

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2021**



**WHAT  
MAKES WOMEN  
UNBEATABLE?**

**Our vision is a just world in which all men and women determine the course of their lives in dignity and security, using environmental resources in a sustainable manner.**

**“We want our children to have the choice we didn’t have – to be able to study and find a good job.”**



Marignoré Sabi Titori,  
cotton producer,  
Benin

**“I completed the 16-week-training with an award. I am happy to have attended a course that jump-started my career as developer.”**



Angela Shegani,  
newly trained software developer,  
Albania

**“We were told that we women count for less. Many women do not know that we have the same rights as men.”**



Clemencia López Cabrera,  
member of the local development council,  
Guatemala

**FAIR OPPORTUNITIES**  
make women unbeatable, and skills development plays a major part in creating those opportunities. Earning an income of their own makes women financially independent and reinforces their role in society. Everyone needs a fair opportunity to be able to determine their own future.

Eniana Kasapi, trainee in food trade, Albania

Cover photo: Nilza Tina de Paulo, trainee in metal works, Mozambique



© Helvetas Bangladesh

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### IMPRINT

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# INNOVATING TO FIGHT INEQUALITY

**Hunger and wars endanger and destroy people's chances in life. Development is necessary because progress and prosperity are the fertile ground for peace. Helvetas is committed to fair opportunities for all.**

## Setbacks on Development Progress

Not long ago, we were on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals in many parts of the world. Poverty was declining and so was child mortality. Now those rates are rising again; hunger and poverty are increasing, with the war in Ukraine making matters worse. A far greater effort than before is needed to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals. It requires innovative organizations, such as Helvetas, that assist and strengthen people's position with an eye on the future. With your support, young people in cities are earning an income, women are managing their finances with new apps, farmers are increasing their yields using climate-resistant seeds, and municipalities are improving their services.

I am honored to serve in my new role as Vice-Chair and help drive progress at Helvetas – a strong partner, a solidly positioned organization that initiates positive change, and an NGO dedicated to providing rapid humanitarian aid in situations of greatest need, as is currently the case in Ukraine.

On behalf of the Helvetas USA Board, thank you for your trust, financial support and commitment to our

common cause. Supporters like you enable us to work for fair life chances so that people affected by poverty, war and disasters can shape their lives in a self-determined way.



**Avery Bang**, Helvetas USA Board Vice-Chair

## Creating Fertile Ground for Peace

We have had a hopeful outlook about development in recent years as people's lives around the world saw steady improvements. But today it seems as if the world is coming apart at the seams. People worldwide are fighting for peace, justice and equal rights – but also for their sheer survival. A pandemic and wars are threatening our health, food security and basic education, as well as weakening the economy and increasing inequality. In the past year alone, the combined fortunes of the world's 2,755 billionaires have increased by

more than five trillion dollars, while at the same time 160 million people who had just lifted themselves out of poverty have been pushed back into it.

Such great levels of inequality endanger peace. When poverty is widespread, conflicts are often not far away, be it over coveted natural resources such as water and land or over political domination. Resentment boils up in fast-expanding cities and among young people without any job prospects. Disasters, conflicts, climate change and now the war in Ukraine are ruining people's opportunities in life. Without opportunities, however, there is no social cohesion. Development is indispensable because it offers fertile ground for peace, as does peace for development. Thank you for contributing to creating new prospects for disadvantaged people.



**Christian Steiner**, Helvetas USA Chief Executive Officer

# WHY DOES DEMOCRACY FLOURISH IN THE OPEN AIR?

Services can be improved by taking planning out of the office and to the people. As part of the Sharique project in Bangladesh, municipal authorities now carry out some of their work in public, accounting for their work and expenditure, project plans and budgets. They debate priorities with voters and have tripled spending on concerns of women and for the most disadvantaged people.

# POVERTY OR PROSPERITY IS A MATTER OF CHANCE

**For every one of us, where we are born is our single greatest chance in life. Where we are born determines our opportunities later in life. The promise of equal opportunities for all is the greatest broken promise of today's world.**

Every child has the right to a healthy life. But, worldwide, 450 million children have no access to safe drinking water. Their chance for healthy development and a good education is thus hampered from the start. An environment's social and political context determines the opportunities and obstacles in a person's life – no matter where you are born in the world.

According to research by World Bank economist Branko Milanovic, more than 50 percent of a person's income can be explained by their country of birth, and 20 percent by their family background. In other words, prosperity is only minimally related to individual performance and personal responsibility. Prosperity depends primarily on geographical and family origin. Thirst for knowledge, ideas and talent play

**Fair opportunities must not be left to chance**  
 People need fair opportunities if they are to escape from poverty. Equal opportunities begin with basic needs being met. Clean drinking water, healthy food, and protection from the effects of climate change are necessary preconditions for people to shape their future without being crushed by the hardships of daily life.

Giving people fair opportunities also requires schools, vocational training and job prospects that allow people to earn a secure income. This in turn provides women and men with the opportunity to build a life for themselves and look after their families.

Last but not least, having a fair chance in life means being protected from discrimination and persecution, and being heard. If you have a voice, you can change and shape your environment.

a subordinate role. They only come into play when someone is given the chance to develop them. Or, as Napoleon summarized, "Ability is nothing without opportunity."

A child in the United States will get a promising start in life, thanks to the country's robust healthcare system, quality education offerings, economic opportunities and democratic institutions, as well as its stable location in North America.

**Fair chances to fight poverty**  
 In many parts of the world, however, children simply do not have these fundamental advantages at birth and in early life. It is an accident of birth that people in the United States only have to turn on the tap to satisfy our thirst, while up until November 2021 Madina Muhuthage (p. 19) had to draw water for her children from a dirty hole in the ground.

It was an accident of birth that made it impossible for Sundar Thapa from Nepal to receive any vocational training. Although he was able to attend school, he could not learn a trade because of his parents' poverty. Now he sells cheap wares from his hawker's tray to bus passengers in Kathmandu, and has neither a regular income nor any form of social security. He regrets never having had a chance to forge a more secure future for himself and his family.

Gender is another factor that affects the course of a person's life. The World Bank estimates that, on average, women have only three-quarters of the legal rights that men enjoy. That "on average" is misleading, though. Only ten countries in the world guarantee women precisely the same rights as men; the United States is not one of them, because women are disadvantaged by childcare, unequal pay and other gendered factors.



© Narendra Shrestha

Sundar Thapa selling cheap wares on the streets of Kathmandu. He regrets not having had a chance to get a vocational training.

Billions of women were born by chance in countries where they have fewer rights than men, and where social realities impede them from exercising those

**157,998**  
 girls and boys got their chance to go to school in 2021 thanks to Helvetas.

rights. Such is the case of Clemencia López Cabrera from Guatemala, who for a long time believed people around her when they said that women and their opinions counted for less.

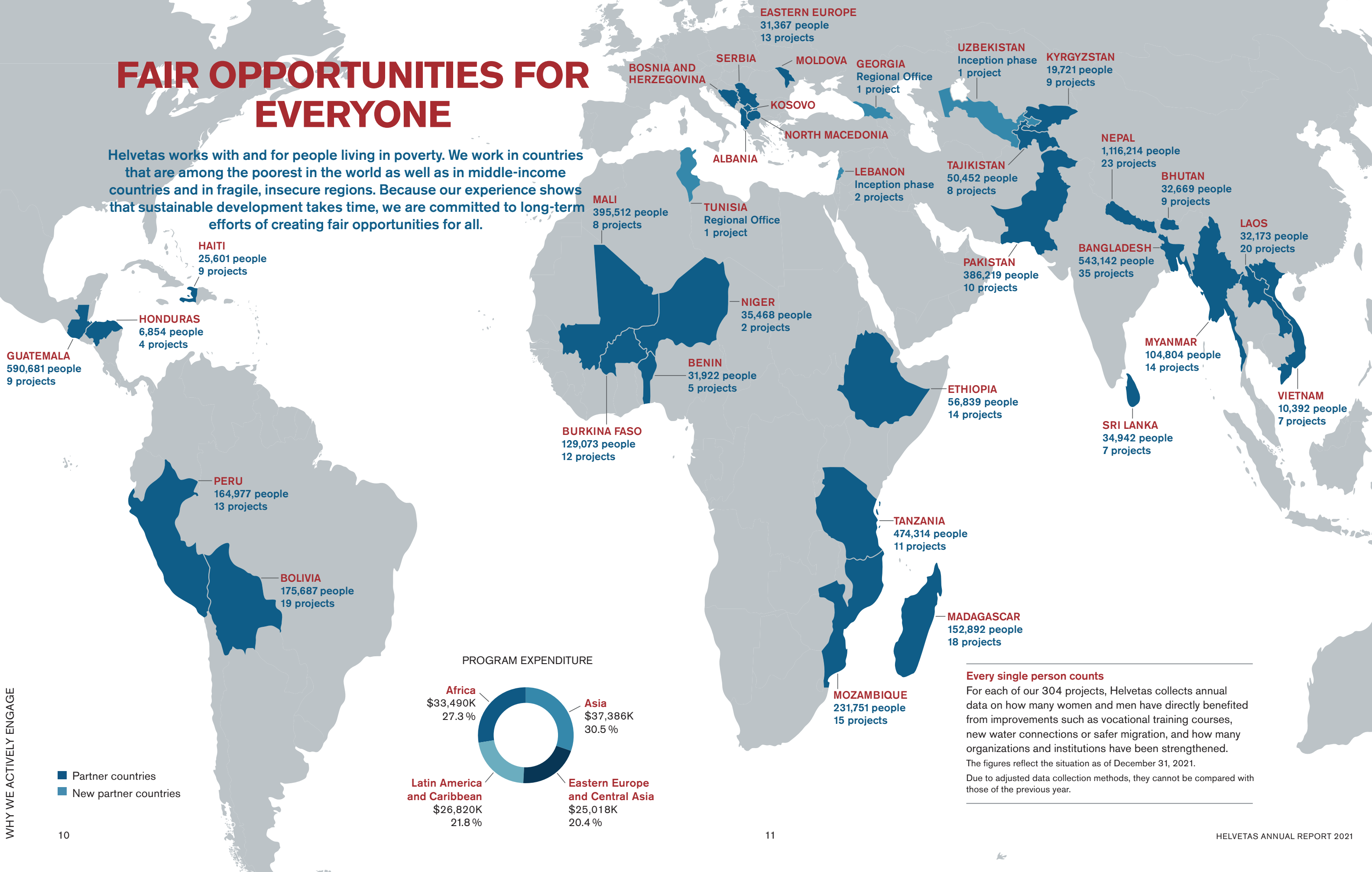
**A secure future in a world worth living in**  
 Regardless of where we happened to be born, we all share the same values and the same heartfelt concerns. These include the need for autonomy and self-determi-

nation, the longing for security and recognition, and the desire and concern that our own children should have a secure future in a world worth living in.

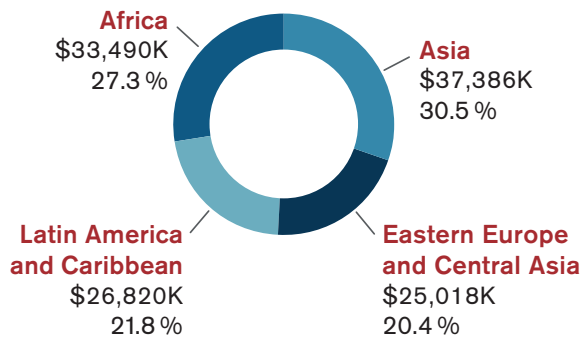
Every human being deserves a fair chance to fulfill his or her potential. That's why ending poverty depends on achieving equal opportunities. Where we are born may be a matter of chance, but we can have an impact on whether someone drinks clean water, goes to school, sees a doctor, votes, and can train for a job and find one. That is what Helvetas is committed to. Helvetas creates fair opportunities so that more people in developing countries can live self-determined and independent lives – no matter where and under what circumstances they were born.

# FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Helvetas works with and for people living in poverty. We work in countries that are among the poorest in the world as well as in middle-income countries and in fragile, insecure regions. Because our experience shows that sustainable development takes time, we are committed to long-term efforts of creating fair opportunities for all.



PROGRAM EXPENDITURE



### Every single person counts

For each of our 304 projects, Helvetas collects annual data on how many women and men have directly benefited from improvements such as vocational training courses, new water connections or safer migration, and how many organizations and institutions have been strengthened.

The figures reflect the situation as of December 31, 2021.

Due to adjusted data collection methods, they cannot be compared with those of the previous year.

# EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Many farming families in Guatemala cannot grow enough to feed themselves properly. Although women do the bulk of the work, they have no say in the decision-making. Helvetas is promoting access to markets, which creates economic opportunities – particularly for women.

In most Maya families in the western highlands of Guatemala it is the women and girls who are responsible for childcare and household chores, along with most of the work in the fields. And yet they still cannot get ahead in life. The only place they can sell their small and irregular crops is on local markets, and the prices are correspondingly low. Larger buyers expect predictable volumes of standardized quality according to a fixed schedule.

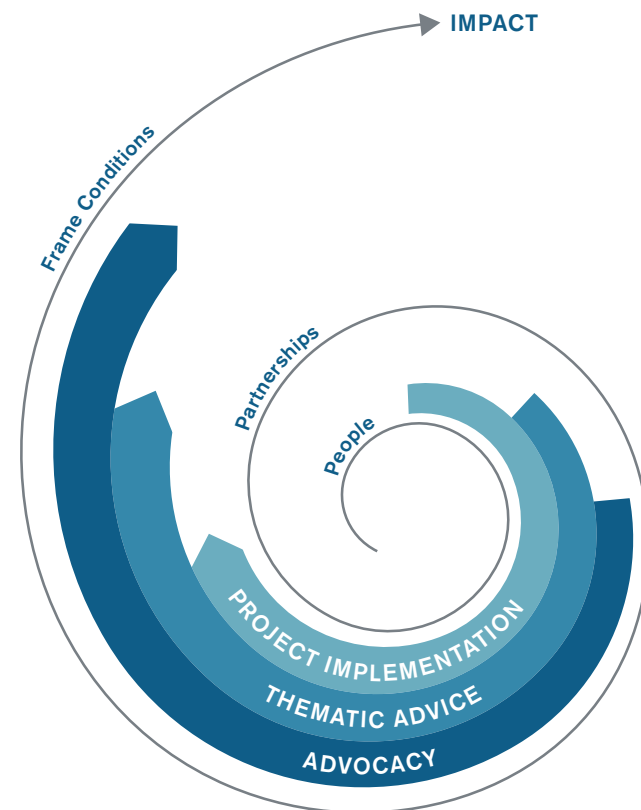
Prodert is a Helvetas project to strengthen the small-farmer economy in five rural provinces in the western highlands. The project encourages women smallholders to form groups and increase the productivity of their crop and livestock production. The second stage involves linking up these groups so that they can jointly negotiate with buyers and attain better prices. Finally, these networks become formal cooperatives so that they can also supply large-scale buyers and benefit from economies of scale. This is a process that strengthens women economically and socially.

Evelyn Caniz is one of these women. After hearing about the project, Evelyn seized her chance and started producing eggs, even though it wasn't easy to raise her share of the seed capital, which was a condition for taking part. She and other women received training in poultry farming. They learned to organize, negotiate and stand up for themselves as well as acquiring leadership skills. "There were many things we didn't understand at the beginning, for example what a network was," Evelyn Caniz says. "Now we're swamped with requests. Various organizations have invited us to teach them about our success."

The women are advised, trained and supported by strong partners such as local authorities, ministries,

## Systemic change

Instead of setting up parallel structures that won't last, Helvetas forges links among existing actors in Guatemala. Locally embedded organizations build the capacity of womens' producer groups, accompany their merger into larger networks and cooperatives, and then put them in contact with suppliers of seed, feed and auxiliary products. They receive support to exhibit at fairs and to develop long-term, fair commercial relationships with bulk buyers. Everyone involved is passing on what they have learned.



Helvetas also initiates, promotes and guides systemic change through projects, technical advice, and advocacy.



Evelyn Caniz (center) with her colleagues during contract negotiations to establish a cooperative.

educational institutions, seed suppliers, bulk buyers, savings and loan institutions, and development organizations. Helvetas places special emphasis on environmentally friendly production methods and climate resilience. Over 27,000 women and men are benefiting from these changes which were initiated with the support of the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the program contribution from SDC.

"We've made great economic progress thanks to our newly acquired leadership skills," Evelyn Caniz says. "Our plans have become reality and we've established our own brand, Doña Huevo. It brings in more than 200,000 quetzals (\$24,600) per month or over three million quetzals per year. We're proud of our results, and now we're millionaires! We're currently close to signing a major deal and a very good one."

Evelyn Caniz is president of a cooperative that produces and markets eggs, honey, tomatoes, potatoes and chicken and pig feed. She represents the concerns of smallholder women farmers in the Economic Development Committee of the District Council as well as in

the Provincial Development Council, and advises other cooperatives.

The women used to have to beg their husbands for every penny, Evelyn tells us. Nowadays the men work for their wives' businesses, which allows the women to attend courses and develop their knowledge. Evelyn's partner also does a share of the housework now – another important aspect of the project. Because there can only be fair opportunities for all when everyone enjoys the same rights and has the same responsibilities.

"We have learned that if we believe in our project, support one another and work hard together as a team very positive results are possible and, above all, so is a future," Evelyn Caniz says, adding: "We're committed to continuing on this path because we want development for our community, for the women and for our young people."

# WHAT MAKES TOMATOES NO LONGER SCARED OF HEIGHTS?

Pressure is growing on water resources in Bolivia. As farmers and mining companies argue over access, climate change is turning water into a precious commodity. As part of an SDC project Helvetas is helping the authorities in two river basins to draw up a fair water management plan and ensure that 10,000 families in this part of the high Andes are not forgotten and can improve their living conditions – including with greenhouses that allow tomatoes to ripen even many meters above sea level.

© Mauricio Panozo



# WHAT WE DO

Helvetas implements development and humanitarian aid projects.

We ensure basic rights, create new perspectives, and strengthen good governance. We also provide technical advisory services, develop subject-specific expertise, and engage in political dialogue and lobbying.



## Ensuring basic rights

### Water, food and climate

In 2021 **3,303,121** women and men gained sustainable access to water, sanitation, good hygiene, better nutrition or natural resources and benefited from higher yields or improved climate resilience. They worked with Helvetas to install pumping wells and latrines as well as learning important hygiene principles and new, climate-adaptive farming techniques.

## Creating new perspectives

### Skills, jobs and income

In 2021 **643,690** young and mostly disadvantaged women and men gained access to education and vocational training, found a job or started their own business with Helvetas' support. Over the same period, **14,651** small and medium-sized enterprises improved their access to markets and created jobs for disadvantaged people, while also offering sustainable products and better services.

## Strengthening good governance

### Voice, inclusion and cohesion

In 2021 **93,071** women and men have learned to claim their rights to basic public services or to transform local conflicts, with support from Helvetas. Over the same period, Helvetas cooperated with authorities and partner organizations to help **588,299** women and men plan their labor migration safely, responsibly, and profitably.

## Alleviating suffering

### Humanitarian response

In 2021 Helvetas supported **205,407** people after disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti, during the coronavirus crisis in Nepal, and such as the Rohingya refugees in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. Helvetas combines rapid short-term humanitarian aid with long-term development cooperation so that people quickly have the chance to rebuild their daily lives and create prospects for the future.



© GMB Akash

Mortuj Ali from Bangladesh has funded a small business with his rickshaw.

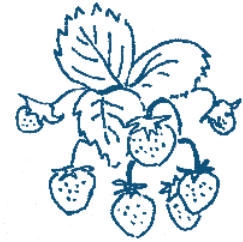
**4,833,588**  
people had a fair  
opportunity to  
lift themselves out  
of poverty with  
your support.

# CLIMATE MIGRATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Millions of people are born in countries without safe drinking water, where food for a balanced diet is scarce and where they are poorly prepared to cope with climate change. We are grateful for your support and your commitment to giving these people a fair chance of improving their situation.

## Important basics of hygiene

Only 25% of people in the Menabe region of **Madagascar** have access to clean water, and the sanitation situation is extremely precarious. In cooperation with One Drop Foundation and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Helvetas promotes hygiene and environmental awareness among 69,000 people to ensure that the new water system is maintained in the long term and natural resources are conserved. People learn to adapt to climate change and prepare themselves for natural disasters. Additionally, new jobs in the environmental sector strengthen the role of women.



## Finance app for savings groups

People who have no chance of opening a bank account often form savings groups. This is true for farmers in **Tanzania** who are optimizing their horticultural production to improve their income and diet. The members of over 500 savings groups involved in a Helvetas project can now use an app to make deposits, grant loans and pay interest, thus simplifying control and saving them time. The horticultural project, by the way, was awarded third prize by the UN and the government during the national commemoration of World Food Day because it contributes to reaching the second goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Zero hunger.

Our goal for 2021–24:

**1 million** people have gained direct access to safe drinking water



Goal 2024

2021 result: **592,070** people

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

- 1** No poverty
- 2** Zero hunger
- 6** Clean water and sanitation
- 9** Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 12** Responsible consumption and production
- 13** Climate action
- 17** Partnerships for the goals

**“We now have clean water that doesn’t make us sick.”**

Madina Muhuthage, market vendor, Mozambique

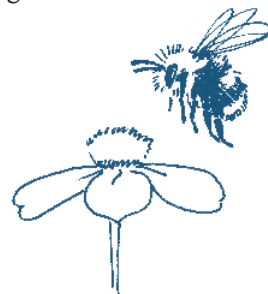


Every evening, when Madina Muhuthage lays her head to sleep, the last thought that crosses her mind is: “What will I feed my children tomorrow?” There is very little to eat where the young woman lives, especially in the dry season. For her whole life she has had to fetch water from a hole in the ground far from her home. That all ended in November 2021 when a new water system was inaugurated in her village. Now water comes flowing out of a tap near her house and she is delighted to have both clean water and more time for her other activities, one of which is baking bread and selling it on the local market.



## Protection against erosion

Disaster preparedness is a matter of life and death in **Haiti**. The soils there tend to erode with the tiniest drop of rain, causing landslides and burying people and their crops. With support from Helvetas local people have built hundreds of meters of walls, including drystone walls, to protect their houses and fields. Two tropical storms struck in 2021, but the protected areas emerged unscathed.



## Saving biodiversity

The biodiversity of the Bregalnica river basin in **North Macedonia** can only be protected if local people do not depend on overexploiting the natural environment for their livelihood. This is ensured by an SDC project that was initially implemented by Helvetas and is now supported by a local organization. One particular success was the classification of part of the region as a nature conservation area. Farmers, foresters, scientists, countryside planners and politicians are now working to establish a natural park based on the Swiss model that encompasses both ecotourism and local, natural products.

## “Organizing a campaign from scratch was an unexplored path for all of us”

Because of an outdated national law, municipalities in **Kyrgyzstan** didn't use to be allowed to finance repairs to decaying irrigation canals. Farmers started a campaign that eventually resulted in a new national law. How? Jyldyz Abdyllaeva explains.

### Why did Helvetas support this advocacy process?

Irrigated agriculture is one of the mainstays of farming livelihoods in southern Kyrgyzstan. However, access to irrigation is unreliable, and farmers suffer huge harvest losses which bring with them severe financial risks for their families. Through its Irrigation Water Integrity Project (IWIP) Helvetas supported a local initiative of civil society, affected farmers and local authorities to resolve this problem. The process of advocating for a new law and having it approved by the government, the parliament and the president was a unique experience for us.

### What were the challenges?

Organizing a campaign from scratch was new for all of us, but the problem was very acute. Since there was no appropriate stakeholder who would own the campaign, we established an Initiative Group consisting of representatives of farmers and local authorities as well as other partners. We were well trained and guided by experts from Helvetas. The result was a successful bottom-up campaign during which we learned what a campaign like this

requires – patience, facts and a knowledge of political processes. We are proud to have set the first example in Kyrgyzstan that bottom-up advocacy works and that the effort is worth it!

### What is the impact of the success?

The new law will apply to the whole country as irrigation problems are systemic and have been observed nationwide. The success of this courageous Initiative Group will benefit farmers all over Kyrgyzstan. The legislation will finally allow local authorities to take on responsibility for local irrigation service provision and infrastructure and invest in it. We expect that the reform will be of great benefit to the affected farmers.



Jyldyz Abdyllaeva is Manager of the Irrigation Water Integrity Project (IWIP) for Helvetas.

More about our working area Water, Food and Climate:  
[helvetas.org/basicrights](https://helvetas.org/basicrights)

# 691,765

farmers, fishers, woodland owners and animal breeders started applying sustainable methods in 2021 thanks to Helvetas.



494,133

29,565  
in Latin America

168,067  
in Asia and Eastern Europe

## CHALLENGES WE FACED

Helvetas has been working with the private sector for a long time and promotes local businesses. They create jobs and can offer sustainable services such as repairs to water pipes or agricultural advice. However, more and more projects are now implemented with larger companies. To make sure that there is a solid basis for these partnerships, the new Human Rights Due Diligence Tool developed by Helvetas assesses these companies for responsible conduct with regards to human rights violations, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

## Open data for health

Globally, a quarter of all health facilities have no water supply, putting patients and staff at risk. Information gaps prevent the responsible persons and institutions from properly prioritizing investments for water, sanitation and hygiene services, including infrastructure, maintenance and behavior change. The organization Global Water Challenge aims to close this gap with a publicly accessible digital platform. The WASH Health Facility Data Exchange (WHdx) platform is being developed by renowned institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Emory University – with the support of WASH specialists such as Helvetas.

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CREDITWORTHINESS

All of us rely on getting a solid basic education so that we can later learn a profession; we also depend on businesses creating jobs. Many children, however, grow up in countries where their chances of attending school and finding a job are slim. We are grateful for your help to ensure that fair opportunities are not a matter of chance.

## “A vision becomes a reality”

### Urban entrepreneurship

In Sucre, the capital of **Bolivia**, Helvetas has brought together people from the private sector, academia, the authorities and youth organizations in order to strengthen start-up companies. One of the outcomes of this process is the Fundación ACTÍVATE, an agency where young entrepreneurs can get help, ask questions and attend courses. They have also done some joint advocacy, and there is a new law to stimulate local businesses.

Our goal for 2021–24:

**320,000** women and men have attended a vocational education and training



2021 result:  
**46,115 people**

Goal 2024

The goal of the Naafa project is to boost employment and entrepreneurship for young people in urban, peri-urban and rural parts of **Burkina Faso**. It uses an innovative approach called “life project”.

#### What lies behind the idea of the “life project”?

Let’s take a young man who never had the chance to attend school. The project enables him to analyze his skills, his capabilities, his situation and his environment and also what he’d like to do in life. This all helps him to work out his own “life project” – his vision of his future. That might be, to keep chickens.

#### What are the advantages of this approach?

The guidance it provides, and social and economic integration. That is because the young man will discuss

his project with his family and his community to gain their support and consult with them about what resources he needs for his life project. This may be land that his village provides for his chicken coop. After this, the project will provide personalized theoretical and practical training as well as ongoing mentoring as he implements his project.

#### Are there challenges in this approach?

The approach is new to young people, but once they have understood the concept, they are highly motivated. The parental support element is also essential. Implementing the project is a demanding process, but it benefits everyone.



**Modibo Ouedraogo** coordinates Jobs, Youth and Income for Helvetas Burkina Faso.

More about our working area Skills, Jobs and Income:  
[helvetas.org/newperspectives](https://helvetas.org/newperspectives)



“A client in Hanoi has just ordered ten kilos of medicinal herbs. I can sell them for a lot of money now in the off season.”

Linh Trang, a producer of medicinal herbs, Vietnam

After a sheltered upbringing, Linh Trang had to work hard for her parents-in-law after getting married. It took much persuasion to convince her husband to allow her to attend a Helvetas course on medicinal herbs. Now she is the main breadwinner in the family, multiplying their income by more than a factor of six. She is passing on her knowledge to other women so that they too can have a chance of becoming independent businesswomen.

© Helvetas Vietnam

### An idea takes off

Group work instead of frontal instruction, interactive lessons, school gardens instead of theoretical plant science: In **Tanzania**, Helvetas is working with the teachers’ union to improve primary school teaching. In professional development courses, teachers expand their pedagogical knowledge, develop participatory model lessons, practice team teaching, and pass on their experiences to colleagues. The model is gaining traction: Tanzanian education authorities want to continue it, and the Dar es Salaam University College of Education, together with universities in Kenya and Zambia, is in the process of testing it for secondary schools.

### Loans at last

Agriculture has enormous potential, but climate change is making it harder and harder for farmers to cultivate their fields. Helvetas is helping young people in **Mali** to change their attitudes to agriculture and see the opportunities it can offer. One of the major problems farmers face is the lack of access to credits. Cooperatives are especially reliant on cash to be able to purchase produce from their members and sell it on at a profit. Helvetas has now managed to arrange banking for the cooperatives and give them access to funding.

### Green construction sector

With support from Helvetas and Bern University of Applied Sciences, **Bhutan** has developed a new curriculum for vocational training in the construction sector, with the aim of improving its energy efficiency. Meanwhile, the relevant ministry has been developing political strategies with Helvetas to embed the necessary core skills in the vocational training system and facilitate the transition to a greener economy.

# PEACEBUILDING AND UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

Billions of people are born in countries where there is limited access to basic public services, where they have to seek jobs elsewhere as economic migrants or have been displaced by war and conflict. Thank you for helping to give these people a voice.

## Recognition from the UN Secretary-General

In 2021 Helvetas Mali convinced UN Secretary-General António Guterres' peace-building fund to finance one of its projects. Building on its experiences in other fragile situations and its conflict-sensitive approach, Helvetas wants to help communities in Mali prevent conflicts over land and other resources in the Sahel. The idea is to draft clear rules and agree on them. A crucial factor in obtaining this funding was Helvetas' track record for cooperating with local organizations, stakeholders, state agencies and the private sector.

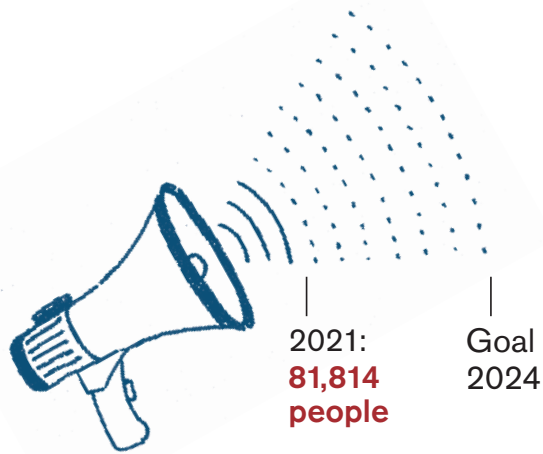


## Urban development

Switzerland has been supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's transition to a socially oriented, inclusive market economy and a decentralized, democratic system since 1996. On behalf of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Seco), Helvetas is working jointly with ETH Zurich and Zurich city council to help implement an urban transformation project in the capital, Sarajevo. Its aim is to introduce a more transparent and participative urban and regional development planning system that contributes to long-term economic growth. The project also aims at making the city more climate resilient and more attractive.

Our goal for 2021–24:

**500,000** people have been empowered to raise their voice and claim their rights



Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

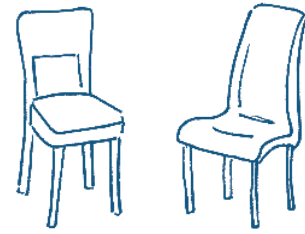
- 5** Gender equality
- 10** Reduced inequalities
- 11** Sustainable cities and communities
- 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions

“Girls keep being taken from public schools and put in religious schools. I don’t think that’s good.”

Dilbora Irisova, school pupil, Kyrgyzstan

Dilbora Irisova lives in Aravan on the Silk Road. Unfortunately, trade and goods are not the only things the small town attracts. More and more often, radical Islamic preachers are coming to the area to recruit young people as fighters for Islamic State (IS). In the past year alone, 300 young women and men have left for the war in Syria. Helvetas is leading a project to improve young people’s self-esteem, strengthen their position in society, and create job prospects so that they can stand up to violent extremism.





**11,257**  
people learned in 2021 to identify and address the causes of conflict in their communities and to change the situation.

### Legal assistance

It started as an experiment and ended as a success. Helvetas explored in **Lao PDR** if, and how, gender-based violence can be discussed in public, whether traditional perceptions can be changed, and how best to provide legal assistance to women (and men) affected by violence. 4,665 women and 3,449 men were sensitized, 162 women and 23 men received legal support, and 205 judges, police officers and prosecutors were trained to handle cases. Procedural issues were also clarified, to facilitate access to justice.

### Migration as an exit strategy

More and more people in **Bangladesh** set out to find possibilities of earning an income in nearby towns or faraway cities because higher sea levels are raising the salinity of soils and water. Studies show that migration is an increasingly common climate-adaptation strategy. The problem is that many people don't know their rights, so Helvetas is helping them to choose safe and profitable options and also harness new technologies to forge a viable future at home.

### “Use the participatory power of digital tools”

Helvetas works with local governments, civil society and citizens to ensure that local decision-making is collaborative, inclusive and sustainable. Helvetas is developing a new governance program to strengthen its engagement on these issues.

#### Craig Hatcher, why is Helvetas' commitment to governance so important?

Governance is about ensuring everyone has a voice in shaping their own future. We do this by empowering women, men, youth, migrants and indigenous persons and strengthening civil society organizations to actively engage in local decision-making. A community might prioritize funding for a new school over fixing a road, for example. At the same time, we support national, regional and local governments in fostering inclusive decision-making processes and delivering services for all, leaving no one behind.

#### How are you going to ensure innovation?

During the pandemic some council meetings moved from town hall to online. That provided new opportunities for citizens to participate. The participatory power of such digital tools needs to be harnessed more. Then there is urbanization. Job opportunities are pulling migrants from rural areas to cities. This urban growth poses challenges in providing basic services such as water and sanitation for everyone. Helvetas looks for ways to ensure that rapid urbanization benefits everyone, especially the poor and marginalized.

#### Governance is a very abstract concept.

Yes, it sounds intangible – it's working on processes, on changing behaviors, attitudes and ways of collaborating with the citizens. In addition, governments are often perceived as bureaucratic and some-

times corrupt. But our experience shows that the willingness of local authorities to improve their services is high, if only they are given the necessary knowledge and tools and the population gets involved. Only this will have long-lasting success.



Craig Hatcher is an advisor on governance for Helvetas.

Would you like to learn more about Helvetas' new governance program?  
Contact [craig.hatcher@helvetas.org](mailto:craig.hatcher@helvetas.org)



**3,089**  
in Africa

**4,968**

local governments and councils increased their capacity to deliver services to all their citizens, including women and disadvantaged people, in 2021 thanks to Helvetas.

**1,553**  
in Asia and Eastern Europe

**326**  
in Latin America

Silvia Alejo Oyola, Bolivia

### Harnessing the potential of the diaspora

Helvetas' longstanding experience in the **Western Balkans** and recent studies in Eastern Partnership countries have confirmed the enormous potential of working with the diaspora to contribute to development in their countries of origin. RECONOMY is a 12-country program funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and implemented by Helvetas to strengthen green and inclusive economies and regional cooperation. It also aims to identify the barriers to diaspora engagement, and ways of tapping into this under-exploited potential.

### Standing up to hate

On behalf of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Helvetas distributes money to civil society organizations in **Sri Lanka** that work with and for disadvantaged young people to prevent violent extremism and political radicalization. The goal is for young people to learn to engage in a dialogue with local authorities and the security forces and to be open-minded towards people from other religions or ethnic groups. The project also stimulates critical thinking and mediation skills in conflict situations, and counters hate speech and fake news through targeted campaigns.

### CHALLENGES WE FACED

People who are forced to live without official papers often have no access to education, health-care and a secure job, nor are they allowed to purchase property. In many places they cannot open a bank account or get a mobile phone without papers. Helvetas wanted to provide financial support to women and men in Nepal who had lost their income due to Covid. Since many of the most disadvantaged people Helvetas works with have no official ID, the money could only be paid once their municipalities had issued them the requisite documents. People need papers to claim their rights and get access to essential services. Again and again, this hinders Helvetas' work.

# SEEDS AND ACCOMMODATION

No one gets to choose whether he or she is born in Switzerland or in earthquake-prone Haiti, in crumbling Lebanon, in Covid-ravaged Nepal or as a Rohingya in Myanmar. Thank you for supporting people in distress and helping them to create new prospects for themselves. Fair opportunities must not be left to chance.



## The second wave of coronavirus

During the second wave of coronavirus in **Nepal**, Helvetas staff reported patients fighting for air, a shortage of medicine and large numbers of people suffering great hardship. Helvetas distributed first-aid kits containing masks, soap, disinfectant, thermometers and chlorine solution. Healthcare facilities were provided with infrared thermometers, oxygen measuring devices and personal protective equipment. In addition, 1,250 families received money as short-term emergency funds to cover their most essential needs.

## Food for Beirut

**Lebanon** has long been in an economic hole, but its troubles have deepened since the devastating explosion in Beirut's port in 2020. Inflation has risen to horrendous levels and food has become virtually unaffordable. Helvetas is working with farmers to supply healthy food to some of the city's most disadvantaged residents. It is supporting farming families to produce more with natural inputs, and social businesses to sell the products to people in particular need.



## Affordable disinfectant

Disinfectant was in short supply during the coronavirus pandemic in **Mozambique**, which meant that prices soared and some health centers went without. With funding from SDC and advice from Helvetas, a domestic social enterprise produces medical alcohol from the waste from sugarcane production and perishable cashew apples. Not only does this make disinfectant available, it also generates additional income for smallholder families.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

- 1** No poverty
- 2** Zero hunger
- 3** Good health and well-being
- 6** Clean water and sanitation
- 10** Reduced inequalities

“But then my husband died from Covid-19. I found myself alone with three children in a foreign country, with a broken heart.”

Aixa Cayupare Dasilva, doctor, refugee and widow, Peru

The salaries Aixa Cayupare and her husband Jorge earned as doctors in Venezuela were not sufficient to feed their family. So they undertook the dangerous journey to Peru, where Jorge found work as a doctor and Aixa a job working in a pharmacy. When Jorge died, Aixa was faced with the ruins of the dream they had shared – jobless because she had to look after the children and without any papers to prove they were her own. Helvetas was able to provide legal and financial assistance to Aixa and many other migrants thanks to donations from Swiss Solidarity. “Helvetas helped me at a time of immense loneliness,” she says.



## “People are in need”

In 2017 hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled from Myanmar to **Bangladesh**, where they now live in the world’s largest refugee camp. In close cooperation with UN organizations, the government, and other NGOs, Helvetas is trying to make their lives as bearable as possible. Insights from Kamlesh Vyas, humanitarian coordinator in Cox’s Bazar.

**The international community is still in Humanitarian Response mode and so is Helvetas despite the Rohingya having moved to Cox’s Bazar four years ago. Why?**

The short answer is: because they are in need. The longer answer is: a sustainable solution to the problem is difficult as there are multi-layered challenges. There is the humanitarian side: 1,000,000 plus people, their daily needs and protection. Then there is the political side: negotiations for a solution keep failing, while the Rohingya are suffering. They are restricted in their movements, cannot generate income and have nothing to live on. We can’t just leave them in that situation.

**Looking back at 2021, what did Helvetas do?**

Our joint Disaster Risk Reduction activities together with the communities and national partner NGOs were very important. There have been fires, flash floods and other disasters. We have fully trained 500 volunteers, both Rohingya and locals, who intervene, inform and raise awareness about how to behave if a fire breaks out, during downpours, and on Covid-19 protective measures. These volunteers evacuated 5,000 people before the floods, saving many lives. Helvetas, after all, is in charge of five camps with around 150,000 people on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**How can the Rohingya be helped?**

We used donations from Swiss Solidarity to support the Rohingya and the host community to set up vertical gardens in the limited space available. This gives women a chance to grow nutritious food. We train local service providers who in turn train the Rohingya to do this. This has encouraged interaction within communities and has built trust. We also helped the government to put up isolation tents for people with Covid-19 and made people aware of vaccination opportunities.

**What was the biggest of the many challenges in 2021?**

The lockdown situation, which was only lifted in August. We weren’t able to move, and we knew how great the misery was. Eventually we were able to coordinate relief by organizing WhatsApp meetings and training sessions on mobile phones. Rohingya refugees aren’t allowed to have mobile phones but some of our volunteers are from the host communities and so they could act as intermediaries. We built up a strong working relationship with the Bangladesh government and were one of the first organizations allowed back into the camps after the lockdown.



Kamlesh Vyas is Helvetas’ Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Asia and is based in Cox’s Bazar.

More about our Humanitarian Response: [helvetas.org/humanitarianresponse](https://helvetas.org/humanitarianresponse)



Rohingya refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

### CHALLENGES WE FACED IN 2021

**Take Myanmar for example. In 2021 the military seized power over the young democratic state again, and the security situation has been precarious ever since. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating, with three million people in need of humanitarian aid. Helvetas was forced to adapt its activities but continues to train young people and support internally displaced people and unemployed factory workers. Helvetas is working in difficult circumstances to maintain access to those affected, working in accordance with human rights principles and international law to alleviate civilian suffering.**

### More than emergency accommodation

In August 2021 the earth shook in southern **Haiti**, damaging or destroying over 100,000 homes, 266 schools and 25 health centers. Helvetas swiftly freed up funds to provide emergency accommodation and hygiene sets containing toothbrushes, soap, sanitary napkins and water purification tablets. Earthquake victims received psychological support, and people were paid for helping with the clean-up operation. As the local market continued to function properly, there was no food distribution. Helvetas has been operating in Haiti for almost 40 years in the very region that was hit. This meant it could respond rapidly and pragmatically despite political instability and a precarious security situation.



### Seed against need

Covid, lockdowns and then flooding: **Pakistan’s** tourism industry was severely damaged by coronavirus. Many workers lost their jobs and had no prospect of finding another one, leaving them without any money for food. Helvetas used donations from Swiss Solidarity to provide protective equipment to 317 hotels and also distributed seed so that struggling families could grow vegetables on their land. The result: 454 new kitchen gardens were planted in an incredibly short space of time.



# ADVOCATING FOR WATER SECURITY

In late 2021 Helvetas USA received a generous anonymous donation that allowed us to create new advocacy initiatives to further our water and climate work in Ethiopia and Madagascar. Helvetas believes advocacy efforts play an essential role in helping projects achieve the systemic change that will lead to sustainable management of water resources.

## Climate Change's Toll on Resource Availability

Both countries are suffering from climate change's toll on water availability. In summer 2021, southern Madagascar was on the brink of the world's first climate-induced famine. In Ethiopia, consecutive years of poor rainy seasons have resulted in Ethiopia's worst drought in recent history.

More awareness of key issues, better cooperation across all levels of government, and inclusive participation of all parts of society is urgently needed in Madagascar and Ethiopia. Our new initiatives are geared toward helping the most-affected communities learn more about the sustainability of their water supply, understand their role in ecosystem management, and formulate plans for coping with future gaps in water availability.

## Addressing Water Shortages in Madagascar

Private operators are a critical part of the water supply network in Madagascar. But climate change is causing fluctuations in groundwater availability, leaving operators periodically unable to deliver water that people rely on to meet their daily needs. This problem could worsen in the future, heightening the immediate need to find ways to sustainably adapt and maintain water service for the long term.

Helvetas' new WASH advocacy initiative will partner with regional authorities and a local university to design a simple and participatory groundwater monitoring system. The system's findings will be publicly available, allowing clients increased visibility into when there will be water shortages. This will help all stakeholders better understand the sustainability of their water supply and prepare for future shortages.

## Valuing Ecosystem Services in Ethiopia

The Amhara Region in northwest Ethiopia is highly affected by climate change, water scarcity and land degradation. Poor ecosystem services exacerbate these problems, resulting in a lack of conservation of essential resources that affects both the livelihoods of communities and the efficient use of water downstream.

Farming communities – the key upstream watershed stakeholders that downstream communities depend on – are rarely involved in ecosystem management beyond their micro watershed. There's a need to establish and promote a system that acknowledges their role in the system and to agree on a fair compensation mechanism. One compensation source that benefits all would be payments from communities downstream that incentivize conservation activities by upstream farming communities.



Kidü Ayel, 34, fetches water at the cistern by her house in Kedamit town, Amhara region, Ethiopia.

© Ayanma/Genaye E.

Together with national ministries and a local university, Helvetas has developed a model for collaborative agreements on compensation for ecosystem services. This model is a first of its kind in Ethiopia around water (existing ones focus only on forests). Contracts will be signed between downstream water users, watershed unions and community organizations, with a particular focus on women's involvement in the negotiation process.

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

Helvetas is convinced that experiences are there to be shared so we can learn from them and better achieve our goals. One instrument for doing this is carefully facilitated knowledge exchange between all the stakeholders.

We have eight years left to meet the goals of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). Given that over 800 million people worldwide go hungry and populations are rising in several regions of the world, every government needs to focus on rural development. The priority must be livelihoods and strategies to cope with the consequences of climate change.

## United for greater impact

Achieving the SDGs calls not only for greater commitment but also greater efficiency. There is an incredible abundance of data and information around the world that could be used for this purpose, but all too often it is neglected. As part of AVANTI, an initiative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Helvetas is building the capacity of agriculture ministries in 17 countries to make the most of their knowledge and exchange information with civil society organizations and the private sector.

The idea behind this is that if institutions and organizations share their data and interpret it from their different perspectives, they will be more likely to figure out whether measures that have been implemented – e.g. for combating malnutrition or strengthening women's economic position – actually have the desired impact. If this is not the case, then they can adapt their strategies and



There needs to be support for rural development if we are to reach the UN's SDGs.

© IFAD

policies to make sure that rural development fulfils its potential.

The initiative addresses the beginning of a very long impact chain. Experts and specialists from Helvetas and Itad, one of its partner organizations, carefully facilitate this process, which acts as a kind of "synchronizing" of knowledge. As many actors as possible are brought together around one table with the objective of helping agriculture ministries to break out of their traditional thinking patterns and to cooperate with all the different actors involved in rural development. They all use a specially developed tool and process to identify and analyze weaknesses. The next step is then to draw on this analysis to develop and

implement practical improvements. The experiences in Ghana, Peru, Laos and Samoa have been promising.

AVANTI makes the conclusions from 17 countries available worldwide in order to stimulate further learning. The studies highlight trends and general bottlenecks as well as tried-and-tested practices. There is a growing need for these kinds of mediated multi-stakeholder arrangements as they can improve information exchange for the planning of projects, programs, strategies and policies in complex contexts.

For further information see [avantiagriculture.org](http://avantiagriculture.org)

# WHO HAS A SAY WITH THE SAW?



Young women and men are never short of plans for their own futures, but they are short of opportunities to realize those plans. Helvetas has come up with an answer to the problem of high youth unemployment in Mozambique. Short training courses for sought-after jobs prepare young people for the world of work. As the case of Neuzá Yacussa (pictured) shows, there is great demand for trained staff. The company she trained with immediately took her on as an instructor.

# GENEROSITY AND SPEED

Helvetas USA continues to build new relationships each year and expand existing ones, raising more than \$7 million in 2021 from our generous funding partners. The financials of our fast-growing affiliate organization are incorporated into Helvetas' financial overview on these pages, and shared in detail on page 38.

## Financial management during disasters and for humanitarian aid

Disasters and crises require different financial management than long-term development cooperation. Following the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, the flight of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh in 2017 or the current war in Ukraine, speed and flexibility were and are the highest priority. Nevertheless, transactions must always obey the same principles of security, quality and transparency. Helvetas staff have the necessary experience and skills, and we are continually building our capacity and further improving our procedures to ensure that funding is always used as planned, even in unstable circumstances and emergency situations.

## Financial audit

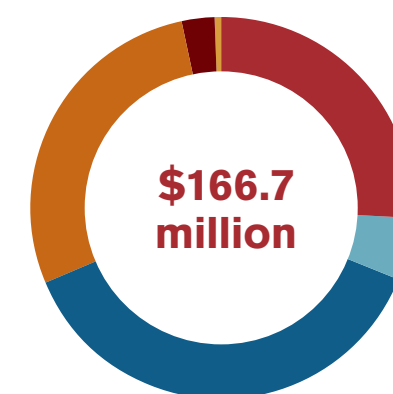
KPMG audited and approved Helvetas' Switzerland accounts and financial statements on May 14, 2022, in Swiss Francs. The consolidated numbers are shown in USD (exchange rate 2020 CHF 1 = USD 1.05, 2021 CHF 1 = 1.09 USD).

Mullins PC audited and approved Helvetas USA's accounts and financial statements on February 3, 2022. This audit report and the 2021 Form 990 can be downloaded at [helvetasusa.org](http://helvetasusa.org).

## HELVETAS' GLOBAL BALANCE SHEET

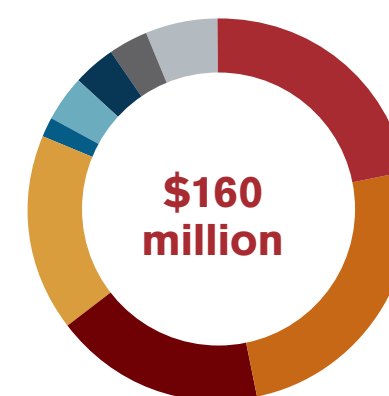
ASSETS	31.12.2021 in USD	31.12.2020 in USD
Cash and cash equivalents	49,626,029	41,511,769
Marketable securities	22,578,905	19,444,274
Receivables	6,193,067	5,370,953
Net assets in project countries	16,808,669	17,663,606
Prepayments and accrued income	14,943,521	11,155,001
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>110,150,191</b>	<b>95,145,602</b>
Investments in financial assets	10,992	15,766
Tangible fixed assets	521,642	698,486
Intangible assets	1,391,526	747,859
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>1,924,160</b>	<b>1,462,111</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>112,074,351</b>	<b>96,607,713</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	5,428,398	3,846,045
Accrued liabilities	59,162,883	55,799,353
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>64,591,282</b>	<b>59,645,398</b>
Long-term provisions	181,084	252,000
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>	<b>181,084</b>	<b>252,000</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>64,772,365</b>	<b>59,897,398</b>
<b>Restricted fund capital</b>	<b>10,864,842</b>	<b>6,582,376</b>
<b>Liabilities incl. fund capital</b>	<b>75,637,207</b>	<b>66,479,774</b>
Elaborated unrestricted capital	14,979,450	14,317,071
Foreign currency effects	-72,806	-63,201
Elaborated restricted capital	21,530,500	15,874,069
<b>Organizational capital</b>	<b>36,437,144</b>	<b>30,127,939</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>112,074,351</b>	<b>96,607,713</b>

## SOURCE OF FUNDS



- Income from fundraising 25.9%
- Program contribution SDC 5.3%
- Mandates SDC 37.6%
- Project funding organizations 27.9%
- Income advisory services 3%
- Other operating income 0.3%

## USE OF FUNDS

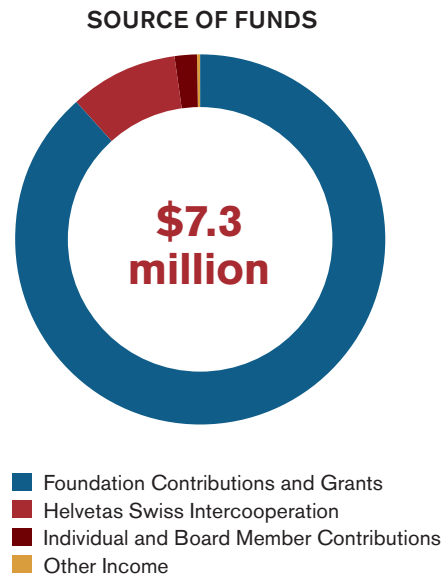


- Africa 22.2%
- Asia 24.8%
- Latin America 17.8%
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia 16.6%
- Program coordination and support 1.7%
- Expenditures advisory services 3.9%
- Expenditures projects Switzerland 3.7%
- Head Office 3.3%
- Fundraising 6%

## HELVETAS' GLOBAL STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

INCOME	2021 in USD	2020 in USD
Membership fees	2'572'137	2'362'080
Donation from the public	38'729'971	35'045'703
Legacies	1'586'639	1'121'767
<b>Income from fundraising</b>	<b>42'888'747</b>	<b>38'529'550</b>
Program contribution SDC	8'779'824	10'846'500
Mandates SDC	61'903'503	59'394'977
Project funding from organizations	47'653'426	37'274'500
Income from advisory services	4'940'508	3'797'351
Income from Fair Trade	0	1'263'237
Other operating income	556'006	413'184
<b>Income from services provided</b>	<b>123'833'266</b>	<b>112'989'748</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>166'722'014</b>	<b>151'519'299</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Africa	-35'169'637	-33'944'604
Asia	-40'438'912	-37'847'992
Latin America	-28'165'774	-23'138'525
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	-26'765'189	-21'829'516
Program coordination and support	-2'781'070	-2'574'126
<b>Expenditures on international programs</b>	<b>-133'320'582</b>	<b>-119'334'764</b>
<b>Expenditure on advisory services</b>	<b>-6'140'948</b>	<b>-5'622'523</b>
<b>Expenditure on projects in Switzerland</b>	<b>-5'798'951</b>	<b>-5'211'323</b>
<b>Expenditure on Fair Trade</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1'541'473</b>
Head Office	-5'276'208	-5'035'564
Fundraising	-9'427'744	-8'916'423
<b>Head Office and fundraising</b>	<b>-14'703'953</b>	<b>-13'951'986</b>
<b>Expenditure from services delivered</b>	<b>-159'964'433</b>	<b>-145'662'069</b>
<b>Operating profit/loss</b>	<b>6'757'580</b>	<b>5'857'230</b>
Financial result	2'255'741	674'254
Other result	-74'838	-20'590
<b>Result before change in funds capital</b>	<b>8'938'483</b>	<b>6'510'894</b>
Change in funds capital	-3'984'830	-3'035'247
<b>Annual result before allocation to organizational capital</b>	<b>4'953'653</b>	<b>3'475'647</b>
<b>Allocations/utilizations</b>		
- Free capital	1'331'976	1'165'647
- Fund for value fluctuation of marketable securities	548'739	0
- Strategy Acceleration fund	1'975'460	1'260'000
- Social fund	1'097'478	1'050'000

# HELVETAS USA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS



## HELVETAS USA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

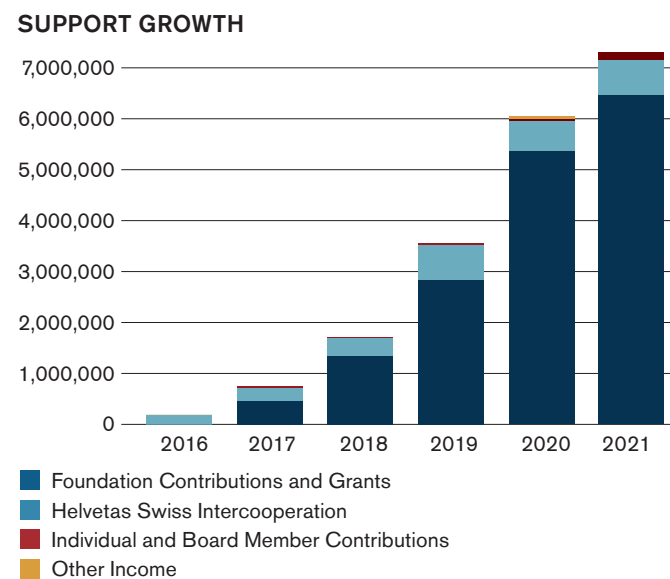
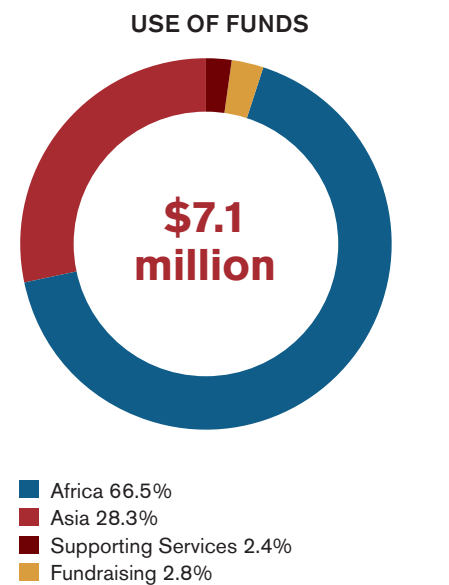
SUPPORT AND REVENUES	2021	2020
Foundation Contributions and Grants	6'458'570	5'357'746
Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	701'831	588'508
Individual and Board Member Contributions	143'133	43'520
Other Income	49	55'605
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>7'303'583</b>	<b>6'045'379</b>

EXPENSES	2021	2020
Program Services	6'742'134	5'644'804
Supporting Services	200'660	182'666
Fundraising	168'701	156'928
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>7'111'495</b>	<b>5'984'398</b>

<b>Change in Net assets</b>	<b>192'088</b>	<b>60'981</b>
<b>Net assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>287'671</b>	<b>226'690</b>
<b>Net assets, End of Year</b>	<b>479'759</b>	<b>287'671</b>



# COMMITTED AND OPEN-MINDED

Helvetas is a politically and denominationally neutral association, supported by over 100,000 members, benefactors and donors as well as regional volunteer groups. Helvetas USA Board members lead the U.S. affiliate through their invaluable oversight and advisement.

## OFFICERS



**Melchior Lengsfeld**  
Chairperson, Executive Director of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation



**Avery Bang**  
Vice-Chair, Vice President, Gracon



**Stefan Stolle**  
Secretary, Head Communications and Fundraising and Member of the Management Board of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation



**Rudolf Laager**  
Treasurer, President, Lukada International



**Christian Steiner**  
Executive Director, Helvetas USA

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**Jörg Frieden, PhD**  
Development Economist



**Cynthia Hartley**  
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**Clare Ignatowski**  
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**Sarina Prabasi**  
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**Raghuveer Vinukollu**  
SVP (Climate Resilience and Solutions Lead), Munich Reinsurance America



**Mark Way**  
Head Sustainability Underwriting, Zurich North America

# PARTNERING TO END THE WATER CRISIS

**Charity: water has pursued one ambitious goal for the past 15 years: ending the global water crisis. Since 2018, Helvetas and charity: water have worked together to bring clean and safe water to more than 525,000 people. But we're just getting started. By 2026, our partnership will connect 1,500,000 more people to this daily necessity.**



© Feliana Rajonantivelo

Aninjara fetches water from the tapstand next to his home.

Aninjara Arsène is a farmer from Antrema. He lives in the Diana region in northeast Madagascar, and his family's livelihood is producing cocoa and bananas. Before charity: water and Helvetas helped install Antrema's first water supply system, the nearest water source to the village was an unprotected open well one mile from his village. "I had to transport the water with my bicycle, which could only carry two 5-gallon cans per trip," said Aninjara. "I would make three trips per day to meet our water needs. This journey took me three hours per day."

"Because of the difficulty of fetching water, we used the water only for cooking and drinking. My wife would carry our dirty clothes two miles roundtrip to wash them in the river." There is an abundance of water resources in northeastern Madagascar, yet less than 25% of people living in the Diana and Menabe regions have access to safe water. In 2021, Helvetas and charity: water partnered with local authorities and private operators to install 15 water systems serving

415 water distribution points and four schools in these regions. To promote the sustainability of the system, the water points are run by local companies who receive training on operation and maintenance and are responsible for overseeing water quantity and quality. Water users pay based on consumption, using a fee structure agreed upon collaboratively with providers and users to ensure affordability for village populations over the long term.

Today, Aninjara no longer spends hours each day hauling 85 pounds of water on his bike. "Access to drinking water in the village has changed our life," said Aninjara. "With the time saved, we can expand our banana crops and we have more time to maintain them properly. I even plan to increase my production for the next season. I am also in charge of the management of the tap stand in my neighborhood and this allows me to generate addition funds to finance the expansion of my crops."

## SDC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Project and program contributions

## Cantons, Cities and Municipalities

FEDEVACO, Fédération vaudoise de coopération

FGC, Fédération genevoise de coopération

Canton of Aargau, Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Canton of Basel-Landschaft, Canton of Basel-Stadt, Canton of Graubünden, Canton of Lucerne, Canton of Schaffhausen, Canton of St. Gallen, Canton of Ticino, Canton of Thurgau, Canton of Vaud, Canton of Zurich, Republic and Canton of Geneva

Aarau, Gemeinsame Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Adliswil (Protestant congregation of Sihltal, Roman Catholic congregation and City of Adliswil), Baar, Geneva, Maur ZH, Muri bei Bern, Münsingen, Niederwil AG, Stabio, Therwil, Zollikon, Zug, Zurich

## Foundations, associations and other NPOs

Albert Jenny Stiftung

Alfred Richterich Stiftung

Bridges to Prosperity

Büchi Foundation

C&A Foundation

Catholic congregation St. Theresia

CHARISMA Stiftung für nachhaltige Entwicklung

Charity Foundation New Flower in Africa

charity:water

Cordama Foundation

DRINK & DONATE

Eckenstein-Geigy-Stiftung

ESPERANZA – kooperative Hilfe gegen Armut

Ferster-Stiftung

fight4sight

Fondation Agnès Delachaux

Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI

Fondation Johann et Luzia Grässli

Fondation Loom

Fondation Megguy et Charlotte Renard

Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz

Fondation SMARTPEACE

Fondation Tibetania

Fondazione Vidar Suisse

FOSIT, Federazione delle ONG della Svizzera italiana

Foundation for the Third Millennium

GAIN, Global Aid Network

GDMA Stiftung

Gebauer Stiftung

Gemeinnützige Stiftung Accentus

U.W. Linsi Stiftung

UK Online Giving Foundation

Ursula Zindel-Hilti Foundation

UTIL Stiftung

Viva con Agua de St. Pauli e.V.

Viva con Agua Switzerland

Volkart Stiftung

Von Duhn Stiftung

Werner und Helga Degen Stiftung

WIR TEILEN: Fastenopfer Liechtenstein

**“The One Drop Foundation is honored to join forces with Helvetas. Our partnership is innovative in how it combines a multidimensional approach to WASH services access, One Drop’s unique Social Art for Behavior Change approach, and sustainable natural resource management in an effort to increase climate resilience and adaptation.”**

Jean-Louis Dufresne, CEO, One Drop Foundation

Gemeinnützige Stiftung Symphasia

Green Leaves Education Foundation

Happel Foundation

Happel Stiftung

Hilti Foundation

IFI International Foundation

Laguna Foundation

Laudes Foundation

LED, Liechtenstein Development Service

Leopold Bachmann Stiftung

MariaMarina Foundation

Medicor Foundation

One Drop Foundation

Projektgruppe Schlatt

Protestant congregation of Belp

Protestant congregation of Künsnacht

Renzo und Silvana Rezzonico-Stiftung

Rosa und Bernhard Merz-Stiftung

Solafrica

Solaqua Foundation

Stiftung Corymbo

Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

Stiftung Temperatio

Stiftung VIVES

Swiss Solidarity

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Tsadik Foundation

## Companies

AdviseTrustee Ltd

AMB – Azienda Multiservizi Bellinzona

Andor Holding AG

AutoForm Engineering GmbH

Avance AG

Azienda acqua potabile Città di Locarno

Aziende Industriali di Lugano SA (AIL)

Bachema AG

Calora GmbH

Frei + Krauer AG

Gebana AG

Geberit International AG

Geberit Distribution AG

Globetrotter Tours AG

GroupConsulter AG

JAG Jakob Ltd

Lindt & Sprüngli (International) AG

Loterie Romande

Piguet Hôtel Des Ventes SA

PINI Group

Pratohaus AG

Reismühle Brunnen/Nutrex

Ricola AG

SERV Swiss Export Risk Insurance

SIGE

Sopra Steria AG

Swan Analytische Instrumente AG

Technische Betriebe Flawil

VERLINGUE LTD

YourCause LLC

## Other Funding Agencies and Clients

ACDI/VOCA

ACTED

ADA, Austrian Development Agency

AECID, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo

AFD, Agence Française de Développement

ARE, Federal Office for Spatial Development

Ayuda en Acción

BMZ, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Cardno Emerging Markets (UK) Ltd

CESVI – cooperazione e sviluppo

cinco, Center for Information, Counselling and Training for Professions relating to International Cooperation

Confédération Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (CNOF), Mali

CRS, Catholic Relief Services

DANIDA, Danish International Development Agency

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

ECHO, EU

Enabel, Belgian Development Agency

ETH Zurich

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

EuropeAid, EU

FAO, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

FCG, Fundación para la Conservación de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala

FINNIDA, Finnish International Development Agency

FOAG, Federal Office for Agriculture

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office – GOV.UK

German Federal Foreign Office

GFA Consulting Group GmbH

GIZ, German Agency for International Cooperation

Government of the Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Government of Finland

Government of Nepal

## THANK YOU

Handicap International  
HLC, Horizontal Learning Centre, NILG, Bangladesh  
ICCO, Interchurch Organisation for Development  
IFAD, International Fund for Agricultural Development  
IFOAM, Organics International  
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen ifa, Germany  
INTEGRATION Consulting Group  
International Centre for Migration Policy Management ICMPD  
IOM, International Organization for Migration  
ISW, International Secretariat for Water, Canada  
Itad Limited, Great Britain  
KEK-CDC AG  
Medair  
myclimate  
Netherlands Enterprise Agency  
NORAD, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation  
Norwegian Trust Fund  
OCHA, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
Office des routes, Burundi  
People in Need  
Plan Binacional de Desarrollo de la Region Fronteriza Peru – Ecuador  
Red Institutos Técnicos Comunicativos, Honduras  
RESET Plus Innovation Fund, Ethiopia  
SECO, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs  
SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
SNV  
Solidar Suisse  
Stockholm Environment Institute  
Swiss Water & Sanitation Consortium  
Swiss Water Partnership  
Swisscontact  
TTU, Tanzania Teachers' Union  
UNDP, UN Development Programme  
UNEP, UN Environment Programme  
UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency  
UNICEF  
United Purpose  
University of Bern  
University of Zurich  
UNOPS  
USAID, U.S. Agency for International Development

USDOS, U.S. Department of State  
VECO Vredeseilanden  
WHH, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V.  
World Bank  
WFP, World Food Programme  
WWF USA  
WWF

### Partnerships, Alliances and Networks

AFC, Agriculture and Finance Consultants GmbH  
AGUASAN Community of Practice  
Alliance for Water Stewardship  
Alliance Sud  
Alliance2015 (ACTED, Ayuda en Acción, CESVI, CONCERN worldwide, HELVETAS, HIVOS, People in Need, Welthungerhilfe)  
Allianz gegen Waffenexporte in Bürgerkriegsländer  
Beam Exchange  
Better Cotton Initiative  
CARITAS Schweiz

**“FAI has supported Helvetas since 2009 because they are a well-qualified and reliable partner. We have been working together since 2017 to help strengthen civil society in Laos, foster dialogue with the authorities and ensure that young people drive growth in the country.”**

Stefania Mancini, vice-president,  
Fondation Assistance Internationale – FAI

CGAP, Consultative Group to Support the Poor  
CIVICUS  
Conflict Sensitivity Community Hub  
Conservation International  
Foundation  
CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness  
DCED, Donor committee on enterprise development  
DDLGN, Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance Network  
e+i Employment & Income Network  
Eawag  
ECEAT, European Centre for Eco Agro Tourism  
fairjourney  
Fastenopfer  
FANRPAN, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network  
FOEN, Federal Office for the Envi-

ronment  
FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture  
FoBBIZ, Swiss Forum for Skills Development and International Cooperation  
GCF, Green Climate Fund  
Gemeinsam für Afrika Netzwerk  
GFRAS, Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services  
GIIN, Global Impact Investing Network  
GNDR, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction  
HAFL, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences  
HEKS, Swiss Church Aid  
ICAC, International Cotton Advisory Committee  
ILC, International Land Coalition  
ISEAL  
IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature  
Klimaallianz Schweiz  
KM4DEV

KOFF The Swiss platform for peacebuilding  
LOGIN Asia  
Max Havelaar Switzerland  
Millennium Water Alliance  
Nairobi Work Program, UNFCCC  
NGO-Plattform Menschenrechte Schweiz  
NIRAS A/S  
PEDRR, Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction  
PHZH, Zurich University of Teacher Education  
Platform Agenda 2030  
PROVIA, Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation  
RAIN Foundation  
REC, Réseau Suisse Éducation et Coopération Internationale  
ReCAP, Research for Community Access Partnership  
RésEAU

RRI, Rights and Resources Initiative  
RWSN, Rural Water Supply Network  
Save the Children  
SDC Agriculture and Food Security Network  
SDC Climate Change & Environment Network  
SDC Disaster Risk Reduction Network  
SDC Gender Equality Network  
SEEP Network  
SEVAL, Swiss Evaluation Society  
SFIAR, Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research  
SFRAS, Swiss Forum for Rural Advisory Services  
SFUVET, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training  
skat Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development  
SOS Kinderdorf International  
South Pole  
SPTF, Social Performance Task Force  
SSF, Swiss Sustainable Finance Sustainable Rice Platform  
Swiss Fair Trade  
Swiss Coalition for Corporate Justice  
Swiss KM Thinktable  
Swiss NGO DRR Platform  
Swiss NGO Platform  
Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa  
Swiss Red Cross  
Swisspeace  
Terre des Hommes  
Textile Exchange  
The Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Network  
UNFCCC, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change  
UNGC, UN Global Compact Value Chain Capacity Building Network  
VUKA! Coalition for Civic Action  
WASH Agenda for Change  
Women in Development Europe+  
ZHAW, Zurich University of Applied Sciences

The list includes institutional donors and clients (from CHF 5,000 upwards) as well as partners.

**“This used to be desert. I could count the people on the hillside. Today, all I see is trees. At most I can hear the people still”**

Jean Jacob Fleurilus,  
owner of a tree nursery, Haiti



In **2021**, thanks to a wave of solidarity, Helvetas received almost **\$43**

million in donations and other income totaling **\$113.9** million.

This allowed **1,400** committed Helvetas staff and about **900** partner

organizations worldwide to help **2.6** million women and **2.2** million men in

**33** countries forge a life without poverty.



**HELVETAS USA**  
1101 Connecticut Ave. NW, #450  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone: +1 202 380 9396  
E-Mail: [usa@helvetas.org](mailto:usa@helvetas.org)

[helvetasusa.org](http://helvetasusa.org)