



Annual Report 2020



mission 21

protestant mission basel

Contents



"The trauma of war, or the dream of peace" –
the subject of our 2020 campaign.



Donations

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ZEWO certification

Mission 21 has been certified by ZEWO (the Swiss Certification Service for Organisations of Public Utility which Receive Donations) since 2 December 2014



EduQua label

Mission 21 has held the EduQua certificate (the Swiss Quality Label for Further Education Institutions) since 6 November 2015



ACT Alliance

Mission 21 has been a member of ACT Alliance since 10 October 2018



*Cover image: Attentive school students in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Photo: Heiner Heine*

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*Dr. Jens Marcus Albrecht can now perform operations under better conditions thanks to newly installed theatre lamps (page 16).
Photo: provided*

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*The Indian Ambassador to Switzerland visited the Archive in the Mission House (page 28).
Photo: Miriam Glass*



*"Soup Day" under coronavirus conditions: dedicated volunteers in Möriken-Wildegg-Holderbank (page 30).
Photo: provided*



*Friskila Lihdasari (left) was able to complete her studies thanks to a scholarship (page 12).
Photo: Miriam Glass*



Farmers in the Peruvian highlands learn how to produce organic fertiliser themselves.
Photo: Dario Brühlmann

"Let us become humble – but let us remain courageous"



Johannes Blum

The coronavirus has made us humans aware of our limits. During the decades when I worked as a doctor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and as Medical Director at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel, I was able to witness huge successes in combating epidemic diseases such as malaria, sleeping sickness and measles.

But now, the coronavirus has clearly shown us the limits of science and politics. Our democracy is facing enormous pressure, and we are experiencing it too. Society is split over the question of whether more harm is caused by the virus or the measures to combat it, and this is leading to conflicts between friends, politicians and public authorities.

How do we, as Christians, respond to this situation? Let us become humble – but let us remain courageous. Perhaps this is an opportunity for us to engage in dialogue on equal terms with our partner churches and organisations – in all humility, and in the knowledge of our dependence on God. We need courage to continue our work on the ground, even though conditions are now more difficult – all the more so because the coronavirus has made our partners' living conditions in their home countries even worse than before.

At the same time, and especially in this situation, there is also much that we can learn from the partners in our worldwide Mission 21 community: from our partners in South Korea, for instance, we can learn how to accept restrictions during the pandemic out of consideration for our fellow human beings. Or from our partners in Africa, we can learn how to trust in God, and not to let our fears of the future keep us from appreciating every single day.

In 2020, the coronavirus accelerated several innovations that we already intended to introduce at Mission 21. Due to increased travel costs and for ecological reasons, visits to Basel were already reserved solely for delegates and a few guests. International exchange has now been stepped up thanks to new possibilities for people to meet online. We have also been able to make very thorough preparations for this year's Mission Synod thanks to large numbers of online meetings that are giving it broad-based support.

Online discussions and training courses, prayer groups and services are gaining greater acceptance, and they have now become more or less routine habits. At our Christmas party and during Mission 21's New Year's Service, we experienced contributions from people all over the world as if they were close at hand. We are glad that we can now do more to maintain exchange and dialogue with our partners in these new ways. But we are equally aware of the problems involved in online encounters, and we hope that it will soon be possible to meet up in person again.

Among the negative consequences of the pandemic are the financial losses and feelings of insecurity experienced by many people who have supported our work in the past. For these reasons, we were fearful of a decrease in income – at a time of growing need in our partner countries. Due to savings measures implemented mainly in Switzerland and thanks in particular to solidarity campaigns, donations and efforts by many individuals, we just about managed to balance the financial accounts last year.

For all of us, I wish the humility that we need to recognise our limits, as well as the courage to set about our tasks vigorously, placing our trust in Jesus.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Blum'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Prof. Dr. med. Johannes Blum
President of Mission 21

The international community of learning, and development cooperation: these are two sides of the same coin. An interfaith youth group in Indonesia that has links with Mission 21 plants mangroves to protect the coastline. Photo: provided



Our mission



Jochen Kirsch

Mission 21 will reach the age of twenty in this year of 2021. This affords us a welcome opportunity to ask ourselves and discover: What is our mission? And how is it expressed in our work?

Our understanding of "Mission" is rooted in the belief that all human beings are created to be different, but with the same value and the same dignity. This means that regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religion or geographical origins, all human beings should be able to partake equally of what the Bible calls "abundant life for all" (John 10:10). This conviction is the foundation on which we build our work in the areas where we are active – the international community of learning, and international development cooperation.

On the one hand, we invite people to participate fully in our worldwide community of over 70 partner churches, Christian movements and interfaith partner organisations, and to engage in intercultural exchange, commitment based on solidarity and mutual learning.

In the spirit of the words of Jesus quoted above, this community of Mission 21 was created to serve people, and to serve this world. Hence, the invitation to partake of our worldwide community is linked to our second area of activity: in the field of international development cooperation, we join forces with our partner churches and organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America to advocate a world where all people and the whole of creation will live together in peace and justice. The Agency for Development and Cooperation of the Swiss Confederation (SDC) recognises and encourages this work because in this way, Mission 21 is playing an effective part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' Agenda 2030. We firmly believe that the churches, in particular, can and should play a very important role in the ongoing development of our coexistence: here and throughout the world, based on their Christian mission, their broad and sustainable roots in their societies, and their international networking.

Three central themes cut right across both these areas of activity – themes that have already characterised our operational work for over 200 years: the relationship between religion and development, the promotion of peaceful coexistence among people of different ethnic and/or religious backgrounds, and the promotion of gender equity.

This results in the fundamental structure of our work, which is illustrated in the chart below; the articles in the rest of this Annual Report will also help you to understand it clearly.

Our Themes Our Fields of Activity	Religion and Development	Interreligious and Intercultural Peacebuilding	Gender Justice
International Learning Community	Participation in the worldwide church in its function to change society: education, exchange and encounter.	Development of a worldwide youth movement	Analysis of the role of women in the church, mission, and society
International Development Cooperation	Religious actors as a resource for peace and sustainable development	Interreligious and intercultural cooperation for peaceful and inclusive societies	Overcoming violence against women and children

I join with Mission 21's co-workers and our international partners in expressing my joy that you are participating in our Mission and our commitments all over the world.

Rev. Jochen Kirsch
Director of Mission 21



Mission 21's 2020 campaign highlighted our commitment to peace work promotion in South Sudan.

International development cooperation

The coronavirus pandemic and other crises caused the living conditions of disadvantaged people to deteriorate even further in 2020. Conflict regions such as South Sudan or countries with major social differences such as Peru and Indonesia experienced increasing poverty, health problems and domestic violence. Mission 21 is actively involved in sustainable development cooperation in 20 countries in the global South, in collaboration with over 70 partner churches and organisations. Our partners were quick to adapt project work to the changed situation by providing emergency relief and implementing hygiene measures, taking action to promote income and strengthening food security. They demonstrated that they enjoy the trust of the people – and rightly so. Together, we gear our work to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to Goal 16: the promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Still full of hope – despite everything

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



In spite of the coronavirus pandemic and other crises that our partner churches and organisations have to combat, we are continuing our efforts together. We kindle hope for women, children and displaced people who are particularly affected by poverty by improving their living conditions and supporting them as they overcome their traumas.

One point became abundantly clear during 2020: the coronavirus pandemic is aggravating the already precarious living conditions of people in Mission 21's project regions that are already impacted by unremitting violence and conflicts: in Nigeria, in Cameroon, in South Sudan and in Indonesia. The socio-economic consequences in Peru and Bolivia are enormous, and there has been a noticeable increase in poverty.

Many of the people in Mission 21's project areas work in the informal economy and as small farmers. The lockdowns imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic have deprived them of their income at a stroke. Those who cannot provide for themselves, and those who have been displaced due to sustained violence in their countries, are hit particularly hard. The famine that was already afflicting South Sudan has been aggravated by the coronavirus: all of a sudden, large

numbers of people are reduced to getting only one meal every two days. Often, the only meal that many children received was at school; now, they have had to forego this because the schools have been closed down.

Confinement to cramped accommodation and loss of income have led to an increase in domestic violence, as our partners in Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Peru and Bolivia report. At the same time, curfews have made it almost impossible to pay direct visits to women and children who are the victims of violence. In Indonesia and Malaysia – and also in Peru and Bolivia – police and military patrolled the streets, handing out heavy fines and assaulting people who dared to venture out of their houses in search of work to ensure their survival.

Hopelessness all round? No!

Our partners – unfortunately – are much more experienced in dealing with crises than those of us in the global North. Because they are close to the most vulnerable people in society, and thanks to their local faith-based roots, they enjoy the trust of the population. Our partners have a holistic understanding of development that is based on the realities of life for the people concerned, and this has enabled them to adapt project work quickly to the changed situation: in 2020, they initiated emergency relief and hygiene measures; they helped to increase women's income by involving them in the production of soap and masks; and they stepped up the planting of small home gardens to ensure food



Psychological support and continuing education at the Durebang women's home in Bandung, Indonesia. Photo: Miriam Glass

International co-workers

In many of our partner countries, international co-workers sent out by Mission 21 are performing service at the explicit request of our partner churches and partner organisations. For periods of several years, they work as specialists on various projects, taking up positions as coordinators, doctors, teachers or lecturers. At the end of 2020, 14 international co-workers were working on behalf of Mission 21. They are:

Jens Marcus Albrecht, Tanzania
Gabi Baumgartner-Brandner, China, Hong Kong*
Tobias Brandner, China, Hong Kong*

Angel Román Dollinger, Costa Rica, San José
Simone Dollinger, Costa Rica, San José
Johanna Drach, Peru, Arequipa/Germany (from June 2020)
Daniel Gloor, Malaysia, Sabah
Yakubu Joseph, Nigeria, Abuja
Togho Lumumba Mukong, Cameroon, Bafoussam
Joyce Ellen Manarisip, Indonesia, Jakarta
Emery Munfu Mpwate, Tanzania, Dar es Salaam
Bernard Suwa, South Sudan, Juba
Adrienne Sweetman, Tanzania, Mbeya
Jules Tsengele Ngoy, DR Congo, Kasongo-Lunda

* Official designation: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



An abundant harvest: thanks to continuing education, this Bolivian farmer can provide healthy nutrition for her family. Photo: provided by Machaqa Amawta

Contributions to projects and programmes in the global South

Education

CHF 1998 777

Emergency relief and reconstruction

CHF 523 168

Health promotion

CHF 604 117

Peace promotion

CHF 772 295

Food sovereignty

CHF 1 026 291

security. Many courses, counselling sessions and entire training programmes were conducted via the new medium of the mobile phone.

Our partners also worked to promote communal peace: in Indonesia and Nigeria, Christian and Muslim partners of Mission 21 joined together to organise emergency relief. In the conflict regions of Cameroon, South Sudan and Nigeria, our partners' co-workers used their decentralised networks to provide support for internally displaced people who were confined for weeks in makeshift accommodation for refugees. In the course of this work, they often exposed themselves to the risks of being abducted or murdered. Priority was given to women, children and young people in particular need of protection and victims of violence.

Emergency relief, promoting peace and combating poverty

We will only be able to overcome hunger and poverty among the world's poorest people and those most in need of protection when crises and conflicts are resolved, and when people can live in freedom from violence, discrimination and marginalisation. We gear our project work to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to Goal 16: the promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

The following representative examples from Indonesia, Tanzania, South Sudan and Bolivia show how Mission 21 and its partners again succeeded in improving living conditions for especially vulnerable people in 2020, despite the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing conflicts: girls from poor backgrounds were able to continue their education, and they escaped early marriage; orphans

received medical care. Thanks to agro-ecological methods, children and adults suffering from malnutrition in the High Andes learned how to plant vegetables – even at altitudes of 4 000 meters above sea level – and in spite of the strict lockdown, they were able to provide for themselves.

In South Sudan, a country ravaged by wars and famines, the partner churches play a key part in bringing about reconciliation in a polarised society. Although many of the partner churches' project staff hardly have enough to ensure their own survival, they continue to provide emergency relief, to promote peace and to combat poverty. In our 2020 campaign, we focused on children and young people in South Sudan who are benefiting from care again after their experiences of hunger and violence. They receive food, they have safe homes, and they can go to school. Their physical injuries and psychological damage are treated, and they learn to build trust and strike up friendships across ethnic and religious divides.

These everyday successes in the face of the most adverse conditions are only possible thanks to the compassion and solidarity that are living realities in the worldwide community of Mission 21.

Katharina Gfeller
Head of International Relations

Houses on the island of Borneo are often built next to the waterways, which are the main transportation routes. Photo: Miriam Glass



Indonesia

"My family is proud of me!"

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Education is prohibitively expensive for most of the young people in Indonesia's remote villages. Mission 21 supports them with scholarships. But as well as assisting individuals, this project also strengthens sustainable economic and social development in the country's poorest regions.

"There are only two options in my village: get married young, or get out," Lisnawan Wulan explains. She was ten years old when she had to make her decision. So she could continue attending school, she left her home, her parents and her four younger siblings behind to come and lodge with relatives in the city of Banjarmasin.

Lisnawan Wulan originally comes from the village of Tumbang Sian in Central Kalimantan

province on the island of Borneo. Many of the villages there have no schools or only a primary school, as is the case in Tumbang Sian. Lisnawan's father works in the rubber extraction industry. As a way of earning extra money, he also crushes stones for use in building roads. This is hard work that brings in little income, and it does not allow him to send his children to secondary school. The journey is too long, and the accommodation is too expensive.



Students who receive support from this project. Photo: provided

Education empowers people to take action that brings about social change

The "Vocational training for disadvantaged children and young people" project is part of Mission 21's Asian cooperation programme: the "Securing the basis for subsistence" work area links together various activities focusing on education, income promotion, food sovereignty and healthcare. They are flanked by coordinated

activities to overcome physical and structural violence against women and children. The project enables disadvantaged young adults – especially women – to benefit from training. In the long term, it should contribute towards development in Indonesia's poorest regions. On completing their training, these individuals take committed action to ensure socially and economically sustainable development in their own communities. Since 2019, the activities have included training for village communities on the issue of "land rights" so they can stand up for their rights – for example, in connection with land grabs and the destruction of the rainforest.

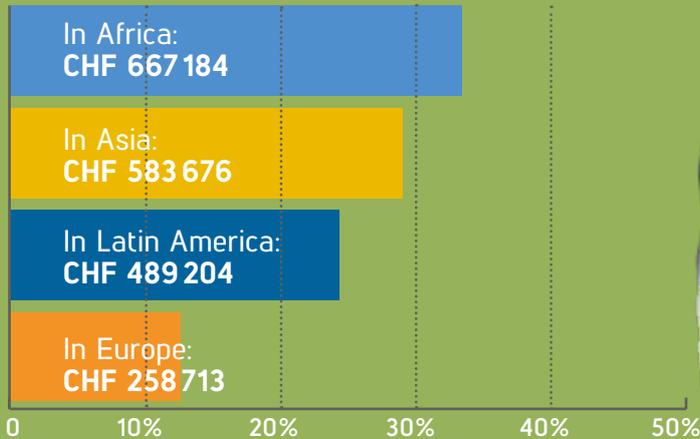
Unemployment and forced marriage

Lisnawan's family are not the only ones affected by poverty. According to the World Bank, almost ten percent of Indonesia's population of over 270 million are living below the national poverty line – so nearly 27 million people have to live on less than one Swiss franc per day! About 60 percent of the people have to manage on less than six Swiss francs a day. Over forty percent of young people do not attend secondary school, and the unemployment rate is high. In the traditional village communities in the countryside, girls are still forced into marriage while they are minors.

It was thanks primarily to a relative who provided financial support that Lisnawan was given a choice when she was ten years old. However, the school fees were high – and then the relative fell ill, so she needed her savings to pay for her treatment. Fortunately, Lisnawan heard about the scholarship programme offered by the Evangelical Church in Kalimantan (GKE), a partner

Project contributions for education

Total: CHF 1998 777



*Education can open up future prospects for these girls from Kalimantan.
Photo: Ueli Knecht*

church of Mission 21. Her application was accepted, and Lisnawan Wulan successfully completed her training as a nurse.

A way out of poverty and discrimination

The scholarship for Lisnawan Wulan forms part of a larger Mission 21 project in several regions of Indonesia and in Malaysia. Support is targeted at children and young people from the poorest communities. Over half of the children who receive support are girls. Continuing to attend school helps under-age girls to avoid marriage.

The project gives young people the opportunity of an education that enables them to find a way out of poverty and discrimination. After they complete their education, the longer-term goal is for the young adults to return to their village communities where they work to promote sustainable social and economic development.

Our partners on the ground report that the coronavirus pandemic made their work more difficult in 2020. They say that although remote learning was organised, it was not adequate – especially for practical vocational training. The IT equipment is also in need of improvement, they add.

Sustainable development at community level

Over 150 individuals benefited directly from educational support in 2020. However, this project goes far beyond the payment of tuition fees. The project co-workers receive ongoing training so that they can contribute to social development in their positions in the church. Many of them have been trained as "Community Organizers" who develop and coordinate programmes to solve problems at community level. Examples include setting up activities focusing on education, environmental protection or income pro-



*With the help of a scholarship, Lisnawan Wulan completed her training as a nurse.
Photo: provided*

motion, dealing with land rights and healthcare issues, and also activities to preserve the local culture.

Today, Lisnawan Wulan still works occasionally as a nurse. But just recently, she took on a job in the administration of the district where she lives. "I don't earn a lot, but it's enough to support my family from time to time," she says. "They are very proud of me."

*Miriam Glass
Communication Team*

Peace promotion

The "Peace and reconciliation work, strengthening women and young people" project is part of Mission 21's South Sudan co-operation programme. Educational work is inseparably linked to the promotion of peace. In the Muhaba Centre, for example, children and young people are given accommodation, regular meals and schooling, and they also benefit from psychosocial support.

This empowers them to play their part in shaping a peaceful community. Without peace, there is no safe place to learn. Mission 21 consistently implements this principle of peace and sustainable development in its peace promotion projects in Africa and Asia. This strengthens the partner churches and organisations by supporting the various aspects of successful peace promotion.



South Sudan

Residential building for girls will soon be a reality



The Muhaba Children's Centre in South Sudan offers protection and education for disadvantaged boys and girls. Until now, only the boys have been able to live on site – there is no dormitory for girls. However, the roads in South Sudan are unsafe; girls and women are exposed to dangers. But now, there are prospects for improvement: the project for a girls' dormitory will soon be completed.

Twelve-year-old Cicilia Anthony attends the Muhaba Children's Centre every day. She can learn and play here, and she is looked after by the trained staff who manage the Centre. But there is an obstacle to overcome: "I have to make a long and dangerous journey whenever I come to school at the Muhaba Centre. Because there's no accommodation for girls at the Muhaba as yet."

South Sudan is an unsafe country. When women and girls are out and about collecting firewood, for example, or making their way to school, there is a major risk that they will be attacked or raped by soldiers or militia members. Long journeys to school and school closures due to the lockdown at times in 2020 have made it even more difficult for girls to learn anything.

Girls and women in South Sudan have been disadvantaged for a very long time. Because

of the economic situation, they are often married off early and they receive very little education. The Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS), a partner church of Mission 21, is persistently working to open up access to education for girls in particular. One of its projects is the Muhaba Children's Centre in the town of Renk.

Promoting access to education for girls

The Muhaba Centre has been operating successfully since 2002. At present, it provides protection, education and care for 40 boys and six girls. The younger children actually receive primary school education on site at the Muhaba. The Centre also provides study materials, clothes and food so that students can attend secondary schools in the surrounding area. The children have a sense of wellbeing in the Centre. This



*Cicilia Anthony and her friend are delighted that the girls' dormitory is being built.
Photo: Silvano Yakwe*

feeling of security is also reflected in their ability to concentrate on their schooling and learn successfully – four young people from the Muhaba are even attending university at present.

Mission 21 collaborates with the PCOSS to promote education for disadvantaged children and young people in South Sudan. In this country that is ravaged by civil war and still overshadowed by violence, education is tremendously important for the future so that lasting peace can be achieved and sustainable development can be initiated. Mission 21 provides long-term support for the Muhaba Children's Centre, and the focus is currently on the construction of the girls' dormitory on the site. This project is making very good progress.

Construction of the girls' house is under way

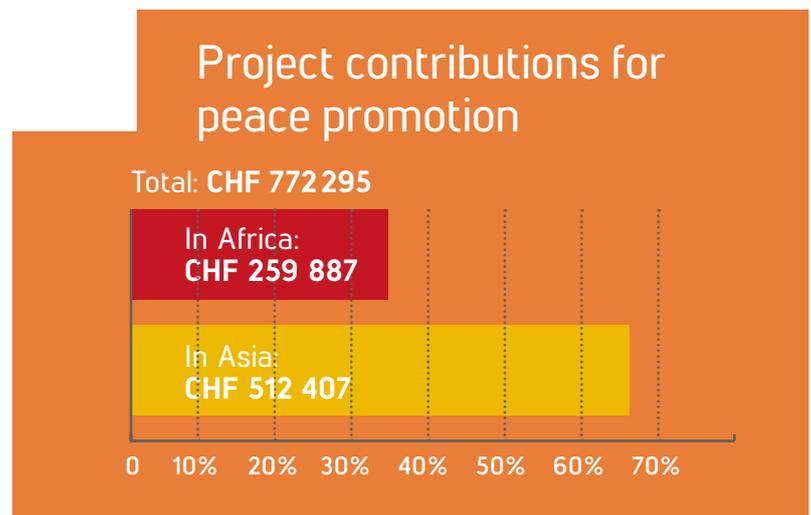
Planning of the building was completed last year, and a start was made on procuring the construction materials. Purchasing of the materials has to be continuously adapted to the difficult supply situation. South Sudan has to import many goods from abroad. Production and agriculture are impossible in extensive areas of the country because violence is still an everyday occurrence in many regions. The 2018 peace agreement and the successful formation of a unity government – at last – on 22 February 2020 have brought about little in the way of change. The coronavirus crisis has made the situation even worse: yet more supply problems have arisen due to the closure of the borders. These events were followed in 2020 by severe flooding, which also affected Renk.

But Mission 21, the PCOSS and Simon Ocheti, Director of the Muhaba Centre, are persevering with the construction – and the results are successful: the planning was approved in February 2021, so building work could begin and is due to

be completed before the end of this year. 20 girls will then be able to live permanently in the Muhaba and attend school.

This means that the Muhaba Centre will now offer a place of safety for a total of 60 children and young people. The fact that girls are now receiving special support is also having an impact on the boys. As part of their everyday lives, they take it for granted that girls are equally entitled to education. But first and foremost, this is an enormous opportunity for the girls themselves to determine their own futures. Cicilia Anthony also realises this: "I like being in the Muhaba. I thoroughly enjoy learning, and I want to become a doctor later on. So I can hardly wait for our residential building to be finished – and then even more girls can live and study at the Muhaba."

*Christoph Rácz
Head of Communication Team*



Tanzania

Better hospitals for better healthcare

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Inadequate healthcare services in the rural regions of southern and south-western Tanzania present major challenges for Tanzanian society. The situation is aggravated by the high prevalence of the HIV virus. Jens Marcus Albrecht, one of Mission 21's international co-workers, is a trauma surgeon at the Mission Hospital in Mbozi. He is committed to improving basic medical care – especially for disadvantaged people. And he has also pledged to continue developing the local hospital.

Jens Marcus Albrecht is a very dedicated doctor who spares no effort in helping people overcome their health problems. Michael, aged five, is one of his patients. He broke his thigh when he fell from a tree. His grandmother brought him to the Mbozi Mission Hospital. A stroke of good luck for Michael – because without treatment, an inflammation could have developed due to the injury, and the little boy's life would have been at risk.

The operation went successfully and the plate that was inserted has now been removed. Michael can walk and run just as before. "We've taken him to our hearts," says Jens Marcus Albrecht, who has been working in Mbozi since

2019. Michael loves "Lete tano" ("high fiving"); brimming with joy after the successful operation, he slams his hand into Albrecht's with all his might.



Basic medical care for a life in dignity

Mission 21 supports projects directly aimed at enabling people to lead their lives in dignity. In many African countries, this also includes providing access to medical care. Through our programmes, we make it possible to improve the quality of healthcare and expand the range of available services. Some of the contributions from Mission 21's donors are used to renovate hospitals and equip them with medical apparatus. Progress is also being made on setting up stable supplies of power and clean drinking water. Continuous re-assessment of requirements was made necessary by the coronavirus pandemic, and major adjustments were implemented. In April 2020, for example, urgently needed protective equipment was installed in Tanzania's Mbozi and Isoko hospitals, with disinfectants and oxygen concentrators to treat cases of COVID-19 and to safeguard patients and staff.

Michael, now recovered, has a check-up after his operation. Photo: provided

Silas, an electrician at Mbozi hospital, connects up the new lamps in the operating theatre.
Photo: provided

Michael is a full orphan, and he lives with his grandmother. She was very worried about the operation. Including the removal of the metal plates, it cost 600 000 Tanzanian shillings – not a huge sum by European standards (it is equal to about 260 Swiss francs). But it was far more than Michael's grandmother could afford. "We enrolled Michael in our social programme," Albrecht explains. This programme makes it possible to pay the treatment costs for financially disadvantaged patients or family members. It also includes rigorous checks to make absolutely sure that the benefits are only paid out to socially disadvantaged recipients.

Deficient healthcare

Widespread poverty is a huge problem in this country. The totally inadequate healthcare system is equally problematic. There is a huge shortage of qualified healthcare staff and medical institutions. Throughout the country, there is only one doctor for every 50 000 inhabitants. Many hospitals only have rudimentary equipment, and the government provides almost no funding for renovations, medical equipment or staff training. The situation in the underdeveloped rural region in south-western Tanzania is especially precarious. The medical care available to local people with health problems is insufficient at best. On top of this, there is a high rate of HIV infections. Jens Marcus Albrecht is a trauma surgeon, but he does not limit his activities to treating accident victims. He also trains local doctors on modern operating methods.

Conditions are often difficult in Tanzania's hospitals. Power blackouts occur frequently, and they have also affected the Isoko and Mbozi hospitals. This is why Jens Marcus Albrecht always has his surgeon's headlamp or the torch on his mobile phone ready as a standby when he is operating. He describes how he puts in sutures by the light from mobile phone torches when the power drops out yet again. Space in the hospitals is often confined, and no running water is available.

Better equipment to save lives

2020 brought major improvements for the two Mission Hospitals in Mbozi and Isoko. They were renovated and important new equipment was installed thanks to financing from Mission 21. A new intensive care unit began operating in Mbozi, for instance. There is now enough space, patients have more freedom to move about or take exercise, running water has been laid on, and a new surgical consulting room has been built.

And in a major step forward for the hospital, two new operating theatres have recently



Project contributions for healthcare promotion

Total: CHF 604 117

In Africa:
CHF 604 117

0 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

been installed. They are equipped with a mobile X-ray unit, modern anaesthesia systems and bright operating lamps that are ideal for their purpose. "We now have perfect light to perform operations – and that means improved safety for our patients," Jens Marcus Albrecht

"Now we have more safety for our patients."

is happy to report. It was also possible to finance another improvement for the Isoko Mission Hospital: an urgently needed ambulance vehicle was purchased. By developing the infrastructure in these ways, Mission 21 is helping to improve basic medical care for the population under the auspices of its healthcare programme in Tanzania.

Séverine Fischer
Communication Team

Peru/Bolivia

Strong women help to shape the future

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Many farming families in the highlands of Bolivia and Peru suffer from malnutrition. The reasons: difficult agricultural conditions, and poverty. Together with our local partners, Mission 21 helps people to apply sustainable and environment-friendly farming methods and to eat a healthy diet. Women – in particular – are strengthened through education, and it encourages them to participate in developing their communities.

"I used to be excluded from the village assemblies because I am a woman. Nobody listened to the concerns of small women farmers like us. Today, I myself am the President of the producers' organisation in Tacacoma and I can voice my opinions – I help to shape the future, and I take on political responsibilities," says Lucila Zea Quispe. She is glad that Mission 21's project gave her the opportunity for personal development. And it also had a positive impact on her day-to-day work. She explains: "We've changed our method of farming. It's more ecological and sustainable now. And we have enough to meet our own needs, with some left over to sell."

Lucila Zea Quispe comes from Tacacoma in Bolivia. This town is part of the Department of La Paz, which numbers among Bolivia's poorest regions. Aged 44, Lucila is a farmer and President of the producers' organisation in her home town. It was set up by the Fundapim foundation, one of Mission 21's partner organisations. The foundation helps the population to secure their livelihood and achieve food sovereignty. Support is directed towards women in particular. They

often bear the main burden of the production work as well as looking after the children and running the household. But neither their families nor society as a whole show any recognition of the service they render. Many women have hardly attended school at all, and they are severely afflicted by poverty and discrimination.

Encouraging and strengthening women

Continuing education courses provide encouragement and support for women to become more active in their communities and producers' associations, and to play a bigger part in shaping the future. These courses are important. Women are often insufficiently aware of their rights because they missed out on schooling, so their opportunities for developing a career are very restricted.

Justina Quispe Cruz, now aged 54, was one of many women in this situation. She grew up as an orphan, and difficulties with numbers and letters weren't the only effects of her lack of education: "I used to have problems expressing myself. I was nervous, and I was scared of stating my opinion in meetings." Thanks to courses conducted by the Fundación Machaqa Amawta, another of Mission 21's partner organisations,



Food sovereignty

In Latin America, Mission 21 works with its partners to promote education and food sovereignty. Many families in the project regions suffer from poverty and malnutrition. Courses provide instruction on agro-ecological farming methods that increase and diversify agricultural productivity, making it possible to grow a wide variety of vegetables. Sales of surplus crops can generate additional income. Women – who often bear the main burden of child-rearing and production – gain more independence thanks to the income they earn. Continuing education courses develop their skills and strengthen their self-confidence, and they are encouraged to participate more actively at the political level and to take on leadership roles.

Julia Condori, Vice-President of Machaqa Amawta, proudly presents the vegetables she has grown herself. Photo: provided by Machaqa Amawta



The seedlings that are flourishing in El Alto thanks to this little greenhouse are a source of great joy. Photo: Dario Brühlmann

"As well as meeting our own needs, there's sometimes enough left over to sell at the market."

she has gained self-confidence. She was able to develop her handicraft skills and broaden her knowledge. "Nowadays, I'm better able to think about what's happening in my little village, because I'm informed. And my fear of speaking out has now vanished."

Agro-ecological methods instead of chemicals

Like Lucila and Justina, most families in the project regions in Bolivia and Peru make their living from agriculture. But farming is made more difficult by the high altitudes in the Andes – around 4 000 meters above sea level – and the consequences of climate change. Many farmers treat their fields with chemicals which force them into dependence on large corporations and cause long-term damage to the soil.

For these reasons, local experts impart knowledge about sustainable and ecological farming methods in the projects. This makes the farmers less dependent on the corporations, and they learn how to produce fertilisers and pesticides themselves. "I'm very satisfied because I've gained so much new knowledge," says course participant Julia Condori Mamani. "Now I can farm the land more sustainably, and I can harvest more without using chemicals. The knowledge I've acquired has boosted my self-confidence – and I'm looking forward to learning even more."

More resilient and self-confident

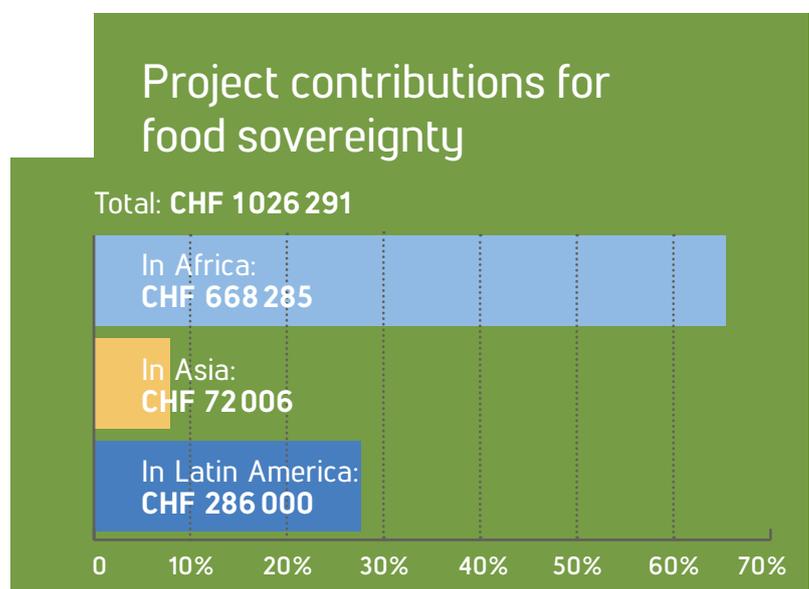
60 families are already benefiting from new knowledge thanks to this project. They use agro-ecological farming methods and they save the costs of chemical products. They grow more varieties of vegetables, and they produce more than they need for themselves.

As a result of diversifying production and improving their yields, the families have a more balanced and healthy diet – and the problem of malnutrition is decreasing. The target population also came through the worst phases of the

coronavirus crisis quite well. The families were able to live on the vegetables they grow themselves, and they were even able to exchange the surpluses for other goods from their neighbours. The target population has become more resilient against crises.

And the project work has strengthened the women. Because they improve the family's income by selling the surpluses, their work is noticed and appreciated. The courses and continuing education programmes arranged by the partner organisations have helped these farmers to become more self-confident, because they have broadened their knowledge and begun to trust their own abilities. This is why more and more women are now following in Lucila Zea Quispe's footsteps. They take on a more active role in the community, and they express their opinions with self-assurance.

Meret Jobin
Communication Team



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Women and Gender Staff Unit

Committed to opposing violence against women

Mission 21 strengthens women and girls in all its project countries. Our Staff Unit helps to design the programme work so that the projects implement gender equity. In 2020, the Fund for the Advancement of Women once again sponsored continuing education courses for women – often online, because of the pandemic situation.

One of the core features is the advocacy training course on human rights for women, which attracts 75 participants each autumn. In 2020, Maria Mercedes Vargas, Mary Kategile and Ruth Ketsia Wangkai also took part in this "train-the-trainers" course. They pass their newly acquired knowledge on to others in their social circle. This enables them to work effectively to bring about gender equity.

In 2020, work on the ground focused on the increase in violence against women due to the coronavirus situation. Mission 21 has collaborated with its partner organisations to develop many activities aimed at opposing gender-based violence.

Costa Rica

Peru

Bolivia

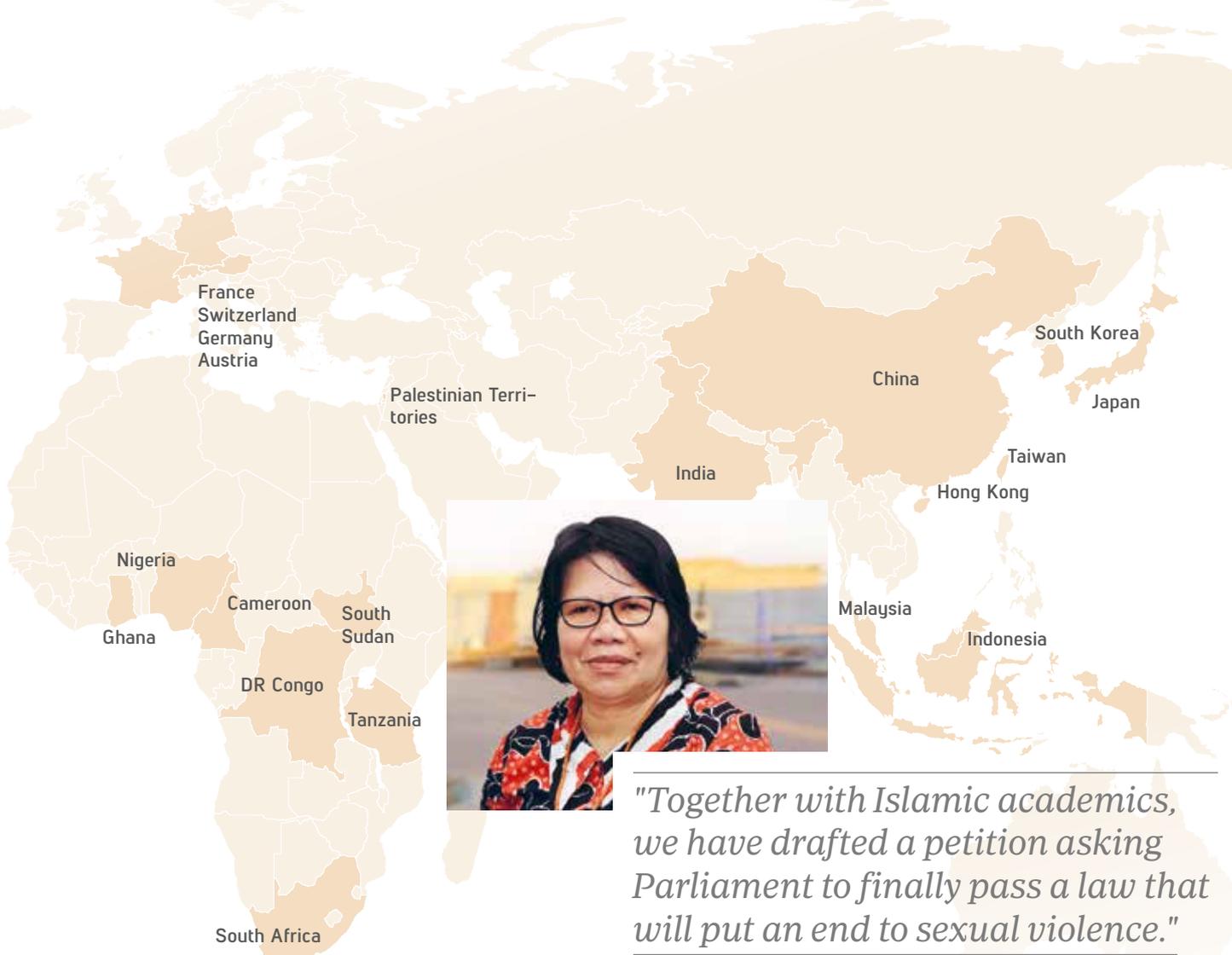
Chile



"It was very important to have discussions with holders of political office so we could make them aware of the problems that disadvantaged women have to confront every day."

Maria Mercedes Vargas in Bolivia

Maria Mercedes Vargas heads the Machaqa Amawta Foundation, which helps the indigenous population to find ways out of poverty and malnutrition (see pages 18-19). It mainly protects and strengthens women. Thanks to continuing education courses in 2020, Maria Vargas and her team were able to develop a pandemic concept with Mission 21 so that hygiene and safety measures could be introduced quickly. It was also possible to set up a teacher training centre that mainly benefits girls from primary and secondary schools.



"Together with Islamic academics, we have drafted a petition asking Parliament to finally pass a law that will put an end to sexual violence."

Ruth Ketsia Wangkai in Indonesia

Ruth Ketsia Wangkai heads the PERUATI association, which brings together large numbers of theologians from all over Indonesia. PERUATI is developing professional advocacy work focused on sexualised discrimination and violence. Every year, the association supports the international "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, and it has even put the campaign into practice in many churches.



"In 2020, I was able to make more men and women aware of gender equality than ever before, and to motivate them to oppose sexualised violence."

Mary Kategile in Tanzania

Rev. Mary Kategile is a lecturer at Teofilo Kisanji University in Mbeya. She is also in direct contact with women and young people involved in work with women. Knowing that cultural and social reasons are responsible for domestic violence and the subjugation of women, she seeks out dialogue with women and strengthens them to address issues such as domestic violence, child protection and women's rights. She also talks with female school students in protected settings, with the aim of preventing teenage pregnancies and early marriages.



International learning community

The coronavirus pandemic has presented enormous challenges for Mission 21's international community of learning. Exchange programmes had to be drastically reduced for adults as well as young people. But Mission 21 was also able to vastly broaden its range of digital educational services. New formats have been established, courses and events have been held successfully online – and in 2020, we were actually able to reach slightly more young people and young adults than in the previous year. During 2020, new publications were successfully introduced to enable us to achieve our educational goals. And thanks to the dedicated support of several foundations, major holdings in the Archive of the Basel Mission and Mission 21 have been made accessible and available for research.





DIALOG INTERNATIONAL : HONGKONGS



Mission 21 als internationale Lerngemeinschaft war 2020 auf verschiedensten Ebenen tätig.



Learning and motivation to continue developing despite the pandemic crisis

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Especially for young@mission21, Mission 21's youth network, 2020 was a year of dramatic ups and downs. The highlight was the Summer School in August on the theme of "Protests", with over 50 participants from 18 countries. On the other hand, both the PEP! continuing education and exchange programme and the Youth Ambassadors Programme were confronted with major challenges. The takeaway: despite everything, young people continued to show their motivation and solidarity.

No trips abroad, closed borders, lockdowns in the destination countries: the pandemic struck at the very heart of young@mission21's exchange programme. Huge obstacles were suddenly placed along the path to achieving the programme's goal – which is to build intercultural bridges through assignments abroad and encounter trips so that young people, too, can experience Mission 21's international community of learning.

These restrictions had a very drastic impact on the Professionals Exposure Program (PEP!), which offers young professionals the chance to learn and work on a project for six to twelve months. We were able to prepare eight young women for the assignments scheduled in spring 2020. We were especially pleased that we were able to fill two positions on a project in Costa Rica for the first time.

This makes it all the more regrettable that Mission 21 had to cancel several assignments before the planned departure dates, and participants were also forced to interrupt assignments that they were already performing. The young women were suddenly confronted with a totally changed situation. A face-to-face debriefing workshop was held with the participants in summer, when they showed that they were very willing to reflect on these events – not something that could be taken for granted in such a situation.

The cancellation of the assignments presented Mission 21 with a challenge: in this crisis situation, we needed to react quickly but with careful consideration, and we had to apply our security and safety management measures for exceptional situations. With that in mind, we

made use of the opportunity to review and continue developing our concept on the basis of the in-depth debriefing.

International Youth Ambassadors Programme – motivation and solidarity

For the International Youth Ambassadors Programme too, nothing turned out as planned: in 2020, the 20 youth ambassadors from Switzerland would have travelled to Asia, Africa and Latin America. They would have linked up with their peers in partner churches and organisations, and they would have experienced many intercultural encounters. Another aim of the programme is for the young adults to exchange ideas on how they can contribute to peace and justice in their own contexts.

Although many trips were called off, it was inspiring to see how the youth ambassadors behaved with great tolerance despite their frustrations; they remained motivated and continued to demonstrate solidarity with our partners – for whom the cancellation of the visits was also a setback. In collaboration with the Mercator Foundation Switzerland, which also gave us enormous support in this situation, we were able to adapt the programme and extend it by a year. This means that the youth ambassadors will be serving until 2022 – and their motto is: "Our world – developing the future in diversity".

Digitalisation opens up new opportunities for exchange and new content

The pandemic also boosted Team Young's efforts to introduce digitalisation. We have already been able to increase the integration of our international network. In 2020, we began to de-



Simona Kühni was able to complete her PEPI placement as an English teacher at the vocational college in Mbeya, Tanzania, at the end of 2019. Photos: provided



velop learning content on an online platform to provide continuing education and preparation for the international youth ambassadors.

Opportunities for digital exchange also gained importance through regular contact with our Youth Coordinators from Asia, Africa and Latin America. We held regular discussions to consider the various restrictions and pressures caused by the pandemic situation in each specific context. One of our key goals for the coming period is to step up this exchange so that we can work together to build up and strengthen Mission 21's international youth network.

Commitment to a fairer world – online

JointAction was a worldwide in-person activity in each of the previous years, but it was also converted into an online event in 2020. Young people from all continents composed personal texts describing how they experienced the pandemic, and how they and their colleagues were coping with the restrictions. This developed into an impressive online diary – a platform for young people to encourage one another.

One outstanding highlight was the first Online Summer School which we organised at the end of August. On the theme of "Protests worldwide", we offered a three-day continuing education programme with professional experts and dedicated activists from four continents. Over 50 participants from 18 countries broadened their

education by considering this question: to what extent can protests bring about social change? The success of the event itself and the positive feedback show that even under lockdown conditions, we can still continue to develop our educational offerings. In this way, we help to achieve the goals of raising young people's awareness and motivating them to strive for a fairer world.

*Barbara Grass
Team young@mission21*



Schweizerisches Qualitätszertifikat für Weiterbildungsinstitutionen
Certificat suisse de qualité pour les institutions de formation continue
Certificato svizzero di qualità per istituzioni di formazione continua

Successfully developing digital educational services

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The coronavirus pandemic meant some major changes for the "Education Exchange Research" Department at Mission 21. Exchange programmes had to be suspended or postponed. On the other hand, we were glad that we could greatly expand the range of courses and events that we offer online, and these activities proved to be a great success.

The pandemic confronted the Education Team at Mission 21 with a huge challenge: courses and public gatherings were severely restricted, depending on their timing. Nevertheless, in spite of the pandemic, we managed to continue offering almost all of our educational services and events. We also developed entirely new formats in response to the situation.

For example, two events in the "Dialogue international" series of discussions were presented via the Zoom platform in a new webinar format. In June, the theologian and Hong Kong expert Tobias Brandner shared in-depth insights into "Hong Kong's democracy movement in a state of emergency" and in September, three specialists offered their assessments of the "Peace process in South Sudan". Both events met with a huge response.

Development of courses offered online

Until March and in the period from August until October, a series of courses for young people and adults were conducted in the usual way, either at the Mission House in Basel or at the church congregations' own premises. Feedback was very positive – for instance, one church leader wrote: "Thank you for the seminar, which was 'impressive' (in the words of one confirmation candidate)! To assist you with your own evaluation, I am attaching the notes from my confirmation candidates – I feel that their meaningful comments confirm my decision to come to you at Mission 21, and I am glad that I did so."

From May onwards, we also offered all the subjects covered by the educational programme in an online format. To achieve this, we had to redesign the teaching concept for the courses and develop the technology. The response was encouraging: demand rose continuously towards the end of the year, and Mission 21 was often praised for offering online confirmation instruction that was almost impossible to find elsewhere.

Several church congregations also tried out our online offerings for employee training or senior citizens' groups, on subjects such as "Rituals throughout the world". One aspect of the online courses that participants particularly appreciated was the chance to gain direct insights into the situation on the ground via a live connection to a partner church on another continent. We received this feedback in November, for example: "The venture of attending online courses has turned out to be very positive for us, too. Through the content you offered, we were taken on a thrilling journey with plenty of stimulating ideas."

Insights into global relationships

In our face-to-face courses and through our online offerings, we were able to work successfully towards some of the core goals of Mission 21's educational work in Switzerland: to give people an understanding of global relationships, and to generate impetus that will empower and encourage people to act in solidarity.

On the other hand, the coronavirus pandemic meant a serious setback for the exchange programmes. Several planned sabbaticals abroad had to be cancelled or postponed. One pastor who was staying in Costa Rica last spring had to return to Switzerland at short notice. A study trip to Tanzania scheduled for January 2021 was deferred for a year.

Great interest in publications

Between April and Christmas, we published 22 issues of the "Mission 21 Corona Update" with three pages each in German and English. They include very personal reports by contacts in over 20 countries about conditions on the ground, support activities and the churches' situation. The "Corona Update", which was distributed via the Newsletter and on our homepage, met with great international interest: users read about 700



Coronavirus Updates – moving information from Mission 21's partner countries.

of the "Updates" that were sent out electronically. The authors were very pleased that we took an interest in their situations. The "Update" was seen as a tangible example of the "international community of learning" which has now been tried and tested in times of crisis, when it is especially valuable.

May 2020 saw the appearance of the book "Wie andere Kulturen die Bibel sehen" ["How Other Cultures See the Bible"], edited by Mission 21 and published by the Theological Publishing House, Zurich. It offers insights into worldwide context-based interpretations of the Bible as well as creative ideas for applying the content with practical materials on a DVD: these include 70 works of art from all over the world portraying well-known Biblical stories. This makes it suitable for exploring a context-based interpretation of the Bible and also for use in services, confirmation work and interfaith encounters. By the end of 2020, 250 copies had been sold through the book trade and another 150 were passed on to interested multipliers (pastors, church specialists in intercultural cooperation and employees in the educational sector): it was encouraging to see this interest in a publication that will make a long-lasting contribution to intercultural expertise.

Christian Weber
Education Team

In 2020, a total of **1 712 women, men and young people** made use of Mission 21's courses, events and online formats.

Digital offerings also helped to broaden young people's horizons by conveying this knowledge: 34 courses reached 541 participants in person, and 283 online – making a total of 824.

New **publications** reached large groups of readers: 22 "Coronavirus Updates" from 20 countries were each consulted by around 700 interested readers. Over 400 multipliers have acquired intercultural skills thanks to the book titled "Wie andere Kulturen die Bibel sehen" ("How Other Cultures See the Bible").

Research

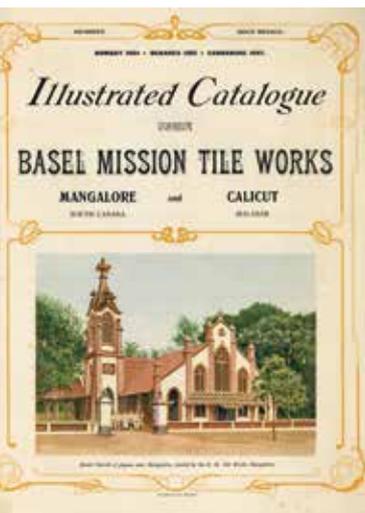
Many more documents can now be accessed

Mission 21's research archive achieved some major advances in digitising and opening up access to its holdings. Last year clearly showed how important it is to be able to work with digitised archive materials. However, we were also delighted to receive a personal visit when the Indian Ambassador to Switzerland came to the Archive.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Price list of the Mission Trading Company's Tile Works in Mangalore and Calicut. Archive of the Basel Mission. BHG-12.06.11



The restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic impacted research activities: the Archive and the Library were closed to users between March and June 2020. Nevertheless, we kept in lively contact with researchers from Switzerland and abroad via email, and we were able to assist them with their enquiries. This showed even more clearly how important it is to have significant archive materials available in digital form as well. On the one hand, digitisation protects the materials from further deterioration; and on the other, it enables access and research even in periods of working from home offices and restricted mobility. Due to last year's circumstances, visits to the Archive were almost exclusively limited to researchers from Switzerland or Germany. Nevertheless, over 300 enquiries from all over the globe show that the Archive is still in demand during times of pandemic, and people make use of its holdings.

A rich source for education and encounters

The Archive and the Library make major contributions to the content of Mission 21's work on issues such as religion and development, inter-faith peace promotion, and gender equity. For these purposes, the historic Archive of the Basel Mission and Mission 21 is an abundant source of materials that can be used in educational work.

One highlight of the year – and a sign of the special regard in which the Archive and the Library are held – was the visit by the Indian

Ambassador to Switzerland, Sibi George, and his wife Joice John Pampooorethu. He originates from Kerala, one of the Basel Mission's former mission districts in India. Ambassador Sibi George was fascinated by the many handwritten documents and the unique publications written in Malayalam – his mother tongue – which he discovered in the Archive.

Scientific research and development of access to the archives

2020 again saw the publication of various university theses and dissertations that made use of sources from our research archive: examples include Master's theses on Eva Lombard, the first woman to work as a doctor for the Basel Mission in India, and on two indigenous co-workers at the Basel Mission in China during the 19th century. Another Master's thesis focused on the medical care provided by the missions and how it was perceived by the indigenous population, based on the example of Africa. After two years of research work in the Archive, September saw the return of Ms. Li Lei to her homeland of China where she will complete her doctoral thesis on knowledge transfer from China to Europe.

One of the ongoing tasks in the Archive involves opening up access to more documents and publishing the relevant data on our website, www.bmarchives.org. Major progress was made with this undertaking in 2020. We were able to provide access to all the documents of the Co-operation of Protestant Churches and Missions (CPM/KEM) and to record the entire holding from the Basel Mission Trading Company. The project to open up access to the Basel Mission Trading Company's material could only be undertaken thanks to handsome contributions from benefactors: the Christoph Merian Foundation, the Ernst Göhner Foundation and the Basel Mission Trading Company.

Finally, in the second half of the year, we gained access to Swisscovery, the pan-Swiss search portal that enables users to find items in the holdings of academic and scientific libraries throughout Switzerland. This means that our Library continues to be networked, its holdings are now included in a comprehensive catalogue, and books can still be borrowed as in the past.

*Andrea Rhyn and Patrick Moser
Research Team*

In 2020, **42** researchers made use of the Archive and the Library. We recorded **290** days of usage.

Interest in digitized photographs, documents and cartographical works continued to increase, with **49 300** visits to the bmarchives.org website.



Donations Annual Financial Statements Organisation

*Christmas activity for the 2020 campaign: children from Basel hang the greetings they have drawn on the Christmas tree at the Mission House, alongside greetings from children in South Sudan.
Photo: Eva Sidler*

*"Nothing's impossible!" –
so say the church congregations and bazaar groups*

Creative commitment in times of coronavirus

The pandemic has put solidarity to the test. Many church congregations and bazaar groups were unable to stage events and activities in the usual way – including collections and fundraising campaigns. Thanks to creative thinking and sheer dedication, however, a variety of new formats were devised in many places – we thank everyone for their solidarity and commitment in these exceptional times!



*Doris Schneider at the Kölliken Bazaar in 2019 – just before the coronavirus changed so much.
Photo: provided*

Traditional events such as the bazaar and the "Soup Day" also fell victim to the coronavirus restrictions. But in these unusual times, many church congregations resolved to support Mission 21's projects as usual in spite of the restrictions – or rather, precisely because of them. Mission 21 was able to count on loyal and generous support in Switzerland during the crisis, as the serious effects of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic on the countries of the global south became apparent.

New solidarity campaigns were launched and existing campaigns were adapted in several places. In spite of the coronavirus, international solidarity in church life was undiminished. Changes in arrangements for meeting other people opened up opportunities for valuable conversations and fellowship that had become so rare.

"Soup-to-go"

To take one example: the Reformed church congregation of Möriken-Wildegg-Holderbank in Aargau canton, where the Mission Bazaar has taken place every year for over a century. And last year was no exception – even though the plans had to be changed repeatedly and event had to be reorganised during the preparations.

"We have to go to the people!"

Judith Gysi, a member of the group preparing the bazaar, sums up their final decision in these words: "We have to go to the people instead of them coming to us!"

No sooner said than done: in 2020, the minestrone that was traditionally served in the parish hall became "soup-to-go", or was even delivered to people's doorsteps by confirmation candidates. Along with 125 liters of soup, 75 Advent calendars for adults were sold. "The new ideas have had a powerful impact," Judith Gysi is pleased to say. She hopes that these new experiences will also offer an opportunity to rethink solidarity campaigns for Mission 21 such as the bazaar, so that we can continue to show solidarity with people in the global South and support them in the future.

Fund-raising campaign throughout the community

Kölliken was confronted with a different situation: the bazaar in this village had to be cancelled. "Nothing's impossible," the bazaar team declared as they replaced it by launching an appeal for donations – not only to all members of the church congregation, but to all inhabitants of Kölliken. To accompany this appeal, they also presented a small project exhibition about the Muhaba Children's Centre in South Sudan in the church.

There were over **260** voluntary collectors working in the **Offertory Association** and with **gratitude boxes**, as well as **volunteers** who spontaneously organised activities to **replace** the cancelled Mission Bazaar in Basel – from collections and donations in kind, they brought in the magnificent **total of about CHF 100 000.**



"People were happy that there was still scope for fellowship and conversation."

By taking this approach, the bazaar team was again able to win public support for a good cause this year: "The bazaar is well established, and people who don't otherwise have much to do with the church join in. So that's why people in Kölliken were willing to listen. Especially during the pandemic, people in the global South need our support because they can't rely on a healthcare system like the one we have in Switzerland," says Doris Schneider, a member of the bazaar group.

"Solidarity – especially now!" at the open-air bazaar

The traditional bazaar in the commune of Burg usually features catered indoor refreshments but here too, the event was adapted to the circumstances. At very short notice, it was transformed into an open-air market. The stands were set up under the sycamore trees, with the required social distancing – and plenty of visitors came along in support of the bazaar's motto: "Solidarity – especially now!"

Barbara Rohrer, who performs social welfare work on behalf of the church in Burg, explains: "This was a risk; we didn't know whether it would work without any catering at all. But in fact, it was well worthwhile – we were very surprised. People were simply happy that an event of some sort was taking place at all, with opportunities for genuine fellowship and conversations." In compliance with adequate distancing and the relevant regulations on hygiene and gatherings, the slimmed-down bazaar was still so attractive that it raised over CHF 5000 for Mission 21.

Similar ideas for alternative bazaars have reached us from many other church congregations: the Arlesheim church congregation staged a "bazaar light"; at Pratteln, an appeal for solidarity was published in the local newspaper; and the church congregations of Affoltern am Albis and Hönegg organised "self-service bazaars". These are just a few typical examples

of all the solidarity activities that were staged in spite of the adverse conditions. All of them played their part in enabling us to continue working towards our goals within the worldwide church, as an international community of learning and through projects focusing on international development aid, so that disadvantaged people can lead their lives in dignity. Mission 21 would like to take this opportunity to offer heartfelt thanks for everyone's inspirational commitment and magnificent support.

*Kevin Ischi
Coordinator of Church Partnerships*

*Open-air market with social distancing – and plenty of visitors!
Photo: provided by Barbara Rohrer*

*A workshop on peace promotion in South Sudan.
Photo: Silvano Yokwe*



Promoting peace in South Sudan

Activities to promote peace in South Sudan are yielding encouraging results. Overall conditions for the civilian population are precarious in the world's newest state, and violence remains at a high level even though the civil war has officially ended. This gives added importance to the peace work undertaken by the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS), one of Mission 21's partner churches. In this joint project, the PCOSS strengthens the skills of church co-workers, women and young people in trauma management as well as peace and reconciliation work, and it also offers psychosocial support. In 2020, over 300 people received training and support in workshops staged at three locations. Visible improvements can be reported as regards conflict resolution and problem-solving, for example, and also in terms of participation and codetermination by women. The project's goal – to strengthen women – is a key element of Mission 21's peace work in South Sudan and throughout the world.

Sustainable development thanks to a partnership on equal terms

Sharing the journey towards a society based on solidarity

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



How does solidarity develop when people who live in different worlds converge – when dialogue and mutual understanding are impeded by different languages, unequally distributed opportunities and disparate living conditions? Mission 21 seeks and practices the exchange of ideas on equal terms. We listen to people on the ground, including those in the remote regions where our partner churches and organisations are involved in daily life. We look at the local requirements for building just, fair and inclusive societies, and we engage in intensive dialogue on the basis of respect and partnership. We make use of our skills to ensure that development cooperation is sustainable and professional.

And we make contact with you, our supporters and friends. We exchange mutual experiences, expectations and questions, and we help you to gain profound insights into the environments where people live in our partner countries, and into our work in about 100 projects across Africa, Asia and Latin America. This is how solidarity based on partnership can develop, and this is how worldwide relationships are built up and consolidated through dialogue.

Thank you! Through your solidarity, you are helping disadvantaged people on their journey towards peaceful and fairer lives. Through your support, you are creating prospects and hope for especially vulnerable people, and you are triggering sustainable changes.

Special thanks go to our network of churches for their comprehensive support for our work: to the Protestant Church in Switzerland, the

cantonal and regional churches, and the church congregations for the many activities they carry out in support of our campaign, their collections, and the creative work put in by dedicated volunteers.

Of equally great importance for us are partnerships and collaboration with foundations, cantons and municipalities, the Lottery Fund and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Solidarity based on partnership is exemplified by our many years of collaboration with the SYMPHASIS charitable foundation, which we value greatly. This enables us to sustainably implement our projects and to plan our project work with a degree of certainty. This foundation currently supports two important projects focusing on vocational training for orphans, disadvantaged children and young people in Indonesia and Tanzania, who gain access to two years of vocational training leading to qualifications.

I would like to offer special thanks to all our private donors for their loyalty and solidarity and, in particular, to all those individuals who bequeath legacies that provide sustainable help for others to help themselves, even after their own lives have ended.

In the months and perhaps years to come, the coronavirus and its consequences will continue to keep us very occupied – all over the world. Once emergency relief has been provided, people will soon have to take their lives back into their own hands and develop their own prospects. The economic and health-related consequences of the coronavirus crisis are aggravating poverty and – most of all – hunger. Time and again, other crises such as natural disasters and the effects of climate change will create the need for immediate, straightforward support that goes beyond the scope of our planned programme work. Thank you in advance for demonstrating your solidarity in the future when unforeseeable events take place, and for supporting our projects.

Gaby Ullrich
Head of Marketing and Communication

Student midwives in South Sudan – Mission 21 supports training for nurses who specialise in this important field. Photo: provided





Schoolgirls in the project for orphans in Tanzania
 Photo: Regina-Mariola Sagan

Education in Tanzania – for a future free from poverty

Education is a human right, and is one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4). But education is still denied to certain marginalised groups throughout the world: orphans, vulnerable young people or young mothers often have no access to continuing education and training. This is also the case in Tanzania.

To take action against poverty and the high rate of youth unemployment, Mission 21 has been collaborating for many decades with its local partners, the South and South-West Provinces of the Moravian Church in Tanzania, to support disadvantaged children and young people in south-western Tanzania – with a particular focus on girls and orphans. As a new element of the inclusive educational work undertaken there, we are broadening the programme scope by offering targeted support for individuals with disabilities from 2021 onwards.

List of donations

Church congregations, cantonal churches and church institutions which supported Mission 21 with contributions of CHF 50 000 or more in 2020:

(in alphabetical order by place name)

Reformed Church of Aargau; ACT Alliance, Le Grand-Saconnex; Evangelical-Reformed Church of Basel-Stadt; Evangelical-Reformed United Church Congregation of Berne; Protestant Church in Switzerland (PCS), Berne; Reformed Churches of the Cantons of Berne-Jura-Solothurn; Evangelical-Reformed United Church Congregation of Biel/Bienne; Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregation of Binningen-Bottmingen; Evangelical Reformed Church of Graubünden; Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregation of Horgen; Evangelical Regional Church in Baden, Karlsruhe; Evangelical-Reformed Church of Lucerne; Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregation of Meilen; Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregation of Pfäffikon, Canton of Zurich; Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregation of Rapperswil-Jona; Evangelical-Reformed Church of the Canton of Schaffhausen; Evangelical Church of the Palatinate, Speyer; Evangelical-Reformed Church of the Canton of St. Gallen; Union des Eglises Protestantes d'Alsace et de Lorraine (UEPAL), Strasbourg; Evangelical Lutheran Church of Württemberg, Stuttgart; United Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregation of Thun; Federation of Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregations, Winterthur; Reformed Church of the Canton of Zug; Reformed Church of the Canton of Zurich; Evangelical-Reformed Church Congregation of Zurich.

Institutions and foundations which supported Mission 21 with donations of CHF 10 000 or more in 2020:

(in alphabetical order by place name)

Canton of Aargau; Basler Handelsgesellschaft AG, Basel; Basel Mission, Basel; Canton of Basel-Stadt; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Berne; Marty Gloor-Häusermann Foundation, Lenzburg; Henriette and Hans-Rudolf Dubach-Bucher Foundation, Lucerne; Municipality of Riehen; Succursus Foundation, St. Gallen; Basel Mission German Branch (BMDZ), Stuttgart; Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), Stuttgart; Baden-Württemberg Foundation for Development Cooperation (SEZ), Stuttgart; Martin Stucki Foundation for Schools in Africa, Teuffenthal bei Thun; Municipality of Uster; Solidarity with the World Foundation, Wädenswil; World Day of Prayer Switzerland, Winterthur; City of Zurich; Mercator Foundation Switzerland, Zurich; SYMPHASIS Foundation, Zurich.

Local associations and groups which gave support of more than CHF 5 000:

(in alphabetical order by place name)

Bazaar of the Church Congregation of Affoltern am Albis; Arlesheim Bazaar Group; Bolligen Bazaar Work; Bazaar of the Church Congregation of Gränichen; Bazaar of the Church Congregation of Herzogenbuchsee; Bazaar of the Church Congregation of Holderbank-Möriken-Wildegg; Bazaar of the Church Congregation of Kölliken; Rafz Bazaar Group; Bazaar of the Church Congregation of Stein am Rhein-Burg; Bazaar of the Church Congregation of Wichtrach.

We would like to offer our sincerest thanks to all the private individuals, organisations and institutions, local associations and volunteers who have given us their support. We regret that we cannot list all of you by name. For this reason, we will replace this list with suitable mentions on our website, www.mission-21.org, as from the next issue of our Annual Report.

Balance sheet

	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
	CHF	CHF
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2 910 542.42	3 188 810.28
Time deposits	333 487.62	1 128 069.82
Securities	2 360 468.56	2 185 452.90
Receivables due from third parties	158 059.68	227 457.50
Receivables due from affiliated entities	104 054.48	323 353.04
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	487 421.80	297 231.16
Total current assets	6 354 034.56	7 350 374.70
Financial assets	1 500 000.00	1 500 000.00
Tangible assets	39 899.45	39 156.00
Intangible assets	322 253.35	105 890.70
Total non-current (long-term) assets	1 862 152.80	1 645 046.70
Total assets	8 216 187.36	8 995 421.40
Liabilities		
Payables due to third parties	239 865.19	462 527.69
Accrued liabilities and deferred income	160 596.77	134 300.65
Total current liabilities	400 461.96	596 828.34
Provisions	173 153.65	238 421.70
Total non-current (long-term) liabilities	173 153.65	238 421.70
Funds with restrictive appropriation	3 414 953.69	3 834 927.57
Total restricted funds	3 414 953.69	3 834 927.57
Disposable funds	3 020 404.96	3 016 692.58
Dedicated funds	1 207 213.10	1 308 551.21
Total organisation capital	4 227 618.06	4 325 243.79
Total liabilities	8 216 187.36	8 995 421.40

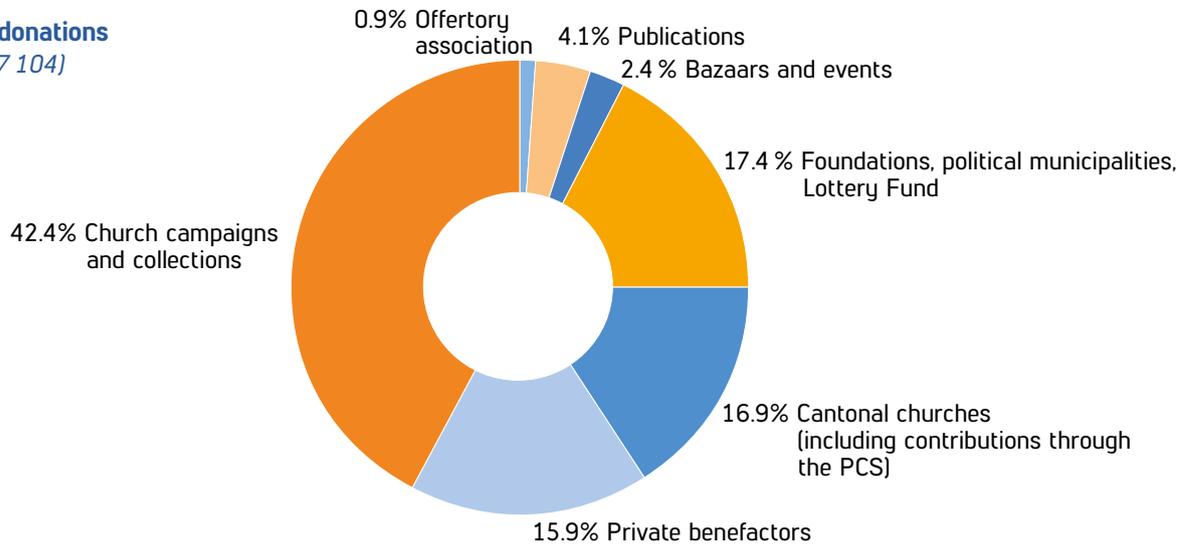
The report by the **Auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers**, attests that the accounting and the Annual Financial Statements are compliant with the law, the articles of association and the SWISS-GAAP-FER-21 guidelines.

Operating statement

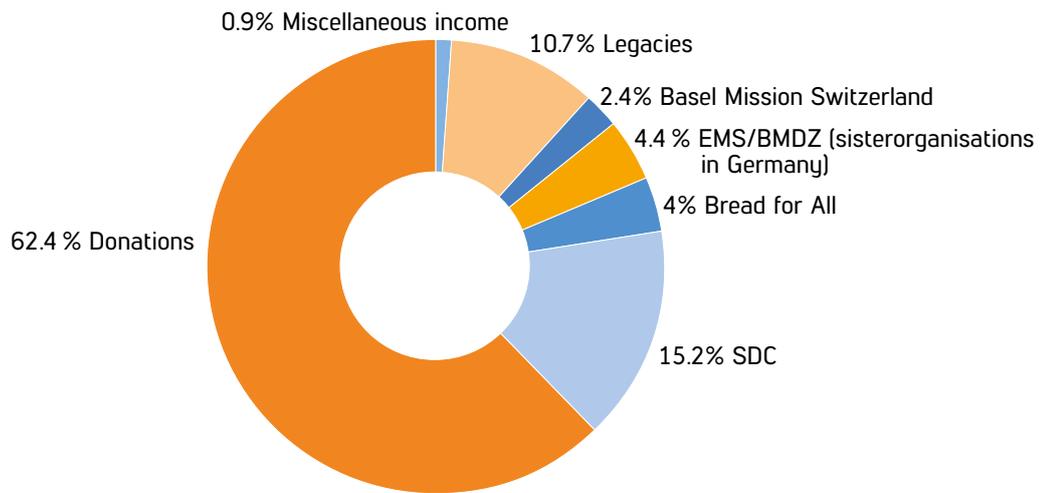
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
Income	CHF	CHF
Donations	7 847 104.18	8 439 233.18
<i>of which, reserved for specific purposes</i>	<i>2 594 385.04</i>	<i>3 034 572.90</i>
Contributions from organisations	1 353 539.04	1 669 790.71
<i>of which, reserved for specific purposes</i>	<i>612 552.02</i>	<i>853 545.86</i>
Contribution from the Swiss Federal Government (SDC)	1 915 000.00	1 879 710.00
<i>of which, reserved for specific purposes</i>	<i>1 595 833.33</i>	<i>1 573 376.67</i>
Legacies	1 350 022.85	879 577.95
<i>of which, reserved for specific purposes</i>	<i>105 000.00</i>	<i>–</i>
Income from fundraising activities	12 465 666.07	12 868 311.84
Trading income	29 965.25	14 237.78
Income from services	42 362.13	80 225.82
Other income	38 023.71	52 129.84
Income from services rendered	110 351.09	146 593.44
Total income	12 576 017.16	13 014 905.28
Expenditure on services rendered		
Programme and project expenditure	9 981 680.35	10 222 604.47
Fundraising expenditure	1 493 037.47	1 785 454.92
Administrative expenditure	1 644 770.48	1 992 507.77
Total expenditure on services rendered	13 119 488.30	14 000 567.16
Operating result	-543 471.14	-985 661.88
Financial result		
Financial expenses	-63 966.24	-47 793.15
Financial income	89 837.77	413 570.86
Total financial surplus/deficit	25 871.53	365 777.71
Surplus/deficit before changes to funds	-517 599.61	-619 884.17
Surplus/deficit from funds		
<i>Allocation to fund capital</i>	<i>-4 907 770.39</i>	<i>-2 797 958.47</i>
<i>Use of fund capital</i>	<i>5 327 744.27</i>	<i>2 926 899.25</i>
Change in fund capital	419 973.88	128 940.78
Result before allocation to organisation capital	-97 625.73	-490 943.39
<i>Allocation to disposable funds</i>	<i>-3 712.38</i>	<i>–</i>
<i>Use of disposable funds</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>266 929.19</i>
Result, disposable funds	-3 712.38	266 929.19
<i>Allocation to restricted funds</i>	<i>-255 112.89</i>	<i>-7 314.18</i>
<i>Use of restricted funds</i>	<i>356 451.00</i>	<i>231 328.38</i>
Result, restricted funds	101 338.11	224 014.20
Result after allocation to organisation capital	0.00	0.00

Origin and appropriation of funds

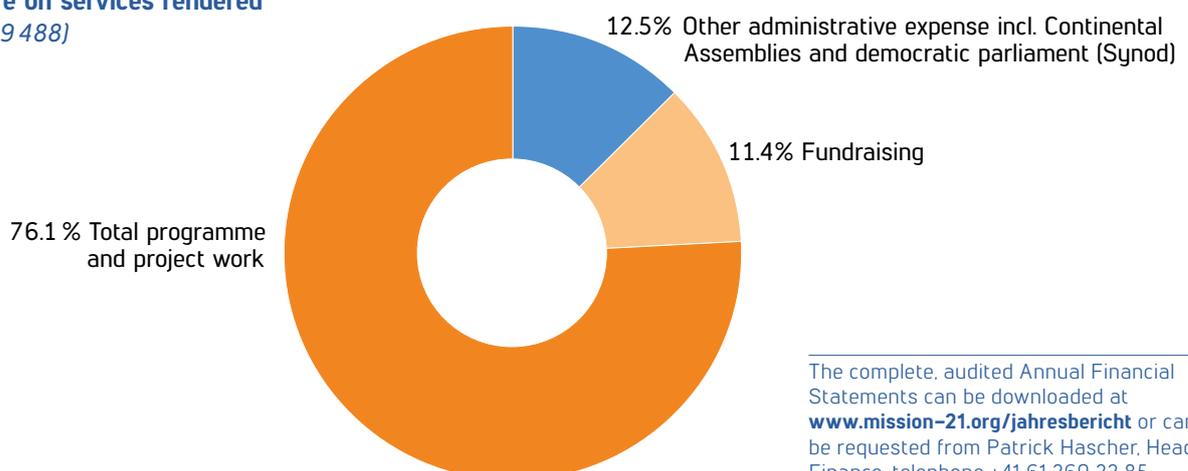
Origin of donations (CHF 7 847 104)



Origin of funds (CHF 12 576 017)



Expenditure on services rendered (CHF 13 119 488)



The complete, audited Annual Financial Statements can be downloaded at www.mission-21.org/jahresbericht or can be requested from Patrick Hascher, Head of Finance, telephone +41 61 260 22 85.

Magnificent solidarity and willingness to donate

Back in spring, Mission 21 decided to cushion the expected decline in income by implementing savings measures in Switzerland. We are pleased that the downturn was less than we feared thanks to generous support from all donors.

The coronavirus was the dominant feature of 2020 for Mission 21, as it was everywhere. Back in spring, we decided to implement extensive savings measures in Switzerland due to the expected reduction in our income. These measures resulted in reductions of 16 percent in expenditure on fundraising and 17 percent on administrative expenditure. We can report a reduction of 2.4 percent on programme and project work.

Fortunately, we can now close the overall income from donations with a reduction of only 7 percent (about CHF 592 000) as compared to the prior year.

Our church partners have shown great generosity by responding quickly to our requests for emergency relief and appeals for solidarity due to the coronavirus. However, cancellations of events, fundraising drives and collections in church congregations saddled us with a downturn of CHF 273 000. On the other hand, contributions from the regional and cantonal churches increased by CHF 110 000.

We saw a pleasing increase in donations from private individuals. Sales of solidarity chocolate, curry and fabric masks also met with a lively response.

We were able to increase our income from legacies and inheritances by 54 percent, to reach a total of CHF 1.35 million. This places the overall result only 1.3 percent (CHF 120 000) below the prior year's figure.

Expenditure of funds on our core themes was unchanged year-on-year at about CHF 6.6 million. Peace promotion and programme development accounted for larger shares, while there was a decrease in the percentage for education. Nevertheless, education continues to be the most important sector with a share of over 30 percent.



*Thanks to donations from Switzerland, Mission 21 is also able to support education for Indonesian children.
Photo: Miriam Glass*

Our special requests for emergency relief generated over CHF 570 000. These funds were immediately put to use in the affected countries. Donations from the churches remained generally stable, and they continue to account for around 60 percent of total income. Project expenditure could be financed with an additional CHF 420 000 thanks to existing restricted funds.

We are extremely pleased to see the magnificent solidarity shown by our donors, the church network, our supporting organisations, foundations and other institutional partners, and we offer special thanks for the trust placed in the sustainable impact of our work.

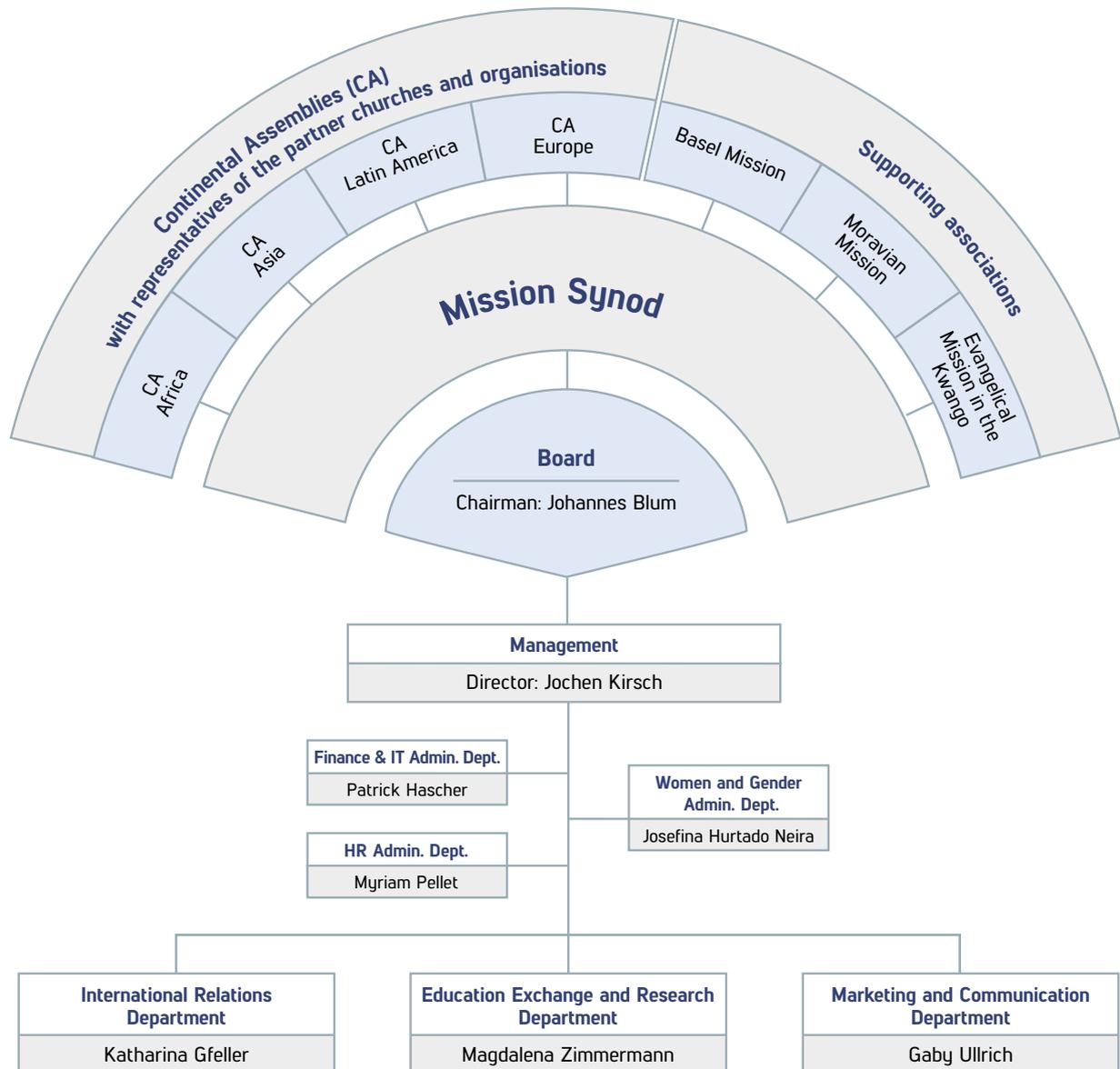
The Internal Control System (ICS) is based on a risk-oriented approach; it ensures the reliability of financial reporting and compliance with the necessary legal provisions or recommendations from experts. The report by the auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, attests that the accounts and the Annual Financial Statements conform to the law, the articles of association and the SWISS-GAAP-FER-21 guidelines. We shall be glad to send the detailed Annual Financial Statements and the balance sheet to anyone interested in receiving them.

Patrick Hascher, Head of Finance

Gaby Ullrich,

Head of Marketing and Communication

Organisation chart of Mission 21



Governing bodies and committees in 2020

Board

Term of office: four years, with the option of re-election for two further terms.

Prof. Dr. Johannes Blum

President
Senior Consultant,
Medical Department, Swiss Tropical and
Public Health Institute, Basel

Rev. Karl F. Appl

Vice President
President, Basel Mission
Pastor, Märstetten, Thurgau Canton

Dr. Gerhard Bütschi-Hassler

Self-employed management consultant,
Church Councillor of the Reformed Church
Aargau, Member of the Synod of
the Swiss Protestant Church, Schlossrued,
as from 1 January 2021

Rev. Dr. Claudia Hoffmann

Academic Assistant/Post-Doc., Faculty
of Theology, University of Basel

Kurt Kägi

Managing Director, former President of
the Church Council of the Church of the
Two Appenzell Half-Cantons, Herisau
retired with effect from 31 December 2020

Dr. Margrit Schneider-Schardt

Dentist, Member of the Synod of the
Evangelical-Reformed Church of the Canton
of Basel-Stadt, Basel, from 1990 to 2015

Andrea R. Trümpy

Vice-President of the Cantonal Church
Council of the Canton of Glarus
Former Mayoress of Glarus

Rev. Frieder Vollprecht

Pastor of the Moravian Societies in Basel
and Berne, co-worker at the House of Religions
in Berne

Rev. Hans-Joachim Zobel

Retired Dean, Evangelical Regional Church
of Baden, Freiburg (Germany)

Management

Rev. Jochen Kirsch

Director

Rev. Magdalena Zimmermann

Head of the Education Exchange and
Research Department, Deputy Director

Katharina Gfeller

Head of the International Relations
Department

Gaby Ullrich

Head of the Marketing and Communication
Department

Patrick Hascher

Head of the Finance & IT
Administration Department

Josefina Hurtado Neira

Head of the Women and Gender
Administration Department

Myriam Pellet

Head of the HR
Administration Department

Audit Commission

Term of office: four years

Sibylle Andermatt

Chair
Commercial specialist in the IT sector

Ueli Burkhalter

Pastor, Member of the Synodal Council of the
Reformed Churches of Berne-Jura-Solothurn

Eckehart Lauk

Retired senior government official



mission 21

evangelisches missionswerk basel

In 20 countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, Mission 21 is involved in sustainable development cooperation, emergency relief and reconstruction work focusing on peace promotion, education, healthcare, food sovereignty and economic empowerment. Through this work, we play a part in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This worldwide involvement is combined with programmes for intercultural exchange and interfaith collaboration, and activities to foster an understanding of global relationships.

www.mission-21.org



Education opens up new prospects for children

In Sabah, the Malaysian part of Borneo, we join with our partner churches to support disadvantaged children and young people. They gain access to school education or vocational training. These activities also protect girls against early marriage. Thanks to the education they receive, they can go on to become committed advocates of sustainable development.

Your donation helps!

By giving 100 francs, for example, you can support children and young people from poor rural regions in Sabah, Malaysia, so that they can attend school.

Account for donations: 40-726233-2

IBAN: CH58 0900 0000 4072 6233 2