



FH SWITZERLAND
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Annual report 2024



Your donation
in good hands.

Who are we?

A pioneer in agroecology, FH Switzerland supports families suffering from hunger in Africa's Great Lakes region.

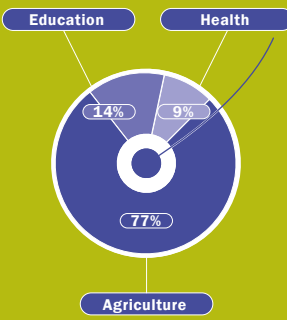
For 30 years, we have been working with communities, leaders, and families to promote agriculture that both meets food security needs and contributes to a sustainable food system.

FH Switzerland is a Geneva-based association, founded in 1996, with a branch in German-speaking Switzerland. We are a member of the Fédération genevoise de coopération and the umbrella organization Interaction. We collaborate with the Food for the Hungry Association and the Food for the Hungry International Federation.

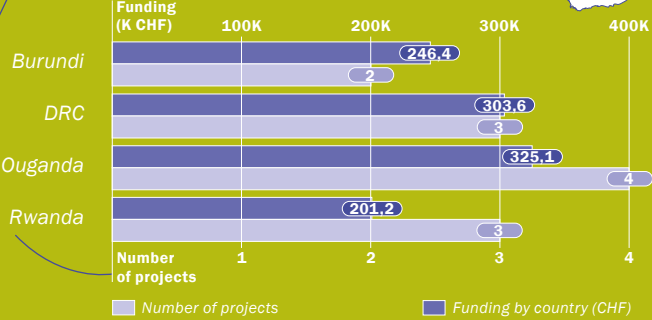
FH Switzerland in numbers:

Over 27,000 farming families supported through 12 projects in 4 countries.

Funding allocated by sector of intervention



Direct funding and number of projects per country.



Our vision of agroecology

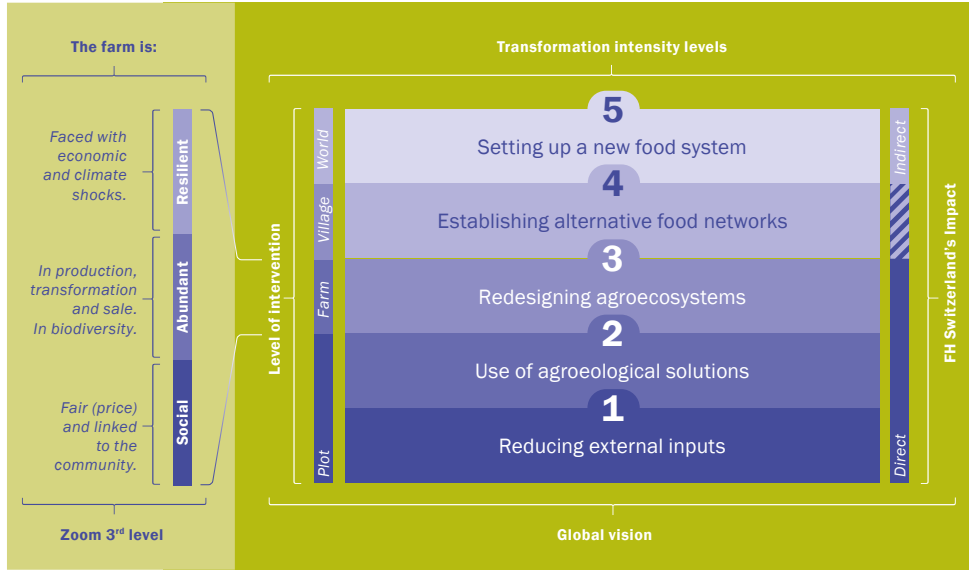
Stephen Gliessman is a researcher who proposed a model for applying agroecology to food systems. He developed different levels of transformation.

These levels represent a progression towards more sustainable, resilient, and equitable agricultural systems, providing a useful framework for understanding the different stages of the transition to sustainable agriculture.

Adopted by FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - as a guiding thread for transforming food systems, FH Switzerland bases its interventions on these same levels and the associated 13 agroecological principles.

We have been working on these different levels for over 10 years. This allows us to place the agroecosystem and the farm at the center of our action, bringing resilience to crises, abundance in production and income, as well as equity and community connection. This allows for positive action on biodiversity, climate change adaptation, and food system transformation on a local scale.

The 5 levels of transition to sustainable food systems, according to Gliessman (2016)



We contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Cover page: Our Program Director, Roger Zürcher, visiting a plot in Burundi managed by a Lead Farmer applying agroecological techniques learned, September 2024
Photo credits: FH Switzerland, FH International, David Wagnières (page 10).

The 13 agroecological principles:

1. Recycling
2. Input reduction
3. Soil health
4. Animal health
5. Biodiversity
6. Synergies
7. Economic diversification
8. Co-creation of knowledge
9. Social values and dietary patterns
10. Equity
11. Connectivity
12. Land and resource governance
13. Participation

Tributes

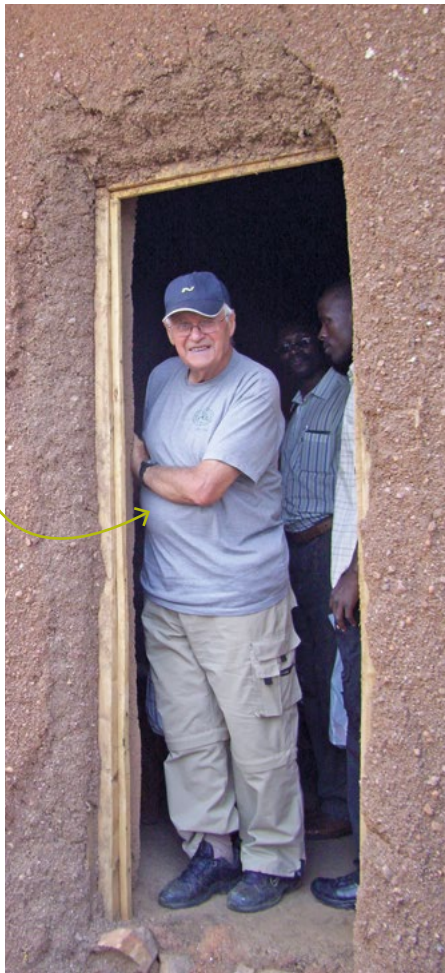
Armand Heiniger

As the founder of FH Switzerland and President of the association until 2020,

Armand Heiniger deeply touched all those who had the joy of working alongside him and had a lasting impact on our NGO's mission. He passed away on September 29.

Founded in 1996 with the goal of fighting hunger and poverty around the world, FH Switzerland—originally named ESFA, Espoir pour la Faim—began its work in Switzerland in collaboration with the international NGO FHI (Food for the Hungry International).

For over 20 years, Armand faithfully supported FH Switzerland with his attentiveness and great kindness toward everyone, whether as part of the board or the office team, where his regular visits were always warmly welcomed. Armand had the gift and the heart to take a genuine interest in each of us and to share in our lives with gentleness and sincerity. We remember him today with deep gratitude.



We also pay tribute to:

Françoise André, member of the FH Switzerland board and of FH International, who passed away on February 23, 2024.

Jacques Bottarelli, founding member of FH Switzerland and board member, who passed away on April 5, 2024.

We express our heartfelt thanks for the love they showed toward marginalized people and their faithful service within our board.

Message from the President

The year 2024 was eventful, with our projects continuing to improve living conditions in Africa's Great Lakes region.

Our team was strengthened by the arrival of Sandro Gusberti, who joined us to support communication and project management. Kristina Kunova-Petrova and Roger Zürcher continue to lead the association with great effectiveness.

We finalized the registration of the association in the Commercial Register, thereby meeting quality standards alongside our Zewo certification.

At the 2024 General Assembly, I had the pleasure of resuming the role of President, following the departure of Patrick Fuchsloch, whom I sincerely thank for his commitment to the association. We were also pleased to welcome Giorgio Heiman to the board, as Vice-President and Treasurer.

The potential reduction of federal and cantonal contributions was a major topic in political discussions. In this context of uncertainty, we must now constantly adapt our projects to increasingly conditional funding. We are working to balance

our income through private donations and warmly thank all our partners for their support. Thanks to both public and private backing, we are able to continue our efforts, knowing that hunger remains a major global concern.

In November, we strengthened our international ties by joining the Food for the Hungry International Federation (FHIF), which will allow us to expand our work into new countries.

At the end of the year, we learned of the passing of our former President and founder, Armand Heiniger, who is remembered fondly by many.

I sincerely thank all our donors and partners for their support throughout 2024, and I look forward to continuing our shared journey of service in 2025.



Captions

Left: Armand Heiniger, during a visit to Burundi in 2009.

Right: The board, from left to right: Edmond Granges, Daniel Hahling, Giorgio Heiman, and Patrick Fuchsloch, Sharon Bentzen, and Robertine Sanvura. Maxime Camaléonte (not pictured).

Edmond Granges

A GLIMPSE AT OUR COUNTRIES

In 2024, FH Switzerland carried out its work in 4 countries of Africa's Great Lakes region, encouraging and supporting local initiatives to improve living conditions in rural communities.

Promoting agroecology in schools

Burundi is the second most densely populated country in Africa. Food insecurity remains critical, with about 1.7 million people affected. To improve the productive capacities of smallholder farmers, FH organizes training sessions in the northern provinces of Ngozi and Kayanza. The promotion of agroecological methods, alongside the development of livestock farming, has enabled 990 men and women farmers to boost their yields, despite the serious effects of increasingly erratic weather patterns.

FH also partners with local schools to integrate agroecology into education. Demonstration fields have been set up in 18 schools, where 180 teachers and 2,410 students are trained to apply these techniques in practice. Together, they engage in composting, mulching, and applying natural fertilizers made from compost. These hands-on sessions foster collaboration and learning. Students then share their knowledge with their families and neighbors, contributing to broader community awareness and improved farming practices.



Working in school gardens



Demonstration of mulching techniques



BURUNDI



RWANDA

Restoring the soil

In Rwanda's Ngororero district, in the country's southwest, rural families often depend on tiny plots of land for survival. This region faces severe agricultural constraints, including ongoing soil degradation, high acidity of arable land, and frequent, intense rainfall, all contributing to erosion and chronically poor harvests. In addition, the absence of key infrastructure, especially roads, reduces access to other parts of the district and stifles the development of local trade. To address these challenges, FH provides comprehensive training in climate-resilient, context-specific agricultural practices.

One hundred exemplary farmers received instruction in compost production, natural fertilizers and biopesticides, mulching, irrigation, pest management, erosion prevention, agroforestry, crop rotation and mixing, soil pH testing, and lime use. These lead farmers are now coaching ten peers each. In total, 1,100 families have improved their knowledge and practices, restoring soils and strengthening food security in the region.



Bags of lime for amending acidic soils



Soil pH measurement

Empowering women and youth in South Kivu

South Kivu province has strong agricultural potential due to its favorable climate. However, insecurity in the region—worsened recently by renewed clashes among armed groups—has led to displacement and growing poverty. In this fragile context, FH specifically supports women and youth by training them not only in farming, but also in coffee cultivation and beekeeping to diversify income sources. A total of 750 coffee growers, organized into cooperatives, were trained in sustainable coffee production methods. To promote coffee processing, four mini washing stations, drying areas, and four storage depots were built. A micro-hydro-power station was installed to operate the coffee pulping plant in Luvungi.

Through agroecology training, 2,178 farmers—men and women—also improved their family farming practices. In addition, the drainage of two marshes allowed 600 hectares of land to be reclaimed and redistributed to farming families, contributing to better food security and livelihoods in the region.



Pulping coffee cherries



Sorting coffee cherries



DRC



Karita Health Center

UGANDA



Student harvesting maize on a demonstration plot

Providing water in Uganda

The Karamoja region, in northeastern Uganda, is a semi-arid area marked by recurring vulnerability. Due to prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, and the depletion of traditional water sources, both smallholder farmers and pastoralist communities are frequently forced to migrate in search of clean water, food, and grazing grounds for their livestock. In response, FH constructed three deep boreholes, granting communities better access to safe, reliable water. Local water user committees have been created and trained to carry out essential maintenance, manage small-scale repairs, and collect monthly fees to ensure the ongoing functionality and sustainability of these systems.

Moreover, 152 households received assistance to develop vegetable gardening for income and food diversification. An irrigation system was installed in Lokales and is now maintained by a local user committee. In the same region, Karita Health Center was equipped with latrines, a diagnostic laboratory, and solar panels to power medical equipment. Following devastating floods in mid-2024, which displaced 2,000 families, FH provided emergency nutritional support to 1,243 malnourished children.





EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND

OUR ADVOCACY WORK

9–10.02 Solidarity in all its forms, Geneva

Under the theme “Climate Change and Solidarity Projects,” the municipality of Plan-les-Ouates organized a forum on international solidarity, bringing together around thirty associations and NGOs. The program included: a panel discussion, an exhibition of projects funded by the municipality, children’s activities, the creation of a collective fresco, and the sale of handicrafts. FH Switzerland was present with a stand and interactive activities, alongside other associations of the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération.

28.05 Panel discussion “Solutions to the climate emergency,” HEPIA, Geneva

Nearly 150 people attended the event and visited stands of organizations from the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération. Roger Zürcher from FH Switzerland was among the panelists, alongside François Lefort (HEPIA), Catherine Schümperli Younossian (FGC), Alfonso Gomez (Mayor of Geneva), Thomas Stocker (University of Bern), Pierre-André Cordey (SDC), Sandy Mermod (ADAP), and Prosper Niyonsaba (FH Burundi).

> Replay is available on fh-switzerland.ch.

On the sidelines of the event, an interview with Roger Zürcher and our colleague Prosper Niyonsaba of FH Burundi was published in Tribune de Genève, in the May 25–26 special edition: “Projects to address the climate emergency.”

21.06 Donor evening, Egnach, Thurgau

Around fifty people attended this information evening about FH Switzerland’s work. After the screening of The Earth, My Friend*, a documentary illustrating our commitment to the land and the communities we support, Vreni Rutishauser – coordinator for German-speaking Switzerland – shared her journey after 17 years with FH Switzerland. Roger Zürcher presented our projects from an agronomic perspective and answered numerous questions from an engaged and curious audience.

24.08 Annual meeting of the Eco-Church network, Lussy-sur-Morges

“Daring to change” was the theme of this day organized by EcoChurch, the Swiss ecumenical network for care of creation. The event included workshops on agriculture, ecology, and the role of churches in environmental engagement. FH Switzerland

land was present with a stand.

17.10 “Life is beautiful: for a farming of love,” Morges

A flagship event for World Food Day 2024, during which our members were invited to participate in two dedicated activities: a vineyard walk above Morges led by Roger Zürcher, and a tour of the BioDiVerger farm with Théo Grossenbacher. The evening continued with the screening of The Earth, My Friend* and video contributions by agronomist and Franciscan Hervé Covès, an expert in agroecology. A light meal featuring local and farm products closed the event, which brought together about fifty participants.

16.11 One’, Bulle

FH Switzerland took part with a stand at this major annual event for Evangelicals in French-speaking Switzerland, which attracted over 3,200 visitors.

* available on our YouTube channel





I regained confidence in myself

I have always lived in Katogota, where I was born. I am 27 years old. Joining a savings and credit group helped me regain confidence in myself. I got a loan which I used to start a small business. I bought various items that I now sell at a roadside stall along the main road crossing our village from south to north. I have good customers, and with my profits, my contribution to our household income has become significant. I've earned a place in the community, and the presence of others no longer bothers me like before. This project helped me move on from my past and find my place again within my home. Also, when someone is sick in our house, we no longer buy medicine directly from the pharmacy—we now go to an assigned health professional in a proper medical facility.

Fortunée, participant in DRC

Restoring a place for women survivors of violence

Through this project, completed at the end of 2024, FH supported 120 women survivors of violence in the Katogota region, South Kivu. In partnership with FH DRC and a local organization, these women improved their agricultural output through agroecological practices, developed income-generating projects by forming savings and credit associations, and increased their household income.

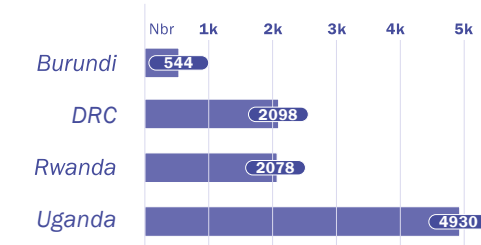
The Kivu region has the highest number of sexual assaults against women in the world*. Dr. Mukwege (2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate) treats women who are victims of sexual violence at the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu. In a meeting with representatives of FH Switzerland and FH DRC, he pointed out a lack of support for the socio-economic rehabilitation of women who struggle to find their place again in the community after leaving the hospital. FH Switzerland responds to this need by enabling women to join groups engaged in agriculture and livestock activities together, and by supporting them in setting up small businesses.

*unocha.org

Project outcomes

- Thanks to their involvement in village savings and credit associations, the women were able to set up small businesses and develop their capacity to save.
- The women also received training in livestock farming. Each of them was given goats and chickens to continue these activities.
- Four buildings serving as storage facilities for agricultural products, as well as premises for the village savings and credit associations, were constructed.

Number of women trained in agroecology and sustainable food systems in 2024





HIGHLIGHTS 2024

LEARNING 360 PROGRAM

Applied agroecology

“I used to lose a large part of my maize harvest due to pests and moisture. Thanks to the training we received, I now know how to properly dry, store, and protect my maize. My income has increased significantly and I have enough food to feed my family all year round.”

Pauline, farmer in Uganda

“I’ve learned many agroecological practices: I mulch my eggplants and tomatoes, use organic fertilizers, and make biopesticides. This helps me recycle organic matter, improve my soil, and increase water retention for my crops. I can grow even during the dry season, and the income from my production has really gone up.”

Protais, farmer in Rwanda

Strengthening resilience for a better life

2024 marks the end of the first phase of the international “Learning 360” program, co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and developed in partnership with Interaction in eight countries.

Through a holistic approach, the program aims to strengthen the capacities of farmers and members of society in order to promote the agroecological transition. This transition seeks to transform the food system to achieve food security and make it sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change, soil degradation, and other potential disruptions.

FH Switzerland implements this program in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC.

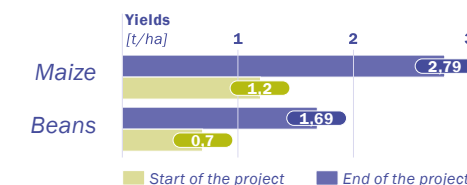
Our efforts continue

The program will continue for the 2025–28 period, with a focus on strengthening community resilience to socio-political, economic, and environmental challenges in difficult contexts.

Overall results for the entire program:

- **1,976 lead farmers** were trained in agroecological practices
- **23,558 farmers** trained under the guidance of lead farmers
- **1,356 farmers** involved in agroecological research
- **2,527 teachers and students** trained in agroecology in schools
- **9,657 women** trained in agroecology and nutrition
- **1,549 youth** trained in agroecology and farm creation
- **34.6% of farmers** produce their own seeds
- **58.4% of farmers** apply at least four agroecological practices

Average across the 4 countries for yields of 2 crops over 4 years





HIGHLIGHTS 2024

PROMOTION OF BEEKEEPING AND MELIPONICULTURE

Training in meliponiculture

Robinson Muzungu, Head of Agroecological Programs for FH Uganda, was one of the participants in this training:

“This training allowed us to acquire new skills that we are now integrating into our current programs. The honey produced by stingless bees has high economic value and represents an opportunity for the smallholder families we support. Meliponiculture also enhances biodiversity. It can contribute to improving household health, as the honey from stingless bees has medicinal properties, including anticancer, antitussive, and anti-inflammatory effects.”

Robinson Muzungu, FH Uganda

Bees: new economic and ecological opportunities

Across all its projects, FH Switzerland promotes and encourages actions for the protection of bees.

In 2024, we launched a promising new activity by enabling our partners to receive training in meliponiculture.

Eight FH staff members from DRC, Burundi, and Uganda recently took part in an intensive meliponiculture training with ICIPE (International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology), the international insect research center based in Kenya.

Still little known, meliponiculture contributes to environmental preservation while offering promising economic diversification potential for rural communities.

Integrating beekeeping into our projects:

In Uganda, farmers have incorporated beekeeping into their activities and developed product marketing, such as the Akorikeya Honey Aggregation cooperative, which produces high-quality honey along with beeswax and candles.

In Burundi, beekeeping has expanded thanks to increased bee populations in project areas. Yields per coffee tree and per square meter of maize have also improved due to the growing presence of pollinators such as Apis species and stingless bees (meliponines).

In DRC, pilot beekeeping sites are being set up, including the planned installation of 2,000 hives.

Two hundred farmers who practice traditional beekeeping are regularly supported by FH staff to strengthen this activity on their farms, combine it with food crop production, and thereby increase their income.



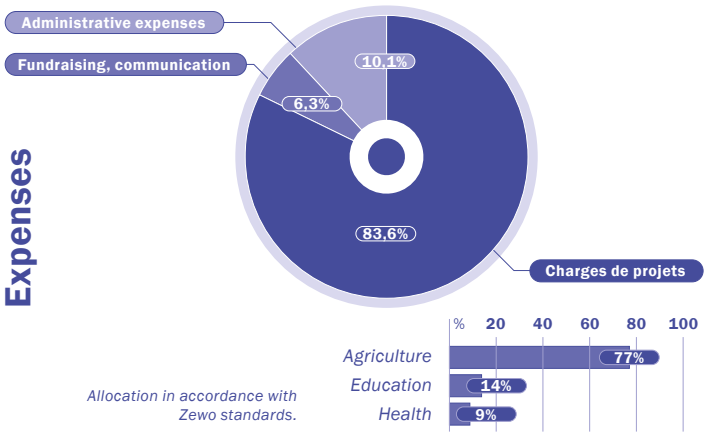
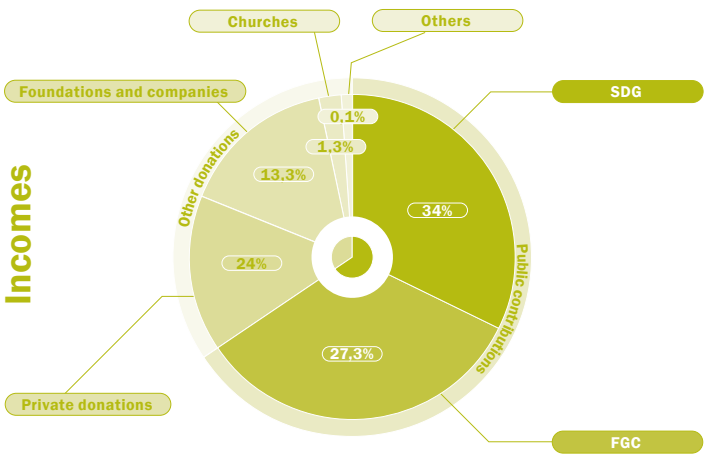
Financial report 2024

Operating account 2023 (in CHF)

INCOME	2024	2023
Public Contributions		
SDC (via Interaction)	542'970	460'724
Geneva Federation of Cooperation (FGC)	435'000	475'024
Other donations		
Private donations	383'041	220'959
Donations from foundations and companies	212'081	221'360
Donations from churches	21'322	28'616
Other income	1'018	16'096
TOTAL INCOME	1'595'432	1'422'779

EXPENSES	2024	2023
Project Expenses	1'270'718	1'206'397
Fundraising, communication	96'375	83'519
Administrative Expenses	153'935	174'354
Total Operating Expenses	1'521'028	1'464'270
Result before change in funds	76'536	-43'664
Change in funds	-84'658	99'465

RESULT FOR THE YEAR	-8'122	55'801
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Balance sheet as of December 31, 2023 (in CHF)

ASSETS	2024	2023
Liquid assets	391'235	326'859
Other short term assets	1'988	12'443
Accrued Assets	23'904	9'119
Total Current Assets	417'126	348'421
Tangible fixed assets	2'357	3'547
Financial fixed assets	8'000	9'458
Total fixed assets	10'357	13'005
TOTAL ASSETS	427'483	361'426

LIABILITIES	2024	2023
Debts for purchase of services	3'830	1'852
Other short term debts	13'499	22'417
Accrued liabilities	11'791	15'329
Total short term Foreign Funds	29'120	39'598
Fund Capital	228'990	144'333
Association's capital	169'373	177'495
TOTAL LIABILITIES	427'483	361'426

Year in Review

In 2024, FH Switzerland began a process to diversify its funding sources in anticipation of reduced institutional funding in the coming years. The organization's expertise in agroecology and its presence in Africa's Great Lakes region are key assets for developing new partnerships. Slightly higher revenues in 2024 allowed us to allocate additional funds to our projects. We are pleased to report a stable and balanced 2024 financial year.

The association's accounting complies with Swiss GAAP FER 21 standards. It was audited in 2024 by the fiduciary firm Chavaz SA, 1227 Carouge. FH Switzerland holds the Zewo quality label, which guarantees efficient management of donations and funds received, in full alignment with the organization's mission and financial resources.

The full financial report is available at fh-switzerland.ch.

THANK YOU WHOLEHEARTEDLY!

We would like to express our sincere thanks to each and every one of you who showed interest in and support for our work.

We also warmly thank all our partners: the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through our umbrella organization Interaction, the Fédération Genevoise de Coopération (FGC), as well as the companies, foundations, and church communities who believe in our efforts for a more just world.

How to support our actions?

Become a member

Join FH Switzerland by becoming a member of our association!

Your annual membership fee helps us carry out our mission year after year.

As a member, you will:

- Receive up-to-date information on the progress of our projects
- Be involved in the development of the association and have voting rights at our General Assembly

Contact us for more information or fill out the online form directly.

Volunteer with us

Do you have some time and the desire to get involved with our association?

Do you have some time and the desire to get involved with our association?

We need you!

Contact us at info@fhsuisse.org

Make a donation

By donating, you provide tangible support to families in need.

Becoming a regular donor or a project sponsor allows you to offer long-term, targeted support and receive regular updates.

How to make a donation:

Via IBAN

CH81 0900 0000 2356 0722

Via our online form:

fh-switzerland.ch/en/donate/

Via QR code

 Scan the QR Code with your device

 Select an amount and payment method

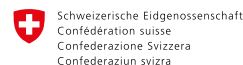
 Confirm your donation



Made possible by **rainbow**



Our partners



Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC



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**Your donation
in good hands.**