

2016



HELVETAS
Swiss Intercooperation

ANNUAL REPORT

378,290 people gained access to clean drinking water.



577,283 people attended training for methods to improve the yield of their farms in a sustainable manner.



1,143,305 people got improved access to schools, hospitals and markets thanks to bridges and roads.



420,202 people benefitted from better commercialisation of their farm products.



101,066 people received access to sanitation facilities.



350,299 people attended courses at which they learned about their civil rights and/or democracy, decentralised administration, migration and peace-building.

54,252 people attended vocational colleges or trainings.



170,751 people – children as well as adults – attended primary schools or literacy courses.



592,382 people have gained access to land and forests and/or prepared themselves to adapt agricultural production to the effects of climate change.



A BETTER LIFE FOR 3,787,830 PEOPLE

© HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation



1,200 families in Peru chose from a wide range of measures to adapt to climate change. The findings of this large-scale trial fed into regional climate plans and national climate policy.

Page 14

© Flurina Rothberger



30,000 women and men in Benin learn to read and write every year. Some of them describe how this process changed their view of the world.

Page 16

© Karin Wenger



300,000 young people leave Sri Lanka every year in search of work abroad. Helvetas informs them about their rights and helps them in legal disputes.

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ABOUT US

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is an international network of independent affiliate members working in the field of development cooperation and emergency response. As a network, we promote the fundamental rights of individuals and groups and strengthen governments and other duty bearers in their service provision. The HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation network builds upon six decades of development experience. Its 1,600 staff members work in 29 countries. The affiliated members share a common vision and mission and subscribe to common working principles and policies. The members implement joint development programmes and adhere to one common strategy built on defined working approaches and thematic areas of intervention.



3,787,830

people (1,776,523 women and 2,011,307 men) took steps towards a better world in 2016 with the help of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. They built water supply systems and sanitation facilities; they worked together on suspension bridges and simple roads. They altered their production methods, and women farmers began to grow new products for market. They realised that it is possible to live together in peace and that government bodies are there to serve the whole community. These 3,787,830 people include all the women, men and children involved in projects that HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation has carried out for Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

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.



PAYING OFF OUR CLIMATE DEBT

Eromi Saanu, a smallholder farmer in Mali, works hard to cultivate his small field. He digs a knee-deep hole in the hard soil every half metre and fills it with manure and plant residues. Next year the soil will already be softer and better able to store the little available water. This work-intensive soil improvement technique is called zaï, and it was re-discovered in the 1980s as the first signs of climate change became apparent in the Sahel.

Our climate expert Rupa Mukerji visited Eromi Saanu some time back and she was reminded of him last autumn in Marrakesh during the celebrations of the ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement – the first universal climate deal. Countries defined their actual goals, and both the United States and China were successfully brought on board. “What does the Paris agreement mean in practical terms for a farmer like Eromi Saanu?” Rupa Mukerji asked amid the jubilation in Marrakesh. “How can we make sure that the designated funding reaches farmers like him?”

These are crucial questions for a development organisation such as HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. Of course, we have campaigned in Switzerland and on international panels for the most stringent possible regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and we and other NGOs can congratulate ourselves on this achievement. At long last, an agreement has come into force that aims to limit global warming to 1.5° C and spread the burden of climate change more equally. But we must be realistic: even if the measures and promises in the Paris Climate Agreement are swiftly implemented, it will be decades before climate change

slows and disastrous weather events such as droughts and floods become less frequent.

Climate change poses an existential threat to Eromi Saanu and billions of other people in developing countries, and they will have to make it through these decades. They must have the opportunity to adapt to a changed climate and prepare for future disasters. We, along with numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations, are supporting them in their efforts.

This annual report gives some examples of how we are doing this. In Kyrgyzstan, the available water is now used to irrigate cotton fields more equitably and economically. In Mali, farmers have begun to grow hardier vegetable varieties for their own household use and to sell in local markets. In Peru, members of regional authorities and the national government have enshrined climate adaptation in their agendas and in their development policies.

© Michele Lunna



Elmar Ledergerber
President of
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation has long defined climate change mitigation and adaptation as a part of development aid, and has followed up on this topic with increasing persistence over time. I am proud that nearly 100,000 members, numerous foundations and state agencies including SDC, SECO, the Liechtenstein Development Service, DFID and Europe-Aid have accompanied us in our work. I am very grateful to them for their support. It helps to repay a tiny proportion of the climate debt that rich countries have accrued during the industrial age.

TRULY CHANGING LIVES

True and lasting change takes place where everyone is pulling in the same direction: individuals, the state, the private sector and civil society. HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is doing its best to integrate as many stakeholders as possible into development cooperation and development politics to ensure that the progress we achieve together lasts.

The world has become a better place over the past 25 years. In that time a billion people have lifted themselves out of extreme poverty, average life expectancy in the poorest countries has risen from 51 to 62 years, and the number of illiterate youth has fallen by about 20 per cent in the past five years alone. This is good news because it shows that countless people are willing and able to create better lives for themselves.

Yet these average figures should not mask the fact that many people are unable to enjoy the fruits of this progress. Wealth is incredibly concentrated. A handful of men now own as much as the 3.6 billion people in the bottom half of the wealth pyramid. It is becoming especially hard for young people to reach a position where they are able to determine the course of their own lives. Most of them try to find work in neighbouring countries. Hundreds of thousands cross oceans and deserts in search of the shelter, security and freedom that are lacking in their own countries.

In the industrialised countries that are their ultimate destination, increasing numbers of people are scared of sliding into poverty. Their fear of losing their jobs is understandable while companies continue to move to countries where rock-bottom wages and scandalously low environmental regulations are the norm. Nevertheless, the reactions are horrifying. The comment sections of Western media are filled with anxiety about immigrants and hatred for the so-called elites. This erosion of social cohesion is also breed-

ing an unwillingness to support the poorest of the poor in the global South. As a development organisation, this only intensifies our duty to prevent anyone from being socially marginalised against their will. We do this through our projects and in partnership with civil society and governments alike. Taken together, the many examples of progress we can observe produce the major change I mentioned at the start of this piece, which requires enormous patience and determination.

New dynamism in the South

Resource-efficient production methods and access to national and international markets help farming families to live in dignity in their villages and regions. Newly

built bridges, transport links and water supplies create favourable conditions for rural development. Skills training enables young people in our partner countries to get a foothold in the world of work.

We are collaborating closely with local, regional and national partners to sustain and consolidate the success of our projects. We work with migrant offices in Sri Lanka to help young migrants to claim their rights in the often brutal job market on the Arabian Peninsula; with regional authorities in Ethiopia to organise local parliaments; and with the Nepal government to strengthen the position of skills training in national education policy.

In Haiti, we have once more experienced how important it is to incorporate disaster preparedness into our projects. At the beginning of October, Hurricane Matthew forced us to temporarily postpone our development work and to provide emergency aid for homeless people in our project areas. We were relieved to find that the authorities, which we had trained to deal with precisely this kind of situation, were able to roll out a rapid response. In a very short space of time, they managed to appraise the needs of the people affected and begin to implement the operational and emergency plans they had drafted as part of our programme. Within a few weeks we were in a position to scale back our emergency aid and resume our normal project work.

It would, however, be short-sighted to ensure the success of development aid



© Maurice K. Grüng

Melchior Lengsfeld
Executive Director
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation



© Martin Bichsel

Communicating the people's will. Handing in petitions for the Responsible Business Initiative.

via government agencies and authorities alone. We also support organisations that see themselves as part of civil society. In Mozambique, for example, the Helvetas team has helped local NGOs to resist multinational agri-investors, and in Albania we have supported a dialogue between the local government and civil society about issues including such “hot” topics as taxes, youth unemployment and waste management.

Fragile solidarity in the North

2016 wasn't a good year in terms of solidarity and tolerance. The pressure on the Swiss development budget from the centre and right-wing parties has increased considerably since the parliamentary elections of October 2015. Demands for cuts have become almost an everyday occurrence, and people are now openly calling into question the need for solidarity with the global South that we all used to take for granted. So far, coordinated campaigning by Swiss NGOs has managed to ward off even worse results.

In a climate of public doubt about the impact of development aid, we view it as our duty to highlight the progress made in the South as well as here in Switzerland. We do this through our work with schools, through our exhibition and opinion pieces in the media and our presence on social media. In order to put a face to progress in developing countries, our new poster campaign showcases families that have created a better and safer life for themselves and their descendants over several generations. The posters illustrate in a clear and simple way some positive societal changes that have attracted far too little attention to date.

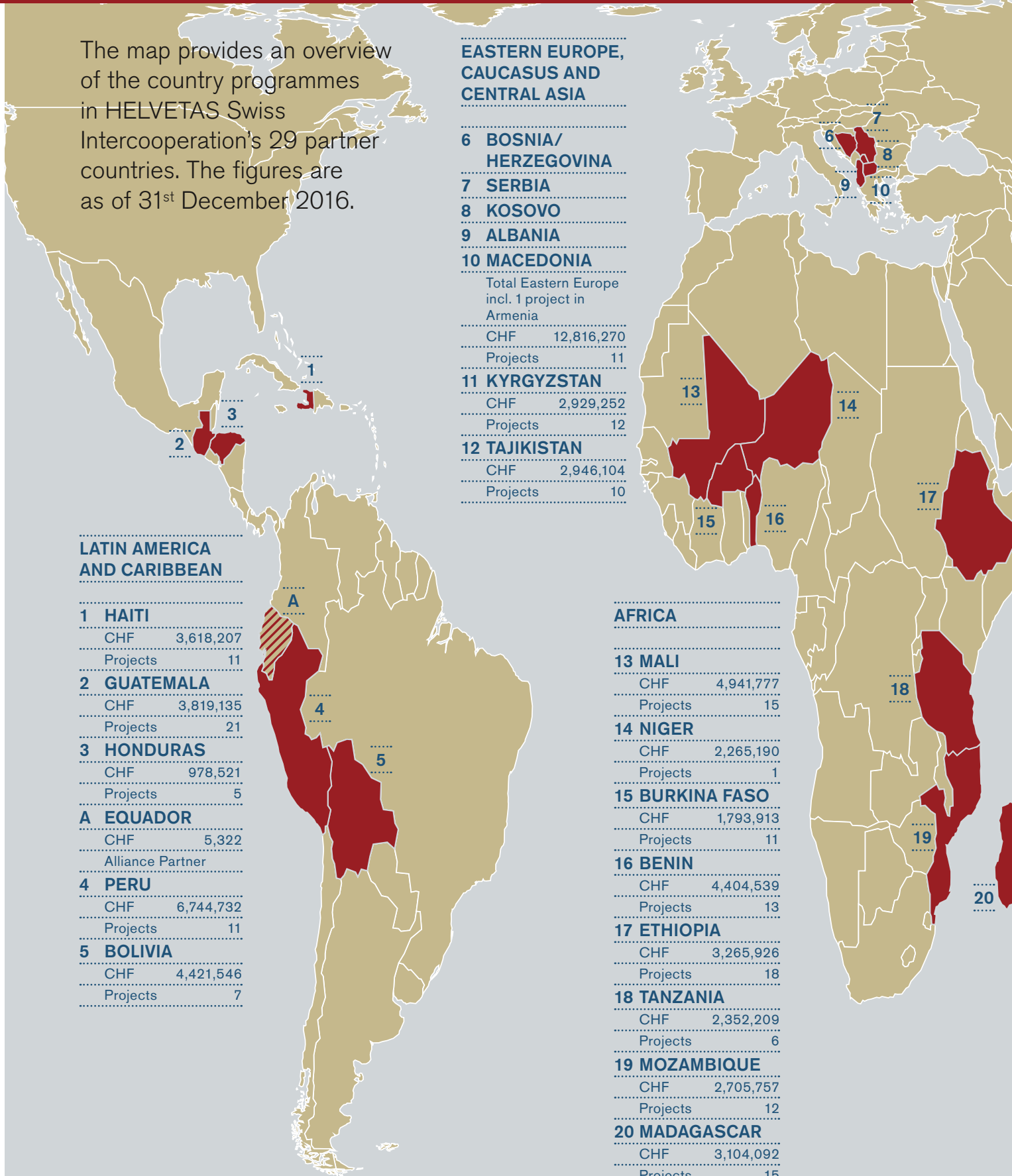
In our political advocacy work, we campaign for framework conditions that foster rather than hinder development in countries in the South. We are a member of a broad coalition of Swiss NGOs campaigning for the Responsible Business Initiative. Over 120,000 people signed a petition demanding that Swiss companies should comply with basic labour laws and environmental standards in their

operations abroad – though this should, of course, go without saying. Less high profile, but equally important, was our lobbying during a review of Swiss public procurement laws. The aim is to enable authorities to consider not just price and quality in their calls for tender but also social criteria such as the rights and wages of the workers producing uniforms to order. If raising workers' pay in the South makes the uniforms more expensive, it would also increase the competitiveness of the textile industry in the North.

Our project work in the South as well as our awareness-raising campaigns and political advocacy in the North help to bring about real change, and we are proud to be part of this. We would like to thank you, dear friends of Helvetas, for supporting our work, whether through a private donation or as a member of a government agency or foundation that funds our projects on the ground. Together, we are pursuing a grand goal: to ensure that everyone everywhere can live in dignity and safety.

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES IN 2016

The map provides an overview of the country programmes in HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation's 29 partner countries. The figures are as of 31st December 2016.



LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN



1 HAITI	CHF	3,618,207	Projects	11
2 GUATEMALA	CHF	3,819,135	Projects	21
3 HONDURAS	CHF	978,521	Projects	5
A EQUADOR	CHF	5,322	Alliance Partner	
4 PERU	CHF	6,744,732	Projects	11
5 BOLIVIA	CHF	4,421,546	Projects	7

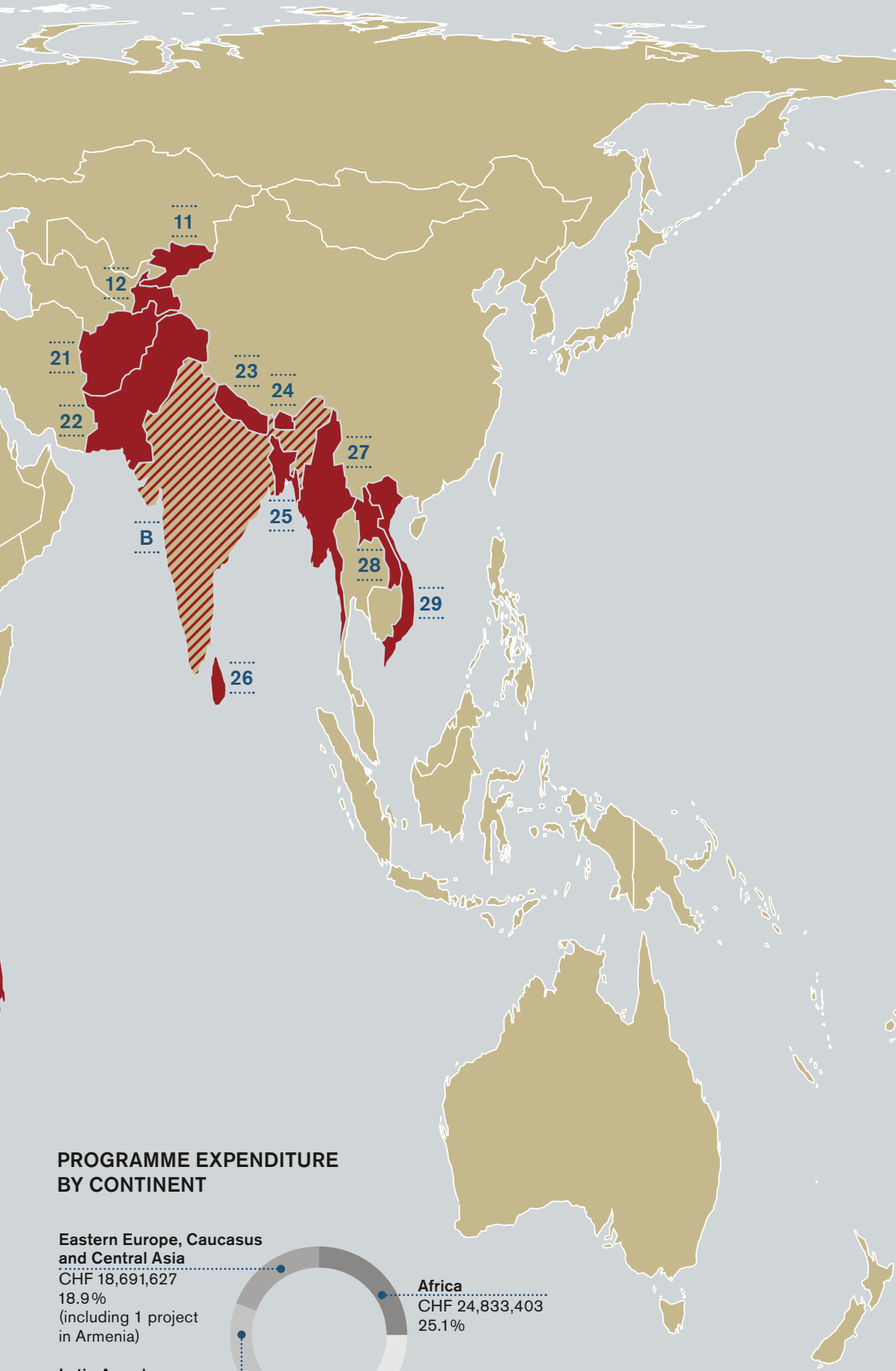
EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

6 BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA				
7 SERBIA				
8 KOSOVO				
9 ALBANIA				
10 MACEDONIA				
Total Eastern Europe incl. 1 project in Armenia				
	CHF	12,816,270	Projects	11
11 KYRGYZSTAN	CHF	2,929,252	Projects	12
12 TAJIKISTAN	CHF	2,946,104	Projects	10

AFRICA

13 MALI	CHF	4,941,777	Projects	15
14 NIGER	CHF	2,265,190	Projects	1
15 BURKINA FASO	CHF	1,793,913	Projects	11
16 BENIN	CHF	4,404,539	Projects	13
17 ETHIOPIA	CHF	3,265,926	Projects	18
18 TANZANIA	CHF	2,352,209	Projects	6
19 MOZAMBIQUE	CHF	2,705,757	Projects	12
20 MADAGASCAR	CHF	3,104,092	Projects	15

 Country Programmes
 Alliance Partner



ASIA

21 AFGHANISTAN

CHF 3,218,035

Projects 6

22 PAKISTAN

CHF 4,107,845

Projects 9

B INDIA

CHF 23,647

Alliance Partner

23 NEPAL

CHF 12,903,431

Projects 47

24 BHUTAN

CHF 1,844,148

Projects 12

25 BANGLADESH

CHF 5,257,400

Projects 11

26 SRI LANKA

CHF 468,347

Projects 8

27 MYANMAR

CHF 1,574,173

Projects 7

28 LAOS

CHF 3,830,390

Projects 13

29 VIETNAM

CHF 1,292,407

Projects 12

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BY CONTINENT

Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

CHF 18,691,627

18.9%
(including 1 project in Armenia)

Africa

CHF 24,833,403

25.1%

Latin America and Caribbean

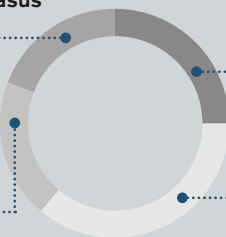
CHF 19,587,464

19.8%
(including 1 project in Ecuador)

Asia

CHF 35,775,436

36.2%
(including disaster relief in Southeast Asia, coordination in India and 1 project in the Philippines)



WATER TOWER

Kyrgyz farmers have begun to irrigate their fields more sparingly and are reducing the amounts of pesticides and fertiliser they use. In 2016 HELVETAS carried out 62 projects in the Water and Infrastructure working area and invested CHF 16,110,787.

KYRGYZSTAN: WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

Mahamam Hakimova, a woman farmer in the Kyrgyz province of Osh, dug irrigation furrows with her hoe, and the water is now wending its way across the parched field, turning the soil soft and dark. Although it hasn't rained for months, the maize stands tall and green in the next field. Mahamam Hakimova bends down to gauge and regulate the flow of water.

Kyrgyzstan is the water tower of Central Asia. However, the country's canal irrigation systems have been poorly maintained since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and it is increasingly difficult for farmers to irrigate their fields properly, especially in summer. This has been exacerbated by climate change, which is leading to a disproportionate rise in temperatures in Central Asia, experts say.

Around 70% of all the water used by humans worldwide is applied to fields. What happens in agriculture will therefore determine whether there is still enough water to satisfy our needs in 2050. As a result, Helvetas has set up programmes in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and India to reduce the water requirements of rice and cotton for export. We are working to persuade major international buyers to demand that their raw materials be sustainably produced, and we are helping local authorities to draw up effective water policies.

In the area around the Kyrgyz cities of Osh and Jalalabad in the south of the



Saving water. To ensure the mountain streams will reach all fields in future.

country, 2,000 participating farmers were informed about simple methods for optimising water use in their fields and reducing pesticide and fertiliser applications. A group of model farmers tested the effects of these measures during the first year of the programme, and the results are very promising. They used thirty-four per cent less water on average in the trial fields, and their income was 30 per cent higher than for conventional production.

To supplement these actions, water users' associations and government representatives are also being taught how to set a modest tariff for water in order to finance urgent repairs to the canal irri-

gation system and make it worthwhile to save water.

Unlike in Pakistan or India, where major buyers support sustainable cotton and rice production, sustainable production does not really figure on the radar of most purchasers of Kyrgyz cotton. Helvetas is therefore actively looking for large importers who are willing to pay a higher price for resource-efficient cotton.

The WAPRO (Water Productivity) programme is a mandate from SDC that is 50% co-financed by donations to Helvetas.

“There used to be conflicts between farmers and the sluice keeper, or arguments because the farmers further down the canal got less water. Now we can measure who uses how much water, and we know how to use the water more sparingly.”

Mahamam Hakimova, 47, a farmer in Tepe-Korgon, Osh province, Kyrgyzstan



© Simon B. Opladen

60 %

of the water used in agriculture is lost on its way to crops.

Source: FAO

479,356

people gained access to clean drinking water and/or sanitation in 2016 thanks to Helvetas.

1,143,305

people gained better access to schools, hospitals and regional markets in 2016 thanks to Helvetas bridge-building projects.

ADVISORY SERVICES: PRIVATE COMPANIES FOR DRINKING WATER

Worldwide investment in the water sector must triple if the drinking water target in the UN Sustainable Development Goals is to be met. Some of the investment required in Madagascar needs to come from the private sector. Helvetas is working with local companies, who take on ten per cent of the investment costs and maintain and manage the jointly financed water supply systems on behalf of the local council. Since their investment is only secure if the infrastructure is properly built and well maintained, the companies set great store on sustainability. Which are the factors that guarantee the viability of this promising model? And how can water users keep tabs on the company? Lucien Blaser has been studying these questions with the local Helvetas team.



Lucien Blaser gained a BSc in Geosciences and Environment from the University of Lausanne and then did an MSc in Development Studies at the IHEID in Geneva. After an internship with

SDC's Global Water Programme Division, Lucien Blaser joined Helvetas as an adviser on drinking water and basic sanitation, and coordinates the Swiss Water Partnership.

VEGETABLES FOR MARKET

Women in Mali are taking part of the crop from their new gardens to the market. In 2016 HELVETAS carried out 95 projects in the Rural Economy working area and invested CHF 27,503,282.

MALI: GARDENING AS A SPRINGBOARD

Only 500 millimetres of annual precipitation, and rainfall patterns are growing increasingly unpredictable. If you want to survive in the Malian Sahel, you have to be innovative, early to rise and late to bed, like 23-year-old Korotimi Kamaté. It is still dark when her day begins. In the mornings she cooks for her brothers and sisters, and in the evenings she bakes sesame pastries to sell. However, she spends most of her time working in the garden she laid out two years ago.

Korotimi Kamaté learned how to set up a garden, make compost, prepare her own seeds and successfully market her vegetables on a course run by Helvetas. It was part of an agricultural and educational project Helvetas organised in southern Mali with the goal of reducing malnutrition, increasing resilience in the face of climatic variation and enabling farming families to improve their incomes. The project aims to make the most of the region's existing resources – land, labour and grassroots organisations whose members are keen to learn new things and pass on their knowledge.

Local advisers introduce farmers to some production techniques that have been re-discovered after a long period of neglect and others that have proved their worth on other continents. In cooperation with local women's and farmers' organisations, Helvetas funds small processing factories for local produce such as sesame, shallots, poultry, fruit juices, shea



© Fatoumata Diabate

Vegetables. From vegetable patch to cooking pot and to the market.

butter and chillies. They explore market opportunities and learn rudimentary accounting skills. These small businesses have enabled a remarkable number of women to build up a decent livelihood for themselves in a short space of time and even hire extra staff. Others earn a little extra income from selling vegetables.

Korotimi Kamaté is one of the latter. When she came back from the course, she asked her father for a small plot of land and laid out her first vegetable patch. The proceeds from that crop were just about enough to pay off the loan for the seeds. Her first attempt to plant potatoes failed because she had cut the

seed potatoes into chunks that were too small. She refused to be put off, though, and tried some other crops. She now has a good reputation and sells most of her crops in advance, using the proceeds to buy food and clothes and pay for the mobile phone with which she runs her small business. "My mother always wanted me to be independent," says Korotimi Kamaté, "and now I am. Should I get married one day, I want a husband who respects me, who lets me do my own thing and who is brave."



© Fatoumata Diabate

“Out here the market is slow-moving. I want to grow my vegetable business. I want to create something dynamic that earns me good money.”

Korotimi Kamaté, 23, market gardener in the San district of southern Mali

240 m²
of land is enough to cover the vegetable needs of a European 4-Person Household.

Source: stadt-gemuese.de

577,283
people were trained in agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry in 2016 thanks to Helvetas.

420,202
people were able to market their products better after attending courses run by Helvetas.

ADVISORY SERVICES: PASSING ON EXPERIENCE

Urbanisation and a growing middle class in Bangladesh are creating new opportunities for farmers to increase their income. Many farmers only produce small quantities, however. Also, their production is often of poor quality, meaning that they struggle to attract traders and other buyers. Farmers in northern Bangladesh have joined forces with market actors to build collection centres to consolidate and store their production so that together they can sell their products to dealers in the local communities. Zenebe B. Uraguchi collaborates with public and private players to tackle the root causes of market failures. Zenebe uses simple stories to share his experiences from different countries. He often provides coaching and learns from his peers. He strongly believes in documenting and sharing both successful and failed development initiatives.



Zenebe B. Uraguchi holds MAs in International Relations (IUJ, Japan) and Political Economy (Waterloo, Canada), and a Ph.D. in Development Economics. He has worked for 22 years in devel-

opment cooperation, including six years with Helvetas. He has experience in various African, Asian and Balkan countries. Uraguchi is a senior adviser for private sector development and labour economics.

WATER HARVESTING

Farmers in Peru are influencing government climate policy. In 2016 HELVETAS carried out 55 projects in the Environment and Climate working area and invested CHF 12,264,145.

PERU: MAKING PONDS AND APPLYING PRESSURE

“Sowing” water and harvesting water – two concepts that come up frequently when village communities get together to debate what they can do to mitigate climate change. Sowing water means planting trees, terracing slopes and – of particular effectiveness – digging pools to slow rainwater runoff in order to allow a continuous flow to wetlands, small springs and narrow streams. What they harvest is a reserve to water their fields. Between 2009 and 2013, 1,200 families from the arid Andean regions of Cusco and Apurimac were given the opportunity to choose what they thought were the best climate change adaptation measures from a list of options. They implemented 5,000 measures ranging from a large infiltration pool to new drought-resistant cereal varieties.

This wide participation and the success of the measures are good news, but they are only a first step in the climate adaptation programme whose primary targets are public authorities and other institutions. This explains why Helvetas worked closely with authorities and institutions in the regions of Cusco and Apurimac. Among the project partners one finds universities, engineering schools and local civil society organisations, mayors and local development committees, farmers' unions and planning offices. Their representatives gather for meetings, workshops, negotiations and lectures in villages where various model climate projects are being trialled. The goal is to raise awareness among all the partic-



Landscapes. Capturing community work in a painting.

ipants about climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and to train them to promote adaptation measures as part of their role as public officials or teachers.

One such public official is the mayor of the village of Costaruse in the Apurimac region. In 2016 he organised a pond-building competition. One hundred and forty-two families and communities took part, using suitable hollows to create 83 artificial ponds capable of holding 125,000 m³ of water during the rainy season. That is the equivalent of the contents of 50 Olympic-size swimming pools. During the prize-giving ceremony (hoses, shovels and cash) the winners displayed pictures of their ponds, painted in loving detail on large sheets of paper. “We need engineers. We need dynamic mayors,” said a member of

the programme staff in her speech. “It will take outside impetus, but the main thing is your work and your determination.”

The successes in the Cusco and Apurimac regions also caught the attention of central government. The regional authorities and then the Ministry for Development and Social Affairs incorporated elements of the programme into their development plans. As a result, experiments by villages and 1,200 families in the southern Andean region stand to benefit millions of families throughout the Andean highlands. This is always Helvetas' goal in development cooperation: embed progressive development projects in national policies.

The Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) is a Mandate of SDC.



© IPCC Peru

“In our language, Yachachiq is someone who passes on knowledge. That was exactly what happened in our water-harvesting projects. It has helped a lot of families.”

Bautista Ramírez, 32, an elected representative of the Aymaraes provincial council in southern Peru

7,000 km³
of water are held in
reservoirs around the world
– 140 times the contents
of Lake Constance.

Source:GWSP

142,347
hectares of land were
protected or managed
sustainably in 2016 thanks
to Helvetas.

151,660
farmers prepared
themselves in 2016 for the
consequences of climate
change with support from
Helvetas.

ADVISORY SERVICES: POLICY AND PRACTICE IN CLIMATE CHANGE

Global, national and local action is needed to tackle climate change. An example of planning from Mali shows how this can be done. First came the framework set by the Paris Climate Conference, where Helvetas presented experiences from food security and climate change projects to the governments of Mali and Liechtenstein. As a result, Helvetas developed a pilot project for climate change adaptation with Malian government representatives based on climate-sensitive production methods, sustainable energy technology and market initiatives. Nicole Clot assists with the project. It is designed to strengthen local government structures and to be replicable later in various regions throughout Mali.



Nicole Clot has an MSc in Geography and a Master of Advanced Studies in Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction from NADEL (ETH Zurich). She has worked

in development cooperation for twelve years, ten of those with Helvetas. Nicole Clot is an adviser on natural resource management, land tenure and local governance.

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD

During their lunch break from working in the fields, men and women attend school in order to learn how to read and write. In 2016 HELVETAS carried out 29 projects in the Skills Development and Education working area and invested CHF 12,251,690.

BENIN: LIFE-CHANGING LITERACY COURSES



Reading and writing. Useful...



...and life-enhancing.

“Now I can recognise my parents’ names and I can read the signs with the names of the places I travel through. I feel more involved in life, and my children also benefit because I know more,” says Samuel Sinwongou from Manta in southern Benin. World literacy is on the up. They are able to catch up on the education they missed out on as children, thanks to literacy schemes provided by state institutions, local schools and civil society organisations worldwide. Yet UNESCO estimates that 758 million young people and adults are still excluded from the world of words. Sixty-three per cent of them are women.

“I’m a seamstress. I can communicate better with my customers now because I can read, write and add up like they can,” says 31-year-old Céline Kouagou, who attends a literacy course in western Benin.

Helvetas supports literacy courses, in particular in connection with vocational training programmes. In western Benin, for example, Helvetas is funding teaching materials for a four-year literacy programme. In school buildings, simple shelters or in the open air, the participants read and write exclusively in their mother tongue of Ditamari for the first two years, before switching to French.

Literacy isn’t simply one of the most important factors in a society’s development: it also has a radical impact on people’s lives. Scientific studies bear this out, but it is also backed up by statements from men and women who are attending a literacy course in the local capital of Manta.

“I didn’t use to know anything about the world, but now I can read and find out

more about the world thanks to the many books that have been translated into Ditamari. I’m happy about every new piece of writing that I find in translation,” says 29-year-old Moussa N’Tuak.

The literacy course took a great deal of effort on their part. For four years they have gone without a lunch break during their work in the fields in order to attend the two-hour lesson. But the effort has been worth it. Their new skills are useful in their daily lives, opening windows onto new worlds and giving them the courage to rebel against certain constraints they encounter. 40-year-old Delphine Yantikou says, “During the literacy course I realised that I didn’t want to marry the man my parents had in mind for me. I chose my present husband on my own because I’d become a better judge of whether a man was good and if he suited me.”



“When I finally learned how to read and write at the age of eighteen, a whole new world opened up for me.”

Edmond Tahouké, 45, poultry farmer and literacy instructor in Takoiéta in Manta arrondissement, Benin

© Flurina Rothberger

90 %

of all men over fifteen can read and write, whereas the figure is 83% for women.

Source: UNESCO projections for 2015

54,252

young people took charge of their own vocational training in 2016 thanks to Helvetas.

170,751

people – children as well as adults – attended primary schools or literacy courses.

ADVISORY SERVICES: CLARIFYING PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Vocational training in rural areas has long been part of Helvetas's portfolio. These courses only really help graduates if their skills are in demand on the job market. There is almost invariably a demand for builders. In Kyrgyzstan they are now evaluating whether there should be an extra training course for energy saving in construction. Is there a need for tradesmen and –women who are capable of insulating houses using natural or modern materials? Is there a market for more efficient cooking and heating stoves producing lower emissions? Or do homeowners want to make these adaptations to their houses and stoves themselves? Barbara Vogt accompanies and coordinates the evaluation work.



Barbara Vogt holds an MSc in Vocational Education (Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training – SFIVET) and has long-standing experience as a teacher. She has been working in international

cooperation since 2010 and joined Helvetas in 2016. Barbara Vogt is an adviser in the development of skills-based curricula and teaching material, teacher training, career counselling and other areas.

WORKING OVERSEAS

Young women and men in Sri Lanka prepare to live and work for several years far from home. In 2016 HELVETAS carried out 64 projects in the Governance and Peace working area and invested CHF 22,807,770.

SRI LANKA: SAFE ECONOMIC MIGRATION

Every year, 300,000 men and women leave Sri Lanka to spend a few years working in the Arabian Peninsula, South Korea and Malaysia. This number includes slightly more men than women, most holding few or no professional qualifications. In the country of destination, the women work in households, while the men labour in construction, acquiring the skills that they are able to use later when they return home. Remittances by migrants account for about nine per cent of Sri Lanka's gross domestic product and help many families to significantly improve their economic situation.

There are, however, many risks involved in economic migration and it holds many traps. Dishonest agents and inhuman working conditions turn many people's migration experience into a nightmare. Therefore, the Sri Lankan government set up the Foreign Employment Bureau, with branches in all of the country's twenty-five districts.

Helvetas responded to the risks by launching a safe migration project in partnership with SDC and others. Migration officers in seven districts attend further training courses to gain a better understanding of the legal regulations and how to apply them. Social workers, health workers and psychosocial consultants are trained so that they can provide accurate information to people seeking advice and avert problems within migrant families.

In parallel, Helvetas supports civil society organisations and encourages them to forge links with organisations in other districts. Together they analyse issues regarding the law and how it is applied. So for example, they have co-written a "shadow report" submitted to the UN.

As economic migrants often have a bad reputation, project staff try to point out at events how migrants' remittances support not only their own families but also the wider Sri Lankan economy. Yet relatives who have stayed behind often find it hard to cope with the unaccustomed stream of cash, since their only experience in financial matters are small household purchases and sales. The technical term for this is "financial illiteracy". Helvetas has drawn on experiences in other countries to develop a two-day course, at which migrants' relatives can learn basic budgeting and bookkeeping principles that enable them to manage unfamiliar sums of money more efficiently. The aim of the course is to prevent this money slipping through their fingers and enable them to make conscious decisions on how to spend it. All relevant government agencies have now made this course a mandatory part of further training for migration officials.

W.T. Ganganika Namali, a small-scale candy producer in the town of Ambalangoda, attended one of these courses and today she has a positive migration story to tell. She used the money her husband



© Corina Tschudi

Success: Self-employment after migration

sent back for their shared future by investing it in simple machines for her workshop. She then sought out new sales opportunities and now sells her sweets in a number of supermarkets. "I learned to become an entrepreneur," she says.

The Migration Project in Sri Lanka is a mandate of SDC.

“My husband was amazed at how my candy shop had changed since he had left for overseas. He works with me now and has given up his plans to go abroad again.”

W.T. Ganganika Namali, a small candy producer in the town of Ambalangoda



© Corina Tschudi

441 billion

USD were remitted by economic migrants of developing countries.

Source: World Bank

350,299

people have learned more about their civil rights and civil duties through Helvetas.

2,567

local development plans were drawn up on a participatory basis in 2016 with support from Helvetas.

ADVISORY SERVICES: MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Migration and development is an area in which one finds a great deal of involvement by non-profit organisations, from a small diaspora supporting a school in their homeland to development organisations and academic institutions. Until now, these organisations had little contact with one another. With a mandate from SDC, Helvetas and Caritas founded the “Migration and Development” platform in 2015, and it now has 70 participating organisations. They provide information on their activities and share experiences about successful (or unsuccessful) projects, creating a new pool of knowledge. They network through workshops and annual meetings in order to have a greater say in the political dialogue regarding migration and development. Pascal Fendrich represents Helvetas and coordinates the platform’s activities.



Pascal Fendrich holds a Master’s in International Relations from the IHEID Geneva and an MA in European Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, and

completed the NADEL course at the ETH Zurich. After missions in Kosovo and West Africa, Pascal Fendrich joined Helvetas in 2015 and works as an adviser on migration and development, among other topics.

A BETTER LIFE

WATER: A HUMAN RIGHT

Almost half a million people gained new access to drinking water and/or basic sanitation in 2016 thanks to Helvetas.

Worldwide
479,356
people

Asia and
Eastern Europe
240,889
people

Latin America
and Caribbean
30,918
people

Africa
207,549
people



VOCATIONAL TRAINING: PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE FUTURE

Over 50,000 young people got to grips with a vocational training course and laid the foundations for their own future and for their communities to develop.

Worldwide
54,252
people

Asia and
Eastern Europe
40,746
people

Africa
10,951
people

Latin America
and Caribbean
2,555
people



GOVERNANCE AND PEACE: A WIN-WIN SITUATION

350,000 women and men found out about their rights during courses and projects as well as gaining some basic knowledge of democracy and decentralised administration.



AGRICULTURE: NEW MARKETS FOR HIGH-QUALITY FARM PRODUCTS

Over 400,000 farmers attended Helvetas courses that taught them how to market their crops more efficiently.



LEARNING A TRADE FOR LIFE

93,900 young people benefited from the Employment Fund and successfully graduated from a vocational training course in Nepal. An impact study concluded that the project has had a positive and lasting effect on the lives of the graduates and their families. The study also shows that the courses have particularly built self-confidence among women and 'dalits' (the so-called "untouchables").

A NATIONWIDE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

450,000 of the 500,000 young people who flood the job market every year in Nepal have no vocational training. This is unlikely to change in the near future, since only four per cent of the state education budget is allocated to skills development. Between 2008 and 2013, 93,900 young people benefited from Helvetas's Employment Fund programme and attended professional training courses lasting several months to prepare for the world of work. The programme cooperates closely with local private training institutes. The new element in this approach was that the training institutes received the remaining 60% of their fee only when their graduates had found a regular paid job or successfully set up their own business. 83% of the graduates fell into this category. Intensive monitoring checked that the payments were correctly made.

Even though many of the courses concerned careers typically thought of as for men, fortunately 53% of participants were women. Three years after completing their courses, graduates were earning up to three times what they had earned before, and the wages upon hiring were approximately equal for men and women.

One of the project's major goals was to attract poor and disadvantaged sectors of the population to attend the courses. This goal was largely achieved. 59% of all graduates came from underprivileged groups. Dalits, the most economically and socially marginalised group of all, ac-



Welder. Creating his own life.

counted for about 14% of the total. This roughly reflects their proportion of the overall population.

The lives behind the numbers

Helvetas asked the Geographical Institute of the University of Zurich to design a qualitative impact study in order to delve beyond the bare figures and find out more about the Employment Fund's impact on graduates' lives. Researchers from the Nepalese institute RIDA International conducted in-depth interviews with 80 female and male graduates in five representative districts in 2015. They were asked about changes in their own

lives and those of their families. Many interviewees described their training as a pivotal time that had changed the course of their lives for the better.

They said that the main benefits they had derived from the training courses for their own lives were professional self-confidence as well as practical technical skills. Women in particular described their newfound independence and increased self-esteem as major progress. Contributing to the household budget and being able to help other family members had improved their status within their families. They feel more able to ex-

press their own opinions, both at home and in the workplace.

Impact on the family . . .

The main advantage for the interviewees' families was higher income. This extra income covered daily expenses such as food and clothing but was also spent on education and health. The interviewees often stressed that they were now able to make home repairs, install a toilet and buy a gas cooker or a television set. Many of them used the extra income to send their children to private schools, which have a better reputation than public schools. The conversations demonstrated, however, that the positive effects of women's careers only last if their position within the family has improved. If this is not the case, many women give up their job and devote themselves entirely to housework and bringing up the children.

. . . and on the community

The vocational training generated significant public esteem for the interviewees; many of them became role models. Women, dalits and people with disabilities in particular mentioned their own elevation to being respected members of the community. Their experience was that vocational training increased the level of trust people had in them and made them creditworthy.

The impact study explored why the Employment Fund had not reached more extremely poor and extremely poor youth

THE PROJECT'S SUCCESS IN FIGURES

Participants 98,600
in 64 of the country's
75 districts

Graduates 93,900
Women 50,100 (53%)
Men 42,900 (47%)

In regular employment 77,800
after 6 months



© Simon B. Opladen

Seamstress. Skills development leads to a small business.

in line with one of its stated goals. The bottleneck here turns out to be the training institutes. Since they only received the remaining 60% of their fee when the graduates got a paid job, the institutes favoured candidates with good prospects of being employed or self-employed. Extremely poor young people dropped out of their courses more frequently for the simple reason that they couldn't afford not to earn any money during their training period. Also, dalits generally have lower chances of finding a job after their course. So the promotion of extremely disadvantaged groups ran into social barriers that the market cannot break down.

Other than this particular problem, the researchers from Zurich and Kathmandu came to positive conclusions about the programme: "The qualitative impact study clearly shows that skills training offered through the EF have an immense impact on the lives of the direct beneficiaries, their families and dependents."

The Nepalese and Swiss researchers noted several recommendations for future skills development programmes, and these were confirmed during in-depth interviews with government officials and employers. The new professionals

should benefit from greater assistance after their courses, for example possibilities for further studies, budget advice and information about investments and savings schemes. Companies should receive greater incentives to offer better working conditions, and the training institutes ought to be checked and assisted better – something they themselves also requested.

The Employment Fund ended in 2015. A follow-up programme involves the Nepalese government taking on board the experiences of Helvetas. "The Employment Fund was a large-scale, ambitious project," says Franz Gähweiler, who is head of Helvetas's programme for Nepal in Switzerland. "The fact that the Nepalese government is adopting parts of our programme while we provide advisory services is a form of recognition for our work."

Helvetas has adopted experiences from the skills training programme in Nepal – in particular, success-based payments to training institutes – for similar projects in Ethiopia and the Balkans.

The Employment Fund was a mandate of SDC, the World Bank and DFID.

ENABLING SOCIETY

Civil society plays a vital role in development processes as a third force alongside the state and the private sector. However, civil society is the object of deliberate repression in many of Helvetas's partner countries. This is a particular challenge when working with local and international partners.

SPACES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

"Civil society organisations play a vital role in enabling people to claim their rights . . ." Only a short sentence, but one that required many hard years of negotiations before it was finally in its rightful place: the final declaration of the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) had finally achieved the global recognition they had been demanding for years. At long last, NGOs were officially recognised as equal partners regarding development issues. That was back in December 2011. It was greeted with long and generous applause from the international community.

Less than a year later, in November 2012, the Laotian police arrested Sombath Somphone in broad daylight. There has been no sign of the Southeast Asian country's best-known NGO representative to this day. In 2015 the president of Tajikistan forced civil society organisations to account to the state for every penny they received in donations. In March 2016 the Honduran human rights and environmental activist Berta Cáceres was shot dead, after living in fear for years due to her campaigns on behalf of indigenous people. In June 2016 the Ethiopian parliament passed a law on cybercrime that grants the state wide-ranging powers of surveillance. This occurred following Facebook posts detailing the government's human rights abuses. The international community's long and awkward silence spoke volumes.

Civil society . . .

The contrast between international rhetoric and local reality has grown ever starker in recent years, to the point where it could hardly be any greater. While civil society enjoys increased influence at international negotiations, its room for manoeuvre has been purposefully reduced in many countries. CIVICUS, an international NGO network whose mission is to protect civil rights, has spoken of a "closing civic space".

But what does "civil society" – a term that is experiencing a boom in Switzerland at the moment – really mean? Fundamentally, civil society encompasses the space between private households on the one hand and the state and business on the other. It includes both formal entities such as associations, trade unions and non-profit organisations, and informal alliances such as neighbourhood groups or loose social movements. Civil society is therefore extremely heterogeneous, both in the ways people are organised, and in the values and opinions these people represent.

. . . and the state

Civil society represents an important part of the social contract in democratic systems. Democracies can only be sustained in the long term if the state, business and civil society are able to participate in public debate on an equal footing, taking part in a dialogue and grappling in good faith with one another's points of

view. Switzerland has fostered an exemplary environment for such exchanges. Nowhere else in the world do people have more opportunities to express their opinions on matters of public interest and then negotiate and decide together. These opportunities range from gatherings, objections, legislative consultation procedures and demonstrations through to referendums and elections at every level. The diversity of Swiss clubs and societies is not least a reflection of the many and varied forms of collective decision-making. Even the oft-cited rabbit breeders' society can contribute to the legislative process, for example on questions of animal husbandry, veterinary medicine or breeding.

In many of Helvetas's partner countries, however, public discussion of this kind is very hard. The governments of Laos and Tajikistan have officially signed up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In practice they do little to protect people's freedom of association, however. Instead, civil society stakeholders are actively prevented from organising and putting forward their points of view due to prohibitively expensive procedures to register as a charity, draconian reporting requirements, or intimidation and actual violence. Thus Laotian NGOs have barely taken a public stance on political issues since Sombath Somphone's disappearance. That drastic measure has had the desired effect.



Interconnected. Participants of a governance workshop in Tanzania demanding to know the whereabouts of a missing Laotian activist.

Protecting and opening spaces

This crackdown on local voices also explains why Helvetas cannot ignore the phenomenon of “closing civic space”. If our local partner organisations hardly dare to take a public stance and government departments deliberately make it harder for local NGOs to get funding, it calls an entire development model into question. If the state and business refuse all debate with civil society, there is no prospect of long-term development that also benefits the weak and the disadvantaged.

So Helvetas consciously tries to protect space for civil society and, if possible, to expand it. We can do this on the one hand by actively forming networks of local NGOs, stimulating discussions about the legal and political situation and promoting dialogue with the government. In Bhutan and Myanmar, for example, we are assisting with a process of greater political transparency and reform, which

is still in its infancy and is very fragile. On the other hand, we promote civil society by gradually integrating existing project partners into our technical dialogue with government departments. From this perspective, it doesn't really matter whether the issue under discussion is skills development or irrigation: the main thing is that the NGO and the state enter into a constructive dialogue in which each is free to express its concerns.

However, it will require more than a handful of local and international NGOs if the trend of “closing spaces” is to be successfully reversed and more open societies are to emerge. Donor states play a vital role, using the diplomatic means at their disposal not only to open new markets but also to promote inclusive political dialogue. Thus SDC played a significant international role in crafting the Busan final declaration I quoted earlier. More important still is practical engagement on the ground. Helvetas initiated a joint

learning process between Swiss NGOs and SDC, during which case studies from Honduras, Laos and Bolivia showed that “closing spaces” can be reopened through close cooperation and practical coordination.

It is important to select the appropriate tools. In places where activists are simply locked away or disappeared, public support for local NGOs can quickly lead to the opposite of the desired effect and place those involved in serious danger. The line between doing too little and too much, between treading softly and alarmism, is very fine, and not always easy to judge from the outside.

Bernd Steimann, Development Policy Coordinator

FAIR AND BEAUTIFUL

The Fairshop has been working with a number of creative minds as a way of appealing to a new public. Designers have welcomed this initiative, the media have covered it extensively, and style-conscious customers are showing interest in the new textile and jewellery lines.

SWISS DESIGN AT THE FAIRSHOP

Even for Helvetas, traditional handicrafts were a bestselling product during the pioneering days of Fair Trade. Twenty years ago, the Fairshop began to look for products that were designed for the local market and everyday use in their country of origin, but also had market potential in Switzerland. Simple cups from Vietnam, leather bags from Paraguay and hand-blown glasses from Guatemala sell well to this day in the Fairshop.

In 2013 fashion designer Eliane Ceschi joined Helvetas. Her elegant designs sent a breath of fresh air through the textiles department, and in the intervening years the Fairshop has sought to develop more of our product lines by collaborating with other leading Swiss designers. The response has been great. Many designers have greeted the idea of combining beautiful design and Fair Trade conditions with enormous enthusiasm.

The first of these collaborations was with textile designer Sonnhild Kestler last year. She came up with new ideas for Fairshop bed linen, decorative cushions, a rucksack and canvas bags in a range of sizes. When asked about the major factors in her designs, she answered, "A clear design vocabulary and cheerful colours. My patterns put people in an even better mood when they're printed on organic cotton."

Kessler's designs, made from organic Fairtrade cotton from Kyrgyzstan and



© Marion Nitsch

India: a source of inspiration for new fabrics.

Uganda, were an immediate hit. In 2016 alone they generated 118,000 CHF worth of orders. As we had hoped, the media also reported on this innovative blend of Fairtrade and design, generating more publicity for the Fairshop than for many years.

We also launched an exclusive jewellery collection designed by Zurich-based designer Ma Schellenberg in 2016. The pieces of jewellery were produced by an artisans' collective in Kathmandu that pays fair wages. Schellenberg's necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings and pendants attracted enormous interest from customers and media alike. "Every piece of my jewellery is very personal, since I only design jewellery that I'd love to wear myself," the designer says.



© HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Nepal: fair wages meet Swiss design.

Substantial media coverage and strong sales show that the Fairshop's focus on Swiss design has hit a sweet spot. Eliane Ceschi sees the future Fairshop as a design hub putting creative Swiss people in touch with producers in the South. "Helvetas now has contacts all over the world with companies that pay fair wages, which is what enables us to offer high-class design at fair and attractive prices."

Ticino-based Giulia Maria Beretta has completed her ceramics expected to be on sale for 2017.



© Patrick Rohr

“The two of us need orders from Switzerland.”
 “Without them I would have to emigrate to be able to feed my family.”

Prem Lagun, 38 (left) and Narayan Sada Shanker, 27, who produce silver jewellery in Nepal for the Fairshop.

10 million

US dollar were paid out as Fairtrade premiums thanks to sales in Switzerland.

Source: Max Havelaar

38,600

orders were placed with the Helvetas Fairshop in 2016, 8,750 of them online.

40

Swiss goldsmiths use Fairtrade-certified gold.

FAIRSHOP: GOOD PRESS FOR GOOD DESIGN

“Pure joy of life and a sustainable lifestyle” is SI Grün’s slogan. This small-circulation, sustainable publication (the little sister of the Schweizer Illustrierte, Switzerland’s second best-selling magazine) reports quarterly on social and environmental issues. There are no moralising messages, rather articles about dedicated individuals, successful environmental initiatives and products that are both beautiful and sustainably produced. Barbara Halter, the magazine’s co-editor, has noticed the changes at the Fairshop and within the wider Fair Trade movement. “There are less and less products that you might buy purely out of pity or solidarity. I’m discovering more and more beautifully designed products that I’d love to have in my flat.” This is why she repeatedly and enthusiastically writes about products from the Fairshop in SI Grün.



Barbara Halter is a journalist and co-editor of SI Grün. She also runs a vegetarian food blog.

INTANGIBLE VALUES

A new survey gives some insights into young people's worlds. It shows that they are interested in social and environmental issues and that they would like to see a better world. Helvetas demonstrates how changes to our own consumption patterns can make the world a fairer place.

WATCH WHAT YOU BUY

Today's youth are said to be well behaved and conscious that they have to get their heads down, study hard and make a career; they are also regarded as more conservative and drifting to the right. Germany's Sinus Academy is keen to find out more, and so every four years it surveys young people about their attitudes. Among other things, the researchers have discovered that many young people also share post-material, "socio-environmental" values. When they were asked to name some subjects they are concerned about, they mentioned major issues such as climate change, tropical deforestation and energy, alongside everyday questions like waste, vegetarian and vegan food, and consumption habits. It was also clear that young people lack reliable information about how to be a critical consumer, and they are sceptical regarding the impact of their choices.

Helvetas picks up on precisely these kinds of issues and questions in its work with young people. During visits to secondary schools, we discuss wealth and poverty, expensive smartphones and cheap raw materials, child labour and interrupted schooling. Our school instructors also give some tips to young people about how their consumer choices can help to make the world a more equal and more environmentally friendly place. Pupils who need to write detailed essays at school can download a guide called "Learning for the Planet" produced by Helvetas, Amnesty International and Greenpeace. Teachers

are welcome to use our educational material and worksheets (for example, the Helvetas Panorama Calendar) should they wish to address development issues in their lessons. The manager of the Helvetas office in Ticino gives talks on globalisation and development at the local teacher-training college to incite the students there to build development policy themes into their syllabus. "We show schools that people in developing countries are taking their future into their own hands, and that we can all play a part in their success," says Anna van der Ploeg, who is responsible for Helvetas's school programme in German-speaking Switzerland.

So far, 30,000 pupils have visited the "We Eat the World" exhibition with their class, undertaking an imaginary journey to some of the world's food hotspots. "They had a vivid experience of how they can alter their consumption habits and have a positive impact on the environment and living conditions in developing countries," concludes Beatrice Burgherr, who is in charge of the exhibition.

Helvetas organises so-called "Claire Fontaines" activities with classes in French-speaking Switzerland to draw attention to the fact that over 75 million people have no access to clean drinking water. Furthermore, special lessons or theme weeks offer regular opportunities for young people to take part in drinking-water campaigns, thematic flashmobs or fundraising campaigns for Helvetas.



Clean fountains. School activities in French-speaking Switzerland.

"Viva con Agua", one of Helvetas's partner organisations, organises collections by young people at open-air concerts which raise up to 200,000 CHF every year for Helvetas water projects. These actions are supported by well-known musicians, and youngsters learn that solidarity can actually be a lot of fun.

“With the help of friends and family I organised an aperitif to raise awareness about food waste. All products we served would have been thrown away by restaurants, shops and bakeries, or else burnt. I also wrote my graduation paper about it.”

Nora Müller, 19, from Küsnacht Zurich, was the 100,000th visitor of the “We Eat the World” exhibition.



© HELVETIAS Swiss Intercooperation



1,7 billion

CHF are donated by Swiss people to welfare organizations in an average year.

Source: ZEWO

5,947

people visited one of the shows of Cinema Sud – the mobile Cinema of Helvetas.

98,634

people made at least one donation during 2016 to Helvetas.

A TRIP TO A PLACE WHERE CLEAN WATER IS A RARE COMMODITY

Water is the common theme binding Helvetas and Geberit in a partnership that has been going for six years now. In 2016 we arranged a project visit of a slightly different kind to raise awareness about global water problems. Seventeen Geberit staff members travelled to Western Nepal to help build a water system in the village of Tarapani. They worked alongside the villagers, digging trenches, tapping a spring and lining a cistern with concrete. One of them was René Huber, who has visited many construction sites all over the world for Geberit. In Nepal he met people who are willing to work hard for their water. “I was impressed by their commitment,” he says, convinced that the trip had achieved its goal. “We’ve become ambassadors for water and the right to water.”



René Huber is a project manager for piping systems and product development for Geberit in Rapperswil-Jona.

FINANCES

Straddling borders

One of the Helvetas finance department's greatest challenges is to merge the accounts and monitoring of 29 partner countries into a single annual financial statement. Katja Beskrovnaya is in charge of coordination, awareness-raising and training for our seven partner countries in Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Central Asia. In her task she can rely on a common cultural heritage that has survived from the Soviet Union: a high level of training allied with experience of dealing with centralization and autonomy. There was an illustration of the importance of such commonalities when a bookkeeper from Pristina travelled to Belgrade for a week to train his Serbian colleagues in an extension to Banana accounting software. The national borders that hardliners in both countries have emphasized were rendered irrelevant by the participants' shared background and by their work involving numbers.

Commentary

Both income and expenditure declined slightly during the past financial year. Total income came to CHF 128.1 million, while expenditure was CHF 127.1 million. Even taking account of provisions for the re-organization of the Fairshop, this gave an encouraging operating result of CHF 1 million, an improvement of CHF 700,000 on the previous year. The fact that some project funding will only arrive in the coming year led to a negative income statement of CHF 1.2 million. Other one-off expenses and reserves totalling CHF 800,000 resulted in a small annual loss.

Financial audit

KPMG audited the accounts and the financial statements and has approved them. Their audit report and the complete financial report 2016 can be viewed at the offices of Swiss HELVETAS Intercooperation, Weinbergstrasse 22a, 8001 Zurich and downloaded from our website www.helvetas.ch/annualreport

BALANCE SHEET

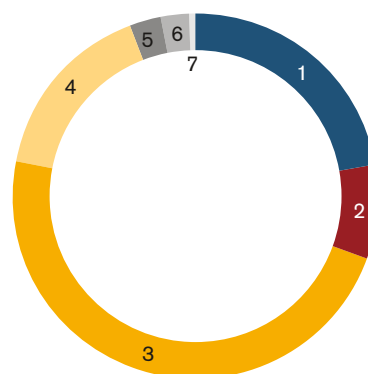
ASSETS	31.12.2016 in CHF	31.12.2015 in CHF
Cash and cash equivalents	38,698,599.13	42,289,696.60
Marketable securities	19,826,316.21	15,851,167.86
Receivables	3,948,152.59	2,779,584.73
Inventories	996,642.33	976,388.34
Net assets in project countries	13,090,998.95	8,558,560.80
Prepayments and accrued income	8,472,710.27	7,736,294.30
Current assets	85,033,419.48	78,191,692.63
Investments in financial assets	299,457.18	788,892.88
Tangible fixed assets	945,501.58	1,052,177.25
Intangible assets	300,524.02	178,250.69
Fixed assets	1,545,482.78	2,019,320.82
Total Assets	86,578,902.26	80,211,013.45
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	2,516,332.14	3,136,342.38
Accrued liabilities	51,083,628.67	44,187,980.02
Current liabilities	53,599,960.81	47,324,322.40
Provisions	344,617.19	736,404.29
Long-term liabilities	344,617.19	736,404.29
Liabilities	53,944,578.00	48,060,726.69
Fund capital	6,686,859.66	5,452,457.58
Liabilities incl. fund capital	60,631,437.66	53,513,184.27
Unrestricted capital	11,829,303.70	12,579,668.28
Restricted capital	14,118,160.90	14,118,160.90
Organisational Capital	25,947,464.60	26,697,829.18
Total Liabilities	86,578,902.26	80,211,013.45

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

INCOME	2016 in CHF	2015 in CHF
Membership fees	2,163,630.00	2,253,160.00
Donations	26,014,727.49	26,880,798.63
Heritage and Legacies	296,939.62	413,402.59
Income from fundraising	28,475,297.11	29,547,361.22
Programme contribution SDC	10,700,000.00	10,700,000.00
Mandates SDC	60,893,617.04	59,586,678.47
Mandates from other organisations	20,722,068.60	22,927,191.33
Income from advisory services	3,702,201.98	4,290,896.23
Income from Fair Trade	3,034,075.16	3,411,829.94
Other operating income	575,978.13	436,609.32
Income from service provided	99,627,940.91	101,353,205.29
Total Income	128,103,238.02	130,900,566.51
EXPENDITURE		
Africa	24,833,403.37	29,215,516.44
Asia	35,775,435.82	39,936,306.38
Latin America and Caribbean	19,587,463.97	18,481,656.75
Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia	18,691,626.61	15,539,870.08
Programme coordination & support	2,428,847.52	1,795,367.47
Expenditure on internat. programmes	101,316,777.29	104,968,717.12
Expenditure on advisory services	5,408,240.31	5,771,096.31
Expenditure on projects Switzerland	5,303,029.58	5,508,785.25
Expenditure on Fair Trade	3,697,281.32	3,531,586.90
Head office	4,651,177.21	4,686,129.86
Fundraising	6,692,546.19	6,108,930.26
Head office and fundraising	11,343,723.40	10,795,060.12
Expenditure from service delivered	127,069,051.90	130,575,245.70
Operating profit	1,034,186.12	325,320.81
Financial result	314,145.11	117,368.92
Other result	-864,293.73	-703,067.83
Result before fund result	484,037.50	-260,378.10
Fund result	-1,234,402.08	-3,834,134.76
Annual result before allocation to organisational capital	-750,364.58	-4,094,512.86

SOURCE OF FUNDS

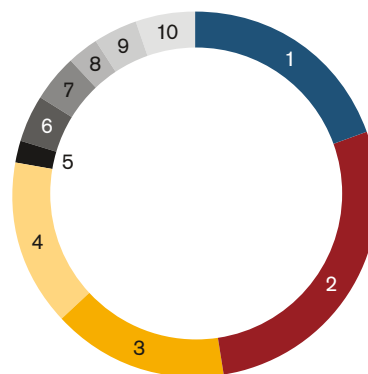
(Total CHF 128,103,238.02)



- 1 Income from fundraising 22.2%
- 2 Programme contribution SDC 8.4%
- 3 Mandates SDC 47.5%
- 4 Project funding from organisations 16.2%
- 5 Revenue from advisory services 2.9%
- 6 Revenue from Fair Trade 2.4%
- 7 Other operating revenue 0.4%

USE OF FUNDS

(Total CHF 127,069,051.90)



- 1 Africa 19.5%
- 2 Asia 28.1%
- 3 Latin America and Caribbean 15.4%
- 4 Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia 14.7%
- 5 Programme coordination & support 1.9%
- 6 Expenses on advisory services 4.3%
- 7 Expenses on projects Switzerland 4.2%
- 8 Expenses on Fair Trade 2.9%
- 9 Head office 3.7%
- 10 Fundraising 5.3%

THANKS

The work of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation would not be possible without the generous contributions of our partners, members and donors. We would like to express our gratitude for the support of all those mentioned below. We also extend our thanks to all the institutions and private individuals who wish to remain anonymous.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND CANTONS • Federal Office for the Environment FOEN • SDC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation • FEDEVACO, Fédération Vaudoise de Coopération • FGC, Fédération Genevoise de Coopération • Canton Appenzell Ausserrhoden • Canton Basel-Landschaft • Canton Basel-Stadt • Canton Berne • Canton Graubünden • Canton Schaffhausen • Canton Ticino • Canton Thurgau • Canton Vaud • Canton Zurich • Republic and Canton of Geneva • SECO, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs **CITY AND TOWN COUNCILS** • Baden • Berne • Erlenbach • Frauenfeld • Geneva • Horgen • Küsnacht • Lamone • Lausanne • Locarno • Lugano • Maur • Meilen • Münsingen • Oberwil • Riehen • Sempach • Sitten • Solothurn • Spreitenbach • Stabio • Vernier • Zell • Zollikon • Zug • Zurich **FOUNDATIONS** • Albert Jenny Foundation • Alfred Richterich Foundation • Alfred und Margaretha Hanka Foundation • Bienfaisance Limited • BENEFICENTIA Foundation • Blue Ventures • C&A Foundation • CHARISMA Stiftung für nachhaltige Entwicklung • Corrado Foundation • Ernest Matthey Foundation • ERBACHER Foundation • Ferster Foundation • Fondation Agnès Delachaux • Fondation Gertrude Hirzel • Fondation Johann et Luzia Graessli • Fondation Philanthropia • Fondation Smartpeace • Curzutt-S. Barnard Foundation • Fondazione L'Aquilone • Charity Foundation New Flower in Africa • Gebauer Foundation • Accentus Foundation • Pro Dimora Foundation • Symphasis Foundation • Green Leaves Education Foundation • Hans Konrad Rahn Foundation • Happel Foundation • I&F Public Benefit Foundation • Jacobs Foundation • Laguna Foundation • Leopold Bachmann Foundation • Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies • Medicor Foundation • Millennium Water Alliance • RAIN Foundation • René & Susanne Braginsky Foundation • Rosa & Bernhard Merz Foundation • Sandoz Family Foundation • Solaqua Foundation • Carl and Elise Elsener Foundation • Corymbo Foundation • Stiftung ESPERANZA – cooperative help against poverty • Hoja Verde Foundation • Mercator Foundation Switzerland • myclimate Foundation • Swiss Re Foundation • Temperatio Foundation • Swisspeace • The McKnight Foundation • Tibetania Foundation • Von Duhn Foundation • W.K. Kellogg Foundation **COMPANIES** • Aziende Industriali di Lugano (AIL) • AutoForm Engineering GmbH • Bachema AG • Büchi Labortechnik AG • Chocolatissimo • Clean Forrest Club • Coop • Debiopharm International SA • Geberit International AG • Geberit Vertriebs AG • Genève Aéroport • Globetrotter Tours AG • Globetrotter Travel Services AG • Globetrotter Club AG • Grafitext-Verlag • Hauenstein AG • Heinis AG • Ingenieurbüro Frommelt AG • International Capital Market Association • Lindt & Sprüngli (International) AG • Loterie Romande • PAKKA AG • Philippe C. Biedermann Consulting • Pini Swiss Engineers • Pratohaus AG • Primobau AG • Profilsager AG • Ricola AG • Schneebeli & Co. AG • Solstis • Starbucks • Swan Analytische Instrumente AG • TEBIT HAUSTECHNIK AG • Technische Betriebe Flawil • Top-Team-Sanitär-Installations GmbH • Vivell + Co. AG **NGOS, BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS** • CARITAS Switzerland • Fastenopfer • Swiss Solidarity • HEKS, Swiss Church Aid • Lions Club Gstaad-Saanenland • Project-Aqua • Protestant Reformed Parish Küsnacht • Protestant Reformed Parish Reinach • Protestant Reformed Parish Saanen • Protestant Reformed Parish Belp • Solidar Suisse • Swisscontact Agri-Business • Swiss Water Partnership

“ We value the ability of Helvetas to implement development projects with a lasting impact. We have been particularly impressed during our seven-year partnership by the well-run water projects in Nepal and Haiti. ”

Werner Meier, chair of the board of trustees of
WIR TEILEN: FASTENOPFER LIECHTENSTEIN

“ Helvetas is completely aligned with us when it comes to skills training projects, and its professional work enables many young people to look to the future with confidence. ”

Riccardo Braglia, chairman of
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“ Why Helvetas? Because the organisation makes a long-term commitment and lets local people have their say. Because Helvetas conveys a positive, active message that doesn't force people into the role of victims. ”

Maria Jesus Alonso Lormand, director of the **INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA**

“ Helvetas supported and trained Madagascan cocoa producers supplying Lindt & Sprüngli. Win-win situations like these are a major reason why we work with Helvetas. ”

Armon Hartmann, chair of the **DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AID COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF MÜNSINGEN BERNE**

THE ORGANISATION

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is a politically and denominationally neutral development charity of almost 100,000 members, benefactors and nine active volunteer regional groups.

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Since 2015

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All links and mandates of members of the Management Committee and Board of Directors that are relevant to the activities of Helvetas are listed in the financial report.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

All organisations with which HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation has signed a framework agreement or on whose boards Helvetas has a seat are listed in compliance with ZEWO guidelines and §29 of the NPO Code.

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THE ORGANISATION

The **General Assembly** is the organisation's highest body and meets once a year. It determines the mission statement and elects the members of the Board of Directors. The **Board of Directors** is responsible for issuing the strategy and approving the annual budget. The **Head Office** is responsible for planning, implementing and supervising the projects, programmes and actions within Switzerland and abroad.

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*Formal member of the board



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