

# SWISSAID MAGAZINE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

No. 02 | 24  
Old varieties, new perspectives

**The secret of our work**

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#### Cover picture: Who's behind the okra pods?

Amina Mohamed. The smallholder from Tanzania grows the 3,000-year-old vegetable in her field.

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14. SWISSAID Myanmar: page 15. Etienne Basset: page

15. SWISSAID archive: page 16. Salomon Djekorgee

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Fabian Molina and Bastienne Joerchel  
Co-Presidents of SWISSAID

## EDITORIAL

### More solidarity now!

2023 was another very eventful year. On the Gurten, Bern's local mountain, we celebrated our 75th anniversary in the fight against poverty and hunger, looking back on the many highlights of this period.

At the same time, however, crisis situations in the Global South escalated once again. The drought in West Africa triggered a hunger crisis, for example, and with your valuable support SWISSAID was able to provide emergency aid in Niger and Chad. The increasingly apparent effects of the climate crisis and dependence on the global market underline the importance of local food systems, and with this in mind it is important that farmers have their own diverse seed material.

In view of the major challenges of our time, however, active commitment to peace and sustainable development is also needed from Switzerland at the official level. Discussions on international cooperation strategy for the next four years are under way – and a brutal attack on development cooperation is emerging.

**In times like these, it is vital for us to be able to count on your tremendous solidarity. Many thanks!**



LOOKING BACK

# The vision that guides us



As it has done for the past 75 years, our name “Swiss-aid” says it all: Switzerland helps. In 2023, our anniversary year, we reflected on what this help looks like today. Our focus is no longer on reconstruction aid and orphans in post-war Europe, but on climate-related crises and adaptation aid for smallholders in the nine countries around the world in which we are active. The misery and urgency that called us to action in our early days continue to drive us today – and our commitment to a world in which Switzerland provides support in solidarity and on an equal footing, focusing on the people who need us.

Unfortunately, it is also true that on an official level, Switzerland is sometimes not helpful at all. I often feel ashamed when, for example, rich Switzerland skimps on its climate funding or hides behind neutrality and does not take a stand. I worry about the generations to come, who will have to deal with the loss of species and climate damage and

make up for missed opportunities such as the transition to fossil-free energy at home.

With our agroecology projects, we demonstrate that a different, autonomous, environmentally friendly and sustainable course is possible, at least in the food sector. Investment in food systems that are locally based, avoid the use of chemical fertilisers and take the reality of local people’s lives into account is more than just temporary aid. It is the concrete achievement of a world without hunger, in which even the poorest can lead a healthy, dignified and self-determined life.

A vision that guides us. And a vision that brings us together – with you, dear supporters. And with all those we have had the honour and privilege of meeting in our countries.

Markus Allemann  
Executive Director









FOCUS

# Fighting hunger with old varieties

Biodiversity is at risk: of the original 6,500 plant varieties, just 150 are still cultivated today. Both humans and the environment suffer from this loss. Smallholders, scientists and politicians are working with SWISSAID to bring the old varieties back to life. This is part of our approach to ensuring greater food security.



10 November 2023 in Dodoma, capital of Tanzania. The sun is shining, the day is pleasantly warm. The air is filled with the aroma of fried bananas, of maize from the national dish Ugali – and also the hope of change. In a convention centre in the middle of the city, the course is being set for sustainable agriculture in the East African country. This is one of the highlights – and the harvesting – of SWISSAID’s work over the past year. The event, which we co-organised, saw around 300 high-ranking politicians discussing agroecology, traditional seeds and market access with experts, NGO representatives and smallholders.

Lively and inspiring discussions accompanied by lots of tasting sessions and practical relevance. Finally, the launch of the national strategy for organic farming was celebrated under a shower of golden confetti. “This highlights the government’s willingness and helps to create a positive outlook for agroecology in the country,” says SWISSAID employee Veronica Massawe.

## Old knowledge, new solutions

One of the focal points of the event was CROPS4HD, a project that was launched in 2021 and which sees SWISSAID working closely with the Alliance for Food Security Africa (AFSA) and the Research Institute of

Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in Tanzania, Chad, Niger and India. The project is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and its goal is to use agroecological methods and forgotten crops (see box) to guarantee healthy and sufficient diets, especially for women.

Initial findings from evaluations in Tanzania show encouraging results: “Overall food security is increasing, with meals becoming more balanced and substantial,” says Veronica Massawe. A survey of over 200 beneficiaries shows that the transition from intensive to extensive farming is full of stumbling blocks for women farmers. Yields decline in the first year but soon rise again, usually to well above the previous level. Production costs are also lower, because the price of expensive fertilisers, pesticides and seeds is eliminated. The result is that households have more money to live on.

**“Overall food security is increasing, with meals becoming more balanced and substantial.”**

Veronica Massawe



Smallholders present their seeds at the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference in Dodoma.





**Amina Mohamed switched to organic farming six years ago.**

Amina Mohamed can confirm this – the 40-year-old smallholder lives in the Pwani region of eastern Tanzania. She converted her fields to organic farming five years ago with the support of SWISSAID, and today she grows a variety of vegetables, fruit and wheat. She sells her home-grown tomatoes at the market in the nearby town, receiving 2,000 shillings per kilo, the equivalent of 0.70 Swiss francs. Her conventional tomatoes had brought her a price of just 600 shillings.

To keep pests at bay, she mixes a paste of chilli, aloe vera and the bark of the neem tree, and she uses composted manure from cows and chickens as fertiliser. Expensive and harmful products are a thing of the past. “My expenses are so much lower now,” says Amina Mohamed.

The change has a positive impact not only in economic terms, but also on health. “My diet is much more varied, and I sometimes eat vegetables straight from the field. I never used to do that when I was still using pesticides. I feel better in general, and get ill less often,” says Amina Mohamed.

#### **Wheat, rice and maize**

Whereas a total of around 6,500 plant species were cultivated for food throughout the history of mankind, only 170 are still in use today. Just three varieties – wheat, rice and maize – account for 40 percent of our daily calorie consumption. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that 75 percent of all varieties have been lost over the past 100 years.



# 179

different rice varieties are being bred in seed banks in India alone. This helps to ensure huge variety.



# 31,657

smallholders farmed their fields using agroecological methods in the CROPS4HD project 2023.



# 146,667

consumers have bought NUS (neglected and underutilised species) products at weekly markets and food fairs in Niger, Chad, Tanzania and India.



# 7,600,000

people have been informed about the importance of old seed varieties through advertising.



This lack of diversity is damaging, not only with regard to the plants but also the organisms and insects, with vital cycles being destroyed forever. But the loss of diversity also has a major impact on our health. According to the Global Hunger Index 2023, almost two billion people worldwide suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, lacking vitamins, iron, zinc or iodine.

### The multinationals choose the seeds

One of the causes of the decline in biodiversity is industrialised agriculture. Whereas landscapes were once composed of diverse systems, now they are dominated by standardised production units, highly specialised value chains and monocultures. A small number of huge agricultural corporations control the world's agriculture. "The multinationals are focussing on a handful of plants. Their aim is to market individual varieties worldwide wherever possible, causing local varieties to disappear," explains Simon Degelo, seed expert at SWISSAID.

In addition, countries in the Global South are forced by industrialised countries to apply strict property rights to seeds through trade agreements. "Specifically, farmers are no longer allowed to propagate, exchange or sell commercial seed themselves, so they

have to buy it every year," says Degelo. As the large seed companies are also the biggest suppliers of pesticides, they have little interest in breeding resistant plants. The result is large-scale monocultures in which anything that "gets in the way" is killed off – weeds, and beneficial and harmful organisms alike.

But back to that warm November day in Tanzania. Back to the conference. The event not only marked the start of an urgently needed process of change in the agricultural sector. It is also a shining example of how SWISSAID's work functions: locally anchored, on an equal footing and a networked basis. Our vision is to use small seeds to make big changes worldwide. This vision can only be achieved if we work together – we want a world in which hunger has been overcome and even the poorest can live a healthy, dignified and self-determined life!



Around **6,500** plant varieties have been cultivated in the history of mankind.

**170** varieties are planted on a large scale today.

**3** varieties – wheat, rice and maize – account for 40 percent of the world's daily calorie consumption!





## NUS – another term for hope

“Neglected and underutilised species” (NUS) are crops that have long been neglected by research and breeding – despite playing an important role in nutrition, especially for disadvantaged groups of the population in rural areas. NUS are usually native to the environments in which they are grown, which means they are better adapted to local conditions and require less fertiliser. Many NUS can thrive in poor soils and dry conditions, making them an important tool in the fight against climate change. Examples of NUS include finger millet, Bambara groundnut and amaranth. The latter grows within just a few weeks, needs little water and provides plenty of nutrients. With NUS, people are better protected against hunger and poverty.

## Many years of expertise

When it comes to seeds, SWISSAID has a wealth of knowledge and practical experience on which to draw. SWISSAID supported the small farmers’ movement “La Via Campesina” in Nicaragua 30 years ago, which saw landless farmers fight for their rights and start running local seed and grain banks. Seeds have become established as the most important element of our work, in all countries: seed guardians in Nicaragua, for example, managed 406 seed banks last year. They bred crop seeds, focussing on diversity and preserving their independence from agricultural multinationals for both themselves and the other small farmers in the neighbourhood. 2,200 seed guardians are involved in SWISSAID projects worldwide. They preserve ancient knowledge about seeds and pass it on in their communities, while also giving entire villages access to crop seeds. Around 40,000 people benefited from this last year.



Video clip from Nicaragua



## 383,667

### beneficiaries

benefited from our work and your donations in 2023. Hidden behind each of these numbers are stories of destinies, tears of joy, suffering and hope!

## 47,786

### donors

supported us last year. Our sincere thanks for your loyalty.

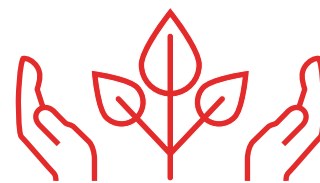
## 744 tonnes of food

were distributed in emergency aid projects in Niger and Chad in 2023. We also supported people in need in Myanmar. Thanks to our longstanding roots in the countries concerned, our crisis operations were rapid and efficient, and able to benefit those most affected.



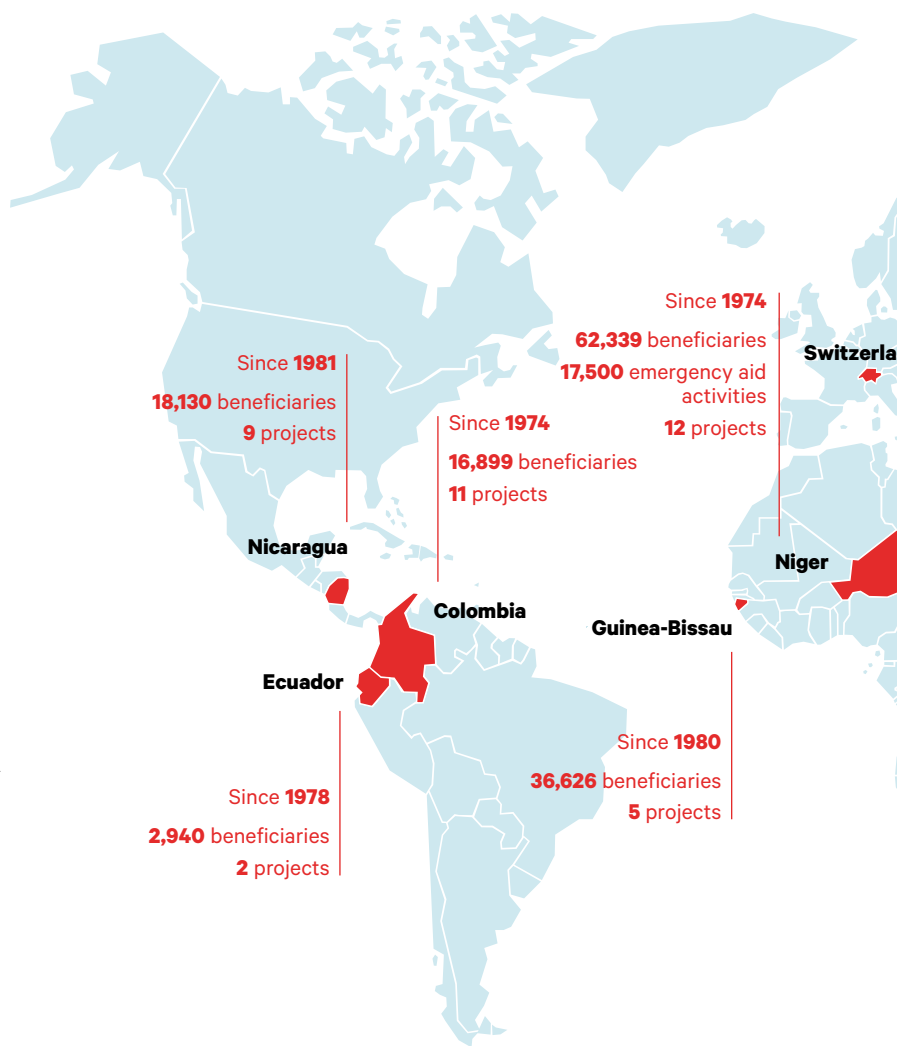
### Climate and water 60

water reservoirs with distribution networks were built in various villages, schools and fields last year. An invaluable benefit for young and old, especially in times of climate crisis with droughts and heatwaves.



### Agroecology 41,057

People have access to regional seed material, the key to preserving biodiversity and thereby securing the future of our agriculture and food supply.





# in figures



## Gender 10,226

women achieved economic independence in 2023 with the support of SWISSAID. This empowers women to find a sustainable way out of hunger and poverty, not only for themselves but also for their families.

## Financing



- 26% free donations
- 1% bequests
- 1% sale of trinkets
- 35% earmarked project amounts
- 24% SDC programme contribution
- 13% project mandates

## Use of funds



- 82% foreign and domestic programme: information work and development policy
- 14% fundraising and general expenditure on publicity
- 4% administrative expenditure



# A look at our countries

As an expert in the areas of agroecology and gender equality, SWISSAID is active in nine different countries. In close cooperation with local partners on the ground, we support initiatives by people who are independently seeking a way out of poverty.

## Empowering women in Ecuador

Women in Ecuador have a hard life – 64 percent of them are victims of violence in the course of their lives. Every day, seven girls under the age of 14 become pregnant as a result of rape. These young mothers often embark on adult life without even a school-leaving certificate. Rural areas with a high proportion of indigenous people are particularly affected. SWISSAID has established networks in the provinces of Cotopaxi, Tungurahua and Chimborazo together with local women's organisations. Here, women smallholders can exchange ideas, learn about their rights and grant each other microloans. The money enables the women to take the initiative and help themselves. Last year, around 2,000 women benefited from this project.



## Seed propagation in Nicaragua

In recent years, SWISSAID has worked with local partners to ensure that indigenous crop seeds (including maize, beans, millet, sorghum and rice) have been identified, registered and protected from disappearing. In more than 400 established seed banks, seed guardians cultivate the precious commodity and ensure its distribution to the population. These centres also help to ensure that local diversity is maintained. A current project, for example, saw 96 maize and bean varieties professionally stored and protected last year. In total, it enables 2,000 women producers and their families to lead an independent and self-determined life. In addition, the smallholders are better protected against the devastating natural disasters that are tending to occur more and more frequently. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, the Central American country is one of the countries most affected by climate change.







## Planting trees in Colombia

Young people in Colombia have the power to protect their habitat: the tropical forest in the Sucre region is home to 2,600 different plant, 230 bird and 60 mammal species. Forest walks, campaigns and videos are used to raise awareness among young people, and they are involved in the establishment of tree nurseries. 50 native tree species were reintroduced in 2023. 120 hectares of forest were reforested and over 50,522 trees planted. 500 kilometres further north, in the high South American mountains of Boyaca, the guardians of the paramos are at work protecting a unique ecosystem and, thanks to agroecological farming methods, are able to find enough to eat and enjoy a balanced diet at the same time.

## Learning to read in Guinea-Bissau

Despite being rich in raw materials, Guinea-Bissau is one of the world's poorest countries, with everyday life having been shaped by political instability for decades. Women smallholders in particular, who have little schooling, suffer from poverty. According to a SWISSAID study from June 2022, 49 percent of women smallholders in the project areas of Bissau and Bissora have never attended school. As a result, every second woman can neither read, calculate nor write. The consequence of this is that they sell their vegetables below the market price, do not market their products and have no access to information or assistance. Local teachers teach the women how to use a mobile phone, read and do simple calculations, as well as promoting digital skills. The knowledge helps to boost the women's self-confidence, making them less likely to be cheated at market and enabling them to take on roles with more decision-making power in the family and village communities. This can help to change their life forever.



## Celebrating an anniversary in Switzerland

On the Gurten above Bern, SWISSAID looked back on its 75-year history last summer with its country managers and employees in Switzerland, together with donors, experts and politicians. Established in the post-war period, SWISSAID is now a reliable, experienced partner in nine countries, with in-depth expertise in the areas of agroecology and gender. Over the years SWISSAID has adapted itself repeatedly to local conditions during crises, and these qualities will be more important than ever in the future as global warming exacerbates the food crisis worldwide. If you would like to find out more about the story and key focal points, we recommend our podcast "Hungry for Solutions" and the anniversary brochure.





## Helping the needy in Niger

The country in the Sahel region, which has been shaken by natural disasters, was further destabilised by a military coup in July 2023. Large parts of the population were cut off from essential supplies, and the sanctions introduced caused food prices to skyrocket, all of which exacerbated the food crisis. SWISSAID doubled the budget for the emergency aid project that had already been launched. 17,500 people in the Dosso and Tillabéri regions in the south-west of the country received food parcels and seed to secure the next harvest. While various international organisations have withdrawn from the country as a result of the coup, SWISSAID has remained and continues to support smallholders through access to water, strengthening women's rights and teaching agroecological farming methods.



## Providing water in Chad

According to the Human Development Index, Chad is the second-poorest country in the world. The insecure situation in Central Africa, particularly in Sudan, is creating a relentless stream of refugees. Everything is in short supply. Including water. In the Mandoul and Logone Oriental regions, SWISSAID worked with the local population to build 32 wells last year. This means less diarrhoea and other illnesses caused by drinking contaminated water. All beneficiaries pay a modest contribution to the maintenance of the wells, and water committees make sure they are well maintained. But access to drinking water also helps to create peace, noticeably easing the social conflict between smallholders and livestock breeders triggered by water scarcity.



## Protecting miners in Tanzania

“When you are safe, your family is also safe!” says Josefina John, a mother who works in a mine in Geita, a region in the east of the country. Her hands are often full of cracks. Her legs hurt. Gold mining is dirty and dangerous work. Fatal accidents occur often. Health suffers. But the hope of finding gold often seems to be the only way out of poverty. Out of misery. To protect the workers, SWISSAID distributed helmets, safety boots and safety goggles in October 2023. Including to Josefina John. Women and men are also provided with training in accounting, safety and sustainability. SWISSAID is taking political action to improve conditions for artisanal mines and offer the miners access to the regulated market.





## Supporting girls in India

Child marriages are widespread in India. In the Marathwada region, which is severely affected by poverty, every second girl is married before the age of 18. SWISSAID is at work campaigning for equal rights and women's rights in 80 villages. Young men and women are educated about gender inequality and taught to combat it and pass on their knowledge. Victims receive protection and accommodation, psychological support and medical care in counselling centres. 4,931 women and girls benefit from the support of this women's project, which is co-financed by the European Union. Last year, SWISSAID also helped communities to become more resilient to climate crises through activities such as fishing and forestry.



## Building strong communities in Myanmar

Since the military coup in February 2021, violence has continued to spread, with a total of 2.3 million people having been displaced across the country. A quarter of the population – more than 18 million people – are experiencing a lack of food and increasing poverty. Last year, SWISSAID supported particularly vulnerable households with emergency aid. The organisation is also working to build resilient and strong village communities and promote organic farming in 15 villages in Kachin State, in the north of the country. In this complex context, it is more important than ever that communities are able to organise themselves. SWISSAID is helping to set up village councils, establish structures and grant microloans (mainly to women) with a view to creating opportunities for overcoming the challenging circumstances.







# Helping in times of need – promoting democracy

With political crises and climate change exacerbating hunger in Chad and Niger, SWISSAID provided once more emergency aid in 2023 to alleviate the worst of the situation and avoid endangering years of reconstruction work in the country.



“What do you do when supplies have run out and there’s no money to buy food?” A hypothetical question for us, but a deadly serious one for many people in Niger and Chad. After floods destroyed the harvests, there were hardly any supplies to bridge the dry season last year.

People reacted the way people react in emergency situations like these – at first they switch to cheaper food, for example cassava instead of rice. Then they ask for food from relatives and friends or, in order to survive, eat the seeds that should have been saved for the coming harvest. In Chad, for example the pearl millet that had been reserved for sowing is now being served as mash. If the store cupboard is empty, they buy on credit. And if that’s not enough, they send the children to work for richer families. Girls are married off. Finally, food is rationed: women are often the first to eat less so their children and husbands have more. Sooner or later there will be just one meal a day instead of three or two, and then just one every second day. The last resort is the decision to leave the home village in search of better conditions.

These escalation levels described serve as an index to measure how severe a situation is. The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) records how often a strategy is used per week and the severity of the strategy concerned. The higher the frequency and the more severe the strategy, the worse the situation.

#### **274 tonnes of food**

In Chad, 93 percent of people in the southern provinces of Logone Oriental and Mandoul were affected by severe food insecurity at the height of the hunger crisis last year.

SWISSAID reacted quickly and organised emergency aid for those affected in these provinces. An assessment based on the CSI showed that, following the emergency aid operation, only 52 percent of the population in the region continued to be affected by severe food insecurity.

A total of 274 tonnes of food and 50.4 tonnes of seed were distributed to around 9,600 people (including 2,500

pregnant and breastfeeding women and 800 children), and access to drinking water was secured for 9,800 people in 11 villages.

In Niger, 2,500 families (17,500 people) received 470 tonnes of food, and seeds were distributed to 7,900 smallholders.

#### **Transparency is key**

Once the aid staff had identified the population groups with the greatest need, they made sure all recipients were given the same amount. Committees made up of men, women and representatives of all the village’s religions were set up to carry out checks and assessments in each village receiving aid. “Their job is to make sure no one uses their power to give preference to family and friends, and that no corruption takes place,” says Daniel Ott Fröhlicher, Programme Manager for Chad, SWISSAID. Social control is one of the best ways to prevent favouritism, which is why as many processes as possible take place in public: everyone comes together on the village square for the distribution of the emergency aid parcels.

Another tried-and-tested method is communication via posters with photos and pictograms. This makes sure that the entire population is informed about any planned distribution of emergency aid packages. If anyone feels disadvantaged despite all these measures, they can complain by contacting the committee or the complaints hotline, the number for which is clearly visible on all posters. All contact is treated confidentially. Spot checks are carried out following the distribution.

#### **Participatory approach**

Ideally, an emergency aid operation is also an empowerment process: “People see that distribution is well-organised and rules are followed, free of corruption and favouritism,” says Daniel Ott Fröhlicher. “Ultimately, not only has the food crisis been overcome, but the democratic structures in the village have also been strengthened.” SWISSAID can build on such processes in future projects.

### **With posters and banners**

The emergency aid campaign is widely communicated: posters and banners tell people who is entitled to an emergency aid package and when it will be distributed. A telephone number for complaints is also provided. The parcels contain basic foodstuffs such as beans, sorghum, maize and oil.

For families with small children, there is often baby food for the youngest. A little later on, the smallholders are provided with seeds to secure the coming harvest.





**Monika Uhlmann,**  
Head of Finance & HR

## 2023 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

### COMMENT

In 2023, SWISSAID succeeded in increasing the inflow of funds from donations and project contributions while also further diversifying its financing. With convincing projects and programmes, new partnerships were launched with foundations, and funds were acquired from governments. Compared to the previous year, we achieved growth of 10%. Many thanks! We would also like to thank our loyal donors, municipalities and cantons, companies and foundations. We are extremely grateful for the generous support, solidarity and trust in our work in the nine countries.

Our motivated and professional team does its best on a daily basis, working together with local partner organisations to sustainably improve the living conditions and prospects of the poorest people in the Global South. We were able to implement an overseas programme worth around 18 million Swiss francs, and spent 2.4 million Swiss francs on awareness-raising and information work in Switzerland. As a proportion of our operating expenses, 82% of our funds went to programme work, 4% to administration and 14% to fundraising.

Around 60% of SWISSAID's activities are financed by donations and project contributions from private individuals and institutions, while just under 30% of funding comes from the SDC's programme contribution. As at 31 December 2023, organisational capital amounts to 16 million Swiss francs. These 2023 annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and Zewo principles. They were reviewed by the auditors Von Graffenried AG Treuhand in the framework of an annual audit, and found to be correct.

# Balance sheet

<b>Assets (in CHF)</b>	Appendix*	<b>31.12.2023</b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	4,372,399	5,079,788
Short-term assets with a stock market price	5.2	13,505,554	13,194,304
Other short-term receivables	5.3	109,307	301,476
Inventories		170,136	177,808
Deferred assets		18,363	67,747
<b>Operating assets</b>		<b>18,175,759</b>	<b>18,821,124</b>
Financial assets	5.4	136,923	136,765
Tangible assets	5.5	962,199	841,998
Intangible assets	5.6	30,141	49,862
<b>Fixed assets</b>		<b>1,129,263</b>	<b>1,028,625</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>19,305,022</b>	<b>19,849,749</b>
<b>Liabilities (in CHF)</b>			
Liabilities from deliverables and services		861,129	577,112
Accrued expenses and deferred income		25,889	14,622
Short-term provisions	5.7	255,491	201,338
<b>Short-term borrowed capital</b>		<b>1,142,509</b>	<b>793,071</b>
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the southern hemisphere programme		2,039,296	1,185,643
Fund for the future		7,975	0
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project		2,717	2,683
Fund for sponsoring a water project		9,980	0
Fund for sponsoring a women's project		9,742	0
Fund for emergency aid		84,403	37,142
SDC fund		0	0
<b>Ring-fenced fund capital</b>		<b>2,154,112</b>	<b>1,225,468</b>
SWISSAID programme fund		7,674,331	9,073,910
SWISSAID infrastructure fund		658,598	658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	5.8	1,734,749	1,444,103
Free capital		5,846,921	6,581,256
Free capital – SWISSAID Geneva	2	87,049	69,309
Free capital – SWISSAID Zurich	2	6,753	4,034
<b>Organisational capital</b>		<b>16,008,401</b>	<b>17,831,210</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>19,305,022</b>	<b>19,849,749</b>

\* The complete annual accounts with notes and explanations can be found on our website at [www.swissaid.ch](http://www.swissaid.ch).



# Operating accounts

Revenue (in CHF)		Appendix 4.1	2023	2022
Free donations			6,093,656	5,964,296
Bequests			266,626	503,340
Sale of trinkets			334,186	299,000
Earmarked fund contributions	8		597,223	660,598
Earmarked donations & contributions to projects	7.1		7,053,219	5,370,863
Contributions to projects from Swiss Solidarity			62,000	153,861
Contributions to projects from FEDEVACO			160,593	168,651
Contributions to projects from FGC			218,426	237,984
<b>Proceeds from collections</b>			<b>14,785,929</b>	<b>13,358,593</b>
SDC programme contribution	7.3		5,940,000	5,940,000
Forwarding of programme contribution to the Skat Foundation	7.3		- 440,000	- 440,000
SDC mandates			247,404	176,561
SDC targeted contributions			2,738,191	3,150,725
Other operating revenue	7.2		15,151	61,825
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>			<b>23,286,675</b>	<b>22,247,703</b>
<b>Expenditure (in CHF)</b>				
Projects overseas			15,492,471	16,165,310
Expenditure for programme support			2,381,977	2,230,585
<i>Personnel-related expenditure</i>			2,022,588	1,898,576
<i>Expenditure on materials</i>			359,388	332,009
<b>Expenditure for the overseas programme</b>	<b>7.4</b>		<b>17,874,448</b>	<b>18,395,894</b>
Information and public-awareness programme in Switzerland			1,250,429	1,034,350
Expenditure for programme support			1,132,092	1,022,601
<i>Personnel-related expenditure for the domestic programme</i>			1,065,851	949,494
<i>Expenditure for the domestic programme</i>			66 241	73 108
<b>Expenditure for the domestic programme</b>	<b>7.4</b>		<b>2,382,521</b>	<b>2,056,951</b>
<b>Fundraising and general expenditure on publicity</b>	<b>7.4</b>		<b>3,441,090</b>	<b>2,969,219</b>
<b>Administrative expenditure</b>	<b>7.4</b>		<b>988,195</b>	<b>886,650</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>24,686,254</b>	<b>24,308,715</b>
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>			<b>-1,399,579</b>	<b>-2,061,011</b>
Financial earnings (realised)			118,835	- 867,301
Financial earnings (not realised)			473,145	- 816,146
Financial expenditure			- 159,566	- 159,641
<b>Financial result</b>	<b>7.5</b>		<b>432 413</b>	<b>- 1,843,089</b>
Expenditure on real estate			- 14,544	- 11,127
Revenue from real estate			75,000	75,000
<b>Non-operating result</b>			<b>60,456</b>	<b>63,874</b>
Other profits carried over from previous periods			12,545	190,983
<b>Result carried over from previous periods</b>	<b>7.6</b>		<b>12,545</b>	<b>190,983</b>
<b>RESULT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN FUND CAPITAL</b>			<b>- 894,164</b>	<b>- 3,649,243</b>
Change in fund capital earmarked with restrictions			- 928,644	140,336
<b>RESULT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN ORGANISATION CAPITAL</b>			<b>- 1,822,809</b>	<b>- 3,508,907</b>
Change in the SWISSAID programme fund			1,822,809	3,508,907
<b>INCOME CARRIED OVER IN FAVOUR OF PROCESSED FUNDS</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



# Statement of changes in capital 2023

	Opening balance	Income (internal)	Allocation (external)	Internal fund transfers	Use	Change	Closing balance
<b>Funds from fund capital (CHF)</b>							
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the southern hemisphere programme	1,185,643		10,479,833		-9,626,180	853,653	2,039,296
Fund for the future	0		277,975		-270,000	7,975	7,975
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project	2,683		163,891	1,143	-165,000	34	2,717
Fund for sponsoring a water project	0		59,980		-50,000	9,980	9,980
Fund for sponsoring a women's project	0		164,742		-155,000	9,742	9,742
Fund for emergency aid	37,142		197,261		-150,000	47,261	84,403
SDC fund	0		5,500,000		-5,500,000	0	0
<b>Fund capital earmarked with restrictions</b>	<b>1,225,468</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16,843,682</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>-15,916,180</b>	<b>928,644</b>	<b>2,154,112</b>
<b>Own funds (CHF)</b>							
SWISSAID programme fund	9,073,910		0		-1,399,579	-1,399,579	7,674,331
SWISSAID infrastructure fund	658,598		0		0	0	658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	1,444,103		290,646		0	290,646	1,734,749
Free capital generated	6,581,256		0	-1,143	-733,192	-734,335	5,846,921
Free capital SW Geneva	69,309		17,740		0	17,740	87,049
Free capital SW Zurich	4,034		2,719		0	2,719	6,753
Annual result	0		-1,822,809		1,822,809	0	0
<b>Organisational capital</b>	<b>17,831,210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>- 1511,704</b>	<b>- 1,143</b>	<b>- 309,962</b>	<b>1,822,809</b>	<b>16,008,401</b>



# Statement of changes in capital 2022

	Opening balance	Income (internal)	Allocation (external)	Internal fund transfers	Use	Change	Closing balance
<b>Funds from fund capital (CHF)</b>							
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the southern hemisphere programme	979,400		9,258,645		- 9,052,402	206,243	1,185,643
Fund for the future	100		514,971		- 515,071	- 100	0
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project	912		163,955	1,871	- 164,055	1,771	2,683
Fund for sponsoring a water project	100		72,629		- 72,729	- 100	0
Fund for sponsoring a women's project	100		187,213		- 187,313	- 100	0
Fund for emergency aid	1,055		225,169		- 189,082	36,087	37,142
SDC fund	384,137		5,500,000		- 5,884,137	- 384,137	0
<b>Fund capital earmarked with restrictions</b>	<b>1,365,804</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,922,582</b>	<b>1,871</b>	<b>- 16,064,790</b>	<b>- 140,336</b>	<b>1,225,468</b>
<b>Own funds (CHF)</b>							
SWISSAID programme fund	11,134,921		0		- 2,061,011	- 2,061,011	9,073,910
SWISSAID infrastructure fund	658,598		0		0	0	658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	2,060,274		0		- 616,171	- 616,171	1,444,103
Free capital generated	7,412,309		0	- 1,871	- 829,182	- 831,053	6,581,256
Free capital SW Geneva	71,015		0		- 1,706	- 1,706	69,309
Free capital SW Zurich	3,000		1,034		0	1,034	4,034
Annual result	0		- 3,508,907		3,508,907	0	0
<b>Organisational capital</b>	<b>21,340,117</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>- 3,507,873</b>	<b>- 1,871</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>- 3,508,907</b>	<b>17,831,210</b>

# Cash flow statement

<b>Cash flow from operating activities (CHF)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Annual result before changes in funds</b>	<b>- 894,164</b>	<b>- 3,649,243</b>
Depreciation and amortisation of tangible fixed assets and intangible assets	190,967	184,929
Change in provisions	54,153	47,927
Book profits/losses on securities	- 473,145	816,146
Decrease / increase (-) in receivables and financing commitments	192,169	96,449
Decrease / increase (-) in inventories	7,672	- 109,247
Decrease / increase (-) in prepaid expenses and accrued income	49,384	78,999
Decrease / increase (-) in rental deposits	- 158	169,988
Decrease (-) / increase in accounts payable	284,017	56,849
Decrease (-) / increase in accrued expenses and deferred income	11,267	- 48,038
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>- 577,838</b>	<b>- 2,355,240</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Investment in tangible fixed assets	- 283,313	- 64,498
Divestment of real estate	0	0
Investment in intangible assets	- 8,134	- 55,279
Investment in securities	- 7,586,413	- 7,053,602
Divestment of securities	7,748,308	9,672,577
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>	<b>- 129,551</b>	<b>2,499,197</b>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Increase (+) / decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>- 707,390</b>	<b>143,957</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents fund 1.1.</b>	<b>5,079,788</b>	<b>4,935,831</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents fund 31.12.</b>	<b>4,372,399</b>	<b>5,079,788</b>



# Notes to the financial statements

## 0. Number of full-time positions

The average number of full-time positions for the year was 220.5 (prior year 197.6).

## 1. General accounting principles

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the SWISS GAAP FER 21 / core FER accounting standards and comply with the Swiss Code of Obligations, the regulations of Zewo (the Swiss agency for non-profit fundraising organisations) and the provisions of the Articles of Association. The securities result is posted directly via the operating account according to the gross principle, with book profits and losses shown.

## 2. Scope of consolidation

The accounts of the coordination offices responsible for the implementation of programmes in the Southern Hemisphere, as well as those of the SWISSAID Geneva and SWISSAID Zurich associations, are fully integrated into these financial statements. Furthermore, SWISSAID does not have any subsidiaries or partner institutions in which it exercises a controlling influence.

## 3. Related organisations

The following organisations and institutions are affiliated with SWISSAID: Sufosec (alliance with Fastenaktion, Aqua Alimentaria, Vivamos Mejor, VSF Suisse and the Skat Foundation), Alliance Sud (working group consisting of SWISSAID, Fastenaktion, Solidar Suisse, TdH Suisse, Helvetas, Caritas, Heks, Swiss Red Cross, Brücke Le Pont, Biovision, Unité and Comundo), Max Havelaar Foundation and SAG (Swiss Gene Technology Working Group). Alliance Sud received CHF 190,000 (previous year CHF 161,100) for the annual budget in accordance with the contractual basis. SWISSAID is represented on the boards of the other organisations without allocating substantial contributions. The services provided free of charge by third parties for the benefit of SWISSAID account for an insignificant proportion of the overall result and are therefore not listed.

## 4. Accounting and valuation principles

Cash and cash equivalents	At par value
Securities	Market value as at balance sheet date
Foreign currencies	Exchange rate as at balance sheet date
Loans, receivables and financing commitments	At par value
Inventories	At cost less necessary value adjustments
Financial assets	Acquisition value less economic straight-line depreciation
Furniture, machinery and equipment	Acquisition value less scheduled straight-line depreciation. Useful life: Furniture 10 years, IT equipment 3 years, machinery 3–6 years Capitalisation threshold: CHF 3,000 (IT: CHF 1,000)
Real estate, Switzerland	Acquisition value less scheduled straight-line depreciation. No depreciation on property. Useful life: 75 years
Real estate, foreign	Acquisition value less scheduled straight-line depreciation. Useful life: 25 years
Intangible assets	Investment in software is recognised as an intangible asset and amortised on a straight-line basis over the expected useful life (3 years)
Liabilities	At par value
Provisions	Amount based on management's assessment, reflecting expected future expenses as at the balance sheet date

#### 4.1 Recognition of income

Free donations, earmarked donations and contributions to projects	Income from fundraising among the general public is recognised on receipt of payment. It is booked as an earmarked donation if received with corresponding instructions, and as a free donation if received without
Bequests	Income from bequests and inheritance is recognised either on receipt of payment (for monetary amounts) or at the time of transfer of the legal disposal value (for real estate, etc.)
Contributions to projects	Income from performance contracts with donors is recognised on receipt of payment
Deliveries and services	Goods deliveries and services are recognised as income at the time of service provision
Rental income	Rental income is recognised as income at the time of service provision

## 5. Notes to the balance sheet

<b>5.1 Cash and cash equivalents (CHF)</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>
Cash, Postfinance and domestic banks	2,963,835	4,023,325
Banks, foreign	1,408,563	1,056,463
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>4,372,398</b>	<b>5,079,788</b>
The change in cash and cash equivalents is explained in the cash flow statement.		

	<b>Market value 31.12.2023</b>	<b>Market value 31.12.2022</b>
<b>5.2 Current assets with a stock market price (CHF)</b>		
Bonds	8,316,102	9,008,887
Equities	4,250,894	3,273,607
Real estate funds	938,557	911,810
<b>Total current assets with a stock market price</b>	<b>13,505,553</b>	<b>13,194,304</b>

<b>5.3 Other current receivables (CHF)</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>
Credit balance, withholding tax	45,804	61,645
Credit balance from deliveries	63,503	66,001
Commitment from Swiss Solidarity	0	0
Commitment from Pagod (Niger)	0	0
Commitment from PAEPHA water consortium (Niger)	0	0
Commitment from Inondations 2020 (Niger)	0	0
Commitment from Sodefika (Chad)	0	0
Commitment from DPP2 (Myanmar)	0	80,610
Loans to employees outside Switzerland	0	93,220
<b>Total other current receivables</b>	<b>109,307</b>	<b>301,476</b>

The commitments are contractually guaranteed project mandate funding amounts.



<b>5.4 Financial investments (CHF)</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>
Claro Fair Trade AG	30,000	30,000
Fairpicture AG	50,000	50,000
Registered shares in Claro Fair Trade AG	1	92,272
Share certificates in Société Coopérative Philea International	1	96,000
Remei AG	10,000	10,000
Voting shares, Alternative Bank ABS	20,000	20,000
Rental deposits	26,921	26,765
Impairment of financial assets	0	- 188,272
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>136,923</b>	<b>136,765</b>

<b>5.5 Tangible fixed assets (CHF)</b>	<b>Equipment and facilities</b>	<b>Land and buildings, domestic</b>	<b>Real estate, foreign</b>	<b>Total real estate</b>
Acquisition values 01.01.2023	1,021,129	1,040,000	448,481	1,488,481
Investments 2023	283 313	0	0	0
Disposals 2023	0	0	0	0
Reversal of depreciation 2023	0	0	0	0
<b>Acquisition values 31.12.2023</b>	<b>1,304,442</b>	<b>1,040,000</b>	<b>448,481</b>	<b>1,488,481</b>
Accumulated depreciation 01.01.2023	833,315	449,150	385,147	834,297
Scheduled depreciation 2023	129,447	22,074	11,591	33,665
Reversal of depreciation 2023	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance of depreciation 31.12.2023</b>	<b>962,762</b>	<b>471,224</b>	<b>396,738</b>	<b>867,962</b>
<b>Net balance of tangible fixed assets 31.12.2023</b>	<b>341,680</b>	<b>568,776</b>	<b>51,743</b>	<b>620,519</b>

The investments relate to IT resources for our staff in Switzerland, the redesign of our offices on Lorystrasse in Bern and vehicles and power generators for our coordination offices in Niger and Chad.

<b>5.5 Tangible fixed assets, prior year</b>	<b>Equipment and facilities</b>	<b>Land and buildings, domestic</b>	<b>Real estate, foreign</b>	<b>Total real estate</b>
Acquisition values 01.01.2022	1,099,415	1,040,000	448,481	1,488,481
Investments 2022	64,498	0	0	0
Disposals 2022	0	0	0	0
Reversal of depreciation 2022	-142,784	0	0	0
<b>Acquisition values 31.12.2022</b>	<b>1,021,129</b>	<b>1,040,000</b>	<b>448,481</b>	<b>1,488,481</b>
Accumulated depreciation 01.01.2022	848,932	427,076	370,648	797,224
Scheduled depreciation 2022	127,167	22,074	14,499	36,573
Reversal of depreciation 2022	-142,784	0	0	0
<b>Balance of depreciation 31.12.2022</b>	<b>833,315</b>	<b>449,150</b>	<b>385,147</b>	<b>834,297</b>
<b>Net balance of tangible fixed assets 31.12.2022</b>	<b>187,814</b>	<b>590,850</b>	<b>63,334</b>	<b>654,184</b>

The investments relate to IT resources for our staff in Switzerland and vehicles for our coordination offices in Niger and Chad.

<b>5.6 Intangible assets (CHF)</b>	<b>Software 31.12.2023</b>
Acquisition values 01.01.	338,179
Investments 2023	8,134
Transition from unfinished to finished product	0
<b>Acquisition values 31.12.</b>	<b>396,313</b>
Accumulated depreciation 01.01.	338,317
Scheduled depreciation 2023	27,855
<b>Balance of depreciation 31.12.</b>	<b>366,172</b>
<b>Net balance of intangible assets 31.12.</b>	<b>30,140</b>

The investments relate to an update of the Abacus ERP system.

<b>5.6 Intangible assets, prior year</b>	<b>Software 31.12.2022</b>
Acquisition values 01.01.	332,900
Investments 2022	55,279
Transition from unfinished to finished product	0
<b>Acquisition values 31.12.2022</b>	<b>388,179</b>
Accumulated depreciation 01.01.	317,128
Scheduled depreciation 2022	21,189
<b>Balance of depreciation 31.12.</b>	<b>338,317</b>
<b>Net balance of intangible assets 31.12.</b>	<b>49,862</b>

The investments relate to the further development of our address processing database.

<b>5.7 Current provisions (CHF)</b>	<b>Balance 01.01.2023</b>	<b>Outflows 2023</b>	<b>Inflows 2023</b>	<b>Balance 31.12.2023</b>
Provision for personnel obligations	201,338	0	54,153	255,491
Other provisions	0	0	0	0
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>201,338</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54,153</b>	<b>255,491</b>

The provisions for personnel obligations relate to overtime and holiday credits not yet taken by employees in Berne and Lausanne.

<b>5.7 Current provisions, prior year (CHF)</b>	<b>Balance 01.01.2022</b>	<b>Outflows 2022</b>	<b>Inflows 2022</b>	<b>Balance 31.12.2022</b>
Provision for personnel obligations	153,411	0	47,927	201,338
Other provisions	0	0	0	0
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>153,411</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47,927</b>	<b>201,338</b>

The provisions for personnel obligations relate to overtime and holiday credits not yet taken by employees in Berne and Lausanne.

## 5.8 Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies

The target minimum balance is based on the provisions of the internal regulations and is fully funded.  
See the statement of changes in capital for the balance and changes.



## 6. Compensation of the governing bodies

Remuneration President BTC:	Flat-rate compensation Co-President:	CHF 9,000 p.a.*
	Flat-rate compensation Vice President:	CHF 2,000 p.a.
Remuneration Executive Committee:	Total salary costs for the Executive Committee as a whole (4 persons)	CHF 595,569 p.a.
Meeting allowances BTC:	Half-day meetings CHF 200, full-day meetings CHF 300	
Expenses, domestic/foreign:	Expenses are reimbursed on the basis of the receipts submitted.	
Total compensation BTC:	CHF 19 870 (flat-rate payment, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2023	
Of which President:	CHF 11 300 (flat-rate payment, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2023	

\*The role of President has been shared by 2 persons since 1 July 2019.

## Compensation of the governing bodies, prior year

Remuneration President BTC:	Flat-rate compensation Vice President:	CHF 9,000 p.a.
	Flat-rate compensation Vice President:	CHF 2,000 p.a.
Remuneration Executive Committee:	Total salary costs for the Executive Committee as a whole (4 persons)	CHF 602,989 p.a.
Meeting allowances BTC:	Half-day meetings CHF 200, full-day meetings CHF 300	
Expenses domestic / foreign:	Expenses are reimbursed on the basis of the receipts submitted.	
Total compensation BTC:	CHF 18 655 (flat-rate payment, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2022	
Of which President:	CHF 11 800 (flat-rate payment, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2022	

## 7. Notes to the operating accounts

### 7.1 Earmarked donations & contributions to projects (CHF)

Proof of the use of funds is provided by project accounting and is subject to audit.	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Contribution to projects, municipalities	469,250	245,000
Contribution to projects, cantons and lottery funds	718,900	443,800
Contribution to projects, LED	400,000	400,000
Contribution to projects, foundations	2,291,190	1,593,500
Contributions to projects, churches, private individuals and SMEs	940,253	1,209,400
Raising of own funds, South	2,233,626	1,479,163
<b>Total earmarked contributions to projects</b>	<b>7,053,219</b>	<b>5,370,863</b>

### 7.2 Other operating income (CHF)

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Sale of material and gifts	12,200	58,575
Fees	2,723	3,250
Miscellaneous income	288	0
<b>Total other operating income</b>	<b>15,151</b>	<b>61,825</b>

### 7.3 Forwarding of programme contribution to contractual partner Skat

The SDC programme contribution for 2023 amounting to CHF 5,940,000 includes a share of CHF 440,000 for our alliance partner, the Skat Foundation. This amount was passed on in full to the Skat Foundation. SWISSAID's share of CHF 5,500,000 was reported as a gross amount in the operating account in accordance with SDC requirements.

### 7.4 Operating expenses

The ZWEO Foundation's revised methodology for calculating administrative expenses, which came into force on 1 January 2018, is used to calculate administrative, as well as fundraising and general advertising expenses.

	<b>Expenditure overseas prog. CHF</b>	<b>Expenditure domestic prog. CHF</b>	<b>Fundraising and advertising expenses CHF</b>	<b>Administrative expenses CHF</b>	<b>Total operating expenses CHF</b>
Programme expenses	15,492,471	1,250,429	2,233,692	38,716	19,015,308
Personnel expenses	2,022,588	1,065,851	1,165,800	795,029	5,049,268
Expenses for goods and services	320,178	161,135	140,413	219,428	841,155
Depreciation of assets	39,210	11,763	7,842	41,679	100,494
Cost allocation		- 106,657	- 106,657	- 106,657	- 319,971
<b>Total operating expenses 2023</b>	<b>17,874,448</b>	<b>2,382,521</b>	<b>3,441,090</b>	<b>998,195</b>	<b>24,686,254</b>

In addition to the depreciation/amortisation shown separately above (tangible fixed assets and intangible assets), CHF 90,473 (prior year CHF 89,905) of depreciation/amortisation is included directly in programme expenses.

### 7.4 Operating expenses, prior year

The ZWEO Foundation's revised methodology for calculating administrative expenses, which came into force on 1 January 2018, is used to calculate administrative, as well as fundraising and general advertising expenses.

	<b>Expenditure overseas prog. CHF</b>	<b>Expenditure domestic prog. CHF</b>	<b>Fundraising and advertising expenses CHF</b>	<b>Administrative expenses CHF</b>	<b>Total operating expenses CHF</b>
Programme expenses	16,165,310	1,034,350	1,964,253	38,442	19,202,355
Personnel expenses	1,898,576	949,494	956,635	643,615	4,448,320
Expenses for goods and services	295,534	144,276	123,149	246,392	809,351
Depreciation of assets	36,475	10,943	7,294	40,313	95,025
Cost allocation		- 82,112	- 82,112	- 82,112	- 246,336
<b>Total operating expenses 2022</b>	<b>18,395,895</b>	<b>2,056,951</b>	<b>2,696,219</b>	<b>886,650</b>	<b>24,308,715</b>

In addition to the depreciation/amortisation shown separately above (tangible fixed assets and intangible assets), CHF 89,905 (prior year CHF 83,707) of depreciation/amortisation is included directly in programme expenses.



<b>7.5 Financial result (CHF)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Realised income and price gains, stocks/funds	98,690	- 815,611
Realised income and price gains, bonds	102,350	7,783
Realised income, cash and cash equivalents	15,017	5,632
Unrealised income and price gains, stocks/funds	210,140	- 396,148
Unrealised income and price gains, bonds	263,004	- 419,998
Foreign currency gains	- 97,222	- 65,105
Fees, asset management and custodian fees	- 102,686	- 111,375
Bank charges and transaction fees	- 56,880	- 48,267
<b>Total financial result</b>	<b>432,413</b>	<b>- 1,843,089</b>

<b>7.6 Other income not related to the period (CHF)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Input tax refund, Ecuador and CO <sub>2</sub> levy	12,545	190,983
<b>Result carried over from previous periods</b>	<b>12,545</b>	<b>190,983</b>

## 8. Notes on the statement of changes in capital

The distribution of funds is based on the fund regulations according to Swiss GAAP FER. Additional commitments for development projects are deducted from the SWISSAID Programme fund. The SDC's earmarked fund capital is reported in accordance with SDC requirements. The target minimum level of price fluctuation reserves has been reached.

## 9. Notes on the cash flow statement

Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be funds.

## 10. Risk assessment

The Executive Committee carries out a periodic risk assessment, and any resulting measures are discussed and initiated with the Board of Trustees Committee.

<b>11. Liabilities to pension funds (CHF)</b>	<b>31.12.2023</b>	<b>31.12.2022</b>
GEPABU, balance (included in accounts payable)	- 884	- 13,588
Publica (included in accounts payable)		45

The annual pension expense of CHF 291,268 (prior year 246,324) is included in personnel expenses. There is no economic share in the existing surpluses of the two pension funds (as with the previous year).

## 12. Rental obligations not included in the balance sheet (CHF)

< 1 year

31.12.2023	31.12.2022
137,840	130,577

## 13. Contingent liability (CHF)

SWISSAID rents office and parking space in Lausanne as a member of the simple partnership Site 52, and is jointly and severally liable for the payment of the rent owed.

Ongoing legal dispute

31.12.2023	31.12.2022
p.m.	p.m.
p.m.	p.m.

## 14. Events after the balance sheet date

No events occurred between the balance sheet date and the date of approval of these financial statements that could have a material impact on the 2023 financial statements.

## 15. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements for 2023 were approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees on 20 March 2023.





# PERFORMANCE REPORT

## SWISSAID in brief

SWISSAID is a foundation independent of religious or party political affiliations based in Bern, Switzerland. SWISSAID has been committed to helping the disadvantaged in the Global South since 1948, and is active in nine different countries: Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Chad, Tanzania, India, Myanmar, Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua. SWISSAID is represented in rural areas where no other organisations are available to provide support, and fights for the right of all people to live without hunger,

hardship and oppression. Its work focuses on fighting hunger, agroecology, gender equality and support for civil society. In addition to running self-help projects in the South, SWISSAID also campaigns politically in Switzerland for the interests of disadvantaged people, as achieving sustainable improvements in living conditions in the South requires social change in the North.

## Working methods

SWISSAID supports initiatives by disadvantaged people in the Global South, and works together with civil society organisations. SWISSAID provides aid and promotes local partner organisations, helping them to achieve autonomy and exert influence on economic, social and political life. SWISSAID works with local experts, and rarely sends Swiss experts to the South. In addition

to ensuring that projects are more strongly anchored in the local context, this also helps to support know-how transfer and job creation in the South. This makes it possible to reduce programme support costs and ensure that a larger proportion of donations can be used to help people help themselves.

## Legal basis

### Name

SWISSAID, Swiss Foundation for Development Cooperation

### Legal form

Foundation

### Regulations

Foundation Charter of 15 April 1983. Last updated: 10 June 2021

### Purpose of the foundation

The foundation promotes the solidarity of the Swiss population with the world's disadvantaged people. SWISSAID fulfils its purpose through the following activities in particular:

- a) Supporting development projects and programmes in developing countries and regions that promote self-help among particularly disadvantaged population groups.
- b) Informing the Swiss public about SWISSAID's work, development issues and the causes of underdevelopment and undesirable development.

- c) Participating in opinion-forming and decision-making on development policy with the aim of helping to shape Switzerland's relationship with developing countries in the interests of the particularly disadvantaged.
- d) Cooperating with private and public institutions in line with the purpose of the foundation

The **Board of Trustees** comprises at least 20 members. It is composed of personalities who have a connection with the Foundation's purpose and represent a broad spectrum of the Swiss public. The term of office of the members of the Board of Trustees is four years, and re-election is possible.

The **Board of Trustees Committee** is made up of the President and at least 4 but no more than 8 persons. They are elected for four years, and can be re-elected twice, with longer terms of office possible in justified cases.

The **Branch Office** is SWISSAID's executive body.

The **Auditors** review the organisation's accounting and annual financial statements, as well as compliance with the budget. They also confirm the existence of an internal control system.

## Members of the Board of Trustees

**Matthias Aebischer**, member of the National Council, Lecturer University of Fribourg, Bern, since 2012;

**Sibel Arslan**, member of the National Council, lic.iur., Basel, since 2017;

**Christine Badertscher**, member of the National Council, Madiswil, since 2020;

**Claude R. Béglé**, Dr.oec., since 2016;

**Didier Berberat**, attorney at law, former member of the Council of States, La Chaux-de-Fonds, since 2016;

**Urs Brändli**, President Bio Suisse, Goldingen, since 2018

**Edgar Ricardo von Buettner**, Senior Consultant for strategic, participatory and sustainable community development projects, Brazil, since 1983;

**Dr. phil. Rudolf Dannecker**, former Deputy Director-General SDC, Hinterkappelen, since 2002;

**Gaby Fierz**, ethnologist, Museum der Kulturen Basel, Basel, since 2008;

**Dr. Rudolf Fischer**, Dr. phil. I, former Head of the SWISSAID Development Cooperation Department, Wettingen, since 2014;

**Rémy Gogniat**, journalist, La Chaux-de-Fonds, since 2009;

**Gabriela Graber**, journalist, Huttwil, since 2022;

**Corina Gredig**, member of the National Council, Zurich, since 2020;

**Dr. h.c. Niklaus-Samuel Gugger**, member of the National Council, Winterthur, since 2020;

**Bruno Gurtner**, economist, Bern, since 2008;

**Martin Hürzeler**, fundraiser BR, Zurich, since 2009;

**Laurent Jimaja**, Master in Economics, President of SWISSAID Geneva, since 2016;

**Odile Keller**, economist, Belfaux, since 2019;

**Florianne Koechlin**, biologist, author, managing director of the Blauen-Institut, Münchenstein, since 1996;

**Gian L. Nicolay**, Dipl. ing. agr. ETH, Africa Coordinator FIBL, Ardez, since 2010;

**Pierre-André Page**, farmer and member of the National Council, Châtonnaye, since 2020;

**Isabel Perich**, lic.rer.pol., organisational consultant, Wohlen (canton Bern), since 2018;

**Wendy Peter**, organic farmer, member of the Bioforum Switzerland board, Willisau, since 2010;

**Chasper Pult**, cantonal school teacher and cultural mediator, Paspels, since 1992;

**Stefan C. Rist**, professor of human geography, University of Bern, Bern, since 2017;

**Ruth Rauch**, lic. rer. pol., team and organisational Development, Bern, since 2004;

**Daniel Roduner**, development cooperation expert, Bern, since 2007;

**Denis Ruysschaert**, PdD in sociology and Masters in agronomy, since 2016;

**Carlo Sommaruga**, lawyer and member of the Council of States, Geneva, since 2010.

## Board of Trustees Committee

**Bastienne Joerchel Anhorn**, Co-President SWISSAID, economist, Renens, since 2012;

**Fabian Molina**, Co-President SWISSAID, member of the National Council, Zurich, since 2018;

**Peter Bischof**, former Ambassador, Bellach, since 2018;

**Dr Claudia Friedl**, member of the National Council and environmental scientist, St. Gallen, since 2015;

**Isabel Jaisli**, Head Sustainability Transformation and Food Systems Research Unit at ZHAW, Stallikon, since 2023;

**Emmanuelle Robert**, lic.phil, communications officer, Lausanne, since 2017;

**Zora Schaad**, Head of Public Relations and Media Spokesperson, Oberbipp, since 2023

**Martin Sommer**, Vice President SWISSAID, MSc Geography, Managing Director of devolutions GmbH, Niederscherli, since 2017.

## Executive Committee 2023

**Markus Allemann**, Executive Director, Head of Development Policy and Media ad interim;

**Monika Uhlmann**, Head of Finance and Human Resources, Deputy Executive Director;

**Michael Brücker**, Head of Marketing and Fundraising;

**Nicole Stolz Fatoev**, Head of Development Cooperation.





## VON GRAFFENRIED TREUHAND

### **Report of the statutory auditors to the Foundation Board of SWISSAID, Swiss Fondation for development cooperation, Berne**

#### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

##### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of SWISSAID, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023 and the operating accounts and the statement of cash flows and the statement of change in capital for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statement, including a summary of significant accounting policies. In accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 the information in the performance report is not subject to audit or examination work performed by the statutory auditor.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and comply with Swiss law, with statutes and with regulation.

##### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA-CH). Our responsibilities under those provisions and standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law and the requirements of the Swiss audit profession, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### *Foundation Board's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements*

The Foundation Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, which give a true and fair view in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and the provisions of Swiss law, and for such internal control as the Foundation Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Foundation Board is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern, and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Foundation Board either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

##### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Swiss law and SA-CH will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

**Von Graffenried AG Treuhand**

Waaghausgasse 1, Postfach, CH-3001 Bern, Tel. +41 31 320 56 11



A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on EXPERT-suisse's website at: <https://www.expertsuisse.ch/en/audit-report>. This description forms an integral part of our report.

#### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

In accordance with Art. 728a para. 1 item 3 CO and PS-CH 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of the financial statements according to the instructions of the Board of Directors.

We recommend that the consolidated financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Berne, 3 May 2024 zuw/stn

Von Graffenried AG Treuhand

**Michel Zumwald**  
Swiss Certified Accountant  
Licensed audit expert  
Auditor in charge

**Stephan Richard**  
Swiss Certified Accountant  
Licensed audit expert

Annexes :

Financial statements (balance sheet with a total of CHF 19'305'022, income statement with an operating result of CHF – 1'399'579, cash flow statement, statement of change in capital and notes)

# Thank 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 South.



**“Working for a better environment makes me happy.”**

Cristian Pérez, Sucre, Colombia

**We would also like to thank all those who included us in their will, as well as the numerous companies and suppliers who provided their services at reduced rates or free of charge. Our special thanks go to the following institutions, cantons, towns and municipalities, foundations, parishes and associations:**

#### **Institutions**

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

#### **Cantons**

The cantons of Basel-Stadt and Graubünden, as well as the lottery funds of the cantons of Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Lucerne, Schwyz, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, Thurgau and Uri.

#### **Companies and foundations**

Arete Ethik Invest AG, Leopold Bachmann Foundation, BÜCHI Foundation, CHARISMA Foundation for Sustainable Development, Client Systems AG, Corymbo Foundation, Däster Schild Foundation, Dreiklang Foundation, Georg Fischer Anniversary Foundation, Hug-Verlag AG, Sandoz Family Foundation, Ernest Matthey Foundation, Medicor Foundation,

Merck Family Foundation, Foundation for the Third Millennium, NAK-Humanitas Foundation, Pratohaus AG, Salud y Vida Foundation, Swiss National Bank, sohn-verlag GmbH, Somaha Foundation, Succursus Foundation, Temperatio Foundation, Voith Leemann Foundation and the Dr Lukas Werenfels Foundation.

#### **Cities and municipalities**

Aarau, Beringen, Bern, Binningen, Domat/Ems, Maur, St. Gallen, Solothurn, Therwil, Zug and Zurich.

#### **Parishes and associations**

The joint Roman Catholic Church of Bern and the surrounding area, the Catholic Church of Rapperswil-Jona, the Catholic Church of Olten, the Evangelical Reformed Church of Sarnen, the Reformed Church of Sihltal, Welt-Verein Deitingen und Umgebung and the Catholic City of Zurich.