

Annual Report

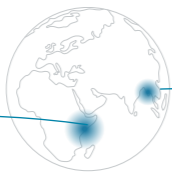
2024



CO:OPERAID

Education for children in Africa and Asia

Effective aid in Africa and Asia



East Africa

Uganda, Kenya 5 projects
125,000 direct & indirect beneficiaries

South & Southeast Asia

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos 7 projects
26,400 direct & indirect beneficiaries



400
teachers
supported

135
partner schools
supported

13'900
Pupils in nursery, primary
or secondary education

1'314
Young people and young
adults in vocational training
or at university



Thanks to you, a perspective

Current statistics show that development aid focused on poverty reduction and access to education is effective: Poverty rates are declining, and educational indicators are gradually improving in many areas. This is good news, as it confirms that the work of aid organizations delivers tangible results. However, global statistics can be misleading: the distribution of extreme poverty and hardship is uneven and varies significantly across regions, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In these areas, economic downturns, high commodity prices, and exorbitant national debts exacerbate the situation. Global uncertainties, wars, and local unrest further intensify the struggle for survival, even outside conflict zones or wars.

In all our project regions, we bear witness to the impact of these challenges: Extreme poverty has worsened, leading to irregular school attendance and poor learning outcomes. As a result, chances for a better future are often lost far too soon. This is why we make it a priority to support the economic empowerment of the poorest families in all our primary education projects. We also invest in vocational training for young people and school dropouts, providing them with a perspective for the future. A cherished opportunity to break free from the inherited poverty trap.

At CO-OPERAID, we dedicate ourselves to this mission every day. Thanks to your generous support we are able to do so. Thank you dearly for enabling thousands of children and youths to learn and progress each and every day.

Yours

Dr. Ignaz Rieser



President



You can't learn on an empty stomach

We work in regions with disproportionately high levels of extreme poverty. Attending school regularly and acquiring basic education—or completing school—is far from guaranteed for many children there as education requires both time and money: Time during which children could otherwise herd livestock or do small jobs to contribute to their family's meagre income. And money for uniforms, exam fees, pencils, and notebooks, which many families simply cannot afford.

Our education projects are therefore designed to provide short-term relief for the poorest families while also strengthening them economically in the long run. This is why CO-OPERAID projects focus on empowering and strengthening local communities. By improving learning infrastructure and enhancing teacher training, we create the conditions necessary for sustainable impact. This ensures that children have a fair chance to learn as opposed to simply sitting in school, hungry and unable to concentrate.

The Sustainable Development Goals

CO-OPERAID's engagement aligns with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thanks to their holistic approach, all our projects contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 4, and 5. The project reports on the following pages detail how each initiative supports these SDGs.



A brighter perspective thanks to vocational training

In Kenya, around 85% of children attend primary school. While this seems encouraging, sadly many pupils do not acquire even essential skills. Chances of completing basic education are significantly lower for girls and/or children affected by poverty. Many end up unemployed and without prospects. This is why CO-OPERAID supports a vocational training program based on the Swiss model.

Our primary education project for semi-nomadic children in East Pokot was successfully completed in 2024. Across all 14 partner schools, we achieved increased enrolment rates, reduced absenteeism among girls, and improved teaching quality through teacher training.

6 Kitale, the district capital of one of the country's poorest regions, sees large numbers of rural poor migrating to slums, hoping to find an income. Many unqualified youth end up on the streets, unable to secure employment and prone to fall into petty crime or prostitution.

Right here our project "Ujuzi Kwa Vijana" steps in: It takes 170 young people off the streets per annum. They are grouped, provided with psychosocial support, practice - oriented apprenticeships, and supported in their transition into employment. More than 60% of the graduates are young women living below the poverty line, often with their infants. The combination of social support and vocational training was developed together with Child Rescue Kenya addressing the challenges in this setting. Together with local training centers and businesses, we provide in-demand skills in tailoring, hairdressing and beauty care, construction trades, electrical and plumbing installation, and metalworking techniques.

Projects:

Ujuzi Kwa Vijana (Vocational Training)
Wanafunzi Wa Pokot (Primary Education)

Beneficiaries:

35'203

Financial Support:

CHF 259'521



Complex challenges – holistic approach

The land is fertile in the district of Zombo and people rely on small-scale farming. However, severe poverty is widespread. Thus, we provide knowledge in modern, ecological agricultural to youth, aligning with the national agricultural policies. Additionally, as one of the few active aid organizations in the area, we work to improve the quality of primary education.

Improvements in primary education at our 21 partner schools have been achieved via teacher and school management training, as well as improved school infrastructure. Additionally, children from the poorest households receive direct support in the form of school materials, ensuring their participation in lessons.

8 Two key statistics illustrate that not all is well with basic education in Zombo: Despite a high enrolment rate of 95%, only 40% of pupils complete their primary education. The majority drop out before acquiring even the most essential knowledge and skills—65% of young people are unable to read or write. The root causes are manifold, often related to extreme poverty, social norms, and even biological factors such as regular school absences due to menstruation.

To address these challenges, we partnered with three local organizations—CEFORD, LICO, and NDNCO. And we developed a program tackling the multiple causes of poor educational outcomes: School dropouts get the chance to attend vocational training courses. At the same time, we focus on improving nutrition and reducing poverty through better harvests. This requires the dissemination of up-to-date agricultural knowledge in livestock breeding and crop cultivation. To ensure that theory translates into practical success, we collaborate closely with local master trainers.

Projects: Alochi Ku Somu (Primary Education)
Aradu Pi Fur (Vocational Training)
Beneficiaries: 45'078
Financial Support: CHF 233'559



A future for ethnic minorities

The Chittagong Hill Tracts, located near the Indian and Myanmar border, have been under military administration for a while. They are home to Bangladesh's ethnic minority communities. The government does not provide schooling in the remote areas and there are no significant job opportunities. Thanks to CO-OPERAID, children attend village schools and may continue their education at secondary level in town. Scholarships and a vocational training program tailored to regional and national market opportunities complete the program.

Our well-established and successful approach ensures that 1,400 children in remote, hard-to-reach villages gain access to primary education every year. The "Rowa Kyang" project organizes school operations, employs teachers, provides housing for them and offers workshops and training. The village communities contribute significantly by providing resources and labour to keep the schools running. Where electricity is available, computer classes have also been introduced.

Although there are well managed secondary schools nearby, most children remain unable to access them as they are too far away from their villages. Therefore, two boarding houses are run in Bandarban, allowing approximately 70 of the most talented students to continue their education each and every year.

To create fair opportunities in national and international labor markets, "Talents"- scholarship program and the "Alusama Froi" vocational training initiative provide essential support. Between 2021 and 2024, nearly 1,000 youths acquired trade skills and earned recognized certification in fields such as tailoring, fabric design, carpentry, and computer technology.

CO-OPERAID's program is implemented by the Humanitarian Foundation, a relief organization run by the local ethnic minorities. Without this long-standing partnership and deep local integration, engagement in this tense region would not be possible.

Projects: **Rowa Kyang (Primary Education)**
Upasshak (Secondary Education)
Alusama Froi (Vocational Training)
Beneficiaries: **56'836**
Financial Support: **CHF 423'758**



Quality education in Semeakki Mean Chey

Officially, children in Cambodia attend primary school full-time. Yet, a shortage of teachers often leads to schools operating in two shifts. Furthermore, schools in remote areas find it hard to provide professional training for their teachers. This leads to poor performance rankings. And that is why we chose schools at the very bottom of the regional ranking for our support.

All schools are now electrified and equipped with fans and teacher trainings were provided - thus taking crucial steps toward better learning and performance results of pupils.

Additionally, the youth organization PEPY launched a one-year project in Siem Reap to support young entrepreneurs in developing and refining their business ideas. A total of 46 participants completed modular training sessions, with 30 of them advancing their business concepts under the mentorship of experienced entrepreneurs.

12 Our program results in improved learning outcomes and active school management. Local communities learn to advocate more effectively for their schools. In 2024, we started with nine primary schools and twelve kindergartens in the Semeakki Mean Chey district. To increase enrolment, the poorest families receive emergency financial assistance. Additionally, the provision of school materials and bicycles for long commutes ensures regular school attendance. Families with access to land learned how to diversify and improve their incomes.

A strong school committee is essential for sustainable educational improvements. Encouragingly, one school community already took the initiative to enhance its school grounds after simple basic training. Furthermore, school committees were equipped with the necessary skills to develop strategic school improvement plans.

To enhance learning conditions, four kindergartens were constructed. Learning materials were distributed and hygiene facilities upgraded.



Projects: Komar An II (Primary Education)
YISI (Youth Entrepreneurship Development)
Beneficiaries: 10'453
Financial Support: CHF 180'830



A safe life

The ongoing economic crisis in Laos is exacerbating the suffering of its people. Human trafficking and forced prostitution are widespread. Recruitment is systematically conducted in border provinces, where young women are then trafficked to Thailand, China or Vietnam. Each year, Thailand officially repatriates around 250 victims of human trafficking back to Laos. Without care and reintegration support, they have little chance of escaping the ruthless machinery of exploitation.

For those who find refuge at the women's centre of the Lao organization Savannekhet, it is luck amid misfortune. The centre provides long-term shelter for 40 to 50 girls and young women, all of them victims of human trafficking, forced prostitution and exploitation. They get medical, psychosocial and legal support while finding temporary safety. However, successful social reintegration requires the prospect of earning their own income.

CO-OPERAID ensures that these young women learn to read, write, do basic maths and - where necessary - complete their primary education. They also have access to vocational training in sewing, weaving, cooking and beauty care. The trainings are run along a structured curriculum and trainees earn an officially recognized certificate. However, economic conditions currently make it difficult for them to enter the job market.

Project:

Okad Thisong – education and training for victims of human trafficking

Beneficiaries:

726

Financial Support:

CHF 30'000



Scholarships for talented youth

“Talents” scholarship program provides gifted young people in CO-OPERAID project regions with access to higher education or professional training as their families lack the financial means to support a vocational education or university studies.

So far, the “Talents” scholarship program has enabled 50 carefully selected youth to successfully complete vocational training or a university degree. The fields of study range from rural development, engineering, law, sociology and arts to medicine, nursing, finance, banking, public administration and teacher training. Many graduates bring valuable knowledge back to their home communities after completing their studies.

The opportunity to pursue higher education leads to better job prospects, improved incomes and provides a pathway out of poverty. CO-OPERAID prioritizes funding for fields of study that are in high demand within the respective national context and contribute to regional development.

In 2024, a total of 58 young people from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya and Laos received a scholarship. Our local partner organizations select and support the scholarship recipients during their education. While CO-OPERAID provides financial assistance, families are also required to contribute to the educational costs.

Project:

Talents (Scholarships)

Beneficiaries:

58

Financial Support:

CHF 51'314



our local partner organizations

Experienced and essential for success

Our carefully selected partner organizations are key to the successful implementation of CO-OPERAID's projects. Their extensive experience, clear monitoring and financial processes, and commitment to open collaboration on equal terms are indispensable.

Our local partner organizations are nationally registered and officially recognized. Their extensive experience and strong community ties are crucial for both the design and execution of our initiatives. Monitoring project outcomes, regular reporting based on impact goals and indicators, financial oversight, and adherence to good governance standards are all integral parts of our collaboration.

Bangladesh



HF, Humanitarian Foundation,
Bandarban
www.hf-cht.org

Cambodia



PEPY Empowering Youth,
Siem Reap
www.pepyempoweringyouth.org



SOFDEC, Society for Community
Development in Cambodia,
Kampong Chhnang
www.facebook.com/sofdecngo/

Laos



Sengsavang, Savannakhet
<https://sengsavang.org>

Kenya



CRK, Child Rescue Kenya, Kitale
www.childrescuekenya.org



HAO, Hifadhi Africa
Organisation, Nairobi
<https://hifadhiafrica.com>

Uganda



CEFORD, Community
Empowerment For Rural
Development, Arua
<https://ceford.or.ug>



LICO, Life Concern, Paidha



NDNGOF, Nebbi
District NGO Forum, Nebbi
<https://nebbingoforum.org>

Who we are

CO-OPERAID is a politically and religiously independent humanitarian not- for -profit association. Operations in 2024 were managed by a team of six staff members. The steering committee contributed 330 hours of voluntary work, while eight volunteers dedicated 1'070 hours of support to the organization. The highest governing body of the association is the general assembly, it was held on April 16, 2024.

Steering committee 2024



From left to right:
Stefan Issler (since 2023), economist
Laurence Treceno (since 2019), Vice-president, graphic designer
Dr. Ignaz Rieser (since 2019), president, business economist
Urs Vögeli (since 2019), lawyer
Virginie von Muralt (since 2019), senior analyst, financial controller
Thomas Stadtmüller (since 2023), forestry engineer

Many thanks to all volunteers for their valued contribution to the success of CO-OPERAID!

Office 2024



Nicole Stejskal
(since 2012),
Co-Director



Marcel Auf der Maur
(since 2005),
Co-Director



Katharina von Allmen
(since 2023),
Fundraising Manager



Tom Hofer
(since 2017),
Public Fundraising
Manager



Rashid Abed
(since 2020),
Fundraising Manager
and Project Manager



Réka Fall
(since 2022),
Finance &
Administration

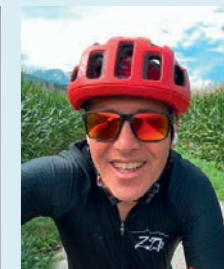
Volunteers



Marcus Büzberger
Quality assurance
Uganda



Chantal Dysli
Photography



Levente Fall
IT



THONIC Team, Graphic Design
From left: Thomas Hofer, Mara Siegenthaler,
Viviane Schmid, Nicolas von Aarburg

No photo:
Hasan Hohl, sparring partner start-ups Cambodia
Juliane Taffé, translation
Hans-Jörg Truttmann, quality assurance Uganda
Petra Wiesler, administration

Another successful year

CO-OPERAID once again achieved solid results thanks to positive fund-raising results in 2024. A total of CHF 1,415,512 was transferred to the projects: CHF 736,199 for projects in Africa and CHF 679,313 for projects in Asia.

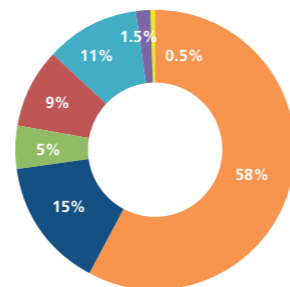
CO-OPERAID allocated CHF 390,850 - 18% of expenditures - to fund-raising and communications. The organizations funding relies on public and institutional fundraising: five direct mailings per year generate funds from private donors. Additionally, a phone campaign as well as a door-to-door campaign were launched. General administration costs amounted to CHF 116'062, representing 5% of the total expenditures. With this cost structure, CO-OPERAID is well within the ZEWO-average for organizations of similar size and type.

On the revenue side, total income generated was CHF 2,550,725 - a result in line with the previous year. 2024 is the sixth consecutive year in which funds exceeding CHF 2 million were raised - a stable result. The fiscal year ended with a positive result of CHF 7,719. Accrued free capital was CHF 341,339 by 31.12.2024 and total organizational capital, including unrestricted reserve, amounted to CHF 595,693.

This financial report presents a condensed version of the financial statements. A detailed financial report in German is available for download at: www.co-operaid.ch/en/download

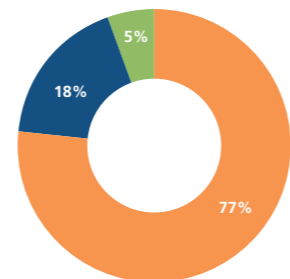
Origin of funds

Foundations	1'489'862
Public sector	395'500
Other institutions	123'309
Private donations unrestricted	231'415
Private donations restricted	274'365
Legacies and event donations	34'904
Membership fees	1'370
TOTAL CHF	2'550'725



Expenditures

Project expenditures	1'684'651
Fundraising and communication	390'786
Administration	116'062
TOTAL CHF	2'191'499



Financial Statement per 31.12.2024

Assets	2024	2023
Current assets	2'128'425	1'788'371
Liquid funds	2'092'503	1'748'190
Current receivables	6'598	6'574
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	29'324	33'608
Capital assets (equipment, property, plant)	11	11
Total assets	2'128'436	1'788'382
Liabilities		
Short term liabilities	24'008	40'158
Current liabilities	14'172	8'627
Deferred income	9'836	31'531
Fund capital	1'508'735	1'185'068
Designated funds Africa	768'563	652'632
Designated funds Asia	437'063	364'772
Designated funds transnational	303'108	167'664
Total designated liability and fund capital	1'532'743	1'225'226
Organisational capital	595'693	563'157
Free reserves	246'818	221'818
Accrued free capital	341'339	319'837
Annual profit or loss	7'537	21'502
Total liabilities	2'128'436	1'788'382

Audit Report

The 2024 financial statements were audited and approved by BDO on March 13th 2025. "During our audit, we found no matters that would lead us to conclude the financial statements do not provide a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, or that they do not comply with legal and statutory requirements."

BDO 13th March 2025

Transparency

To ensure financial transparency and comparability, CO-OPERAID's accounting adheres to the standards of Swiss GAAP FER and Swiss GAAP FER 21.

Income Statement

1.1. bis 31.12.2024 in CHF

REVENUE

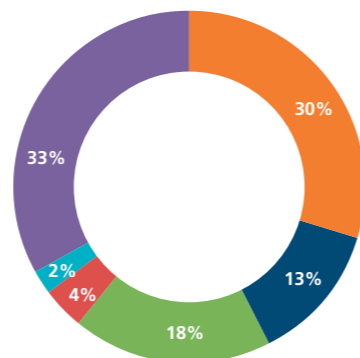
	2024	2023
Restricted donations	2'151'903	2'215'000
Private donations	11'147	25'357
Sponsorships	150'240	161'000
Legacies and event donation	–	39'439
Public sector	395'300	404'000
Foundations	1'479'862	1'505'942
Other Institutions	115'354	79'261

Unrestricted donations

Private donations	220'268	164'032
Sponsorships	124'125	138'860
Legacies and event donations	34'904	–
Membership fees	1'370	1'830
Public sector	200	50
Foundations	10'000	10'000
Institutions	7'955	4'938
Total	2'550'725	2'534'709

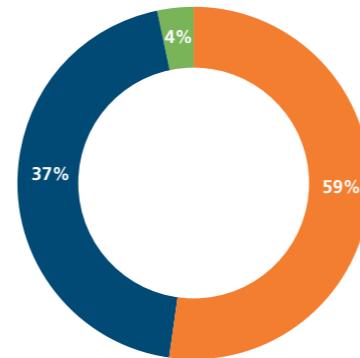
OPERATING EXPENSES

Projects	–1'684'735	–1'882'774
Transfers to projects	–1'415'513	–1'667'638
Personnel costs	–234'798	–195'081
Travel costs	–13'426	–4'447
Material costs	–16'682	–12'199
Maintenance costs	–4'316	–3'409



use by country

Bangladesh	423'758
Cambodia	180'830
Kenya	259'521
Transnational	54'286
Laos	30'000
Uganda	467'118
TOTAL CHF	1'415'513



use by topic

Primary education	840'973
Vocational training	523'226
Scholarships	51'314
TOTAL CHF	1'415'513

The graphics show the funds transferred to the projects in the reporting year. The actual use of funds may deviate from this due to funds from another period.

2024

2023

Administration

Personnel costs	–97'622	–87'786
Travel costs	–170	–165
Material costs	–16'429	–25'387
Maintenance costs	–1'876	–2'228

Fundraising and communication

Personnel costs	–177'928	–205'335
Travel costs	–1'340	–16'298
Campaigns/events	–195'605	–101'103
Material costs	–12'693	–12'809
Maintenance costs	–3'284	–3'579

Total expenses

Total expenses	–506'946	–454'690
Operating results	359'045	197'246

Financial result

Financial result	–2'841	–2'807
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Change in fund capital

Change in fund capital	–323'667	–56'672
Annual result before allocation of organizational capital	32'537	137'767
Allocation to free reserves	–	–36'265
Free capital acquired	–7'537	–21'502
Internal fund changes/free reserves	–25'000	–80'000

CO-OPERAID's approach

Holistic, collaborative, locally rooted

Those who cannot read, write or do basic math have little chance of leading an independent life, breaking the cycle of poverty, or building a better future. Without support, they are likely to pass poverty and ignorance down to the next generation. CO-OPERAID's holistic, locally adapted projects aim to change this.

24 In theory education is one of the basic children's rights; in practice however, many children are unable to attend school due to extreme poverty or bureaucratic barriers. In many of our project areas, attending school and acquiring fundamental skills is not a given: Children are often required to work thus helping to put food on the table. Or their families cannot afford school fees or school materials. Very often, additional restrictive administrative requirements are not exactly supporting an easy access to education.

This is why CO-OPERAID focuses on structurally weak regions with widespread poverty and limited government presence in education and vocational training. Our engagements require active community involvement and include a holistic approach.

In addition to well-known traditional components such as infrastructure improvements, teacher training and management skills development all our primary education projects include aspects of poverty reduction. Furthermore, we include targeted activities related to health and social norms, ensuring that local communities are in the end empowered to take responsibility for their children's education.

Building, strengthening, and empowering local civil society actors takes time but creates long-term impact. This is why CO-OPERAID works directly with well-established, experienced local partner organizations.

Photos of the year



Support our work!

Your donation makes a difference

Without donations there are no projects—it's as simple as that. Thus, we strive to generate financial support for CO-OPERAIDs projects creating lasting change. Your donation sends children to school, funds vocational training, improves incomes and creates brighter futures.

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Your donation supports:

- **Access to education:** School supplies, uniforms, bicycles for long commutes, and financial aid for the most vulnerable.
- **Quality education:** Training and workshops for teachers, school management and school committees.
- **Improved school infrastructure:** Desks, benches, computers, whiteboards, fans and playgrounds as well as sanitation and classroom renovations.
- **Parental engagement:** Strengthening school committees and involving parents systematically.
- **Vocational training and income generating activities:** Helping disadvantaged youth gain professional skills and find employment.

How to support us:

- Donations to IBAN CH 81 0900 0000 8000 0444 2
- Sponsorships starting at CHF 360 per year
- Include CO-OPERAID in your will with a legacy
- Please note: Donations via Twint or QR code incur considerable fees. A direct online transfer ensures that your full donation reaches CO-OPERAID.

Thank you for your support!

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Impressum

Editing

Katharina von Allmen

Photos

CO-OPERAID, Chantal Dysli
www.chantaldysli.ch

Layout

unteer work by THONIC
www.thonic.ch

Enable perspectives now.

Thank you for your donation



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CO:OPERAID
Education for children in Africa and Asia