers, foresters, scientists, countryside planners and politicians are now working to establish a natural park based on the Swiss model that encompasses both ecotourism and local, natural products.

Because of an outdated national law, municipalities in Kyrgyzstan didn’t use to be allowed to finance repairs to decaying irrigation canals. Farmers started a campaign that eventually resulted in a new national law. How? Jyldyz Abdyllaeva explains.

Why did Helvetas support this advocacy process? Irrigated agriculture is one of the mainstays of farming livelihoods in southern Kyrgyzstan. However, access to irrigation is unreliable, and farmers suffer huge harvest los- ses which bring with them severe financial risks for their families. Through its Irrigation Water Integrity Project (IWIP) Helvetas sup- ported a local initiative of civil society, affected farmers and local authorities to resolve this problem. The process of advocating for a new law and having it approved by the government, the par- liament and the president was a unique experience for us.

What were the challenges? Organizing a campaign from scratch was new for all of us, but the problem was very acute. Since there was no appropriate stakeholder who would own the campaign, we estab- lished an Initiative Group consist- ing of representatives of farmers and local authorities as well as other partners. We were well trained and guided by experts from Helvetas. The result was a successful bottom- up campaign during which we learned what a campaign like this requires – patience, facts and a knowledge of political processes. We are proud to have set the first example in Kyrgyzstan that bottom- up advocacy works and that the effort is worth it!

What is the impact of the success? The new law will apply to the whole country as irrigation problems are systemic and have been observed nation-wide. The success of this courageous Initiative Group will benefit farmers all over Kyrgyzstan. The legislation will finally allow local authorities to take on responsibility for local irrigation service provision and infrastructure and invest in it. We expect that the reform will be of great benefit to the affected farmers.

“Organizing a campaign from scratch was an unexplored path for all of us”

Disaster preparedness is a matter of life and death in Haiti. The soils there tend to erode with the tiniest drop of rain, causing landslides and burying people and their crops. With support from Helvetas local people have built hundreds of meters of walls, including drystone walls, to protect their houses and fields. Two tropical storms struck in 2021, but the protected areas emerged unscathed.

Open data for health

Globally, a quarter of all health facilities have no water supply, putting patients and staff at risk. In- formation gaps prevent the responsi- ble persons and institutions from properly prioritizing investments for water, sanitation and hygiene ser- vices, including infrastructure, maintenance and behavior change. The organization Global Water Challenge aims to close this gap with a publicly accessible digital platform. The WASH Health Facility Data Exchange (WHFdx) platform is being developed by renowned institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Emory University – with the support of WASH special- ists such as Helvetas.

CHALLENGES WE FACED

Helvetas has been working with the private sector for a long time and promotes local businesses. They create jobs and can offer sus- tainable services such as repairs to water pipes or agricultural advice. However, more and more projects are now implemented with larger companies. To make sure that there is a solid basis for these partner- ships, the new Human Rights Due Diligence Tool developed by Helvetas assesses these companies for responsible conduct with regards to human rights violations, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Busi- ness and Human Rights.

© Simon B. Opladen

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CREDITWORTHINESS

All of us rely on getting a solid basic education so that we can later learn a profession; we also depend on businesses creating jobs. Many children, however, grow up in countries where their chances of attending school and finding a job are slim. We are grateful for your help to ensure that fair opportunities are not a matter of chance.

“A vision becomes a reality”

The goal of the Naafa project is to boost employment and entrepreneurship for young people in urban, peri-urban and rural parts of Burkina Faso. It uses an innovative approach called “life project”.

What lies behind the idea of the “life project”? Let’s take a young man who never had the chance to attend school. The project enables him to analyze his skills, his capabilities, his situation and his environment and also what he’d like to do in life. This all helps him to work out his own “life project” – his vision of his future. That might be, to keep chickens.

What are the advantages of this approach? The guidance it provides, and social and economic integration. That is because the young man will discuss his project with his family and his community to gain their support and consult with them about what resources he needs for his life project. This may be land that his village provides for his chicken coop. After this, the project will provide personalized theoretical and practical training as well as ongoing mentoring as he implements his project.

Are there challenges in this approach? The approach is new to young people, but once they have understood the concept, they are highly motivated. The parental support element is also essential. Implementing the project is a demanding process, but it benefits everyone.

2021 result: 46,115 people
Goal 2024: 320,000 women and men have attended a vocational education and training

Loans at last

Agriculture has enormous potential, but climate change is making it harder and harder for farmers to cultivate their fields. Helvetas is helping young people in Mali to change their attitudes to agriculture and see the opportunities it can offer. One of the major problems farmers face is the lack of access to credits. Cooperatives are especially reliant on cash to be able to purchase produce from their members and sell it on at a profit. Helvetas has now managed to arrange banking for the cooperatives and give them access to funding.

An idea takes off

With support from Helvetas and Bern University of Applied Sciences, Bhutan has developed a new curriculum for vocational training in the construction sector, with the aim of improving its energy efficiency. Meanwhile, the relevant ministry has been developing political strategies with Helvetas to embed the necessary core skills in the vocational training system and facilitate the transition to a greener economy.

Green construction sector

A client in Hanoi has just ordered ten kilos of medicinal herbs, I can sell them for a lot of money now in the off season.” Linh Trang, a producer of medicinal herbs, Vietnam

Loans at last

Group work instead of frontal instruction, interactive lessons, school gardens instead of theoretical plant science: in Tanzania, Helvetas is working with the teachers union to improve primary school teaching. In professional development courses, teachers expand their pedagogical knowledge, develop participatory model lessons, practice team teaching, and pass on their experiences to colleagues. The model is gaining traction: Tanzanian education authorities want to continue it, and the Dar es Salaam University College of Education, together with universities in Kenya and Zambia, is in the process of testing it for secondary schools.

More about our working area
Skills, Jobs and Income: helvetas.org/newperspectives
PEACEBUILDING AND UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

Billions of people are born in countries where there is limited access to basic public services, where they have to seek jobs elsewhere as economic migrants or have been displaced by war and conflict. Thank you for helping to give these people a voice.

In 2021 Helvetas convinced UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ peace-building fund to finance one of its projects. Building on its experiences in other fragile situations and its conflict-sensitive approach, Helvetas wants to help communities in Mali prevent conflicts over land and other resources in the Sahel. The idea is to draft clear rules and agree on them. A crucial factor in obtaining this funding was Helvetas’ track record for cooperating with local organizations, stakeholders, state agencies and the private sector.

Recognition from the UN Secretary-General

Our goal for 2021–24: 500,000 people have been empowered to raise their voice and claim their rights

Urban development

Switzerland has been supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina’s transition to a socially oriented, inclusive market economy and a decentralized, democratic system since 1996. On behalf of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Seco), Helvetas is working jointly with ETH Zurich and Zurich city council to help implement an urban transformation project in the capital, Sarajevo. Its aim is to introduce a more transparent and participative urban and regional development planning system that contributes to long-term economic growth. The project also aims at making the city more climate resilient and more attractive.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2024</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gender equality</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Reduced inequalities</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Sustainable cities and communities</td>
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<td>Peace, justice and strong institutions</td>
<td>16</td>
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“Girls keep being taken from public schools and put in religious schools. I don’t think that’s good.”

Dilbora Irisova, school pupil, Kyrgyzstan

2021: 81,814 people

Goal 2024

Stand up to violent extremism.

Dilbora Irisova lives in Aravan on the Silk Road. Unfortunately, trade and goods are not the only things the small town attracts. More and more often, radical Islamic preachers are coming to the area to recruit young people as fighters for Islamic State (IS). In the past year alone, 300 young women and men have left for the war in Syria. Helvetas is leading a project to improve young people’s self-esteem, strengthen their position in society, and create job prospects so that they can stand up to violent extremism.
STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Legal assistance

It started as an experiment and ended as a success. Helvetas explored in Lao PDR if, and how, gender-based violence can be discussed in public, whether traditional perceptions can be changed, and how best to provide legal assistance to women (and men) affected by violence. 4,665 women and 3,449 men were sensitized, 162 women and 23 men received legal support, and 205 judges, police officers and prosecutors were trained to handle cases. Procedural issues were also clarified, to facilitate access to justice.

Migration as an exit strategy

More and more people in Bangladesh set out to find possibilities of earning an income in nearby towns or faraway cities because higher sea levels are raising the salinity of soils and water. Studies show that migration is an increasingly common climate-adaptation strategy. The problem is that many people don’t know their rights, so Helvetas is helping them to choose safe and profitable options and also harness new technologies to forge a viable future at home.

“Use the participatory power of digital tools”

Helvetas works with local governments, civil society and citizens to ensure that local decision-making is collaborative, inclusive and sustainable. Helvetas is developing a new governance program to strengthen its engagement on these issues.

Craig Hatcher, why is Helvetas’ commitment to governance so important?

Governance is about ensuring everyone has a voice in shaping their own future. We do this by empowering women, men, youth, migrants and indigenous peoples and strengthening civil society organizations to actively engage in local decision-making. A community might prioritize funding for a new school over fixing a road, for example. At the same time, we support national, regional and local governments in fostering inclusive decision-making processes and delivering services for all, leaving no one behind.

How are you going to ensure innovation?

During the pandemic some council meetings moved from town hall to online. That provided new opportunities for citizens to participate. The participatory power of such digital tools needs to be harnessed more. Then there is urbanization. Job opportunities are pulling migrants from rural areas to cities. This urban growth poses challenges in providing basic services such as water and sanitation for everyone. Helvetas looks for ways to ensure that rapid urbanization benefits everyone, especially the poor and marginalized.

Governance is a very abstract concept:

Yes, it sounds intangible – it’s working on processes, on changing behaviors, attitudes and ways of collaborating with the citizens. In addition, governments are often perceived as bureaucratic and sometimes corrupt. But our experience shows that the willingness of local authorities to improve their services is high, if only they are given the necessary knowledge and tools and the population gets involved. Only this will have long-lasting success.

CHALLENGES WE FACED

People who are forced to live without official papers often have no access to education, health-care and a secure job, nor are they allowed to purchase property. In many places they cannot open a bank account or get a mobile phone without papers. Helvetas wanted to provide financial support to women and men in Nepal who had lost their income due to Covid. Since many of the most disadvantaged people Helvetas works with have no official ID, the money could only be paid once their municipalities had issued them the requisite documents. People need papers to claim their rights and get access to essential services. Again and again, this hinders Helvetas’ work.

Helvetas’ longstanding experience in the Western Balkans and recent studies in Eastern Partnership countries have confirmed the enormous potential of working with the diaspora to contribute to development in their countries of origin. RECONOMY is a 12-country program funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and implemented by Helvetas to strengthen green and inclusive economies and regional cooperation. It also aims to identify the barriers to diaspora engagement, and ways of tapping into this under-exploited potential.

Harnessing the potential of the diaspora

On behalf of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Helvetas distributes money to civil society organizations in Sri Lanka that work with and for disadvantaged young people to prevent violent extremism and political radicalization. The goal is for young people to learn to engage in a dialogue with local authorities and the security forces and to be open-minded towards people from other religions or ethnic groups. The project also stimulates critical thinking and mediation skills in conflict situations, and counters hate speech and fake news through targeted campaigns.

Standing up to hate

Craig Hatcher is an advisor on governance for Helvetas.

Would you like to learn more about Helvetas’ new governance program?

Contact craig.hatcher@helvetas.org

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SEEDS AND ACCOMMODATION

No one gets to choose whether he or she is born in Switzerland or in earthquake-prone Haiti, in crumbling Lebanon, in Covid-ravaged Nepal or as a Rohingya in Myanmar. Thank you for supporting people in distress and helping them to create new prospects for themselves. Fair opportunities must not be left to chance.

Food for Beirut

Lebanon has long been in an economic hole, but its troubles have deepened since the devastating explosion in Beirut’s port in 2020. Inflation has risen to horrendous levels and food has become virtually unaffordable. Helvetas is working with farmers to supply healthy food to some of the city’s most disadvantaged residents. It is supporting farming families to produce more with natural inputs, and social businesses to sell the products to people in particular need.

Affordable disinfectant

Disinfectant was in short supply during the coronavirus pandemic in Mozambique, which meant that prices soared and some health centers went without. With funding from SDC and advice from Helvetas, a domestic social enterprise produces medical alcohol from the waste from sugarcane production and perishable cashew apples. Not only does this make disinfectant available, it also generates additional income for smallholder families.

The salaries Aixa Cayupare and her husband Jorge earned as doctors in Venezuela were not sufficient to feed their family. So they undertook the dangerous journey to Peru, where Jorge found work as a doctor and Aixa a job working in a pharmacy. When Jorge died, Aixa was faced with the ruins of the dream they had shared – jobless because she had to look after the children and without any papers to prove they were her own. Helvetas was able to provide legal and financial assistance to Aixa and many other migrants thanks to donations from Swiss Solidarity. “Helvetas helped me at a time of immense loneliness,” she says.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

1 No poverty
2 Zero hunger
3 Good health and well-being
6 Clean water and sanitation
10 Reduced inequalities
WHAT WE DO

In 2017 hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh, where they now live in the world’s largest refugee camp. In close cooperation with UN organizations, the government, and other NGOs, Helvetas is trying to make their lives as bearable as possible. Insights from Kamlesh Vyas, humanitarian coordinator in Cox’s Bazar.

The international community is still in Humanitarian Response mode and so is Helvetas despite the Rohingya having moved to Cox’s Bazar four years ago. Why? The short answer is: because they are in need. The longer answer is: a sustainable solution to the problem is difficult as there are multi-layered challenges. There is the humanitarian side: 1,000,000 plus people, their daily needs and protection. Then there is the political side: negotiations for a solution to keep failing, while the Rohingya are suffering. They are restricted in their movements, cannot generate income and have nothing to live on. We can’t just leave them in that situation.

Looking back at 2021, what did Helvetas do?
Our joint Disaster Risk Reduction activities together with the communities and national partner NGOs were very important. There have been fires, flash floods and other disasters. We have fully trained 500 volunteers, both Rohingya and locals, who intervene, inform and raise awareness about how to behave if a fire breaks out, during downpours, and on Covid-19 protective measures. These volunteers evacuated 5,000 people before the floods, saving many lives. Helvetas, after all, is in charge of five camps with around 150,000 people on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

How can the Rohingya be helped?
We used donations from Swiss Solidarity to support the Rohingya and the host community to set up vertical gardens in the limited space available. This gives women a chance to grow nutritious food. We train local service providers who in turn train the Rohingya to do this. This has encouraged interaction within communities and has built trust. We also helped the government to put up isolation tents for people with Covid-19 and made people aware of vaccination opportunities.

What was the biggest of the many challenges in 2021?
The lockdown situation, which was only lifted in August. We weren’t able to move, and we knew how great the misery was. Eventually we were able to coordinate relief by organizing WhatsApp meetings and training sessions on mobile phones. Rohingya refugees aren’t allowed to have mobile phones but some of our volunteers are from the host communities and so they could act as intermediaries. We built up a strong working relationship with the Bangladesh government and were one of the first organizations allowed back into the camps after the lockdown.

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In August 2021 the earth shook in southern Haiti, damaging or destroying over 100,000 homes. 266 schools and 25 health centers. Helvetas swiftly freed up funds to provide emergency accommodation and hygiene sets containing toothbrushes, soap, sanitary napkins and water purification tablets. Earthquake victims received psychological support, and people were paid for helping with the clean-up operation. As the local market continued to function properly, there was no food distribution. Helvetas has been operating in Haiti for almost 40 years in the very region that was hit. This meant it could respond rapidly and pragmatically despite political instability and a precarious security situation.

Covid, lockdowns and then flooding: Pakistan’s tourism industry was severely damaged by coronavirus. Many workers lost their jobs and had no prospect of finding another one, leaving them without any money for food. Helvetas used donations from Swiss Solidarity to provide protective equipment to 317 hotels and also distributed seed so that struggling families could grow vegetables on their land. The result: 454 new kitchen gardens were planted in an incredibly short space of time.
**ADVOCATING FOR WATER SECURITY**

In late 2021 Helvetas USA received a generous anonymous donation that allowed us to create new advocacy initiatives to further our water and climate work in Ethiopia and Madagascar. Helvetas believes advocacy efforts play an essential role in helping projects achieve the systemic change that will lead to sustainable management of water resources.

**Climate Change’s Toll on Resource Availability**

Both countries are suffering from climate change’s toll on water availability. In summer 2021, southern Madagascar was on the brink of the world’s first climate-induced famine. In Ethiopia, consecutive years of poor rainy seasons have resulted in Ethiopia’s worst drought in recent history.

More awareness of key issues, better cooperation across all levels of government, and inclusive participation of all parts of society is urgently needed in Madagascar and Ethiopia. Our new initiatives are geared toward helping the most-affected communities learn more about the sustainability of their water supply, understand their role in ecosystem management, and formulate plans for coping with future gaps in water availability.

**Addressing Water Shortages in Madagascar**

Private operators are a critical part of the water supply network in Madagascar. But climate change is causing fluctuations in groundwater availability, leaving operators periodically unable to deliver water that people rely on to meet their daily needs. This problem could worsen in the future, heightening the immediate need to find ways to sustainably adapt and maintain water service for the long term.

Helvetas’ new WASH advocacy initiative will partner with regional authorities and a local university to design a simple and participatory groundwater monitoring system. The system’s findings will be publicly available, allowing clients increased visibility into when there will be water shortages. This will help all stakeholders better understand the sustainability of their water supply and prepare for future shortages.

**Valuing Ecosystem Services in Ethiopia**

The Amhara Region in northwest Ethiopia is highly affected by climate change, water scarcity and land degradation. Poor ecosystem services exacerbate these problems, resulting in a lack of conservation of essential resources that affects both the livelihoods of communities and the efficient use of water downstream.

Farming communities — the key upstream watershed stakeholders that downstream communities depend on — are rarely involved in ecosystem management beyond their micro watershed. There’s a need to establish and promote a system that acknowledges their role in the system and agree on a fair compensation mechanism. One compensation source that benefits all would be payments from downstream communities that incentivize conservation activities by upstream farming communities.

Together with national ministries and a local university, Helvetas has developed a model for collaborative agreements on compensation for ecosystem services. This model is a first of its kind in Ethiopia around water (existing ones focus only on forests). Contracts will be signed between downstream water users, watershed unions and community organizations, with a particular focus on women’s involvement in the negotiation process.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS**

Helvetas is convinced that experiences are there to be shared so we can learn from them and better achieve our goals. One instrument for doing this is carefully facilitated knowledge exchange between all the stakeholders.

We have eight years left to meet the goals of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Given that over 800 million people worldwide go hungry and populations are rising in several regions of the world, every government needs to focus on rural development. The priority must be livelihoods and strategies to cope with the consequences of climate change.

**United for greater impact**

Achieving the SDGs calls not only for greater commitment but also greater efficiency. There is an incredible abundance of data and information around the world that could be used for this purpose, but all too often it is neglected. As part of AVANTI, an initiative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Helvetas is building the capacity of agriculture ministries in 17 countries to make the most of their knowledge and exchange information with civil society organizations and the private sector.

The idea behind this is that if institutions and organizations share their data and interpret it from different perspectives, they will be more likely to figure out whether measures that have been implement ed — e.g. for combating malnutrition or strengthening women’s economic position — actually have the desired impact. If this is not the case, then they can adapt their strategies and policies to make sure that rural development fulfills its potential.

The initiative addresses the beginning of a very long impact chain. Experts and specialists from Helvetas and Ifad, one of its partner organizations, carefully facilitate this process, which acts as a kind of “synchronizing” of knowledge. As many actors as possible are brought together around one table with the objective of helping agriculture ministries to break out of their traditional thinking patterns and cooperate with all the different actors involved in rural development. They all use a specially developed tool and process to identify and analyze weaknesses. The next step is then to draw on this analysis to develop and implement practical improvements.

The experiences in Ghana, Peru, Laos and Samoa have been promising.

AVANTI makes the connections from 17 countries available worldwide in order to stimulate further learning. The studies highlight trends and general bottlenecks as well as tried-and-tested practices. There is a growing need for these kinds of mediated multi-stakeholder arrangements as they can improve information exchange for the planning of projects, programs, strategies and policies in complex contexts.

For further information see avantiagriculture.org
Young women and men are never short of plans for their own futures, but they are short of opportunities to realize those plans. Helvetas has come up with an answer to the problem of high youth unemployment in Mozambique. Short training courses for sought-after jobs prepare young people for the world of work. As the case of Neuza Yacussa (pictured) shows, there is great demand for trained staff. The company she trained with immediately took her on as an instructor.

WHO HAS A SAY WITH THE SAW?
Helvetas USA continues to build new relationships each year and expand existing ones, raising more than $7 million in 2021 from our generous funding partners. The financials of our fast-growing affiliate organization are incorporated into Helvetas’ financial overview on these pages, and shared in detail on page 38.

### HELVETAS’ GLOBAL BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>49,626,029</td>
<td>41,517,769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketable securities</td>
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<td>19,444,274</td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets in project countries</td>
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<td>Prepayments and accrued income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>110,150,191</td>
<td>95,145,602</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES | |
| Accounts payable | 10,992 | 15,766 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 521,842 | 696,486 |
| Intangible assets | 1,391,526 | 747,859 |
| Fixed assets | 1,924,160 | 1,462,111 |

### HELVETAS’ ANNUAL REPORT 2021

#### OUR FINANCES

**Source of Funds**

- Income from fundraising: 25.9%
- Program contribution SDC: 5.3%
- Mandates SDC: 37.6%
- Project funding organizations: 21.6%
- Income advisory services: 3.0%
- Other operating income: 0.3%

**Use of Funds**

- Asia: 24.8%
- Africa: 22.2%
- Latin America: 17.8%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 16.6%
- Asia: 24.8%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 16.6%
- Africa: 22.2%
- Latin America: 17.8%
- Asia: 24.8%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 16.6%
- Africa: 22.2%
- Latin America: 17.8%
- Asia: 24.8%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 16.6%

### HELVETAS’ GLOBAL STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2021 in USD</th>
<th>2020 in USD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
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<td>Donation from the public</td>
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<td>Legacies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program contribution SDC</td>
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<td>Mandates SDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project funding from organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from advisory services</td>
<td>4,940,598</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from Fair Trade</td>
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<td>1,263,237</td>
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<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>556,006</td>
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<td>Income from services provided</td>
<td>123,833,366</td>
<td>112,989,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>166,722,014</td>
<td>151,519,299</td>
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### EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2021 in USD</th>
<th>2020 in USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>-35,169,637</td>
<td>-33,944,624</td>
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<td>Asia</td>
<td>-40,438,912</td>
<td>-37,847,992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>-28,165,774</td>
<td>-23,138,525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>-26,765,189</td>
<td>-21,829,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program coordination and support</td>
<td>-2,781,070</td>
<td>-2,574,126</td>
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<td>Expenditures on international programs</td>
<td>-133,320,582</td>
<td>-119,334,764</td>
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<td>Expenditure on advisory services</td>
<td>-6,140,948</td>
<td>-5,622,523</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure on projects in Switzerland</td>
<td>-7,989,951</td>
<td>-521,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure on Fair Trade</td>
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<td>-1,541,473</td>
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<td>Head Office</td>
<td>-5,276,208</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>-9,424,774</td>
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<td>Read Office and fundraising</td>
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<td>-13,951,986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure from services delivered</td>
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<td>-145,662,069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating profit/loss</td>
<td>6,757,580</td>
<td>5,857,230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial result</td>
<td>2,255,741</td>
<td>674,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other result</td>
<td>-74,838</td>
<td>-20,590</td>
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<td>Result before change in funds capital</td>
<td>8,938,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in funds capital</td>
<td>-3,984,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual result before allocation to organizational capital</td>
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<td>Allocations/utilizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Free capital</td>
<td>1,331,976</td>
<td>1,165,647</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fund for value fluctuation of marketable securities</td>
<td>548,739</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Strategy Acceleration fund</td>
<td>1,975,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Social fund</td>
<td>1,097,478</td>
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</table>
HELVETAS USA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Contributions and Grants</td>
<td>6'458'570</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation</td>
<td>701'831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual and Board Member Contributions</td>
<td>143'133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>55'605</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support</strong></td>
<td>7'303'583</td>
<td>6'045'379</td>
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EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Funds</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td>200'660</td>
<td>182'666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>168'701</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>7'111'495</td>
<td>5'984'398</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Change in Net assets

| Change in Net assets                  | 192'088  |
| Net assets, Beginning of Year         | 287'671  |
| Net assets, End of Year               | 479'759  |

HELVETAS USA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Contributions and Grants</td>
<td>7'303'583</td>
<td>6'045'379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and Board Member Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HELVETAS is a politically and denominationally neutral association, supported by over 100,000 members, benefactors and donors as well as regional volunteer groups. Helvetas USA Board members lead the U.S. affiliate through their invaluable oversight and advisement.

OFFICERS

- Melchior Lengsfeld, Chairperson, Executive Director of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- Avery Bang, Vice-Chair, Vice President, Gracon
- Stefan Stollie, Secretary, Head Communications and Fundraising and Member of the Management Board of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- Rudolf Laager, Treasurer, President, Lukasa International
- Christian Steiner, Executive Director, Helvetas USA

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- Lance Pierce, CEO, NetHope
- Sarina Prabasi, Co-Founder, Buunni Coffee
- Raghuvir Vinukollu, SVP (Climate Resilience and Solutions Lead), Munich Reinsurance America
- Mark Way, Head Sustainability Underwriting, Zurich North America

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Africa 66.5%
Asia 28.3%
Supporting Services 2.4%
Fundraising 2.8%

USE OF FUNDS

Africa 66.5%
Asia 28.3%
Supporting Services 2.4%
Fundraising 2.8%
Aninjara Arsène is a farmer from Antrema. He lives in the Diana region in northeast Madagascar, and his family’s livelihood is producing cocoa and bananas. Before charity: water and Helvetas helped install Antrema’s first water supply system, the nearest water source to the village was an unprotected well one mile from his village. “I had to transport the water with my bicycle, which could only carry 20 pounds of water on his bike. "Access to drinking water in the village has changed our life, " said Aninjara. “With the time saved, we can expand our banana crops and we have more time to maintain them properly. I plan to increase the management of the tap stand in my neighborhood and this allows me to generate additional funds to finance the expansion of my crops."

Today, Aninjara no longer spends hours each day hauling 85 water distribution points and four schools in these regions. To promote the sustainability of the system, the water points are run by local companies who receive training on the operation and maintenance and are responsible for overseeing water quantity and quality. Water users pay based on consumption, using a fee structure agreed upon collaboratively with providers and users to ensure affordability for village populations over the long term.

"Because of the difficulty of fetching water, we used the water only for cooking and drinking. My wife would carry our dirty clothes two miles roundtrip to wash them in the river." There is an abundance of water resources in northeastern Madagascar, yet less than 25% of people living in the Diana and Menabe regions have access to safe water. In 2021, Helvetas and charity: water partnered with local authorities and private operators to install 15 water systems serving 415 water distribution points and four schools in these regions. To promote the sustainability of the system, the water points are run by local companies who receive training on the operation and maintenance and are responsible for overseeing water quantity and quality. Water users pay based on consumption, using a fee structure agreed upon collaboratively with providers and users to ensure affordability for village populations over the long term.

Today, Aninjara no longer spends hours each day hauling 85 pounds of water on his bike. "Access to drinking water in the village has changed our life, " said Aninjara. "With the time saved, we can expand our banana crops and we have more time to maintain them properly. I plan to increase my production for the next season. I am also in charge of the management of the tap stand in my neighborhood and this allows me to generate additional funds to finance the expansion of my crops."
I could count the people on my hand. I could count the trees. At most I can count is trees. At most I can count is trees.

“This used to be desert. Today, all I see is trees. At most I can hear the people still.”

Jean Jacob Fleurilus, owner of a tree nursery, Haiti
In 2021, thanks to a wave of solidarity, Helvetas received almost $43 million in donations and other income totaling $113.9 million. This allowed 1,400 committed Helvetas staff and about 900 partner organizations worldwide to help 2.6 million women and 2.2 million men in 33 countries forge a life without poverty.