

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



HELVETAS
GERMANY



**WHAT
MAKES WOMAN
UNBEATABLE?**

Our vision is a just world in which all men and women determine the course of their lives in dignity and security, using environmental resources in a sustainable manner.

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About Helvetas

Helvetas has been contributing to efforts to alleviate poverty, working to advance human rights, and fighting injustice across the globe. Poor and disadvantaged people and communities are at the center of our work. Together, we create new prospects, leveraging existing potential, strengths, and assets: we help people to help themselves. We provide humanitarian response following natural disasters and in conflict situations. We always work closely with local partner organizations from civil society and the private sector, as well as with local authorities.

Helvetas' core activities are international projects. Helvetas strives to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged people in rural areas in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. The projects focus on the working areas Water, Food and Climate; Skilly, Jobs and Income; Voice, Inclusion and Cohesion and Humanitarian Response.

The organization promotes people's fair access to vital resources and champions the protection of social, economic, political, ecological and cultural rights and duties. In Germany, Helvetas pushes for demonstrating solidarity towards disadvantaged people in the Global South.

IMPRINT

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Picture Credits:

Top picture: Sundar Thapa, Kathmandu.

© Narendra Shrestha

Middle picture: Phan Man Quang, Vietnam.

© Vu Ngoc Dung

Bottom picture: Mortuj Ali, Bangladesch

© GMB Akash

INNOVATING TO FIGHT INEQUALITY

Hunger and wars endanger and destroy people's chances in life. Development is necessary because progress and prosperity are the fertile ground for peace. Helvetas is committed to fair opportunities for all.

Inequality threatens progress

For many years we felt optimistic about development as people's lives around the world improved from year to year. Now, though, it seems as if the world is coming apart at the seams. People worldwide are fighting for peace, justice and equal rights – but also simply for their own survival. Coronavirus and wars are threatening our health, food security and basic education, as well as weakening the economy and increasing inequality. Inequality imperils social peace. In the past year alone, the combined fortunes of the world's 2,755 billionaires have increased while at the same time 160 million people who had just lifted themselves out of poverty have been pushed back into it. Where poverty reigns, conflict is often not far away, be it over rare public goods such as water and land, or over political domination. Resentment boils up in fast-expanding cities, and among young people without any job prospects. Disasters, conflicts, climate change and now the war in Ukraine are wrecking people's opportunities in life. Without opportunities, however,



Martin Koppa,
Director of Helvetas Germany

there is no social cohesion. Development is indispensable because it offers fertile ground for peace, as does peace for development. Thank you for contributing to create new prospects for disadvantaged people.

Martin Koppa, Director of Helvetas Germany

Innovation pays

Only a few years back, we were pleased that the Millennium Development Goals were being met in many parts of the world. Poverty was declining and so was child mortality. Now those rates are rising again, and hunger, poverty and distress are



Remo Gesù,
Member of the Shareholder Meeting

increasing, with the war in Ukraine making matters worse. A far greater effort than before is needed to meet the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals. It requires innovative organizations, such as Helvetas, which assist and strengthen people's position with an eye on the future. I believe that Helvetas is a strong organization that initiates positive change and provides rapid humanitarian assistance in situations of greatest need.

Remo Gesù, Member of the Shareholder Meeting

Helvetas Germany

Helvetas Intercooperation gGmbH (Helvetas Germany) was established on November 7th, 2013 and has entered in the commercial register of the Bonn District Court under the registration number HRB 20460 on December 6th, 2013. Helvetas Germany is denominationally neutral and politically independent and is a member of the international Helvetas network. The Helvetas network builds upon six decades of development experience and is engaged in more than 30 countries with more than 1400 collaborators. The members implement joint development programs and adhere to a common strategy including defined working approaches and thematic areas of intervention.

POVERTY OR PROSPERITY IS A MATTER OF CHANCE

For every one of us, where we are born is our single greatest chance in life. Where we are born determines our opportunities later in life. The promise of equal opportunities for all is the greatest broken promise of today's world.

Every child has the right to a healthy life. But, worldwide, 450 million children have no access to safe drinking water. Their chance for healthy development and a good education is thus hampered from the start. An environment's social and political context determines the opportunities and obstacles in a person's life – no matter where you are born in the world.

According to research by World Bank economist Branko Milanovic, more than 50 percent of a person's income can be explained by their country of birth, and 20 percent by their family background. In other words, prosperity is only minimally related to individual performance and personal responsibility. Prosperity depends primarily on geographical and family origin. Thirst for knowledge, ideas and talent play a subordinate role.

Fair opportunities must not be left to chance

People need fair opportunities if they are to escape from poverty. Equal opportunities begin with basic needs being met. Clean drinking water, healthy food, and protection from the effects of climate change are necessary preconditions for people to shape their future without being crushed by the hardships of daily life.

Giving people fair opportunities also requires schools, vocational training and job prospects that allow people to earn a secure income. This in turn provides women and men with the opportunity to build a life for themselves and look after their families.

Last but not least, having a fair chance in life means being protected from discrimination and persecution, and being heard. If you have a voice, you can change and shape your environment.

They only come into play when someone is given the chance to develop them. Or, as Napoleon summarized, "Ability is nothing without opportunity."

A child in Germany will get a promising start in life, thanks to the country's reliable healthcare system, educational opportunities, economic situation and welfare provisions, as well as its stable political location in the center of Europe and the possibilities to influence policy through direct democracy. Poverty exists in Germany, too – not every child enjoys the same preconditions. Even here, a child's early opportunities are affected by where she grows up, her parents' educational background and migration story, income and inheritance, health and gender, and the child's name and religion.

Fair Chances to fight poverty

In many parts of the world, however, children simply do not have these fundamental advantages at birth and in early life. It is an accident of birth that people in Switzerland only have to turn on the tap to satisfy our thirst, while up until November 2021 Madina Muhuthage had to draw water for her children from a dirty hole in the ground.

The coincidence of birth made it impossible for Sundar Thapa from Nepal (see p. 6) to get an education. Although he was able to attend school, he was unable to learn a trade because of his parents' poverty. Today, he sells cheap goods to bus passengers in Kathmandu with his vendor's tray, has neither a regular income nor social security.

He wishes he had had a chance to build a more sustainable future for himself and his family.



Sundar Thapa selling cheap wares on the streets of Kathmandu. He regrets not having had a chance to get a vocational training.

Gender also has an impact on the course of life. On average, according to the World Bank, women have only three-quarters of the legal rights that men have.

But the average is one thing: Only ten countries in the world guarantee women 100 percent of the same rights as men; Germany is not one of them, because women are disadvantaged in terms of salary and childcare.

157'998
girls and boys got their chance
to go to school in
2021 thanks to Helvetas.

By the coincidence of birth, billions of women are born in countries where they have fewer rights than men and where social reality further restricts the exercise. As in the case of Clemencia López Cabrera from Guatemala: For a long time, she believed those who said that women and their opinions mattered less.

A secure future in a world worth living in. Regardless of where we happened to be born, we all share the same values and the same heartfelt concerns. These include the need for autonomy and self-determination, the longing for security and recognition, and the desire and concern that our own children should have a secure future in a world worth living in.

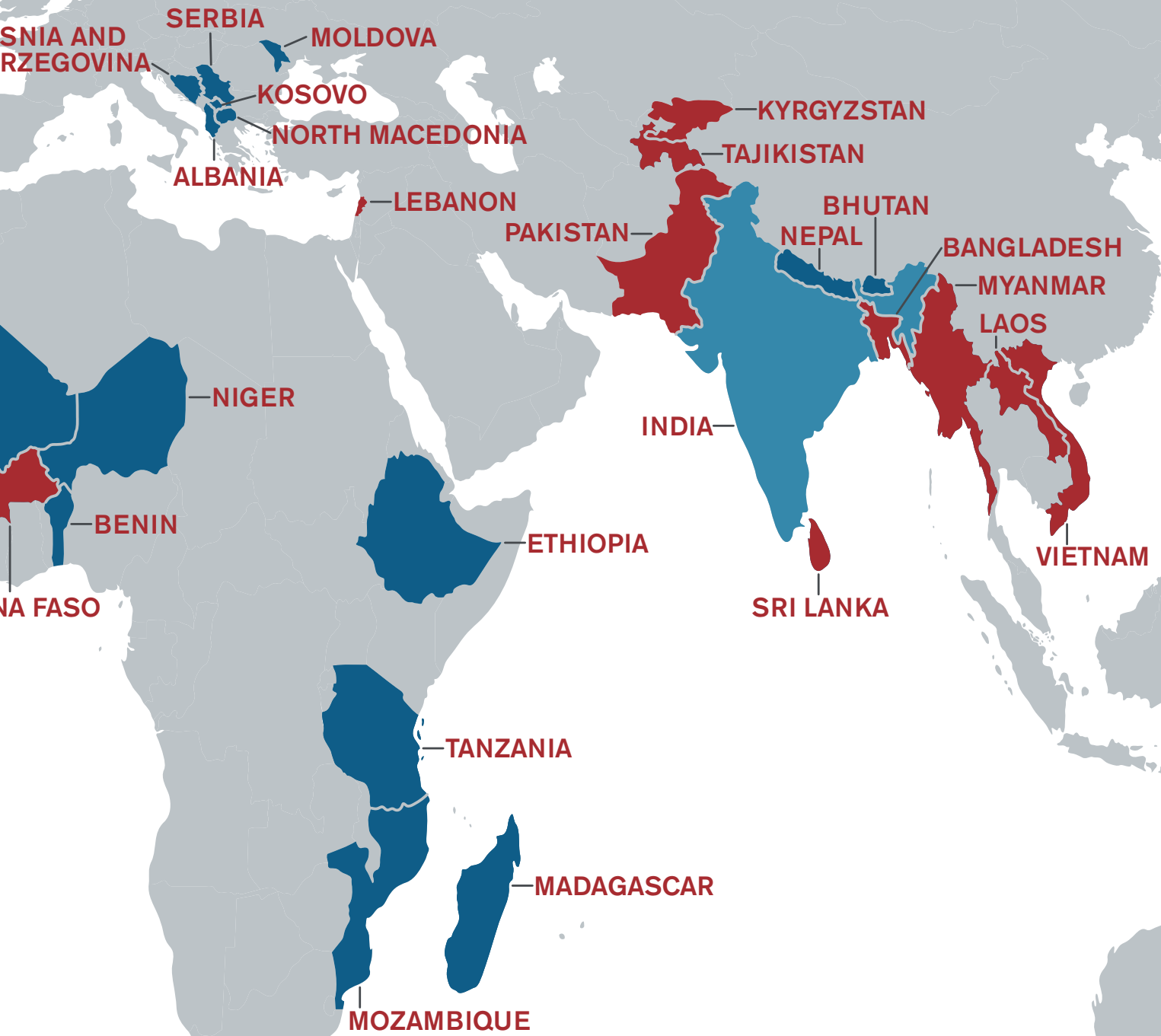
Every human being deserves a fair chance to fulfill his or her potential. That's why ending poverty depends on achieving equal opportunities. Where we are born may be a matter of chance, but we can have an impact on whether someone drinks clean water, goes to school, sees a doctor, votes, and can train for a job and find one. That is what Helvetas is committed to. Helvetas creates fair opportunities so that more people in developing countries can live self-determined and independent lives – no matter where and under what circumstances they were born.

FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Helvetas works with and for people living in poverty. We work in countries that are among the poorest in the world as well as in middle-income countries and in fragile, insecure regions. Because our experience shows that sustainable development takes time, we are committed to long-term efforts of creating fair opportunities for all.



OUR PARTNER COUNTRIES



- Partner countries Helvetas Germany
- Partner countries Helvetas
- Alliance Partner

WHY WE ACTIVELY ENGAGE

WHAT WE DO

Helvetas implements development and humanitarian aid projects. We ensure basic rights, create new perspectives, and strengthen good governance. We also provide technical advisory services, develop subject-specific expertise, and engage in political dialogue and lobbying.

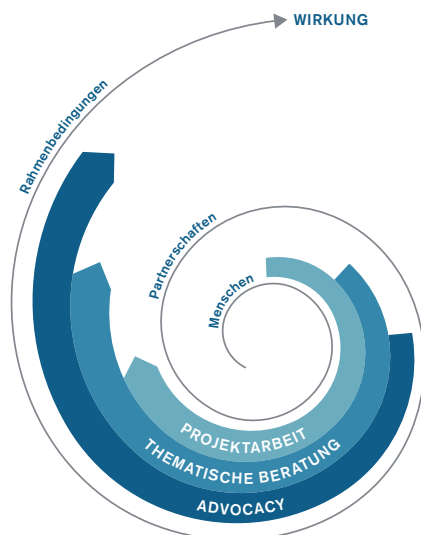


DIVERSE COMMITMENT

In 2021 Helvetas Germany supported 16 Projects and Programs in different thematic areas in 10 countries.

OVERVIEW PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN YEAR 2021

Continent/Country	Title	Funding/ Co-Funding
Africa		
Burkina Faso	Laafia - Health for Schoolchildren and Families	Donations
Asia		
Bangladesh & Sri Lanka	CSO PVE -(Preventing Violent Extremism)	EU
Kyrgyzstan	Greentour - Sustainable Tourism in Kyrgyzstan	EU
Kyrgyzstan	Livestock & Tourism - Förderung der Value Chain Promotion Livestock and Agriculture	GIZ
Laos	Connect - Capacity Development and Networking to Enhance Civil Society	EU
Laos	C4N «Connecting for Improved Nutrition»	EU
Libanon	Digital Literacy - Strengthening Civil Society Organisations in Lebanon through Digital Literacy	AA (ifa/ zivik)
Myanmar	Culture 4 Peace	EU
Myanmar	Open History - Arts for Peace	AA (ifa/zivik)
Sri Lanka	inSPIRE - Incubator Space for Promoting Information Right and Freedom of Expression	EU
Sri Lanka	Lankan Youth CAN - Social Change through youth digital activism and representation	AA (ifa/ zivik)
Tajikistan	Improving the well-being of labour migrants and their families in Tajikistan.	EU / ICMPD
Tajikistan	Improved Nutrition and Health for Rural Families	BMZ
Vietnam	Promoting sustainability standards in supply chains to improve the living conditions of ethnic minorities	EU
Vietnam	L4A - Landrights for All	EU
Latin America		
Bolivien	Integrate - Economic empowerment of Venezuelan families	Donations



HOW WE MAKE AN EFFECT

Through projects, technical advice, and advocacy Helvetas initiates, promotes and guides systemic change.

Helvetas combines three mutually reinforcing intervention mechanisms: We implement development and humanitarian response projects; we provide technical advice and build thematic competences; and we engage in awareness-raising, policy dialogue, and advocacy. This is how we initiate, support, and influence systemic change that improves the lives of people in the short and long term, strengthens our partners, and fosters conducive frame conditions.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VALUE CHAINS

Helvetas works with the local private sector to promote sustainable market structures in which all people in the value chain have equal rights and disadvantaged people are equally integrated.

Economy and competition

In the northern provinces of Lao Cai and Cac Kan in Vietnam, Helvetas works together with the local partner organization CRED to improve employment and income for ethnic minority smallholder farmers.

In context-specific trainings on sustainability standards applicable to the production of artichokes and cinnamon, 550 farmers learned how to meet the standard requirements and strengthen their economic position by selling their sustainably produced products to local certified small and medium enterprises and gaining access to international markets as well as participating in modern agricultural value chains.

Goal of the Helvetas Network for 2021–24:

320'000
women and men have attended a vocational education and training

Why do Helvetas and CRED promote knowledge about sustainability standards in Vietnam?

The standards encourage farmers to follow a set of good practices to conserve natural resources and protect the environment. Adhering to these sustainable standards not only significantly increases the retail prices of artichokes and cinnamon sold to SMEs, but also ensures the health and environmental conditions of farmers. In addition, products that meet sustainability standards have improved the competitiveness of Vietnamese products in international markets.

What lies behind the value chain system approach?

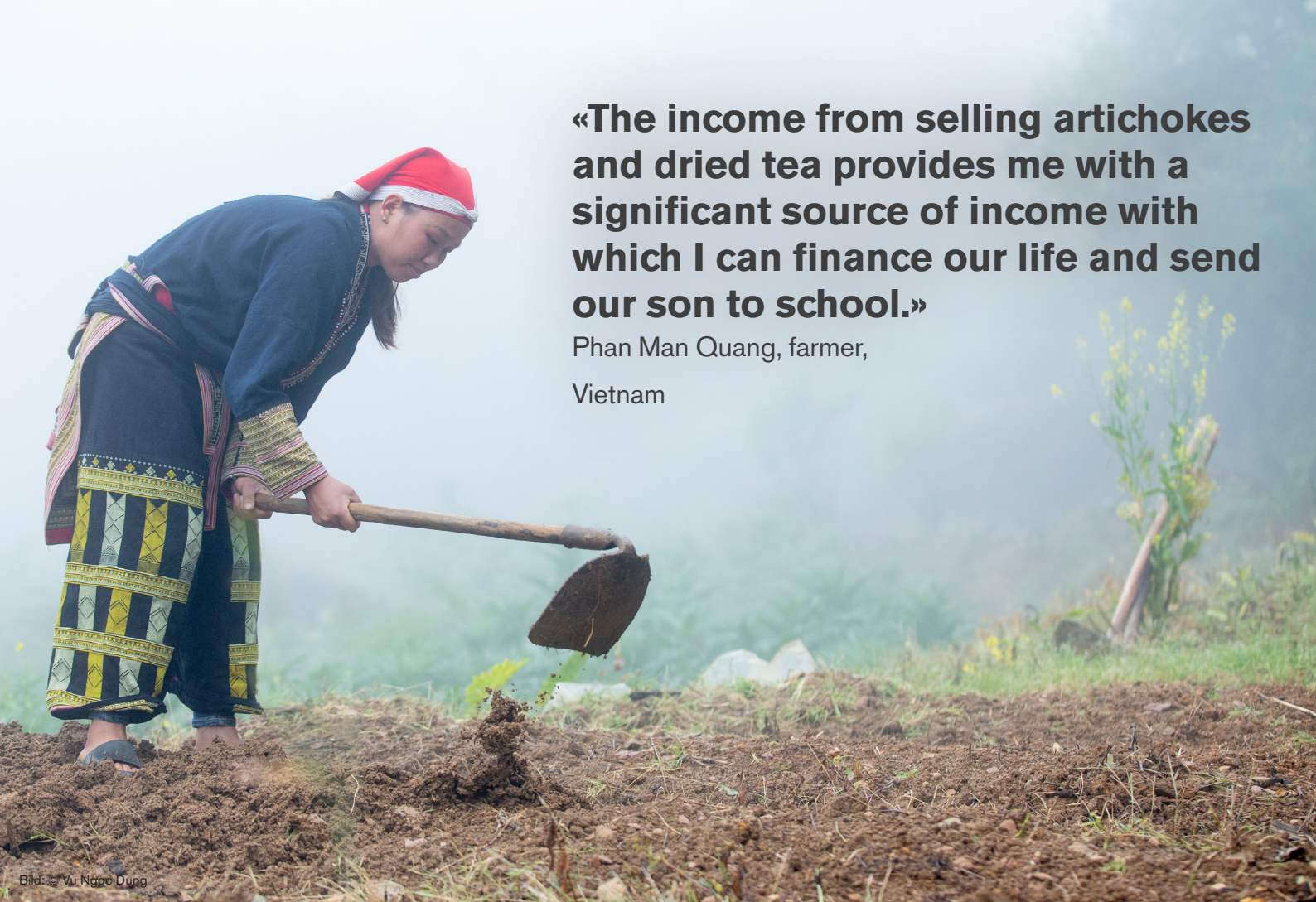
The projects main approach - the value chain system - has proven successful and effective in solving agricultural supply problems in developing countries.

When farmers are able to build long-term business relationships with SMEs, the economic value of their products increases significantly, and so does their income. Vietnam is home to an incredible variety of plants that are unique in the tropics. Therefore, there is a large sales market, making Vietnam increasingly attractive to international buyers. However, farmers are often not included in Vietnam's value chains on an equal footing. Therefore, this project supports them to break out of this cycle of injustice and contributes to an overall higher reputation of ethnic farmers in the region. The project should help the affected ethnic farmers build stronger connections among themselves, learn from each other, and take pride in their uniqueness and traditions.

Giang Nguyen Lam: Director of CRED (Center for Rural Economy Development)

More about our work area Education, employment and income:
helvetas.org/newperspectives





«The income from selling artichokes and dried tea provides me with a significant source of income with which I can finance our life and send our son to school.»

Phan Man Quang, farmer,
Vietnam

Sustainable Tourism

With the «Greentour» project, Helvetas supports the Kyrgyz government's goals of promoting greener and more sustainable tourism in **Kyrgyzstan**, engaging communities and diversifying tourism products to attract new audiences and customers. Through a holistic economic approach, the project mobilizes and guides Kyrgyz tour operators in adapting and promoting sustainable consumption and production practices in their supply chains and business processes. It also enhances the capacity of travel associations to provide corporate social responsibility advisory services to disseminate sustainable tourism practices.

Safe labor migration

In the Sughd region of **Tajikistan**, Helvetas is working to improve the living conditions of migrants as part of the project «Improving the well-being of labor migrants». Due to low prospects of earning an income in their own country, Tajik men and increasingly also women are pinning their hopes on employment abroad, which increases the risk of forced labor and exploitation as well as the violation of their rights. Helvetas therefore offers interested parties access to legal advice even before they leave the country. An important contribution in this regard is made by the newly established website of the Migration Service, which contains information about relevant service providers and the rights of migrants.

Green economy models

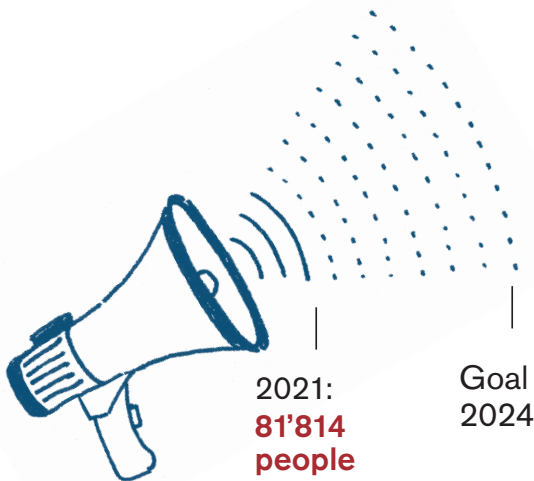
In **Kyrgyzstan** Helvetas is supporting the Kyrgyz government's national sustainable green economy program as part of the «Livestock and Tourism» project, together with local partner AFC. The introduction of environmentally friendly and more efficient economic practices that are sustainable in the long term should help improve employment and income. Through a holistic economic approach, the project accompanies local SMEs in developing long-term business prospects and sustainable agricultural pastoralism, provides access to new and innovative services, and mobilizes incentives for the private sector to shift to green and sustainable production practices.

PEACEBUILDING AND PARTICIPATION

Billions of people are born in countries where there is limited access to basic public services, where they have to seek jobs elsewhere as economic migrants or have been displaced by war and conflict. Helvetas contributes to making these people's voices heard.

Goal of the Helvetas Network for 2021–24

500'000 people have been empowered to raise their voice and claim their rights



Arts for peace

In **Myanmar**, our «Open History - Arts for Peace» project, in collaboration with local partner organization Pansodan Gallery, promotes local civil society inclusive and peaceful dialogue within and between different groups. Through participatory and creative tools, Open History events have created a space where different social groups can meet and share different views, acknowledge history and respect each other. Through regional exchanges and training to promote dialogue, the project also strengthens the local artist network and enables artists to become agents of change as well as contributing to peacebuilding.

Dialogue and political participation

In **Sri Lanka**, the Lankan Youth CAN project worked with selected local partner organizations to create dialog spaces where young people developed an awareness of the value of democratic governance processes and the importance of responsible activism. Engaged youth not only learned more about political participation in training sessions, but also about media techniques, storytelling, and how to run digital campaigns. With the support of Helvetas, a facebook page was thus created that serves as a space for young people to exchange and organize, disseminate principles and practices of democratic processes, and address various rights-based issues.

The project has succeeded in creating a strong network of young activists who are interested in participating in democratic processes and pluralism and demanding accountability from those in charge despite difficult circumstances.

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

- 5** Gender equality
- 10** Reduced inequalities
- 11** Sustainable cities and communities
- 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions



Land rights and competence

In **Vietnam**, Helvetas is working with local partners on the «Secure Land Rights for All» project to help ethnic minorities, especially women, claim their rights to land and forest resources in the northern provinces of Vietnam. An e-platform is designed to help affected people find ways to resolve land conflicts, share information and seek advice. In addition, the project strengthens the voice and skills of civil society organizations for land rights conflict resolution, policy analysis, and advocacy to improve their position, standing, and recognition in the public sphere.

Safe Nutrition

The Lao development agenda focuses on improving food security. However, the possibilities for civil society organizations in the country to participate in the realization of the national goals are limited. Helvetas, through its «Connecting for Nutrition» project in **Laos**, is working to increase the participation of Lao civil society organizations in preventing, combating and mitigating malnutrition among marginalized and vulnerable populations. Through capacity building, policy dialogue, and knowledge sharing, the project brings together diverse stakeholders and promotes their collective action to improve food availability, access, as well as utilization at the local level.

Prevent extremism

Helvetas operates in **Bangladesh** and **Sri Lanka** in the project «CSO PVE Capacity Building» to counter the radicalization of young women and men. With its local partners, Helvetas supports civil society organizations in engaging young people in community life and strengthening their resilience to violence and extremist rhetoric. The civil society organizations work with local organizations such as youth groups, faith communities and women's associations. Engaging diverse groups helps strengthen social cohesion across different social, political, and religious divides.



2.039

people participated in 2021
through Helvetas Germany in
courses and workshops in the field
of peacebuilding and
conflict management

FOCUS: STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY

With the project «Strengthening Civil Society Organizations in Lebanon through Digital Literacy», Helvetas, together with local partners, supports civil society organizations in increasing their efficiency in internal processes and their effectiveness in approaching partners through the targeted use of IT tools.

Initial situation

Lebanon has faced major social challenges in recent years and is currently undergoing a profound process of change, largely led and driven by civil society.

National NGOs have played a central role in addressing social challenges, such as the recent humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis. By building the necessary infrastructure, managing food aid, and providing protection services, CSOs have helped integrate refugees into society and the economy. This includes skills training and job placement, more general capacity-building programs for refugees to promote social cohesion between refugee and host communities, and legal counseling and protection services.

Functioning IT systems are essential for NGOs to sustain their activities. Whether for internal or external communication and management processes, for the effective implementation of projects, civil society organizations need real-time data to provide services and support to beneficiaries and partners.

In addition, accountability and transparency systems are extremely important to fight corruption.

However, in Lebanon, NGOs often work with systems that are outdated or not optimally adapted, thus reducing the efficiency of their work.

What Helvetas does

The project «Strengthening Civil Society Organizations in Lebanon through Digital Literacy» addressed the challenge for civil society organizations to harness the power of digital technologies to contribute to the transformation process of Lebanese society.

The goal of the project was therefore to help NGOs integrate and use IT tools to increase the efficiency, reach, and transparency of their activities and development programs, thereby strengthening their voice to contribute to change in society.

Trainings for eight civil society organizations provided coaching and guidance for the development of an information and communication technology (ICT) strategy and an opportunity for mutual exchange. Based on a customized capacity and needs assessment, participating organizations developed strategies for developing their IT system and customizing it to their existing strategies and structures.

The capacity building helped participating CSOs gain first-hand experience in using digital tools to increase their effectiveness and impact, identify weaknesses and possible solutions, and implement them. In addition, building the ICT strategy helped them communicate more transparently with their teams, clients, and donors in the future.

» [Learn more](#)

FOCUS: MULTIDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

The so-called «Incubator Spaces» in Sri Lanka serve as a space for future journalists and media professionals to think freely, creatively and without restrictions. With Helvetas' support, they learn to act as multipliers of ethical and socially responsible media communication.

Initial situation

In post-war Sri Lanka, it can be observed that the country's youth are unfamiliar with the multiple dimensions of fundamental freedoms and are vulnerable both economically and socially. During the democratization process and in times of national crisis, the youth are relatively passive citizens.

Although the literacy rate of Sri Lanka's youth is 97 percent, a lack of cross-curricular learning opportunities and gaps in existing curricula related to online ethics, digital citizenship, and the right to information and fundamental freedoms, critical questioning and reasoning are under-encouraged.



What Helvetas does

Helvetas is working with the Sri Lanka Development Journalist Forum (SDJF) as part of the «InSPIRE» project to train future media professionals at three universities in the country in socially responsible media communication through training and multidisciplinary learning. In this way, the project contributes to strengthening democracy and human rights in Sri Lanka.

By establishing incubator spaces and developing specialized modules to train media professionals, the project fosters a community of aspiring future media professionals and journalists in the three universities in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna.

Creative media products are produced and the young women and men are trained to become multipliers in the use of gender-appropriate, socially and ethically reflective expression.

To create the new media products, students first contribute their own ideas at the Ideas Market organized in the Incubator Spaces and are then guided by mentors to develop high-quality media content that promotes and strengthens freedom of expression.

The goal of the project, implemented in the districts of Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna and Batticaloa, is to promote a better understanding and respect for freedom of expression and information by empowering a community of youth to creatively advocate for gender-responsive, ethical and socially responsible communication.

» [Learn more](#)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	31.12.2021 in EUR	31.12.2020 in EUR
A Current Assets		
I Receivables and Other Assets	415.284	741.558
II Cash in hand, checks, bank balances	1.323.808	925.995
B Deferred income	0	351
Assets	1.739.092	1.667.903
Equity and Liabilities		
A. Equity		
I Subscribed Capital	25.000	25.000
II Revenue reserves (Earmarked reserves)	262.249	300.000
III Accumulated loss (Net profit)	20.823	-132.715
B. Special item for project funds	200.616	232.763
C. Provisions and accruals		
Other provisions	43.066	33.817
D. Liabilities	1.187.338	1.209.038
E. Deferred income and accrued expenses	0	120.000
Equity and Liabilities	1.739.092	1.667.903

SOURCE OF FUNDS



- Institutional Donors
(EU, Federal Foreign Office, BMZ)
- Other
(Foundations, Other Subsidies, Private Donations...)

USE OF FUNDS



- Country Programs
- Administrative Office in Bonn

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

INCOME	in EUR	in EUR
1. Subsidies	2.317.037	2.112.407
2. Other operating income	253.633	496.363
3. Donation proceeds	22.762	4.801
4. Expenditure for project sponsorships	-1.632.299	2.026.286
5. Personnel costs	-761.350	-671.342
a) Wages and salaries	-668.996	-572.141
b) Social security contributions	-92.354	-99.201
6. Amortisation of intangible assets of fixed assets and property, plant and equipment	-896	-1.187
7. Other operating costs	-83.099	-83.214
8. Other interest and similar income	0	0
Annual net loss (previous year: annual net profit)	115.787	-168.485
Profit carried forward	132.715	35.743
Allocations to earmarked reserves	37.751	0
Accumulated loss (PY: net profit)	20.823	-132.751

Revision

BDO AG, Bonn, has audited the financial accounting and the balance sheet and income statement for the financial year from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The audit did not lead to any objections.

The financial statements are presented here in EUR, rounded, without decimal places.

SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS STATEMENT RELATED TO THE TRANSPARENT CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVE COMMITMENT

Source of Funds in EUR	Ideational	Special Purpose Project Funding	Total
Donations Received	22.762	0	22.762
Subtotal (income fundraising)	22.762	0	22.762
Project Contributions			
- Private grants	302.585	464.391	766.976
- Government grants		1.550.061	155.061
Subtotal (Income from services provided)	302.585	2.268.085	2.570.669
Total Income	325.347	2.268.085	2.593.431
Use of Funds in EUR			
Other interest and similar income	18.800	0	18.800
Subtotal (Expense use of funds)	18.800	0	18.800
Expenses project funding	0	1.632.299	1.632.299
Expenses wages and salaries	259.402	501.948	761.350
Other operating expenses	65.037	158	65.195
Subtotal (Expense from services provided)	324.438	2.134.406	2.458.844
Total Expenses	343.238	2.134.406	2.477.644
Net Income	-17.892	133.679	115.787

COMMITTED AND OPEN-MINDED

As part of the Helvetas network, the Helvetas Germany team, together with 1,400 other employees worldwide, is committed to helping people live self-determined lives in dignity and security.

HELVETAS GERMANY'S TEAM IN BONN



Martin Koppa
Director Helvetas Germany



Nora Wegner
Programme Manager



Eva Schulte-Vennbur
Programme Manager Service Contracts



Lea Strub
Controller International Accounting



Ulrike Menzenbach
Finance Manager



Christina Hoffmann
Marketing and Communications Assistant

RELATED ORGANISATIONS AND ACTORS

The following organizations, individuals and institutions are considered related parties to Helvetas Germany:
ADT Project Consulting GmbH / AFC Consulting Group / AMBERO Consulting GmbH / Auswärtiges Amt / BENGU, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) / Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen / Culture for Peace (Berlin) / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. / Engagement Global / Europäische Union (EU) / FAKT Beratung für Management, Bildung und Technologien GmbH / Gemeinsam für Afrika / GFA Consulting Group / Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation / Helvetas USA Inc. / INBAS Institut für berufliche Bildung, Arbeitsmarkt- und Sozialpolitik GmbH / Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (zivik-Programm) / International Centre for Migration Policy Management (ICMPD) / Partnership for Transparency e.V. / Stichting European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism (ECEAT)

Ensuring basic rights

Water, food and climate

In 2021 **3'303'121** women and men gained sustainable access to water, sanitation, good hygiene, better nutrition or natural resources and benefited from higher yields or improved climate resilience. They worked with Helvetas to install pumping wells and latrines as well as learning important hygiene principles and new, climate-adaptive farming techniques.

Creating new perspectives

Skills, jobs and income

In 2021 **643'690** young and mostly disadvantaged women and men gained access to education and vocational training, found a job or started their own business with Helvetas' support. Over the same period, **14'651** small and medium-sized enterprises improved their access to markets and created jobs for disadvantaged people, while also offering sustainable products and better services.

Strengthening good governance

Voice, inclusion and cohesion

In 2021 **93'071** women and men have learned to claim their rights to basic public services or to transform local conflicts, with support from Helvetas. Over the same period, Helvetas cooperated with authorities and partner organizations to help **588'299** women and men plan their labor migration safely, responsibly, and profitably

Alleviating suffering

Humanitarian Response

In 2021 Helvetas supported **205'407** people after disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti, during the coronavirus crisis in Nepal, and such as the Rohingya refugees in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. Helvetas combines rapid short-term humanitarian aid with long-term development cooperation so that people quickly have the chance to rebuild their daily lives and create prospects for the future

4'833'588

People have been given a fair chance to lift themselves out of poverty thanks to the Helvetas network in 2021.



Mortuj Ali from Bangladesh has funded a small business with his rickshaw.

691'765

farmers, fishers, woodland owners and animal breeders started applying sustainable methods in 2021 thanks to Helvetas.



494'133
in Africa

29'565
in Latin America

168'067
in Asia and
Eastern Europe

CHALLENGES WE FACED IN 2021

Helvetas has been working with the private sector for a long time and promotes local businesses. They create jobs and can offer sustainable services such as repairs to water pipes or agricultural advice.

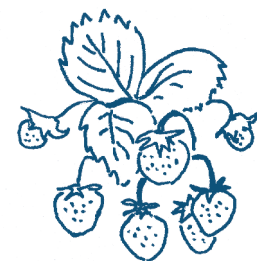
However, more and more projects are now implemented with larger companies. To make sure that there is a solid basis for these partnerships, the new Human Rights Due Diligence Tool developed by Helvetas assesses these companies for responsible conduct with regards to human rights violations, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Open Data for health

Globally, a quarter of all health facilities have no water supply, putting patients and staff at risk. Information gaps prevent the responsible persons and institutions from properly prioritizing investments for water, sanitation and hygiene services, including infrastructure, maintenance and behavior change. The organization Global Water Challenge aims to close this gap with a publicly accessible digital platform. The WASH Health Facility Data Exchange (WHdx) platform is being developed by renowned institutions such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Emory University – with the support of WASH specialists such as Helvetas.

CLIMATE MIGRATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Millions of people are born in countries without safe drinking water, where food for a balanced diet is scarce and where they are poorly prepared to cope with climate change. We are grateful for your support and your commitment to giving these people a fair chance of improving their situation.



Important basics of hygiene

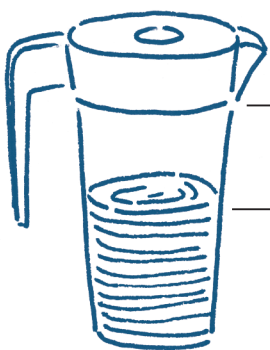
Only 25% of people in the Menabe region of **Madagascar** have access to clean water, and the sanitation situation is extremely precarious. In cooperation with ONE Drop and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Helvetas promotes hygiene and environmental awareness among 69,000 people to ensure that the new water system is maintained in the long term and natural resources are conserved. People learn to adapt to climate change and prepare themselves for natural disasters. Additionally, new jobs in the environmental sector strengthen the role of women.

Finance-App for saving groups

People who have no chance of opening a bank account often form savings groups. This is true for farmers in **Tanzania** who are optimizing their horticultural production to improve their income and diet. The members of over 500 savings groups involved in a Helvetas project can now use an app to make deposits, grant loans and pay interest, thus simplifying control and saving them time. The horticultural project, by the way, was awarded third prize by the UN and the government during the national commemoration of World Food Day because it contributes to reaching the second goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Zero hunger.

Our goal for 2021–24:

1 Mio.
people have gained direct access to safe drinking water

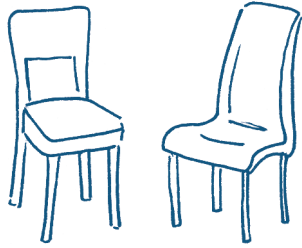


Goal 2024

2021:
592'070
people

Helvetas helps to achieve the following Agenda 2030 goals:

- 1** No poverty
- 2** Zero Hunger
- 6** Clean water and sanitation
- 9** Industrie, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 12** Responsible consumption and production
- 13** Climate action
- 17** Partnerships for the goals



11'257
people learned in 2021
to identify and address
the causes of conflict
in their communities and
to change the situation.

Legal assistance

It started as an experiment and ended as a success. Helvetas explored in **Lao PDR** if, and how, gender-based violence can be discussed in public, whether traditional perceptions can be changed, and how best to provide legal assistance to women (and men) affected by violence. 4,665 women and 3,449 men were sensitized, 162 women and 23 men received legal support, and 205 judges, police officers and prosecutors were trained to handle cases. Procedural issues were also clarified, to facilitate access to justice.

Migration as an exit strategy

More and more people in **Bangladesh** set out to find possibilities of earning an income in nearby towns or faraway cities because higher sea levels are raising the salinity of soils and water. Studies show that migration is an increasingly common climate-adaptation strategy. The problem is that many people don't know their rights, so Helvetas is helping them to choose safe and profitable options and also harness new technologies to forge a viable future at home

“Use the participatory power of digital tools”

Helvetas works with local governments, civil society and citizens to ensure that local decision-making is collaborative, inclusive and sustainable. Helvetas is developing a new governance program to strengthen its engagement on these issues.

Craig Hatcher, why is Helvetas' commitment to governance so important?

Governance is about ensuring everyone has a voice in shaping their own future. We do this by empowering women, men, youth, migrants and indigenous persons and strengthening civil society organizations to actively engage in local decision-making. A community might prioritize funding for a new school over fixing a road, for example. At the same time, we support national, regional and local governments in fostering inclusive decision-making processes and delivering services for all, leaving no one behind.

How are you going to ensure innovation?

During the pandemic some council meetings moved from town hall to online. That provided new opportunities for citizens to participate. The participatory power of such digital tools needs to be harnessed more. Then there is urbanization. Job opportunities are pulling migrants from rural areas to cities. This urban growth poses challenges in providing basic services such as water and sanitation for everyone. Helvetas looks for ways to ensure that rapid urbanization benefits everyone, especially the poor and marginalized.

Governance is a very abstract concept.

Yes, it sounds intangible – it's working on processes, on changing behaviors, attitudes and ways of collaborating with the citizens. In addition, governments are often perceived as bureaucratic and sometimes corrupt.

But our experience shows that the willingness of local authorities to improve their services is high, if only they are given the necessary knowledge and tools and the population gets involved. Only this will have long-lasting success.



Craig Hatcher is an advisor on governance for Helvetas.

Would you like to learn more about Helvetas' new governance program? Contact craig.hatcher@helvetas.org



3089
in Africa

4968

local governments and councils increased their capacity to deliver services to all their citizens, including women and disadvantaged people, in 2021 thanks to Helvetas.

1553
in Asia and Eastern Europe

326
in Latin America

Silvia Alejo Oyola, Bolivien

Harnessing the potential of the diaspora

Helvetas' longstanding experience in the **Western Balkans** and recent studies in Eastern Partnership countries have confirmed the enormous potential of working with the diaspora to contribute to development in their countries of origin. RECONOMY is a 12-country program funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and implemented by Helvetas to strengthen green and inclusive economies and regional cooperation. It also aims to identify the barriers to diaspora engagement, and ways of tapping into this underexploited potential.

Standing up to hate

On behalf of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Helvetas distributes money to civil society organizations in **Sri Lanka** that work with and for disadvantaged young people to prevent violent extremism and political radicalization. The goal is for young people to learn to engage in a dialogue with local authorities and the security forces and to be open-minded towards people from other religions or ethnic groups. The project also stimulates critical thinking and mediation skills in conflict situations, and counters hate speech and fake news through targeted campaigns.

CHALLENGES WE FACED IN 2021

People who are forced to live without official papers often have no access to education, healthcare and a secure job, nor are they allowed to purchase property. In many places they cannot open a bank account or get a mobile phone without papers. Helvetas wanted to provide financial support to women and men in Nepal who had lost their income due to Covid. Since many of the most disadvantaged people Helvetas works with have no official ID, the money could only be paid once their municipalities had issued them the requisite documents. People need papers to claim their rights and get access to essential services. Again and again, this hinders Helvetas' work.

«People are in need»

In 2017 hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled from Myanmar to **Bangladesh**, where they now live in the world's largest refugee camp. In close cooperation with UN organizations, the government, and other NGOs, Helvetas is trying to make their lives as bearable as possible. Insights from Kamlesh Vyas, humanitarian coordinator in Cox's Bazar.

The international community is still in Humanitarian Response mode and so is Helvetas despite the Rohingya having moved to Cox's Bazar four years ago. Why?

The short answer is: because they are in need. The longer answer is: a sustainable solution to the problem is difficult as there are multilayered challenges. There is the humanitarian side: 1,000,000 plus people, their daily needs and protection. Then there is the political side: negotiations for a solution keep failing, while the Rohingya are suffering. They are restricted in their movements, cannot generate income and have nothing to live on. We can't just leave them in that situation.

Looking back at 2021, what did Helvetas do?

Our joint Disaster Risk Reduction activities together with the communities and national partner NGOs were very important. There have been fires, flash floods and other disasters. We have fully trained 500 volunteers, both Rohingya and locals, who intervene, inform and raise awareness about how to behave if a fire breaks out, during downpours, and on Covid-19 protective measures. These volunteers evacuated 5,000 people before the floods, saving many lives. Helvetas, after all, is in charge of five camps with around 150,000 people on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

How can the Rohingya be helped?

We used donations from Swiss Solidarity to support the Rohingya and the host community to set up vertical gardens in the limited space available. This gives women a chance to grow nutritious food. We train local service providers who in turn train the Rohingya to do this. This has encouraged interaction within communities and has built trust. We also helped the government to put up isolation tents for people with Covid-19 and made people aware of vaccination opportunities.

What was the biggest of the many challenges in 2021?

The lockdown situation, which was only lifted in August. We weren't able to move, and we knew how great the misery was. Eventually we were able to coordinate relief by organizing WhatsApp meetings and training sessions on mobile phones. Rohingya refugees aren't allowed to have mobile phones but some of our volunteers are from the host communities and so they could act as intermediaries. We built up a strong working relationship with the Bangladesh government and were one of the first organizations allowed back into the camps after the lockdown.



Kamlesh Vyas is Helvetas' Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Asia and is based in Cox's Bazar.

More about our Humanitarian Response:
helvetas.org/humanitarianresponse

CHALLENGES WE FACED IN 2021

Take Myanmar for example. In 2021 the military seized power over the young democratic state again, and the security situation has been precarious ever since. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating, with three million people in need of humanitarian aid. Helvetas was forced to adapt its activities but continues to train young people and support internally displaced people and unemployed factory workers. Helvetas is working in difficult circumstances to maintain access to those affected, working in accordance with human rights principles and international law to alleviate civilian suffering.



Rohingya-Camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesch

More than emergency accommodation

In August 2021 the earth shook in southern **Haiti**, damaging or destroying over 100,000 homes, 266 schools and 25 health centers. Helvetas swiftly freed up funds to provide emergency accommodation and hygiene sets containing toothbrushes, soap, sanitary napkins and water purification tablets. Earthquake victims received psychological support, and people were paid for helping with the cleanup operation. As the local market continued to function properly, there was no food distribution. Helvetas has been operating in Haiti for almost 40 years in the very region that was hit. This meant it could respond rapidly and pragmatically despite political instability and a precarious security situation.



Seed against need

Covid, lockdowns and then flooding: **Pakistan's** tourism industry was severely damaged by coronavirus. Many workers lost their jobs and had no prospect of finding another one, leaving them without any money for food. Helvetas used donations from Swiss Solidarity to provide protective equipment to 317 hotels and also distributed seed so that struggling families could grow vegetables on their land. The result: 454 new kitchen gardens were planted in an incredibly short space of time.

**“This used to be desert.
I could count the people on
the hillside. Today, all
I see is trees. At most I can
hear the people still”**

Jean Jacob Fleurilus,
owner of a tree nursery, Haiti



Would you also like to enable poor and disadvantaged women and men to lift themselves out of poverty and create prospects for themselves?

HELVETAS Intercooperation gGmbH

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 **HELVETAS**
GERMANY

2021 The entire Helvetas network with **1.400**

dedicated Helvetas employees worldwide, together with around

900 Partner organizations, has enabled **2,6million**

women and **2,2million** men in **33** countries to build a life

without poverty.

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