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HEKS 

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

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Identity

As the aid agency of the Swiss Protestant churches, HEKS is committed to positive action. HEKS counteracts resignation with hope and puts the concept of Christian charity into practice.

Values

HEKS is committed to justice, peace and integrity of creation. All people have a right to live safe, dignified lives free from all forms of oppression.

HEKS' Christian values command respect for people of all cultures and religions. HEKS helps individuals in need, irrespective of their race or religion.

Mandates

HEKS acts on behalf of the Protestant churches of Switzerland, whose mandates determine its scope of action.

At an international level these are: «collaboration with churches and reconstruction aid in Europe», «development cooperation in Africa, Asia and Latin America» and «emergency aid».

Nationally they include: «refugee aid», «aid for the underprivileged» and «public relations work».

Principles of action

HEKS collaborates with its operational partner organisations to support local initiatives. The objective is to eliminate dependence on all foreign aid and bring the projects to a successful conclusion.

HEKS structures its aid according to the resources and needs of the beneficiaries and implements its projects with their help.

HEKS fights against the causes of hardship and injustice, warlike conflicts and ecological destruction. HEKS stands up for the rights and integration of refugees and the underprivileged. The aim is to achieve a lasting improvement of living conditions so that future generations will benefit.

HEKS assists its partner churches to fulfil their missions within the scope of its inter-church collaboration.

HEKS concentrates its programmes geographically and thematically, ensuring that peace compatibility and promoting equality of the sexes are fundamental to all activities and projects.

HEKS informs the Swiss public about the needs of its beneficiaries and the projects it supports.

HEKS has established itself as an aid agency working at a national level.

HEKS is committed to continuous improvement as part of a permanent learning process. HEKS values and promotes the expertise of its staff, is open to criticism and change and faces up to the challenges of modern society.

HEKS is scrupulous in its management of human and financial resources and provides clear and comprehensive information about its finances.

Partnerships

In order to achieve its goals, HEKS collaborates with partner organisations, which are also committed to the fundamental values of peace, justice and integrity of creation.

Local church and other organisations (grass roots organisations and non-governmental organisations NGO) are HEKS' operational partners.

HEKS collaborates with Swiss and foreign aid agencies, whose activities and objectives are compatible with those of HEKS.

At both a national and an international level HEKS is integrated into established networks of development aid, emergency aid, diaconal and refugee organisations as well as ecumenical movements.

The churches united in the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches are important partners, and HEKS acts on their behalf.

HEKS bases its work on collaboration with church communities, cantonal ecumenical commissions, HEKS' committees and other grass roots church organisations.

The mission statement was approved by HEKS' board of directors in July 2003.