

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



HELVETAS
USA

**WHAT
PROVIDES STABILITY
TO PEOPLE IN NEED?**

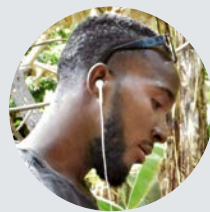
Our vision is a just world in which all men and women determine the course of their lives in dignity and security, using environmental resources in a sustainable manner.

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



Chinara Yusupova,
local councilor, Kyrgyzstan

“This training earned me respect. I’m someone now.”



Sauveson Bonnet,
self-employed locksmith,
Haiti

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



Pili Mohammed,
farmer with a forest garden,
Tanzania

© Patrick Rohr; Titelbild: © Leaha Berezovskiy



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

28-year-old Ljuba Mirsa helping refugees at the Moldovan border in March 2022.
Cover photo: 73-year-old Maria Koval in front of her repaired house in Kopyliv, Ukraine.



© Issa Battiono

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DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON PEACE

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

The keys to a stable and secure future

Over the past three years, the world has been shaken by a series of global crises. The consequences of the pandemic, the Ukraine war, climate emergency and price increases are burdening more and more people. That is true here in Switzerland, but it is even starker in poor countries in the Global South. Fortunately, though, we do not need to sit idly by and watch as the progress made in the battle against hunger, poverty and inequality is swept away. There are things we can do. Helvetas highlights these courses of action every day through our work in our project countries and also in our “Appeal for Global Justice”, which has collected 10,000 signatures. In conjunction with the people of Switzerland, politicians and the private sector, we are committed to campaigning for sustainable development and global justice. If these are to become a reality, it will take both fairer and more farsighted policies and strong development cooperation – these are the keys to a stable and more secure future. This is why we demand that Switzerland finally makes good on its promise to devote 0.7% of its GDP to creating equal opportunities worldwide and fair chances for all so that no one must live in poverty. Thank you for your dedicated support, which allows people around the world to face the future with greater confidence.

Regula Rytz, Helvetas Board President



© Maurice K. Grüning

Melchior Lengsfeld, Helvetas Executive Director and Helvetas USA Board Chair, and Regula Rytz, Helvetas Board President.

Giving up is not an option

Many of the political, social and economic crises we face – the pandemic, the food crisis, conflicts and the dramatic effects of climate change – were predictable and indeed predicted. The impacts on our partner countries are massive, many magnitudes greater than in Switzerland, and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has aggravated an already bad situation over the past year. These countries’ debts have rocketed, and rising prices for food and energy are driving inflation ever higher. At the same time, they lack the economic means to create social safety nets or launch economic development initiatives. The result is the most severe increase in worldwide poverty since the Second World War.

This in turn feeds new conflicts, and authoritarian tendencies are gaining ground in many countries. The world is becoming more fragile and therefore less secure. Looking away is not an option. Development depends on peace and peace on development. In the three decades prior to the pandemic, global poverty was declining; together, we must chart a path back to this development trajectory. Thanks to your support, we at Helvetas will continue promoting social, political and economic change so that people all over the world have a fair opportunity to take control of their own lives and contribute to the development of their families, villages and countries.

Melchior Lengsfeld, Helvetas Executive Director and Helvetas USA Board Chair

WHY DO ROADS LEAD TO INDEPENDENCE?

Roads don't just reduce the distance to school (as pictured), to markets or to health centers. They also generate income in many different ways. The evaluation of an SDC project implemented by Helvetas in Burkina Faso is revealing: 32,000 people, 70% of them women, were involved in building and repairing 271 miles of roads; many people used this income as seed capital to start their own businesses. Incomes in the villages rose by an average of 25%. Helvetas is assisting ten similar projects in seven regions of Burkina Faso.



WE HAVE A LOT TO LOSE

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

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

In addition, there is the worldwide food crisis that has built up over many years because our entire food system, from production through processing and distribution to consumption, has long been unsustainable. Conflicts, the climate emergency, the pandemic, and finally the war in Ukraine have fueled such a surge in food prices that the World Food Programme has been forced to cut rations. People are going without meals or resorting to unhealthy, cheaper options.

Simultaneously, 60 countries are now classified as fragile. They are home to a quarter of the global population. Their governments are incapable of meeting their core responsibilities, such as protecting their people,

A reliable partner in an emergency
When an emergency strikes, Swiss Solidarity, depending on the severity, launches into action. With its support, combined with generous donations from Swiss people, organizations like Helvetas can respond rapidly to deal with basic necessities. Swiss Solidarity assesses project applications quickly and efficiently, and funds up to 80% of the estimated cost. Helvetas then covers the remaining amount from direct donations. In 2022, Swiss Solidarity and you as a donor financed emergency aid and reconstruction projects worth more than \$4.1 million.

guaranteeing a functioning infrastructure, and providing social services. They show great failings in terms of the rule of law and are often places of violent conflict. Climate change is a significant factor in the destabilization of these countries, further feeding the need for humanitarian aid. Helvetas is active in 15 of these 60 countries.

This is why Helvetas is increasingly providing humanitarian response. Our national and local experts are able to act swiftly thanks to our longstanding presence in these countries and cooperation with

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

partners from the European Alliance 2015. Yet emergency aid also means that we must quickly raise extra financial resources. The amount required is increasing every year and with every disaster. This humanitarian response is only possible because we have strong partners who stand by us, most importantly Swiss Solidarity and the Swiss people (see box). They support refugees in Ukraine, host families in Moldova, flood victims in Pakistan, those affected by famine in Ethiopia, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and migrants in Peru... and the list goes on.

However, even as Helvetas is alleviating the immediate suffering, our teams are already looking to the future. Our goal is to always create basic economic, social and political conditions so people have a fair chance to forge secure livelihoods for themselves without fear of poverty and exclusion. The right conditions allow businesses to flourish, to create jobs and to guarantee decent working conditions. They



© Franz Thiel

The drought in the Borana region of Ethiopia has driven many nomadic pastoralists to refugee camps in their desperate search for food.

strengthen the rule of law and promote people's participation in politics. The international community has made so much progress in the past few decades. Deaths in infancy and childbirth have fallen and rates of schooling and pupils completing school have risen, as has the number of middle-income families. The number of people living in extreme poverty has dropped starkly, as has the number of fatalities from natural disasters. There have been regular setbacks, such as those triggered by the pandemic and by the war in Ukraine. But giving up is not an option. Every human being has the right to fair opportunities.

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

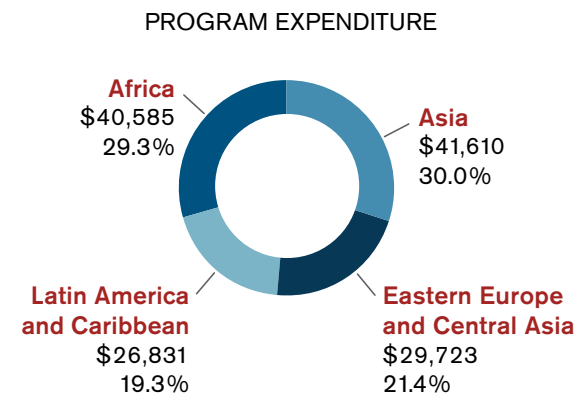
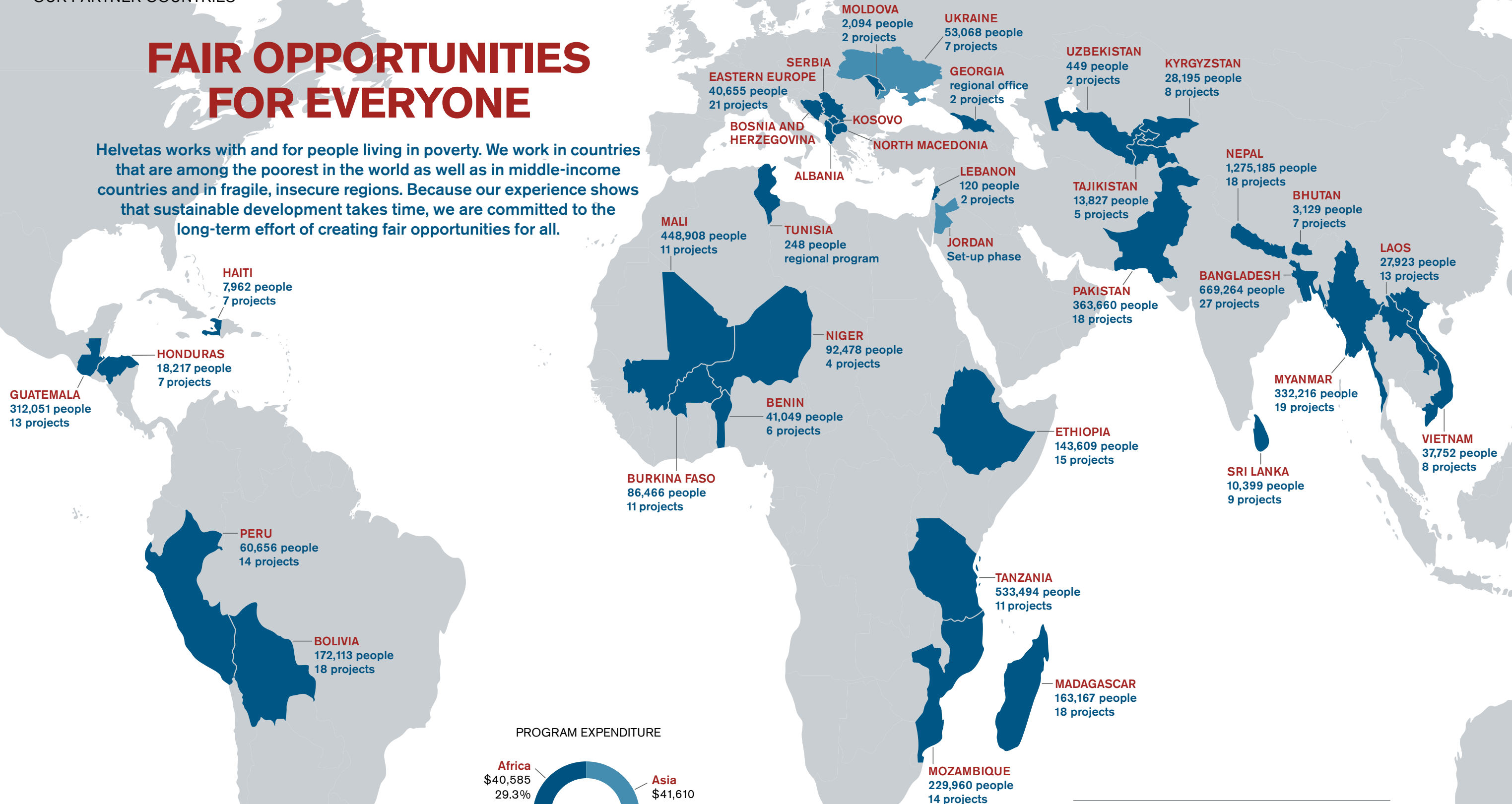
In the context of the war in Ukraine, fears of an energy crisis, and the growing number of authoritarian

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

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

FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

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



■ Partner countries
■ New partner countries

Every single person counts

For each of our 319 projects, Helvetas collects annual data on how many women and men have directly benefited from improvements such as vocational training courses, new water connections or safer migration, and how many organizations and institutions have been strengthened. The figures reflect the situation as of December 31, 2022.

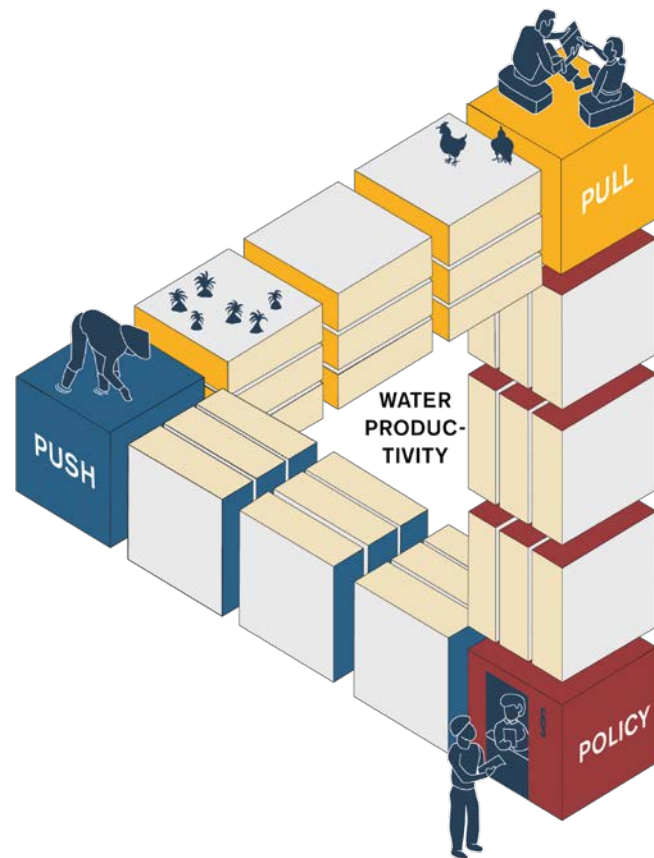
USING PRECIOUS WATER RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY

Approximately 70% of freshwater worldwide is used in agriculture. Rice and cotton are two notoriously thirsty crops. Water is becoming an increasingly scarce commodity, not least due to climate change. So how can Helvetas help to solve this problem? Some answers from Peter Schmidt, Senior Advisor for Agriculture and Food.

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

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

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



© Simon B. Opladen

Cotton is usually a water-intensive crop. Nowadays, though, it is produced in a sustainable manner that saves water in many parts of Kyrgyzstan.

from KEK–CDC Consultants in Zurich stated that the project has “the greatest probability of making a sustainable impact in a complex system that I have seen in my career to date”. So, what were the components that contributed to the project’s success?

- It focused on a problem of global significance – addressing the shortage of water for food production – and built a shared vision of all stakeholders to solve the problem.
- The project came up with a clear approach that everyone could understand and implement, as well as a catchy name: “Push – Pull – Policy” (see illustration). “Push” stands for the support and advice provided to producers so that they can comply with specific production methods that easily reduce water usage. “Pull” means guaranteed purchases of goods produced in a water-efficient manner by private clients who generally pay an additional premium price. Finally, “Policy” signifies, on the one hand, that the producers learn to claim their human right to water, and on the other that governments adapt the regulatory framework to reward efficient water use.

- It was the wide range of stakeholders that simultaneously laid the groundwork for the project’s success and also represented its greatest challenge. Yet Helvetas successfully created a shared understanding and built mutual trust through active facilitation and comprehensive knowledge management.

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



WHAT PUTS YOUNG PEOPLE IN TOUCH WITH REALITY?

In June, Helvetas and the ZHAW School of Engineering in Zurich carried out a series of virtual reality (VR) training courses for aspiring electricians in Tanzania. Their task was to test the lighting system and a fuse box in a virtual auto repair shop. VR allowed the students to familiarize themselves with difficult and even potentially dangerous activities virtually before attempting them in real life. It will be some time before VR is widely used in vocational training, whether in Tanzania or Switzerland, but the methodology has enormous potential, especially in countries where the necessary practice material is in short supply. © Franz Thiel

WHAT WE DO

Helvetas implements development and humanitarian aid projects. We ensure basic rights, create new perspectives, and strengthen good governance. We also provide technical advisory services, develop subject-specific expertise, and engage in political dialogue and lobbying.



Ensuring basic rights

Water, food and climate

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

Creating new perspectives

Skills, jobs and income

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

Strengthening good governance

Voice, inclusion and cohesion

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

Alleviating suffering

Humanitarian response

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



© FAO/Omar Lucas

At 15,000 feet above sea level in Peru, Timoteo Velazquez Alvarez and Isabel Flores are renaturing the grasslands to save their livelihoods so they do not have to leave.

5,168,314 people had a fair opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty with your support.

FIGHTING HUNGER AND CLIMATE DAMAGE

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

Women's voices for water

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

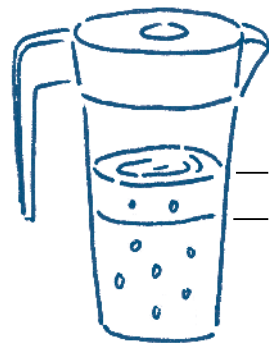


The value of water

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

Our goal for 2021–24:

1 million people have gained direct access to safe drinking water



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

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



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

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

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



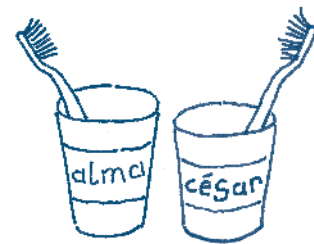
Stopping diarrhea

822 municipalities in **Guatemala** with almost 323,000 inhabitants have been awarded a label that recognizes the fact that their populations no longer have to relieve themselves outdoors. 10,724 families have built their own toilets. The methodology for encouraging municipalities and individuals to go along with the scheme has since been employed outside the project region, and the health ministry plans to embed Helvetas' approach nationally. The aim of this project, developed jointly with UNICEF and a private foundation, is to greatly decrease outbreaks of diarrhea among small children.

A CHALLENGE FOR 2022
An agreement to create a Loss and Damage Fund was the main outcome of COP27. Losses from climate-related extreme events are growing, overwhelming the capacities of people, governments and the humanitarian system. For the floods in Pakistan (p.29), the damage is estimated at \$30 billion. How this fund will be financed, who will be eligible to receive assistance from it, and how damages will be assessed – including non-economic ones such as loss of water sources, habitats and culture – are all open questions. Helvetas participated as a member of civil society in the official Swiss delegation to strengthen the voices of affected people in the negotiations.

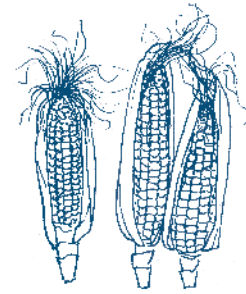
Implementing the law

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



A hygiene fair

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



Saving harvests

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

More about our working area Water, Food and Climate: helvetas.org/basicrights



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

“We used local products”

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

What is the impact of the food crisis on people in Mali?

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

What is Helvetas doing in this situation?

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

Has Helvetas also been able to tackle malnutrition?

Given the lack of imported nutritional products, we worked

with Sotuba's Laboratoire Technique Agricole to develop a nutritious flour for children and the elderly. It consists of rice, millet and maize, enriched with proteins such as black-eyed beans and soy as well as energy sources such as groundnuts and baobab fruit. We organized information campaigns targeted at parents to tell them how important these nutrients are for their children's development.



Rosaline Dacko is the head of agricultural projects for Helvetas Mali.

FIGHTING STEREOTYPES AND BUREAUCRATIC COSTS

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

Organic cashews for Europe

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



Booming dual vocational training

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

Our goal for 2021–24:

320,000
women and men have attended a vocational education and training



2021–22 result:
101,957 people

Goal 2024

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

- 2** Zero hunger
- 4** Quality education
- 8** Decent work and economic growth

“I would like to save up enough money to help my wife start her own business.”

Arnaud Donatien, newly trained solar engineer, Madagascar



In Madagascar, 70% of unemployed people are under 25 years of age. Jobs are particularly hard to come by in rural areas. The Miasa project, which is funded by various foundations, gives young people in the countryside the chance to learn a trade that not only reflects their own skills and preferences but is also in demand on the local market. The training courses are provided at the young people’s villages and are adapted to their personal availability. Businesses, training centers and local authorities are all pulling together to create decent and secure jobs.

“This is all about social cohesion”

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

Why does Helvetas offer skills training in a refugee camp?

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

So what is Helvetas doing?

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

That is really important because they are all confronted with these issues. Overall, they are receiving lessons for life – and that is essential in the camp context. It keeps their hopes up. If they ever get the chance to leave, they will have vocational and social skills.

Which aspect is most important?

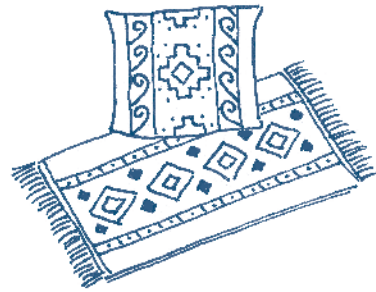
This is all about social cohesion, about not getting into trouble. There are many cases of domestic and gender-based violence. Everything is interlinked. The training gives the young people self-esteem. They can lend a hand wherever this is needed. It gives them a purpose.

What are the challenges?

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



Nasrin Akter is Humanitarian Coordinator for Helvetas Bangladesh in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp. The project focusing on pre-vocational skills development is financed by UNHCR.



Top Destination

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

“You can find work even if you are unskilled. But if you have learned some skills you can do a better job – and life will be easier.”

As part of a vocational training program that Helvetas is implementing for SDC in **Nepal**, Kalpana Shrestha is taking a nine-month cookery course, which is inspired by the Swiss “dual system” combining schooling and work experience. Within three years, our Nepalese implementing partner managed to recruit 450 small and medium companies, which gave 6,382 young people the chance to learn practical vocational skills during the first phase of the project.



Ghanshyam Timalsina collects milk for khoa production. With his help, his parents' family dairy in Nepal is thriving.

449,370

people benefited in 2022 from the support for sustainable growth of micro and small enterprises across economic sectors.

A CHALLENGE IN 2022

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



Counting the bureaucratic cost

The 12-country RECONOMY program in the Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans aims to make it easier for women and young people to become entrepreneurs. However, the existing bureaucratic requirements (permits, fees, certificates) are costly. In this program, financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

(SIDA), Helvetas supports companies, associations, and authorities in jointly creating a conducive economic environment. In **Ukraine** and **Moldova**, the M-test digital tool allows companies and associations to calculate the actual bureaucratic costs of an existing regulation. Thus informed, they can advocate to the relevant authorities for leaner regulations. The program was adapted in Ukraine in 2022 and has continued despite the war. In Moldova it was used intensively in 2022.

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

MORE COMPETENCIES AND TRANSPARENCY

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

A unique mandate

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



New capacities

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

Our goal for 2021–24:

500,000 people have been empowered to raise their voice and claim their rights



Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

- 5** Gender equality
- 10** Reduced inequalities
- 11** Sustainable cities and communities
- 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions

More about our working area Voice, Inclusion and Cohesion: helvetas.org/governance

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

Viola Çyrbja, councilor in Shijak, Albania



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

969,491

women and men were able to make an informed decision about a potential work migration abroad in 2022 based on comprehensive counseling on safe migration.

Salina Akter (r.) informs Ridoy Chandra Paul about measures to help him migrate safely. Migration is an important topic in Bangladesh.

“Arts and culture connect people”

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

Why Culture for Peace? How does culture promote peace?

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

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

How is change triggered?

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

What are the achievements so far?

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



Kyaw Myint Moe is the Governance Advisor for Helvetas Myanmar.

ALLEVIATING SUFFERING

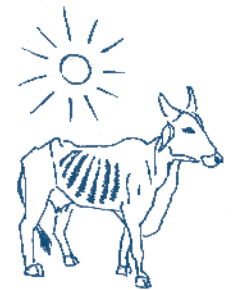
HUGE HOSPITALITY AND WINTER AID

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



Dangerous combinations

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



Enormous hospitality

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

Survival assistance in a drought

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

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

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

More about our Humanitarian Response: helvetas.org/humanitarianresponse

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

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

A CHALLENGE FOR 2022

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine was also an attack on the world’s poorest people. It worsened the global food crisis that had already been affecting people before the war. The food crisis has been caused not by a shortage of food but by the unequal distribution of food and natural resources. In addition, farming families are abandoning agriculture because of rising fertilizer prices and transport costs. Combined with higher interest rates on loans, farmers’ incomes have dropped dramatically. This has exacerbated the food crisis. The weak links in the world food system have long been documented – and so have the solutions. Studies show that sustainable agroecological production methods offer a genuine alternative to

industrial agriculture. Agroecology protects people, animals, the environment and biodiversity while making a substantial contribution to feeding the world. This is not green ideology, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as the Swiss government recognize its usefulness. Helvetas is therefore demanding an overhaul of food systems in the Global South and North. Food must be grown and used in a way that is appropriate to the local environment, and diversified. To alleviate the need of millions, Helvetas, with its “Appeal for Global Justice” in 2022, urged the Swiss federal council and parliament to raise Switzerland’s contribution to the World Food Programme by \$108 million – in vain.

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

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

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

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

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

Helvetas avoids going into a region for just a couple of months. We prefer

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

Where would Helvetas refuse to intervene?

One example is Tigray in Ethiopia during the civil war. The security situation due to the fighting made it impossible to carry out a humanitarian operation. Following the ceasefire, we swiftly became active. Another is the drought in Somalia, because Somalia is not one of our program countries and we don’t have a team there. The situation

was different in Ukraine, where we were able to provide a rapid response through our European partners in Alliance2015, first indirectly and later with our own team (see above).

What is Helvetas’ strength?

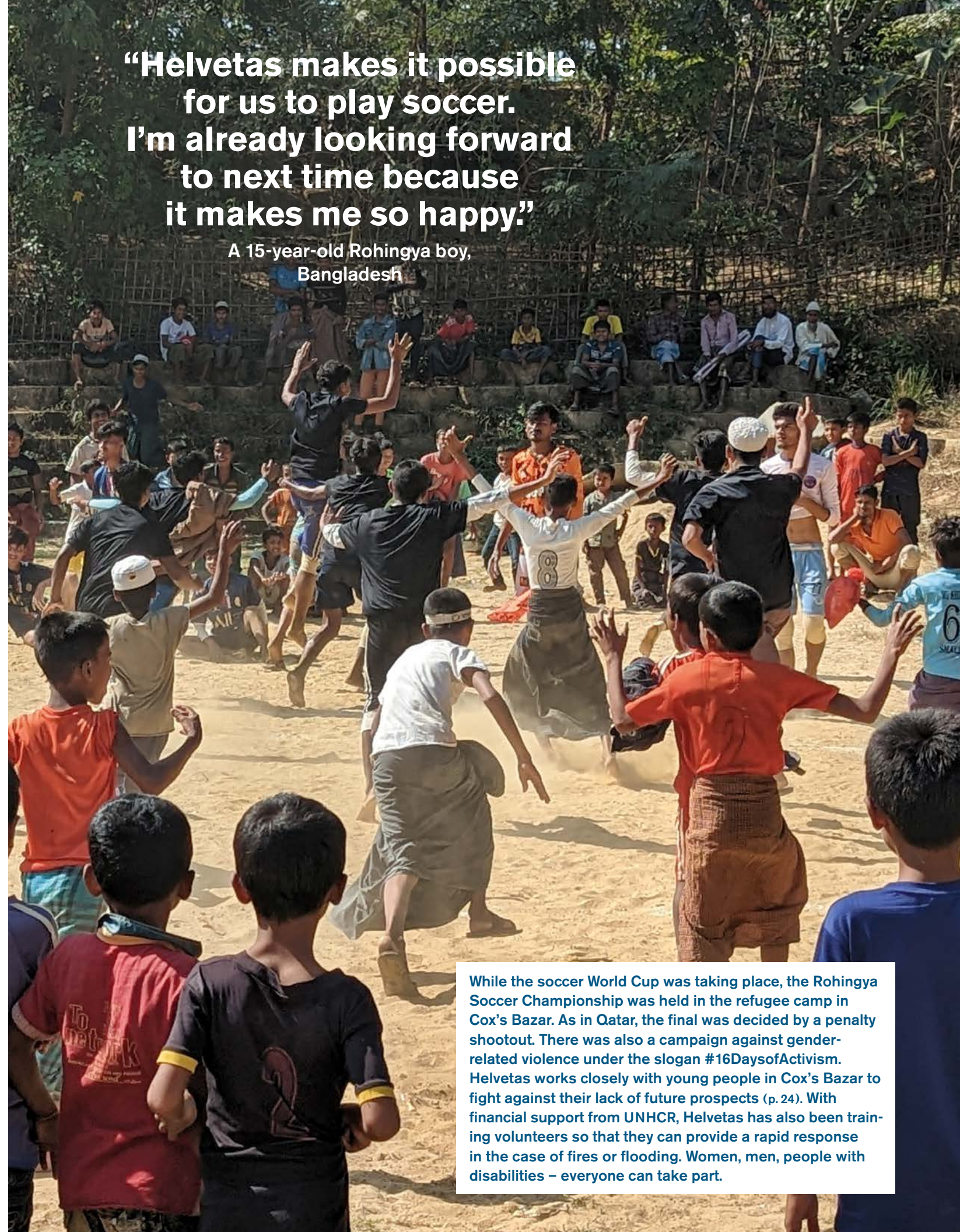
More and more frequently we incorporate humanitarian approaches into our ongoing development projects. That has had positive results in Myanmar, for example, or during the drought in southern Ethiopia (p. 29). Our in-country specialists also raise our readiness for potential major disasters.



Christian Gemperli is the Head of Humanitarian Aid at Helvetas Switzerland.

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

A 15-year-old Rohingya boy, Bangladesh



While the soccer World Cup was taking place, the Rohingya Soccer Championship was held in the refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar. As in Qatar, the final was decided by a penalty shootout. There was also a campaign against gender-related violence under the slogan #16DaysOfActivism. Helvetas works closely with young people in Cox’s Bazar to fight against their lack of future prospects (p. 24). With financial support from UNHCR, Helvetas has also been training volunteers so that they can provide a rapid response in the case of fires or flooding. Women, men, people with disabilities – everyone can take part.

SYSTEMIC PROBLEMS REQUIRE POLITICAL SOLUTIONS

Some people criticize Helvetas for being too active in development policy issues. Others expect a stronger political commitment. According to its statutes, Helvetas is “a politically and denominationally neutral organization”. Stefan Stolle, member of Helvetas’ Management Board, comments.

Stefan Stolle, why does development cooperation need to be backed up politically?

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

Shouldn't countries tackle that themselves?

One of Helvetas’ priorities is to strengthen our partner organizations’ capacity to integrate the concerns of civil society into political processes. However, Switzerland is also part of the global economic system, to which we owe much of our prosperity. We spend hours on mobile phones containing components produced from commodities mined in Africa. We wear clothes sewn in the Far East. The food in our shopping baskets has sometimes travelled around the globe. Our consumption habits and our prosperity bring with them responsibility. Our laws – and, above all, those areas not covered by our laws – have an impact on the lives of people all over the world. That is why our political advocacy campaigns for fair Swiss foreign, economic, trade, and tax policies – because greater global justice depends on it.



Hazardous cobalt mining in the Congo. The ore is an elementary component of mobile phone batteries.

How do you respond to criticism that Helvetas is too progressive?

Our approach has not changed. We were founding members of Alliance Sud back in 1971, Switzerland’s centre of excellence for international cooperation and development policy. Through our membership of that network we have been influencing Swiss development policy ever since and have always raised awareness in the media and in political circles about global poverty and its causes. Switzerland is not an island. We are part of the world and reliant on its wellbeing. The societal, economic and environmental challenges have grown and become

more complex and, above all, more urgent in recent years. All of those factors explain why we have been actively taking part in debates that are relevant to development policy and campaigning for the changes that are needed. We are glad that our voice is increasingly being heard.



Stefan Stolle is the Head of Marketing and Communication at Helvetas and a member of Helvetas’ Management Board.

FURTHER TRAINING AND TOP GRADES

The further training courses that Helvetas introduced in Tanzania with the support of the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) are revolutionizing how children are taught. Inflexible frontal instruction is increasingly giving way to forms of participative learning of the kind used in Switzerland. An impact study has awarded the approach a top grade.

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

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

The results are surprisingly positive. According to the questionnaires, the teachers greatly appreciate the School-Based



The new teaching methods are much appreciated at the Oloiri Primary School in Tanzania.


In-Service Teacher Training (SITT) program. Their pupils obtained better grades – 30% more children got an A or a B compared with the control schools. The failure rate in the final exams fell by 10%.

On the other hand, the cascade effect – how teachers transfer the knowledge they had acquired to their colleagues – was rated inadequate. But a good cascade effect is central to disseminating the obviously good approach more widely and also cost effectively.

The impact study comes to the following conclusion: “If the

cascade elements can be systematically improved, then SITT could become an effective and efficiently scalable scheme for professional development that might even attract global attention.” In order to achieve this goal, school principals will now be included in the training modules so that they can act as role models in their institutions.

Martina Jakob, Konstantin Büchel, Daniel Steffen & Aymo Brunetti, 2022: “A mixed methods deluxe evaluation of the School-Based In-Service Teacher Training (SITT) program in Tanzania: an evaluation report.” Published online at aymobrunetti.ch/research/



Many young people in post-war Sri Lanka do not know their basic rights and are therefore passive citizens in a crisis-racked democratization process. Helvetas has been training young journalists in issues including people's basic right to information, the power of the media, and conflict-sensitive and gender-inclusive communication and awareness-raising. They learn to stand up to hate speech and violent extremism. These young people work with mentors who guide their projects so that they can convert ideas into high-quality media content that promotes and strengthens freedom of expression. © Roshani Manoranshan

**WHO
TURNS
POWERLESSNESS
INTO FREE
SPEECH?**

GENEROSITY AND VOLATILE MARKETS

Helvetas USA continues to build new relationships each year and expand existing ones, raising almost \$10 million in 2022 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.

Successful acquisition, challenging financial markets

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

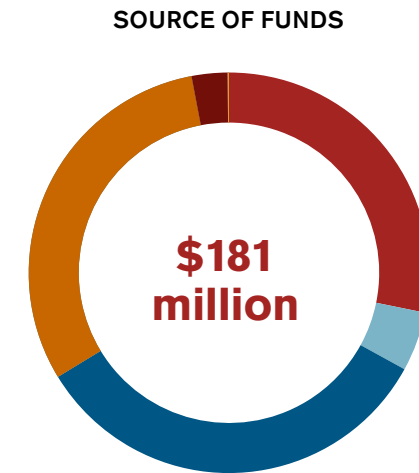
Financial audit

KPMG audited and approved Helvetas' Switzerland accounts and financial statements on May 12, 2023, in Swiss Francs. The consolidated numbers are shown in USD (exchange rate 2021 CHF 1 = USD 1.09, 2022 CHF 1 = 1.08 USD).

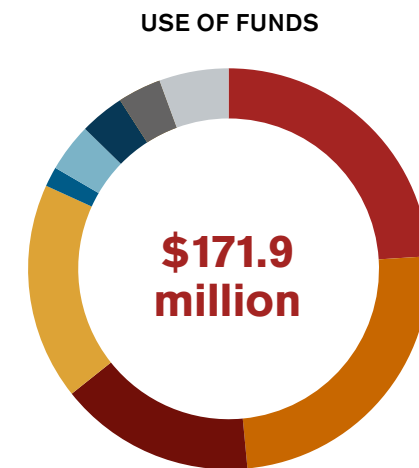
Mullins PC audited and approved Helvetas USA's accounts and financial statements on March 6, 2023. This audit report and the 2022 Form 990 can be downloaded at helvetasusa.org.

HELVETAS' GLOBAL BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	31.12.2022 in USD	31.12.2021 in USD
Cash and cash equivalents	59,059,315	49,626,029
Marketable securities	19,631,956	22,578,905
Receivables	6,422,407	6,193,067
Net assets in project countries	15,215,544	16,808,669
Prepayments and accrued income	18,587,188	14,943,521
Current assets	118,916,410	110,150,191
Investments in financial assets	2,172,455	10,992
Tangible fixed assets	499,094	521,642
Intangible assets	1,467,142	1,391,526
Fixed assets	4,138,691	1,924,160
Assets	123,055,101	112,074,351
LIABILITIES		
Short-term accounts payable	7,100,747	5,428,398
Accrued liabilities	64,863,027	59,162,883
Short-term provisions	1,242,937	0
Short-term current liabilities	73,206,711	64,591,282
Long-term provisions	432,189	181,084
Long-term liabilities	432,189	181,084
Liabilities	73,638,900	64,772,365
Restricted fund capital	16,640,817	10,864,842
Liabilities incl. fund capital	90,279,717	75,637,207
Elaborated unrestricted capital	14,167,858	14,979,450
Foreign currency effects	-78,785	-72,806
Elaborated restricted capital	18,686,310	21,530,500
Organizational capital	32,775,383	36,437,144
Liabilities	123,055,101	112,074,351



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



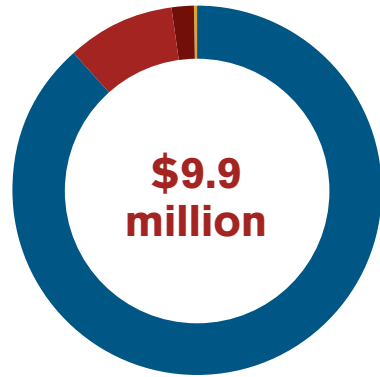
- Africa 24.0%
- Asia 24.5%
- Latin America and Caribbean 15.8%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia 17.5%
- Program coordination and support 1.6%
- Expenditure on advisory services 3.9%
- Expenditure on projects Switzerland 3.6%
- Head Office 3.5%
- Fundraising 5.6%

HELVETAS' GLOBAL STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

INCOME	2022 in USD	2021 in USD
Membership fees	2,904,279	2,572,137
Donation from the public	44,651,364	38,729,971
Legacies	3,234,732	1,586,639
Income from fundraising	50,790,375	42,888,747
Program contribution SDC	8,646,517	8,779,824
Project funding SDC	59,494,333	61,903,503
Project funding from organizations	56,636,032	47,653,426
Income from advisory services	5,185,942	4,940,508
Other operating income	261,138	556,006
Income from services provided	130,223,962	123,833,266
Income	181,014,337	166,722,014
EXPENDITURE		
Africa	-40,616,319	-35,169,637
Asia	-43,130,809	-40,438,912
Latin America and Caribbean	-26,850,962	-28,165,774
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	-29,934,586	-26,765,189
Program coordination and support	-2,934,086	-2,781,070
Expenditure on international programs	-143,466,762	-133,320,582
Expenditure on advisory services	-6,587,710	-6,140,948
Expenditure on projects in Switzerland	-6,095,846	-5,798,951
Head Office	-5,929,852	-5,276,208
Fundraising	-9,794,476	-9,427,744
Head Office and fundraising	-15,724,328	-14,703,953
Expenditure from services delivered	-171,874,646	-159,964,433
Operating profit/loss	9,139,691	6,757,580
Financial result	-3,187,749	2,255,741
Other result	-3,112,444	-74,838
Result before change in funds capital	2,839,498	8,938,483
Change in funds capital	-5,940,939	-3,984,830
Annual result before allocation to organizational capital	-3,101,441	4,953,653
Allocations/utilizations		
Free capital	-584,155	1,331,976
Fund for value fluctuation of marketable securities	0	548,739
Strategy Acceleration fund	-124,287	1,975,460
Social fund	-2,393,000	1,097,478

HELVETAS USA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

SOURCE OF FUNDS



- Foundation Contributions and Grants
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- Individual and Board Member Contributions
- Other Income

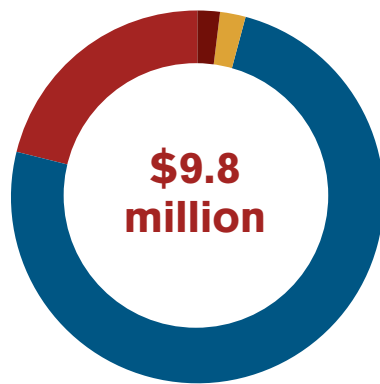
HELVETAS USA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUES	2022 in USD	2021 in USD
Foundation Contributions and Grants	9,354,866	6,458,570
Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	504,799	701,831
Individual and Board Member Contributions	44,957	143,133
Other Income	2,076	49
Total Support	9,906,698	7,303,583

EXPENSES	2022 in USD	2021 in USD
Program Services	9,421,883	6,742,134
Supporting Services	226,162	200,660
Fundraising	194,532	168,701
Total Expense	9,842,577	7,111,495

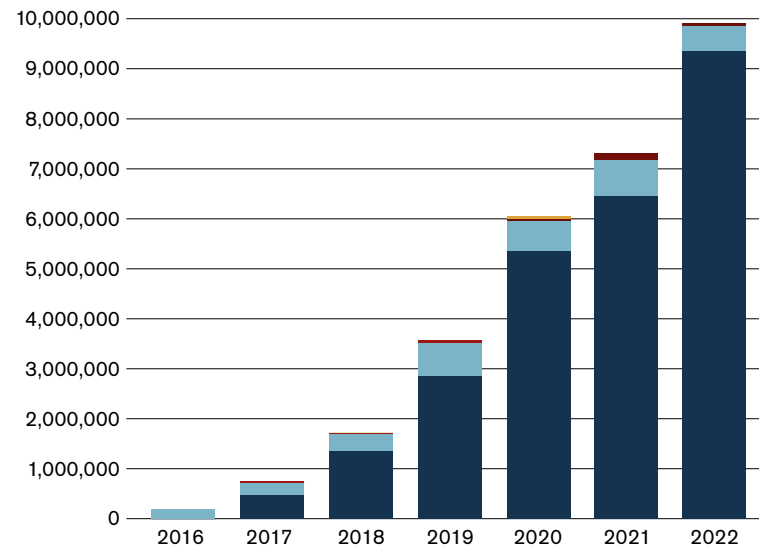
Change in Net assets	64,121	192,088
Net assets, Beginning of Year	479,759	287,671
Net assets, End of Year	543,879	479,759

USE OF FUNDS



- Africa 74.7%
- Asia 21%
- Supporting Services 2.3%
- Fundraising 2.0%

SUPPORT GROWTH








- Foundation Contributions and Grants
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- Individual and Board Member Contributions
- Other Income

COMMITTED AND OPEN-MINDED

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

				
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PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

In 2022 Helvetas USA utilized a generous anonymous donation to create a new advocacy initiative that furthers our water and climate work in Ethiopia. This advocacy effort plays an essential role in helping projects achieve the systemic change that will lead to the sustainable management of water resources.

The Amhara Region in northwest Ethiopia is highly affected by climate change, water scarcity and land degradation – all problems that were compounded in 2022 by conflict in this area. Poor ecosystem services also exacerbate water issues, 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 to agree on a fair compensation mechanism.

Promoting a National Policy on Compensation for Ecosystem Services

Together with national ministries and Addis Ababa University, Helvetas developed a model for collaborative agreements on compensation for ecosystem services. “It’s a win-win solution,” says Ribka Teklu, Senior Project Manager at Helvetas Ethiopia. “The downstream communities use an irrigation dam that meets their water needs. Meanwhile, the upstream providers are suffering from soil erosion that has damaged their water resources. Through this model, the downstream users compensate the upstream providers, which in turn incentivizes conservation activities by upstream farming communities.” Through the model, 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.

This approach is a first of its kind in Ethiopia around water (existing ones focus only on forests). Now that the model has been developed, the focus is on elevating it to become national policy – a feat that would truly drive systemic change around the protection and preservation of Ethiopia’s water resources.



Kenewa Desalegne, 15, and her mother Mulu Shegaw, 35, fetch water at a cistern in Ethiopia’s Amhara region.

Helvetas is supporting numerous advocacy efforts to drive this change in national policy, including “advocacy toolbox” trainings that advise experts from the water and environment ministries on how to push this issue and influence government decisionmakers. A payment for ecosystem services platform has also been established to provide a space for knowledge sharing at the national level and among key donors. Essential resources such as guidelines and manuals on payment for ecosystem services are also in development for use at the local and regional levels.

WE THANK ALL DONORS, FUNDERS, CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

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GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

Government of Nepal

Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change

Government of the Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

“I would like to highlight Helvetas’ efforts on behalf of Rohingya refugees. The commitment of the managers in the field increased the trust we in the Genevan cantonal government have in Helvetas’ work.”

Maria Jesus Alonso Lormand, Department for Solidarity, Canton of Geneva

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“Constructive cooperation and an active dialogue forge mutual trust. Helvetas has impressed us with its high-quality, needs-based programs.”

Isabelle Sommer, member of the management board, Linsi Foundation

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DCED, Donor committee on enterprise development
DDLGN, Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance Network
ECEAT, European Centre for Eco Agro Tourism
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FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
FoBBIZ, Swiss Forum for Skills Development and International Cooperation

FOEN, Federal Office for the Environment
Fondation Hironnelle
GCF, Green Climate Fund
Gemeinsam für Afrika Netzwerk
Gesellschaft Schweiz-UNO
GNDR, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
GWC Global WASH Cluster
HAFL, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences
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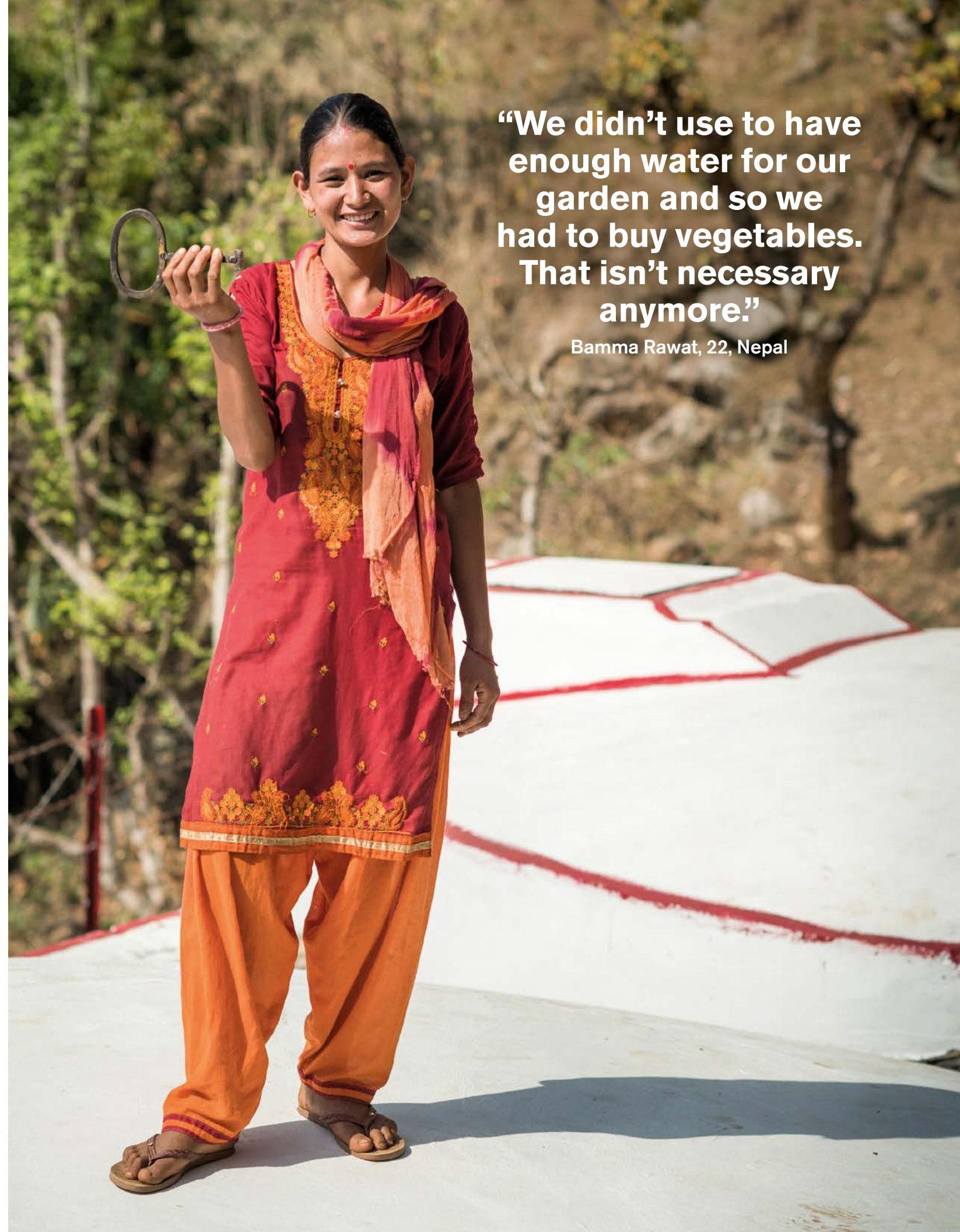
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RRI, Rights and Resources Initiative
RWSN, Rural Water Supply Network

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“We didn’t use to have enough water for our garden and so we had to buy vegetables. That isn’t necessary anymore.”

Bamma Rawat, 22, Nepal



In **2022**, Helvetas has received generous donations and bequests adding up to

almost **\$51 million** and provided services totalling **\$129 million**.

This allowed **1,436** committed Helvetas staff and about **1,150** partner

organizations worldwide to support **2.5 million** women and **2.6 million** men in

35 countries forge a life without poverty.



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