



HEKS at a Glance

HEKS 

Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz HEKS
Entraide Protestante Suisse EPER
Swiss Interchurch Aid

Making a Big Difference in Small Ways

HEKS stands for the Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (Aid Organisation of the Protestant Churches of Switzerland) and campaigns for a more humane and a more equitable world. HEKS gives humanitarian and emergency aid and fights the causes of hunger, injustice and social deprivation in Switzerland and in other countries. The focus of its commitment on behalf of socially disadvantaged sections of the population is the dignity of each and every individual.

The aid organisation seeks to maintain close links with people as it goes about its activities; its workers liaise with those who benefit from the schemes and projects, with partner organisations, with sponsoring institutions, with donators, with members of the established Protestant churches and with the general public.

The main criteria for HEKS, as far as professionalism and effectiveness are concerned, are the expertise of the staff in its focus areas, the degree of attainment of targets in its schemes and projects and the effects achieved thereby, as well as its project oversight and allocation of resources.

HEKS concentrates on the following points of focus in its work:

In other countries

- Development cooperation focusing on “Development of rural communities” and “Contributions to the promotion of peace and conflict resolution”
- Humanitarian aid
- Interchurch aid

In Switzerland

- Social integration of disadvantaged people
- Advocacy for the socially disadvantaged

HEKS bases its support on the resources and needs of the people concerned and works with them on the practical aspects of its projects.

HEKS has a policy of working exclusively with local partner organisations and only sends Swiss people abroad in exceptional cases. As a matter of principle, local workers are recruited to staff the coordination offices.

HEKS in Other Countries

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil, Colombia

EUROPE

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Hungary

THE SAHEL AND HORN OF AFRICA

Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Niger, Senegal, Sudan

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CONGO

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, South Africa

MIDDLE EAST

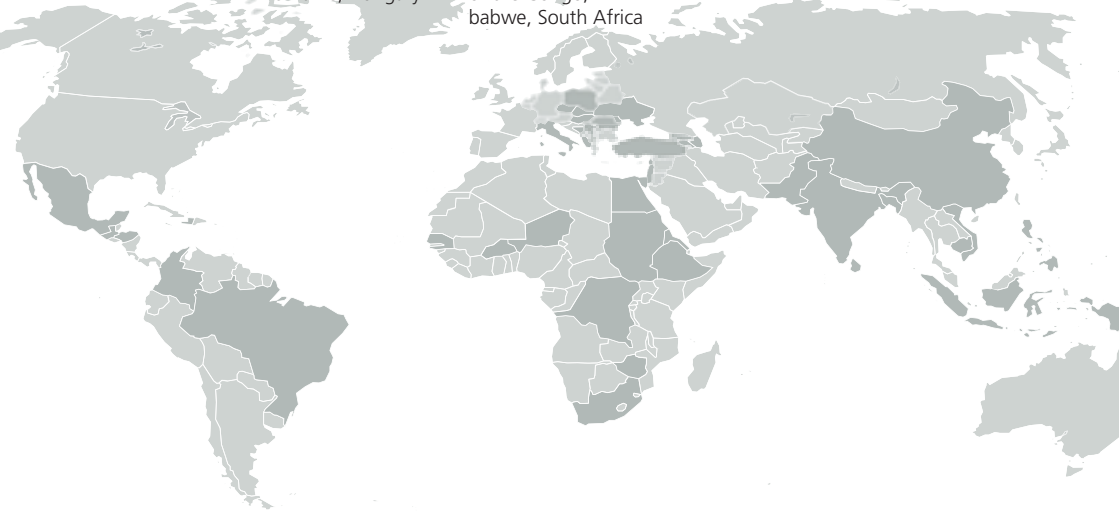
Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine/Israel

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam



HEKS in Switzerland

HEKS has its head office in Zurich and runs an office for French-speaking Switzerland in Lausanne.

BERNE REGIONAL OFFICE

BASEL REGIONAL OFFICE (BOTH SIDES)

AARGAU/SOLOTHURN REGIONAL OFFICE

ZÜRICH/SCHAFFHAUSEN REGIONAL OFFICE

SWITZERLAND EAST REGIONAL OFFICE

SECÉTARIAT ROMAND





Developing Rural Communities

HEKS supports rural communities, concentrating on village organisations, women's groups, cooperatives and pressure groups, for example, but occasionally extending its focus to sections of the population in regional centres as well. Assisted by input from HEKS partner organisations, these groups define their needs and look for solutions with the potential to make a marked improvement to everyday life in their society and in their economy. The baseline requirement is to secure the provision of food and shelter. In addition to ensuring an adequate food supply and a balanced diet, the focus is on access to resources, such as land, water, training, agricultural production, and the processing and marketing of agricultural produce and non-agricultural products. Income and earning potential in the rural areas encourage the economic independence of the communities.

- **32,182 landless peasants, small-holders and six groups have gained access to land.**
- **28,793 people and three small enterprises have gained access to small loans.**
- **346 wells have been built, giving 240,298 people and 65 groups access to drinking water.**
- **8230 grass-roots action groups, cooperatives and NGOs have been supported and thus strengthened as institutions.**



Promoting Peace - Overcoming Conflict

A peaceful co-existence is made difficult when everyday life is scarred by violence. This is the backdrop against which HEKS supports specific initiatives started by local and regional civic organisations with an interest in promoting peace, and also facilitates their integration and participation in wider peace processes. HEKS and its partner organisations also analyse the different expressions of violence, and their project work includes finding ways of early recognising potential points of conflict with a view to avoiding conflict altogether or working through the issues.

HEKS joins forces with its partner organisations to campaign for more justice, defence of human rights and social development. Communities learn to resist acts of injustice and to fight for their rights.

On the basis of Christian values HEKS takes the role of an impartial activist in promoting the peaceful and constructive co-existence of people, cultures and religions. HEKS encourages ecumenical dialogue and a meeting of minds across religious groups and cooperation between different religions, ethnic groups and cultures.

- **18,953 young people have learnt how to resolve their everyday conflicts in a constructive way without resorting to violence thanks to intensive anger management counselling.**
- **23,908 families who have been victims of violence have taken part in psychosocial projects, successfully improving their emotional state of mind, rebuilding their trust and gaining a new perspective and outlook on life.**
- **206,757 people in war-torn areas have helped to ease the local conflict situation through peace-promoting initiatives.**



Giving Humanitarian Aid

HEKS gives humanitarian aid following natural disasters, and during or after armed conflicts, with a view to achieving an immediate and sustained improvement in the lives and circumstances of the people affected. As a relatively small aid organisation in the wider international context, HEKS can only satisfy the demands for professionalism and quality if it sets clear priorities in its humanitarian aid. This is why HEKS concentrates the fullness of its resources on its primary-focus countries and regions which are at greater risk of catastrophes or more susceptible to disasters. The humanitarian aid offered by HEKS falls into four categories:

- > Preparation for potential disasters, encompassing risk analyses, early warning systems and operational preliminaries in preparation for a catastrophic event
- > Emergency aid
- > Reconstruction and rehabilitation
- > Prevention of catastrophes and conflicts

HEKS maintains regular working relations with ACT (Action by Churches Together, the global alliance of Protestant and Orthodox churches and related aid organisations under the umbrella of the World Council of Churches. HEKS is also an accredited partner organisation of Swiss Solidarity.

- 33,491 people have benefited from food aid which secured their survival.
- 3,040 dwellings and 11 school buildings have been reconstructed.
- 2,266 latrines have been built, improving the hygiene and sanitary conditions of many people.
- 36,579 families have been given the chance to earn a living thanks to employment schemes (training courses, assistance with the purchase of production equipment and school materials).



Interchurch Aid

Interchurch aid, as practised by HEKS in the form of welfare work and church partnerships, has its origins in post-war aid. HEKS started by helping countries directly bordering on Switzerland, but its interchurch aid has extended to other countries in the south and east of Europe since the beginning of the nineteen-fifties.

Interchurch aid is a mutual expression of ecumenical fellowship of church communities and church bodies. The aim of the projects is to support partner churches and outreach work, to be there for people in the spirit of the Gospel - irrespective of their denomination. At a practical level it means financial and advisory support for Reformed and Orthodox churches and encouragement in their pastoral and charitable work. Church and project partnerships are gaining in importance in this regard - not surprisingly given the fundamental contribution they make to spiritual integration in Europe and stable and sustainable relationships between east and west.

- 556 people with disabilities have been able to take a holiday in Berekfürdő in Hungary.
- 15 buildings have been renovated with grants for local parishes in Eastern Europe.
- 260 Roma people in Kosovo have received counselling in various aspects of life and have been helped to integrate in the school system and the job market, and their living arrangements have also been improved.
- 635 women in Kosovo have received information and advice with a view to preventing violence to women.



REFERENCE IMAGE

Advocacy for the Socially Disadvantaged

HEKS observes the international trend in migratory movements and comments on asylum law and immigration law issues. Statements of particular importance are those made by HEKS on amendments to legislation, popular initiatives and votes.

Since 2007 HEKS has also been offering legal aid for impoverished people in Switzerland with regard to social security law, social welfare benefit law, family law, matrimonial law, the law relating to children and guardianship, tenancy law, and the law concerning aliens. The Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches (FSPC) has commissioned HEKS to run a liaison office for human rights and to manage the FSPC human rights fund. HEKS uses this centre as a point of advice and support for people whose human rights have been violated or who are at risk of suffering such acts of violation.

- **LEGAL AID FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND SANS-PAPIERS.** The legal aid centres for asylum seekers (AG, SO, BS/BL, ZH, SG/AI/AR, TG) held 14,419 consultation sessions in 2009 and accepted 861 new mandates. A total of 328 positive rulings were received from the Federal Office for Migration (BFM) and the Swiss Federal Administrative Court.
- **LEGAL AID FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE.** 202 advisory sessions were held in the legal aid centre for needy people in Aarau. In these sessions socially disadvantaged people can be advised on issues in their everyday lives with reference to social security law, social welfare benefit law, matrimonial law, and the law relating to children and guardianship.
- **AID ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES.** Representatives from HEKS have been involved in some 6,150 asylum hearings in the west of Switzerland and Berne.



Integrating the Socially Disadvantaged

One of the major challenges facing society in years to come is that of integrating disadvantaged people in society and in working life. HEKS is playing its part in encouraging the social integration of these sections of the population - and therewith in developing social and societal cohesion in Switzerland. HEKS concentrates on issues like integration in the labour market and employment in the context of structured daily routines, language and training courses, early learning initiatives for children and the associated parental involvement, intercultural and cross-cultural interpretation and mediation, and the provision of housing and support with daily living.

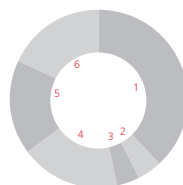
- **1. INTEGRATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET.** 233 women and 219 men have taken part in the employment integration schemes, Stellennetz, KICK and TGjob. 49.6 % found a job or discovered what their next step should be.
- **2. STRUCTURED ROUTINE/EMPLOYMENT.** The HEKS Visite voluntary placement scheme arranged work assignments for 346 people in non-profit organisations. Over 80 people took part in HEKS's own structured daily routine programmes.
- **3. HOUSING/SHELTER.** 103 men and 63 women received support in the HEKS housing projects in 2009. Of the 38 who left, 25 are now living independently.
- **4. LANGUAGE.** In 2009 1538 women and 422 men attended HEKS language courses for adults.
- **5. INTERCULTURAL INTERPRETATION AND MEDIATION.** In 2009 there were 14,427 hours of intercultural interpretation and mediation in some 50 languages.
- **6. EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVES.** 28 families joined the schritt:weise early learning scheme in 2009.
- **7. COUNSELLING FOR SANS-PAPIERS.** Counselling sessions offered to sans-papiers in 2009 numbered 314 on health issues and 194 on social issues.

2009 Financial Report

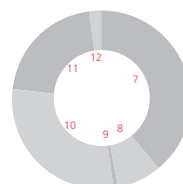
Last year HEKS posted total revenues of 52.9 million Swiss francs. The amount spent by HEKS in providing services totals 55.5 million Swiss francs, representing a 3 % decrease on the previous year.

Spending on services in **other countries** decreased by 3.2 million Swiss francs, from 31.3 million Swiss francs to 28.1 million Swiss francs. The drop in humanitarian aid projects accounts for 2.2 million Swiss francs of this decrease (2009: CHF 5.0 m, 2008: CHF 7.2 m).

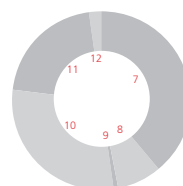
		CHF	%
SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES			
1	Donations	20'115'254	38.0
2	Legacies	2'435'562	4.6
3	Contributions from supporting churches	2'219'804	4.2
4	Project contributions from various organisations	9'524'215	18.0
5	Project contributions from government/cantons/communities	8'988'961	17.0
6	Income from projects for services + miscellaneous income	9'641'606	18.2
Total		52'925'402	100.0



SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK			
7	Earmarked donations	9'773'128	39.5
8	Humanitarian aid	2'052'124	8.3
9	Earmarked legacies	26'012	0.1
10	Project contributions from various organisations	7'298'043	29.5
11	Project contributions from government/cantons/communities	5'382'265	21.8
12	Other income from projects	207'973	0.8
Total		24'739'545	100.0



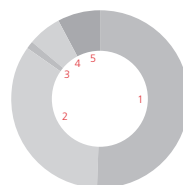
SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR NATIONAL WORK			
13	Earmarked donations	2'421'489	13.6
14	Earmarked legacies	120'961	0.7
15	Project contributions from various organisations	2'226'172	12.5
16	Project contributions from government/cantons/communities	3'606'696	20.3
17	Income from projects for services	9'433'633	53.0
Total		17'808'951	100.0



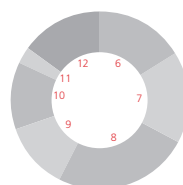
The income for work in other countries excluding humanitarian aid was slightly up on the previous year.

National activities were again characterised by an extension in project work. At 19.0 million Swiss francs, expenditure increased by 8.2 % as in the previous year. Some new projects were started up while existing projects were expanded, especially in the west of Switzerland.

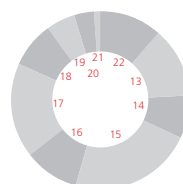
		CHF	%
GENERAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS			
1	International work	28'082'416	50.6
2	National work and work with refugees	19'043'138	34.3
3	Information in Switzerland	790'068	1.4
4	Central administration	3'374'676	6.1
5	Communications	4'176'968	7.5
Total		55'467'266	100.0



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN INTERNATIONAL WORK			
6	Humanitarian aid	4'540'505	16.2
7	Europe	4'726'747	16.8
8	Africa	6'894'990	24.6
9	Asia	3'414'619	12.2
10	Latin America	3'439'126	12.2
11	Supranational work	874'836	3.1
12	Project work	4'191'593	14.9
Total		28'082'416	100.0



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN NATIONAL WORK			
13	Legal advice for asylum seekers	2'430'675	12.8
14	Representation during questioning of asylum seekers	1'503'686	7.9
15	Integration in the labour market	4'287'262	22.5
16	Housing/domestic support	1'899'238	10.0
17	Education	3'256'096	17.1
18	Intercultural mediation	1'587'764	8.3
19	Voluntary work	1'016'740	5.3
20	Meeting places and contacts	696'860	3.7
21	Various projects/contributions to projects	181'616	1.0
22	General project work and national work	2'183'201	11.5
Total		19'043'138	100.0



Thank you

HEKS has received support from thousands of private individuals as well as civil parishes, cantonal churches, Bread for All, the SDC and other Swiss government agencies, Swiss Solidarity, communities, cantons, firms and organisations. Without their support our work, commitment and dedication would not be possible.



Our sincere thanks are due to you all!

Head office

HEKS
Seminarstrasse 28
Postfach
8042 Zurich
Tel.: 044 360 88 00
Fax: 044 360 88 01
Post Office account 80-1115-1
info@heks.ch

EPER
Secrétariat romand
17bis, Boulevard de Grancy
Case postale 536
1001 Lausanne
Tel. 021 613 40 70
Fax. 021 617 26 26
eper@eper.ch

www.heks.ch

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