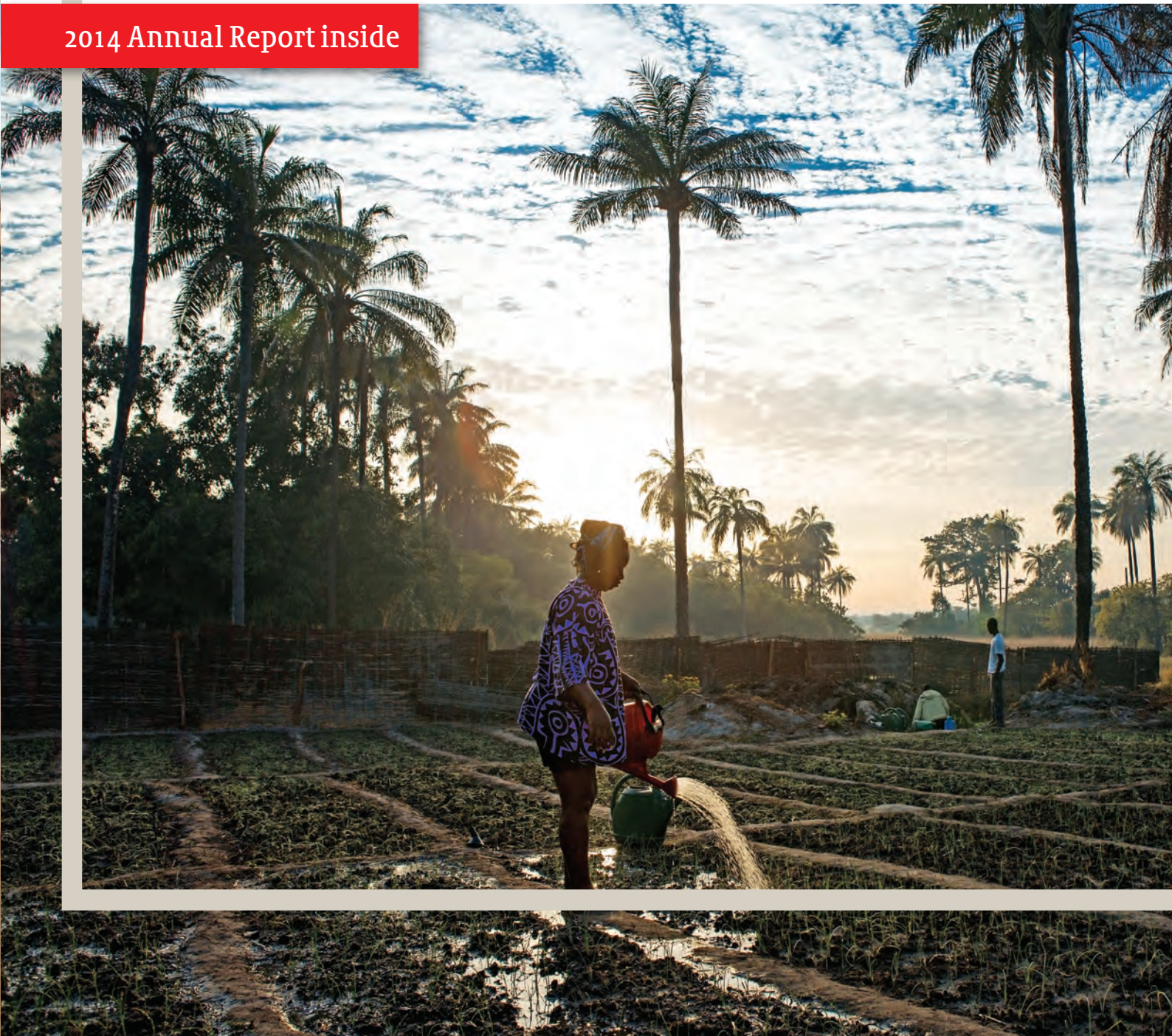


Rays of hope: The lives of thousands of people have been improved thanks to your help

2014 Annual Report inside





Dear readers

It's better to go 'organic'. Modern, organic growing methods can increase harvests and save money because they make pesticides and chemical fertilisers unnecessary. Just as you don't become a skilled craftsman overnight, that is also true of organic farmers. It takes knowledge and practice if you wish to grow organic food. More frequent weeding and growing mixed cultures instead of monocultures have to take the place of using pesticides.

SWISSAID supports colleges where organic farming skills are taught, for example in India. The teachers rent small plots of land and teach the farming families on site: sowing, fertilising, weeding and harvesting using organic techniques – without any imported chemicals or genetic engineering – and local varieties.

Organic farming will only effectively become common once the better crop yields become evident and quantifiable to everyone. It doesn't always work like that. Droughts and storms destroy quite a few harvests, be they organic or conventional.

However, SWISSAID's efforts are bearing fruit. Every square metre of organic farmland not only feeds people, it is also good for climate protection and for preserving biodiversity. Organic farmers are enjoying success not only in Switzerland, but also in the southern hemisphere.

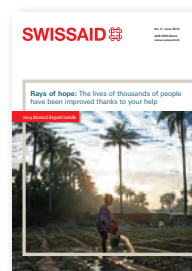
This is one of the main reasons why we ran our annual campaign last year under the slogan 'Going organic to combat hunger – Helping people to help themselves'. It has piqued the curiosity of peasant men and women who farm the land, and they are willing to learn. They are boosting their income by saving on fertilisers and pesticides. However, overcoming poverty also involves protecting access to property. Therefore, SWISSAID is campaigning for local people to be able to assert their rights to the land and woodland and to have these rights recognised in local land registers.

The secrets to success mirror those pursued in Switzerland in the 19th century. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees can help families to feed themselves all year round. They provide additional income to boost the meagre casual labour available on plantations or in the city, to give families a better chance of making ends meet.

Thank you for doing your bit to support our work over the past year.

Rudolf Rechsteiner, Economist, SWISSAID President

| | |
|---|----|
| Switzerland | |
| Highlights of our activities at home | 4 |
| Nicaragua | |
| Low-hanging fruit just got lower | 5 |
| Ecuador | |
| What it means to have a water tank | 6 |
| Colombia | |
| Village development the Colombian way | 7 |
| Myanmar (Burma) | |
| From grain to seed | 8 |
| India | |
| Young people against discrimination | 9 |
| Tanzania | |
| Genetic engineering: Polluter-pays principle at risk | 10 |
| Niger | |
| Putting an end to drudgery | 11 |
| Chad | |
| Time is money – and that goes for Chad too | 12 |
| Guinea-Bissau | |
| Stopping illegal logging | 13 |
| Balance sheet/Comments | |
| Analysis by the CFO | 14 |
| Executive bodies | |
| Board of trustees and committee | 17 |
| A sincere thank-you! | |
| Our biggest supporters | 24 |



Cover picture:

A woman farmer in Guinea-Bissau waters a field of onions in the grey of the morning; the harvest provides her with an additional income that she spends on schooling for her children and medical costs.

Photo: Mitja Rietbrock

Imprint



Published by: SWISSAID,
Swiss Foundation for Development Cooperation
Bern office: Lorystrasse 6a, 3000 Bern 5,
 Tel.: 031 350 53 53, Editorial office: Tel.: 031 350 53 73,
 Fax: 031 351 27 83, E-mail: info@swissaid.ch

Lausanne office: Rue de Genève 52, 1004 Lausanne,
 Tel. 021 620 69 70, Fax 021 620 69 79, E-mail: info@swissaid.ch
Editor: Pia Wildberger **Illustrations editor:** Eliane Baumgartner
Concept, layout and pre-press: Brandl & Schärer AG, Olten
Print: Stämpfli AG, Bern. Printed on FSC paper.
 SWISSAID-Spiegel appears at least four times a year. Five francs is deducted from donations as a contribution towards subscriptions so that the Post Office gives us the benefit of the favourable magazine tariff.

Donations account: PC 30-303-5
 IBAN: CH20 0900 0000 3000 0303 5
 BIC/SWIFT: POFICHBEXXX

SWISSAID bears the ZEWO seal of quality for charitable institutions. It stands for the altruistic and earmarked use of donations.





Caroline Morel,
Managing Director

Solidarity with farming families

Alongside the many negative headlines about wars, armed conflict and disasters, we also heard some good news in 2014. The UN Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty by 2015 is set to be achieved in 2017. This has been made possible, in particular, by the impressive economic progress made by emerging countries like China, India and Brazil. However, social inequality has worsened at the same time, and it is imperative to promote sustainable development which encompasses all people in need. Poverty and hunger are an unresolved problem in sub-Saharan countries. In any event, civil society plays a pivotal role in sustainable development. It must be consolidated because it forms the basis for the organised representation of interests of disadvantaged groups such as women, indigenous people or peasant farming families.

While farmers in Switzerland may be very well organised, this is not the case elsewhere. This was demonstrated once again by the events of our 'women farmers' dialogue' which we ran to mark the International Year of Family Farming. Our visitors from Myanmar (Burma), Colombia and Chad were highly impressed by the good organisation and networking that exists among Swiss farmers and agricultural workers, who know how to defend their political interests (see page 4). There is lots of ground to make up in this regard in the developing countries because nobody in political circles or the rest of society is listening to the needs of peasant farming families.

There was a populist right-wing lobby to reduce Switzerland's development aid budget in favour of agriculture at the end of 2014. Luckily, the motion was unsuccessful. Members of Parliament clearly confirmed their intention to spend 0.5% of GDP on development cooperation by the end of this year, among other things because farmers' representatives also voted against the idea. It would not have



Beating hunger: A family in Niger in the Sahel under a mango tree.

looked good for Switzerland to reduce its solidarity with poor farming families in the United Nations Year of Family Farming.

Words and deeds

There are many important decisions to be taken at international level in 2015. In September, the United Nations General Assembly will vote on 17 sustainable development goals which will bring together and continue the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainability agenda. The question of funding remains unresolved; it is due to be settled beforehand at a conference in Addis Ababa.

SWISSAID will be taking an active part in the discussions about Switzerland's position on the international challenges faced. There needs to be adequate funding available to achieve the ambitious UN goals. Switzerland should be more proactive in campaigning for this. At the same time, poor countries must generate more income of their own. Money belonging to the rich local elite should not be allowed to end up in Swiss bank accounts, commodities concerns

should not be allowed to move their profits to tax havens and not pay tax in the country where they extracted the minerals, and governments should not be allowed to be run corruptly and with a lack of transparency.

In order to counter this abuse of power, there needs to be a courageous and critical civil society within the countries themselves, rapping the people in positions of power over the knuckles and demanding transparency and good governance. This is a task performed by SWISSAID partners in Chad, Niger and Guinea-Bissau, for example. Here in Switzerland, steps should be taken to make it impossible for the illegal flow of funding to take place, and we should campaign for regulations to be put in place. Much remains to be done in 2015!

The lives of women farmers in the South



Switzerland welcomes Chad:
The farmers quickly find common ground.

To mark the UN International Year of Family Farming, we organised a series of events entitled 'Dialogue between Women Farmers', each attended by two women farmers from Canada as well as two each from the SWISSAID countries of Chad, Colombia and Myanmar (Burma). The many and varied aspects of day-to-day life on

both sides were illuminated during a 14-day 'Tour de Suisse', taking in seven farms throughout Switzerland, and topics like agroecology, division of labour within the family and training were explored. The pivotal role of women in family farms right around the world was discussed, in particular.

The events were characterised by the committed attitude of the participants, lively discussions and wide interest among the general public and media. The passion and expertise which the farmers from the South exhibited during their appearances were impressive. The local farmers and their visitors from abroad soon realised that they shared common values and activities, despite the language barrier. The meetings promoted solidarity and offered inspiration for the future. Awareness was also heightened, and people were often heard to say: "That puts many of the problems that we have here into perspective."

Fabio Leippert

Successful rocking pet emblems



Around 20,000 school children sold 200,000 funny rocking pets for SWISSAID right around the country – cute little dinosaurs, beetles and piglets. For the first time since 2011, they raised over a million francs again from selling them. In recognition of their great efforts to help the

disadvantaged people of the Third World, four school groups were welcomed to the chamber of the National Council of Switzerland by its president, Didier Burkhalter, where they got the chance to ask him questions and sing to him – much to the enjoyment of the politician who buoyed their commitment, saying: "What you have done is, quite simply, a very good thing."

Recognition from high office:
President of the National Council of Switzerland, Didier Burkhalter welcomes the emblem sellers to parliament.



Development cooperation with a wink



SWISSAID attracted a great deal of attention during the football World Cup in June 2014 with a light-hearted campaign: World Cup oracle, Madame Shiva, a female guinea pig from the Dählhölzli Zoo in Berne, predicted the outcome of matches involving the Swiss national team. She showed how many goals would be scored on a miniature football pitch by doing her business on the 'correct' half of the field – with a professional commentary by coaching legend Gilbert Gress. On occasions, the prophetically gifted guinea pig appeared to be fumbling around in the dark, yet tens of thousands of people downloaded the funny videos and found out why guinea pigs are so important for poor farming families in Ecuador: they are indispensable for enabling farmers to produce their own fertiliser.

PW

swissaid.ch/madame-shiva



Commentary on Madame Shiva: Legendary coach Gilbert Gress is in his element in front of the camera.

Swiss corporations dominate the oil trade

SWISSAID demonstrated how many African countries are dependent on the trade in crude oil in a pioneering study published in mid-July 2014. The state oil companies of 10 African nations sold crude oil worth at least 220 billion US dollars between 2011 and 2013. Swiss oil traders alone bought 55 billion dollars worth of crude oil.



Oil sales account for almost 56% of state revenue of the countries investigated. Despite the gigantic scale of the business, the Federal Council does not intend to create any greater transparency in the trade in commodities. The issue has been largely left out of the current revision of the Stock Corporation Act. SWISSAID will stay on the ball.

LK

www.swissaid.ch/en/big-spenders-swiss-trading-companies

Low-hanging fruit just got lower

To many young men and women in Nicaragua, there does not seem to be any way out of their current plight. However, youth organisations are nurturing hope and a promising outlook for the future.



22-year old Erling Aquilar looks across his field with satisfaction: the chayote, which is a popular vegetable, is tied up on wire netting. The first fruit is dangling from the strong shoots, and the signs are that the harvest will be good. During harvest time, sales of this tasty produce, which is similar to a pumpkin, will bring in around 400 francs a month, which is about four times the statutory minimum wage.

A third of Nicaraguans are aged between 15 and 30. Very few young men and women manage to earn enough to keep themselves. In rural areas in particular, many of them scrape their way through the compulsory school years and then pour out onto a stagnant labour market with barely any prospect of finding work. Consequently, they find themselves compelled

to take badly paid casual work in the informal sector to keep their heads above water or to emigrate to neighbouring Costa Rica and try their luck on the 'black' labour market. Anyone who manages to get enough dollars together to go to the US to seek his fortune is often fleeced by criminal traffickers during the perilous journey. Their hopes are dashed along the way and, in worst-case scenarios, some even lose their lives.

Unsecured loan

Erling Aquilar has better prospects. As a member of the youth cooperative 'Esperanza' (Hope), he was able to borrow CHF 700, even though he did not have any collateral. He invested the money in a small plot on his parents' farm and bought equipment including wire mesh and wooden posts to build a pergola-like framework for growing the hanging plants.

In addition to loans, the Jucuapa-based cooperative offers advice to 125 young people on how to implement their business ideas and helps them if they need a grant for technical training or to study. The cooperative organises regular further training workshops on topics of particular interest to the members such as agroecology growing methods, cultivating seeds, civil rights, gender equality or sexual health.

Interests successfully represented

The cooperative also supports the young people in marketing their produce. If they grow beans, the ultimate staple foodstuff in Nicaragua, the cooperative organises the storage and marketing of the harvest. This enables the young people to increase their income.

Erling Aquilar shows us his field in which he successfully grows chayote.

However, the organisation also represents their interests on matters of policy with the authorities and ministries. As a result, people from Erling Aquilar's village can also attend secondary school.

All told, 'Esperanza' offers young people like Erling Aquilar a real opportunity to realise their business ideas and to create opportunities for themselves. Another good thing is that Erling is not faced with having to invest in something which lies away ahead in the future, but can already see the fruits of his labours.

*Daniel Ott Fröhlicher,
Desk Officer for Nicaragua*

Nicaragua in figures



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



145 Swiss francs

With this donation you will, for instance, help a young person in **Nicaragua** pay the solicitor's fees and the charge incurred when plots of land are transferred free of charge by parents to young people. A study grant of 72 francs per semester covers the study fees, as well as the weekly bus journey from the village to the town and back.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Current projects at the end of 2014 | 25 |
| Projects approved in 2014 | 16 |
| Funds disbursed (CHF) | 1,291,272 |
| People benefiting directly | 80,900 |

What it means to have a water tank

Water tanks made of plastic or concrete have been gaining a foothold in the Andes for a number of years. The special thing is that this type of water container is easy to install. And best of all, it enables women to irrigate their gardens and grow more food.

In the villages and hamlets high up in the Andes in Ecuador, the peasant farmers lead lives which are blighted by deprivation; shortages and hunger are never far away. The women are generally left alone to look after the fields and gardens and to fend for the whole family because the men, young and old alike, are compelled to go to the cities to look for work.

Under these circumstances, it is obvious that their basic living conditions have to be improved in order to tackle hunger and emigration. The lack of access to water is a major obstacle to this as there is precious little of this valuable commodity to be found at an altitude of 3000 m. Large-scale farmers share the concessions for



springs among themselves, leaving the indigenous people with nothing. However, without access to water, they can barely grow enough to feed their family, let alone make any steady income from farming. To make matters worse, rainfall is becoming even less predictable due to climate change.

Therefore, some village communities displayed pioneering spirit four years ago and started to use large rainwater drums to collect rainwater via the eaves of the roofs. It was a great success. During the dry periods, the farmers have been able to use the water in their gardens and fields, increasing their harvests significantly. More than 280 families in the Cotopaxi, Patate and Tungurahua regions now have their own water tank with a simple irrigation system. The drum has a capacity of 800 litres, which is sufficient for watering up to 400 m² of land.

Healthy food, healthy children


Sandra Amanguaño from the village of Condorahua also considers herself lucky to be able to water her garden. She has tomatoes, broccoli, garlic, lettuce and lots more sprouting on just a few square metres of land. "Now that we have a better supply of healthier food, the children are not ill so often." She is convinced of this. And she can sell her surplus produce at

An invaluable water tank: 8000 litres of water on the fields mean a better harvest – making hunger and food shortages a thing of the past.

the market every Friday. "I sometimes earn up to 30 dollars," she says proudly. She would like to buy her children new clothes and "above all else, enable them to have a good education." "Most of all, I would like to work more farmland, so that I could produce and sell more." Her chances are not too bad – she has made a start.

*Pia Wildberger, Luis Coronel,
Project manager*

Ecuador in figures



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Current projects at the end of 2014 | 10 |
| Projects approved in 2014 | 5 |
| Funds disbursed (CHF) | 1,311,617 |
| People benefiting directly | 12,000 |

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

340 Swiss francs

This donation would enable an 8000-litre rainwater basin made from concrete to be installed in Ecuador including a simple irrigation device worth 50 francs.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.



Fancy a little bit more? Adriana Rincón, president of our partner organisation, takes pride in showing off the large turnip which she has just plucked out of the ground.



Village development the Colombian way

Step by step, the locals of Pueblorrico are battling to create a future for themselves – self-determined and ecological.

The dirt track up to Pueblorrico, winds in tight bends. Despite its name, the village is anything but rich. Over 85% of the population live in poverty. The soil is fertile, with coffee and bananas really thriving. However, the plots are small, no more than a half a hectare, and are completely covered in coffee trees.

The income from the sale of coffee is not enough to feed the families, so the men and women do casual labour on the large coffee plantations in the region. However, there is only work during harvest time, and food is hard to

come by in the other months. The men and women of the village want things to change.

Cooperation creates friendship

The 'Comunidad en Acción' group created by the committed peasant farmers three years ago has already achieved good results: to begin with the 110 families have worked together and with the support of SWISSAID to come up with a development plan for their village. They have identified the problems which they have to tackle and have devised solutions. Working together has brought them closer and clearly underpinned the solidarity within the community. Looking back, Adriana Rincón, the president of the organisation, says "Previously, we used to be very apathetic and didn't even greet one another in passing. Nowadays, we create plans, are active and have become friends."

First of all, the farmers switched over to mixed cultures on their fields. Small vegetable gardens were created, and they planted fruit trees and staple foods like corn. This meant that the 'Cafetaleros', as the coffee farmers are known, are now able to produce a considerable proportion of their food themselves, reducing the ill-fated dependence on the coffee monoculture. The fertility of the soil is ensured with organic fertiliser, and biological agents are used for pest control.


some of which proved to be extremely delicate, all the springs were fenced in, and the land around them was reafforested.

The organisation received official concessions for the three main sources from the environmental authority, ensuring that they will be used exclusively as sources of drinking water which is all the more important since the area lies in the 'mining belt'. This is a region where the government issues concessions to multinational mining companies to mine for gold, effectively encouraging the contamination and industrial use of the drinking water. In addition, the farming communities run the risk of losing the rights to the water as soon as a mining company becomes active.

However, these are not the only areas in which 'Comunidad en Acción' is active. It has also addressed the issue of domestic violence through information events. And the group has set a good example; a further 110 families have already joined the organisation.

Petra Engelhard, Desk Officer for Colombia

Colombia in figures



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Current projects at the end of 2014 | 25 |
| Projects approved in 2014 | 16 |
| Funds disbursed (CHF) | 1,229,491 |
| People benefiting directly | 9800 |

Photo: Walquiria Pérez, SWISSAID Colombia

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

50 francs

A donation of 50 francs can pay for a fence, seeds and a watering can for a family garden in **Colombia**
SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.



From grain to seed

To get good harvests, you need good seeds so whole groups of farmers are now being introduced to the art of variety and seed selection in Myanmar.



Which rice is the best?
Rice growers testing different varieties of rice (marked with white signs).

Good seeds often end up on people's plates in Myanmar (Burma). Many people, even including farmers, make no distinction between the grain that peasant farming families sow and the cereal that they eat, including many farmers themselves. All too often, people sow lesser-grade seed even when good quality seed is available.

In an attempt to change this practice the focus of attention for SWISSAID's national programme last year was the seed, one of the most important means of production of all. The fact of the matter is that yields can be increased multiple times by using high-quality seeds.

Myanmar in figures



| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Current projects at the end of 2014 | 17 |
| Projects approved in 2014 | 12 |
| Funds disbursed (CHF) | 949,395 |
| People benefiting directly | 14,500 |

First of all, SWISSAID gave its Burmese partner organisation an in-depth introduction to the topic. Following that, six organisations in Shan and Kachin states in the east and north of the country launched pilot projects on selecting rice varieties and seeds.

Incorruptible field trials

First, the farmers identified the best variety of rice on a trial field. The trial setup was always the same: young shoots of three different varieties were planted under the same conditions on just under half a hectare of land. The groups of farmers determined which variety of seed was best on the basis of the results. In addition to a good yield, they also judged the taste, assessing factors like yield and taste. In the next stage, they had to select which seed to replicate the following season.

The farming groups opted for a local variety, Lon Pu Phyu. "It demonstrates good resistance to pests and disease, and the yield is 12 per cent higher than with the other two varieties," explained farming leader Hla Min to the SWISSAID delegation when they visited the field, holding a full, strong ear of grain in his hand. "This ear is suitable for producing seeds because it stood in the middle." Explaining the selection process, Hla Min said it could be assumed that there was no risk of cross-fertilisation in the middle of the field.

Over the following months, the leaders of a number of local farming groups each selected 20 kg of seeds and stored the seeds in airtight containers. The grain will be planted in the coming season to create more seed. In addition, the farming groups are planning to build seed

banks, in order to provide the farming families with a long-term supply of high quality seeds.

The all-important seed policy

In addition to practical projects 'on the ground', SWISSAID also supported the educational work conducted at national level with a view towards increasing awareness. Among other things, the complex questions surrounding variety protection and seed laws were discussed with some national politicians and farming representatives at the national seed forum, which SWISSAID helped to organise. After all, the farmers in Myanmar are hoping to grow their own local seeds in future and exchange them with one another, which is anything but certain given the fact that the farmers have no political influence.

*Sarah Mader,
Desk Officer for Myanmar*

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

48 Swiss francs

This donation is enough to provide three baskets of seeds in Myanmar which the farming groups can sow on a trial field.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.



Photo: Caroline Morel, SWISSAID



Young people against discrimination and intolerance

Young women and men from high and low castes are getting to know and appreciate one another for the first time.

Thanks to Mahatma Gandhi, the caste system in India was officially done away with 66 years ago. However, a person's caste still dictates their opportunity to marry, what job they do, their very existence in fact. Now, young people are tearing down social barriers.

The caste system still shapes society in rural India and determines the status and standing of every single person. Attacks, social exclusion and degradation of people of lower caste are commonplace and are tolerated. This is doubly the case for women, who suffer degradation

because of where they come from, as well as experiencing the general disdain that Indian society has for women and girls.

Lower castes, such as the 'untouchables', are required to live outside the village and may not participate in social or political activities. Marriage across caste boundaries is unthinkable. Outside the family, neither adults nor children have contact, let alone friendships, with members of the opposite sex.

A village like any other? Not quite

At first glance, Farhada in the state of Chattisgarh appears to be a typical Indian village. Wattle-and-daub houses with straw roofs and corrugated metal doors line the dusty street. The local population is made up of higher, middle and lower Hindu castes as well as Muslims. But there is something different in Farhada. Cyda, one of SWISSAID's partner organisations, started to set up a youth group two years ago. 86 young people, 40 of them girls, got together here to bring about change.

Initially, the young women and men who took part were mainly from the higher castes. Engaging in discussions, games, songs and information events, the members formed the view that there was a need for social change in the way they interacted with one another. The young people then convinced other parents to allow their daughters to go to the get-togethers. They brought the lower caste and Muslim communities on side by going from house to house and asking to talk to people.

But that was only half the battle. The vital thing was their ability to bring the key people like teachers and village elders over to their way

of thinking. Creativity became the order of the day: the young people organised street theatre, street games and demonstrations on issues like violence and social exclusion. This influenced public opinion, and people became generally persuaded that the activities of the young people were having a positive impact.

Celebrations for everyone

It has now become common practice in Farhada for young people to visit one another's homes and even to eat together. And the fact that Muslims and 'Untouchables' are now permitted to take part in celebrations and community gatherings is unprecedented in this region. Both youth group members and community leaders are highly motivated. They are now continuing their work in other villages in the surrounding area.

*Petra Engelhard,
Desk Officer for India*

India in figures



Photo: SWISSAID India

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

50 francs

With a donation of 50 francs, you can support the activities of a youth club in India for a year, for example – including plays, drinks for get-togethers, pens and paper to make posters.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.



Genetic engineering: Polluter-pays principle at risk



The assets of farmers lies in the sheer variety of types of corn.

Farming in Tanzania is coming under increasing pressure. The agricultural industry is making every effort to attempt to prevent the polluter-pays principle from applying to genetically engineered seeds. SWISSAID partner organisations are battling against this.

"Monocultures – cultural, intellectual and agricultural – make us ill, take away our independence and contribute towards malnutrition." This conclusion wasn't just reached by anyone, it is the view of Vandana Shiva, Alternative Nobel Prize laureate and member of the Club of Rome. Last year, she visited Dar es Salaam at the invitation of Tabio (Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity) because Tabio, in association with other local organisations, had organised a series of events dealing with the issue of genetic engineering in

agriculture. The purpose of the events was to inform agronomists, researchers, decision-makers and media representatives about the risks of genetically modified organisms (GMO) and to encourage them to support a lasting ban on GMO. This is because GM seeds lead to monocultures, create dependence and reduce variety on people's plates and in the field.

Ignorance at every turn

Tabio was founded by SWISSAID and other organisations in 2011 to rein in the increasingly aggressive agricultural lobby. That lobby's aim is to eliminate the polluter-pays and liability principle which is enshrined in law, in the case of genetically modified organisms. Seeking to reinforce the polluter-pays principle, Tabio carries out information and lobbying work, chiefly among politicians and women farmers, but also with the wider public.

A recent survey conducted by Tabio revealed that only 3 out of 86 farmers and 40 out of 150 supermarket customers had even heard of GMOs. Thirty of the supermarket customers said that while they would not eat GM products, they did not know that those sorts of products are already on the shelves, such as cornflakes and tomato soup imported from South Africa. Tabio filed a complaint with the Tanzanian Food Inspectorate, as a result of which the breakfast cereal was taken off the shelves.

Teach them young...

However, Tabio doesn't just name and shame, it also takes practical initiatives to preserve the

diversity of seeds. On the one hand, both in the unequal battle against the restrictive seeds policy maintained by the agricultural lobby and by the government. On the other hand, the organisation and by explaining the risks of GM seeds to farmers, giving them training on improving traditional seeds and promoting the building of seed stores in villages. The farming groups supported in the south of the country have already compiled an inventory of local varieties for their region, for example.

The partner organisation is now also turning to youth groups: Under the supervision of experts from Tabio, children are introduced to the secrets and beauty of biological diversity in 24 Diversity Clubs, which are school gardens.

Frank Haupt, Desk Officer for Tanzania

Tanzania in figures



WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

140 Swiss francs

This donation would pay for 100 easy-to-understand brochures about seed rights and the dangers of GM seeds in **Tanzania**, for example.

57 francs would pay for a mixture of seeds (tomatoes, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, onions) for a youth group to sow in a school garden.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.





Putting an end to drudgery

A well means so much more than just drinking water, especially to girls and women. So in Niger, SWISSAID focuses on supplying water.

“Access to clean drinking water changes people’s lives!” says Idrissa Moussa, a hydraulics engineer for SWISSAID in Niger who enabled communities like Méhanna in the Tillabéry region to have access to water. Four of

the villages in this large community, or more than 3000 men, women and children, are now able to drink clean well water. “The situation in Méhanna used to be dreadful,” said Moussa. “Water is such a precious resource that women walked many miles to the Niger River to collect it and carry it back to the village. Six hours on foot to fetch water that is dirty and can even cause diseases like cholera!”

Niger in figures

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Current projects at the end of 2014 | 21 |
| Projects approved in 2014 | 16 |
| Funds disbursed (CHF) | 1,261,157 |
| People benefiting directly | 19,800 |

Photos: Bertrand Cottet/Strates; SWISSAID Niger

Schools also benefit

The fact that water is the chief concern of the population in Niger, a country in the Sahel, is reflected in SWISSAID’s activities there, which focus on supplying water. We are one of the eight organisations that make up the Water & Sanitation Consortium, which has recently been granted 14 million Swiss francs by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for new water projects.

Against this background, SWISSAID managed to launch projects for 26,000 people in 21 villages in the communities of Mantakari and Torodi last year. Schools, health centres and markets will also receive access to water thanks to the six planned wells, five water towers and pipelines.

Left: Watering the vegetables makes for a more bountiful harvest. Below: Hygiene is a major issue when it comes to lowering infant mortality.



As a result, people are no longer forced to consume the dirty water from the Niger or its tributaries. Wells and water towers supply clean drinking water and, at the same time, make an enormous difference to the everyday lives of the women. In the community of Méhanna mentioned at the start, the women now only have to fetch water for an hour a day, instead of six as used to be the case. With more time at their disposal, the girls are able to attend school and the women can cultivate larger fields, once again with the assistance of SWISSAID. This improves the diet and the finances of the entire family because the women sell part of the harvest at the local market.

Thanks to the cooperation within the Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium, SWISSAID has much greater influence on national water and hygiene policy. This is especially important in a country like Niger where only one in every three people has access to clean water and fewer than seven per cent have a toilet. According to figures from UNICEF, water-borne diseases account for 80 per cent of infant mortality in developing countries.

Carine Pin, Desk Officer for Niger

www.waterconsortium.ch

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

80 francs

This donation would fund the cleaning and disinfection of two village wells in Niger.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.



Time is money – and that goes for Chad too

Lots of work to do and not enough to eat, off the radar of policymakers and exposed to all possible forms of violence – that is the reality of day-to-day life for many female farmers in Chad. SWISSAID makes living conditions discernibly better for them with selective 'startup aid' at favourable rates.



Practice makes perfect. Large livestock is the preserve of men in Chad.

The cliché about people lying around idly in the shadow of the baobab tree is well and truly refuted in southern Chad. You don't see women there – they are slaving away to feed their families, to enable their children to go to school or to pay for medical treatment. To make their lives easier, SWISSAID helps them save time and energy. The most efficient way of doing this is by constructing a well close to the village. This means that women and girls have to spend between two and eight hours less a day fetching water from the river or standing in queues at the water hole which makes it

possible for girls to attend school regularly. The women have more time to cultivate more land or find other ways to generate an income.

Livestock helping people

The draught oxen which SWISSAID buys for the women's groups not only save the women time and spare them from hardship; they also enable them to carry out work which they would not have been able to cope with without the animals. An ox-drawn cart is used to transport clay to the pottery, and the finished jugs are transported to the sales stand. Organic material is transported to the compost heap, and the composted soil is spread on the fields. It is ploughed, and the harvest is brought in at a later date or carted to the market. Whenever the women are not using the useful animal themselves, they lease it out, boosting their income considerably. They use that money to pay the farmhand who looks after large animals, because that is men's work.

SWISSAID has also supplied modest start-up capital for the 'Tontines', the credit and savings associations for the women's groups. With more time at their disposal, the loans allow the women to invest in lucrative small-scale businesses, such as selling bread rolls, sweets or drinks. The modest additional income they generate this way enables them to repay their loans and interest. The interest is used as starting capital for the credit fund, which means that over time larger amounts can be loaned. Sometimes, there is even enough money left

over for an investment from the group finances: for example, for the construction of a shed in which the women perhaps can attend literacy classes away from rain and dust, also thanks to the time they no longer have to spend working elsewhere.

More important than money: respect and solidarity

The women have their own money, manage their own organisation, and are able to read and write. But that is by no means all: the cooperation nurtures solidarity, which is much more valuable than all the project resources, because it builds their self-confidence and gains them the respect of the men and of the village community.

Frank Haupt, Desk Officer for Chad

Chad in figures

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| | |
| Current projects at the end of 2014 | 14 |
| Projects approved in 2014 | 14 |
| Funds disbursed (CHF) | 946,108 |
| People benefiting directly | 41,000 |

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES

60 Swiss francs

This donation would buy a wheelbarrow and watering can in **Chad**, for example, making it easier for the women to do their work in the fields. A motorised water pump and hose cost 290 francs, and a pair of draught oxen costs 770 francs.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.



Local inspection:
How do you protect
the woodland and
prevent deforestation?



Return to democracy is stopping illegal logging

SWISSAID's partners are using a strong awareness campaign to battle widescale deforestation

The small country of Guinea-Bissau, which has been shaken by crises, returned to the path of democracy with the elections in April 2014. The record turnout of almost 90% showed that the population had not lost faith in democracy. The people unequivocally rejected the military regime that seized power in a coup two years earlier.

Video protest against logging

During the two-year period of military rule, vast swathes of the woodlands were cleared. "No one knows how many trees were cut down and

who exported them, or for how much money. We have to learn from the mistakes of the past," said the new president, José Mario Vaz, shortly after taking office. The illegal deforestation has left irreversible damage in its wake.

With a new government in place and a democratically elected parliament, SWISSAID's partner organisations can once again count on having access to legitimate contact people, whom they want to persuade – as quickly as possible – to manage the country's forests sustainably.

Therefore, the partners decided to use the new political situation to mount an awareness campaign about the dramatic consequences of logging. Over the past four months, there have been reports, many very moving, from local people in the national media and on local radio. Well-known artists have protested against deforestation with a song and a video, and concerts have been held in the four main regions of the country attended by local and governmental representatives.

Community forests spared

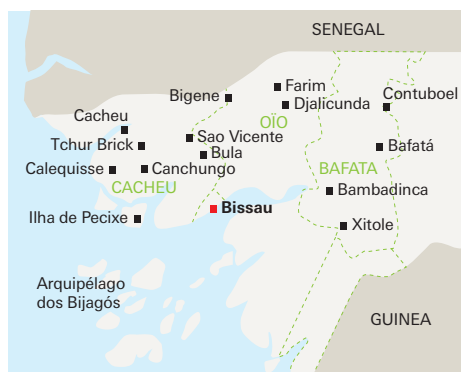
A national conference in early 2015 attended by the key players involved was the high point of this extraordinary mobilisation. It highlighted the fact that 'the unsustainable management of woodland resources endangered the nutrition of the local population and the cultural heritage of the country'. The conference culminated in the adoption of the 'Bissau Declaration', which called upon the government to issue a moratorium on the felling of fine woodland trees, to assess the damage caused over the past two years and to set up a fund for re-forestation. Just three months later, the government passed a five-year moratorium on

logging, which was a great success for civil society. It is now a question of implementing the moratorium and setting up supporting measures.

A key point of the declaration was a call for the state to set up community forests. SWISSAID supports the creation of village forests which are managed by local committees and which are thus under their control. Thanks to this system, the community forests are spared from massive deforestation. However, in recent years it has become increasingly difficult for the village communities to have community forests officially registered, and there are several thousand files pending with the state authorities. Thanks to the Bissau Declaration, it should now be possible to progress which would afford village inhabitants better protection against raids by timber barons in future.

Carine Pin, Desk Officer for Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau in figures



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Current projects at the end of 2014 | 16 |
| Projects approved in 2014 | 13 |
| Funds disbursed (CHF) | 1,268,427 |
| People benefiting directly | 36,400 |

Photo: Carine Pin, SWISSAID

WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES



90 francs

This donation would fund the exchange of knowledge about community forest management between members of two organisations representing village forests in Guinea-Bissau.

SWISSAID – Inspiring courage.

Balance sheet

| Assets | Appendix | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5.1 | 11,432,844 | 11,576,493 |
| Securities | 5.2 | 19,662,143 | 18,318,535 |
| Accounts receivable + finance pledges | 5.3 | 993,727 | 309,817 |
| Stocks of merchandise | | 474,095 | 460,530 |
| Deferred assets | | 281,710 | 250,887 |
| Operating assets | | 32,844,518 | 30,916,262 |
| Loans | 5.4 | 250,100 | 250,100 |
| Participations | 5.5 | 4 | 4 |
| Tangible assets | 5.6 | 1,280,238 | 1,278,956 |
| Fixed assets | | 1,530,342 | 1,529,060 |
| Total assets | | 34,374,860 | 32,445,322 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors | | 159,581 | 110,132 |
| Project-related commitments to programmes in the southern hemisphere | 5.7 | 16,819,606 | 15,964,119 |
| Deferred liabilities | | 50,609 | 44,521 |
| Reserves | 5.8 | 158,052 | 163,487 |
| Short-term borrowed capital | | 17,187,848 | 16,282,259 |
| Loans | | 0 | 230,000 |
| Fund for the Third World | 11 | 72,704 | 195,697 |
| Long-term borrowed capital | | 72,704 | 425,697 |
| Fund for donations set aside for the programmes in the southern hemisphere | | 821,944 | 0 |
| Fund for the future | | 812,500 | 185,000 |
| Fund for sponsoring the organic farming project | | 1,800 | 7,100 |
| Water project sponsorship fund | | 151 | 1,910 |
| Fund for sponsoring the women's project | | 500 | 990 |
| SDC fund | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Earmarked funds | | 1,636,895 | 195,000 |
| SWISSAID programme fund | | 6,764,276 | 6,548,837 |
| SWISSAID infrastructure fund | | 658,598 | 673,122 |
| Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies | 5.9 | 2,447,176 | 2,708,614 |
| Free capital | | 5,605,000 | 5,605,000 |
| Free capital – Swissaid Geneva | 2 | 2,363 | 6,793 |
| Organisation capital | | 15,477,413 | 15,542,366 |
| Total liabilities | | 34,374,860 | 32,445,322 |



Monika Uhlmann,
Head of the Finance
and Logistics
Department

Explanatory notes on the annual accounts

SWISSAID can look back at a successful financial year in 2014. Long-standing donors have kept faith with us, and new donors have come on board. Through your contributions, you have enabled us to move one step closer to achieving our objectives of helping the poorest members of society in the southern hemisphere. Thank you!

We have managed to keep our income from donations at the solid level achieved in the previous year – more than 12 million francs. This was possible, in particular, through the generous support of our many donors, as well as through legacies and substantial contributions from institutional backers. We appreciate this solidarity, and it spurs us on to continue to invest consistently in improving the quality and efficiency of our work, to learn the right lessons from occasional setbacks and to always use them as a starting point for further development.

In 2014, we approved 12.8 million francs worth of aid for self-help projects for our programmes in the southern hemisphere. Together with our coordination offices and partner organisations on the ground, we carry out these projects to improve the lives of the poorest sections of society in the southern hemisphere. We are continuously seeking to improve our techniques and to make our procedures even more professional, with the consistent aim of demonstrating that the greatest possible share of the donations reaches the intended beneficiaries.

In addition to good revenue from donations, our cost discipline and a return on securities which was well above what we had expected helped us to post a positive result for the year. We manage our investments in accordance with strict ethical criteria.

Our solid capital base enables us to meet our obligations at all times and, where the need arises, to make important investments so that we are well placed to face up to the challenges we encounter.

These annual accounts for 2014 were compiled in accordance with SWISS GAAP FER, ZEWO and SWISS NPO Code principles. The auditors Von Graffenried AG have audited the accounts in accordance with the statutory guidelines and found them to be correct. The audit report and complete annual financial statements are available to download from our website, www.swissaid.ch

Operating accounts

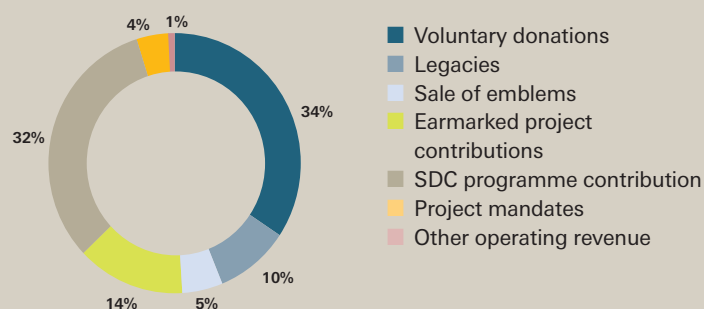
| Revenue | Appendix | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Voluntary donations | | 6,683,468 | 7,542,187 |
| Legacies | | 1,866,439 | 1,094,625 |
| Sale of emblems | | 1,024,505 | 899,841 |
| Earmarked donations & contributions to projects | 7.1 | 2,441,326 | 2,577,540 |
| Contributions to projects from FEDEVACO | | 83,301 | 96,456 |
| Contributions to projects from FGC | | 127,030 | 155,749 |
| Contributions to projects from Glückskette (Swiss Solidarity) | | 0 | 454,076 |
| Proceeds from collections | | 12,226,067 | 12,820,473 |
| SDC programme contribution | | 6,200,000 | 6,200,000 |
| Domestic contributions from other federal agencies | | -18 | -45,467 |
| Project mandates | | 841,622 | 0 |
| Other operating revenue | 7.2 | 163,436 | 91,957 |
| Total operating revenue | | 19,431,107 | 19,066,964 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Projects overseas | | 12,824,661 | 11,982,449 |
| Funds released by project settlements | 7.7 | -1,847,511 | -1,691,093 |
| Expenditure on programme support | | 1,368,284 | 1,287,184 |
| Personnel-related expenditure | | 1,263,483 | 1,158,649 |
| Expenditure on materials | 7.3 | 104,801 | 128,535 |
| Expenditure on the overseas programme | | 12,345,434 | 11,578,540 |
| Information and public-awareness programme in Switzerland | | 2,107,708 | 2,112,873 |
| Expenditure on programme support | | 1,200,144 | 1,099,268 |
| Personnel-related Expenditure on the domestic programme | | 1,015,935 | 935,201 |
| Expenditure on materials for the domestic programme | 7.3 | 184,209 | 164,066 |
| Expenditure on the domestic programme | | 3,307,852 | 3,212,141 |
| Administrative expenditure | | 3,663,976 | 3,704,603 |
| Personnel-related expenditure | | 1,160,184 | 1,269,315 |
| Expenditure on materials | 7.3 | 584,070 | 592,974 |
| Cost of collecting donations | | 1,919,723 | 1,842,313 |
| Total operating expenditure | | 19,317,263 | 18,495,284 |
| Operating result | | 113,844 | 571,680 |
| Financial earnings (realised) | | 253,893 | 645,049 |
| Financial earnings (not realised) | | 1,103,502 | 126,656 |
| Financial expenditure | | 168,366 | 196,402 |
| Financial result | 7.4 | 1,189,029 | 575,303 |
| Expenditure on real estate | | 8,011 | 9,306 |
| Revenue from real estate | | 78,408 | 81,888 |
| Non-operating result | 7.5 | 70,397 | 72,582 |
| Other profits carried over from previous periods | 7.6 | 10,250 | 11,545 |
| Result carried over from previous periods | | 10,250 | 11,545 |
| Result prior to the change in fund | | 1,383,520 | 1,231,110 |
| Use of earmarked funds | | 10,721,545 | 7,611,513 |
| Allocation of earmarked funds | | -12,163,440 | -7,775,513 |
| Change in available funds | 8 | 58,375 | -1,067,110 |
| Income carried over in favour of processed funds | | 0 | 0 |

Cash-flow analysis (Appendix 9)

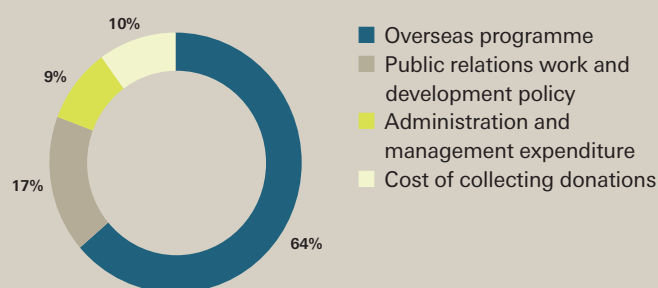
| Flow of funds from operational activities | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Annual result prior to the changes in funds | 1,383,520 | 1,231,110 |
| Subtraction/addition (–) foreign currencies in credit overseas | –6,578 | –9,379 |
| Depreciation on tangible assets | 141,317 | 157,928 |
| Liquidation of reserves | –5,435 | –1,853 |
| Subtraction/addition (–) of accounts receivable and finance pledges | –683,910 | 67,044 |
| Subtraction/addition (–) of inventory/inventories | –13,565 | –63,401 |
| Subtraction (–)/addition of deferred assets | –30,823 | 173,542 |
| Subtraction (–) / addition of creditors | 49,449 | 17,600 |
| Subtraction (–) / addition of project commitments for programmes in the southern hemisphere | 855,487 | 152,481 |
| Subtraction (–) / addition of deferred liabilities | 6,088 | 2,674 |
| Flow of funds from operational activities | 1,695,550 | 1,727,746 |
| Flow of funds from investment activities | | |
| Investment (–) / disinvestment of tangible assets | –142,599 | –84,245 |
| Investment (–) / disinvestment of real estate | 0 | 0 |
| Investment (–) / disinvestment of loans | 0 | 0 |
| Flow of funds from investment activities | –142,599 | –84,245 |
| Flow of funds from finance activities | | |
| Fund for the Third World | –122,993 | –79,028 |
| Loans payable | –230,000 | 0 |
| Flow of funds from investment activities | –352,993 | –79,028 |
| Addition (+) / subtraction (–) of payments | 1,199,958 | 1,564,472 |
| Fund for cash and cash equivalents (including securities) 1.1. | 29,895,028 | 28,330,556 |
| Fund for cash and cash equivalents (including securities) 31.12. | 31,094,986 | 29,895,028 |

Finance and use of resources

Where funds come from:



Where funds flow to:



Analysis of the change in capital in 2014 (Appendix 8)

| | Opening balance | Revenue (internal) | Allocation (external) | Internal Fund transfers | appropriation | Closing balance |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Funds from own finance | | | | | | |
| SWISSAID programme fund | 6,548,837 | | 1,535,534 | -1,320,095 | | 6,764,276 |
| SWISSAID infrastructure fund | 673,122 | | | | -14,524 | 658,598 |
| Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies | 2,708,614 | | | | -261,438 | 2,447,176 |
| Free capital accrued | 5,605,000 | | | | | 5,605,000 |
| SWISSAID Geneva | 6,793 | | | | -4,430 | 2,363 |
| Annual result | 0 | | -58,375 | | 58,375 | 0 |
| Organisation capital | 15,542,366 | 0 | 1,477,159 | -1,320,095 | -222,017 | 15,477,413 |
| Funds from fund capital | | | | | | |
| Fund for donations earmarked for programmes in the southern hemisphere | 0 | | 2,224,507 | 1,320,095 | -2,722,658 | 821,944 |
| SWISSAID organic farming sponsorship fund | 7,100 | | 319,858 | | -325,158 | 1,800 |
| SWISSAID water sponsorship fund | 1,910 | | 49,051 | | -50,810 | 151 |
| SWISSAID women's sponsorship fund | 990 | | 161,449 | | -161,939 | 500 |
| SWISSAID fund for the future | 185,000 | | 1,888,480 | | -1,260,980 | 812,500 |
| SDC fund capital | 0 | | 6,200,000 | | -6,200,000 | 0 |
| Fund capital earmarked with restrictions | 195,000 | 0 | 10,843,345 | 1,320,095 | -10,721,545 | 1,636,895 |

Executive bodies (at the end of 2014)

SWISSAID Board of Trustees

Matthias Aebischer, lecturer at the University of Freiburg, member of the Swiss National Council, Bern, since 2012; Viola Amherd, solicitor and notary public, Brig-Glis, since 2014; Stephan Baer, businessman, Küssnacht am Rigi, since 2007; Andreas Bänziger, journalist, Bühler, since 1997; Roman Berger, journalist and author, Zurich, since 2005; Bruno Bergomi, journalist and producer on Radiotelevisione Svizzera (RSI), Dino, since 1997; Dr. Jean-Claude Bolay, Director for Cooperation and visiting professor at EPFL, Ecublens, since 2010; Tobias Brülisauer-Spitzli, agricultural organic and ecological consultant, Grub, since 2000; Edgar Ricardo von Buettner, senior consultant for strategic, participative and sustainable community development projects, Brazil, since 1983; Mario Carera, socio-economist, Bern, since 2002; Prof. Dr. Pierre Centlivres, former director of the Institute of Ethnology of the University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, since 1983; Fernand Cuhe, organic farmer and former member of the Council of States, Lignières, since 2014; Dr. phil. Rudolf Dannecker, former vice-director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Hinterkappelen, since 2002; Yvonne Feri, member of the Swiss National Council and of the local council, Wettingen, since 2014; Gaby Fierz, ethnologist, Basel Museum of Cultures, Basel, since 2008; Dr. Rudolf Fischer, Dr. phil. I, former head of the SWISSAID Department of Development Cooperation, Wettingen, since 2014; Rémy Gogniat, journalist, La Chaux-de-Fonds, since 2009; Maya Graf, organic farmer and member of the Swiss National Council, Sissach, since 2009; Bruno

Gurtner, economist, Bern, since 2008; Marianne Hochuli, historian, Zurich, since 2009; Martin Hürzeler, fundraiser BR, Zurich, since 2009; Oscar A. Kambly, President of the Board of Directors of Kambly SA Spécialités de Biscuits Suisses, Trubschachen, since 2008; Florianne Koechlin, biologist, author, managing director of the Blauen Institute, Münchenstein, since 1996; Maud Krafft, consultant, Lausanne, since 2005; Werner Küng, former head of the SWISSAID Information & Fundraising Department, Wabern, since 2014; Dr. med. Jean Martin-Monod, former cantonal authority doctor, Echandens, since 1985; Urspeter Meyer, lawyer, Köniz, since 1996; Gian L. Nicolay, Dipl. Ing. Agr. ETH, Africa coordinator FIBL, Ardez, since 2010; Wendy Peter, managing director of Bioforum Switzerland, Willisau, since 2010; Chasper Pult, cantonal school teacher and cultural mediator, Paspels, since 1992; Daniel Roduner, business economist HWV, Bolivia, since 2007; Dr. Claudine Sauvain, anthropologist, professor at the University of Geneva, Geneva, since 1985; Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, lawyer, Migration Office of the Reformed Churches of Bern-Jura-Solothurn, Gümliigen, since 2008; Dr. Urs Schwaller, member of the Council of States, lawyer, Tavers, since 2011; Hansruedi Stadler, solicitor and notary public, Altdorf, since 2005; Dr. Markus Stadler, member of the Council of States, freelance consultant for the public sector, Bürglen, since 2011; Jean-Luc Sudan, communication coordinator, Vessy, since 2006; Angela Tognetti, organic farmer, Bellinzona, since 2005; Felix Wirz, managing director of Ecopolitics GmbH, Bern, since 2012.

Committee of the SWISSAID Board of Trustees

Dr. rer. pol. Rudolf Rechsteiner, economist, President of SWISSAID, Basel, since 2008; Dieter Achtnich, economist, Zurich, since 2003; Dr. Walter Egli, Vice-President SWISSAID, historian and former co-studies director NADEL, ETH Zurich, Zurich, since 2005; Erica Hennequin, teacher and Green Party Member of Parliament in the Swiss state of Jura, Courgenay, since 2014; Bastienne Joerchel Anhorn, economist, Renens, since 2012; Dr. phil. nat. Thomas Kohler, associate director of the Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Rüfenacht, since 2014; Ruth Rauch, lic. rer. pol., team and organisational development, Berne, since 2004; Marianne Roth, intercultural communication consultant, PR consultant, Zurich, since 2009; Carlo Sommaruga, lawyer and member of the Swiss National Council, Geneva, since 2010.

SWISSAID Executive Board

Caroline Morel, ethnologist, Executive Director; Jeremias Blaser, Ph. D. political science Lausanne, Department of Development Cooperation; Monika Uhlmann, business economist FH, Finance + Logistics Department; Jon Andrea Florin, lic.phil.I, Information & Fundraising Department; Catherine Morand, lawyer, journalist, Antenne romande.

For further details, please visit the individuals' websites

How can we be sure that development cooperation actually helps?

A simple example demonstrates how effective development cooperation is



Jeremias Blaser,
Head of Development
Cooperation

Because there is no clean drinking water, powdered milk is used to mark the football pitch. Food is sold at the local markets instead of being distributed to war refugees. Two identical water treatment facilities are installed in the same village because relief organisations have not discussed this beforehand. The examples of failed development projects leave you wondering. Even if the examples don't involve SWISSAID in practice, our charity is still confronted by the question of how to ensure that the means used actually reduce poverty in the southern hemisphere.

The method

In previous years, SWISSAID has developed methods for objectively assessing whether the desired project targets are actually met. The basis for this is a causal chain which is constructed from three questions:

1. What positive **change** or effect (outcome, OC) should be able to be seen at the end of a project?
2. What **activities** (outputs, OP) must be carried out in order to achieve the desired effect?
3. What **means** (inputs, I) are necessary in order to realise the planned activities?

Taking Xitole, a region in the West African country of Guinea-Bissau, as an example, we

can illustrate how effectiveness is demonstrated in reality.

The facts: 85% of the population of Xitole are dependent on agriculture. The land is fertile, and the water reserves are abundant. However, neither the production volumes nor the incomes are sufficient to enable a farming family to have a healthy diet, to send their children to school or to receive medical treatment.

Analysis of the problem: Before we look for solutions, the development problem being solved has to be analysed. Together with the farmers in Xitole, SWISSAID employees conducted research on the ground to find out why people often have insufficient money at the end of the month to cover their basic needs

In Xitole, they ascertained how many tons of vegetables had been produced and what income had been achieved before the project got under way. We prepared what is known as a baseline, which serves as a reference variable for regularly reviewing production and income.

Outcome: 15 per cent higher yield

Our objective was to increase production and enable people to achieve a higher income. We wanted to increase agricultural revenue from 7.1 to 8.3 tonnes per hectare within 18 months.

Target formulation: The target and effect have to be formulated precisely. A precise measurement is carried out at the end of the

project to ascertain whether or not the effect has been achieved. If the target is formulated in broader terms, such as 'improved living conditions for the farmers in Xitole', this review would barely be possible because the term 'living conditions' remains undefined. In addition, the reasons for an improvement may be very diverse and, in some cases, may have nothing to do with SWISSAID's activities. The formulation of the target is very closely linked to the analysis of the problem.

Chain of solutions: Solutions have to be developed which 'tick as many boxes as possible' because the reasons for the development problem may be varied. In the case of Xitole, an agreement was reached to introduce organic farming, and this involved setting in motion the following process:

- switching to agri-ecological growing methods in order to improve the fertility of the soil;
- sustainably protecting fertile soil against erosion caused by climate;
- thereby increasing production volumes in the long term;
- selling surplus production;
- achieving additional income.

Measurability: In order to identify whether a target has been achieved, it must initially be 'made measurable'. For this purpose, the



Front cassava, back corn: Umaro Djajo, the head of our partner organisation in Xitole, explains the advantages of mixed cultivation

following parameters were defined in Xitole, for example:

- Which agricultural yields will be measured?
- What area is given over to organic farming?
- What timespan is involved?
- Is the income defined as gross or net income?
- Is only monetary income taken into consideration, or is non-monetary income factored in too?
- Is income measured per head or per household?

The following targets were defined in Xitole: The aforementioned production increase to 8.3 tonnes of roots, tubers and rice per hectare is to be achieved through agri-ecological growing methods.

Output: Defining preconditions

Activities: Plausible causation now has to be formulated between project activities and targets; this is the actual art of project formulation. What does it take to be able to sustainably produce 8.3 tonnes of vegetables per hectare in 18 months?

- The farming families require water in order to irrigate the fields. Wells must be built, and irrigation systems must be installed.

- The farmers need to learn certain techniques for agri-ecological farming. Knowledge must be shared between farmers and agronomists.
- Farmers have to band together in groups because each individual farmer cannot build his own well or communicate individually with an agronomist.
- Capacities must be developed to enable the farmers to organise themselves and to develop appropriate organisational structures. The farmers have to be in a position to write their constitution, hold elections and apply simple accounting practices.
- The farmers require seeds in order to grow anything at all. These have to be acquired and distributed.

Input

Specific changes: Against this background, we make a plausible assumption that farmers will organise themselves as a group, acquire seeds with our assistance, irrigate their fields, acquire agri-ecological expertise and apply it in their fields, thereby boosting productivity.

In order to implement this causal chain, there has to be appropriate funding available because irrigation systems cost money, agronomists do not work for nothing, and the farming families will not obtain the seeds for free. How much

each individual activity costs is specified in a budget. The causal chain is complete as soon as this has been established: Input (budget) – Output (activities) – Outcome (effect).

SWISSAID's work

This and similar causal chains are a standard feature of SWISSAID projects, so we can track every project very precisely and on three levels.

- We can establish on a budget level (I) whether the project is staying within budget, expenditure is being made for planned activities, and the estimated timescale is being adhered to.
- We can check on an activities level (OP) whether the project is running to time and our quality demands are being met.
- We can measure on an effect level (OC) whether any change has actually taken place and, if so, to what degree this is attributable to specific activities within the project.

We focus our attention on the effect. We are seeking to bring about changes which will cause a sustainable reduction in poverty.

We have every right to be proud of the farmers, as well as of our employees in Xitole. When the project reached a conclusion in 2014, the relevant data was gathered. The objective was to produce 8.3 tonnes of vegetables per hectare. In actual fact, 10.9 tonnes were produced per hectare per annum – a huge success.

In brief: SWISSAID – Inspiring courage

SWISSAID is an independent foundation, without any religious or political affiliation, with its registered office in Berne and an office in Lausanne. We have been committed since 1948 to championing the causes of the disadvantaged people of the southern hemisphere in rural areas where there are no other organisations on hand to support them. We battle for the right of all people to lead their lives without hunger, need and oppression. We are driven by the firm belief that injustice and poverty are never 'meant to be'.

In addition to implementing self-help projects in the southern hemisphere, we also lobby policymakers in Switzerland in order to safeguard the interests of the poor people. Improving living conditions in the southern hemisphere hinges on social change in the northern hemisphere. We base our activities upon the expertise, experience and needs of our partner organisations in nine countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America where we have run projects.*

How we operate

SWISSAID supports initiatives undertaken by disadvantaged people in the Third World and works in tandem with non-governmental organisations. We provide aid and support our partner organisations at institutional level. This enables them to achieve a sense of independence and be effective in the economic, social and political spheres of life in their country. We do not shy away from showdowns with multinationals, major land owners or organisations that are polluting the environment. This is always done with the aim of emboldening defenceless local people and giving them the ability to help themselves.

SWISSAID works exclusively with local experts and does not delegate any high-cost Swiss experts to the countries of the southern hemisphere. As well as anchoring projects more effectively in the local context, this also leads to a transfer of know-how and the creation of local jobs.

This helps to bring down programme-support costs, leaving a greater proportion of the donations available to help the people affected help themselves.

In order to achieve our objectives in both the northern and southern hemispheres, we cooperate with other groups. Therefore, we are members of Alliance Sud, i.e. the working party comprising SWISSAID, Fastenopfer, Brot für alle, Helvetas, Caritas and Heks, as well as other organisations.

Executive terms of office

Members of the Board of Trustees are appointed for four years and can be re-elected. The period of office of the members of the Board of Trustees Committee is four years, and they can be re-elected twice, although longer terms may be agreed in justified cases.

* To find out about the services provided and targets achieved over the past year, please read the reports on the individual national programmes (pages 5 to 13).

Appendix to the annual accounts

1. General accounting principles

Accounts are rendered on the basis of the SWISS GAAP FER 21/coreFER accounting recommendations and this procedure is prepared in accordance with the Swiss Code of Obligations, ZEWO regulations (agency governing charitable organisations which collect donations), as well as in accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Foundation and Regulations. The securities result is posted directly via the income statement applying the gross principle with records of book profits and losses.

2. Consolidated group

The accounts of the coordination offices which are responsible for implementing the projects in the southern hemisphere as well as those of SWISSAID Geneva are integrated fully into these annual accounts. SWISSAID does not have any subsidiaries or partner institutions over which it has a controlling influence.

3. Associated organisations

The following organisations and institutions have close associations with SWISSAID: Alliance South (working party comprising SWISSAID, Fastenopfer, Brot für alle, Helvetas, Caritas, Heks), Association SWISSAID Genève, Max Havelaar Foundation, SAG (Swiss Working Group on Genetic Engineering), and Stop OGM. Contractually, Alliance Sud receives CHF 378,600 of the annual budget. SWISSAID is represented on the boards of the other organisations, without the allocation of material contributions. Unpaid services provided by third parties to SWISSAID only account for an insignificant proportion of the overall result and are, therefore, not listed.

Appendix to the annual accounts

4. Accounting and valuation principles

Securities: Market value on the balance sheet date
Foreign currencies: Exchange rate on the balance sheet date
Loans, accounts receivable and finance pledges: Nominal value
Participations: Acquisition value less depreciations required in connection with operations management
Real estate in Switzerland: Acquisition value less scheduled depreciations.
 The property is not subject to depreciation. Period of use: 40 years
Property abroad: Acquisition value less scheduled depreciations. Period of use: 25 years
Furnishings, machinery and plant: Acquisition value less scheduled depreciations.
 Period of use: Furnishings 10 years, IT equipment 3 years, machinery 3-6 years.
 Capitalisation limit: CHF 3000 (IT: CHF 1000)

5. Explanatory notes on the balance sheet

| 5.1 Liquid assets | 31.12.2014 | 31.12.2013 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash/post office finance/domestic banks | 10,960,238 | 11,267,841 |
| Foreign banks | 472,606 | 308,652 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | 11,432,844 | 11,576,493 |

| 5.2 Securities | Market value 2014 | Market value 2013 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bonds | 13,277,925 | 10,769,987 |
| Shares | 6,384,218 | 7,548,548 |
| Total securities | 19,662,143 | 18,318,535 |

| 5.3 Accounts receivable and finance pledges | 31.12.2014 | 31.12.2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Withholding tax credit | 44,599 | 9,816 |
| Credit from deliveries | 12,573 | 22,464 |
| Pledges: Glückskette (Swiss Solidarity) | 197,444 | 197,444 |
| Pledges: Water consortium | 682,054 | 0 |
| Loans to employees | 57,057 | 80,093 |
| Total accounts receivable and finance pledges | 993,727 | 309,817 |

| 5.4 Loans | 31.12.2014 | 31.12.2013 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Claro fair trade AG | 250,100 | 250,100 |
| Total loans | 250,100 | 250,100 |

| 5.5 Participations at nominal value | 31.12.2014 | 31.12.2013 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Registered shares in Claro fair trade AG | 92,272 | 92,272 |
| Investment fund shares in Fonds internat. de Garantie, Geneva | 96,000 | 96,000 |
| Remei AG | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Voting shares in Alternative Bank ABS | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Total participations | 218,272 | 218,272 |

There is a contingent commitment on the share of USD 6,000 for the investment fund shares in Fonds internat. de Garantie, Geneva (FIG). The investment fund shares are being used by a former partner organisation (ADIM) in Nicaragua to secure a loan of USD 70,000 with a local bank.

| 5.6 Tangible-asset movement schedule | Plant and equipment | Land and buildings at home | Real estate abroad |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Acquisition values on 1.1.2014 | 451,278 | 1,040,000 | 603,006 |
| Investments in 2014 | 142,599 | 0 | 0 |
| Write-off depreciations in 2014 | -36,934 | 0 | -85,999 |
| Acquisition values on 31.12.2014 | 556,942 | 1,040,000 | 517,007 |
| Accumulated write-offs on 1.1.2014 | 198,929 | 250,484 | 365,915 |
| Depreciations in 2014 | 98,564 | 22,074 | 20,679 |
| Write-off depreciations in 2014 | -36,934 | 0 | -85,999 |
| Depreciation balance on 31.12.2014 | 260,558 | 272,558 | 300,595 |
| Net balance for material assets on 31.12.2014 | 296,384 | 767,442 | 216,412 |
| Fire-insurance value | 775,000 | 1,600,000 | |

Appendix to the annual accounts

5.7 Short-term borrowed capital

Project-related commitments to programmes in the southern hemisphere: Cooperation agreements with local partner organisations generally form the basis for the commitments. There is no distinction made between short and long-term commitments. Since SWISSAID's project activities are based on the needs of the partner organisations, the precise timing of the use of funds cannot be defined. The implementation timescale for a project is generally one to two years.

| National programme | Commitments 1.1.2014 | Project approvals 2014 | Project funds disbursed 2014 | Funds released from project settlements | Commitments 31.12.2014 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| India | 2,315,563 | 1,439,359 | 1,131,888 | 325,133 | 2,297,901 |
| Myanmar | 1,550,485 | 1,235,662 | 949,395 | 99,877 | 1,736,875 |
| Chad | 1,289,734 | 1,199,814 | 946,108 | 326,116 | 1,217,324 |
| Niger | 2,407,372 | 2,877,307 | 1,261,157 | 222,590 | 3,800,932 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 1,147,035 | 1,159,179 | 1,268,427 | 73,309 | 964,478 |
| Tanzania | 968,268 | 796,921 | 777,996 | 78,878 | 908,315 |
| Africa | 150,929 | 0 | 11,952 | 81,715 | 57,262 |
| Nicaragua | 1,714,603 | 1,364,523 | 1,291,272 | 56,103 | 1,731,751 |
| Colombia | 2,260,548 | 1,460,501 | 1,229,491 | 290,146 | 2,201,412 |
| Ecuador | 2,159,582 | 1,349,035 | 1,311,617 | 293,644 | 1,903,356 |
| Total commitments | 15,964,119 | 12,882,301 | 10,179,303 | 1,847,511 | 16,819,606 |
| Liquidation of reserves in acc. with 5.8. | | -57,640 | | | |
| Total projects abroad | | 12,824,661 | | | |

5.8 Reserves movement schedule

| | Balance on 1.1.2014 | Disposals in 2014 | Accruals in 2014 | Balance on 31.12.2014 |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Projects abroad not yet settled | 59,183 | 58,769 | 1,129 | 1,543 |
| Reserve for personnel-related commitments | 104,304 | 0 | 7,105 | 111,409 |
| Other reserves | 0 | 0 | 45,100 | 45,100 |
| Total reserves | 163,487 | 58,769 | 53,334 | 158,052 |

5.9 Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies

The desired minimum balance is based on the provisions of the internal policy and is fully accrued.

6. Remuneration to the executive bodies

Remuneration for the presiding staff of the Committee of the Board of Trustees (SRA):

Flat-rate allowance for the President: CHF 6,000 p. a.

Flat-rate allowance for the Vice-President: CHF 2,000 p. a.

Remuneration for management: Total wage costs for entire management (5 people) CHF 696,615 p. a.

Attendance fees for Committee of the Board of Trustees: Half-day meetings CHF 200, whole-day meetings CHF 300

Expenses at home/abroad: Expenses are remunerated on the basis of receipts submitted

Total remuneration for Committee of the Board of Trustees: CHF 18,735 (flat-rate pay, attendance fees, expenses less donations) for 2014

of which, President: CHF 6,500 (flat-rate pay, attendance fees, expenses less donations) for 2014

7. Explanatory notes on the income statement

7.1 Earmarked project contributions

Evidence of how funds are appropriated is provided via project accounting and is the subject of an accounting audit.

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Project contributions by local authorities | 208,200 | 134,150 |
| Project contributions by cantonal authorities and lottery funds | 213,800 | 396,507 |
| Project contributions by foundations | 527,487 | 801,520 |
| Project contributions by churches, private individuals, SMEs | 622,135 | 499,115 |
| Fundraising in the South | 317,305 | 265,360 |
| Other project contributions | 552,399 | 480,888 |
| Total earmarked project contributions | 2,441,326 | 2,577,540 |

| 7.2 Other operating revenue | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Sales of materials and gift items | 94,483 | 75,777 |
| Fees | 12,800 | 16,007 |
| Participation in costs by third-party organisations | 56,000 | 0 |
| Sundry revenue | 153 | 174 |
| Total other operating revenue | 163,436 | 91,957 |

| 7.3 Administrative expenditure | Programmes in the southern hemisphere | Support domestic programme | Administration |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Travel and entertainment expenses | 84,398 | 65,485 | 52,893 |
| Expenditure on materials | 6,824 | 11,282 | 112,991 |
| Subsistence costs | 13,579 | 107,442 | 347,881 |
| Depreciations | 0 | 0 | 70,305 |
| Total administrative expenditure | 104,801 | 184,209 | 584,070 |

| 7.4 Financial result | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Revenue and gains achieved on shares / funds | 140,188 | 497,188 |
| Revenue and gains achieved on bonds | 93,534 | 162,446 |
| Revenue achieved on cash and cash equivalents | 40,682 | 59,065 |
| Revenue and gains not achieved on shares / funds | 714,097 | 331,844 |
| Revenue and gains not achieved on bonds | 389,405 | -205,188 |
| Foreign-currency gain | -20,512 | -73,650 |
| Asset-management fees and safe-custody fees | -93,050 | -88,205 |
| Bank charges and transaction fees | -75,316 | -108,197 |
| Total financial result | 1,189,029 | 575,303 |

| 7.5 Real-estate account | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Expenditure on the real estate at Jubiläumsstrasse | -8,011 | -9,306 |
| Revenue from the real estate at Jubiläumsstrasse | 78,408 | 81,888 |
| Non-operating result | 70,397 | 72,582 |

| 7.6 Other profits carried over from previous periods | 2014 |
|--|---------------|
| Bern City Council, refund of the waste fee for 2007–2010 | 332 |
| AXA Winterthur, profit participation, accident insurance refund 2011–2013 | 1,910 |
| AXA Winterthur, profit participation, collective accident insurance refund 2009–2013 | 6,591 |
| AHV/BAFU, refund for CO ₂ emissions in 2012 | 1,418 |
| | 10,250 |

7.7 Funds released after project settlements

On account of ZEWO (agency governing charitable organisations which collect donations) recertification in 2014, funds released after project settlements are now shown as a reduction in expenditure.

8. Explanatory notes on the analysis of the change in capital

The fund distribution is based on the fund policy according to Swiss GAAP FER. The increased commitments to the development projects will reduce the SWISSAID programme fund. In accordance with SDC requirements, the earmarked fund capital from the SDC is reported separately. The target for the minimum balance of exchange rate fluctuation reserves has been met. The representation was adapted in the course of REWO recertification in 2014.

9. Explanatory notes on the cash-flow analysis

The fund comprises the cash, cash equivalents and securities held as liquidity reserves.

10. Risk assessment

Management conducts a periodic risk assessment. Any resulting measures are discussed with the Committee of the Board of Trustees and then implemented.

11. Fund for the Third World

Project funds are managed in trust for third parties in the 'Fund for the Third World'.

12. SDC fund

The unused amount in accordance with the programme contribution is reported in the 2014 annual accounts. Figures are calculated on 31 December of the year in question.

Our special thanks to you!

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all our donors for their generous support over the past year. Thanks to your commitment and solidarity, we are able to help people to help themselves in the countries of the southern hemisphere.

In addition to many individuals, we also receive support from numerous companies and suppliers who have provided their services at particularly favourable rates or free of charge, as well as from institutions, cantons, local authorities, parish councils and Third World groups.

We are particularly grateful to the following organisations:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC)

and Vaud Federation for Cooperation (FEDEVACO).

Cantons: Aargau, Basel City, Berne, Graubünden, Obwalden, Thurgau, Schaffhausen and Schwyz

Companies and foundations: Ammann AG, Audemars Piguet Foundation, René and Susanne Braginsky Foundation, Client Systems AG, Cimbria Foundation, Charisma Foundation for Sustainable Development, Corea Foundation, Corrado Foundation, Corymbo Foundation, Dorave Foundation, Foundation for the Third Millennium, Educasa Foundation, Georg Fischer Anniversary Foundation, Fontes Foundation, Gertrude Hirzel Foundation, Kambly Fund, Julius Bär Foundation, Link Institute, Ernest Matthey Foundation, Federation of Migros Cooperatives, Pehiba Foundation, Pfisterbau AG, St. Anna Foundation, Salud y Vida Foundation, Theres

Schädler Foundation, Swiss National Bank, Selectchemie AG, Temperatio Foundation, Stiftung zur Förderung der Trinkwasserqualität, Victorinox AG, Von Duhn Foundation and Valüna Foundation

City and town councils: Berne, Cressier (FR), Düringen, Küsnacht, Frauenfeld, Maur, Mettmenstetten, Neuchâtel, Rüschlikon, Solothurn, Zollikon and Zurich

Parish councils and associations: Parish councils of Uster, Sarnen and Kloten, as well as working groups in Rümlang and Sursee

We also wish to say a special thank you to all the individuals and institutions who cannot be listed here due to space constraints or who wish to remain anonymous.



A small but varied range of produce on sale at the market in Contubuel, Guinea-Bissau.