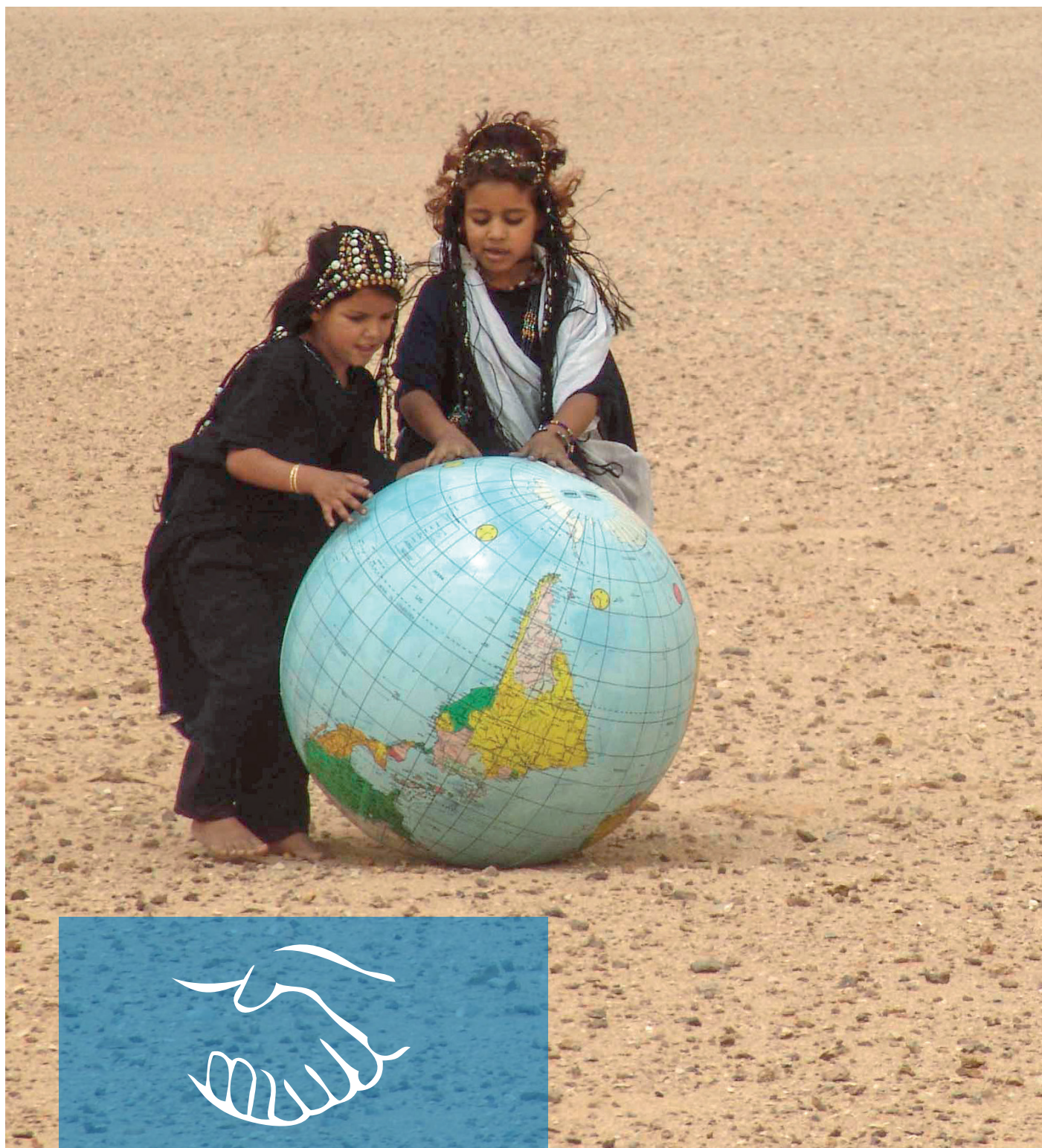


2022

swiss relief
to restore, bridge, encourage & empower



ANNUAL REPORT

Editorial

A Helping Hand in Difficult Times

Country Reports

Central Asia | India
Tajikistan | West Bank | Saharawis

EDITORIAL



Dear Donor

I was amazed to learn a few days ago that temperatures in some countries in Central Asia and in the Middle East where SwissRelief works can be in the sub-zero range, just like here in Switzerland. I told my family about this and together we imagined what it must be like to lack a warming fireplace and warm clothing when it is so cold. We agreed that this is hard for us to imagine and that life must be incredibly hard for them.

But it is not only the cold which makes people suffer. In Tajikistan, women suffer because they have no right to self-determination. It is exclusively men who determine their lives. Our goal is therefore to support women and children who find themselves in dangerous situations, for instance when they are victims of human trafficking or gender-based violence.

In the Saharawi refugee camps, social tensions have greatly increased due to political conflicts and global in-

flation. We are therefore very grateful that we were able to fully resume activities and animations for children in refugee camps after the Covid period. The activities are in great demand. Last year, an average of 5,200 children per month already took part in them again.

In India, the traces of the pandemic are still clearly noticeable and the humanitarian need has increased. We are all the more thankful that we were once more able to implement various projects in 2022. These included school education, literacy programs, trainings in agriculture and health, programs for women, vaccinations, dental treatments as well as awareness programs on hygiene, cleanliness, child labor and human trafficking.

Dear donor – we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your loyal support. Together we can bring about meaningful changes!

Your SwissRelief ●

“You should not pity a person at all, it is better to help him.”

Maxim Gorky



Nathanael Regez, President SwissRelief



Where

active in 16 countries in the Middle East, Northern Africa, Central America and Asia



Who

over 20 projects implemented through local partners

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Whom

over 110,000 people helped every year



How

on disaster relief, reconstruction, literacy, education, networking, aid distributions, advocacy, refugee relief, food, water, MED/start-ups, medical care, etc.

CENTRAL ASIA **Medical Clinics**

Through the activities of Islamist extremists, the humanitarian situation has steadily deteriorated over the last one and a half years. Although the security situation has calmed down somewhat, 28 million people are in need of aid – that’s two-thirds of the population. Formerly, three quarters of the economy were dependent on foreign aid. Because of international sanctions, millions of people suddenly lost their income, including the majority of health workers. SwissRelief delivered urgently needed food to the most affected families.

The biggest problem in the country is child malnutrition: About a quarter of all children are affected. In our medical clinics, they receive emergency food and their parents are informed about how they can feed their children well despite having little money.

Both clinics supported by SwissRelief continued running without interruption during the crisis. Together, they treated about 240 people per day in the surgery department, dressing department, obstetrics department with pre- and postnatal care, dental department, vaccination department, eye department and more. Nearly all patients received free medication from the pharmacy. The clinics also continued to conduct programs on health education. This benefited an additional 75,000 people in 2022. Health and hygiene education help people to prevent diseases, which significantly improves living conditions. One mother said: “If this clinic were not here, life would be impossible. I am so thankful that we have this clinic and that they always help the poor people!” ●



A patient at a consultation.

Health and hygiene education help people to prevent diseases, which significantly improves living conditions.

INDIA Education and Health



In the preschool, children playfully learn to read and write. The parents of these children are stone crushers; these belong to the lowest caste and are only allowed to do the lowest kind of work.

The pandemic has not yet disappeared, but the number of infections is decreasing. In addition, there were heavy rains last year which led to flooding in many villages and washed away roads. Nevertheless, we were once more able to realize several projects in 2022, including: school education, literacy, support in income generation, informing people about their rights and opportunities as employees, trainings in agriculture and health, programs for women, vaccinations, dental treatments as well as awareness programs on hygiene, cleanliness, child labor and human trafficking.

In one health camp, 18 primary school students participated. They received hygiene kits with a toothbrush, toothpaste and soap, and a pharmacist volunteered to teach them about the importance of hygiene and education. Another health camp was attended by high school students. They received medical check-ups and free medicine. The camp staff visit their school regularly and raise awareness about various health issues.

Another project was a training among Muslim women on how to plant a vegetable garden. It was explained to them that fresh, organic, home-grown vegetables are much healthier and cheaper. They were also given

various seeds to plant in their own garden. The enthusiasm of the participants was clearly visible and most of them afterwards decided to plant their own vegetable garden. ●



Two women at the training on growing their own vegetables.

TAJIKISTAN Empowering Women

Our goal is to support women and children who find themselves in dangerous situations, such as victims of human trafficking or gender-based violence. We provide a safe environment in which legal, medical and emotional help is available. We also offer vocational courses for women so they can create a sustainable livelihood.

Since 2012, we have been providing safe shelters where affected women and children can live in for 3-6 months. Since the beginning of the project, we have been able to house 274 women, 249 children and 57 teenagers in the women's shelter. In the year 2022, 224 women received legal assistance. Most of the women cannot afford a lawyer, so we provide them with lawyers so that their rights are defended. A lawyer of the organization also trains women on legal issues.

In 2022, we were able to establish two new crisis/training centers in two different cities. In both cities, women are severely restricted in their mobility and have limited access to secondary education. Women are virtually unaware of their rights. Decisions about their lives are made by men (fathers, brothers, or husbands). The cities also host many Afghan refugees. By opening the two new centers, we are giving vulnerable Tajik and Afghan women the opportunity to go through a rehabilitation program and to be counseled by psychologists, lawyers and social workers. In the vocational courses, women can learn sewing and baking. After completing the courses, they receive an officially recognized diploma which helps them find a job. ●



Women can for example visit a baking course.

We also offer vocational courses for women so they can create a sustainable livelihood.

WEST BANK Reconciliation through Games and Role Models



The reconciliation kindergarten.

Last year, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict unfortunately escalated once again. In this environment of war and hatred, our reconciliation work between the two peoples is immensely important. Through projects in the West Bank which we have been supporting for years, neglected refugee children are not only given an education, but are also shown strategies for reconciliation which the teachers themselves model. Specifically, our educational facilities consist of a kindergarten, a day-care center, a pre-school, an elementary school, and a youth and community center.

Often, the supported children come from families in which there is constant ranting against the “evil Jews”. In contrast, the teachers, who themselves have Palestinian roots, live with an attitude of reconciliation. Through love and acceptance, seeds of hatred are stifled in the hearts of the children. The goal is a holistic, peace-promoting support of refugee children from kindergarten to graduation from school.

Our elementary school is known

throughout the West Bank for providing the best education. The youth and community center was allowed to reopen its doors in April 2021 after the lockdown. In 2022, we were again able to engage young people after school until the evening with social and sports activities and to model a

peaceful coexistence. In afternoon classes, we furthermore supported young people in computer and English courses. Moreover, we conducted vocational orientation courses for our young people and accompanied school graduates through their first vocational training courses. ●



Some of the children come from Palestinian refugee camps.

SAHARAWIS Animating Refugee Children

After Covid and after the summer, the activities for the playful animation of children in the Sahrawi refugee camps could fully be resumed. The leaders are highly motivated and there is a great demand for the activities, so that by the end of 2022, 5,200 children per month were again regularly participating. Some of the leaders had health issues, had to take care of sick family members or moved away. As a result of this, some of them were no longer able to continue as leaders. For this reason, we are constantly looking for new staff.

The entire responsibility is currently in the hands of four leaders who started with us many years ago as volunteers. We are especially grateful for them. During the

lockdown, the schools' need for short videos with teaching content became clear. In collaboration with teachers, we were able to record over 50 episodes on school subjects to date. These clips are used in the simplest way through WhatsApp.

Because of political conflicts and global inflation, social tensions among the refugees have also strongly increased. For example, there are many more cases of theft and violent. Unfortunately, our school was also broken into, despite guards. There is a threat of escalation among the residents of the refugee camps. Together we hope for an expedient and lasting solution! ●



Through fun and games, children can forget their worries for a moment and delve into another world.

The leaders are highly motivated and there is a great demand for the activities, so that by the end of 2022, 5,200 children per month were again regularly participating.