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Cover picture: A street shop selling masks in India

Publisher / editor

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Fabian Molina and Bastienne Joerchel Co-Presidents of SWISSAID

EDITORIAL

Weathering a year of crisis through solidarity and hope

The pandemic has widened the gap. Throughout all societies, illness and death as a result of Covid-19 are more common among groups that face discrimination, poverty or poor working conditions. 80 million people worldwide additionally face the threat of hunger. Human rights have come under even greater pressure. Most affected are the populations in the Global South – exactly where SWISSAID has been active for over 70 years. From India to Nicaragua, from Myanmar to Tanzania: 2020 was a turbulent year with enormous challenges that extend far beyond the health crisis.

With all the disasters, figures and forecasts we hear of, there is a risk of forgetting what lies at the heart of all of them – people, with their dreams and their livelihoods, all over the world. As big as the problems might be, our ultimate focus has to be on the people themselves. Through concrete and reliable support on the ground, we were able to make a difference and open up new perspectives for hundreds of thousands of people again last year. This magazine provides an account of how we achieved this. It is these changes that lay the foundation for fundamental change of the kind often triggered by crises, and the kind we urgently need – when it comes to solving the climate crisis, for example.

Our sincerest thanks for your support during this difficult time!

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

The exponential impact of our Covid response

The situation suddenly developed rapidly in the spring of 2020, as lock-down was imposed and outdoors everything stood

still. Indoors, on the other hand, we worked like mad, from home, online. The population in the Global South additionally needed access to access to water, hygiene products and information. We were able to be there and provide the help that was needed, right from the start. I was so impressed by the amount of energy found to tackle these challenges!

Our excellent networking far into disadvantaged and vulnerable regions of the world, the know-how of our experts and their partner organisations, the flexibility of the major donors, including the SDC, and the passion of our employees meant that SWISSAID was effective in tackling the crisis last year; that hundreds of thousands of people were able to protect themselves and others; that families still had something to eat; that the South was given a voice in the North; that we were all able to make a contribution to the whole, together with you, dear donor.



Covid has once again shown how interconnected and vulnerable the world is. Agroecology enables us to strengthen the resil-

ience and adaptability of people in the South, making them less dependent. The pandemic has shown us that we are on the right track with our support for local communities, small farms and especially women. Naturally, SWISSAID cannot win the fight against hunger alone. This small but powerful virus, however, has shown us that size is not everything. The positive impact of the thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of small contributions is exponential – for a just, peaceful and diverse world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

Markus Allemann, Executive Director

PS: The crisis has also inspired reinvention, and the *Spiegel* has now become the *Magazine*. The texts are more in-depth, in line with our aspirations as an organisation.





March 2020. The first wave of coronavirus reaches Europe. Like everywhere else, the 40 SWISSAID employees in Switzerland are instructed to stay home. Setting up offices in living rooms, reclaiming equipment for videoconferencing, sharing childcare duties between parents; following a period of adaptation, the Foundation resumed its work ... in the virtual domain.

A critical lockdown

While conditions in Switzerland remain relatively liveable, this is not the case everywhere. Curfews are imposed in almost all our partner countries. From one day to the next, the streets are deserted. In India, farmers can no longer cultivate their fields, their only source of income and livelihood. In Colombia, the rate of violence against women increases dramatically. These women find themselves trapped with violent husbands or sons who are under great economic pressure. In Guinea-Bissau, the day labourers who make a living from street trading, or the many mothers who sell their

produce across the border to feed their families, find themselves destitute. In Tanzania and Chad, for example, the closure of the schools deprives schoolchildren of their only guaranteed meal of the day.

Emergency aid at full speed

As a foundation for development cooperation, our projects have always been aimed at ensuring sustainability, empowering people and building on experience. Given the urgency of the situation, however, SWISSAID switched its support to the provision of emergency aid.

«I don't know how they could have survived such a critical situation without this support»

Sneha Giridhari, gender specialist at SWISSAID in India





Project activities such as training and workshops that were no longer feasible were adapted to meet immediate needs. "Thanks to our local staff and long-standing partners on the ground, we were well-informed about what was needed and could act as quickly as possible," explained Nicole Stolz, Head of the Development Cooperation Department, in summer 2020.

What people needed was access to basic commodities, which had become difficult to find with the restrictions in the countries. The pandemic destroyed the livelihoods of millions of families. Their inability to leave home even to cultivate their own fields led to interruptions in supply chains. Both in urban and rural areas, food became scarce and the lack of basic hygiene products made people even more vulnerable.

In Northeast India, the disastrous consequences of lockdown were compounded by the worst storm in 20 years. The food aid distributed by our local partners enabled more than 70 000 women, children and men to feed themselves despite their destroyed

crops and empty stalls. "I don't know how they could have survived such a critical situation without this support," says Sneha Giridhari, gender specialist at SWISSAID in India. "Normally the other villagers would support them, but now everyone was struggling."

In southwestern Niger, where only 15 per cent of the population has access to sanitation, aid took on a different but equally urgent form. "You can imagine the disastrous consequences of a highly contagious virus here in Niger," said Adamou Moussa Abba, SWISSAID



Country Representative in Niger. Foot-operated hand-washing facilities were installed in health centres. In addition, protection kits with masks and sanitiser were distributed, and awareness of safety measures was promoted on the radio and through posters.

Activities by SWISSAID Colombia included the provision of food support to around 350 families in Rio Valle and Boroboro. Only 8% of the population in these regions has a fixed income, while the rest depend on informal and daily work. Without trade, agriculture and tourism, whole sections of the population were left without resources from one day to the next.

Impacts and opportunities

For all the damage it has caused, the virus has also brought opportunities for innovation. Opportunities in communication first and foremost. In March, an "Info Corona" discussion channel was created between staff on the four continents thanks to the computer tools adopted a few months previously. Photos, videos and testimonies are sent daily from all over the world. The ten partner offices have never been

so closely connected. And never before have Swiss donors had such direct and transparent access to activities on the ground.

Opportunities in our partner countries. In Guinea-Bissau, four farmers' federations, previously beneficiaries of an institutional support project, implemented emergency measures. Over a period of months, members organised the distribution of seeds, staple foods and sanitary equipment. "We also raised awareness on how to avoid transmitting the virus – main-tain social distancing, wash your hands often with soap or water mixed with bleach, and avoid crowds," explains Ermelinda Pedro Men-donça, executive secretary of the farmers' as-sociation Granja Pessube. The regional health directorate of Guinea-Bissau has repeatedly emphasised the key role of these organisations in the fight against the virus. A good example of sustainable aid that turns beneficiaries into reliable partners.

Another continent, another innovation. In Ec-uador, where 90 % of seeds and many chemical products are imported, the health crisis has highlighted the dangerous dependence of







farming families on industrial agriculture. Building on existing agroecology projects, SWISSAID Ecuador, in partnership with local farmers in the Andes, has installed small community greenhouses and distributed seedlings to local people. "These plants have allowed us to avoid poverty, and to continue producing food for our families and the community as a whole," explained Flor Collaguazo, a resident of Jubal. The projects also supported agroecological conversions of farms to help smallholder families improve their resilience to the crisis. "I was even able to provide supplies and seedlings to neighbours whose conventional practices were not yielding enough," said Mariana Horta, from Bolivar province, who has received training in agroecological methods. This is a great opportunity, especially as agroecological practices contribute directly to the preservation of biodiversity. And it is diversity in particular that helps in the defence against the spread of infectious diseases such as coronavirus.

Despite having been weakened by the crisis in Switzerland and all its partner countries, SWISSAID is therefore nevertheless looking to the future with hope. This past year has shown us that solidarity and long-term bonds are the best defence against the challenges that lie ahead. The motivation to face these challenges is stronger than ever.



«IT'S NOT ENOUGH»

Markus Allemann,
Executive Director of SWISSAID

The measures taken to combat Covid-19 have made a large part of the world's population vulnerable. The countries of the South remain most affected by far. "In just a few months, the coronavirus crisis destroyed much of the progress made in the fight against poverty," reported Alliance Sud in its press release on 13 April 2021. Hunger is on the rise again, having almost doubled since the start of the crisis. Combined with the impact of climate change, which is particularly significant in some countries, this is resulting in an increase in inequality.

A situation our country is failing to improve. In June 2020, the National Council rejected all proposals to increase the framework credits for development cooperation for 2021 - 24. Following negotiations, the Parliament ultimately opted for official development assistance (ODA) of 0.5 % of gross national income. "It's a good thing, but it's not enough," said Markus Allemann, Executive Director of SWISSAID, back in June 2020. This is well below the 0.7% agreed internationally and expressed clearly as a national target.



SWISSAID at

Figures speak volumes: behind every figure are people's destinies, tears of joy, suffering and a belief in a better future.

Our work is only possible thanks to your donations. Many thanks!

70 projects

247,247

people

benefited from our projects and your donations last year.

Thanks to specific measures against coronavirus, we were additionally able to support around 698,044 people: with hygiene products, food and seeds.

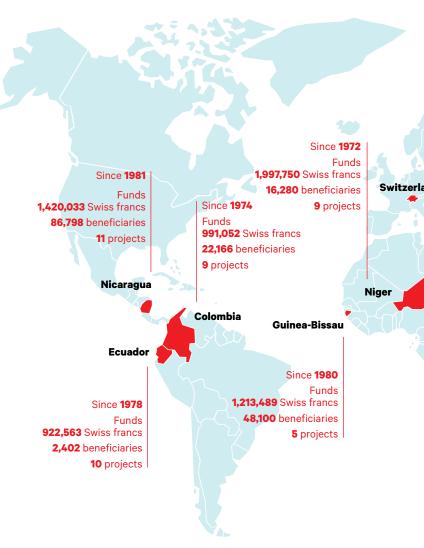
11,601,892
Swiss francs

This is how much you donated to us in 2020.

Thanks to your generosity, together we can fight hunger, provide clean drinking water and promote gender equality and sustainable agriculture.



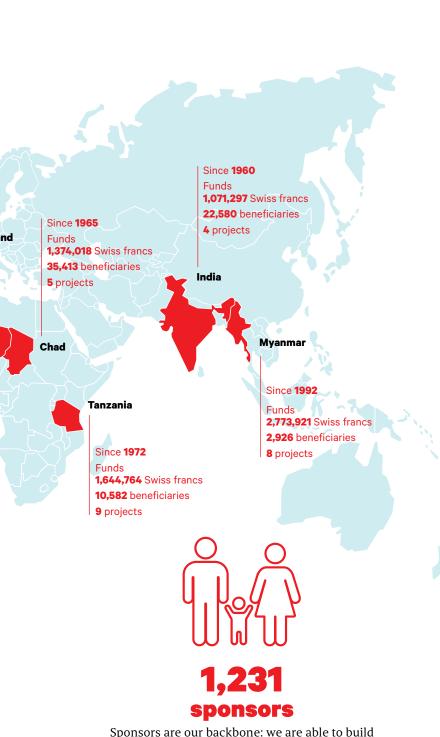
51,360 donorssupported our projects
last year.



204 employees

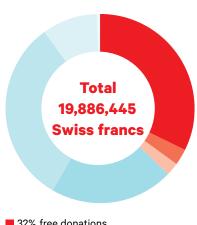
work for SWISSAID – 162 of whom are local experts in the nine coordination offices on the ground. This enables SWISSAID to develop and closely monitor projects directly in the regions. 42 people work in the Swiss offices in Bern and Lausanne.

a glance



Sponsors are our backbone: we are able to build on their support over the long term and thereby sustainably improve living conditions for large numbers of people.

Financing



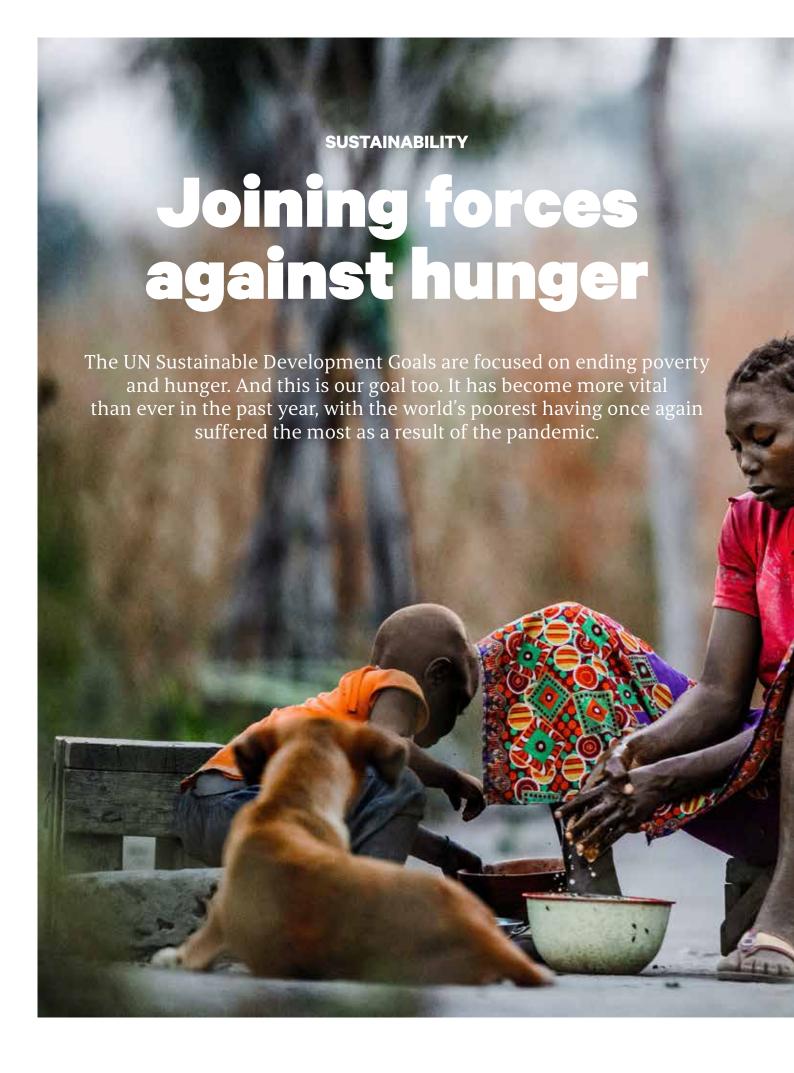
- 32% free donations
- 3% beguests
- 2% sale of trinkets
- 21% earmarked project amounts
- 32% SDC programme contribution
- 9% project mandates
- 0% other operating revenue

Use of funds



- ■80% foreign and domestic programme: development policy in the South; awareness-raising and advocacy at home
- 15% fundraising: advertising and donor communication
- 5% administrative expenditure

The focus of our programme work is our projects in the South: around 80% of our funds flow directly into programme work, and around 20% into fundraising and administration.





Every 15 seconds, or 6,000 people a day. This is how many people starved to death due to coronavirus last year. An additional 80 million people experienced hunger, and the total number of people living in extreme poverty rose to over 700 million. The gap between rich and poor is widening every day. These figures are an alarming reflection of how far we still have to go when it comes to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Und sie machen klar, wie wichtig die Arbeit von SWISSAID ist. Die Begünstigten unserer Projekte gehören zu den ärmsten Bevölkerungsschichten. Sie haben die Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe am nötigsten. Dank unserer jahrelangen Erfahrung verfügen wir in den neun Projektländern über ein grosses Netzwerk. In den Kooperationsbüros vor Ort arbeiten einheimische Mitarbeitende. Sie kennen die Bedürfnisse und kontrollieren, ob die Spenden am richtigen Ort eingesetzt werden. Empowering rural populations in the fight against hunger and poverty is the focus of our work. The right to sustainable, self-determined and dignified access to stable foods is a core element of almost all our projects. SWISSAID supports all 17 SDGs in principle. They are all closely interconnected, and each influences the other. However, we would like to take a closer look at six goals in the fight against hunger.

Our focus is on these Sustainable Development Goals:





GOALS 1 AND 2

No poverty No hunger

It is clear to us that the world's food systems will need to be transformed if poverty and hunger are to be eradicated. Agroecology is an effective tool that we can use in this regard. Most SWISSAID projects aim to familiarise local populations with the principles and methods of agroecology. And help to ensure that knowledge is shared and flows between women farmers and science. The sustainable and holistic approach of agroecology conserves resources, supports health and helps to ensure that farming families can be more autonomous and independent and better fed over the long term.



GOAL 5

Achieving equality

Around 60 percent of those suffering from chronic hunger worldwide are women. They are affected more than men on all continents. And this despite the fact that in many countries it is the women who put food on the table for their families. The reasons for this are multiple and deep-rooted: less access to education, oppression, violence, sexism and discrimination in the allocation of both land and credit. This disadvantage inhibits development in a country, which is SWISSAID places a particular focus on gender equality in every single project. Men are also being included in this process, as this is the only way to achieve lasting change.



GOAL 6

Water and hygiene

Access to water is an important tool in the fight against poverty and hunger. Those living in rural areas of Niger and Chad in particular often have to walk for hours to reach drinking water. This takes a lot of energy And time. And in the end, the water is dirty or contaminated. One in ten children in Chad still dies before their fifth birthday because of dirty water. SWISSAID is striving to improve this desperate situation with resources including hand pumps and rainwater storage. Village committees are being established to help ensure sustainability. These committees collect water contributions from households, manage the money and use it for the maintenance and repair of wells.



GOAL 13

Action for climate protection

Rising temperatures, droughts, fluctuating rainfall and monsoons: climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. In the poorest regions of the world in particular, climate change is ruining farmers' lives. Soils are silting up, crops are rotting. Storms are sweeping away harvests. The results are empty plates, and empty stomachs. In the event of disasters such as hurricanes or droughts, SWISSAID focuses on rapid emergency aid. And on establishing agroecology for the long term. Sustainable agriculture makes seeds more resistant, soil more resilient and thus harvests more secure.



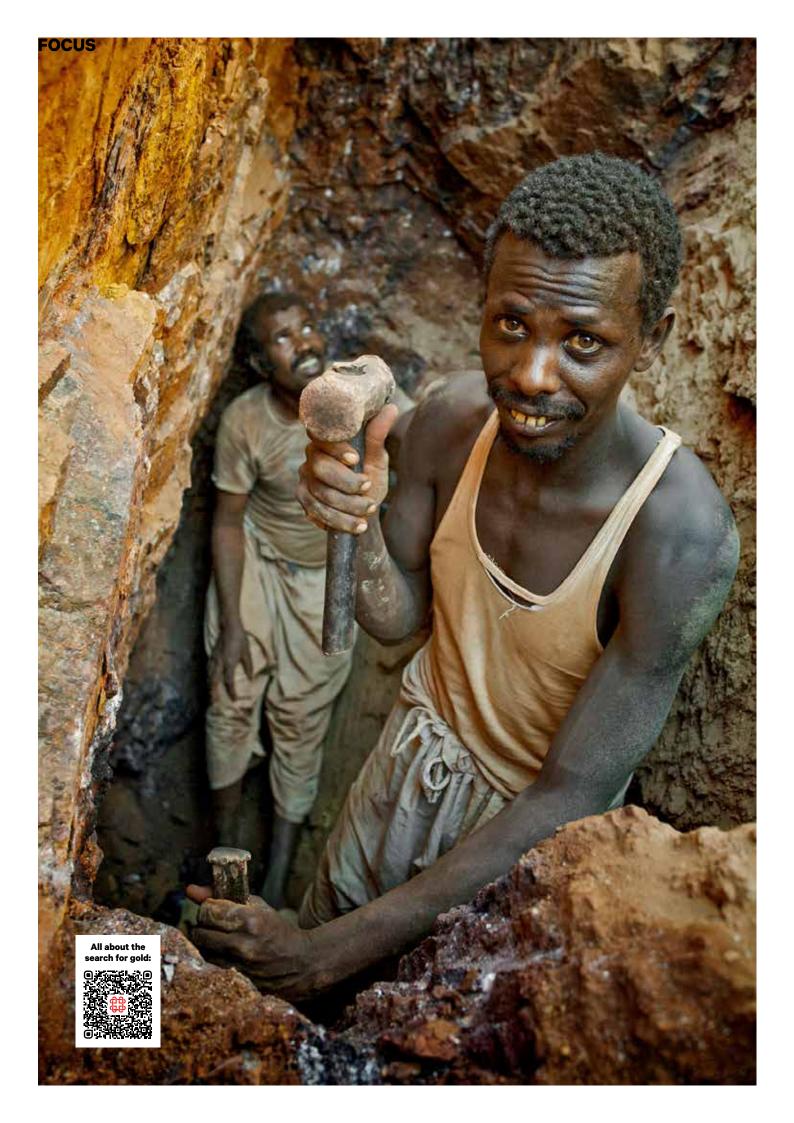
GOAL 17

Partnerships

SWISSAID is convinced: poverty and hunger can only be overcome by 2030 if we work together. Partnerships were therefore also central to our work in 2020. In the countries together with other organisations, with universities, schools, associations and governments. We created the Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities (Sufosec) last year. We are campaigning for the right to food together with Fastenopfer, Vétérinaires sans Frontières, Vivamos Mejor, Aqua Alimenta and the Skat Foundation. The alliance is a new feature of Switzerland's development policy landscape, and will accompany us in the coming years.







GOLD REPORT

The hidden face of the gold trade

In the global gold trade, human rights violations, child labour and environmental damage are part of everyday life.

SWISSAID wanted to know more. The result is a study that has caused a sensation.

Where does the gold in our smartphones come from? Is the gold shining on your wrist of the 'dirty' variety? Were children put to work for the gold bars piled up in Swiss bank vaults? Unfortunately, such is possibly the case. SWISSAID followed the trail of gold travelling from Africa via Dubai to Switzerland. The resulting study published in July 2020 was entitled "The hidden face of the gold trade". Switzerland is an important hub in the international gold trade. An estimated two-thirds of the world's gold production is cast in the form of coins or bars in refineries in Switzerland. Switzerland maintains intensive trade relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the process: in 2019, around 149 tonnes of gold worth 6.8 billion Swiss francs were processed here. This is a problematic state of affairs, with Dubai being considered a transhipment point for gold from conflict zones in Africa.

Stricter laws

The study finds significant shortcomings in the control of gold imports and the monitoring of refineries in Switzerland. These are not obliged to ensure that gold has not been produced in violation of human rights. Customs statistics lack transparency, and do not enable the origin of gold imported to Switzerland via Dubai to be properly traced. "Only by sourcing directly from the mines can refineries ensure that they acquire clean gold that respects human rights and the environment," said raw materials expert Marc Ummel.

A lot has happened since the publication of the study. The situation has been reported widely in the media, and the banks have sought dialogue with Marc Ummel. In addition to this, the Swiss Better Gold Association has reacted and condemned dubious business practices. SWISSAID is continuing to focus on the issue, and further research will follow this year.



GOAL 12

Sustainable consumption and production

Goal no. 12 calls for environmentally and socially responsible production of goods and raw materials, as laid out in our gold study. But our focus is also on sustainable trade and consumption of food. The North in particular, whether politicians, consumers or companies, must ensure that the goods they source are fair and sustainable.



Monika Uhlmann, Head of Finance + Logistics

2020 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS COMMENTS

2020 – what a challenging and difficult year! But nevertheless, there are various glimmers of hope from a financial perspective. The solidarity shown by private individuals and institutions remained solid. We even saw an increase in donations and project contributions compared with the previous year. Thanks to contributions from Swiss Solidarity, we were also able to implement emergency relief projects in Chad and Nicaragua.

With a highly motivated international team, SWISSAID supported sustainable self-help projects worth 11.4 million Swiss francs in nine countries on three continents. There were delays to various projects due to the coronavirus crisis. In many locations, however, Covid projects could be set up at short notice. 79% of our funds went to the SWISSAID programme, with 15% of this amount being used for awareness-raising and information work in Switzerland. Many elements could not be implemented as planned due to the crisis. This led to a positive annual result before fund distribution. We are investing the capital in our fundraising activities with a view to offsetting the reduction in the SDC programme contribution from 2021.

After one year of coronavirus, the crisis is far from over. People in the countries of the South are struggling with setbacks and severe long-term consequences. Not only in terms of health, but also existentially. Dear donors, your support will be needed more than ever. We are extremely grateful to be able to count on you!

These 2020 annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SWISS GAAP FER and ZEWO principles. The auditors Balmer-Etienne AG have audited the accounts and found them to be correct. The audit report can be found on our website www.swissaid.ch.

Balance sheet

Assets (in CHF)	Appendix	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	4,590,325	6,415,480
Short-term assets with a stock market price	5.2	17,145,952	15,799,053
Other short-term receivables	5.3	724,935	1,234,604
Inventories		156,578	272,186
Deferred assets		114,673	263,721
Operating assets		22,732,463	23,985,044
Financial assets	5.4	306,642	306,530
Tangible assets	5.5	1,001,896	1,052,346
Intangible assets	5.6	106,586	203,818
Fixed assets		1,415,124	1,562,694
TOTAL ASSETS		24,147,586	25,547,738
Liabilities (in CHF)			
Liabilities from deliverables and services	5.7	320,389	275,995
Project-related commitments to programmes in the southern hemisphere	5.8	4,373,935	7,440,060
Accrued expenses and deferred income	9	281,791	503,427
Short-term provisions	5.9	183,108	682,757
Short-term borrowed capital		5,159,222	8,902,238
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the hemisphere programme	southern	992,758	552,804
Fund for the future		796	500
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project]	334	6,500
Fund for sponsoring a water project		104	500
Fund for sponsoring a women's project		508	17,696
Fund for emergency aid		500	0
SDC fund	11	0	0
Ring-fenced fund capital		995,000	578,000
SWISSAID programme fund		8,442,671	6,490,259
SWISSAID infrastructure fund		658,598	658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	5.10	2,327,874	1,961,167
Free capital		6,506,023	6,914,624
Free capital – SWISSAID Geneva	2	54,298	38,152
Free capital – SWISSAID Zurich	2	3,900	4,700
Organisational capital		17,993,364	16,067,500
TOTAL LIABILITIES		24 147 586	25 547 738

Operating accounts

Revenue (in CHF)	Appendix	2020	2019
Free donations	4.1	6,434,566	6,271,153
Bequests		568,148	469,282
Sale of trinkets		433,043	511,857
Earmarked donations & contributions to projects	7.1	3,618,833	3,605,744
Contributions to projects form Swiss Solidarity		150,378	0
Contributions to projects from FEDEVACO		176,213	106,428
Contributions to projects from FGC		220,711	277,082
Proceeds from collections		11,601,892	11,241,546
SDC programme contribution		6,340,000	6,340,000
Project mandates		1,875,026	508,835
Other operating revenue	7.2	69,527	93,823
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE		19,886,445	18,184,204
Expenditure (in CHF)			
Projects overseas	5.8	11,291,986	10,565,953
Funds freed from project settlements	5.8	-1,440,932	- 589,672
Expenditure for programme support		1,563,697	1,780,417
Personnel-related expenditure		1,316,450	1,467,472
Expenditure on materials		247,247	312,946
Expenditure for the overseas programme	7.3	11,414,751	11,756,698
Information and public-awareness programme in Switzerland		1,128,338	1,161,325
Expenditure for programme support		1,537,701	1,455,827
Personnel-related expenditure for the domestic programme		1,410,368	1,302,589
Expenditure for the domestic programme		127,333	153,238
Expenditure for the domestic programme	7.3	2,666,039	2,617,152
Fundraising and general expenditure on publicity	7.3	2,790,364	2,744,108
Administrative expenditure	7.3	1,062,878	993,318
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE		17,934,033	18,111,276
OPERATING RESULT		1,952,412	72,928
Financial earnings (realised)		86,035	555,012
Financial earnings (not realised)		406,164	856,939
Financial expenditure		-169,790	-170,938
Financial result	7.4	322,409	1,241,013
Expenditure on real estate		- 9,439	- 9,046
Revenue from real estate		75,738	75,948
Non-operating result		66,299	66,902
Other profits carried over from previous periods	7.5	1,744	158,912
Result carried over from previous periods		1,744	158,912
RESULT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN FUND		2,342,864	1,539,755
Change in fund capital earmarked with restrictions		- 417,000	427,000
RESULT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN ORGANISATION CAPITAL		1,925,864	1,966,755
Change in the SWISSAID programme fund	8	-1,925,864	-1,966,755
INCOME CARRIED OVER IN FAVOUR OF PROCESSED FUNDS		0	0



Thank you!

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



"Despite the pandemic, we were able to continue farming our fields, our livelihood. Thank you SWISSAID!"

Ermelinda Pedro Mendonça

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.

Institutions:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC), Vaud Federation for Cooperation (FEDEVACO), Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), French Embassy in Tanzania and Swiss Solidarity.

Cantons:

Canton Basel-Stadt, the lottery funds of the cantons of Aargau, Bern, Nidwalden, Obwalden and St. Gallen.

Companies and foundations:

Leopold Bachmann Foundation, Café Turm, Charisma Foundation for Sustainable Development, Client Systems AG, Däster Schild Foundation, Erbacher Foundation, Hauck & Aufhäuser AG, Hoftra GMBH, Ferster Foundation, Medicor Foundation, Ernest Matthey Foundation, Foundation for the Third Millennium, Meg and Charlotte Renard Foundation, Sonnenschein Foundation, Swiss National Bank, Valina AG, Wasserkorporation Abtwil-St. Josefen.

City and town councils:

Aarau, Baar, Belp, Bremgarten near Bern, Cressier, Elgg, Frauenfeld, Fribourg, Herrliberg, Heimberg, Maur, Muri near Bern, Obersiggenthal, Rapperswil-Jona, Riehen, Rüschlikon, Therwil, Uster, Zug, Zurich.

Parish councils and associations:

Catholic parish of Rapperswil-Jona, Reformed Protestant parish of Sarnen, Roman Catholic parish of Uster, Third World Working Group Rümlang, Verein Salahonda, Welt-Verein Deitingen und Umgebung.