



## HEKS at a Glance



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

## Little changes have big effects

HEKS stands for the Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (Swiss Interchurch Aid) 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 does not send Swiss people abroad. 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, Turkey, 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

### **SOUTH ASIA**

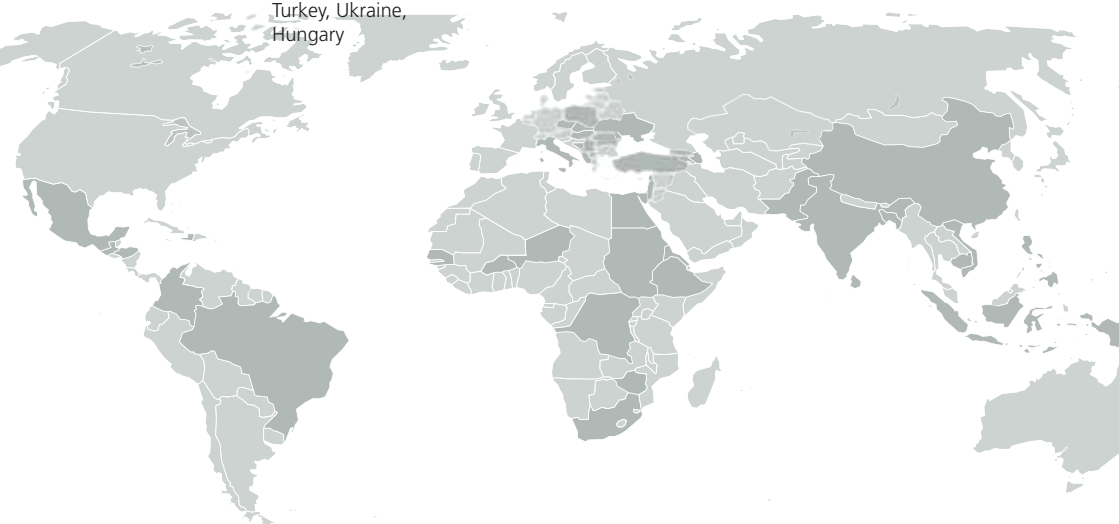
Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

### **SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam

### **MIDDLE EAST**

Egypt, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine



## HEKS in Switzerland

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

### **BERNE REGIONAL OFFICE**

### **BASEL REGIONAL OFFICE (BOTH SIDES)**

### **AARGAU/ SOLOTHURN REGIONAL OFFICE**

### **ZURICH/ SCHAFFHAUSEN REGIONAL OFFICE**

### **SWITZERLAND EAST REGIONAL OFFICE**

### **SECRETARIAT 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.

- **Some 68,000 landless peasants, smallholders, untouchables and plantation workers have gained access to land.**
- **45,413 people have gained access to small loans.**
- **The construction of 32 wells and further drinking water projects have given 85,244 people access to drinking water.**
- **1997 grass-roots action groups, cooperatives and NGOs have been supported and strengthened as institutions. (Status 2008)**



## 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, promotion 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.

- **11,082 young people have learnt how to resolve their everyday conflicts in a constructive way without resorting to violence thanks to intensive anger management counselling.**
- **1565 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.**
- **3026 people in war-torn areas have helped to ease the local conflict situation through peace-promoting initiatives. (Status 2008)**



## Giving Humanitarian Aid

HEKS provides 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 is a member of Action by Churches Together (ACT), 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.

■ 96,443 people have benefited from food aid which secured their survival.  
■ 1644 houses have been rebuilt, putting a new roof over the heads of 1644 families.  
■ 600 latrines have been built, providing hygienic conditions for 600 families to answer the call of nature.  
■ 6617 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). (Status 2008)



## 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 means exchange and 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.

■ 3419 people with disabilities have been able to take a holiday in Bereksfürdő in Hungary.

■ 17 buildings have been renovated with grants for local parishes in Eastern Europe.

■ 1000 Roma people 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.

■ 9000 women in Romania have received information and advice with a view to preventing violence to women. (*Status 2008*)



## 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 various legal aid centres for asylum seekers (AG, SO, BS/BL, BE, ZH, SG/AI/AR, TG) held 17,300 consultation sessions in 2008 and accepted 781 new mandates. A total of 506 positive rulings have been received from the Federal Office for Migration and the Swiss Federal Administrative Court.

■ **LEGAL AID FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE.** HEKS has opened a new legal aid centre in Aargau for needy people. It is a place where socially disadvantaged people can be advised on existential legal issues.

■ **NGO REPRESENTATION.** NGO representatives from HEKS have been involved in some 4000 asylum hearings in the west of Switzerland and Berne. (*Status 2008*)



## 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.

■ **INTEGRATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET.** A total of 298 women and 191 men took part in the three big schemes, Stellennetz, KICK and TG job. 63 per cent found a job or discovered what their next step should be.

■ **STRUCTURED ROUTINE/EMPLOYMENT.** 'HEKS Visite' Zurich, Schaffhausen and Switzerland East arranged work assignments in non-profit organisations for 237 participants. Over 50 also took part in HEKS's own structured daily routine programmes.

■ **HOUSING/SHELTER.** A total of 71 men and 47 women were helped in both 'HEKS Wohnen' housing projects in Aargau and Basel (both sides). 50 people were newly referred to the scheme while 40 left. Of the 40 who left, 29 are now living independently (72.5%).

■ **LANGUAGE.** A total of 1756 women and 503 men attended HEKS language courses for adults.

■ **INTERCULTURAL INTERPRETATION AND MEDIATION.** Both 'Linguadukt' interpreting services in Aargau and Basel (both sides) clocked up a total of 13,216 hours of intercultural interpretation and mediation in some 50 languages. (*Status 2008*)

## Financial Report 2008

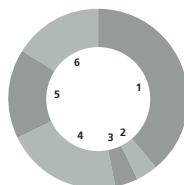
The trend in revenues has been positive in the past year, ending 5% up on the previous year at 53.8 million Swiss francs. This increase is accounted for by higher income from donations and legacies (+2.7 million Swiss francs).

The amount spent by HEKS in providing services totals 57.2 million Swiss francs, representing a slight increase on the previous year (+0.8%). Spending on services in **other countries** decreased by 2.1 million Swiss francs, all of which is accounted for by the drop in

CHF %

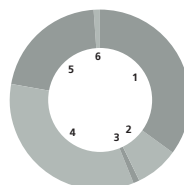
### SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES

1	Donations	20'759'353	39
2	Legacies	2'012'401	4
3	Contributions from supporting churches	2'183'703	4
4	Project contributions from various organisations	11'434'469	21
5	Project contributions from government / cantons / communities	8'610'343	16
6	Income from projects for services	8'758'086	16
<b>Total</b>		<b>53'758'355</b>	<b>100</b>



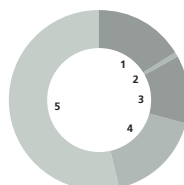
### SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK

1	Earmarked donations	9'761'207	35
2	Humanitarian aid	2'177'274	8
3	Earmarked legacies	152'022	1
4	Project contributions from various organisations	9'491'147	34
5	Project contributions from government / cantons / communities	5'774'051	21
6	Other income from projects	158'710	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>27'514'411</b>	<b>100</b>



### SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR NATIONAL WORK

1	Earmarked donation	2'672'514	16
2	Earmarked legacies	203'245	1
3	Project contributions from various organisations	1'943'322	12
4	Project contributions from government / cantons / communities	2'836'292	18
5	Income from projects for services	8'599'376	53
<b>Total</b>		<b>16'254'749</b>	<b>100</b>



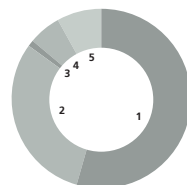
humanitarian aid projects. Other project work is in line with the previous year. Despite a decrease in humanitarian aid, proceeds for work in other countries rose by 0.3 million Swiss francs to 27.5 million Swiss francs.

**National activities** were again characterised by an extension in project work. At 17.6 million Swiss francs, expenditure is 8.2% up on the previous year. New projects were started up whilst many existing projects continued to make successful progress.

CHF %

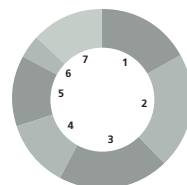
#### GENERAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

1	International work	31'267'415	55
2	National work	17'602'544	31
3	Information in Switzerland	649'205	1
4	Central administration	3'178'527	5
5	Communications	4'489'200	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>57'186'891</b>	<b>100</b>



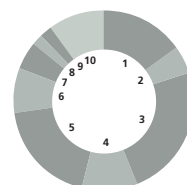
#### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN INTERNATIONAL WORK

1	Europe	5'240'529	17
2	Humanitarian aid	6'583'782	21
3	Afrika	6'284'172	20
4	Asia	3'774'839	12
5	Latin America	4'107'524	13
6	Supranational work	1'341'690	4
7	Project work	3'934'879	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>31'267'415</b>	<b>100</b>



#### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN NATIONAL WORK

1	Legal advice for asylum seekers	2'709'753	15
2	NGO representation during questioning of asylum seekers	945'247	5
3	Integration in the labour market	4'162'906	24
4	Housing / domestic support	1'813'310	10
5	Education	3'258'169	19
6	Intercultural mediation	1'327'434	8
7	Voluntary work	897'073	5
8	Meeting places and contacts	408'092	2
9	Various projects / contributions to projects	309'511	2
10	General project work and national work	1'771'049	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>17'602'544</b>	<b>100</b>



# 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!

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