



Annual Report 2020

SWISS
SOLIDARITY





1. FOREWORD

After 2020, nothing will ever be the same again

A virus turned our lives and habits upside down, claiming the lives of more than two million people by the time these lines were written and affecting the health of millions of others, while plunging so many families into precariousness, including in our own country. This virus threatens to make many countries permanently vulnerable—not only in terms of health but also economically and even politically. In some cases, the virus is erasing the years of work and progress that we and our partner organisations had achieved together.

But despite this, we are not giving up. With the support of SRG SSR, whom we wish to thank, Swiss Solidarity has been able to continue responding. The foundation has launched two major campaigns for victims of the pandemic. First, in spring, we managed to collect 43 million Swiss francs, which we spent on supporting more than 150 aid projects in Switzerland in 2020. The second appeal, held last fall, proved that Switzerland's solidarity has no boundaries and that the Swiss continue to show their generosity toward victims abroad, even when Switzerland is itself affected by the situation. In addition to these actions and the pandemic, 2020 was marked by an appalling explosion that ravaged the port of Beirut and a large part of the city in August. Just before Christmas, the Coeur à Coeur campaign for child victims of domestic violence took place in French-speaking Switzerland with the support of RTS. In the end, we raised more than CHF 64.5 million in donations in 2020—outstanding solidarity even in these difficult times.

In 2020, Swiss Solidarity dedicated CHF 40.5 million to aid in Switzerland. That amount far surpasses the funding provided for assistance at home in the last 20 years. Swiss Solidarity has set up new processes for launching calls for projects and analysing submissions. As a result, it is now able to work with over 200 organisations throughout Switzerland. Furthermore, the foundation allocated CHF 21.5 million to international aid projects. Overall, almost twice as many projects as usual were funded.

In difficult times like these, long-standing, strong and constructive partnerships are particularly beneficial. Prime examples in Switzerland are our experienced partners Caritas Switzerland and the Swiss Red Cross. And internationally, our 26 partner relief organisations make it possible to deliver aid rapidly and effectively.

On the eve of Swiss Solidarity's 75th anniversary, the foundation has adopted a new strategy. By 2025, we want to embody the Swiss instinct to show solidarity even better than we do already. We are committed to the digital shift as a means to boost our impact with beneficiaries and improve our relationship of trust with donors. By accompanying our partners in this essential change, we seek to rally a community of solidarity capable of pulling together in critical times such as those we experienced in 2020.

Pascal Crittin, President & Roland Thomann, Director



2. NEW STRATEGY

Swiss Solidarity – a Swiss reflex

In times of change, a point of permanence is of great value, in particular when change is occurring at different levels and at an accelerating pace. For this reason, in 2020, the foundation ran a consultative procedure to develop a new strategy. The main focus of this process was the reinterpretation of our existing mission in the light of digitalisation and localisation of humanitarian aid.

The essence of Swiss Solidarity is the Swiss ‘solidarity reflex’, which comes to the fore in the foundation’s appeals in response to large-scale humanitarian crises and also to gaps in the Swiss social security system.

In our **functioning**, we intend to focus on three tried and tested success factors: **simplicity, speed and synergy**. In combination, these three elements allow us to have an **optimum impact for the good of society**.

The following **five overarching strategic aims** have been set as priorities:

- **International emergency aid:** Swiss Solidarity is seen by the public as a competent organisation **that can provide funding and support the provision of aid**.
- **Social assistance and emergency aid in Switzerland:** Swiss Solidarity is seen by the public as a **leading organisation in funding social assistance and emergency aid in the event of natural disasters and crises in Switzerland**. In specialist circles, its work is appreciated because it **addresses gaps in the system in specific areas of social assistance**.
- **Quality and nature of the assistance:** Swiss Solidarity **funds the most relevant and appropriate aid possible**. Aid is always provided **at the right time**. Swiss Solidarity ensures that the **interests of the stakeholders are considered first** when humanitarian projects are set up.
- **Transparency, structures and processes:** Swiss Solidarity has **simple cooperative and agile processes**, integrates all stakeholders and creates **optimum transparency**.
- **Ability to mobilise:** Swiss Solidarity **brings together and consolidates a community** that is able, **in key moments, to conduct highly valued appeals in Switzerland** and provide a humanitarian public service.

A maximum of five quantitative key results gives each of these aims the necessary momentum. This makes it possible to measure and assess strategic progress and to adapt priorities where necessary.



3. FUNDRAISING APPEALS

2020 was marked by the coronavirus. Besides the spread of the disease itself, the effects of the measures to protect the population against the virus posed a huge challenge. In Switzerland, many people feared to lose their job and were unable to pay their bills. All over the world, it was the poorest who were hardest hit by the pandemic. People already living in poverty before the crisis lost their means of making a living when forced to stay at home. For children in developing countries, there is often no possibility of learning at home. Schools simply stayed closed, and so children also had to go without an important meal. People in refugee camps had great difficulty trying to keep their distance from others and respect the hygiene rules in order to protect themselves against the virus. In addition to the threat of famine, the pandemic put back achievements in development and health by several decades. The whole world was affected by the pandemic.

And on top of the coronavirus crisis came the devastating explosions in Beirut (Lebanon) on 4 August 2020, when a stock of ammonium nitrate exploded in the city's port. 190 people died, and over 300,000 saw their homes or businesses damaged or blown entirely away. As a result of this disaster and the problems already facing the country, such as the economic crisis and hyperinflation, the Lebanese people urgently required humanitarian aid.

We launched three appeals in 2020: **Coronavirus Switzerland** (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#3-1-coronavirus-switzerland>), **Coronavirus International** (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#3-2-coronavirus-international>) and **Lebanon Emergency** (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#3-3-lebanon-emergency>). For each of the coronavirus appeals, we held a day of solidarity in collaboration with SRG SSR and some private media outlets (the association Privatradios pro Glückskette and Radios Régionales Romandes). We also joined once again with Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS) in running the *Coeur à Coeur* (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#3-4-children-in-need-coeur-a-coeur>) fundraiser for children who are victims of domestic abuse.



3.1. CORONAVIRUS SWITZERLAND

In February 2020, coronavirus hit Switzerland and quickly spread throughout the country. Because of the rapid rise in infections and deaths, on 28 February, the government decreed a range of measures to protect the public's health. A lockdown was introduced on 16 March.

The negative impact of the protective measures and of the lockdown on the economy could soon be felt. People living in difficult or precarious circumstances were hit hardest by the situation. Workers in the gig economy, such as sex workers and domestic employees, experienced a drastic cut in income. The elderly and people with disabilities living largely in isolation became reliant on outside help. The homeless needed shelter that met the requirements of the protective measures.

On 23 March 2020, we launched an appeal for donations to provide emergency relief to people who are not protected by any social safety net. This appeal may turn out to be the longest that Swiss Solidarity has held in recent years. The highlight came on 16 April 2020, when we held a Solidarity Day in collaboration with SRG SSR and a number of private radio stations. This did not take place as usual in regional telephone appeal centres; instead, it was broadcast directly from the radio studios, and external call centres took the calls. By the end of the day, we had raised around CHF 10 million. The people of Switzerland continued to show their support and solidarity in the following weeks, and altogether over CHF 43 million came together.

In addition to the many private donations, numerous companies and SMEs got involved for the first time with large donations or fundraising activities supporting the aid in Switzerland. To name just a few examples:

- **Swiss Post** issued a **special stamp** (<https://shop.post.ch/shop/en/collecting-stamps/sheetlets/covid-19-solidarity-sheetlet/p/550785>) during the coronavirus crisis; half the revenue generated by the sale of this stamp went toward the Coronavirus Switzerland campaign (CHF 1,341,775).
- **Nespresso and Migros** sold *Nous-Wir-Noi-Nus* flags during the pandemic, the proceeds of which went to our fundraiser. CHF 150,000 and 100,000 CHF in proceeds were donated to Swiss Solidarity's Coronavirus Switzerland campaign.
- **Bytheway.studio** sold T-shirts featuring Alain Berset's famous phrase "We must act as quickly as possible but as slowly as necessary." All of the proceeds from this effort, totalling CHF 179,000, went to Swiss Solidarity's Coronavirus Switzerland campaign.

All other companies with donations over 20,000 CHF are displayed on our "**Wall of Fame**" (<https://www.glueckskette.ch/coronavirus-als-unternehmen-engagiert/>) with their logo.

How donations were used



(<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org/#!4-2-1-coronavirus-switzerland>)



3.2. CORONAVIRUS INTERNATIONAL

While a degree of normality returned to Switzerland in the summer, the challenges in other countries were becoming more acute. People already living in precarious circumstances or outright poverty now faced even greater hardship. Coronavirus affected the weakest people most, and accentuated social inequalities. Curfews in some countries meant that families already living on the breadline were now faced with not being able to make a living at all. There is no safety net for day labourers. Millions of people found themselves falling into extreme poverty.

Because we believe that solidarity does not end at the country's borders, in July 2020, we released CHF 2 million from the Early Response Fund. This money helped our partner NGOs to meet the most urgent of needs, such as preparing refugee camps for the pandemic, setting up handwashing stations and running prevention campaigns. However, the need for support was huge, and so we launched the Coronavirus International appeal. With the money raised, we could distribute cash and ensure that health services could continue to be run. On 22 October, we launched a second national solidarity day with the aim of raising money for 15 particularly fragile countries. Working with SRG SSR, our partner NGOs and private media stations, by the end of 2020 we had raised almost CHF 9 million.

How donations were used



(<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org/#!4-1-1-coronavirus-international>)



3.3. LEBANON EMERGENCY

In 2020, Lebanon experienced what was probably the worst crisis it has known in the past 30 years. It was crippled by debt, and its currency lost 80% of its value in just a few months. Prices soared, and many people became unemployed. Political power games and corruption put additional burdens on the country. The coronavirus pandemic and the devastating explosions in the port of Beirut on 4 August, which killed 190 people and damaged the homes and businesses of around 300,000 others, made the situation even more acute. There was an urgent need for humanitarian aid, in particular for those whose lives had been difficult even before the pandemic.

Just two days after the explosions occurred, we launched an appeal for the Lebanon Emergency. As five of our partner NGOs had already been established in the country for several decades, they were able to spring into action immediately and provide help to those whose homes had been damaged or destroyed. While most could lodge with family members, some found shelter in public buildings such as schools and mosques, where they were given essentials such as food and hygiene articles. The elderly, people with disabilities and single parents were in particular need of support.

The donors were aware that the people of Lebanon had already suffered enough, and that they should not be left to cope with such a disaster alone. SRG SRR supported our appeal for donations on its broadcasting network. By late 2020 we had received CHF 7.5 million in donations.

How donations were used



<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org/#4-1-2-lebanon-emergency>



3.4. CHILDREN IN NEED (COEUR À COEUR)

Organised in conjunction with RSI and RTS to benefit child victims of domestic violence in Switzerland, the *Ogni centesimo conta* and *Coeur à Coeur* appeals were affected by the pandemic in 2020. In Ticino, the event had to be cancelled. In French-speaking Switzerland, the event took place from 12 to 18 December 2020 with a travelling format adapted to the health measures in effect.

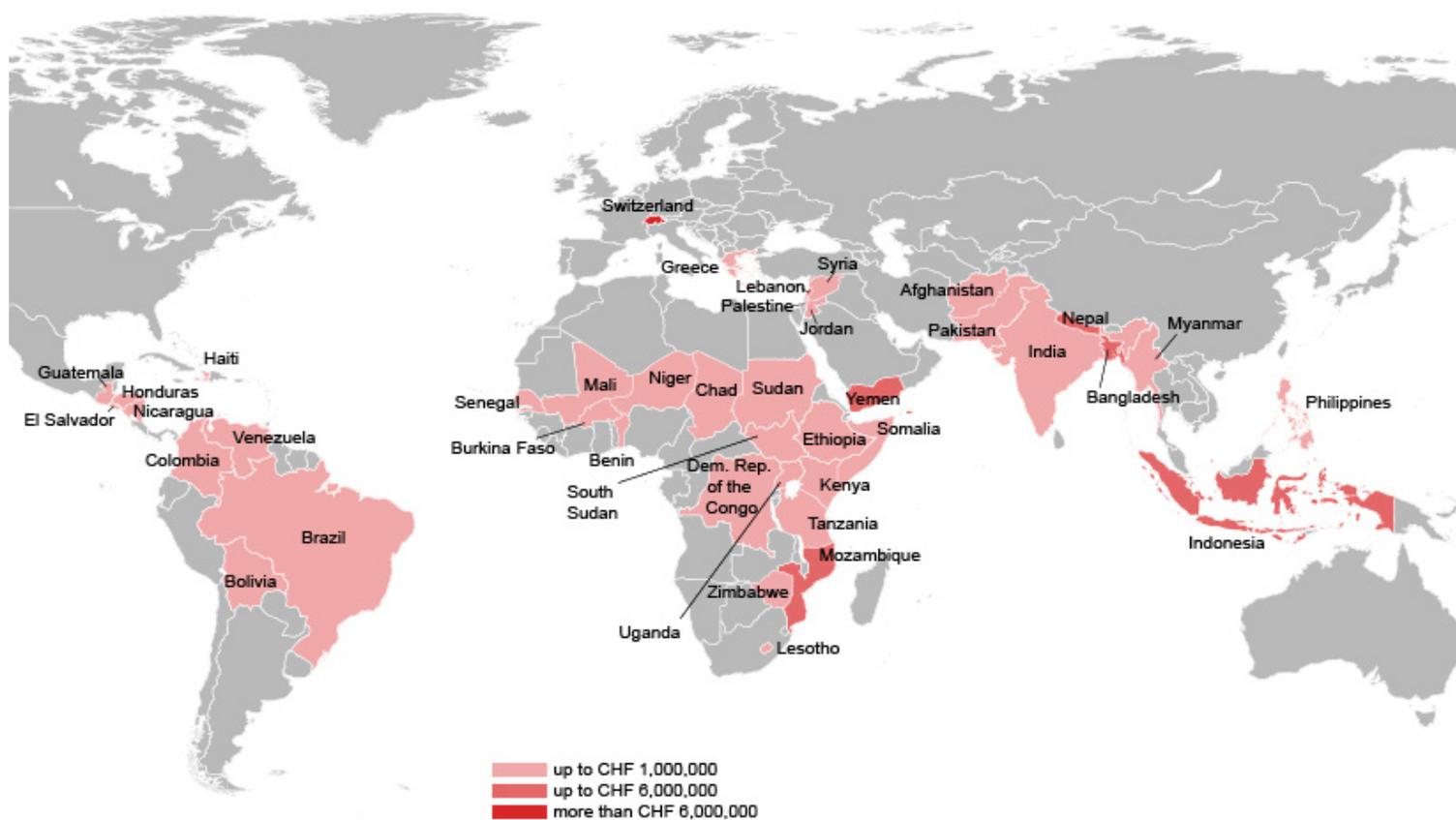
The *Coeur à Coeur* hosts—Tania Chytil, Philippe Martin and Vincent Veillon—were not confined to a single location, but rather, visited French-speaking cantons over seven days. As in the previous year, the programme was broadcast on RTS's *La Première* radio station, while eight regional radio stations joined in to broaden its support throughout all of French-speaking Switzerland. Businesses, schools and individuals organised some 100 fundraisers. Many well-known personalities and volunteers gathered at our call centre, tirelessly working the phones to collect pledges from donors. This edition was replete with conversations with special guests along the way, not to mention shows of support from citizens. In addition, our RTS ambassador Jean-Marc Richard gathered more than 50 personal stories which were then broadcast to paint a picture of the reality of child victims of domestic violence in Switzerland.

In total, we raised CHF 2,028,186 in donations and pledges to support children abused within their own families.

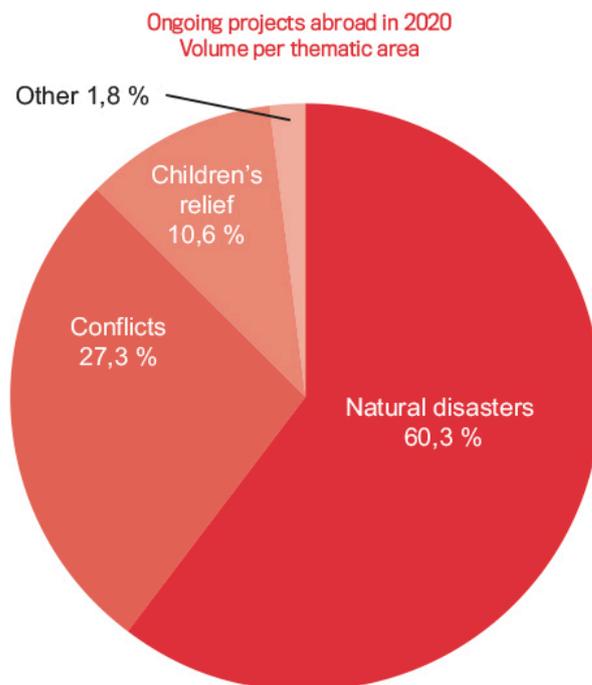
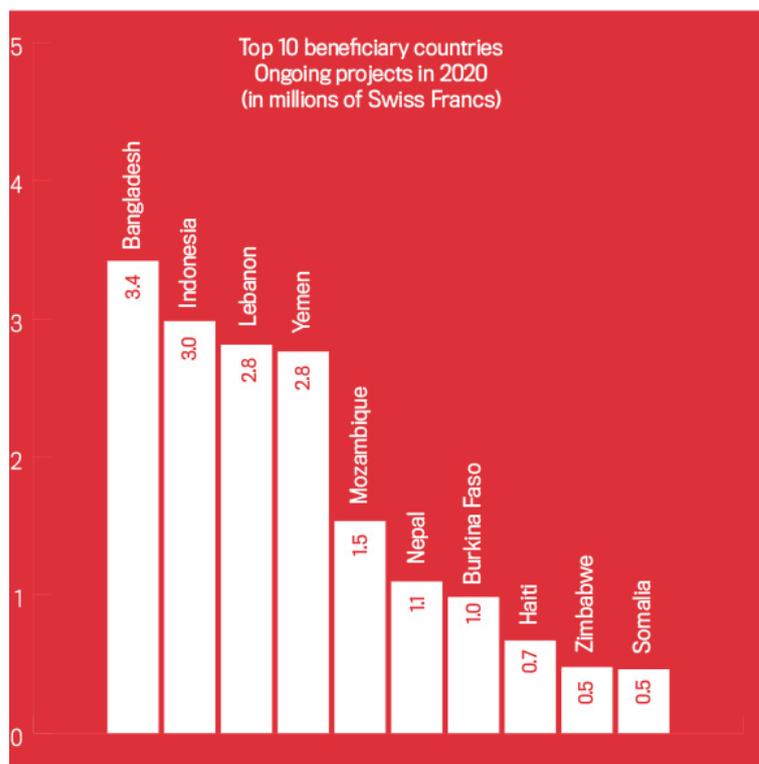
The donations will fund projects run by Swiss organisations that help children who are neglected or fall prey to physical or psychological abuse. By adopting the same theme as last year, we hope to respond to the ongoing and likely growing needs.

In 2021, the projects we fund will enable children in specialised structures to mitigate the impact of the violence they have experienced within their families. For the first time, a portion of the donations collected will also be used to fund activities aimed at detecting and preventing yet unknown situations of violence. Projects that address children's specific needs and various issues, such as children with disabilities, will also be supported on the basis of the funding applications we receive.

Countries of intervention with ongoing projects in 2020



4. HOW DONATIONS WERE USED



4.1. AID ABROAD

Our partner NGOs ran projects in 40 different countries funded to the amount of CHF 21.8 million. 121 of these were abroad, supporting 4.4 million people in the areas of health, education, emergency aid, business, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

We funded some of the projects with money donated in 2020 ([Lebanon Emergency \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-2-lebanon-emergency\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-2-lebanon-emergency) and [Coronavirus International \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-1-coronavirus-international\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-1-coronavirus-international)), while others received money from appeals in previous years. When money is raised following a natural disaster, this is often used to fund long-term projects over several years.

Abroad, the largest amounts spent in 2020 went towards projects supporting the [Rohingya \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-8-other-campaigns\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-8-other-campaigns) in Bangladesh, the victims of the 2018 tsunami in Indonesia (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-8-other-campaigns>) and of the explosion in Beirut (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-2-lebanon-emergency>), victims of the war in Yemen (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-3-war-in-yemen>) and those affected by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-8-other-campaigns>).

The year was also marked by the coronavirus pandemic. The [Early Response \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-6-early-response-fund\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-6-early-response-fund), [Innovation \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-5-innovation\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-5-innovation) and [Coronavirus International \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-1-coronavirus-international\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-1-coronavirus-international) funds allowed us to support many people who were worst hit by the effects of the pandemic. Most projects will be conducted in 2021.

In the following sections, we give an overview of how donations from previous appeals were used in projects abroad. Precise information on the financial figures in all other appeals can be found in the [annual financial statement \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org/annual-accounts/\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org/annual-accounts/) and [key figures \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#5-2020-figures\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#5-2020-figures).



4.1.1. CORONAVIRUS INTERNATIONAL

The coronavirus pandemic hit the world's weakest most forcefully. In response to the crisis, we adapted ongoing projects as rapidly as possible, allocating more time and resources where necessary to help people unable to implement protective measures (e.g. refugees in camps or people in slums) and those who found themselves without an income (e.g. day labourers). We also supported overburdened health systems. Furthermore, we allocated CHF 2 million from the Early Response Fund and CHF 1 million from the Innovation Fund to help contain the pandemic. In addition, we launched the Coronavirus International appeal and organised a National Solidarity Day on 22 October 2020.

At the end of the current reporting year, two aid projects were already being funded from the results of the appeal:

Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland is providing intensive care for seriously ill people in Iraq for six months, and Medair is helping refugees and internally displaced people in Sudan to protect themselves from the coronavirus.

Two aid projects in Palestine also received approval at the end of 2020. The first of these is cfd, a feminist peace organisation which supports women in Gaza who are victims of physical or psychological violence. Their project was set up in response to the increased potential for violence during the lockdown (economic stress, no respite at home) and the closure of one of the two women's shelters in Gaza, also as a result of the Covid protection measures. The project aims to protect and empower women and girls and help them to develop resilience. It is an extension to the existing service provided by the women's shelter that remains open.

In the second project, Médecins du Monde is providing healthcare in response to the coronavirus pandemic in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They are engaged in primary health care and prevention activities. They are also dealing with the secondary effects of the pandemic, such as mental health, by training health workers in areas such as stress management.

Other partner NGOs submitted project applications for various countries and regions. These will be reviewed and funded in 2021.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 1'208'570

Donations 2020: CHF 8'911'716

NGO's 2020:

cfd - the Feminist Peace Organisation, Médecins sans Frontières, Medair, Médecins du Monde Suisse



4.1.2. LEBANON EMERGENCY

In 2020, Lebanon experienced what was probably the worst crisis it has known in the past 30 years. It was crippled by debt, and its currency lost 80% of its value in just a few months. The price of all kinds of goods soared, and many people became unemployed. The coronavirus pandemic put a further burden on the country, and the devastating explosions in the port of Beirut on 4 August, which killed 190 people and damaged and destroyed the homes and businesses of around 300,000 others, made the situation even more acute. The state was facing ruin, and there was an urgent need for humanitarian aid, in particular for those whose lives had been difficult even before the pandemic.

As five of our partner NGOs were already operating in Lebanon before the explosions, they were able to provide immediate relief. They distributed food, hygiene articles and tools, gave cash handouts for food and repairs and provided psychological and medical care to the traumatised and injured.

After two weeks of providing emergency aid, we mainly funded cash aid because it was again possible to shop in the city. This allowed people to decide for themselves whether to use the money for food, medicine or accommodation. Children in particular were severely traumatised and feared further explosions, and so we also funded mental health projects, our partner NGOs working with psychologists and organising group activities.

By the end of 2020, our partner NGOs had supported 35,475 people in 10 projects.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 4'231'797

Donations 2020: CHF 7'560'077

NGO's 2020:

Caritas Switzerland, Helvetas, EPER- Swiss Interchurch Aid, Medair, Save the Children Switzerland, Swiss Red Cross, Foundation Terre des hommes



©Doctors Without Borders/Agnes Varraine-Leca

4.1.3. WAR IN YEMEN

According to the UN, the war in Yemen is causing what is now considered to be the world’s worst humanitarian crisis for quite some time. The country’s health system has collapsed. Many hospitals have been destroyed and most of the medical staff have left the country, and the coronavirus is rampant among those who remain. And the situation continues to deteriorate. In November 2020, the UN warned that Yemen was on the brink of the worst famine the world had seen in decades.

The population is in need of urgent humanitarian aid. However, as the challenges grow, providing aid becomes even more difficult for our partner NGOs. In particular, the lack of funds, additional Covid protection measures and the tight security precautions still in place when trying to access affected areas make the already challenging work even more difficult.

Despite the very dangerous and difficult conditions, our partner NGOs continued to work tirelessly, and we were able to fund three new projects in 2020. Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland ran a secondary health care hospital in Dhi As Sufal district, with surgery for war-wounded and difficult births (caesarean sections), as well as outreach units for cholera prevention. Medair provided primary health care at five sites. The ICRC distributed water and food. Support was provided to 68,459 people.

<p>Contributions projects 2020: CHF 2'480'893 Donations 2020: CHF 171'453</p>	<p>NGO's 2020: Médecins sans Frontières, Medair, Swiss Red Cross</p>
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4.1.4. EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL

In April 2015, a severe earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 destroyed large parts of Nepal. Over 9,000 people lost their lives, and around 600,000 houses were destroyed.

Thanks to generous donations, over the past five years we have financed 34 projects run by eleven of our partner NGOs and by another nine local organisations. We have used 22% of the donations for emergency aid, while 71% has gone towards the reconstruction of homes, schools, etc. We have invested another 7% in disaster management support and training. The last reconstruction project was completed by Caritas Switzerland in 2020 and helped 6,575 people. In 2021 a further CHF 2.1 million will go towards disaster preparedness, somewhat delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In February 2020, we commissioned independent evaluators to conduct an impact analysis. The aim of the study was to ask local stakeholders how relevant, effective and sustainable they consider the aid to be. We also wanted to know from the local authorities and other key players how they experienced the cooperation with our partner NGOs.

Of the 1,500 beneficiaries randomly surveyed, a large majority felt that the aid provided by Swiss Solidarity and its partners massively improved economic and social living conditions.

More information on the representative study and its key messages can be found [here](https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/five-years-after-the-earthquake-how-your-donation-has-helped/?_ga=2.2135792.1735643290.1615800234-189114323.1615208920) (https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/five-years-after-the-earthquake-how-your-donation-has-helped/?_ga=2.2135792.1735643290.1615800234-189114323.1615208920).

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 0

Donations 2020: CHF 1'635

NGO's 2020:

no new projects



©Keystone/Matias Delacroix

4.1.5. INNOVATION

Innovations, be they technological, financial, organisational or commercial, must not only benefit the richest sections of the population, but also and above all those who have suffered a disaster or people who are in need. Digitalisation means that our partner NGOs can also play a key role in this context by targeting technologies and ensuring that innovations are developed to meet the needs of those most affected, thus strengthening humanitarian aid.

The spirit of innovation in humanitarian aid has already proven its worth in many areas. New approaches, such as the production of prostheses with a 3D printer, can significantly increase the efficiency and long-term effectiveness of aid. At the same time, it is a great challenge for many organizations to pursue innovative solutions. On the one hand, there is only limited experience to draw on when developing projects, and on the other hand, there is the risk that they may not succeed. It is also difficult to find people with the necessary skills and the financial resources.

With our Innovation Fund, which we founded three years ago, we wanted to break down these barriers, support the innovative spirit of our partner NGOs long term and thus contribute to strengthening the added value created by their innovations in the humanitarian context. We supported five projects from this fund in 2020.

One such project helps people in Kenya who live in slums to protect themselves against the coronavirus. Our partner NGOs Save the Children Switzerland chose a simple but very effective approach: they installed 250 handwashing stations operated by means of a foot pedal. The aim is to prevent virus transmission via the tap.

In a further innovative project, Enfants du Monde developed an app for pregnant women in El Salvador. This allows women to follow the progress of their pregnancy themselves, despite the lockdown and the closure of many health facilities for medical problems not related to Covid-19. The app shows them when they should definitely see a doctor.

We want to continue to put these and other technological advances at the service of these groups of people, and will support more projects of this kind in the coming years.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 290'000

Donations 2020: CHF 0

NGO's 2020:

Brücke - Le Pont, Enfants du Monde, Helvetas, Medair, Save the Children Switzerland



4.1.6 EARLY RESPONSE FUND

The Early Response Fund enables us to support projects in countries and in response to disasters without having to conduct a specific appeal.

It also allows us to provide funding to our partner NGOs in the hours immediately following a disaster without having to wait for donations to arrive. This means they can provide urgent emergency relief immediately.

At the beginning of 2020, CHF 1.1 million was allocated from the fund to support people affected by drought and conflict in the Sahel. This money was used by our partner NGOs Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland, Helvetas and Save the Children Switzerland to provide healthcare and food. Their projects came to an end in 2020.

We provided a further CHF 1.5 million to fund coronavirus prevention and hygiene measures (cf. [Coronavirus International \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-1-coronavirus-international\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-1-1-coronavirus-international)) in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Honduras, Mozambique, Myanmar, Tanzania and Chad.

A project by the Swiss Red Cross will be completed in 2021.

At the end of the year, the Director also allocated CHF 400,000 for emergency aid by HEKS and Medair for the people of Honduras who suffered the consequences of the devastating hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020. These aid projects will be continued in 2021.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 2'076'093

Donations 2020: CHF 347'986

NGO's 2020:

Médecins sans Frontières, EPER - Swiss Interchurch Aid, Medair, Save the Children Switzerland, Solidar Suisse, SolidarMed, Swiss Red Cross, Foundation Terre des hommes, Swissaid



4.1.7. CHILD WELFARE

Historically, child welfare is a major focus of our work. In 2020, we implemented 20 projects in 13 countries with 14 of our partner NGOs and supported over 302,837 children aged 0–14. Our child welfare support includes health, education and protection. These needs are particularly great in economically underdeveloped countries and those affected by crises.

Despite the dangers in crisis regions, we were able to finance projects in Afghanistan, Mali and Cameroon. The aim of the projects was to protect children from assault, violence and child trafficking. At the same time, we supported our partner NGOs in ensuring medical care and in combating malnutrition.

In addition, we were able to finance 15 projects in 10 countries at the lower end of the development scale, such as Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Pakistan and Tanzania. The focus was on preventing abuse, child labour and assault as well as facilitating access to healthcare and education projects.

Education was affected by school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic. We therefore also financed follow-up support for students or assistance for teachers in the use of virtual education methods as well as information and prevention measures.

Outlook: From 2021 onwards, projects will be narrowed down geographically and thematically each year. In 2021, we will focus on domestic violence in West Africa, where there are enough experienced partner NGOs operating whose expertise serves as a good basis for the global problem.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 404'245

Donations 2020: CHF 242'697

NGO's 2020:

Fondation Hironnelle



© Save the Children

4.1.8. OTHER CAMPAIGNS

Cyclone in Mozambique

In 2019, Cyclone Idai destroyed large swathes of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Our partner NGOs provided emergency aid immediately. In 2020 we funded four further projects (including in agriculture and food security).

Tsunami in Indonesia

Since the earthquake occurred in 2018, we have been supporting the victims in Palu via our partner NGOs. One of these, Caritas Switzerland, has been helping the local people to rebuild their houses and training female heads of households to be in charge of construction. Five projects will continue to run until 2022.

Rohingya

In 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled Myanmar for Bangladesh, where they live in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp in considerable hardship. A number of projects have been run to provide healthy food, improve infrastructure and prevent violence. In 2020, in the context of the corona pandemic and the difficulties of social distancing, further projects provided hygiene kits and explained protective measures. These projects will be wrapped up in 2021.

Refugees

In 2020, we supported a project run by Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland. This provided healthcare to about 5,000 refugees in Greece. The project was completed in 2020.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 7'090'161

Donations 2020: CHF 433'908

NGO's 2020:

ADRA, Caritas Switzerland, Médecins sans Frontières, Helvetas, Medair, CBM Switzerland, Solidar Suisse, Save the Children Switzerland, Fondation Hirondelle



4.2. ASSISTANCE IN SWITZERLAND

In 2020, we funded projects run by local, regional and national Swiss NGOs to the tune of CHF 40.5 million. These provided help to over 1.7 million people, mostly from the Coronavirus Switzerland appeal. The vast majority of funding – CHF 36.1 million – went to projects related to the coronavirus pandemic in Switzerland.

While the aid for [Coronavirus Switzerland \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-1-coronavirus-switzerland\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-1-coronavirus-switzerland) came from donations made during the year, we also funded longer-term projects from previously stocked funds in the context of [natural disasters \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-2-natural-disasters-in-switzerland\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-2-natural-disasters-in-switzerland), [young people in need \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-3-young-people-in-need\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-3-young-people-in-need), [children suffering from domestic violence \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-4-children-victims-of-domestic-violence\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-4-children-victims-of-domestic-violence) and [Cala Sannitica \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-5-cala-sannitica\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#4-2-5-cala-sannitica).

At the beginning of 2020, we created a fund for the homeless and people with no fixed abode. This year, we focused on assessing the needs of particularly vulnerable people, so as to be able to respond appropriately to their situation.

In the following sections, we give an overview of how donations from six appeals were used in Switzerland. Detailed information on the financial figures in all other appeals can be found in the [annual financial statement \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org/annual-accounts/\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org/annual-accounts/) and [key figures \(https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#5-2020-figures\)](https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#5-2020-figures).



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4.2.1. CORONAVIRUS SWITZERLAND

The coronavirus pandemic led the Confederation and then the cantons to impose a number of protective measures to contain the spread of the virus as much as possible. To mitigate the economic consequences of these measures, the Confederation also implemented various mechanisms to preserve jobs and incomes. But for people who were already in difficult or precarious situations before the crisis, these protection measures have often had devastating effects, increasing their dependence on forms of external assistance such as social counselling, financial support and services.

With the CHF 43 million donated since March 2020, we financed 158 projects that provided additional support to people who were particularly hard hit, such as homeless people, informal workers (e.g. sex workers or foreigners without documentation), those with disabilities and the elderly. The donations were largely used for the increasingly important emergency financial aid, such as paying rents. In addition, we financed services such as care services, household help and food aid.

The projects we funded were implemented by Caritas Switzerland, the Swiss Red Cross and nine other nationally active organisations. Furthermore, we extended our cooperation to over 103 other regionally and locally active organisations. Details can be found [here \(https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/1-year-coronavirus-in-switzerland-a-great-show-of-solidarity-swiss-solidarity/\)](https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/1-year-coronavirus-in-switzerland-a-great-show-of-solidarity-swiss-solidarity/).

By the end of 2020, CHF 36.1 million had already been paid out. Thirty organisations are continuing to focus on providing counselling, services and financial support over the course of 2021; the latter is becoming increasingly important so that people can pay their rent or reduce debt incurred during the pandemic.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 36'756'950

Donations 2020: CHF 41'486'093
+ CHF 1'500'000 Funds Picciotto

NGO's 2020:

114 Organizations



4.2.2. NATURAL DISASTERS IN SWITZERLAND

We primarily support private individuals, non-profit organisations and businesses from the permanent relief fund to respond to natural disasters in Switzerland.

Where financial resources allow, we also support communities that have suffered damage because of severe weather. In most cases, we make financial contributions to meet the remaining costs after insurance companies or third parties have provided their support. Coordinating this work is very time-consuming and usually takes several months to years.

In 2020, we supported 18 households and two communities that were affected by floods, heavy rain, thunderstorms, gales or landslides in the years 2017 to 2020. CHF 323,397 went towards meeting the remaining costs of the town of Uerkheim (AG), which was affected by flooding and landslides on 8 July 2017 after exceptionally heavy rainfall. CHF 306,000 went to Anniviers (VS) to mitigate the aftermath of the flooding of the Navizence River following a severe thunderstorm on 2 and 3 July 2018 in the Val d'Anniviers. The Val-de-Ruz (NE) was also affected by a very heavy thunderstorm, which caused flooding from 21 to 22 June 2019 and left major damage in its wake. We have so far contributed CHF 17,173 to meet the remaining costs of ten households in Val-de-Ruz. Once there has been further clarification with insurers, which a commission set up for this purpose by the commune is currently engaged in, further payments to those affected are expected in 2021.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 667'060

Donations 2020: CHF 8'757

NGO's 2020:

Caritas Switzerland, Swiss Red Cross



4.2.3. YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEED

This fund supports young people and young adults living in Switzerland who do not have a vocational qualification and have difficulties integrating professionally and socially. We are also committed to the social and professional integration of migrants who have recently arrived in Switzerland and to young women at risk, such as young mothers without any qualifications. The aim is to support them when they need help in their professional or private lives because they are unable to complete traditional vocational training because of problems.

In 2020 there were 26 ongoing projects by 25 Swiss organisations funded by donations from the Jeder Rappen zählt, Coeur à Coeur and Ogni centesimo conta campaigns of 2017. Most of these projects have come to an end, but some will carry on in 2021, such as the Birdhouse project run by the Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil International in Geneva. The restaurant has an integration programme in which young people who have dropped out of school can obtain a diploma in service or as a chef. The assessment of the project was positive: nine, instead of the planned six, young people were accepted on the programme. The examination results were very pleasing and satisfaction was high – despite the challenge of supporting these young people while restaurants were temporarily closed owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

A call for projects took place in 2020, and new projects will be funded in 2021.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 0

Donations 2020: CHF 10'532

NGO's 2020:

no new projects



4.2.4. CHILDREN, VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Every year, 30,000 to 50,000 children in Switzerland experience physical or psychological violence between parents or parents and child, sexual abuse or neglect. During the coronavirus pandemic, the risk factors for domestic violence increased as families were stuck in their homes and parents had greater financial worries.

In December 2019, together with Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS) and Radiotelevisione Svizzera (RSI), we raised CHF 3.4 million for such children in the Coeur à Coeur and Ogni centesimo conta campaigns. In 2020, we funded 27 new projects to the amount of CHF 1,990,997.

2,947 children and 1,250 adults received some form of help, new reception structures were set up and support services expanded. Innovative projects closed the gaps in existing services or adopted new approaches in supporting children and their parents. The home run by the Foundation for Youth and Family in Founex (VD), for example, set up a permaculture garden with educational and play features. The main aim was to strengthen the relationship between children and parents.

The aim of our funding was to provide a protective and caring environment for children through needs-based projects and to accompany them on their journey to mitigate the effects of violence on their health and development.

At the end of this reporting year, the Coeur à Coeur campaign again raised donations, and these will help fund new projects in 2021. Ogni centesimo conta did not take place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 1'990'997

Donations 2020: CHF 3'343'499

NGO's 2020:

27 Organizations



© Vacances Familiales

4.2.5. CALA SANNITICA

Cala Sannitica is a special fund for the benefit of children in Switzerland, fed by contributions from a major donor. Projects financed from this fund complement our help for young people and children in need in Switzerland.

In 2020 Cala Sannitica continued to focus on supporting the project of the Valais-based organisation Vacances Familiales, which allows parents to spend a week's holiday with their children in a sheltered setting. These families are usually going through a difficult time, and they can thus gain self-confidence and recharge their batteries during a week in a natural and stimulating environment. They also learn how to deal with specific difficult situations.

In the year under review, four such holiday weeks were organised for a total of 25 families – one in winter and three in summer. Forty-six children, twenty-four mothers and five fathers were able to recharge their batteries and work on their relationship with their children in a protected setting and a healthy environment.

The protective measures for the coronavirus pandemic meant that eight families had to be turned away in summer and the week in autumn had to be cancelled at short notice when the measures were tightened. The cancellation of the autumn week was particularly challenging because this was the only opportunity for the families concerned to be with their child.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 50'000

Donations 2020: CHF 0

NGO's 2020:

Association Vacances Familiales



4.2.6. HOMELESS AND EXCLUDED PEOPLE IN SWITZERLAND

Since February 2020, we have been supporting homeless and disadvantaged people in Switzerland. They experience the most extreme poverty in Switzerland, are excluded from society and often struggle with health problems. With the newly created fund, we want to give back to people living on the streets or in precarious housing a dignified place in society and raise awareness among the Swiss public about this little-noticed reality.

In the year the fund was launched, we first focused on assessing the needs of particularly vulnerable people so that we could provide the most suitable support possible.

We then launched a call for projects and approved 33 from as many Swiss organisations shortly before the end of the year. In 2021, the aim is to support homeless and marginalised people in Switzerland by setting up shelters, providing sleeping and eating facilities and medical care. We also fund social integration activities, street social work and legal support for these people.

Our financial resources come from money still lying unused in previous funds, such as the Social Assistance fund.

Contributions projects 2020:

CHF 3'269'344

Donations 2020: CHF 1'407'807

NGO's 2020:

33 Organizations

5. FIGURES 2020

Donations in 2020	Amount (in CHF)
Coronavirus Switzerland (2020)	41'486'093
Coronavirus International (2020)	8'911'716
Lebanon Emergency (2020)	7'560'077
Child victims of domestic violence in Switzerland	3'343'499
Refugees	388'621
Women in forgotten crisis	366'807
Early Response Fund	347'986
Child Welfare	242'697
War in Yemen (2019)	171'453
Other donations	226'473
Total donations 2019	64'545'422
Relief Switzerland and abroad	
Ongoing projects	409
Number of projects in Switzerland	202
Number of projects abroad	27
Number of countries	41
Spent and committed to projects	Amount (in CHF)
Coronavirus Switzerland (2020)	34'615'170
Tsunami in Indonesia (2018)	2'983'268
War in Yemen (2019)	2'563'130
Lebanon Emergency (2020)	2'332'000
Early Response Fund	2'201'000
Rohingya (2017)	2'182'837
«Jeder Rappen zählt» 2018 / For a roof over the head	1'908'596
Fund Picciotto Coronavirus Switzerland	1'500'000
Mozambique (2019)	1'492'317
Women in forgotten crisis	1'323'696
Child victims of domestic violence in Switzerland	1'227'109
Nepal (2015)	997'043
Homeless in Switzerland	837'645
Yvonne Vogt	733'789
Natural disasters Switzerland	662'085
Famine in Africa (2017)	627'692
«Jeder Rappen zählt» 2017 / Education for children	588'833
Hurricane Matthew (2016)	445'196
Refugees	431'739
Child Welfare	404'245
«Jeder Rappen zählt» 2016 / Children alone on the run	398'991
Syria (2012)	343'000
Innovation	278'454
Typhoon Haiyan Philippines (2013)	249'525
Coronavirus International (2020)	225'000
Specific fund EVV	194'625
Cœur à Cœur 2018	150'924
Cœur à Cœur 2017	113'539
«Jeder Rappen zählt» (2015) / Young people in need	106'734
Climate crisis in Africa (2016)	99'719
Ogni Centesimo Conta (2018)	81'892
Bondo (2017)	39'134
«Cala Sannitica»	30'000
Ogni Centesimo Conta (2017)	25'285
Earthquake Haiti (2010)	1'567
Total	62'395'779



6. ORGANIZATION

Our various committees and teams are described under the following links:

- [Supervisory bodies and committees \(https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/about-us/who-are-we/foundation-bodies/\)](https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/about-us/who-are-we/foundation-bodies/)
- [The Swiss Solidarity team \(https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/about-us/who-are-we/our-team/\)](https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/about-us/who-are-we/our-team/)

6.1. SRG SSR AMBASSADORS FOR SWISS SOLIDARITY



The SRG SSR ambassadors for Swiss Solidarity intervened a number of times in 2020 over the course of the two national days of solidarity for people affected by the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, both in Switzerland and abroad, as well as during the *Cœur à Cœur* appeal. These ambassadors play a fundamental role in connecting and communicating with our audience.

In German-speaking Switzerland, **Dani Fohrler** (1), **Rouven Born** and **Sirio Flückiger** hosted the events and provided explanations of the content on the radio stations of the SRF network.



Jean-Marc Richard (2) is the RTS ambassador for Swiss Solidarity. Since 1997, he has hosted national fundraising days and the *Cœur à Cœur* appeal on both radio and television. He also regularly reports from the field to document how donations are used.

As part of the *Cœur à Cœur* campaign, **Claudia Mélanjoie-dit-Savoie** served as the host at the call centre. In Italian-speaking Switzerland, **Carla Norghauer** (3) of RSI leads our national days of solidarity.



In Romansh-speaking Switzerland, former radio journalist turned programme adviser **Claudia Cathomen** (4) is RTR's ambassador for Swiss Solidarity.





6.2. VOLUNTEERS

We are truly fortunate to be able to count on our over 1,800 registered volunteers. Last year, more than 150 of them jumped into action for the national fundraising days and our *Coeur à Coeur* (<https://ar.swiss-solidarity.org#3-4-children-in-need-coeur-a-coeur>) campaign, putting in some 600 hours of work in total. Of course, the physical presence of volunteers had to be restricted in view of the pandemic health rules, but many people still agreed to answer phones at our call centres, while maintaining appropriate social distancing and applying protective measures. Each one of them deserves a huge thank-you: volunteers who staff the phones and take pledges are an invaluable asset during these fundraising days. Donors who call our well-known 0800 87 07 07 hotline appreciate our volunteers and often engage them in brief conversations full of emotion and generosity.

7. PARTNERSHIPS

7.1. PARTNER NGOS ABROAD



Pestalozzi Children's Foundation





7.2. SRG SSR

Established as an independent foundation in 1983, Swiss Solidarity still has close ties to its former parent organisation, SRG SSR. Five members of the Foundation Board, including the President, are thus drawn from the ranks of SRG SSR.

This connection is also an operational one: SRG SSR supports our appeals for donations and, on national days of solidarity, makes its programmes available for 18 hours, provides information on the disaster and the assistance being provided, while giving the floor to specialists, staff from partner organisations and aid recipients.

But SRG SSR's support goes well beyond fundraising. Several of its programmes (Mitenand – Ensemble – Insieme, Doppelpunkt, Treffpunkt, On en parle, Chacun pour tous, La ligne de cœur and others) regularly report on how donations are being used, closely examine the work of our partner organisations and comment on developments in the humanitarian sector.

In 2020, SRG SSR provided active support during the national days of solidarity for people hit hard by the pandemic's consequences and the appeal for the victims of the explosions in Lebanon. Furthermore, the themed Cœur à Cœur fundraiser organised by RTS at the end of the year made it possible to build up the fund for child victims of domestic violence.



7.3. SWISSCOM

Swisscom has been a partner from the very beginning, providing us with support in the form of services and thus helping our activities run smoothly. On fundraising days, the company makes its infrastructure available (providing telephone lines and the toll-free 0800 87 07 07 hotline) to enable the public to reach the call centre and make a pledge. Swisscom's support significantly reduces our operating costs.

In 2020, we were able to count on the company's help during the national days of solidarity and the appeal for Beirut, and during the themed Cœur à Cœur fundraiser, for which it made a call centre available.

In addition to this assistance, Swisscom contributed CHF 71,000 to the operation of the project (including CHF 21,000 in the form of various services in its field).

Moreover, the company ran gift-matching programmes at our Coronavirus Switzerland and Coronavirus International fundraisers, topping off its employees' donations with a generous contribution of its own.



7.4. EMERGENCY APPEALS ALLIANCE

The old adage that there is strength in numbers is evidenced by the many appeals for group donations and partnerships with the media and the private sector organised to raise money in the wake of humanitarian disasters. In 2008, we joined forces with a dozen organisations from different countries to create the Emergency Appeals Alliance (EAA). Beyond sharing skills and experiences on topics such as group appeals, best practices in humanitarian aid and the organisation, the EAA is positioned as a contact point for the media and the private sector.

The EAA members met twice in 2020 via teleconference to continue discussions on developments in the humanitarian sector, the coordination of disaster appeals and the possibility of launching joint appeals, the exchange of information, standards governing the work of NGOs on the ground, relations with public service partners, collaboration with international companies such as Google and Facebook, the digital transformation and communication and fundraising opportunities offered by the digital world.

The EAA is a foundation under Dutch private law. New alliances were formed in France, Ireland, Australia and the United States, which attend EAA meetings as observers. In 2020, the EAA was chaired by *Aktion Deutschland Hilft*. Our own deputy managing director, Catherine Baud-Lavigne, assumed the role of Vice-Chair and was elected President as of 1 January 2021.

EAA Members:

- [Aktion Deutschland Hilft \(https://www.aktion-deutschland-hilft.de/en/\)](https://www.aktion-deutschland-hilft.de/en/) (Germany)
- [DEC – Disaster Emergency Committee \(https://www.dec.org.uk/\)](https://www.dec.org.uk/) (UK)
- [Giro555 \(https://giro555.nl/\)](https://giro555.nl/) (Netherlands)
- [Swiss Solidarity \(https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/\)](https://www.swiss-solidarity.org/) (Switzerland)
- [Humanitarian Coalition \(https://www.humanitariancoalition.ca/\)](https://www.humanitariancoalition.ca/) (Canada)
- [Japan Platform \(https://www.japanplatform.org/E/\)](https://www.japanplatform.org/E/) (Japan)
- [12-12 \(https://www.1212.be/\)](https://www.1212.be/) (Belgium)

EAA observers:

- [Nachbar in Not \(https://nachbarinnot.orf.at/\)](https://nachbarinnot.orf.at/) (Austria)
- [Radiohjälpen \(https://www.radiohjalpen.se/\)](https://www.radiohjalpen.se/) (Sweden)
- Comite de Emergencia (Spain)
- Alliance Urgences (France)
- Global Emergency Response Coalition (USA)
- Irish Emergency Alliance (Ireland)
- Australia Emergency Action Alliance (Australia)



7.5. OTHER PARTNERS

- **Keystone-SDA:** This Swiss press agency supports us during our numerous fundraising activities by giving us access to current, royalty-free images from disaster- or crisis-hit regions, as well as from Switzerland.
- **Privatradios pro Glückskette:** The commitment of private radio stations is exemplary; they help staff Swiss Solidarity fundraising appeals and communicate how funds are used.
- **Swiss Post:** Swiss Solidarity payment slips are made available at all post offices in Switzerland.
- **Mazars (audit, accounting and consulting group):** This group provides help in developing the operating budget, along with consulting.
- **BonusCard.ch SA, DemoSCOPE, WEMF, intervista and Migros:** Customers can donate their loyalty points to Swiss Solidarity.
- **BonusCard.ch AG:** This credit card company issued the Swiss Solidarity Visa card for us, which enables cardholders to donate automatically with every purchase. BonusCard.ch AG donates to Swiss Solidarity 0.3% of the value of all purchases made with the card. The annual membership fee also goes directly to Swiss Solidarity as a donation—in its entirety in the first year, then partially in the following years.
- **Credit Suisse:** As part of the company's volunteering programme, employees of the Customer Service Centre help us on national solidarity days and during themed fundraisers, staffing the Swiss Solidarity switchboard to take donations at peak call times. This support was delivered during the two national coronavirus-related fundraising days.
- **Digicall and Callpoint:** These companies supported Swiss Solidarity during the days of solidarity by making their infrastructure and agents available on favourable terms, or in the case of Digicall, completely free of charge as part of the Coeur à Coeur campaign. This support proved essential in 2020, given that it was impossible to set up call centres to host all our usual pledge-taking volunteers.
- **Richard Huber AG:** By purchasing a “Swiss Solidarity” rose bush (<https://rosen-huber.ch/glueckskette/>), by the famous Swiss rose grower Rosen Huber, donors support our Children's Relief Fund. The golden yellow rose was specially created in 2005 for Swiss Solidarity.

IMPRINT

Swiss Solidarity is a foundation established on the initiative of SRG SSR.

SRG SSR

Partnership & collaboration



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