



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SWISSAID MAGAZINE

No. 02 | 25

Scientifically confirmed –

Your support fights hunger

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Agroecology
works!

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What SWISSAID
achieved in 2024

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Of onions and gold

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On an equal
footing

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Cover image: Small-scale farmer Fahne Oumar laughs as she shows off her freshly harvested okra. The nutrient-rich vegetable was already cultivated by the Egyptians and is still used today as a traditional remedy for colds.

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Fabian Molina,
President of SWISSAID

EDITORIAL

Headwinds

More than 735 million people suffered from hunger in 2024. Around 30 percent of the world’s population is affected by malnutrition or hunger. Even before the Swiss parliamentary budget cuts to development aid were made, the level of hunger was already scandalously high. Progress made in recent years has been undone by the deteriorating climate and biodiversity crisis, wars and conflicts and economic upheaval.

With the US government’s payment freeze on USAID, one third of global contributions for international cooperation and 40 percent of funding for humanitarian aid was lost at the beginning of 2025. This move has resulted in a huge increase in global need.

Hunger is not just a lack of food – it is a symptom of deep-rooted structural global injustices. And this is exactly why systemic solutions are needed. Agroecology has proven its worth as a comprehensive and scientifically sound concept. The success of this approach, which SWISSAID is systematically pursuing together with its alliance partners, gives hope in these difficult times.

SWISSAID is also feeling the headwinds in the fight against hunger and poverty. But we will not be discouraged. Thank you for joining us in our mission to create a more just world.

LOOKING BACK

Course correction
urgently needed

The price of gold rose steadily in 2024, while in Swiss parliament the value attributed to development aid fell – with parliament ultimately deciding to cut the annual budget for 2025 by CHF 110 million. Our gold study, published in May 2024, was unable to counter this. Despite raising awareness that 435 tonnes of gold are smuggled out of the African continent every year – due to a lack of regulation and no obligation to declare the origin of gold – we were not successful in preventing the budget cuts.

Together with our Sufosec Alliance, we also provided parliament with solid data demonstrating the effectiveness of agroecology – and here again, our efforts were unable to achieve their desired effect. The same applies to the tireless efforts of our employees, who devoted months of hard work under intense cost pressure in the hope of countering the cuts.

But none of this changes the fact that development cooperation works, and that the people engaged in this field achieve a great deal. The federal government has proof of this effectiveness – but is unfortunately reluctant to make it known. NGOs – us included – are cutting back on the information work that



no one wants to fund. People are unsettled, and have worries of their own. It’s no surprise then, that the perception of development cooperation has slowly deteriorated, and that it is now grossly undervalued.

The urgency of humanitarian aid may be undisputed, but this outlook needs to be matched by public emergency funding, so that this course can be corrected. We need a Federal Council that represents the sector with conviction. An administration that actively communicates the panoply of results on effectiveness. NGOs that dare to take a stand, to correct and to contradict. People who are open to the needs of their fellow human beings in the Global South – and are proud to defend them.

A course correction in development aid following the sharp decline of 2024 would be the right thing to do. Let’s start moving in that direction now. Thank you for supporting us as we do so.

Markus Allemann
Executive Director

NEW STUDIES

Agroecology on the rise

Agroecological farming methods are crucial in the fight against hunger in the poorest regions of the world. SWISSAID has been working with this sustainable approach for decades now, and received validation for it in 2024.

Actually, no one in the world should go hungry. The world produces 6 000 calories per person per day, almost three times as much as the average person needs. But despite this, 733 million people worldwide do not have enough to eat – 2.8 billion people are unable to afford a healthy diet rich in vitamins and minerals. Very little progress has been made in the fight against hunger since 2016. In 2024, the figures stagnated. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are receding ever further into the distance.

How can this be? "Our food system is like an hourglass. There are lots of producers and lots of consumers, but only a few actors in the middle making the decisions, and ending hunger is by no means their main priority," explains Johanna Jacobi, Professor for Agroecological Transitions at ETH Zurich.

Professor Jacobi sees agroecology as a "global response to the problem of the hourglass syndrome." She says: "Agroecology contributes to people's independence and food sovereignty because it builds knowledge about how to select and store seeds, how to make compost, and what tricks to use to keep weeds or pests at bay." Farmers are then no longer dependent on expensive seeds, pesticides or fertilisers from agricultural corporations. They can build their local food systems and networks, and are therefore better equipped to combat hunger.

Second nutrition report

SWISSAID has been focussing on a sustainable approach in its partner countries for decades. The Global Nutrition Report published in October 2024 provides further scientific support for this approach. Together with the Sufosec Alliance (Fastenaktion, Vivamos Mejor, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse, Aqua Alimentaria and the Skat Foundation), SWISSAID analysed the project areas under the close supervision of Johanna Jacobi, (ETH Zurich), the University of Bern and partner institutions in the Global South.

Every year from 2021 to 2023, more than 10 000 smallholder households in 19 countries were questioned on their food situation and their use of agroecological practices. Our approach combined the use of the UN's Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) with measurement of the use of 18 farming practices, which we grouped in the four categories of biodiversity, soil health, input reduction and synergies with livestock farming. The interviews took place locally, whenever possible with the female head of the household.



"Our food system is like an hourglass. There are a lot of producers and a lot of consumers, but only a few actors in the middle who make decisions, and they are not primarily interested in ending hunger."

Johanna Jacobi, Professor for Agroecological Transitions, ETH Zurich

The detailed responses were impressively positive, indicating that food insecurity had been reduced by up to 60 percent in the regions studied. Households that combine at least three agroecological farming methods from three different categories have, on average, a 34 percent lower risk of suffering from hunger.

Comprehensive account

In addition to the encouraging successes, however, the report also highlights limitations. Despite intense efforts undertaken in an agroecological project in Guéra, Chad, for example, food insecurity in the region rose from 74 to 92 percent. This development was caused by various factors, including a politically insecure situation, a large influx of refugees from the Sahel region, sharply rising food prices and severe flooding that inundated entire fields.

"While agroecology can also thrive under extreme climatic conditions, success depends on political and social stability, secure land ownership and access to markets," says Francesco Ajena, agroecology expert at SWISSAID.

In regions like this, long-term agroecological approaches must be combined with short-term humanitarian aid. SWISSAID addresses this issue with the Triple Nexus approach, which it applies in several projects. Emergency aid is combined with long-term development cooperation and peacebuilding, and comes into play as needed depending on the situation.

Resistant varieties

Further insights were provided by a study in Tanzania, where SWISSAID worked with scientists to assess the impact of agroecological practices on the cultivation of cassava and maize. The project was based on research by Angelika Hilbeck, an expert in agroecology and environmental biosafety at ETH Zurich, and was carried out in cooperation with the Sokoine University of Agriculture and local organisations. One innovative aspect was the use of specially developed apps to support the field research. The “Macho Sauti” app, for example, allowed farmers to take pictures of pest-infested plants and receive solutions from experts or other farmers.



Guinea-Bissau
**“Now we can eat
three meals a day”**

For a long time, Penda Queita from Madina Ioba, Guinea-Bissau, focussed on one particular product: cashew nuts. The smallholder was not alone in this – cashew is one of the small country’s most important exports, often planted in highly damaging monocultures that deplete the soil. With the support of SWISSAID, Penda Queita and her village have freed themselves from this vicious cycle of cashew cultivation. Use of new agroecological techniques has allowed the soil to recover, planting seasons and harvests have become more diverse. The women use the new products to make juices and compotes, which they sell at the market. They also know how to maintain – and utilise – the nearby forest in a sustainable way. All of this has helped to improve Penda Queita’s living situation. “In the past we were often hungry, but now we can eat three meals a day!”

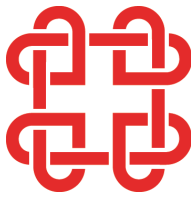


The importance of cassava

The study showed that locally adapted varieties are crucial for high yields. The “Kiroba” cassava variety proved to be particularly high-yielding and resistant to pests, without the need for expensive and labour-intensive control methods. Cassava is a key staple in Tanzania, as it thrives even under difficult conditions and the tuber can be used to make flour and porridge. The leaves can also be eaten. The Global Nutrition Report and the Tanzania study by SWISSAID have joined a growing number of scientific accounts that confirm the positive impact of agroecology on biodiversity, crop yields, food security and farmers’ incomes.

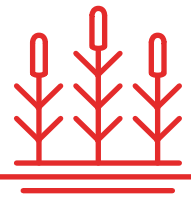
Higher margins

SWISSAID expert Francesco Ajena sees various reasons for this: “Agroecological methods are more resilient. They ensure soil health, strengthen natural ecosystems and improve biodiversity, as a result performing better than conventional agriculture.” Lower costs for fertilisers and seeds also mean higher profits. And with direct sales channels, farmers gain more negotiating power and thereby higher margins. These tangible benefits are also being felt in policy-making. Last November, for example, Colombia adopted its first national agroecology policy, as an important step in the transformation of agricultural systems. Colombia is the



The impact of our work

This is what we achieved in 2024 in our countries and our 60 projects:



101 159

hectares of land cultivated by smallholders. This corresponds to the area of the canton of Thurgau.



94 858

people sow local seeds, fertilise with natural compost, grow a variety of food crops or use other agro-ecological practices.



64

new seed banks are in operation. This means that 32 198 people now have access to local traditional seeds.

second country where SWISSAID operates to officially adopt the sustainable approach, following Tanzania. SWISSAID has been supervising and supporting both processes and will continue working with local partners to ensure the new strategy remains a priority for governments.

Transforming entire regions
Agroecology will remain SWISSAID’s central strategy in promoting food security, strengthening climate resilience, and fostering economic development. In the future, we will focus even more on an integrated development approach. Francesco Ajena: “It’s a question of connecting small farmers, markets, local institutions, economic actors and political decision-makers in such a way that the shift to agroecology benefits entire regions!”



Read more about the study by the Sufosec Alliance here!



India

Agroecology as a turning point

Mumtaz is 45 years old and illiterate. She owns five hectares of farmland with her husband Nawab Sab. For a long time, they did what they could with the conventional methods available to them. They struggled with depleted soil, poor yields and ongoing concerns about how to feed their family. In 2021, they switched to organic farming with the support of SWISSAID. This was a turning point for the family, and the soil has been healthier and thus more fertile ever since. Mumtaz is planting more diverse crops, which has led to a significant increase in yields. The couple can now sell their produce for better prices in the local markets. The family’s standard of living has improved – they are delighted with the results, and aim to expand their organic farming practices in the coming years.



Daniele Polini, Thematic Advisor Gender and WASH at SWISSAID

Women play a central role in agroecology. Why?

Daniele Polini: Because they make a significant contribution to food security and sustainable agriculture. They are often responsible for cultivation, seed selection and the passing on of traditional knowledge. This is how they feed their children and their families. Women are also particularly affected by the impacts of climate change, which is why their active participation in sustainable farming methods is crucial for resilient food systems.

SWISSAID considers women in every single project, and provides them with targeted support. What were the milestones of 2024?

There were quite a few... For example, we supported 18 551 female smallholders in generating their own income. In India, we launched food markets to support this goal. Women smallholders there now have the chance to improve their income by selling their sustainably produced vegetables at a

fair price – and thus also promote local food systems in the region. And almost 17 000 women have learnt to read and write in our ABC courses. This is the first step towards independence.

What were the difficulties last year?

Gender equality is a long-term goal – social structures must be fundamentally changed. Financing the necessary actions is often difficult, however. Nevertheless, together with our local gender experts, we are confident that we are making a meaningful contribution to a more equitable society.

SWISSAID in figures

298 041

people

were empowered to find their way out of hunger and poverty through our work in ten countries.

45 433

donors

supported us last year. Many thanks for your solidarity and support!

38 918

food parcels

were distributed by SWISSAID last year – helping **63 874 people in dire need**. Emergency aid is becoming increasingly important due to climate change, natural disasters and violent conflicts. Find out more about our emergency aid work at:

www.swissaid.ch/en/topics/emergency-aid-en



Water
45 859

people gained access to clean drinking water in 2024. We worked with them to build wells, lay pipes and establish water committees. Clean drinking water dramatically reduces child mortality.



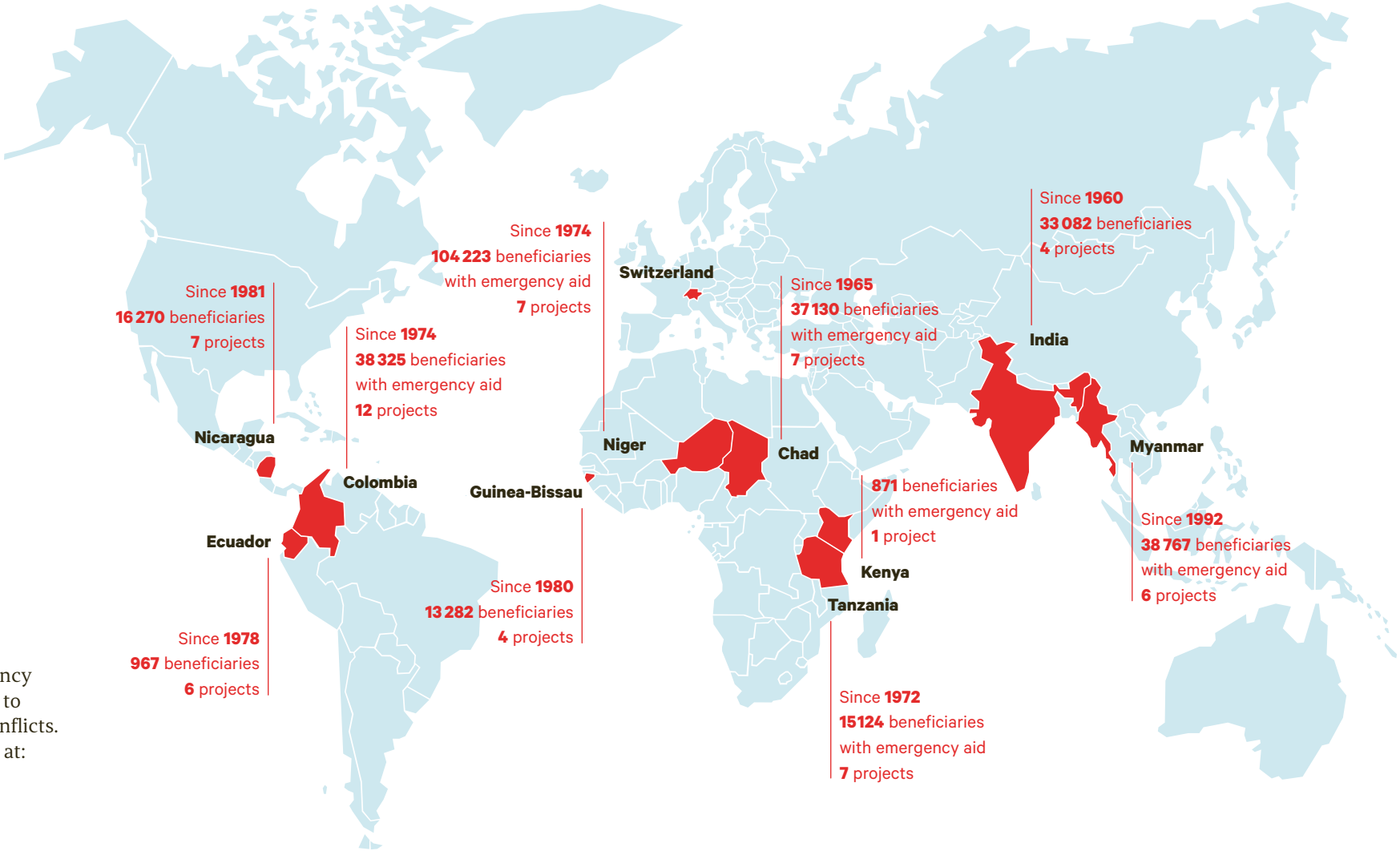
Agroecology and climate
94 858

people started applying agroecological practices. They plant locally adapted seeds, fertilise with compost and sell their products at local markets. This not only allows them to generate additional income, but also strengthens self-sufficient food systems in the region.



Gender
16 971

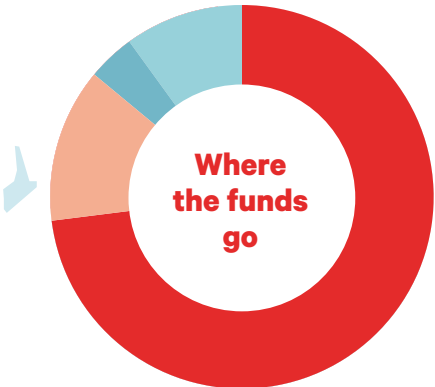
women learned to read, write and count. This boosts their self-confidence and prevents them from being cheated in the market. They are also able to pass on their knowledge to their children and thus bring about lasting change.



Financing



Use of funds



Milestones in 2024

February



Building a school, stone by stone

In Guinea-Bissau, SWISSAID prepared the ground for the construction of a school for agricultural micro-businesses, the first of its kind for SWISSAID. The project is aimed at benefiting women and young people in particular. The future entrepreneurs receive practical training and support in a programme that focuses on their actual needs, interests and capacities. The school uses approaches such as the SIYB (Start and Improve Your Business) method, a well-established programme designed by the UN's International Labour Organization.



March

A positive interim assessment

CROPS4HD is a flagship project for SWISSAID – together with our partners, we aim to improve nutrition and create new markets for smallholders using traditional, old seed varieties in Niger, Chad, India and Tanzania. The project is jointly financed by the SDC, and was launched in 2021. At the beginning of the year, workshops were held by Professor Jay Cummins with all the key stakeholders in N'Djamena and West Bengal. The goal of the workshops was to evaluate the progress of the project to date. The assessment was positive, confirming that the chosen push-pull policy was innovative and effective, and that all of those involved were highly motivated. The clear recommendation for the second phase – time to scale up! Instead of launching new activities, we will be focusing on expanding the scope of the approaches already introduced.



June

High-quality data for women's projects

Gender equality has always been a top priority for SWISSAID, and our WAVE (Women Against Violence Engagement) programme is aimed at reducing gender-based discrimination and violence. SWISSAID commissioned the University of Bern to conduct a three-year longitudinal study in Ecuador and Colombia in order to create a solid database. The first baseline study was published in the summer, including extensive interviews with beneficiaries, community members and peer groups. This undertaking provides SWISSAID with an excellent basis for reviewing and adapting the work being done on the ground, and for expanding it to other regions.

June

A big thank you!



After twelve intense years, Bastienne Joerchel stepped down from her position on the Board of Trustees Committee and as Co-President of SWISSAID. She received a big round of applause at the annual conference, and warm thanks for her valuable contribution over the years. "For you it was never about being the centre of attention, but always about serving the cause and the organisation," said Executive Director Markus Allemann. "We are delighted that you will not be leaving SWISSAID altogether, but will remain a member of the Board of Trustees."



April

Zibelemärit – Nigerien style

Onions as far as the eye can see: Bern's annual onion market (*Zibelemärit*) has a long-standing tradition dating back to 1869. Its Nigerien counterpart was held for just the second time in Niamey at the beginning of April, with three days devoted to the healthy vegetable. Smallholders from Soucoucoutane brought over 36 tonnes to the capital – two tonnes more than are sold at the market in Bern. White onions play an important role in the Soucoucoutane region of south-western Niger. Not only are they a valuable source of income, but also a mainstay of food security for people severely affected by the climate crisis. For many years now, SWISSAID has been supporting local smallholders in the cultivation, processing, sale and marketing of the valuable foodstuff.



April

Witnessing peace work in Colombia

Nothing is more convincing than seeing things with your own eyes, so a delegation of Swiss parliamentarians decided to travel to Colombia at their own expense. The country is coming to terms with its violent political past by engaging in a peace process with FARC rebels called "Paz Total". All parties are brought to the table with a view to ensuring that the population can live a life free of violence. SWISSAID has supported this process by creating networks for the prevention and exposure of violence, where women and men join forces in the interests of protection, equality and strengthening their own rights. The approach is bearing fruit: "I was impressed by the coherence of the work being done by SWISSAID," said National Councillor Benjamin Roduit (The Centre Party) following the trip.



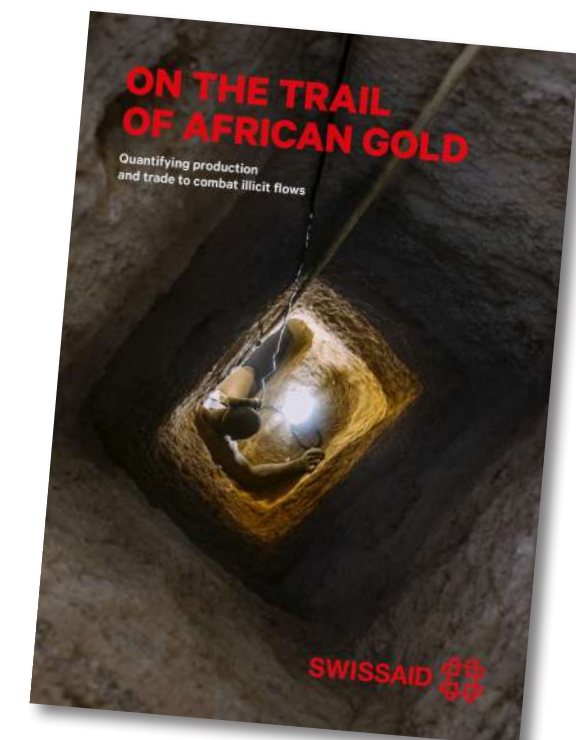
May

On the trail of gold smuggling

In Africa, between 321 and 474 tonnes of artisanal gold are produced annually without being declared. In 2022 alone, at least 435 tonnes of gold were smuggled out of the African continent. This figure was revealed by SWISSAID's raw materials experts in the organisation's second large-scale study entitled "On the trail of African gold". The results generated huge media interest both nationally and internationally, and were reported on by the *Financial Times*, the US TV channel *CNBC* and the news agencies *Reuters* and *Bloomberg*, among others. SWISSAID's efforts continue, as it analyses a wealth of data for every African country.



The results of this analysis are continuously being published on the website www.africangoldreport.org.





July

Misery in Myanmar

Hunger, desperation, flight: the people of Myanmar have long been suffering due to the conflicts in their country and big parts of the population rely on humanitarian aid. The situation has been further deteriorating recently, and as a result, SWISSAID launched an emergency aid programme in the summer. Families received emergency provisions of rice, onions, garlic, salt, oil and beans, and one of SWISSAID's partner organisations provided seeds and agricultural tools to vulnerable smallholders. Over 30 000 people benefited from this emergency aid. In March 2025, the situation worsened once again following a severe earthquake, and SWISSAID was there to provide emergency relief and support to those affected.



August

Fertile exchange in Nicaragua

Building networks, exchanging experiences – and learning from each other: all highly important aspects of agroecology. And this is why several events with precisely these focal points were held during the rainy season in Nicaragua. Smallholders, partner organisations and our local employees used these events to strengthen knowledge of the sustainable approach of agroecology, and promote native seeds. In Nicaragua, farmers have a long tradition of saving and replanting their own seeds. There are 426 seed banks in the country, with 18 new ones established in 2024. The valuable contents of these seed banks include 30 different types of corn and 53 different types of bean – giving 4 551 people the opportunity to plant a wide variety of crops in their fields. The seed banks and the local knowledge of agroecology will remain, even if our many years of work on the ground came to an end in March 2025.



October

The first local seeds in emergency aid

In situations of urgent need, local seed is often also in short supply, which is why some emergency aid organisations distribute imported hybrid seeds. These seeds are usually poorly adapted to local needs, and cannot be propagated by farmers. In a project together with Swiss Solidarity and a rural seed network in Kenya, SWISSAID is testing a new approach for the first time by supplying smallholders severely affected by climate change with traditional seeds. The beneficiaries can use vouchers to obtain their desired varieties at trade fairs in Baringo and Turkana. These seeds can then be planted and propagated, thereby restoring seed sovereignty to the smallholders and their environment. With community seed banks and training, the aim is for the entire region to be able to produce high-quality seed that smallholders can fall back on in times of need.



September

More solidarity with the Global South

"Sound the alarm – more solidarity now!" was the name of the campaign launched by various NGOs under the aegis of the umbrella organisation Alliance Sud with a view to raising awareness of the cutbacks in international cooperation. We toured Swiss cities with a red button, sending a clear signal to Bern – no cuts at the cost of our humanitarian tradition! We were in fact calling for the opposite – for additional funds to be provided for important aid to Ukraine, without reducing existing programmes in the poorest countries.



October

Sustainable nutrition starts locally



The second Sufosec nutrition report is here – and impressively demonstrates the impact of our work. The study involved questioning over 10 000 smallholder households in 19 countries about their food situation and their use of agroecological practices. It has been shown that food insecurity has been reduced by up to 60 percent in the regions studied. "Despite the adverse circumstances, we have made significant progress in the fight against hunger in the most vulnerable regions of the world," comments SWISSAID Executive Director Markus Allemann.

More about this in "Focus" from page 4.

November



Traditional visit to the Federal Palace

SWISSAID's trinket sale has a 76-year-long tradition. As a thank you for their valuable work, two school classes were invited to visit the Federal Palace in Bern at the end of November 2024. This year it was the turn of a class from Gampel in Canton Valais and one from Kriens in Canton Lucerne. The then Federal President Viola Amherd also took time to greet the children and present them with military chocolate and autograph cards as a thank you. The children were all very excited to be there, and wanted to know more about the life of the Federal Councillor. What a day!

December

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence



Prayas Chavan was just 13 years old when her family decided to marry her off, but she was not willing to let this happen. Together with SWISSAID employees, she attempted to reason with her parents, the village and the authorities – and succeeded in preventing the wedding from taking

place. Prayas is one of many young girls and women who suffer from these patriarchal structures. During the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence" campaign, SWISSAID raised awareness about abuse, organising a series of events, placing radio ads, putting up posters and organising discussion groups and workshops in India, as well as in Chad, Colombia and Switzerland.

The gender project in India was financed by the #EU with #16days of #equalrights



A new approach to helping people help themselves

Today, agroecology is a scientifically recognised and evidence-based approach to combating hunger. SWISSAID first learned about and came to appreciate the method decades ago thanks to our partner organisations in the Global South. The dialogues we have built through these partnerships were a central point of our work in 2024, and we aim to expand on this further through to 2028.



Nicole Stolz,
Head of Development Cooperation

My last trip took me to Guinea-Bissau in 2024. A small, somewhat forgotten country on the westernmost edge of Africa, and the point of departure for Portuguese ships carrying slaves headed for America in the middle of the 18th century. The colonial legacy weighs heavily – like many African countries,

Guinea-Bissau was exploited, subjected to one-sided agriculture based on export-oriented monocultures, and the local population dispossessed. On the way to our office, we also drove past the monument to freedom fighter Amílcar Cabral in the country's capital, Bissau. Cabral not only led Guinea-

Bissau to independence in the 1960s, but was also an agricultural engineer and a key figure in establishing autonomous and diverse food systems in Guinea-Bissau.

Learning from the smallholders

These achievements continue to influence some of the farmers' co-operatives to this day – the smallholders practise diverse cultivation, save and use their own seeds, avoid toxic pesticides and focus on local markets. There have also been similar movements in Nicaragua and Colombia.

While industrial agriculture was still in its heyday in the West, SWISSAID's close local partners were already moving on to agroecological farming techniques. It is thanks to their advanced expertise that SWISSAID established agroecology as a key element of its strategy more than 15 years ago. Today, the approach, which combines combating hunger with climate protection and social justice, is scientifically recognised and widely used.

Long-standing partnerships

It is no coincidence that we became aware of this method thanks to our partners in the South. SWISSAID has relied on close dialogue for many years, and our local offices are supported by "local advisory committees" and help actively with the strategic planning of the programmes. In this way, the knowledge that has become established in each country can be processed sustainably and flow into our work.

SWISSAID is renewing and strengthening this approach in its 2025–2028 strategy. We rely on local knowledge and dynamics and follow them actively and closely, promoting selected approaches in a targeted manner. Whenever we identify good practices, we network them with our institutional experience and reflect our thoughts back to our partners in our nine countries.

Our aim is to include more voices from the Global South in the highest steering committee in Switzerland. This also includes further strengthening our local structures and giving our employees in the coordination offices more weight, especially when it comes to organising the country programmes.

Little scope on a local level

In order to actually drive this strategy forward, more funds are needed for the Global South. For most of the funds provided, the areas that receive support are defined clearly and strictly by state donors or foundations. New requirements are continuously being imposed when it comes to controlling, and this has a huge impact on flexibility.

Despite these difficult conditions, we want to shift the decision-making process to the local partners. We are currently working on incorporating local development funds into projects whose purpose is decided by local stakeholders in our countries. And we are launching programmes that allow us to provide unbureaucratic support to partner organisations in their fight against hunger. Naturally, we always focus on ensuring that the donations and funds go where they are really needed.

Challenging goals

Our goal for 2028 is to have at least 30 percent of our Southern programme determined by local stakeholders. SWISSAID's role here is to negotiate with donors to allow for more local self-management so that the funds are used where it makes sense for the local population. And once we have achieved this, we will ultimately step back.

As challenging as our goal might be, it is also very clear – we want to use agroecology and gender equality to build climate-resilient, equitable and democratic food systems. Locally. Exactly where they are needed. This is the most effective form of development cooperation.

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



5 GENDER EQUALITY



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





Monika Uhlmann,
Head of Finance & HR

2024 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
COMMENT

We have a successful year behind us, especially in terms of project and programme financing. As in previous years, we were able to establish new partnerships with foundations and government institutions and achieve growth of 13 percent in this area. In a highly competitive environment, however, the volume of donations from mailings was slightly below average. This is an aspect we will have to focus on more closely in the future.

We would like to thank our long-standing and loyal donors, municipalities and cantons, companies and foundations for their reliable contributions. Their generous support, solidarity and trust in the work we do together with our partner organisations on the ground are invaluable to us.

Overall, SWISSAID implemented sustainable self-help projects worth a total of around 18.6 million Swiss francs with an international team in ten countries on three different continents. We invested 2.4 million Swiss francs in awareness-raising and information work in Switzerland. As a proportion of our operating expenses, 83 percent of our funds went to programme work, 4 percent to administration and 13 percent to fundraising. Around 67 percent of SWISSAID’s activities are financed by donations and project contributions from private individuals and institutions, while just under 22 per cent of the funding comes from the SDC programme contribution.

These annual accounts for 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Swiss GAAP FER and ZEWO standards. They were reviewed by the auditors Von Graffenried AG Treuhand in the framework of an annual audit, and found to be correct.

Balance

Assets (in CHF)	Notes *	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	5 235 794	4 372 399
Marketable securities	5.2	12 472 507	13 505 554
Receivables	5.3	69 048	109 307
Inventories		137 330	170 136
Deferred assets	5.4	184 084	18 363
Operating assets		18 098 763	18 175 759
Financial assets	5.5	637 116	136 923
Tangible assets	5.6	852 781	962 199
Intangible assets	5.7	21 370	30 141
Fixed assets		1 511 267	1 129 263
TOTAL ASSETS		19 610 030	19 305 022
Liabilities (in CHF)			
Liabilities from deliverables and services		459 254	861 129
Accrued expenses and deferred income	5.8	43 149	25 889
Short-term provisions	5.9	254 518	255 491
Short-term borrowed capital		756 921	1 142 509
Restricted Fund Programme South		2 402 803	2 039 296
Fund for the future		537	7 975
Fund for sponsoring organic farming projects		25 108	2 717
Fund for sponsoring water projects		1 370	9 980
Fund for sponsoring women’s projects		31 152	9 742
Fund for emergency aid		90 414	84 403
Fund SDC		0	0
Earmarked fund capital		2 551 384	2 154 112
SWISSAID programme fund		7 215 805	7 674 331
SWISSAID infrastructure fund		658,598	658,598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	5.10	1 617 438	1 734 749
Unrestricted capital		6 739 413	5 846 921
Unrestricted capital – SWISSAID Geneva	2	67 785	87,049
Unrestricted capital – SWISSAID Zurich	2	2 686	6,753
Organisational capital		16 301 725	16 008 401
TOTAL LIABILITIES		19 610 030	19 305 022

* The complete annual accounts with notes and explanations can be found on our website at www.swissaid.ch.

Operating accounts

Revenue (in CHF)	Notes 4.1	2024	2023
Unrestricted donations		5 795 975	6 093 656
Legacies		108 361	266 626
Sale of trinkets		298 208	334 186
Earmarked fund contributions	8	434 404	597 223
Earmarked donations & contributions to projects	7.1	9 567 019	7 053 219
Contributions to projects from Swiss Solidarity		150 000	62 000
Contributions to projects from FEDEVACO		157 508	160 593
Contributions to projects from FGC		249 707	218 426
Revenue from fundraising activities		16 761 181	14 785 929
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		46 116	247 404
SDC targeted contributions		2 668 309	2 738 191
Other operating revenue	7.2	7 771	15 151
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE		24 983 377	23 286 675
Expenditure (in CHF)			
Expenditure for international projects		16 490 350	15 492 471
Expenditure for programme support		2 165 466	2 381 977
Personnel expenses		1 974 231	2 022 588
Operating expenses		191 234	359 388
Expenditure for the international programme	7.4	18 655 816	17 874 448
Information and public-awareness programme in Switzerland		1 062 130	1 250 429
Expenditure for programme support		1 378 235	1 132 092
Personnel expenses		1 210 007	1 065 851
Operating expenses		168 228	66 241
Expenditure for the Swiss programme	7.4	2 440 365	2 382 521
Fundraising and general expenditure on publicity	7.4	3 309 112	3 441 090
Administrative expenditure	7.4	1 036 609	988,195
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE		25 441 903	24 686 254
OPERATING RESULT		– 458 526	–1 399 579
Financial result	7.5	1 073 251	432,413
Non-operating result	7.6	64 308	60 456
Result carried over from previous periods	7.7	11 563	12 545
RESULT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN FUND CAPITAL		690 596	– 894 164
Change in restricted fund capital		– 397 271	– 928 644
RESULT PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN ORGANISATION CAPITAL		293 324	– 1 822 809
Change in the SWISSAID programme fund		– 293 324	1 822 809
INCOME CARRIED OVER IN FAVOUR OF PROCESSED FUNDS		0	0

Statement of changes in capital 2024

	Opening balance	Income (internal)	Allocation (external)	Internal fund transfer	Use	Change	Closing balance
Funds from fund capital (CHF)							
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the southern hemisphere	2 039 296	0	12 838 659	0	- 12 475 152	363 507	2 402 803
Fund for the future	7 975	0	121 562	0	- 129 000	- 7 438	537
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project	2 717	0	182 391	0	- 160 000	22 391	25 108
Fund for sponsoring a water project	9 980	0	51 390	0	- 60 000	- 8 610	1 370
Fund for sponsoring a women's project	9 742	0	181 410	0	- 160 000	21 410	31 152
Fund for emergency aid	84 403	0	6 011	0	0	6 011	90 414
SDC fund	0	0	5 500 000	0	- 5 500 000	0	0
Fund capital earmarked with restrictions	2 154 112	0	18 881 423	0	- 18 484 152	397 271	2 551 384
Own funds (CHF)							
SWISSAID programme fund	7 674 331	0	0	0	- 458 526	- 458 526	7 215 805
SWISSAID infrastructure fund	658 598	0	0	0	0	0	658 598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	1 734 749	0	0	0	- 117 311	- 117 311	1 617 438
Free capital generated	5 846 921	0	0	0	892 492	892 492	6 739 413
Free capital SWISSAID Geneva	87 049	0	- 19 264	0	0	- 19 264	67 785
Free capital SWISSAID Zurich	6 753	0	- 4 067	0	0	- 4 067	2 686
Annual result	0	0	293 324	0	- 293 324	0	0
Organisational capital	16 008 401	0	269 994	0	23 331	293 324	16 301 725

Statement of changes in capital 2023

	Opening balance	Income (internal)	Allocation (external)	Internal fund transfer	Use	Change	Closing balance
Funds from fund capital (CHF)							
Fund for donations ring-fenced for the southern hemisphere	1 185 643	0	10 479 833	0	- 9 626 180	853 653	2 039 296
Fund for the future	0	0	277 975	0	- 270 000	7 975	7 975
Fund for sponsoring an organic farming project	2 683	0	163 891	1 143	- 165 000	34	2 717
Fund for sponsoring a water project	0	0	59 980	0	- 50 000	9 980	9 980
Fund for sponsoring a women's project	0	0	164 742	0	- 155 000	9 742	9 742
Fund for emergency aid	37 142	0	197 261	0	- 150 000	47 261	84 403
SDC fund	0	0	5 500 000	0	- 5 500 000	0	0
Fund capital earmarked with restrictions	1 225 468	0	16 843 682	1 143	- 15 916 180	928 644	2 154 112
Own funds (CHF)							
SWISSAID programme fund	9 073 910	0	0	0	- 1 399 579	- 1 399 579	7 674 331
SWISSAID infrastructure fund	658 598	0	0	0	0	0	658 598
Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies	1 444 103	0	290 646	0	0	290 646	1 734 749
Free capital generated	6 581 256	0	0	- 1 143	- 733 192	- 734 335	5 846 921
Free capital SWISSAID Geneva	69 309	0	17 740	0	0	17 740	87 049
Free capital SWISSAID Zurich	4 034	0	2 719	0	0	2 719	6 753
Annual result	0	0	- 1 822 809	0	1 822 809	0	0
Organisational capital	17 831 210	0	- 1 511 704	- 1 143	- 309 962	- 1 822 809	16 008 401

Cash flow statement

Cash flow from operations (CHF)	2024	2023
Annual result before changes in funds	690 596	– 894 164
Depreciation and amortisation of tangible fixed assets and intangible assets	158 473	190 967
Net writeoffs (-) / net accumulation (+) of provisions	– 973	54 153
Profit (-) / loss (+) from securities and cash and cash equivalents	– 920 332	– 473 145
Decrease (+) / increase (-) receivables	40 260	192 169
Decrease (+) / increase (-) stocks	32 806	7 672
Decrease (+) / increase (-) prepaid accrued income	– 165 722	49 384
Decrease (+) / increase (-) accounts payable	– 401 875	284 017
Decrease (+) / increase (-) accrued liabilities	17 260	11 267
Cash flow from operations	– 549 507	– 577 680

Cash flow from investing activities		
Investments (-) marketable securities	– 500 193	– 158
Investments (-) / divestitures (+) tangible fixed assets	– 21 735	– 283 313
Investments (-) / divestitures (+) real estate	0	0
Investments (-) / divestitures (+) intangible assets	– 18 550	– 8 134
Investments (-) securities	– 4 596 603	– 7 586 413
Divestitures (+) securities	6 549 982	7 748 308
Cash flow from investing activities	1 412 902	– 129 709

Cash flow from financing activities		
Cash flow from financing activities	0	0

Increase (+) / decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalents	863 395	– 707 390
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Changes in cash		
Cash and cash equivalents fund 1.1.	4 372 399	5 079 788
Cash and cash equivalents fund 31.12.	5 235 794	4 372 399
Increase (+) / decrease (-) in cash and cash equivalents	863 395	– 707 390

Notes to the financial statements

0. Number of full-time positions

The average number of full-time equivalents for the year was 218.4 (previous year: 220.5).

1. General accounting principles

The accounts are prepared in accordance with the SWISS GAAP FER accounting recommendations and comply with the Swiss Code of Obligations, the regulations of the ZEWO (Swiss Organization for Charitable Organizations) and the provisions of the Articles of Association. The securities result is posted directly to the operating account in accordance with the gross principle with book gains and losses reported.

2. Scope of consolidation

The accounts of the coordination offices responsible for implementing the southern programs and the SWISSAID Geneva and SWISSAID Zurich associations are fully integrated into these financial statements. Furthermore, SWISSAID does not have any subsidiaries or partner institutions over which it exercises a controlling influence.

3. Related organizations

The following organizations and institutions are affiliated with SWISSAID: Sufosec (Alliance with Fastenaktion, Aqua Alimenta, Vivamos Mejor, VSF-Suisse, Skat Foundation), Alliance Sud (SWISSAID working group, Fastenaktion, Solidar Suisse, Terre des hommes Suisse, Helvetas, Caritas, Heks, Swiss Red Cross, Brücke Le Pont, Biovision, Unité, Comundo, Vivamos Mejor). Alliance Sud received CHF 220 000 (previous year CHF 190 000) towards the annual budget in accordance with the contractual basis. SWISSAID is represented on the board of other organizations, without allocation of substantial contributions. The unpaid contributions from third parties in favor of SWISSAID only account for an insignificant proportion of the overall result and are therefore not listed.

4. Accounting and valuation principles

Position	Valuation method
Cash and cash equivalents	At nominal value
Securities	Market value as of the balance sheet date
Foreign currencies	Exchange rate as of the closing date
Loans, receivables, and financing commitments	Nominal value
Inventories	At acquisition cost minus necessary value adjustments
Financial investments	Acquisition cost minus economically justified linear depreciation
Furniture, machinery, and equipment	Acquisition cost minus scheduled linear depreciation. Useful life: Furniture 10 years, IT equipment 3 years, machinery 3–6 years. Capitalization threshold: CHF 3000 (IT: CHF 1000)
Real estate Switzerland	Acquisition cost minus scheduled linear depreciation. No depreciation is applied to land. Useful life: 75 years
Real estate abroad	Acquisition cost minus scheduled linear depreciation. Useful life: 25 years
Intangible assets	Investments in software are recognized as intangible assets and depreciated linearly over the expected useful life (3 years).
Liabilities	At nominal value
Provisions	Amount based on management's assessment, reflecting expected future expenses as at the balance sheet date

4.1 Recognition of income

Unrestricted donations, restricted donations, and project contributions	Revenue from fundraising among the general public is recorded upon receipt of payment. If the donor provides specific instructions, the funds are recorded as restricted donations; otherwise, they are recorded as unrestricted donations.
Legacies	Income from legacies and inheritances is recorded either at the time of payment (for cash amounts) or at the time of the legal transfer of ownership (for real estate, etc.).
Deliveries/Services	Revenue from goods deliveries and service income is recorded at the time the service is provided.
Rental income	Rental income is recorded as revenue at the time the service is provided.

5. Notes to the balance sheet

5.1 Cash and cash equivalents (CHF)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Cash registers / Postfinance / Domestic banks	4 165 936	2 963 835
Foreign banks	1 069 858	1 408 563
Total cash and cash equivalents	5 235 794	4 372 398

The change in cash and cash equivalents is explained in the cash flow statement.

5.2 Marketable securities (CHF)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Bonds	7 460 538	8 316 102
Shares	4 236 569	4 250 894
Real estate funds	775 400	938 557
Total current assets held at market price	12 472 507	13 505 554

5.3 Receivables (CHF)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Withholding tax credit balance	46 514	45 804
Receivables from deliveries	22 534	63 503
Total other short-term receivables	69 048	109 307

5.4 Deferred assets (CHF)	Balance 01.01.2024	Reversals 2024	Additions 2024	Balance 31.12.2024
Accrual for projects	0	0	162 372	162 372
Other accruals	27 909	- 27 909	21 712	21 712
Accrual for property	- 9 546	9 546	0	0
Total deferred assets	18 363	- 18 363	184 084	184 084

5.4 Deferred assets 2023 (CHF)	Balance 01.01.2023	Reversals 2023	Additions 2023	Balance 31.12.2023
Accrual for projects	0	0	0	0
Other accruals	62 350	- 62 350	27 909	27 909
Accrual for property	5 397	- 5 397	- 9 546	- 9 546
Total accrued income and prepaid expenses	67 747	- 67 747	18 363	18 363

5.5 Financial assets (CHF)

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Claro Fair Trade AG	30 000	30 000
Fairpicture AG	50 000	50 000
Loan Vétérinaires Sans Frontières	500 000	0
Registered shares Claro Fair Trade AG	1	1
Share certificates Société Coopérative Philea International	1	1
Remei AG	10 000	10 000
Voting shares Alternative Bank ABS	20 000	20 000
Rental deposit accounts	27 114	26 921
Value adjustments financial investments	0	0
Total financial investments	637 116	136 923

5.6 Tangible assets (CHF)	Facilities	Land and buildings domestic buildings	Real estate abroad	Total real estate	Total tangible assets
Acquisition values 01.01.2024	1 304 441	1 040 000	448 481	1 488 481	2 792 922
Investments 2024	21 735	0	0	0	21 735
Sales 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Reversed depreciations 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition values 31.12.2024	1 326 176	1 040 000	448 481	1 488 481	2 814 657
Cumulative depreciations 01.01.2024	962 762	471 224	396 738	867 962	1 830 724
Scheduled depreciations 2024	97 487	22 074	11 591	33 665	131 152
Reversed depreciations 2024	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation balance 31.12.2024	1 060 249	493 298	408 329	901 627	1 961 876
Net value of tangible assets 31.12.2024	265 927	546 702	40 152	586 854	852 781

The investments were in IT for our employees in Switzerland, office renovations at Lorystrasse in Bern and a power generator for our coordination office in Myanmar.

5.6 Tangible assets 2023 (CHF)	Facilities	Land and buildings domestic buildings	Real estate abroad	Total real estate	Total tangible assets
Acquisition values 01.01.2023	1 021 129	1 040 000	448 481	1 488 481	2 509 610
Investments 2023	283 313	0	0	0	283 313
Sales 2023	0	0	0	0	0
Reversed depreciations 2023	0	0	0	0	0
Acquisition values 31.12.2023	1 304 442	1 040 000	448 481	1 488 481	2 792 923
Cumulative depreciations 01.01.2023	833 315	449 150	385 147	834 297	1 667 612
Scheduled depreciations 2023	129 447	22 074	11 591	33 665	163 112
Reversed depreciations 2023	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation balance 31.12.2023	962 762	471 224	396 738	867 962	1 830 724
Net value of tangible assets 31.12.2023	341 680	568 776	51 743	620 519	962 199

The investments relate to IT for our employees in Switzerland, a remodeling of our office on Lorystrasse in Berne and vehicles and power generators for our coordination offices in Niger, Myanmar and Chad.

5.7 Intangible assets (CHF)	Software 2024	Software 2023
Acquisition values 01.01.	396 313	338 179
Investments by year	18 550	8 134
Transfer of work-in-Progress to finished products	0	0
Acquisition values 31.12.	414 863	396 313
Cumulative depreciations 01.01.	366 173	338 317
Scheduled depreciations by year	27 320	27 855
Depreciation balance 31.12.	393 493	366 172
Net value of intangible assets 31.12.	21 370	30 140

The investments are for an update of the Abacus ERP system (E-Banking, foreign currency, liquidity and budget planning).

5.8 Accrued expenses and deferred income 2024 (CHF)	Balance 01.01.	Reversals	Additions	Balance 31.12.
Accrual for projects	2 895	– 2 895	24 989	24 989
Other accruals	22 994	– 22 994	9 173	9 173
Accrual for property	0	0	8 987	8 987
Total accrued expenses and deferred income	25 889	– 25 889	43 149	43 149

5.8 Accrued expenses and deferred income 2023 (CHF)	Balance 01.01.	Reversals	Additions	Balance 31.12.
Accrual for projects	0	0	2 895	2 895
Other accruals	1 200	– 1 200	22 994	22 994
Accrual for property	13 421	– 13 421	0	0
Total deferred income and accruals	14 621	– 14 621	25 889	25 889

5.9 Short-term provisions 2024 (CHF)	Balance 01.01.	Outflows	Inflows	Balance 31.12.
Provisions for employee benefits	255 491	973	0	254 518
Other provisions	0	0	0	0
Total short-term provisions	255 491	973	0	254 518

Provisions for employee benefits relate to overtime and outstanding holiday entitlements of employees in Bern and Lausanne. They remained virtually unchanged compared to the previous year, with a slight decrease of CHF 973.

5.9 Short-term provisions 2023 (CHF)	Balance 01.01.	Outflows	Inflows	Balance 31.12.
Provisions for employee benefits	201 338	0	54 153	255 491
Other provisions	0	0	0	0
Total short-term provisions	201 338	0	54 153	255 491

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

5.10 Fluctuation reserve for securities and foreign currencies

The target minimum balance is based on the provisions of the internal regulations and is fully accumulated. For the balance and changes, see the statement of changes in capital.

6. Compensation to the governing bodies

Compensation to the governing bodies 2024		
Remuneration president BTC:	Flat-rate compensation Co-President*:	CHF 7 500 p. a.
	Flat-rate compensation Vice President:	CHF 2 000 p. a.
Remuneration Executive Board:	Total salary costs for the Executive Committee as a whole (4 Pers.):	CHF 601 510 p. a.
Meeting allowances BTC:	Half-day meetings CHF 200, full-day meetings CHF 300	
Expenses domestic/foreign:	Expenses are reimbursed upon receipts submitted.	
Total compensation BTC:	CHF 19 100 (flat-rate compensation, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2024	
of which president:	CHF 9 700 (flat-rate compensation, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2024	

*president from July 2024 onwards

Compensation to the governing bodies 2023		
Remuneration president BTC:	Flat-rate compensation Co-Chairmanship:	CHF 9 000 p. a.
	Flat-rate compensation Vice President:	CHF 2 000 p. a.
Remuneration Executive Board:	Total salary costs for the Executive Committee as a whole (4 Pers.):	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 compensation, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2023	
of which president:	CHF 11 300 (flat-rate compensation, meeting allowances, expenses, less donations) for 2023	

7. Notes to the operating accounts

7.1 Earmarked donations & contributions to projects (CHF)	2024	2023
Proof of the use of funds is provided by project accounting and is subject to audit.		
Contribution to projects, municipalities	510 500	469 250
Contribution to projects, cantons and lottery funds	498 430	718 900
Contribution to projects, LED	400 000	400 000
Contribution to projects, foundations	2 465 026	2 291 190
Contributions to projects, churches, private individuals and SMEs	1 262 107	940 253
Raising of own funds, South	4 430 956	2 233 626
Total earmarked contributions to projects	9 567 019	7 053 219

7.2 Other operating income (CHF)	2024	2023
Sale of material and gifts	0	12 200
Miscellaneous income, including fees and losses on bad debts	7 771	2 951
Total other operating income	7 771	15 151

7.3 Forwarding of programme contribution to contractual partner Skat Foundation

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 ZEWO 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.

	Expenses inter-national prog.	Expenses domestic prog.	Fundraising and advertising	Administrative expenses	Total operating expenses
Programme expenses	16 490 350	1 062 130	2 047 916	33 750	19 634 147
Personnel expenses	1 974 231	1 210 007	1 118 669	750 322	5 053 229
Expenses for goods and services	269 460	159 506	136 608	216 134	775 257
Depreciation of assets	28 037	8 410	5 607	36 091	78 146
Cost allocation	– 106 262	312	312	312	– 105 326
Total operating expenses 2024 (CHF)	18 655 816	2 440 365	3 309 112	1 036 609	25 441 903

In addition to the depreciation/amortisation shown separately above (tangible fixed assets and intangible assets), CHF 80 325 (prior year CHF 90 473) of depreciation/amortisation is included directly in programme expenses.

7.4 Operating expenses 2023

The ZEWO 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.

	Expenses inter-national prog.	Expenses domestic prog.	Fundraising and advertising	Administrative expenses	Total operating expenses
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	0	– 106 657	– 106 657	– 106 657	– 319 971
Total operating expenses 2023 (CHF)	17 874 448	2 382 521	3 441 090	998 195	24 686 254

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

7.5 Financial result (CHF)	2024	2023
Financial income		
Interest income / dividends from securities	248 557	194 580
Exchange gains on securities	1 808 219	631 904
Exchange rate gain on currencies	285 161	54 847
Total financial income	2 341 937	881 331

Financial expenses		
Exchange rate loss on securities	– 884 357	– 92 962
Exchange rate loss on currencies	– 223 803	– 196 389
Bank charges, fees, deposit fees	– 160 526	– 159 567
Total financial expenses	– 1 268 686	– 448 918

Financial income	1 073 251	432 413
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7.6 Non-operating result (CHF)	2024	2023
Property expenses	– 13 059	– 14 544
Property income	77 367	75 000
Total non-operating result	64 308	60 456

7.7 Other income not related to the period (CHF)	2024	2023
Refund of input tax Ecuador, CO2 return, accident insurance bonus	11 563	12 545
Result carried over from previous periods	11 563	12 545

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 Program 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.

11. Liabilities to pension funds (CHF)

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
GEPABU (included in accounts payable)	- 3 193	- 884
Publica (included in accounts payable)	0	0

The annual pension expense of CHF 294 735.60 (prior year 291 268) 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)

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
< 1 year	144 744	137 840

13. Contingent liability (CHF)

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
As a member of the simple partnership Site 52 in Lausanne, SWISSAID has rented office space and a parking space and is jointly and severally liable for the payment of the rent.	p.m.	p.m.
Ongoing legal dispute	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 2024 financial statements.

15. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements for 2024 were approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees on 19 March 2025.

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,

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

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.

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;

Didier Berberat, Attorney at Law, Former Member of the Council of States, La Chaux-de-Fonds, since 2016;

Peter Bischof, Former Ambassador, Bellach, since 2018;

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 (died);

Léo Caduff, MSc in Molecular Life Sciences, Nidau, since 2024;

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

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;

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;

Bastienne Joerchel Anhorn, Former Co-President SWISSAID, Economist, Renens, since 2012;

Odile Keller, Economist, Belfaux, since 2019;

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;

Ruth Rauch, lic. rer. pol., Team- and Organisational Development, Bern, since 2004;

Stefan C. Rist, Professor of Human Geography, University of Bern, Bern, since 2017;

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

Fabian Molina, President SWISSAID, Member of the National Council, Zurich, since 2018;

Nicolas Bezençon, Agronomist, Head of Rural Development at AGRIDEA and Lecturer at the Vaud University of Teacher Education, Lausanne, since 2024;

Dr. Claudia Friedl, Member of the National Council and Environmental Scientist, St. Gallen, since 2015;

Willi Graf, Former Employee of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Bern, since 2024;

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 2024

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 2024 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 2024 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 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.



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 financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Berne, 2 May 2025 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 19’610’030, income statement with an operating result of CHF – 458’526, cash flow statement, statement of change in capital and notes)

**“Coletha opened not just my eyes,
but those of all the villagers.”**

Coletha and her husband. She completed the SWISSAID training programme on leadership and equality for a liveable future for women in Tanzania.



Thank you!

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all our donors for their valuable support. Your generosity and solidarity allow us to bring about lasting change to the lives of many people in the Global South. We would especially like to thank all those who included us in their will – their bequest will leave a lasting impact.



We are also very grateful to the numerous companies and suppliers who provided their services at reduced rates or free of charge. Our special thanks go to the following:

Institutions

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Geneva Federation for Cooperation (FGC), Vaud Federation for Cooperation (FEDEVACO), Liechtenstein Development Service (LED), Office for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein and Swiss Solidarity.

Cantons

Graubünden and the lottery funds of the cantons of Aargau, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Obwalden, Schwyz, St. Gallen and Uri.

Cities, towns and municipalities

Baar, Belp, Bern, Maur, Solothurn, Uznach, Zug, Zurich.

Companies and foundations

Arete Ethik Invest AG, Leopold Bachmann Foundation, CHARISMA Foundation for Sustainable Development, Corrado Foundation, Client Systems AG, Corymbo Foundation, Däster Schild Foundation, Dreiklang Foundation, F.G. Pfister Foundation, Hug-Verlag AG, Irene M. Staehelin Foundation, Alfred and Eugénie Baur Foundation, Sandoz Family Foundation, Ernest Matthey Foundation, Linsi Foundation, Medicor Foundation, Menzli Sport AG, Migros Support Fund, Third Millennium Fund, Salud y Vida Foundation, Swiss National Bank, Somaha Foundation, Anne-Marie Schindler Foundation, Sonnenschein Foundation, Temperatio Foundation, Tsadik Foundation, UTIL Foundation, Volkart Foundation, Dr Lukas Werenfels Foundation.

Parishes and associations

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