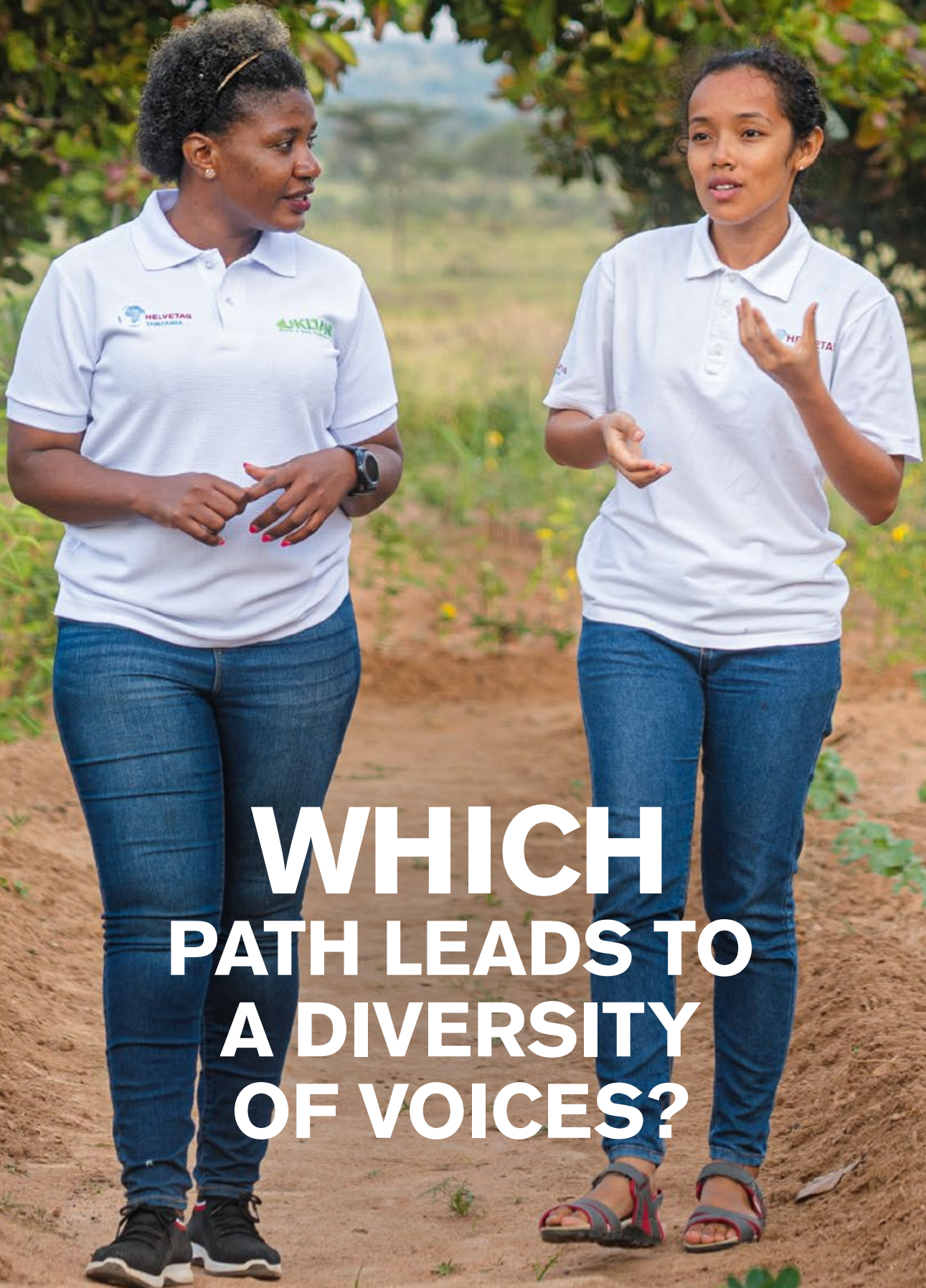


ANNUAL REPORT

2024



HELVETAS
USA



**WHICH
PATH LEADS TO
A DIVERSITY
OF VOICES?**

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.

“When we moved here, we barely heard any animals. Since we’ve started protecting the forest, they’ve come back.”



Sandra Justiniano, açai producer, Bolivia

“My parents were convinced that only men could work as painters. But when they saw how enthusiastic I was, they supported me.”



Regina Msaka, painter, Tanzania

“The bridge has reduced the seven-hour walk to the health center, the market and the district office to just half an hour.”



Dawa Tamang, farmer, Nepal

Only locally driven development can bring about lasting and successful change. This is because people, organizations, authorities and businesses bring in-depth knowledge of their country’s context, they understand the challenges and needs, and they have the people’s trust.

Katia del Castillo and Neison Condezo Pretel, Peru

Title picture: Learning from one another – Christelle Soanirina from Madagascar and Shoma Nangale from Tanzania are coordinating a “twin project.”



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WHERE POSSIBILITY
LIVES

The gap between the rich and the poor is increasing worldwide.
Helvetas continues to work with local partner organizations to expand access
to opportunities and to build bridges that further human connection.

Shaping a new narrative
on mobility

The past year has brought unexpected challenges – and with them, extraordinary opportunities. Across sectors and continents, we’ve witnessed the emergence of a community of like-minded actors who share a bold vision: to reshape how people’s mobility is talked about and how supporting programs are designed and delivered. From policy-makers to practitioners, a growing coalition is beginning to reject the old binary of “crisis or threat” and to instead recognize people moving within and beyond borders for what it truly is – a powerful driver of development, resilience, and economic opportunities.

At Helvetas USA, we’ve had the privilege of working alongside partners who understand that how and where migrants move is one of the defining opportunities of the coming decades. We’re seeing new momentum to create ethical, scalable systems that benefit workers, communities, and economies alike – from our engagements in Central America and South Asia to collaborative initiatives in the US and Europe.

We know that reshaping mobility systems requires more than good intentions. It requires trust, data, investment, and the ability to connect people across borders and sectors in smart, human-centered ways. We’re committed to doing just that.

Thank you for your partnership and shared willingness to keep exploring how we can make migration a win for everyone.

Christian Steiner
Executive Director, Helvetas USA



© Global Philanthropy Forum

Elizabeth Gozzer, Helvetas USA Board Member (standing), and Christian Steiner, Executive Director of Helvetas USA (to her left).

A future powered
by connection – and
intelligence

This has been a year of changes and transformation. Across the globe, artificial intelligence and automation are reshaping how we live, learn, and work. From global labor markets to local TVET systems, technology is rewriting the rules of access and participation. For Helvetas, it has opened new horizons: It is a chance to bring personal, responsive support to more people than ever before, and to meet them where they are.

We believe that everyone deserves access to essential information for navigating economic transitions – especially those most at risk of being left behind. Through digital platforms, human-led AI tools, and community

networks, we can offer guidance, skills, and opportunities to millions, not just the lucky few. It is not about replacing human connection – it is about expanding access to it.

As a new Board member of Helvetas USA and the CEO of an AI social enterprise, I see firsthand how AI and human insight can come together to bridge access and opportunity. It is where possibility lives. And it is where Helvetas is showing that development is evolving to meet the moment and actively shaping how technology serves dignity, agency, and inclusion.

Thank you for being part of this journey toward greater impact and shared progress.

Elizabeth Gozzer
Board Member, Helvetas USA

WHY CAN DEMOCRACY ALSO GROW IN FORESTS?

In 2008, the King of Bhutan set his country on the path to democracy. Helvetas had already been working there for decades. In all those years, practical projects like cheese production and livestock farming were gradually replaced with initiatives focusing on citizens' participation and good governance. Helvetas strengthened civil society and federal structures, for example by introducing participatory forest management and protection. Work now – after 50 years – taken over by a local organization.

Yeshe Choden and Gyam Phurba are members of the forest committee for their village of Ugyen Choling in Bhutan.

© Patrick Rohr

LOCALLY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

In the 1980s, NGOs began to recognize that development projects are only successful and sustainable when they involve collaboration with local organizations, since they understand the challenges on the ground and have the local population's trust.

This insight led to long-term, close collaborations with partner organizations, including NGOs, associations, federations, and civil society organizations. The focus shifted toward locally driven development. The local population, civil society, the authorities, and state governments, as well as the private sector, became increasingly and actively involved in projects.

Today, this participatory approach has been firmly established in international cooperation – and has become an even greater priority with the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and the final declaration of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, also known as the “Grand Bargain.” It’s also a core principle of our work at Helvetas.

More cooperation for true partnership

Local partners bring extensive knowledge of the context to the table and facilitate access to the population. With its local and international staff, years of experience in project planning and implementation, and its international network of experts, Helvetas contributes to the successful implementation of programs and projects developed together with these partners – with the

An engaging debate

The debate over postcolonialism and the “decolonization of development cooperation” has been going on for some time. The postcolonial perspective posits that many development problems in formerly colonized countries have historical roots and can be traced back to exploitative colonial systems. This perspective also comprises locally driven development, which involves a critical review of traditional concepts and practices in development cooperation. This includes the fact that many programs are still shaped by donors from the Global North and are aligned with European or American value systems rather than attempting to make meaningful use of local knowledge.

ultimate goal of creating fair opportunities for people to break free from poverty.

The suspension bridge program in Nepal is a perfect example of this. What started as technical assistance from Switzerland and financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is now a nationally owned program for which the Nepalese government bears primary responsibility. Helvetas was a technical advisor to the Nepalese Trail Bridge Support Unit and supported the training of planning and construction professionals. The necessary knowledge and skills are now firmly anchored in the country.

Nepal offers a blueprint for working with local partners to tackle rural access challenges in other countries – and Helvetas is carrying this out through the continued facilitation of South-to-South knowledge exchange. Nepali engineers trained through the trail bridge program formed the South-South Cooperation Unit, which was renamed TRAC4Change in 2024. TRAC4Change is Nepali-led, with a female rural development expert at the helm who has more than 10 years of experience scaling trail bridges in the Global South. The unit now uses their lived experience and mutual understanding of opportunities and constraints to guide governments, businesses and communities towards infrastructure solutions.

TRAC4Change engineers are currently embedded in regions around Ethiopia, working with their counterparts to build relationships, capacities, and monitor systems. The Ethiopian government is co-financing the project (as the Nepali government did) and with TRAC4Change’s guidance, is on the path to taking full ownership of the effort to end rural isolation in the country.

New perspectives on an old issue

Despite these localization efforts, decisions are still repeatedly made without involving the affected people and partners, in part because of short planning times, strict budget constraints and detailed reporting requirements. International and national financing processes are



Shared responsibility: Together, representatives of the Honduran Ministry of the Environment, an association of the municipalities and Helvetas discuss the protection of watersheds through proper solid waste management.

complex and often difficult for smaller organizations to handle. When information, technical expertise and access to key decision-makers are also lacking, it becomes difficult for local partners to act independently.

In humanitarian crises, international NGOs often work with their own staff rather than with local organizations because disasters require a rapid response, logistical capacity and large amounts of material resources. But not considering the local context brings with it the risk of diminishing the effectiveness of the measures adopted.

A remaining key issue is direct access to donors in the Global North, who tend to trust organizations from their own countries and to use them as intermediaries for monitoring and quality assurance. At the same time, organizations such as Helvetas are more than just technical actors. NGOs in Switzerland play an important communication role; they can convey needs, impacts, opportunities, and challenges to a broad audience and raise awareness, thereby promoting an understanding of development cooperation.

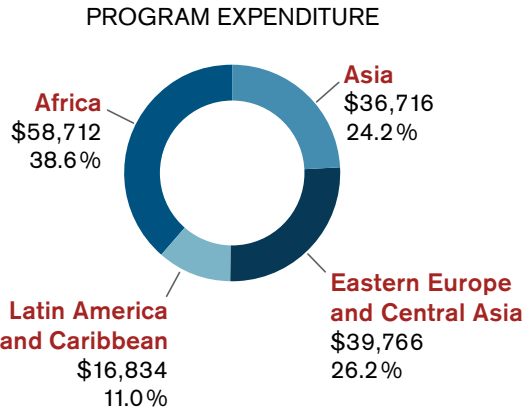
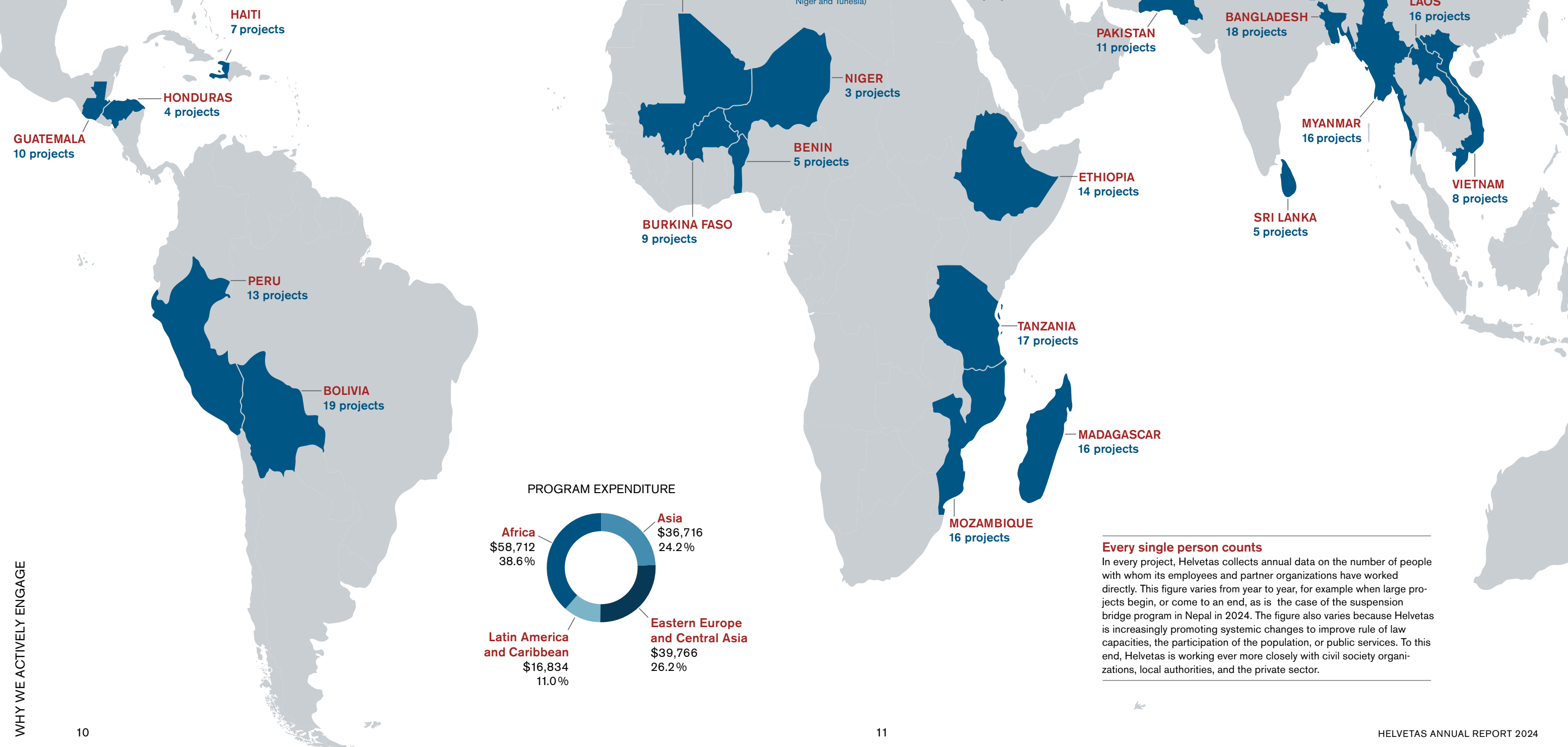
A paradigm shift in our thinking

Ultimately, the debate underscores the long-held desire of many actors – from both the Global South and North – to eliminate the unequal distribution of power in development cooperation. This has led to further strengthening organizations in our partner countries, for example, through initiatives like TRAC4Change, so that they can implement their own strategies. The goal is to meaningfully involve all relevant actors, promote locally driven development processes, and enhance partners’ sense of responsibility and capacity to act.

For Helvetas, locally driven development cooperation means working on a long-term basis with partners in countries and regions who share similar values. We work together to identify challenges and develop solutions. Each organization contributes its strengths. We are convinced that it is worthwhile to invest in strong and sustainable partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector, and local authorities. The result is a win-win for everyone.

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.



Every single person counts

In every project, Helvetas collects annual data on the number of people with whom its employees and partner organizations have worked directly. This figure varies from year to year, for example when large projects begin, or come to an end, as is the case of the suspension bridge program in Nepal in 2024. The figure also varies because Helvetas is increasingly promoting systemic changes to improve rule of law capacities, the participation of the population, or public services. To this end, Helvetas is working ever more closely with civil society organizations, local authorities, and the private sector.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION – LOCAL TRANSFORMATION

The Reconomy program covers eleven countries and is implemented by Helvetas on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The goal is to promote green, inclusive and transitioning economies in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe.

Reconomy is an economic development program, its name stemming from “Revitalize, Reconnect, Re-shape.” In particular, the program supports women and young people, including disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. But the impact extends far beyond individual participants. The intention is to strengthen the economic systems of participating countries and to promote regional networking through new ideas and businesses.

Learn, connect, adapt

“At its core, Reconomy uses existing knowledge, existing networks and regional opportunities to promote learning and exchange,” explains Elene Tkhlashidze from Helvetas, the deputy manager of Reconomy. “To achieve progress, however, a local, country-specific perspective is needed. Development efforts that ignore this are often unsuccessful,” says Tkhlashidze. But this does not mean that successful innovations are not transferable. And therein lies one of Reconomy’s particular strengths: Proven solutions, such as recycling clothes to meet EU standards, can be adapted and introduced in other countries without having to start from scratch each time.

For the program to have an impact beyond its conclusion, public institutions, nonprofit organizations, universities and businesses have to collaborate. “We bring people together who can work with one another to develop and implement solutions,” emphasizes Tkhlashidze.

Broad-based support

The eleven-country program takes a multidimensional approach that helps businesses improve their services in order to drive growth and investment. At the same time, it promotes the training of disadvantaged young men and women to help them confidently enter the job market or start their own

businesses. Additionally, the Helvetas Reconomy team supports the reform of economic and political frameworks in the various countries where it is present to help bring about a green, inclusive economy.

The participating countries face similar challenges, such as automation, disruptive technologies, high youth unemployment and a skills shortage due to an aging population. At the same time, much potential is lost, for example, because women or people with disabilities are not perceived as qualified workers. Are these problems or opportunities? Reconomy aims set the ball rolling by transforming problems into opportunities.

A practical approach

In Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, the program promotes sustainability in the textile and fashion industry as a way to access EU markets, preserve existing jobs and create new job opportunities. It also seeks to make the sector competitive with textile giants like Turkey through demonstrably sustainable production. The circular economy and the efficient use of resources lie at the heart of this approach: Fabric use is reduced, scraps are reused, old clothes are recycled, natural dyeing methods are tested and packaging is minimized.

15,360
individuals reported increased
income due to Reconomy
in 2024.

In the Western Balkans, the Helvetas Reconomy team is advocating for a shift towards more sustainable economic models. More and more countries are developing national strategies for a circular economy. New regulatory frameworks are making it easier for the private sector to access EU markets, but there is often



© Patrick Rohr

Manuel Halil, a member of the Roma People, leads a recycling team in Skopje, North Macedonia, with support from the Reconomy program.

a lack of knowledge and skilled professionals. To overcome this bottleneck, the program plans to establish a regional circular economy hub, which will centralize the relevant information and make it accessible to all actors.

Another area of focus is energy efficiency in the construction sector. Although many countries have adopted strategies in this regard, their implementation often fails. Currently, around 60 percent of energy consumption in the region still goes toward heating, cooling and electrical appliances. In response, Reconomy is promoting a certification for energy-efficient buildings, facilitating access to financing and supporting the training of young people in the construction sector in energy-efficient building practices.

Cross-border collaboration

The focus on economic networking and regional cooperation has additional positive effects, since it helps overcome cultural barriers that go back to the Yugoslav wars and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Indeed, shared goals and perspectives bring people together, even in places where people had little or no contact with one another in the past. For example,

chambers of commerce from different countries are now working closely together, despite political differences. And the social status of women, young people, people with disabilities and marginalized groups is improving.

“We respect the local setting, but at the same time we think regionally and recognize that all benefit from cultural diversity,” says Tkhlashidze. “We focus on collaboration and cooperation. The people we interact with every day are not enemies. Borders don’t matter.”

There is still a long way to go on the road to social, sustainable and inclusive economies in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe. But with a program like Reconomy, which harnesses the collective intelligence of eleven countries, their populations, businesses, institutions and civil society, local successes can spread quickly and benefit society, the economy and the environment.



WHAT OFFERS STABILITY WHEN EVERYTHING IS SHAKY?

Yevhen Borodin (right) is a sports coach who fled to Kharkiv when the war in Ukraine started. He now offers sports courses to give young people a chance to connect with one another and cope with war-related trauma. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine not only results in the loss of loved ones and possessions, but also destroys infrastructure, supply chains and professional plans. Helvetas provides support, especially in areas where international organizations are not present, helping local organizations that in turn assist the population in repairing their homes, setting up shelters and even equipping school bunkers with tables and benches. At the same time, Helvetas supports proactive individuals who are working to strengthen both the economy and society.

Oksana Titarenko from Helvetas participates in Yevhen Borodin's sports course.

© Alessandro Parente

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 advocacy.



Ensuring basic rights Water, food and climate

In 2024 **2,973,440** women and men gained sustainable access to water, sanitation, proper hygiene, better nutrition and natural resources, or have benefited from larger harvests and improved climate resilience. Together with Helvetas, they installed solarpowered wells and latrines, built roads and bridges and learned important hygiene rules and new, climate-adapted cultivation methods.

Creating new perspectives Skills, jobs and income

In 2024 **508,735** young, mostly disadvantaged women and men gained access to education and vocational training, found a job, or started their own business with Helvetas' support. At the same time, **9,859** small and medium-sized enterprises have gained better access to markets, created jobs for disadvantaged people and begun to offer sustainable products and better services.

Strengthening good governance Voice, inclusion and cohesion

In 2024, with Helvetas' support, **160,142** women and men learned techniques to better demand their right to basic public services and to resolve conflicts. Helvetas also worked with local authorities and partner organizations to counsel and support **799,986** women and men in planning their safe, responsible and profitable labor migration.

Alleviating suffering Humanitarian response

In 2024, Helvetas supported **426,722** people in distress meet their most pressing basic needs, gain access to basic, safe and dignified shelter and acquire new means of agricultural production. In its projects, Helvetas supported a total of **1,078,332** people in areas afflicted by natural disasters, crises and conflict in gaining access to water, sanitation, education, and re-training courses. Helvetas combines short-term emergency aid with longer-term measures to enable people to rebuild their livelihoods as swiftly as possible.



In Pakistan, Helvetas is committed to ensuring that children, especially girls, from poor families can return to school after COVID-19. Bisma Qaisar is very glad about this.

4,869,026
people have been
given a fair
opportunity thanks
to your support.

FOREST CONSERVATION AND WATER KIOSKS

Billions of people are born in countries where clean drinking water is scarce, balanced nutrition is lacking, and climate change threatens their livelihoods. Together with those affected and with partner organizations, Helvetas is developing solutions to improve these situations.



A greener Tanzania

In **Tanzania's** semi-arid regions, monoculture farming and deforestation have depleted the soil. But the land is turning green – at the hands of women. In collaboration with Helvetas, 1,077 women received Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy to a total of 2,408 hectares of land, which equates to almost 3,380 football fields. In 2024, 2,355 women learned how to regenerate their soil; 343 forest gardens were established and over 545,634 trees were planted. To strengthen their economic independence, the women formed savings groups, enabling them to start businesses and invest in agriculture.

Factoring in climate change

Climate change and its associated disasters can destroy hard-won, successful investments in production and infrastructure and push people back into poverty as a result. To prevent this, Helvetas reinforces people's climate resilience in all projects by analyzing climate risks, the results of which are systematically integrated into project planning. This enhances both the projects, sustainability and their overall impact. To monitor its progress, Helvetas has developed a "marker" for climate and disaster resilience. The initial tests are promising, and the results will be published in upcoming annual reports.



Center for Competence

Labor-intensive construction projects such as roads can also benefit the local population during the construction phase, especially when women participate. This has been proven in **Burkina Faso**, where women invest the money they earned from road construction in their own businesses. Social cohesion in the community increases and people gain better access to healthcare, government offices and markets because of their new income and infrastructure. Helvetas has established a Center for Competence and Expertise to promote this method, which involves all stakeholders right from the planning stage – nationally, regionally and even globally.

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



“After just two years, our forest garden began yielding all year round. We have never eaten so healthily before.”

Jorge Ribera, San Borja, Bolivia

Depleted soils are forcing people in the Bolivian Amazon to clear more and more forest land to grow cassava or plantains to earn money and provide for themselves. Helvetas promotes community-based tree nurseries and trains experts who work with small-scale farming families to create forest gardens. On Jorge and Carmen Ribera's plot, 18 different plant species grow that benefit each other and nourish the soil. The couple will never have to clear forest land again.

Raising awareness through “social art”

In **Madagascar**, with the support of charity: water and the One Drop Foundation, Helvetas has adopted various strategies to improve access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in rural communities.

Hervé Sterkers, does Madagascar need more water connections?
Yes, in our project area, only 25 % of people have access to clean drinking water. Many people fetch their water from the river because it is free, the nearest well is far away, or they are unaware of the risks of diseases associated with dirty water. In Diana, for example, in the north of Madagascar, there is a lot of rainfall. During the rainy season, the river gets muddy. For people without a water connection, the river becomes even more dangerous when they drink from it.

What is the focus of this project?
In Madagascar, the public sector is responsible for the water supply, but construction and maintenance have been privatized in the hope of ensuring sustainability. We are supporting the local authorities in planning and awarding contracts to private companies, training their staff, and working with these private companies to develop strategies to encourage communities to invest in paid water connections. Many people don’t understand why they should pay for water when they can get it for free from the river. This requires a lot of awareness-raising and communication. Whether and where a connection is created is decided by the communities themselves. The connections supported by Helvetas currently benefit 370,000 people.

Why are there different types of connections?
In Menabe, in the western part of Madagascar, many people live in

severe poverty. Here, we focus on connections that are shared by six or seven households who pay for one collectively. In the Diana region, many families have additional income from vanilla and cocoa farming and can more easily afford a private, individual connection. In remote villages, we have successfully promoted “water kiosks” where water can be accessed at any time using a token. This was not originally our idea, but we are ensuring that it takes hold.

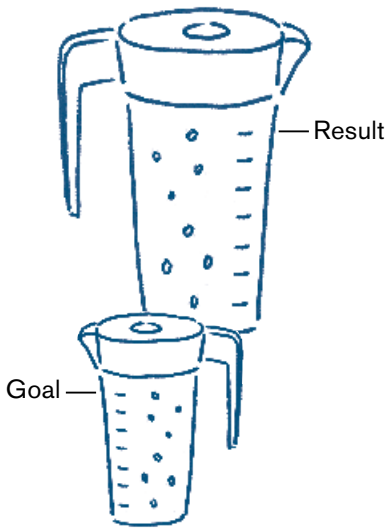
How do you raise awareness about this?
We have theater performances, radio shows, books, and songs that focus on the use of drinking water. But rules of basic hygiene and the use of sanitary facilities must also be promoted, since many people still relieve themselves out in the open. So we build latrines at schools and health centers and encourage people to talk about them. Additionally, wall paintings, which are already very popular and successful in West Africa, serve as reminders for people to wash their hands regularly or to pay the water bill on time. This “social art,” which builds upon the One Drop Foundation’s Social Art for Behavior Change Approach, supplements more traditional measures such as community meetings and home visits. We also encourage people to take an active stance, for example, by demanding specific water and hygiene services from their mayors.



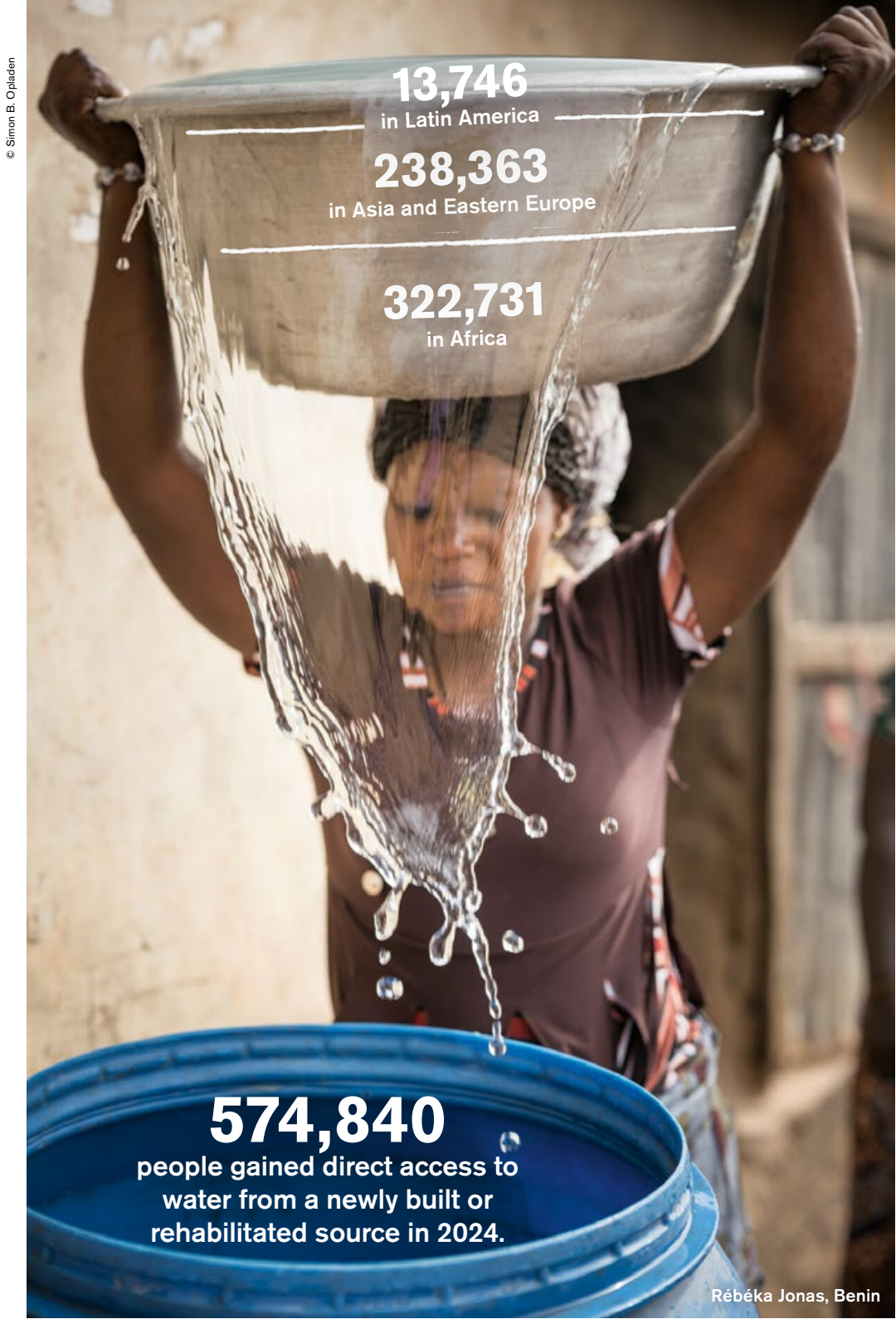
Hervé Sterkers is the coordinator of the Ratsantanana water project in Madagascar.

A GOAL EXCEEDED
Helvetas set itself the goal of providing safe drinking water to one million people during its 2021–24 strategy period. We are very pleased that Helvetas, working together with local partners and with the dedicated support of numerous individuals and foundations, has handily exceeded this ambitious goal. In the past four years, we have provided access to water for 2,560,679 people. However, 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water worldwide, so this commitment must continue. Helvetas is regarded highly in many countries as an effective partner for the implementation of drinking water projects that closely involve local governments, populations and the private sector in an effort to ensure sustainability.

2,560,679
people have gained direct access to safe drinking water since 2021.

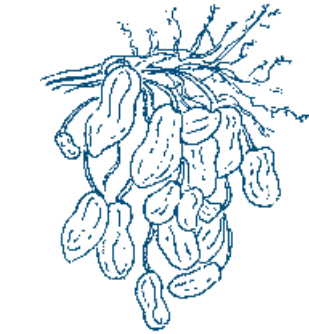


More about our working area Water, Food and Climate: helvetas.org/basicrights



Proof of success

With the support of Helvetas **Kyrgyzstan**, farmers and water user committees successfully lobbied the national government for a law allowing local authorities to finance the repair of dilapidated irrigation canals. In 2024, due to the extensive sharing of experiences among communities and access to public funds, a total of 342 kilometers of irrigation canals and 45 systems were restored, which are used by 15,500 households and for 18,000 hectares of agricultural land. The results show: Wherever repairs were made, there is less water loss, more land is irrigated, and harvests have increased.



Agriculture with a future

Over 29,000 farmers in **Mali** have adapted to the effects of climate change in recent years. With Helvetas’ support 6,900 new agricultural enterprises have been established. The direct result is that food security has significantly improved, and 4,700 malnourished children and breastfeeding mothers have received nutritional supplements made from local products. The project in Mali also includes training in agricultural professions, since there is untapped potential in this sector. This gives young people prospects within their own country.

VALUE CHAINS AND SECOND CHANCES

People can engage socially and politically only when they also have economic prospects. But many young people live in countries where they have few opportunities to attend school or find a job. By working together with its partner organizations, Helvetas helps ensure that fair opportunities for education, training and employment are not a matter of chance.



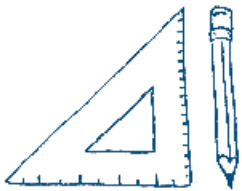
Eco-paint

In **Nepal**, a private sector development project produces paints made from cow dung. These paints have antibacterial and antifungal properties, are odorless, do not cause allergies, and, unlike chemical paints, they are free of toxins and heavy metals. Through a collaboration with local businesses, the production process has been designed to sell the paint at competitive prices. Since cow dung has become an important resource, farming families can now sell it and benefit from this new market.

“I train them with respect and dignity. I want them to feel valued.”

Hassan Shahryar

To prevent the exploitation of children, Helvetas promotes training and dignified working conditions for 14- to 18-year-olds in **Pakistan**. Hassan Shahryar was beaten during his apprenticeship as a motorcycle mechanic. When Helvetas offered him the chance to complete his training elsewhere, he jumped at the opportunity. He went on to open his own repair garage, and he now trains young people with respect, fairness and a strong focus on safety and quality.



A made-to-measure education

When children are not enrolled in school or are forced to drop out, this has serious consequences for their future and for society. In **Benin**, on behalf of SDC, Helvetas has established “schools of second chance” for these children. The project has won over the government, which now offers various educational alternatives to help children and adolescents catch up. Options such as “bridge classes” help these young people to transition into secondary education or directly into vocational training. With strong support from Switzerland, large institutional donors are now also backing these models.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

2 Zero hunger



4 Quality education



8 Decent work and economic growth



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

“I always wanted to become a metalworker and work for the railway. Now I have the skills and a job.”

Sofia Afate Mucussete,
Nacala, Mozambique



In Mozambique, many young people drop out of school due to a lack of financial resources. By working together with local businesses and educational institutions, Helvetas offers them the opportunity to pursue market-oriented training and actively supports them in their search for employment. As is the case in projects in Nepal and Ethiopia, trainers in Mozambique receive part of their payment only once the trainees have secured paid employment or successfully started their own businesses. Each year, around 1,200 young people complete this type of training through the Helvetas project, and four out of five are able to support themselves shortly thereafter.

Improving the image of non-academic professions

In **Kosovo**, young people often have a hard time joining the workforce, which is why Helvetas began to promote non-academic career paths. In December 2024, the project came to an end after twelve years.

Albina Berisha, looking back, how do you reflect on the project? With pride. At the start of the project, 45% of 15- to 35-year-olds in Kosovo were unemployed. They lacked prospects, and many chose to emigrate. Thanks to Helvetas, nearly 24,000 young people have completed practical, hands-on training, and over 200,000 have received career guidance. Today, 2,300 companies offer internships, apprenticeships and permanent positions. Youth unemployment now stands at 17.3%, and many people are choosing to stay in the country due to the improved conditions and projects like ours.

What was the biggest challenge? Vocational schools used to train students without regard for the needs of the labor market. We supported better coordination between these schools and the private sector, and we worked with companies to develop and offer practical and short training programs. Together with 30 course providers and over 20 vocational schools, we developed 104 training modules in areas including woodworking, IT, baking, graphic design, social media marketing and solar panel installation. We also had to contend with the fact that vocational education had a poor image and that young people generally preferred an academic path. We improved that image through events for parents and businesses, bold TV commercials and even new job titles: “Wood designer” sounds

more appealing than “carpenter.” The result was that for the past two years more students enrolled in vocational schools than in academic high schools – a first in Kosovo.

Does digitalization open doors? Yes! When we started this project, companies were still posting job openings almost exclusively in newspapers. This was expensive, and by the next day the ads had disappeared. There were hardly any online job portals at this time, so we invested in building these up. Two of them are now market leaders and serve 60,000 people a day. We also reached out to young people via TikTok and Instagram. A well-known influencer collaborated with us to address topics that were new to many: life-long learning, online courses and soft skills like languages, project management and marketing. His videos reached up to 200,000 people.

What next? Vocational training has become an integral activity within many companies. We didn’t just fund training programs; we helped develop and improve them and supported vocational schools in creating sustainable business models. We also set up career counseling centers in these schools. The counselors are paid by them, which means that these services will continue to be provided, even after the end of the project.



Albina Berisha was the project manager of the Enhancing Youth Employment (EYE) project in Kosovo, which Helvetas implemented on behalf of SDC.



A GOAL NOT ACHIEVED In its 2021–24 strategy, Helvetas set itself the goal of providing 320,000 young people with access to hands-on vocational training. With 198,161 young persons who have completed training programs that form the basis for employment, starting a small business and improving their incomes, Helvetas has, at first glance, not achieved this goal. At the same time, the Helvetas approach of compensating vocational training institutes based on results has become a proven model in many places. In Ethiopia, a regional government and major NGOs have adopted and scaled this approach. Thanks to digital solutions, many people in Myanmar, Tanzania and Bangladesh have benefited from training modules, even beyond Helvetas projects. In Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Laos and North Macedonia, nationwide systemic changes in vocational education were initiated because governments and the private sector found the Swiss-style dual training model convincing. As a result, many young people in our partner countries now benefit from new vocational training opportunities.



Business instead of emigration

In **Guatemala**, the local Helvetas team works together with partner organizations to help disadvantaged women and men set up production groups and small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In less than three years, the country has already seen the emergence of 6,254 new entrepreneurs. More than 32,000 people now benefit from improved access to food, jobs and the services offered by these new SMEs. Key to success has been the establishment of communal “one-stop shops,” where job placements, consultations and certified training programs for women and youth are all offered under one roof. This creates opportunities within Guatemala and reduces pressure to emigrate.



Fair financing

Helvetas and iGravity, a consulting firm specializing in impact investment and innovative finance, are developing a Green Bond to provide rice producers and processors in sub-Saharan Africa with access to funding. The goal is to expand the rice value chain in a sustainable and viable way and to help meet Africa’s long-term demand for rice. The development of the Green Bond is being financed by the SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI). The aim is to encourage private sector participation in financing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Long-term success

In a large-scale project led by the government of **Nepal** and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to improve the economic situation of families affected by poverty, Helvetas and its Nepalese partner organizations helped train more than 29,000 young people in 36 different professions. The overall employment rate among graduates is 79%, and 56% of those employed are women. A survey of graduates from 2019 and 2020 shows that 69% are still employed today and earning above the minimum wage. On average, their household incomes have increased by 50%.

PEACE AND AN INCOME

Billions of people are born in countries where basic services are not accessible to everyone. Economic circumstances cause women and men to migrate. Conflicts, violence and climate change force millions of people to leave their homes. Together with its partner organizations, Helvetas works to ensure that people can live in security make their voices heard.



Honey instead of violence

The civil war in **Sri Lanka** left deep scars that make peaceful coexistence difficult. With Helvetas’ support, young people of different ethnicities and religions have chosen the path of reconciliation. An economic crisis, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, has exacerbated poverty in the country. Helvetas supports young people in starting businesses that help those who have been the most affected by the crisis. While Helvetas provides farming families with beehives, for example, the young entrepreneurs buy their honey at fair prices to process and market it.

Resolving conflicts

Climate change in the Sahel region is intensifying conflicts between farming families and nomadic herders due to the growing scarcity of land and water. Helvetas helps communities in northern **Benin** resolve such conflicts. With the construction of new wells and water reservoirs, as well as reforestation efforts, people are able to adapt to the consequences of climate change. To ensure that these measures do no harm and do not lead to new conflicts, Helvetas promotes the integration of local, traditional and newer approaches to conflict resolution that involve all stakeholders.



Balanced nutrition

In the city of Mbeya, **Tanzania**, the climate is perfect for agriculture. That notwithstanding, many citizens have an unbalanced diet due to a lack of time, money or knowledge. The city therefore asked Helvetas to jointly develop a cross-sector nutrition strategy that brings together private, municipal and regional actors, from producers to processors, sellers, consumers and waste management services. The project connects city authorities with the municipal administration in Cox’s Bazar, **Bangladesh**, where a similar initiative is underway, so that the two cities can learn from one another. In March 2024, project leaders and the mayors from both cities met in Zurich to compare their experiences.

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

“The stench of the wastewater is making us sick. I’m glad someone is trying to do something about it.”

Blažo Đurović, Belgrade, Serbia

Belgrade has no wastewater treatment plant. Industrial and household sewage is discharged directly into the Danube from 130 pipes, generating a toxic stench. A local organization is therefore advocating for wastewater treatment. Civil society organizations expose weaknesses in political, social and economic systems. They are essential for a functioning democracy. A number of Helvetas’ projects focus on strengthening civil society. In Serbia, on behalf of SDC, the goal is to encourage citizens to engage in local politics, for example, by advocating for minority rights and environmental protection.



A GOAL NOT ACHIEVED

In its 2021–24 strategy, Helvetas set itself the goal of supporting half a million people in raising their voices, claiming their rights and deepening their knowledge of governance, decentralization and democratization. This goal was not achieved. Increasing fragility and escalating crises have made Helvetas' work difficult. Added to this were the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events, authoritarian trends and ensuing restrictions on citizens' rights. These factors have made Helvetas' work riskier. To avoid endangering organizations and individuals – while still encouraging them to pursue their goals – we must exercise sensitivity. At the same time, donors are shifting their priorities in response to global developments. Development cooperation by governments has been cutting back on projects that promote participation and human rights. Nevertheless, the opportunity for voices to be heard, citizens participation, the protection of civil rights and duties, remain essential and are transversal themes that are integrated into all Helvetas projects.

380,149
people have been
empowered to raise their
voice and claim
their rights since 2021.



Safe migration

Labor migration is a key component of Nepal's economy, but it comes with risks. Since 2011, Helvetas has been implementing a project on safe migration on behalf of SDC and the government of Nepal. As a result, 68 migration service centers have been established, which have to date provided information and support to 1.34 million prospective migrants regarding exploitation and labor rights. 32,000 victims of exploitation have received legal assistance as part of this project. Since migration also has social consequences, over 250,000 family members have been given counseling. To help them invest remittances from family members effectively, 62,209 women and men have received financial training. All levels of government are now providing significant funding to expand the program.



Sports and culture for peace

Most of the land in Pakistan's tribal areas belongs to each community as a whole. But climate change, mining and water scarcity are increasingly leading to violent conflicts over land and resources. As a result, many young people migrate or align themselves with local powerholders. Helvetas supports peaceful conflict resolution by working with local organizations and community leaders. Sports and cultural events also help bridge divides. As a result, young people have come together and asked their elders to settle disputes.

ACTING IN TIMES OF NEED

From wars in Ukraine and elsewhere to fragile contexts across the globe coping with floods, droughts and hurricanes, people's suffering often lasts longer than the media's coverage of such events. In 2024, generous donors and foundations helped hundreds of thousands of people in need to regain their footing and rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

“Crises require flexibility”

Gang violence, hurricanes and earthquakes have all required the people of Haiti to be resilient. This is why Helvetas Haiti combines long-term development work with short-term and forward-looking humanitarian efforts, a strategy known as the Nexus approach.

Gansly Jean, how exactly does the Nexus approach work?

Humanitarian crises continue to occur in Haiti. The ongoing political unrest and violence, along with the threat of earthquakes, heavy rainfalls, floods and hurricanes – with all their consequences – continue to put lives at risk. Such crises make it harder to implement sustainable development measures, and they require flexibility, both from the population and from organizations such as Helvetas. Planning ahead remains crucial. From the very beginning of each project, we

ensure that communities are able to act in times of acute crisis to protect lives and livelihoods. In other words, people have to be resilient even in emergencies and be able to emerge from crises stronger than before. Whatever we do, we always keep one eye on the future.

How does Helvetas Haiti bring this about?

By working together with partner organizations, local communities and authorities, we continuously assess risks and plan preventive measures. In the case of earthquakes or extreme weather events, for example, access to drinking water is always at risk. So, we ask, where is water access particularly vulnerable? This involves infrastructure as well as the legal and political frameworks that determine which institutions are responsible at the national, regional and local levels – and the manner of their involvement during emergencies, as well as the political improvements that are needed. Together, we plan coordination, communication and

response strategies for emergency situations. Disaster preparedness is essential, from civil protection protocols to the dry stone walls that prevent erosion and landslides. To avoid blind spots and empower women, we actively involve them in the risk management processes.

One has to act quickly in emergencies. How are donors responding?

Thanks to our years of experience, we have pre-established procedures and tools that help us to respond to disasters and address the urgent needs of the population rapidly. This always happens in close coordination with our donors, such as SDC and foundations. It is essential to clarify with them whether we can reallocate approved project funds for emergency relief, or if additional funding might be available. Swiss donors are generally flexible in these situations.



Gansly Jean coordinates Helvetas projects in southeastern Haiti.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:





A rapid response

Statistically speaking, the flooding in **Niger** in August 2024 was the most devastating in the last 50 years. Nearly 90,000 homes were destroyed, more than 840,000 people lost their belongings, and 304 people lost their lives. Helvetas, which has worked in Niger for the last 12 years, was able to distribute emergency kits in the city of Maradi in a short amount of time, in collaboration with SDC. These included water purification tablets, soap, buckets, water containers, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and blankets for over 24,000 people.

Preventing child marriages

In Cox's Bazar, **Bangladesh**, over one million Rohingya people live in the world's largest refugee camp. Approximately half of them are children. Formal education is non-existent in the camp. Many parents marry off their daughters at a young age, usually due to financial hardship. In addition to humanitarian aid, Helvetas organizes informational events to sensitize parents that child marriage violates children's rights and has serious consequences. Rohingya activists reached around 4,000 people with information on the topic through awareness-raising theater performances. Youth groups are furthering the awareness-raising work in the camp.

Prevention works

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is an essential component of Helvetas' work in relation to climate change. The greater the preparedness, the less the damage during a disaster. Helvetas integrates prevention into project planning, for example, in **Laos** with dam projects, in **Moldova**, **Peru** and **Bolivia** with urban planning and water infrastructure, and in **Madagascar**, where drought-related migration movements are factored in. And in **Haiti**, entire villages maintain their dry-stone walls they built five years ago, which protect their fields from storm surges and heavy rains.



Surviving droughts

In 2024, **Ethiopia** experienced its fourth consecutive major drought. Conflicts over water and grazing land have increased, particularly in the Wag-Hemra zone of the Amhara region, where the political situation remains tense. Helvetas assisted people in the initial months with cash, animal feed and vaccination campaigns for livestock, since these often represent people's only source of income. At the same time, affected people are learning climate-resilient farming methods to better withstand future droughts.



After the fires

Mega-fires in **Bolivia** have destroyed more than 10 million hectares of forest and land, an area more than twice the size of Switzerland. They have also affected Helvetas' projects. The country team provided families in the project area with urgently needed drinking water. With rapid reforestation and the protection of watersheds, Helvetas ensures that Bolivia's population will continue to have access to water for their daily use and to irrigate their fields.

Aid after hurricanes

In November, Hurricane Sara damaged 4,400 homes and 976 water conduits in **Honduras**. Helvetas provided 1,000 families with drinking water and hygiene kits and helped repair water supply. One month later, Cyclone Chido struck **Mozambique**, damaging or destroying 70,000 homes and the livelihoods of thousands of people. Helvetas assessed the local needs for all emergency aid organizations in one of the country's districts. It distributed 2,000 emergency kits and is now supporting the restoration of 35 water access points.

More about our Humanitarian Response: helvetas.org/humanitarianresponse



Rockets destroyed Oleh Konovalov's bookstore. With donations from Switzerland, he was able to reopen it. The Swiss book trade and the Swiss Book Centre cooperative, together with Helvetas, collected funds in a solidarity campaign for the repair of bookstores and printing shops and the furnishing of school shelters. With its partner organizations, Helvetas is providing financial grants to help business owners reopen their small businesses. In this way, cafes, bakeries, plastering companies and others are creating jobs and strengthening the country's economic resilience.

"I had always dreamed of running a cozy, beautiful bookstore where people would be happy to meet."

Oleh Konovalov, Kharkiv, Ukraine

RAISING AWARENESS, CONSTANTLY

Last year, the Swiss Parliament passed the new International Cooperation Strategy 2025–28 and decided to cut millions from poverty alleviation efforts. Given the consequences of this decision, Helvetas has joined the debate over these budget cuts.

For the next four years, Switzerland’s International Cooperation will likely have \$11.97 billion US dollars available, over half a billion less than in the previous four years. \$1.68 billion (15%) of this reduced amount is earmarked for humanitarian aid and the reconstruction of Ukraine. In light of Russia’s breach of international law with its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, this money could and should have been allocated through extraordinary funding by the Swiss Parliament. This substantial cut in aid could instead have helped millions of people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe to improve their livelihoods and escape poverty.

Helvetas clearly outlined the goals, impact and role of Swiss development cooperation in the debate over budget cuts. Independent evaluations in the latest report by the Swiss government confirm that Swiss development cooperation has an average success rate of 80%. And this is despite the fact that development programs are by their very nature conducted in unstable regions and fragile contexts. Nonetheless, the effectiveness of “development aid” has often been broadly questioned by Members of Parliament and the general public, and demonstrably false figures comparing the increase in spending on International Cooperation to that of spending on the Swiss military have been spread. Through awareness-raising efforts, Helvetas has repeatedly



Helvetas ambassadors Kafi Freitag and Patrick Rohr press a solidarity alert button.

refuted such false claims. With Alliance Sud, the Competence Center for International Cooperation and Development Policy, Helvetas was in contact with Members of Parliament and launched a solidarity alert to raise public awareness of international cooperation and sustainable development.

In addition, in 2024, Helvetas:

- presented the exhibition “On the Move Across the World” in partnership with the Ballenberg Open-Air Museum, which drew a connection between the historical mobility of the Swiss and today’s migration. It attracted 90,000 visitors.
- raised awareness as a member of the Agenda 2030 Platform on the relevance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

and highlighted that Switzerland is not on track to meet its goals.

- advocated for a responsible and effective Swiss policy on climate and climate justice, for example by recommending to vote “yes” on the Electricity Act.
- argued at the UN Climate Change Conference for a committed Switzerland that is engaged in finding viable solutions to the climate crisis.
- joined Swiss NGOs in encouraging the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss UN Mission to actively address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and the status of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh at the UN Security Council.
- expanded its development policy advisory board to include members from The Centre party and the Council of States.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, SUSTAINABLY

Public and private donors want projects they support to deliver clear and measurable benefits. Binding procedures are in place to ensure that neither people nor the environment suffer adverse impacts. Helvetas trains project managers worldwide on how to put these procedures into practice.

For example, when building a dam, people affected by resettlement or land loss must be fairly compensated. And, before introducing a new variety of rice, its suitability for the expected climate must be assessed. New production methods must not lead to job losses, and newly cultivated land must not threaten biodiversity. While these measures may seem self-evident, experience shows that in development cooperation, environmental and social standards are sometimes not sufficiently upheld, and that safety precautions may be insufficient.

Countries and organizations applying for funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the UN, must therefore meet strict criteria relating to topics such as climate protection, gender equality, biodiversity, resource management, cultural heritage and health impacts. This constitutes a challenge for many project teams, which is why IFAD has commissioned Helvetas to train project managers across the globe who are applying for IFAD funding in implementing these procedures.

The trainings involve project managers as well as technical experts and government ministers. This helps spread awareness of the procedures all the way up to the most senior levels of decision-



Zira Mavunganidze, Climate and Environment Specialist for IFAD, training future trainers in Johannesburg.

makers. Helvetas goes beyond the bounds of conventional training. With the firm conviction that shared experience leads to the most effective kind of learning, Helvetas promotes “Communities of Practice.” These networks help experts and project managers to exchange ideas regularly, share knowledge and reflect on their work together, across country and sector boundaries.

Helvetas trains independent trainers who conduct context-specific workshops to facilitate these knowledge exchanges and trainings. These trainers are familiar with the local language, culture, political

dynamics, history and potential of each region. This allows them to teach relevant, practical skills. To date, such trainings have been conducted in 28 countries. “The consultants have to be empathetic and able to inspire and motivate participants. And they have to be digitally skilled to create engaging online workshops,” explains Kai Schrader, who oversees the IFAD mandate at Helvetas. Helvetas acts as a hub in this process, organizing the trainings, connecting stakeholders, mediating between different needs and taking limits into consideration.

Helvetas’ work as part of this IFAD initiative has led to the emergence of a global network of experts committed to implementing environmental, social and climate protection standards in rural development, in full alignment with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The newly trained consultants can also offer their expertise to institutions such as other UN agencies or the World Bank to help applicants meet social and environmental standards, for the benefit of both people and the planet.

Knowledge is what we use in our work. Learning is how we increase or enhance our knowledge. Innovation is how we leverage knowledge and learning to significantly increase impact.

WHO BUILDS THE BRIDGES TO A SAFER FUTURE?

In Nepal, Helvetas, together with SDC and the government of Nepal, has supported the construction of over 10,000 suspension foot-bridges and trained thousands of professionals in this process. Since 2008, these engineers have been sharing their expertise through TRAC4Change's South-South exchange programs with countries that face similar geographical challenges, including Bhutan, Laos, Indonesia, Honduras, Mozambique, Tanzania, Burundi, and Ethiopia, where more than 200 such bridges have already been constructed, 170 of them in Ethiopia alone. In 2024, 20 engineers, 51 consultants, 119 contractors, and 14 materials manufacturers were trained in this East African country.

Helvetas engineers Sewnet Assegu from Ethiopia and Pasang Sherpa from Nepal stand together on a bridge that they built together in northern Ethiopia.

© Simon B. Opladen

HELVETAS USA'S MILESTONE YEAR YIELDS LANDMARK SUPPORT

In 2024 Helvetas USA celebrated our 10th anniversary as a sister office of the organization. We continue to build new relationships each year and expand existing ones, raising \$14.6 million in 2024 – accounting for over 25 % of Helvetas’ total fundraising income. The financials of our affiliate organization are incorporated into Helvetas’ financial overview on these pages and shared in detail on page 38.

Necessary investments

Never before in Helvetas' history has there been such a large budget for projects as in 2024, and the very satisfactory financial result yielded a year-end financial surplus of \$1.5 million. This represents a significant improvement over the previous year, which showed a financial loss. Investments in digitalization are necessary to ensure that the numerous meaningful projects in our partner countries can continue to be implemented successfully and cost-effectively in the future. These investments will improve and streamline project management and automate processes and controls. Financing such digital systems is becoming increasingly challenging, given the diminishing level of contributions and budgets for international cooperation.

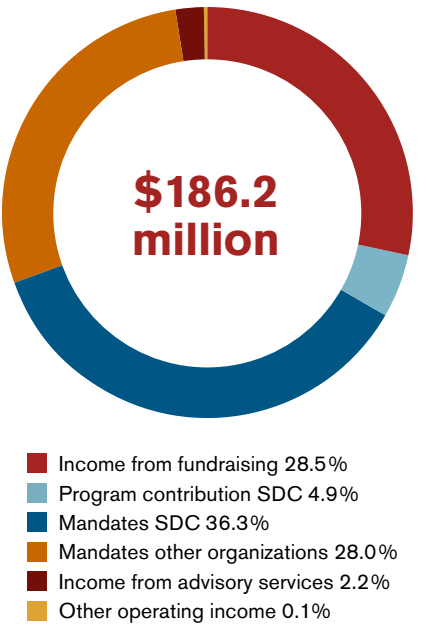
Financial audit

KPMG audited Helvetas' Switzerland accounts and financial statements and approved these on May 20, 2025, in Swiss Francs. The consolidated numbers are shown in USD (exchange rate 2024 CHF 1 = USD 1.12, 2023 CHF 1 = 1.11 USD). Mullins PC audited and approved Helvetas USA's accounts and financial statements on March 13, 2025. This audit report and the 2024 Form 990 can be downloaded at helvetasusa.org

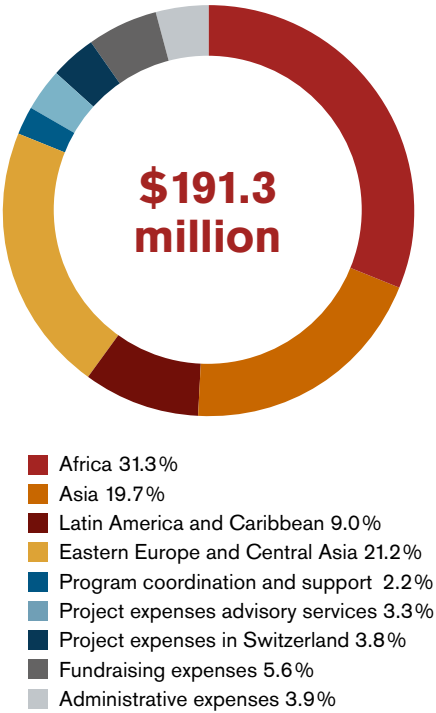
HELVETAS' GLOBAL BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	31.12.2024 USD	31.12.2023 USD
Cash and cash equivalents	74,700,899	68,538,775
Marketable securities	22,648,520	20,830,914
Receivables	5,298,240	8,593,096
Net assets in project countries	22,757,044	14,811,615
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	9,590,863	15,282,344
Current assets	134,995,567	128,056,744
Financial assets	1,927	5,551
Tangible fixed assets	547,812	348,720
Intangible assets	858,580	1,175,615
Non-current assets	1,408,318	1,529,886
Assets	136,403,885	129,586,630
LIABILITIES		
Short-term accounts payable	6,230,430	5,475,445
Accrued expenses and deferred income	84,153,296	78,558,465
Short-term provisions	0	47,038
Short-term liabilities	90,383,726	84,080,948
Long-term provisions	1,049,013	564,979
Long-term liabilities	1,049,013	564,979
Liabilities	91,432,739	84,645,927
Fund capital	11,091,489	13,290,312
Liabilities incl. fund capital	102,524,228	97,936,239
Unrestricted capital	15,892,074	13,214,192
Restricted capital	18,090,342	18,583,580
Organizational capital	33,879,678	31,650,391
Liabilities	136,403,906	129,586,630

SOURCE OF FUNDS



USE OF FUNDS

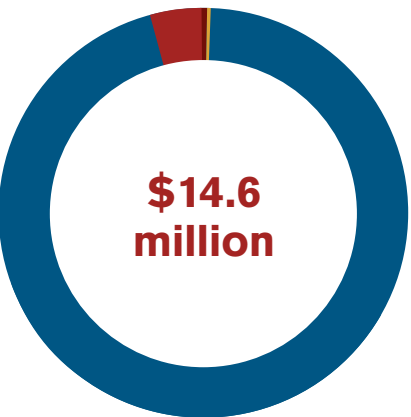


HELVETAS' GLOBAL STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

INCOME	2024 USD	2023 USD
Membership fees	2,317,497	2,139,311
Donations	48,183,044	44,154,266
Inheritances and legacies	2,135,082	1,663,147
Income from fundraising	52,635,623	47,956,724
Program contribution SDC	9,016,797	8,849,636
Mandates SDC	66,627,938	63,110,676
Mandates other organizations	53,689,235	49,972,188
Income from advisory services	4,038,026	5,075,150
Other operating income	183,149	178,041
Income from services provided	133,555,146	127,185,692
Operating income	186,190,769	175,142,416
EXPENSES		
Africa	-59,071,031	-49,982,697
Asia	-38,185,333	-37,868,181
Latin America and Caribbean	-16,937,053	-21,514,673
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	-40,933,188	-36,950,281
Program coordination and support	-4,240,876	-3,917,740
Project expenses international programs	-159,367,482	-150,233,571
Project expenses advisory services	-6,251,351	-7,067,605
Project expenses Switzerland	-7,078,222	-6,569,325
Fundraising expenses	-10,480,152	-10,319,327
Administrative expenses	-8,129,961	-7,205,170
Operating expenses	-191,307,169	-181,394,997
Operating result	-5,116,400	-6,252,582
Financial result	4,201,635	628,909
Other result	48,914	54,067
Result before change in fund capital	-865,851	-5,569,606
Change in fund capital	2,449,865	3,741,421
Annual result before allocation to organizational capital	1,584,014	-1,828,185
Allocations/utilizations		
Unrestricted capital	2,428,279	-1,286,489
Strategy Acceleration fund	-822,400	-541,696
Social fund	-21,865	0

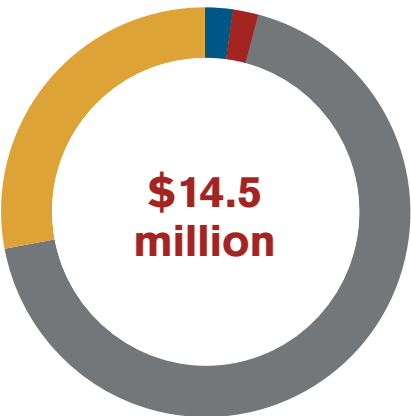
HELVETAS USA FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SOURCE OF FUNDS



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

USE OF FUNDS

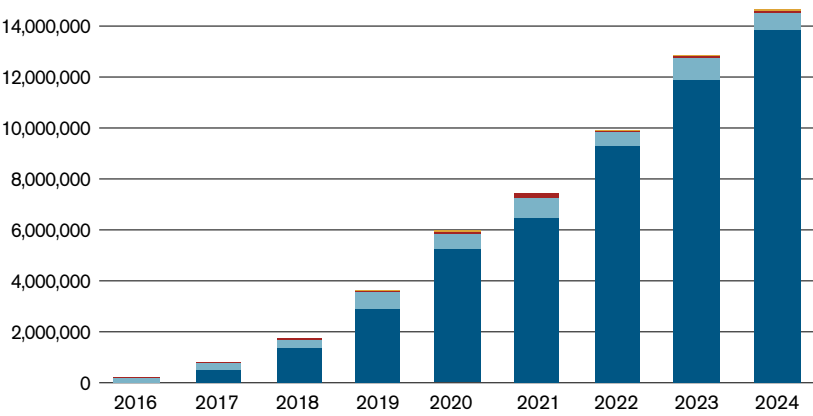


- Fundraising
- Supporting Services
- Africa
- Asia

HELVETAS USA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT AND REVENUES	2024 in USD	2023 in USD
Foundation Contributions and Grants	13,896,615	11,925,519
Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	678,564	877,713
Individual and Board Member Contributions	33,527	60,867
Other Income	22,706	12,875
Total Support	14,631,411	12,876,974
EXPENSES		
Program Services	13,931,590	12,312,471
Supporting Services	287,335	270,948
Fundraising	311,726	267,387
Total Expense	14,530,651	12,850,806
Change in Net assets	100,760	26,168
Net assets, Beginning of Year	570,047	543,879
Net assets, End of Year	670,807	570,047

SUPPORT GROWTH



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

COMMITTED AND INFLUENTIAL

Helvetas is a politically and denominationally neutral association, supported by over 91,100 members, benefactors and donors. Helvetas USA Board members lead the U.S. affiliate through their invaluable oversight and advisement.

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FINANCING WATER SECURITY WITH CARBON CREDITS

A new initiative made possible by an anonymous donation for water and climate is supporting clean water access in Madagascar through carbon finance. This scalable model sets a new standard for sustainable water service delivery in climate-vulnerable regions.



The Jaovoavy family uses the new village standpipe in the Diana region of Madagascar.

In 2024 Helvetas launched a new partnership with Virridy, a global leader in water-resiliency carbon credit generation, to implement the Ranovola Water Program for Madagascar. This program will expand safe drinking water services to hundreds of thousands of people while leveraging carbon finance for long-term operations.

The program builds upon an existing initiative that currently provides safe drinking water to nearly 100,000 daily users, and will scale

to reach approximately 350,000 people by 2030. Ranovola combines innovative water infrastructure with climate finance, generating Gold Standard-certified carbon credits by eliminating the need for households to boil water, impacting greenhouse gas emissions and utilizing the concept of suppressed demand.

Select water points will be equipped with meters and prepaid systems to ensure equitable access and long-term financial viability. These

infrastructure investments will be complemented by educational campaigns that promote improved hygiene practices.

While grant funding will cover a substantial portion of the project's capital costs, long-term financing for maintenance and expansion remains a challenge. The carbon credits generated through reduced fuel use for water boiling will help bridge financial gaps, support maintenance and repair expenses, and fund future system expansions.

WE THANK ALL DONORS, FUNDERS, CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

SDC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Project and program contributions

Cantons, Cities and Municipalities

FEDEVACO, Fédération vaudoise de coopération

FGC, Fédération genevoise de coopération

Cantons of Aargau, Lucerne, Obwalden, Ticino, Valais, Zurich, Canton of Basel-Stadt, Republic and Canton of Geneva

Gemeinsame Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Adliswil (Protestant congregation of Sihltal, Roman Catholic congregation and City of Adliswil), Bettingen, Chiasso, Fribourg, Geneva, Maur, Münsingen, Protestant congregation of Unterseen, Riehen, Sorengo, City Cooperation of Schaffhausen – Frauenfeld – St. Gallen – Winterthur, Schlieren, Vevey, Zurich

Foundations, associations and other NPOs

Albert Jenny Stiftung

Alfred Richerich Stiftung

Alois und Irma Weber-Goldinger-Stiftung

Alstom Foundation

Bridges to Prosperity

Büchi Foundation

CHARISMA Stiftung für nachhaltige Entwicklung
charity: water

Coop Sustainability Fund

Corrado Stiftung

Däster-Schild Stiftung

Drink & Donate and Viva con Agua Switzerland

Eckenstein-Geigy Foundation

ESPERANZA – kooperative Hilfe gegen Armut

Fondation Agnès Delachaux

Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI

Fondation Cordama

Fondation Johann et Luzia Grässli

Fondation Loom

Fondation Lord Michelham of Hellingly

Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz

Fondation Sauvain Petitpierre

Fondation SMARTPEACE

Fondazione Teofilo Rossi di Montelera e di Premuda

FOSIT, Federazione delle ONG della Svizzera italiana

Foundation for the Third Millennium

GCERF, Global Community Engagement & Resilience Fund

Gebauer Stiftung

Gemeinnützige Stiftung Accentus

Gemeinnützige Stiftung Symphasis

Genossenschaft Schweizer Buchzentrum (SBZ)

Georg Fischer Water Foundation

UK Online Giving Foundation

Ursula Zindel-Hilti Foundation

UTIL Stiftung

Volkart Foundation

Von Duhn Stiftung

Walter Haefner Stiftung

Water4all Switzerland

WIR TEILEN: Fastenopfer Liechtenstein

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Companies

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“We value the professional and trusting cooperation with Helvetas highly, especially in the implementation of Zurich’s partnerships with the cities of Cox’s Bazar and Mbeya, because of their commitment and expertise on the ground.”

Anna Schindler, Director of Urban Development, City of Zurich

Gertrude Hirzel Foundation

Gottfried und Ursula Schächli-Jecklin Stiftung

Gruppe Sursee und die Welt

Happel Foundation

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Laudes Foundation

LED, Liechtenstein Development Service

Leopold Bachmann Stiftung

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fenaco Genossenschaft

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Loterie Romande

PINI Group SA

SIGE, Service Intercommunal de Gestion

Swan Analytische Instrumente AG

Technische Betriebe Flawil

Top Team Sanitär Installations GmbH

VERLINGUE AG

Walter Matter SA

Other Funding Agencies and Clients

ADA, Austrian Development Agency

AECID, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo

AFD, Agence française de développement

AICS, Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo

Asociación Alterna ONG

BMEL, German Ministry of Food and Agriculture

BMZ, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

CARITAS Switzerland

CIAT, International Center for Tropical Agriculture

CRS, Catholic Relief Services

Czech Republic Ministry of Interior

DAI Global UK Ltd

DANIDA, Danish International Development Agency

Dar es Salaam University College of Education

Eawag

EC European Commission / DEVCO

ECHO, EU

Enabel, Belgian Development Agency

ETH Zürich

FAO, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

Farmahem Doel

FoBBIZ, Swiss Forum for Skills Development and International Cooperation

Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity (BIOFUND)

Foundation myclimate

GFRAS (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services)

GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

Government of Nepal

HEKS/EPER, Swiss Church Aid

Humanity International

IDB, Inter-American Development Bank

IFAD, International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFOAM, Organics International

iGravity AG

THANK YOU

IOM, International Organization for Migration
ISW, International Secretariat for Water
KEK-CDC AG
LIFT Livelihoods & Food Security Fund UNOPS
Lindt Cocoa Foundation
Luxembourg Development Agency
Mercy Corps Europa
Northwestern University
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Norwegian Trust Fund
OCHA, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PATRIP Foundation
People in Need
Pestalozzi Children's Foundation
Plan Binacional de Desarrollo de la Region Fronteriza Peru – Ecuador
Reismühle Nutrex
SECO, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Skat Consulting Ltd.
SNV, Netherlands Development Organisation
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property
Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa
Swiss Solidarity
Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium
Swiss Water Partnership
Swisscontact
UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP, UN Development Programme
UNEP
UNICEF
United Purpose
University of Zurich
UNOPS
Urbaplan
USAID, U.S. Agency for International Development
Vaillant GmbH

WFP, World Food Programme
WHH, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V.
World Bank
World Waternet
WWF

Partnerships, Alliances and Networks

AFC, Agriculture and Finance Consultants GmbH
AGUASAN Community of Practice
Alliance for Water Stewardship
Alliance Sud
Alliance2015 (Acted, Ayuda en Acción, CESVI, CONCERN worldwide, HELVETAS, People in Need, Welthungerhilfe)
Basel Institute of Governance
Beam Exchange
Better Cotton Initiative
Canopy Lab
Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern
Civicus
CLEAR Centers Anglophone Africa and Francophone Africa
Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub
DCED, Donor committee on enterprise development
DDLGN, Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance Network
ECEAT, European Centre for Eco Agro Tourism
fair unterwegs
Fastenaktion
FIAN Switzerland
FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
FOEN, Federal Office for the Environment
Fondation Hironnelle
Ford Foundation
GCF, Green Climate Fund
Gemeinsam für Afrika Netzwerk
Gesellschaft Schweiz-UNO
GFA Consulting Group
GNDR, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
GWC Global WASH Cluster
HAFL, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences
ICON-INSTITUTE Consulting Gruppe

Institute of Development Studies
ISEAL
IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Klimaallianz Schweiz
KM4DEV
KOFF, The Swiss platform for peacebuilding
LOGIN Asia
Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Institute of Business and Regional Economics
mascontour GmbH
Max Havelaar Switzerland
Mesopartner
Millennium Water Alliance
NetHope
NGO-Plattform Menschenrechte Schweiz
NIRAS A/S
NORRAG, Network for international policies and cooperation in education and training
PEDRR, Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
PHZH, Zurich University of Teacher Education
Platform Agenda 2030
PROVIA, Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation
Public Eye
RECI, Swiss Network for Education & International Cooperation
Rés EAU
Robert Bosch Stiftung
RRI, Rights and Resources Initiative
RWSN, Rural Water Supply Network
Save the Children
SDC Agriculture and Food Systems network
SDC E+E Education and Economy Network
SDC Gender Equality Network
SDC Health Network
SDC Network Climate, DRR and Environment
SDC Peace Governance Equality Network
SEEP Network
SEVAL, Schweizerische Evaluationsgesellschaft

SFIAR, Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research
SFRAS, Swiss Forum for Rural Advisory Services
SFUVET, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training
Solidar Suisse
SOS Kinderdorf International
South Pole
SPTF, Social Performance Task Force
SSF, Swiss Sustainable Finance
Sustainable Rice Platform
SVEB Swiss Federation for Adult Learning
Swiss Alliance against SLAPP
Swiss Coalition for Corporate Justice
Swiss Fair Trade
Swiss KM Thinktable
Swiss National FAO Committee (CNS-FAO)
Swiss NGO DRR Platform
Swiss NGO Platform
Swiss Red Cross
SWISSAID
Swisspeace
Terre des Hommes
Textile Exchange
UEBT, Union for Ethical Biotech
UNFCCC, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGC, UN Global Compact
University of Zurich, Department of Economics
University of Zurich, Department of Geography
Value Chain Capacity Building Network
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ZHAW, Zurich University of Applied Sciences

The list includes institutional donors and clients (from CHF 5,000 upwards) as well as partners.

“I used to get water from the river. My health was worse. We’re doing much better now.”

Maimounatou Soulé,
Toumarou, Benin



In **2024**, Helvetas received generous donations and bequests adding up to **\$52 million** and provided services totaling **\$130 million**. This allowed **1,464** committed Helvetas staff and about **1,500** partner organizations worldwide to support **2.25 million** women and **2.6 million** men in **35** countries to forge a life without poverty.



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